

## **A Comparative Exploration of Cubase 13 and Wavelab 12 as Mastering Suites**

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### **Abstract**

The study compared the optimization of mastering between Cubase 13 and Wavelab 12. Using experimental methodology, it examined stereo widening, balance, global audio boosting, spectrum analysis, and compression. Three songs were sampled: Pfeka Jombo (gospel), Handichadi Nhamo (Zimdancehall), and Never Give Up (Afro-Pop). These songs were recorded and mixed by the researchers in the same environment using identical software. All songs underwent spectrum analysis before a comparative analysis in Cubase 13 and Wavelab 12. The study found Cubase 13 offers ready-made mastering presets, whereas Wavelab 12 requires expert knowledge of mastering settings. Cubase 13 is more accessible for aspiring mastering engineers compared to Wavelab 12. The study recommends formal education on music production fundamentals, particularly mastering across genres. Future research should explore the impact of specific mastering tools in various software like Pro Tools, Logic Pro, Adobe Audition, Ableton Live, Fruity Loops Studio, and T Racks.

**Keywords:** Dynamics, optimisation, mastering, music production, stereo balance