

LEAD PROGRESSION TECHNIQUES



FINISH **MORE** MUSIC

LEAD PROGRESSION TECHNIQUES

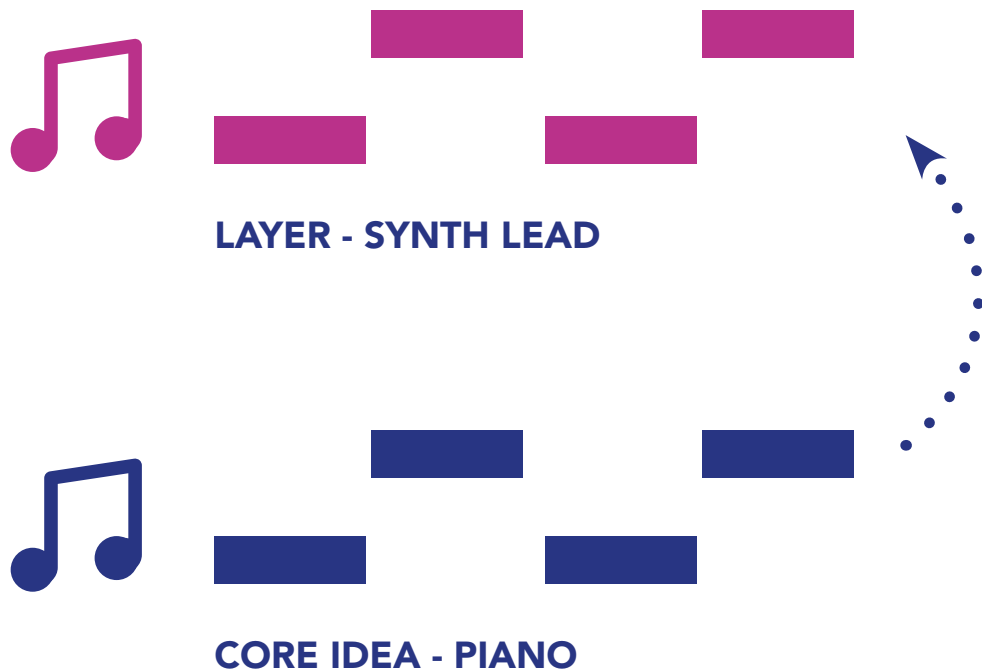
It's easy to fall into the trap of trying to add more and more sounds to keep your arrangement interesting. This is not only a difficult route to take (endless preset surfing anyone?) it nearly always ends up overcrowding the track and swamping the core idea that you started with.

The best tracks are nearly always built around simple ideas that develop as the track unfolds.



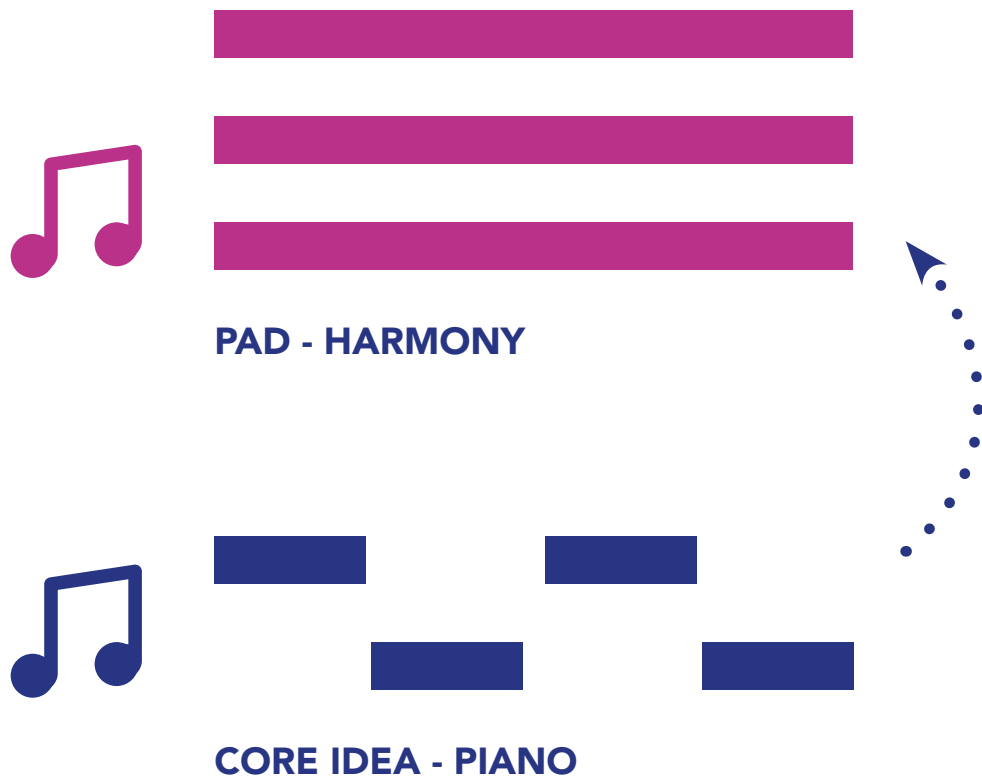
Here are **5 of my favourite techniques for developing your lead sound into new sections of your arrangement**. These will help you to move beyond the loop stage and keep your arrangement engaging.

1. Layering



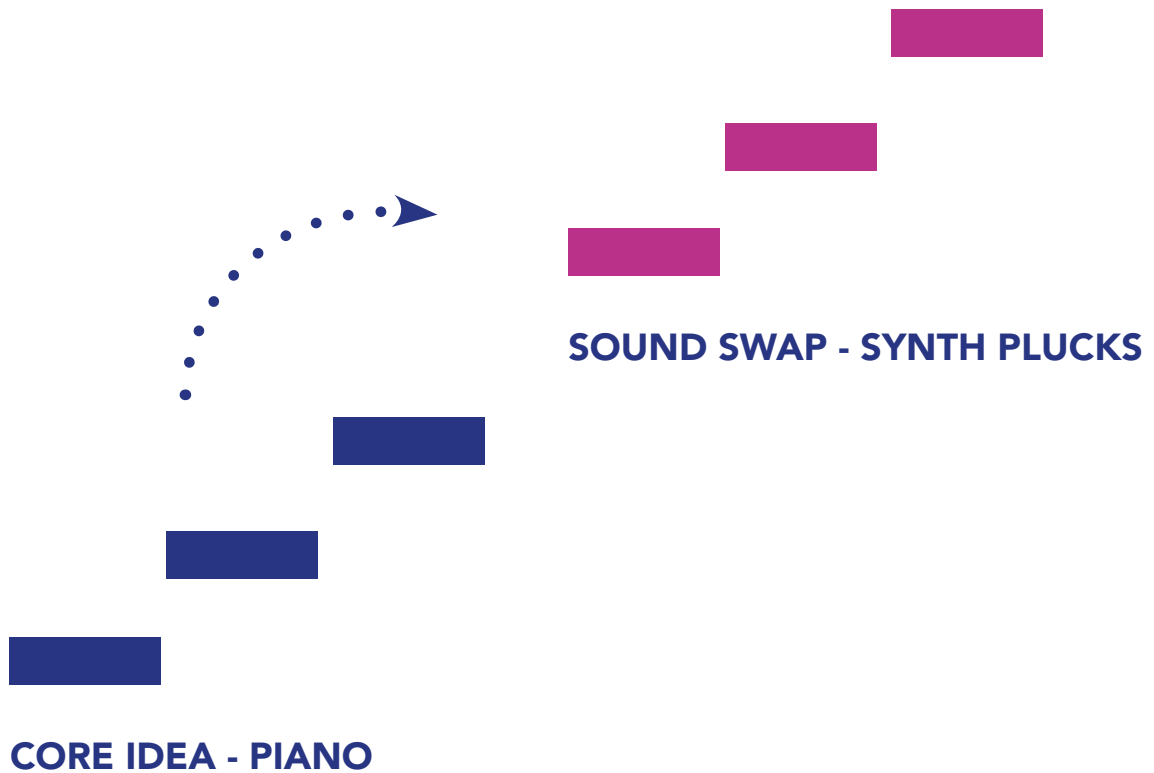
Stack a **new sound on top** of your lead sound (or an octave apart), copying the same pattern.

2. Harmonise



It's amazing how our perception of a sound changes when
a chord progression accompanies it.

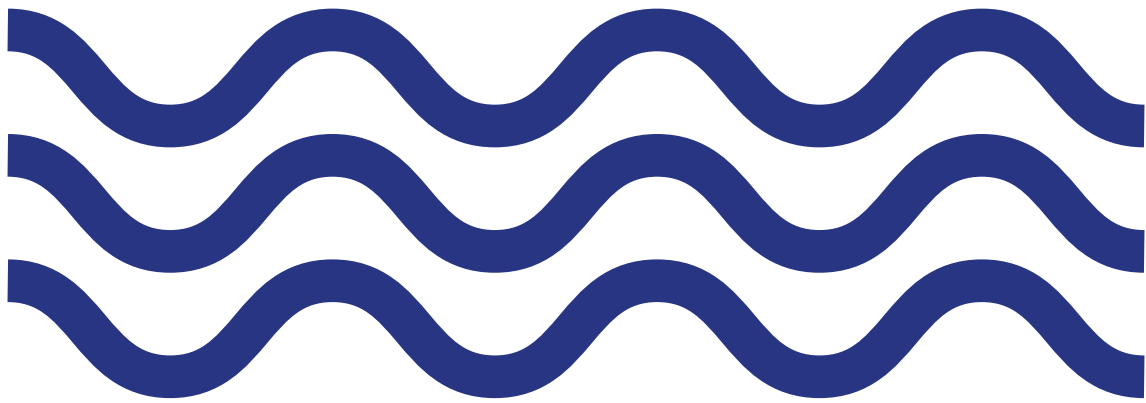
3. Swap the sound



A very simple tactic but one used to great effect in every genre of music.

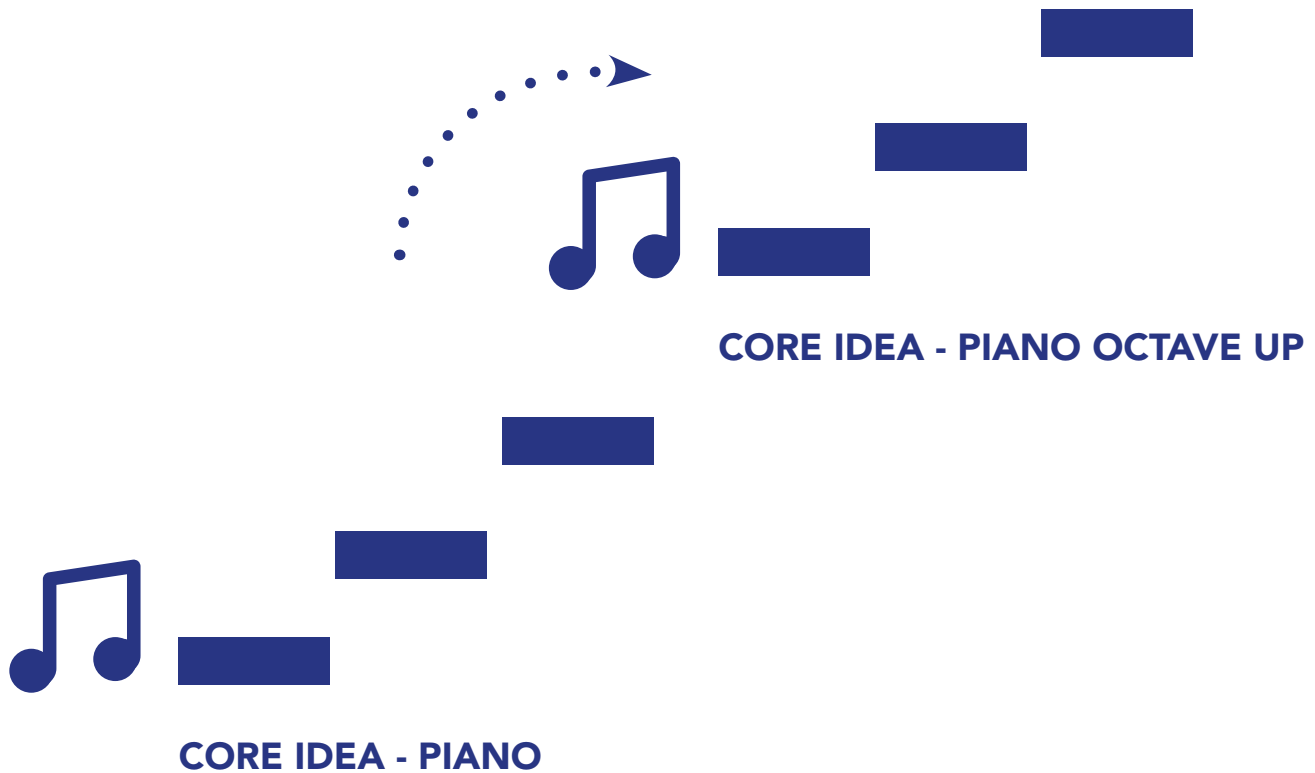
Contrast creates interest.

4. Effects Washes



Anything from distortion and bit reduction to delays and phasers can give your sound a fresh lease of life. **Don't be afraid to use multiple effects at once.**

5. Transposition



Simply **copy your pattern up an octave** to add more tension in the breakdown
or transpose it to another key to shift the vibe of your track.