Cover Ready Checklist

Page 1: rights check and phone setup. Tick every line before you hit upload. General information, not legal advice.

1. Rights check

Question	Your answer	What the sources say	Tick
Whose song is it?	Mine / A cover	A cover uses the writers' song. APRA AMCOS says a licence covers cover versions synced with images on YouTube, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram, for personal and non commercial purposes only.	
What can people hear?	Only me / Backing track / Original record	You generally own recordings you make yourself (Australian Copyright Council). The original record is usually the record company's: sync needs permission for the recording too (APRA AMCOS). Bought backing track: read its licence terms.	
Where will it go?	YouTube / FB / IG / TikTok / Own site	Your own website is not one of the services named in the covers licence. Contact APRA AMCOS and the publisher first.	
What is it for?	Personal / Platform revenue / Ad or business	Commercial use: get sync permission from the publisher first (APRA AMCOS). YouTube shares ad revenue on eligible covers once the publisher claims them.	
Who else is in it?	Names:	Other performers own a share of the recording unless agreed otherwise, and have performer's rights. Get their OK.	
Anything else on screen or audible?		Posters, TV, radio or other music in the background can be someone else's copyright. Clear it out.	

2. Phone setup

Step	Check	Tick	Step	Check	Tick
Placement	Phone on a stand, aeroplane mode or do not disturb on		Framing	Orientation chosen (landscape for YouTube; vertical 1 to 3 min = Short)	
Placement	Acoustic: about an arm's length, aimed where neck meets body		Framing	Both hands in shot	
Placement	Electric: phone near the speaker, amp at a moderate level		Framing	Light from the front, nothing private in the background	
Placement	Quiet room, fan and air con off for the take		Levels	Loudest part tested: no crackle or flattening	
Test take	30 seconds with the quietest and loudest parts		Levels	Manual input level set (if your app allows)	
Test take	Played back on headphones, then watched with sound off		Levels	Voice and guitar balanced	

3. Final check before upload

Check	Tick	Check	Tick
Tuned and three full takes recorded		Title and description credit the writer(s)	
Best take trimmed, start and end clean		Monetisation choice matches the purpose above	
Watched the whole video once more		Log filled in on page 2	

Not legal advice. This checklist summarises public pages from APRA AMCOS (Cover versions, What is Sync), the Australian Copyright Council (Video Uploads and Copyright), YouTube Help and the Meta Music Guidelines, checked on 16 November 2026. Rules change. If money, a business or a dispute is involved, get advice from a lawyer or the Australian Copyright Council.

Cover Upload Log

Page 2: one line per cover. Record what you posted and what happened, so you can check or dispute later.

4. Upload log

Date	Song and writer(s)	Platform	Audio source	Purpose	Link or video ID	Claim? Who, and what action	Next step

5. What a claim notice means on YouTube

Action	What YouTube Help says	What to log
Monetise	The most common policy for music claims. On eligible covers in the YouTube Partner Program, look for a Sharing ad earnings notice and switch monetisation on.	Claimant, and whether revenue is shared
Track	The video stays up and the owner sees viewing statistics.	Claimant
Block	The video is blocked, and this can differ by country. Shorts over one minute with an active claim are blocked.	Countries affected, and whether you edit or dispute
Strike?	A claim is not a copyright strike. Dispute only if you believe the claim is an error.	Dispute date and outcome

Facebook and Instagram: Meta says rights owners may block, mute or remove content with their music, music may not be available in every country, and you may be able to dispute through the notification you receive. Log these the same way.