

The text below is from "Squidly," available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Squidly-Travesties-Literature-Jeff-Morin/dp/B0BMWKTNQK>

GarageBand Experiments

When GarageBand, the music editing software for Macintosh, first came out, I was really curious about it. I learned how to import MP3 (music) files, edit, cut up, and rearrange them, and add GarageBand's premade "loops" for new sounds. Aside: GarageBand is a decent sound file editor and yet, one thing it cannot do is to move tracks between left and right stereo channels or convert a stereo sound file to mono—Apple, is this really so difficult?



I also burned a couple of CDs of these experiments to give to friends. For the fun of it, I put the CDs into jewel cases and made a cover image, titling the CD "Hug The Dude" by Sleazilla. I found a photo online of a man's bare ass, but to my great amusement one friend asked me where I got this photo of his ass.

I made a lot of song files in GarageBand, but these are probably the best:

I Think I Club You. I've always admired "I Think I Love You," written by Tony Romeo and performed by David Cassidy on *The Partridge Family* (1970). Despite being a pop song from a TV show, it's good, better than the typical bubble-gum of the era. I aimed to create a club song by chopping up and rearranging the vocals, adding loops or creating new ones (for example, the organ instrumental), and adding a deeper rhythm. In 2016 I read that David Cassidy was performing in Florida and sent a music CD of the song to him care of his performance venue. I left off my own info, however, not because I was worried Cassidy might contact me, but his lawyers. I never knew if he heard it but I hope he would have been amused.

Voi Club Sapete. Similarly, I took this aria from the *Marriage of Figaro*, added a back beat and premade loops, and doubled the vocals to make the solo soprano sing a duet with herself. I don't know who performed the original, however.

Hodie. I took “Hodie Christus natus est” from the *Yoolis Night* CD (1994) by Anonymous 4 and added the bongo and echo of the “hallelujah” to the solo vocal. At the very end, I alternated the vocal between the left and right channels to create a fade-out shimmer.

Triple Minuet. This started as an experiment merely to shift the tracks of the same music so they play in a sort of “round,” but the end result struck me as impressionistic, like a painting—you can see (hear) what's going on but it's unfocused.

Wallpaper. This was an original experiment of layering premade loops and slowly shifting one line to create an advancing, syncopated effect.

Wrists and Ankles. I created this entirely from premade loops. I was inspired by club dances I had gone to over the years (back then); and was quite surprised to discover GarageBand shipped with a loop of “fuck fuck fuck fuck.” The quiet ending section I meant as “aftercare.”

MohoMojo. I was really getting into playing with GarageBand when I thought of using public service announcements about the hazards of mold, the English and Spanish versions. It's a little longer than it needs to be, but it's still interesting it came out as well as it did. The voices are my former work colleagues, Dale Kemmery and Lina Younes. Yes, I did play it for them and they were amused. In case you don't speak Spanish, “moho” means mold.

Each of the pieces above can be heard at the URL or via the QR code below.



eksai.github.io/squidly