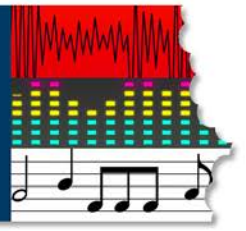


Sound Bites

Beatmaking with Mo



Choose a Drum Loop

Materials

You will need the following items:

- Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)
- Audio Interface
- Royalty free drum loops
- MIDI controller (keyboard).

Preparation

Before you launch into this activity make sure you are familiar with the following DAW processes:

- Zooming in and out
- Accessing the loop and sample library
- Moving around the workspace
- Creating an audio track
- Dragging loops and samples into the timeline
- Cutting and pasting audio regions.

Steps

1. Choose the best tempo for your song and make sure that your DAW is set to the grid of that tempo.
2. Drag a selection of drum loops onto an audio track in your DAW so that you can listen to them. If your DAW doesn't come with a library of drum loops you can use the loops provided with this lesson.

Your DAW should sync the loops up to the grid so that the tempo matches your drumbeat. This becomes important when you start adding other track layers on. It helps keep the different tracks in time.

3. Listen to the drum loops and pick one that you like.

Alter the Drum Loop

There are a few different ways to change an audio drum loop to make it your own. Experiment using each of suggestions below and don't be afraid to undo something and try it a different way. Trial and error is an important part of making electronic music.

Copy and paste

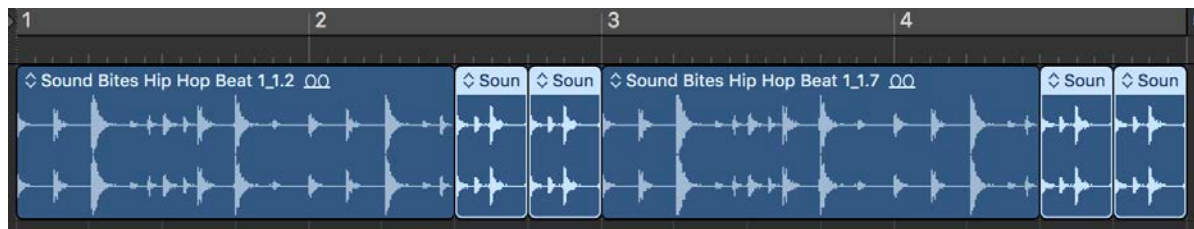
1. Select a section of the drum loop and copy and paste it into another section of the drum loop or paste it at the end.
2. See the example below using Mo's beat. Copy the process below or use your own drum loop to experiment with altering by cutting and pasting.

Sound Bites

Mo Komba Beatmaking



Sound Bites Hip Hop Beat One



Sound Bites Hip Hop Beat One with bars 2 and 4 altered to include the 3rd beat pasted into the 4th beat

How does it sound? If you like it, save it. If not, undo the changes and try again.

Filter the sound

1. Try changing the tone of the drum loop using an equaliser (EQ) to filter the sound. The EQ changes the volume of different frequencies of the sound. Start by adding an EQ plugin to the audio track.
2. Experiment with changing the frequencies. Try taking out all the bass (lower frequencies) or all treble (higher frequencies). How does this affect the mood of your track? Which version do you like better?
3. Some DAW EQ filters have presets that change the sound in particular ways. Investigate what options are available and explore how these can be used to alter your sound. Perhaps you want to start with a preset sound and then change it from there.
4. Use the reverse speed function to adapt a section of the loop. Most DAWs come with a reverse function for audio.
5. Pick another plugin from your DAW and experiment with the preset sounds that come with it.

Top Tip

Always make sure that you regularly save your work!