

DESN 275 Wk 8 Assignments – Spring 2017

Assignment #1: Loops

Using loops, **create both an 8-bar and a 12-bar blues song**. Please use at least mostly different instruments/loops for each. We will do most of the 8-bar blues song in class.

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

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

12-bar pitch ½ steps: 0 5 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 record your own lead vocal or instrumental track. The bass, rhythm, and lead loops all have to change chords together. Of course the drums don't have to change pitch, but they do need to change patterns once in a while so they don't become boring!

And of course you are going to mix these tracks for width and depth. Do they need EQ also?

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 "soundest" 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 soundest, 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 should work well.

#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 one from the following scenes and communicate the appropriate feel using tempo and choice of loops:

fashion show 80 bpm -smooth groove

*road trip, 125 bpm -blues, rock & roll work here
night life 105 bpm -slower-paced, edgy*

• Use at least drums + three additional pitched tracks.

(• Option: Find minor key loops for the 2s & 6s)

• Turn in as an MP3. Put "fashion show" or "road trip" or "night life" & your name into the file name.

#3: Workout Track with Constant Tempo

Crate an approximately 40 second 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. Use the Studio One Bend tool. (*Audacity has a tool for changing tempo. But you have to experiment with the speed because it uses a percentage rather than a specific target tempo. Lots of trial and error.*)

As is typical for this type of product, add a kick drum playing constantly on the beat, which will anchor the whole track together. An 8-beat kick drum track has been provided for you. (*If you want to record your own, you will find a kick drum in several of the drum sets in Studio One 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.

#4: Workout Track with Constant Tempo

Make a similar constant tempo track with a *tempo of your choosing*, and two songs of your choosing. This will be worth more points!

Music Terminology

What is meant by beat?

What is meant by tempo?

What is a measure?

What is meter?

What in general is a musical scale?

Which type of musical scale generally creates a sad or pensive feeling in the listener?

What is meant by key?

What are the notes in the key of C major?

What is a half-step?

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?

In the studio cats system of musical notation, what do each of the numbers 1 through 8 represent in the key of C?

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

What does it mean to transpose?

What is the relationship between a half-step, and a semitone? (They are the same!)

In the key of C, how many half-steps are there between the 1 and the 4? Between the 1 and the 5?

Bending Tempo

What is the "click track" tool in Studio One?

How do you tap to select a tempo in Studio One?

What does the bend tool do?

What is a bend marker?

How do you add automation to a Studio One track?

What are the two main uses for the left and song locators in Studio One?

What does Quantize mean?

Loops

What is a loop?

How exactly do you transpose a loop event?

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

What is the difference between a software instrument loop, and a real instrument loop? Which makes it easy to edit individual notes.