

Creating beats Lesson 3. 1st May 2020

Studying the Drums of Popular songs.

Hello, and welcome to another lesson, I really hope you are well and keeping safe. It is important to stay creative so let's do some studying today. I hope you had fun creating templates for Drum loops with the templates provided at the end of last two lessons

As producers we must study our favourite songs so we can learn from experienced producers. The way we do that is by transcribing. In **music, transcription** is the practice of sequencing (that is reproducing the sounds in logic as best as we can).

Remember that when we try to make sense of what we see on screen it is great to have the Maths of Rhythm pretty clear:

1 bar is equal to 4 beats

And **each** of those **beats** can be **divided** into

2 steps or subdivisions per beat = **8 steps in a bar.** (4 beats x 2)

3 steps or subdivisions per beat = **12 steps in a bar** (4 beats x 3)

4 steps or subdivisions per beat = **16 steps in a bar.** (4 beats x 4)

Here is an easy song: **Billy Jean** by Michael Jackson. (try to find it on youtube or amongst your favourite recordings) it is good to listen to it and focus on the drums.

This rhythm or drum loop is easy to program in logic.

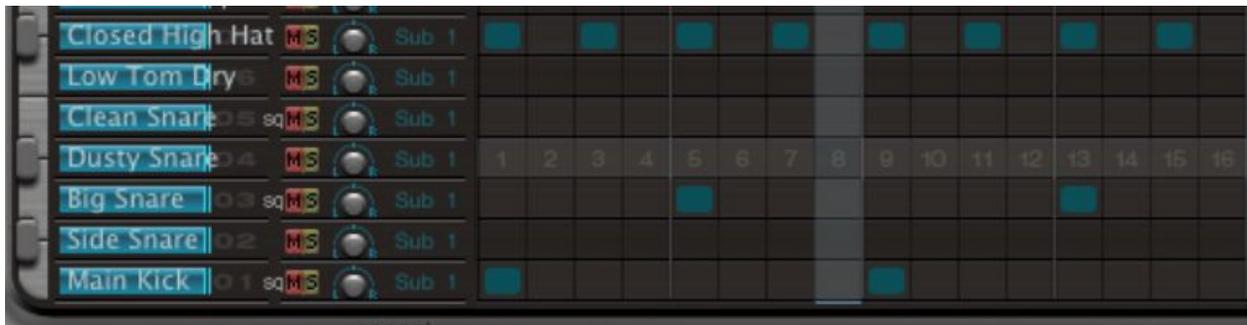
The speed of it is about 115 bpm. And the number of steps in a bar is 8 (two steps per beat)

Here is a graph which represents a bar (4 beats) of **Billy Jean** that we would translate into the **Piano Roll** and **Ultrabeat**.

Number of beats	1		2		3		4	
steps or subdivisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Closed HiHat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snare			S				S	
Kick (or bass drum)	K				K			

The closed HiHat plays every one of the 8 steps. The snare the back beat. That is the beginning of beats 2 and 4 and the kick the beginning of beats 1 and 3

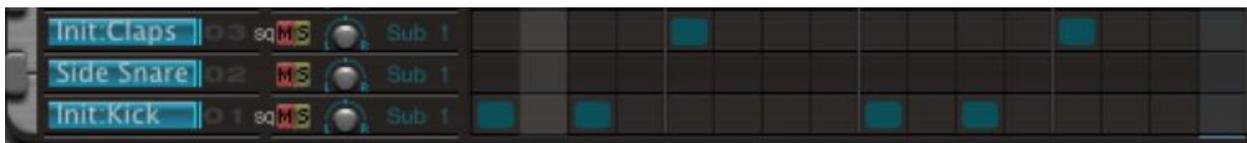
Here is the rhythm on the Ultra beat (notice that it features 16 steps but the hi hat just play 8 steps, every other one.)



Here is another song that everybody knows: **We will Rock you**, by **Queen**.
Again: this is 4 beats, 8 steps. But now the bpm or speed is 76

Number of beats	1		2		3		4	
steps or subdivisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Closed HiHat								
CLAPS			S				S	
Kick (or bass drum)	K	K			K	K		

This song doesn't have any HiHats and the snare is replaced by clapping, but still plays the backbeat (beats 2 and 4)



And bello you can see this rhythm represented in the Piano Roll



Assignment: Leaving always the Kick on beat 1, try to experiment shifting the other kicks to another step in the 8 or 16 step grid. Just making a shift by 1 step, will change the groove of the song. So have fun. As always, I am giving you some graphs for you to practise there and if you had access to logic at home, then you can try sequencing the rhythms you created in the Ultrabeat.



Well done for making it to the end of today's lesson.

Next week we will focus on Breakbeats, an Important style for electronic music that has evolved from Rhythm and Blues from the 70s.! So I am looking forward to dive deep into this.

example : we will rock you on a 16-step grid with hi hat added (every other step, that is 8 hi hats) and the red kicks (K) Show they have been shifted 1 step later and the green Kick (K) one step later.

Number of beats	1				2				3				4			
steps or subdivisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Closed HiHat	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Snare					S								S			
Kick (or bass drum)	K			K					K	K						

