

DESN 275 Wk 8 Assignments – Spring 2016

Assignment #1: Loops

Using loops, **create an 8-bar or 12-bar blues song**. We did most of a 12-bar blues song in class.

8-bar blues form: 1 1 4 1 5 4 1 5

12-bar blues form: 1 1 1 1 4 4 1 1 5 4 1 5

Remember the pitch $\frac{1}{2}$ steps: 0 0 0 0 5 5 0 0 7 5 0 7

You need drums, a bass, a rhythm instrument like a guitar or keyboard, and a lead instrument so it isn't so boring. Or you could play along to create the lead. The bass, rhythm, and lead all have to change chords together. Of course the drums don't have to change pitch.

Not every loop you try will work for this. Many loops have chord changes built into them. For these first assignments we want to start with loops that stay on one chord. The Blues set of loops in Studio One all work together well. As a matter of fact, any of the loops within a Studio One category such as R&B or Pop or World, should work well together.

If you are using the free version of Studio One, you can use the Prime soundset that is a free download offered when you first use Studio One. You may have downloaded it already. If you are adding it, you may have to right-click on the soundset, and "open with" Studio One.

Alternative Source 1: Under Loops > on the class homepage, you will find the soundset files (plus extra ones!). And you will find many other individual loops that work well.

Alternative Source 2: Use Filezilla or Fetch to go to the homework turn-in site. Click on the Braukmann folder and inside you will find copies of all loop files. With FTP they may load much more successfully.

#2: Loops

Using loops, create a sound track with this form:

1 1 2 2 1 1 6 6 4 4 1 1 4 2 4 2 1 1

- Pick from the following scenes and communicate the appropriate feel using tempo and choice of loops:
 - fashion show -moderate speed, smooth groove*
 - road trip, -blues, rock and roll work here*
 - night life -slower-paced, edgy*
 - Use at least drums + two additional pitched tracks.
 - Option: Find minor key loops for the 2s and 6s.
 - Export and turn in as an Ogg or MP3. Put "fashion show" or "road trip" or "night life" into the file name.
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#3: Workout Track with MIDI assist

Crate an approximately one-minute aerobic workout track incorporating at least two songs at exactly the same beats per minute: 140 bpm, in a 4/4 time signature. You will have to change the tempo of the songs to make them 140 bpm. (Audacity has a tool for changing tempo. You may have to experiment a bit with the speed because it uses a percentage rather than a specific target tempo.

As is typical for this type of product, add a kick drum playing constantly on the beat, that will anchor the whole track together. You will find a kick drum in several of the drum sets in *Presence*. Use a deep sounding kick drum. Record the kick drum by playing the querty keyboard. After recording, in the Editor, select all the notes and quantize them.

This workout track should begin with two measures of just the kick drum. Then add the music. Workout music is arranged on an 8-measure (32-beat) form. So the song changes should occur on multiples of 8 measures.

Incorporate Tom Petty's *I'll Feel a Whole Lot Better* and Darius Rucker's *Wagon Wheel* as two songs in this workout track. (a section of each of those two songs are provided for you) *Extra credit* if you pick one or two other songs that would be reasonable candidates for such a project, and put them in the middle. Use long fades of 8 beats where one song fades out while the next song begins. You may have to "make room" for the kick drum in the frequencies of the songs. Turn in an Ogg or MP3.

Study Questions on Loops, Virtual Instruments and MIDI

What is a *loop*? What is the difference between a loop and a short, recorded musical passage?

What kind of information does MIDI contain? (Several examples)

In MIDI, what is note *Velocity*?

Explain "transpose" clearly.

What are the differences between a "virtual" instrument and "real" instrument? Which ones can you transpose? Which one lets you change individual notes?

Does a virtual instrument *track* have any recorded sound? Explain.

So you get a MIDI USB keyboard and plug it in to your computer. Is it ready to play the virtual instrument you have set up in an instrument track? If not, what needs to be done, for instance, in Studio One?

How do you add a MIDI part? How do you add notes to it?

How do you edit a MIDI note to make a longer duration note?

How do you change a MIDI note to a different pitch?

How do you *transpose* loops or notes in the MIDI editor?

Music Terminology

What is meant by beat?

What is meant by tempo?

What is a measure?

What is meter?

What in general is a scale?

What is meant by key?

What is an octave?

How can you find the notes in C major on a keyboard?

If you were looking at a keyboard, could you say how many half-steps there were between any two notes on a C major scale?

Chords for the blues are built on what three notes of a major scale?

Sound in Film Technical Details

What is a typical film EQ? (Academy curve)

What are some options for making dialog more easily understood?

High pass 200 Hz. Low pass 8k Hz

+6 dB at 1750 Hz with a wide Q

For warmth, +2 dB at 250 Hz

Why is masking a critical problem in film?

How much compression for film sound?

What is the term for replacing field dialog with studio dialog?

What do you do if a sound clip is not the right length?

What are sound blankets?

What is probably wrong if a stereo sound track doesn't sound good in mono?

Sound in Film

What are the three categories of sound in a film?

What do these people do?

Production recordist

Sound editor

Sound mixer

Sound designer

What is done in pre-production?

What is done in production?

What is done in post-production?

What is the difference between diegetic and non-diegetic sound?

What is a Foley artist?

What is the difference between a storyboard and a sound map?