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# Mashup Write Up

Audio Production

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## Warping/Clip Creation

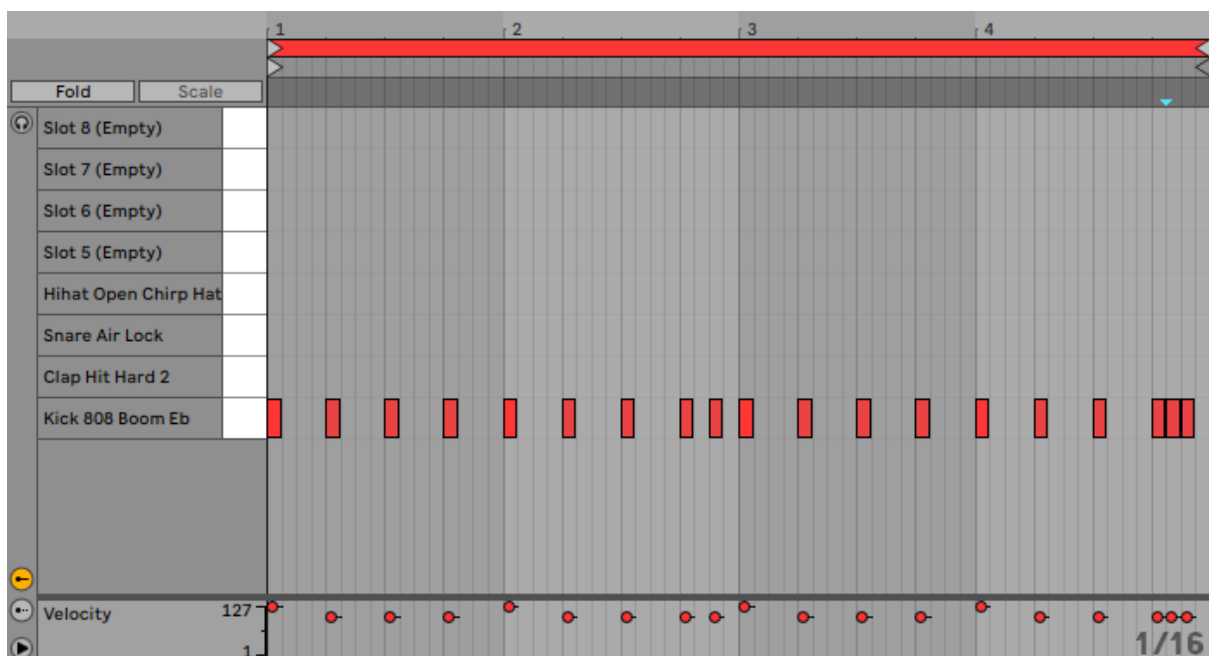
I began the process of warping by importing my chosen songs into Ableton; Talk About, In My Mind, Goosebumps and Begging. I gauged the tempo by using the tap feature on each track. This was repeated until I managed to keep the tempo at a steady pace. I then hit warp and set the bpm for each track to the following: In My Mind – 126, Goosebumps – 125, Talk About – 124, Begging – 134. I found the first/most prominent beat of each track and set the 1.1.1 to it. Each song's beat matched the metronome. Going by this, I decided to focus on the first three tracks as their beats per minute was similar with one another and to perhaps use Begging for short audio clips. As recommended by our lecturer I set the global bpm to 128 which resulted in the tracks not sounding too distorted. Each warp was then saved.

Next up was to gather some clips from each song to be used in the arrangement. This was done by duplicating down the warped tracks and pottering through the songs until I found a 1, 2, 4 or 8 bar long clip that I thought might fit well into the arrangement. I would then drag the loop and start/stop markers to match and once again duplicate the clip, renaming them as I went along.

The clips were then dragged into the arrangement view and organised. I adjusted the volume automation to give some fade-in/out effects to selected clips. By the end of it I had a short gap at the start, clips organised into their respective places with automation applied and a short gap at the end (both gaps left for possible sound effects/VOX clips).

## Beats/Drums

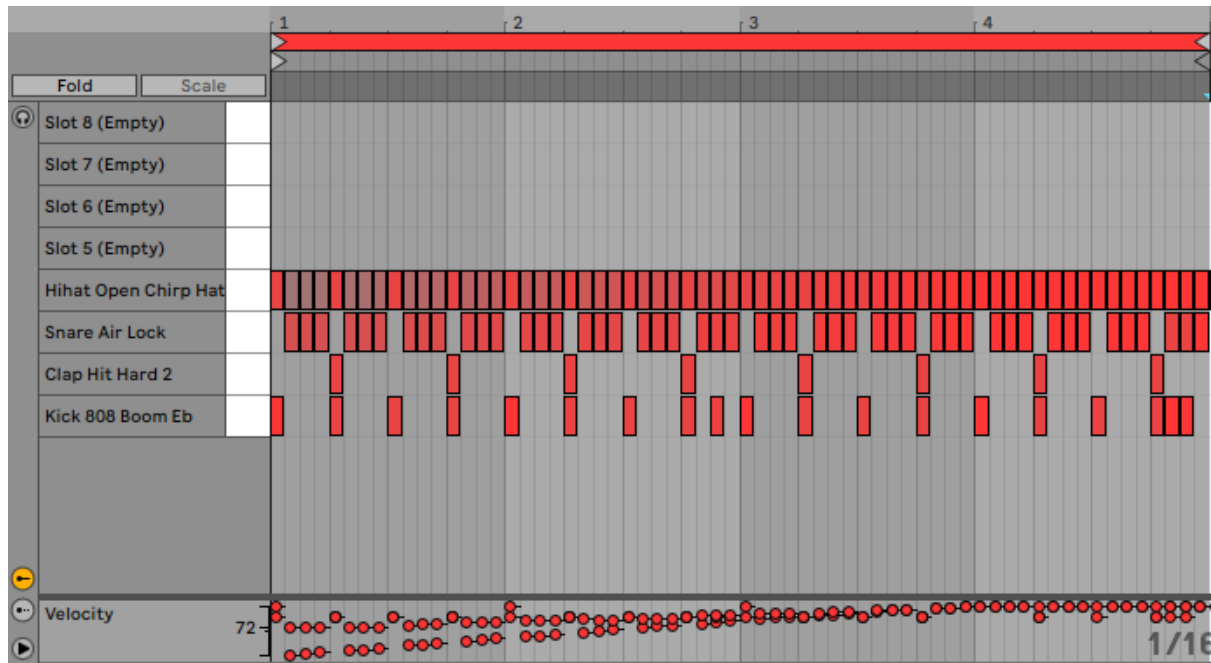
To create the drum beat, I used impulse as a track and began by creating a kick clip. This was done by finding a kick I liked in the Ableton browser and putting it into the impulse device. I assigned 4 kicks to the first and third bar, a fill at the end of the second and fourth bar and an additional fill at the end of the fourth. The kick at the beginning of each bar had its velocity raised to 127.



Kicks

This clip was then duplicated down to add in some claps and the process of adding to the impulse device was repeated (as it was to be with the snare and hi-hat). A clap was assigned to every second clip throughout the four bars.

For the 'build' I drew in the snares in groups of three to fill the gaps left from the previous clips. I set the velocity so that it steadily increased and for the 'build end' I added a high-hat throughout all four bars, also increasing in velocity.



*'Build End'*

For my 'Main 1' and 'Main 2' beats I left the hi-hat, claps and kicks consistent with previous clips. However, the snare varied between them. 'Main 1' had two groups of two snare notes in bar 1-4, with an additional note added at the end of bar two and four. 'Main 2' had two groups of three notes in each bar and an additional note at the end of bar two and four. I decided on two 'main' drum beats as to subtly alter the intensity of the mashup.

My final drum clip was the 'End Clap' and consisted of two bars, a clap and a hi-hat note. I increased the intensity of both notes to 127 and added a concert hall reverb audio effect. I increased the dry/wet for maximum reverb and slightly increased the decay time to subtly end the mashup with.

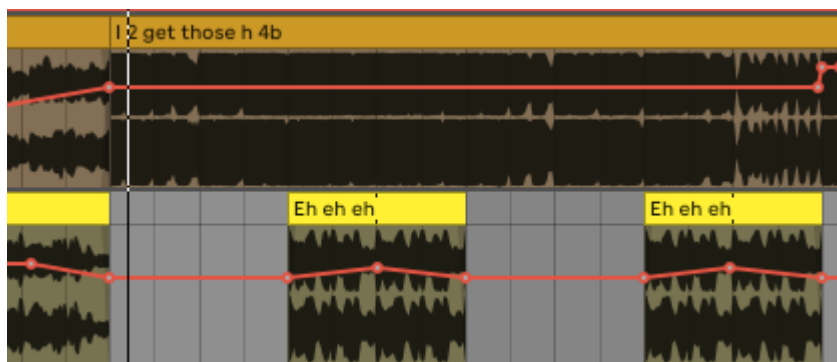


*Concert Hall Reverb Settings for 'End Clap'*

## Mix A

I had all the drum clips I needed so I began dragging them over to the arrangement view. A 2-bar gap was left at the beginning for introductory audio effects/VOX, and I began with my 'Kicks & Claps' clip on bar 3. This went on for four bars and was followed by 'Build End' (four bars), 'Main 1' (twelve bars), 'Main 2' (eight bars) and 'End Clap' (two bars). This, along with the 2-bar gap at the beginning, brought the mashup up to 60 sec. I then proceeded to automate the volume of my beat, altering the beginning so that it faded in and increasing the volume of the 'End Clap' at the end.

With a solid beat in place, I continued to move around the audio clips to match. The arrangement begins with a clip from 'In My Mind' while 'Talk About' gradually fades in until the build finishes. Other clips from 'Talk About' then continue to play while 'In My Mind' gradually fades away into the background. The track continues and the build from 'Goosebumps' begins to fade in (without the assistance from my build clips) and the chorus kicks in, facilitating the change in beat from 'Main 1' to 'Main 2'. I added in clips from 'Talk About' to coincide with bar 3, 4, 7, and 8 of the 'Goosebumps' chorus, slightly altering the volume of the four 1-bar clips to add a fade in/out effect. This chorus continues for eight-and-a-bit bars, the additional bit at the end being used as the ending line; 'every time...'. This bit had its volume increased and was also the cue for the 'End Clap' to conclude the mashup.



*Automation at the closing of the mashup*

## VOX

I added in VOX by dragging them to their own audio track and then dragging them to the arrangement. 'Feel the Vibe' was used as the opener, being placed just before the audio kicks in. I then concatenated 'the Vibe' and 'sounds like this' to compliment the first drop and used the 'and this' clip for the second, 'soft' drop. To alter the VOX clips, I used the chorus bass audio effect to add some wobble.



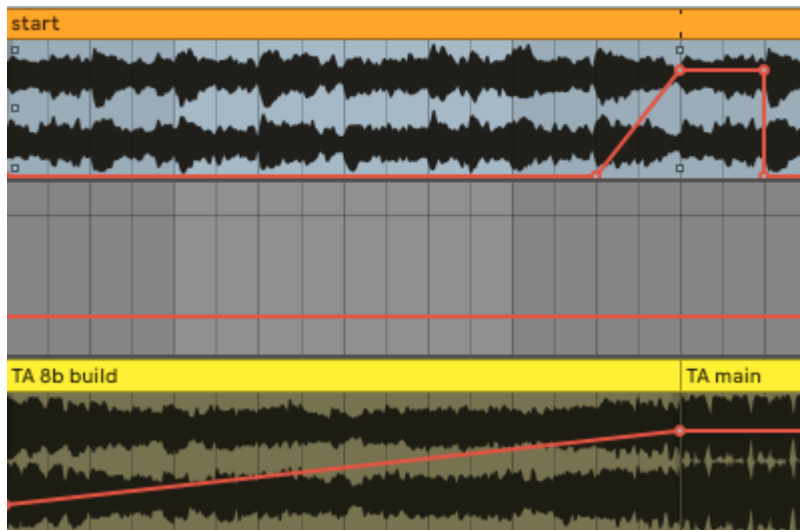
*Chorus Bass effect added to VOX clips*

## Audio Punctuators

I created a ramp by assigning the operator instrument to an empty midi track. I drew in a note for the length of the four bars and assigned white noise to it. I then increased the frequency as the clip played and was left with a steadily increasing 'swoosh'. I once again took advantage of the concert hall reverb audio effect to add some reverb at the end. I duplicated this clip and made it two bars in length to introduce the mashup.

## Mix B Final

For Mix B, aside from adding in the VOX clips at the positions listed above, I dragged the ramp clips into the arrangement. 'Start Ramp' was placed at the beginning to introduce the song, while the 'Ramp' clips were positioned at both build-ups. The only other alteration I made to the arrangement was adding the ping pong wide effect to the 'Start' clip from 'In my Mind'. I thought this blended the clip in nicely with the 'TA Main' clip from 'Talk About' as I felt I could hear the subtle note resonating in my head for a second.



*Dry/Wet Automation of Ping Pong Effect*

I then adjusted the audio to ensure it was level throughout all tracks as I accidentally adjusted the volume a bit throughout when automating. The master volume was then set to -8db to reduce clipping.

## Final Mixdown

To conclude I exported the mixdown as an AIF file, ensuring it was no longer than a minute. I proceeded to bring this file over to Adobe Audition and set it to -14 lufs. I again altered the volume in Audition to further minimize clipping. The track was then exported as a mp3 file (320kbs), an OGG file and an AAC file.