It's all stems from the track at its fullest, then copying, adding and subtracting parts. — deadmau5

CHAPTER RECAP

Once you've developed your melody, split it up into an arrangement with multiple instruments, honed your synth sounds, built your drum beat, and it's all coming together into about :23 seconds of looping music that you love—that's when it's time to start thinking about structuring it into a song.

Joel's structuring process starts with copy and paste. Paste your loop across a timeline, then start deleting tracks here and there. The idea is to leave behind a structure that starts sparse and develops into something full.

Once you've done that front to back, take another "bells and whistles" pass: lay in new sounds to fill dead space and add energy, or tweak your drum pattern to highlight transitions.

Structuring is also a time to look ahead to your live set. Think about what other track your new song might follow in a live mix and try to make the intro of the new track blend well with the outro of the other.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Listen to "Strobe" again, which Joel said was essentially two tracks sewn together. Can you hear where one track starts and the other begins? What else do you notice about the structure?

SUBCHAPTERS

- Copy, Copy, Add and Subtract
- Find the Right Track Length
- Think Ahead to Your Live Set
- There's More to Music Than Big Drops

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DEADMAU5 TEACHES ELECTRONIC MUSIC PRODUCTION

NOTES

•	Joel and Mozart have a lot common—they're both rebel
	composers who used their popularity to shake up the tired
	conventions of the musical circles they moved in. Watch the
	film <i>Amadeus</i> , which dramatizes the difficult truth that devoting
	yourself to your art often means turning your back on social
	norms.

ASSIGNMENT

Break down the structure of "Phantoms Can't Hang". Listen critically to the track, paying attention to every detail and try to write down how the track changes over time. What are the different tracks? When are they coming in and out? What are the the bells and whistles? Now share your breakdowns with your classmates and see if they heard things you didn't. If you want a bigger challenge, try it again with "Strobe".

