



ARTISPRENEUR ACADEMY COURSE GUIDE

How to File Your Business Taxes as an Artist

Empowering Artists for Business Success

COURSE GUIDE | WORKBOOK | FULL TRANSCRIPT

Empowering Artists for Business Success

Artist Business | 03:23 video companion

ART MEANS BUSINESS.

Course Overview

This course will guide independent artists through the process of filing business taxes, explaining the tax forms required, the expenses that can be deducted, and how to prepare for tax season. You'll learn how to structure your finances throughout the year to avoid tax surprises and maximize your deductions as a self-employed artist or small business.

IMPORTANT This guide is for educational purposes only and is not legal, tax, or financial advice. Rules, fees, and filing requirements can change. Verify current requirements with official sources and consult a qualified professional for your situation.

What You Will Learn

- Explain the fundamentals of Business Taxes for Artists
- Understand and apply Tax Forms for Filing as an Artist
- Apply the process for Prepare for Tax Filing
- Understand and apply Deductible Expenses for Artists
- Understand and apply Filing Your Taxes
- Understand and apply Tax Tips and Strategies

How to Use This Guide

- Read the chapter write-up while or after watching the matching video lesson.
- Complete the action steps and reflection prompts in the context of your own creative business.
- Use the transcript appendix to review exact narration, terminology, and key phrases.

ART MEANS BUSINESS Learning matters most when it becomes a decision, a system, or an action.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Business Taxes for Artists

This chapter focuses on Why Filing Business Taxes is Important, Understanding Self-Employment and Business Tax Obligations, and Key Tax Terminology for Artists. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Why Filing Business Taxes is Important

Filing taxes as a business or self-employed artist is essential for

Staying Legal: The IRS requires all income to be reported, and failing to file can result in fines and penalties.

- Building Credibility: Filing taxes as a business establishes legitimacy, which can be useful for loans or future business opportunities.

Understanding Self-Employment and Business Tax Obligations

As an independent artist, you're considered self-employed, which means:

- Self-Employment Taxes: You are responsible for both the employer and employee portions of Social Security and Medicare taxes.
- Business Taxes: In addition to federal taxes, you may need to file state and local business taxes, depending on where you live and work.

Key Tax Terminology for Artists

Familiarize yourself with key tax terms

Gross Income: Total income earned before deductions.

- Tax Deductions: Expenses that reduce your taxable income.
- Estimated Taxes: Taxes you pay quarterly if you expect to owe more than \$1,000 in taxes for the year.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to why filing business taxes is important.
- Gather the information or documents you need for understanding self-employment and business tax obligations.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 2: Tax Forms for Filing as an Artist

This chapter focuses on Form 1040 and Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business), Form 1099 for Freelance Income, and State and Local Tax Forms. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Form 1040 and Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)

Form 1040 is the main form used for filing federal income taxes. As a self-employed artist, you'll also file Schedule C to report your business income and expenses.

Form 1099 for Freelance Income

If you worked as a freelancer or independent contractor, you'll receive a 1099-NEC form from clients who paid you more than \$600. All income reported on 1099s must be included in your tax filings.

State and Local Tax Forms

In addition to federal taxes, many states require self-employed individuals to file state tax returns. Check your state's requirements to determine the forms you need to file.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to form 1040 and schedule c (profit or loss from business).
- Gather the information or documents you need for form 1099 for freelance income.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 3: How to Prepare for Tax Filing

This chapter focuses on Tracking Your Income and Expenses Year-Round, Tools and Software for Tax Preparation, and Organizing Receipts and Invoices. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Tracking Your Income and Expenses Year-Round

Keep detailed records of

Income: Royalties, gig payments, freelance income.

- Expenses: Equipment, marketing, travel, studio rentals.
- Software: Use accounting tools like QuickBooks or Wave to track your income and expenses throughout the year.

Tools and Software for Tax Preparation

Consider using software to prepare your taxes

TurboTax: Popular tax preparation software for freelancers and small businesses.

- H&R Block: Offers both DIY and assisted filing options.
- TaxAct: Affordable software for self-employed individuals with simple tax situations.

Organizing Receipts and Invoices

Maintain a system for organizing receipts and invoices, either digitally or physically. Be prepared to provide records of all business-related expenses to back up your tax deductions.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to tracking your income and expenses year-round.
- Gather the information or documents you need for tools and software for tax preparation.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 4: Deductible Expenses for Artists

This chapter focuses on Common Tax Deductions for Musicians and Creators, Home Office Deduction, and Vehicle, Travel, and Marketing Deductions. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Common Tax Deductions for Musicians and Creators

Some common deductions for artists include

Equipment: Instruments, recording gear, and software.

- Travel: Airfare, hotels, and meals when performing or recording.
- Marketing: Costs associated with promoting your music (social media ads, website hosting).

Home Office Deduction

If you use part of your home exclusively for your music business, you may qualify for the Home Office Deduction. This allows you to deduct a portion of rent, utilities, and maintenance.

Vehicle, Travel, and Marketing Deductions

You can also deduct

Vehicle Expenses: Mileage or actual costs of using your vehicle for business-related travel.

- Marketing: All advertising costs, from social media campaigns to business cards.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to common tax deductions for musicians and creators.
- Gather the information or documents you need for home office deduction.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 5: Filing Your Taxes

This chapter focuses on Step-by-Step Guide to Filing Business Taxes, Filing Taxes Online vs. Using an Accountant, and Deadlines and Penalties for Late Filing. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Step-by-Step Guide to Filing Business Taxes

Gather Your Records: Collect all income and expense records from the past year.

- Fill Out Forms: Complete Schedule C and any other relevant forms.
- File Online or Use an Accountant: Choose whether to file on your own or seek professional help.

Filing Taxes Online vs. Using an Accountant

Online Filing: Ideal for simple returns, typically cheaper. Accountant: Better for complex returns or if you need personalized advice.

Deadlines and Penalties for Late Filing

April 15th is the deadline for filing federal taxes. If you miss the deadline, you may be subject to:

- Late Filing Penalties: 5% of the unpaid taxes per month.
- Interest on Unpaid Taxes: Accrues daily.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to step-by-step guide to filing business taxes.
- Gather the information or documents you need for filing taxes online vs. using an accountant.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 6: Tax Tips and Strategies

This chapter focuses on How to Maximize Your Deductions, Quarterly Tax Payments for Self-Employed Artists, and Setting Up a Tax Savings Account. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

How to Maximize Your Deductions

Keep thorough records of all business expenses to maximize your deductions. This will lower your taxable income and reduce your tax bill.

Quarterly Tax Payments for Self-Employed Artists

If you expect to owe more than \$1,000 in taxes for the year, you should make quarterly tax payments to the IRS to avoid penalties.

Setting Up a Tax Savings Account

Consider setting aside a portion of your income each month in a separate tax savings account to cover your quarterly or annual tax bill.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to how to maximize your deductions.
- Gather the information or documents you need for quarterly tax payments for self-employed artists.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 7: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This chapter focuses on Do I Need to Pay Taxes if I Earn Below a Certain Amount?, Can I Deduct Music Equipment?, and What if I Can't Afford to Pay My Taxes?. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Do I Need to Pay Taxes if I Earn Below a Certain Amount?

If your income is below the standard deduction, you may not owe federal income tax. However, you may still need to file to report business expenses and claim deductions.

Can I Deduct Music Equipment?

Yes, equipment that is directly related to your music business (instruments, recording software, etc.) is deductible.

What if I Can't Afford to Pay My Taxes?

If you can't pay your taxes in full, you can

Request a Payment Plan: The IRS offers installment plans for paying taxes over time.

- File an Extension: This gives you extra time to file your return, but you'll still need to pay any taxes owed by the deadline.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to do i need to pay taxes if i earn below a certain amount?.
- Gather the information or documents you need for can i deduct music equipment?.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 8: Course Conclusion and Next Steps

This chapter focuses on Recap of Key Points and Actions to Take to Prepare for the Next Tax Year. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Recap of Key Points

Filing Business Taxes: Essential for staying compliant and maximizing deductions.

- Organizing Records: Track your income and expenses year-round to simplify tax time.

Actions to Take to Prepare for the Next Tax Year

Set Up a Tax Savings Account: Save a portion of your income to cover quarterly or annual taxes.

- Use Tax Software: Stay on top of your tax obligations with accounting software or professional help.
- This course provides the knowledge artists need to confidently file their taxes and take advantage of available deductions.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to recap of key points.
- Gather the information or documents you need for actions to take to prepare for the next tax year.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Course Summary and Next Steps

You now have a working reference for How to File Your Business Taxes as an Artist. Return to the chapters that connect most directly to your current goals, then turn the material into a short, realistic action plan.

Key Takeaways

- **Introduction to Business Taxes for Artists:** This chapter focuses on Why Filing Business Taxes is Important, Understanding Self-Employment and Business Tax Obligations, and Key Tax Terminology for Artists. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **Tax Forms for Filing as an Artist:** This chapter focuses on Form 1040 and Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business), Form 1099 for Freelance Income, and State and Local Tax Forms. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **How to Prepare for Tax Filing:** This chapter focuses on Tracking Your Income and Expenses Year-Round, Tools and Software for Tax Preparation, and Organizing Receipts and Invoices. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **Deductible Expenses for Artists:** This chapter focuses on Common Tax Deductions for Musicians and Creators, Home Office Deduction, and Vehicle, Travel, and Marketing Deductions. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **Filing Your Taxes:** This chapter focuses on Step-by-Step Guide to Filing Business Taxes, Filing Taxes Online vs. Using an Accountant, and Deadlines and Penalties for Late Filing. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **Tax Tips and Strategies:** This chapter focuses on How to Maximize Your Deductions, Quarterly Tax Payments for Self-Employed Artists, and Setting Up a Tax Savings Account. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):** This chapter focuses on Do I Need to Pay Taxes if I Earn Below a Certain Amount?, Can I Deduct Music Equipment?, and What if I Can't Afford to Pay My Taxes?. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

- **Course Conclusion and Next Steps:** This chapter focuses on Recap of Key Points and Actions to Take to Prepare for the Next Tax Year. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Recommended Next Steps

1. Put this course into practice today
2. Explore more courses in the Academy
3. Keep building your music business

REMEMBER Art means business. Build the systems that give your creativity room to grow.

Full Video Transcript

The transcript below follows the narration-adjusted timing of the exported course video. Minor differences may occur between spoken delivery and punctuation.

[00:00] ARTISPRENEUR LOGO PREROLL

Music only.

[00:05] TITLE

Welcome to the Artispreneur Academy. In this course, you will learn how to file your business taxes as an artist. Let us get started.

[00:14] INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS TAXES FOR ARTISTS

First, Introduction to Business Taxes for Artists. Why Filing Business Taxes is Important. Staying Legal: The I R S requires all income to be reported, and failing to file can result in fines and... Building Credibility: Filing taxes as a business establishes legitimacy, which can be useful for loans or... Understanding Self-Employment and Business Tax Obligations. Key Tax Terminology for Artists.

[00:39] TAX FORMS FOR FILING AS AN ARTIST

Next, Tax Forms for Filing as an Artist. Form 1040 and Schedule C . Form 1040 is the main form used for filing federal income taxes. As a self-employed artist, you'll also... Form 1099 for Freelance Income. If you worked as a freelancer or independent contractor, you'll receive a 1099-NEC form from clients who... State and Local Tax Forms.

[01:05] HOW TO PREPARE FOR TAX FILING

Now, How to Prepare for Tax Filing. Tracking Your Income and Expenses Year-Round. Income: Royalties, gig payments, freelance income. Expenses: Equipment, marketing, travel, studio rentals. Software: Use accounting tools like QuickBooks or Wave to track your income and expenses throughout the year. Tools and Software for Tax Preparation. TurboTax: Popular tax preparation software for freelancers and small businesses. Organizing Receipts and Invoices.

[01:34] DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES FOR ARTISTS

Then, Deductible Expenses for Artists. Common Tax Deductions for Musicians and Creators. Equipment: Instruments, recording gear, and software. Travel: Airfare, hotels, and meals when performing or recording. Marketing: Costs associated with promoting your music . Home Office Deduction. If you use part of your home exclusively for your music business, you may qualify for the Home Office... Vehicle, Travel, and Marketing Deductions.

[02:02] FILING YOUR TAXES

Moving on, Filing Your Taxes. Step-by-Step Guide to Filing Business Taxes. Gather Your Records: Collect all income and expense records from the past year. Fill Out Forms: Complete Schedule C and any other relevant forms. File Online or Use an Accountant: Choose whether to file on your own or seek professional help. Filing Taxes Online vs. Using an Accountant.

[02:26] TAX TIPS AND STRATEGIES

Almost there, Tax Tips and Strategies. How to Maximize Your Deductions. Keep thorough records of all business expenses to maximize your deductions. This will lower your taxable... Quarterly Tax Payments for Self-Employed Artists. If you expect to owe more than \$1,000 in taxes for the year, you should make quarterly tax payments to the... Setting Up a Tax Savings Account.

[02:48] FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

First, Frequently Asked Questions . Do I Need to Pay Taxes if I Earn Below a Certain Amount? If your income is below the standard deduction, you may not owe federal income tax. However, you may still... Can I Deduct Music Equipment? Yes, equipment that is directly related to your music business is... What if I Can't Afford to Pay My Taxes?

[03:10] OUTRO

So, that wraps up file your business taxes as an artist. Put this course into practice today. Explore more courses in the Academy. Keep building your music business. Remember: art means business.