

Composing Workshop

WELCOME



Technology for Composition



OBJECTIVES

By the end of today you will be able to:

- Use a MIDI sequencer
- Use a MIDI controller keyboard
- Layer parts together to create a composition
- Blend sounds together through mixing

You might be able to:

- Explore sound creation using synthesisers

SCHEDULE

Morning session

Introduce and setup technology

Begin to compose.

Add and layer parts to composition.

Lunch Break (30mins)

Afternoon session

Develop sounds within composition.

Listen to Compositions.

Guided tour and feedback

Introduce Technology



Apple imac



Keyboard/mouse

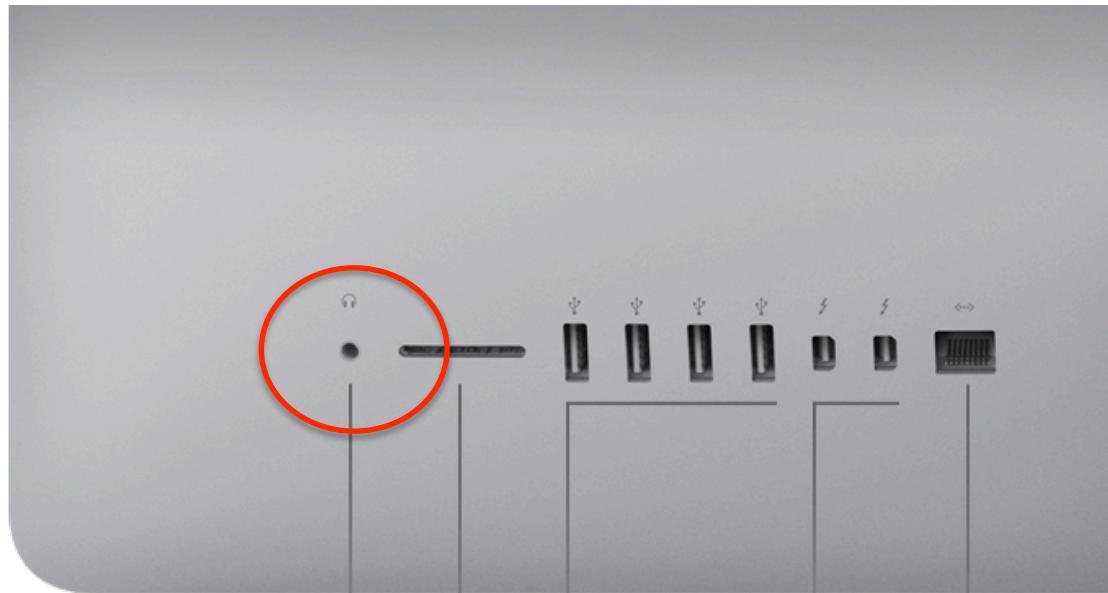


MIDI Controller
Keyboard
(no sounds)

Power button
(hold in)

USB

Headphone Socket



Rear of screen (right hand side)

Headphone

USB 3

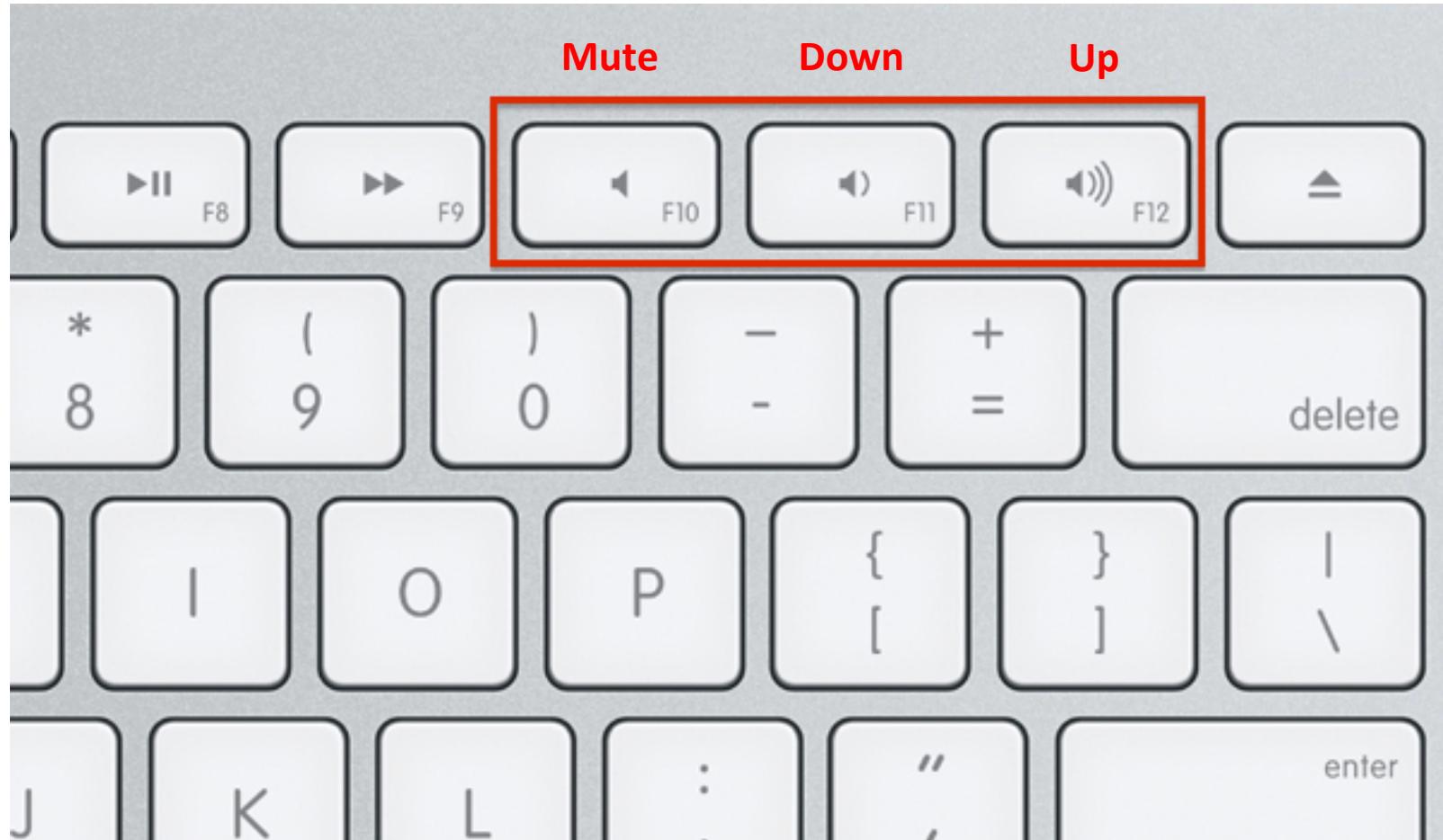
Thunderbolt 2

SDXC card slot

Gigabit Ethernet

Sound Volume

Upper Keyboard; Close Up



Logging On

Click your mouse, two boxes appear on screen

Name

Enter Password

Usernames (temporary)

Z1025226 , Z1025227 , Z1025228 , Z1025229 , Z1025230 , Z1025231 , Z1025232 ,
Z1025233 , Z1025234 , Z1025235 , Z1025236 , Z1025237 , Z1025238 , Z1025239 ,
Z1025240 , Z1025241 , Z1025242 , Z1025243 , Z1025244 , Z1025245

Password

qp5j%cx^e

Accessing the Files

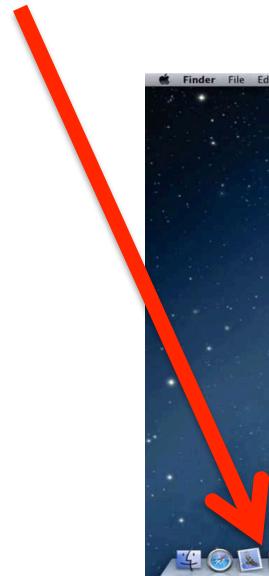
1. Open a Browser from the Dock at the bottom of your screen,



Chrome

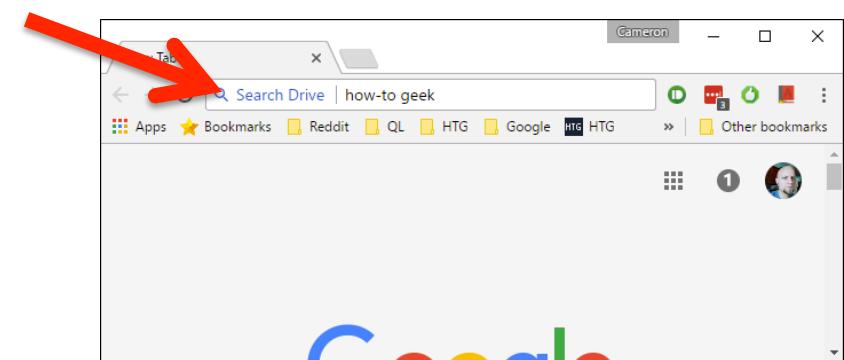


Safari



2. Type the following text in the Address Bar

<http://digmusic.github.io>





Garageband

The following workshop uses Garageband to create a music composition.

STEP 1

Download the file '**Garageband Tutorial: How To Make A Basic Track**' to your computer.

- You can now choose to follow this worksheet.....or follow the video tutorial.
(use your headphones)

STEP 2

Click the



icon from the Dock at the bottom of the screen.

- 00:15secs into the video tutorial... is really the beginning of the workshop.



The Chord Progression

This section helps you get a chord sequence down for the basis of your composition.

00:15 – 4:50 Video reference

1. Create a Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Piano?

2. Explore a chord sequence (for 4 bars).

- explore the chords you like the sound of
....you do not need to try and copy the chords used in the video. **Explore your own!**

(C Maj) I V vi IV
 C G Am F

You might want to explore some common progressions\;

<https://www.musical-u.com/learn/exploring-common-chord-progressions/>

PIANO CHORD PROGRESSIONS

I VI IV V

IN COMMON MAJOR KEYS

KEY OF	Root Positions				Close Inversions			
	I	VI	IV	V	I	VI	IV	V
C								
G								
D								

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PIANO CHORD PROGRESSIONS

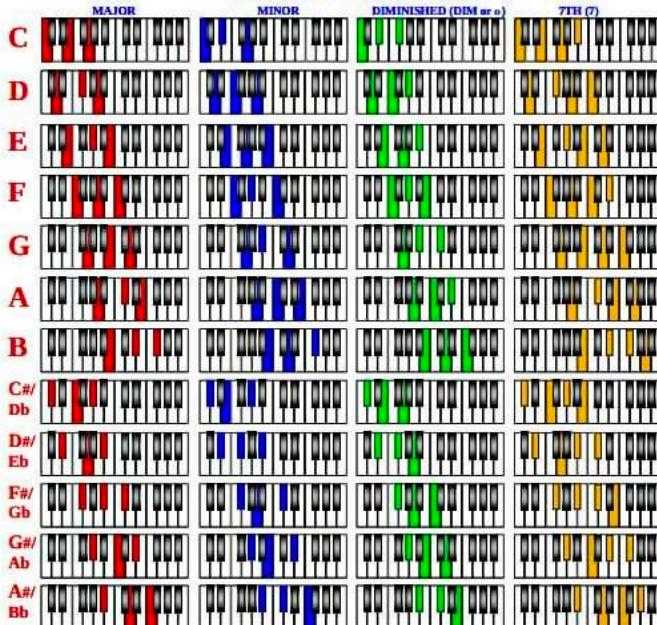
ii VI I

IN COMMON MAJOR KEYS

KEY OF	Root Positions				Close Inversions			
	ii	v	i	ii	v	i		
C								
G								
D								

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PIANO CHORDS CHART





The Bass Line

This section helps you get a Bass line down for the chord progression you have chosen.

5:25 – 7:62 Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Bass or Synth bass?

2. Explore a Bass line for the chords in your progression(for 4 bars).

- explore the **ROOT notes** for the chords
- consider the notes in a triad (3 note) chord...will these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. **Explore your own!**



The Lead Line

This section helps you get a Lead down for the chord progression you have chosen.

7:02 – 10:10 Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Synth Lead sound?

2. Explore a Lead line that seems to fit the chords in your progression

- explore the **LEAD notes** for the chords **and explore the scale**.
- consider the notes in the scale you are using....do these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. Explore your own!



The 'Beats'

Get the 'Beats' down for the composition so far.

10:27-11:30 Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit sound?

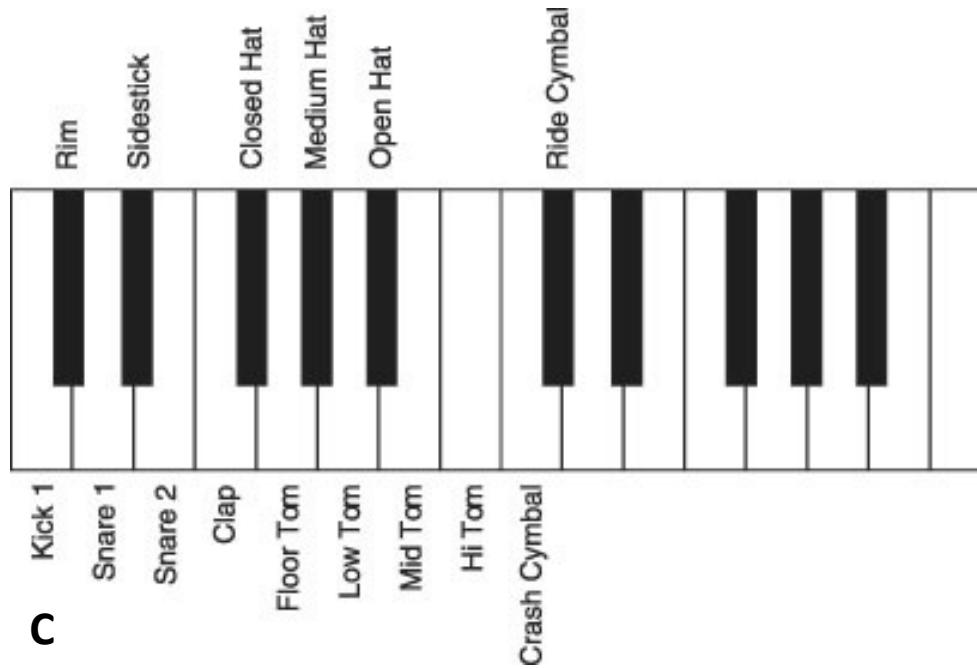
2. Explore a lead line that seems to fit the chords in your progression.

- explore the **LEAD notes** for the chords **and explore the scale**.
- consider the notes in the scale....do these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. Explore your own!

MIDI Drum Map

Each element of a MIDI drum kit is mapped to a different key on the keyboard as below:





Layering the ‘Kick’

This section helps you layer the KICK with the ‘Beats’ track.

11:30-13:20 Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit: Kick?

2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Kick sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each kick sound.
- you might explore using EQ to blend the sounds together?



Layering the ‘Snare’

This section helps you layer the SNARE with the ‘Beats’ track.

11:30-13:20 Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit: Snare?

2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Snare sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each kick sound.
- you might explore using **VOLUME** to blend the sounds together?



Mixing the ‘Snare’

This section helps you blend the Snare sound.

13:20-16:15 Video reference

1. Explore EQ on the Snare track.

Explore EQ to shape **the Snare sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each Snare sound.
- you might explore using EQ to blend the sounds together?
- Removing **High frequencies** with EQ to help blend



Adding an '808 Clap'

This section helps you blend a classic '808 Clap'

16:15- Video reference

1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drums: 808?

2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Clap sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each Snare Clap sound.
- you might explore using EQ or Volume to blend the sounds together?

Blending additional parts

This section helps you to continue your composition development.

17:20 onwards Video reference

1. Create additional audio and MIDI Tracks

- explore Audio Loop sounds that you feel fit your composition

2. Explore Audio Loops, EQ and Automation

Explore Audio Loops

- consider how Audio Loops may layer and blend your sounds together.
- you might explore how these can be blended together through EQ and Automation.



Your Composition

Export your composition as an audio file.

17:20 onwards Video reference

1. Create additional audio and MIDI Tracks

- explore Audio Loop sounds that you feel fit your composition

2. Explore Audio Loops, EQ and Automation

Explore Audio Loops

- consider how Audio Loops may layer and blend your sounds together.
- you might explore how these can be blended together through EQ and Automation.

SUMMARY

Do you feel able to:

- Use a MIDI sequencer
- Use a MIDI controller keyboard
- Layer parts together to create a composition
- Blend sounds together through mixing

Do you feel able to:

- Explore sound creation using synthesisers

We hope you have enjoyed the workshop

THE END

