

## Chapter 14

# Using GarageBand Recordings with Other iLife Applications

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### *In This Chapter*

- ▶ Using your GarageBand compositions with iMovie
  - ▶ Using your GarageBand compositions with iDVD
  - ▶ Using your GarageBand compositions with iPhoto slideshows
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**T**his will be a very short chapter, but don't blame me. Why? Because using music that's made with GarageBand in your iMovie or iDVD projects, or iPhoto slideshows, is drop-dead simple. Put another way, Apple did all the heavy lifting, so after you've mixed and mastered a song in GarageBand and exported it to iTunes, all that you have to do to use it with other iLife applications is to click a couple of times in the right places — and you're done.

So all that is left is for me to show you the right places to click, which won't take more than a handful of pages.

## *Using Your GarageBand Compositions with iMovie*

If you're a Mac moviemaker, you can create your own film scores using GarageBand. While GarageBand isn't designed for scoring movies, it's a simple-enough proposition.



You may not have to compose much; loops are often all that you need to score a movie. Or you can use a synthesizer software instrument to create moody, atmospheric soundtracks with almost no effort. Chapter 5 is all about loops, and Chapter 6 has the details on recording software instruments.

The first thing to do is to determine how much music the movie will require. After you figure that out, compose a song or songs of the appropriate length or lengths in GarageBand.

At this point, you can just master and export the song to iTunes and then import the song into iMovie, but if you want to watch the video and audio together *before* you master and export, there's one little problem: GarageBand doesn't do that.

It's no big deal if you are sure that the audio and video will work together, but if you think you may have to go back and tweak the song in GarageBand, here's a way to watch the video and listen to the audio, roughly in sync with each other, without having to remix, remaster, and export the song each time you make a change.

## *PseudoSync: Previewing the movie score*

I call this technique PseudoSync, because you're going to simulate synchronizing the video that's playing in iMovie with the audio that's playing in GarageBand by running both programs at once.

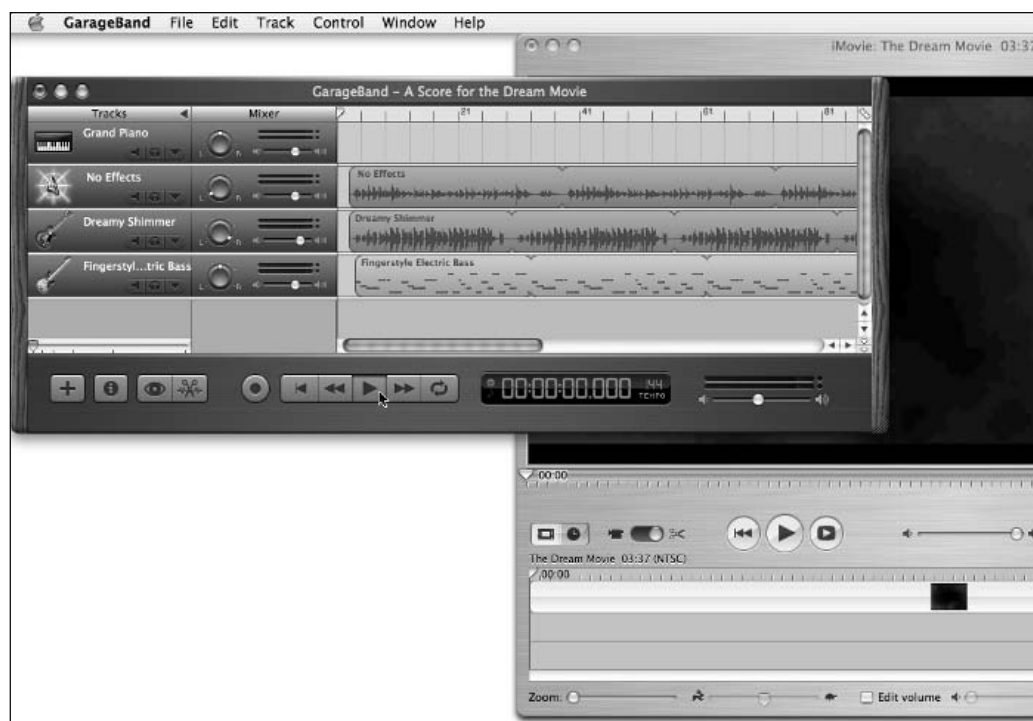


If you don't have at least 512MB RAM and/or a speedy G4 or G5 processor, the procedure may not work or may not work well. It's worth trying, but be forewarned.

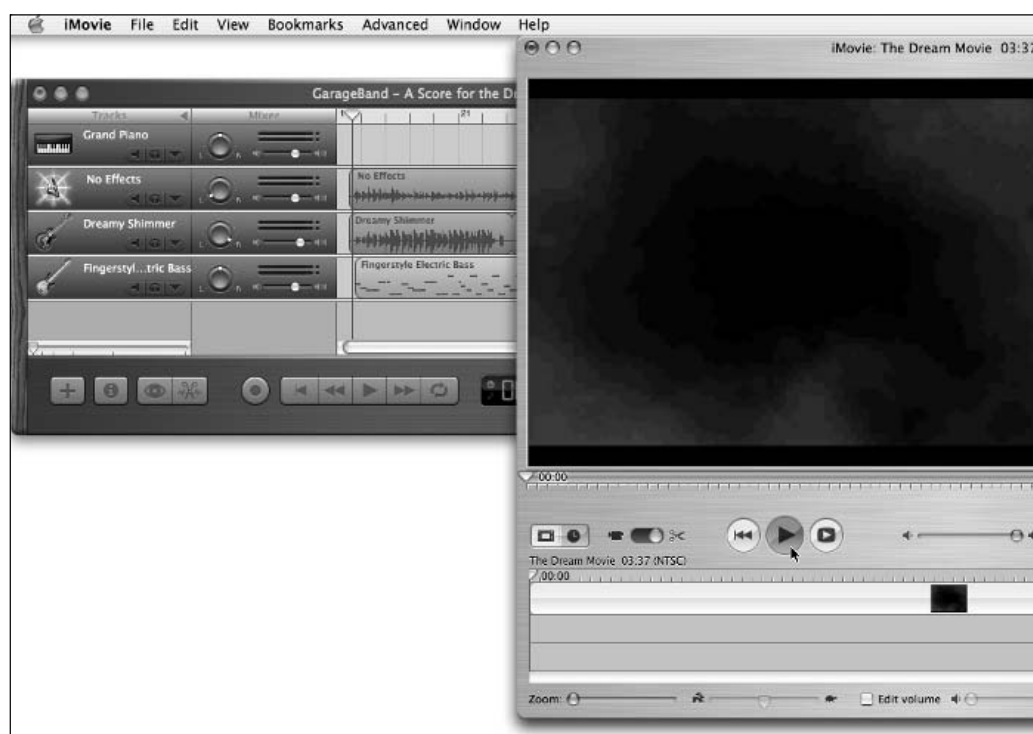
Okay, follow these steps to simulate synchronizing the video to your song in GarageBand:

1. **Open the audio project in GarageBand and the video project in iMovie.**
2. **Arrange their windows so that you can click the Play button in both programs easily, as shown in Figure 14-1. (But don't click Play just yet.)**
3. **Move the playhead to the appropriate location in the song (in GarageBand) and in the movie (in iMovie) before you click anything.**
4. **Click the Play button in GarageBand (as shown in Figure 14-1), and then click the Play button in iMovie, as shown in Figure 14-2.**

**Figure 14-1:** Arrange the iMovie and GarageBand windows like this, and then click the Play button in GarageBand.



**Figure 14-2:** Click the Play button in iMovie at the appropriate time, and your audio and video will play simultaneously and in sync.



If your timing was right, the music in GarageBand and the video in iMovie will play more or less in sync with each other. This trick works because the GarageBand's audio continues to play in the background, even after you switch to iMovie.



When you create your song in GarageBand, allow a measure or two of silence at the beginning of your GarageBand project. That gives you enough time to switch applications and click the iMovie Play button so that the movie starts in sync with the audio.

5. **Watch and listen a few times, and if you feel that the audio and video don't work together as well as you would like, return to GarageBand, make your changes, and do the whole thing again.**

Repeat as necessary until the audio fits the video like a glove.



Previewing your song with your movie isn't required. You can master and export the song and then import it into your iMovie project without this whole sync and dance. But syncing and dancing can save you tons of time if you need to make changes to the audio.

## *Finishing the movie score*

When you're satisfied that your audio fits the movie like a glove, master the audio and export it to iTunes in the usual way. (See Chapter 11 for more about mastering and exporting.) Then, you can use the score in iMovie by merely clicking the Audio button and dragging the song from the iTunes Library that appears onto the iMovie Timeline, as shown in Figure 14-3.



You may have to click the Timeline button (which looks like a clock) to switch to the Timeline view in iMovie.

When iMovie finishes importing the song, your iMovie project should look like Figure 14-4, with the custom score on the track below your movie on the Timeline.

And that's all there is to it — you've created a custom soundtrack and added it to your iMovie project.



You may want to convert the audio from an uncompressed AIF file to a compressed format (AAC or MP3) before using it in iMovie. The compressed audio file will sound almost as good but take up less hard drive space. In Chapter 13, I explain how to compress AIF files into other file formats.

**Figure 14-3:**  
Drag the  
song onto  
the Timeline.



**Figure 14-4:**  
An iMovie  
with a  
custom  
score.



## Using Your GarageBand Compositions with iDVD

iDVD lets you create DVDs that can be watched on a television with almost any recent-vintage DVD player.

If you want to create music that plays while a DVD menu is on-screen, it's even easier than using your own music with iMovie. You have no bothersome synchronization to worry about when you make a DVD; the music plays when the menu is on-screen.

It's simple; just follow these steps to create a DVD that plays a song you created in GarageBand while the DVD menu is on-screen:

1. **Create a song of any length in GarageBand, and then master and export it to iTunes.**
2. **Launch iDVD.**  
  
If your iDVD has more than one menu, make sure that the one you want to add your song to is shown in iDVD's main window.
3. **Click the Customize button to open the Customize drawer (if it's not open already).**
4. **Click the Media button at the top of the Customize drawer.**
5. **Choose Audio from the pop-up menu, as shown in Figure 14-5. (The menu appears just under the Media button after you click it.)**
6. **Select the song in the song list.**
7. **Click the Apply button at the bottom of the Customize drawer.**

The song will now play (and loop continuously) when this menu is on-screen.



You won't hear the song if you've got the Motion menus turned off. So, if the Motion button (in the lower-right corner of the iDVD screen) isn't lit in green, click it to turn on the Motion menus.



You can audition any song in your iTunes Library by clicking the Play button at the bottom of the drawer. If you don't like the song that you made in GarageBand, you can choose any song in your iTunes Library by clicking it and then clicking the Apply button.

**Figure 14-5:**  
Adding a  
custom  
song to an  
iDVD menu  
is as easy  
as 1-2-3-4-  
5-6-7.



## Using Your GarageBand Compositions with iPhoto Slideshows

If you're a fan of iPhoto's Slideshow feature, you'll be pleased to know that you can use your GarageBand compositions as background music for your iPhoto slideshows. It's as easy as adding your composition to an iDVD menu, which is pretty easy.

Here's a blow-by-blow account:

1. Create a song of any length in GarageBand, and then master and export it to iTunes.
2. Launch iPhoto.
3. Select the photo album that you want in the Source list.
4. Click the Slideshow button at the bottom of the window.
5. Click the Music tab at the top of the Slideshow window.
6. Select the Play Music During Slideshow check box.
7. Choose iTunes Library (or a playlist) from the Source pop-up menu.

8. Select the song.

9. Click the Play button.

That's all there is; your song will play when you run the slideshow.

Figure 14-6 shows everything that you need to add your music to an iPhoto slideshow.



**Figure 14-6:**  
Adding  
music to an  
iPhoto  
slideshow.



To configure the slideshow settings — the speed, duration of each picture, transition, and so on — click the Settings tab at the top of the Slideshow window.



# Part V

## The Part of Tens

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave

By Rich Tennant



## *In this part . . .*

**T**he chapters in this part are packed with good stuff. Chapter 15 covers add-ons that can make GarageBand more fun. Chapter 16 shows you tips and tricks for improving GarageBand's performance on your Mac. Chapter 17 contains ten things that you absolutely, positively should know about if you're going to be a GarageBand guru. And finally, as this book draws to a close, I look at GarageBand resources on the Web in Chapter 18.