

GarageBand –Session 1

Projects and Instruments

This section is designed to familiarize you with how to create a project, select an instrument, and adjust some properties for easier use.

1. *Open* GarageBand and *Create* a new project
2. *Save* your project as your first and last name to your desktop. In this window you can change the tempo, time, and key. Some notes about what some of these options mean:
 - a. **Time:** Usually called the time signature. The upper number indicates how many beats are in each measure; the lower number indicates the value of the note that receives each beat. For example: if you're in 2/4 time it means that there are 2 beats in each measure (count one, two), but that those beats are quarter notes. Since a measure must add up to a whole note and a whole note=2 half notes=4 quarter notes, then the count for a 2/4 measure must be "one-and-two-and" where the metronome will tick on the downbeats (one and two). If you don't understand this, it's okay... I'm working off of high school music lessons myself. But, if you happen to fall in love with GarageBand and want to imitate a song you know, it may be helpful to figure out what the time signature on your recreated song will be by trying to figure out what the original one was. Otherwise, you may find that your song moves much faster or slower than the original.
 - b. **Bpm:** this means beats per minute; it's the tempo or speed at which the measures will progress.
 - c. **Key and Major/Minor:** If you were playing the piano, the key of C would mean that your thumb is on the white C key of the piano. For our purposes, the key of C is fine. Later, when you're playing with loops, you might want to play with the key and the major/minor buttons, but we'll talk about that when we get to it.
3. Change the time to 2/4 and use the sliding bar to change the tempo to 82 bpm. You can also adjust these things later when you are creating your music.
4. *Press* the "Create" button.
5. In this new window, a piano keyboard should come up. If you click on it with your mouse, you'll hear a piano. I think it's easier to compose with the keyboard, so go up to "Window" and select "Musical Typing"
6. You can now create music by pressing different keys on the keyboard. The blue portion highlighted in the keyboard above tells you which octave you're currently playing. To change octaves, simply move the blue section to the right or left.
7. Change the instrument you are playing, double-click on the Grand Piano image. The "Track Info" screen should slide onto your main screen from the right side of the GarageBand window. Make sure the top of this window has a box that says "Software Instrument/Master Track" and the pull down box is set to "show all." If you click on "Master Track" you'll be able to adjust the tempo the time, and the key. You can also choose Master track presets, which will adjust the way your instruments sound, at least in theory (I haven't been able to produce any differences when I've been playing with it. But perhaps my ears aren't capable of picking up such subtleties.) If you select "Software Instrument" you can change the instrument that you're playing on the keyboard. Go ahead and play... there are quite a few instruments to choose from.

8. Go to “Drum Kits” and select “Rock Kit”

Adding Tracks

Tracks are audio portions of your music that when put together make a song. Think of a drumbeat as a track, then add a guitar as another track, add a bass as another track, and you might have a song. In GarageBand, you can create an almost infinite number of tracks. The ability to create so many tracks allows novice musicians to manipulate complex music.

1. Go to “Track” in the menu bar and select “Duplicate Track.” Do this twice. If you select “New Track,” you will be able to create a new track from a different instrument.
2. You should now see three different tracks in the GarageBand window. All three should be “Rock Kits”. Selecting the track with the mouse tells you which one you are currently working with.

Making Sweet Music

We are going to honor Queen’s “We Will Rock You” in this first attempt to make music and then move on from there. I am sure you will be able to do this on one track. But in order to show you how great GarageBand is, we are going to be as simple as possible for this first beat.

1. On the first track, move the octave indicator so that the blue zone begins on the fourth tiny black dot. To do this, you can just click on that dot.
2. Press the “A” button on your keyboard. This is the base drum. Hit this key twice in order to create the heartbeat kind of pattern.
3. To record, press the red record button at the bottom of the GarageBand window. There should be a number of buttons. They operate in similar ways to the buttons on a VCR. Press the record button again to stop recording.
4. When you’ve practiced your bass drum, push the record button. To turn the metronome on or off, go up to “Control” and click on the metronome button.
5. Move to the next track by clicking on the next rock kit.
6. Now press the D key... this is your snare drum.
7. With this track highlighted, press the play button and then press the record button to add the snare drum right after your bass drum beats.
8. This isn’t in the original, but we’re going to add a high-hat in order to keep better time. Highlight the next drum kit and press the T, Y, or U key. Start playing your track and then add the high hat in to keep time (4 quarter notes per measure)
9. After you’ve done this, you can reduce or enhance the volume for each track. This will allow you to highlight certain sounds at certain times in your song by making them louder or softer. Next to the picture of the Rock Kit, you’ll notice a bar with several options. The rightmost of these is a dropdown button. Press this button in the track you want to adjust. In the new window that opens, you can adjust your volume by clicking at the points you want to change the volume. You’ll notice that you’re creating little round markers as you adjust the volume in each place.

Exporting to iTunes

This step will help you meld your tracks into one and actually create a song.

1. To render your tracks into one file, go to “Share” and “Send song to iTunes”
2. You now have a song that you can add to an ipod, imovie, or FinalCut.

Dropping Songs off in the “Drop Box”

1. Save your song on your Desktop as your name and the assignment number (janedoe1, for example)
2. Open the 300 Folder (the folder is actually named 30000) next to the trashcan in the Mac Dock at the bottom of your screen.
3. Open the “Public” Folder
4. Drag and Drop your song into the “Drop Box” folder.