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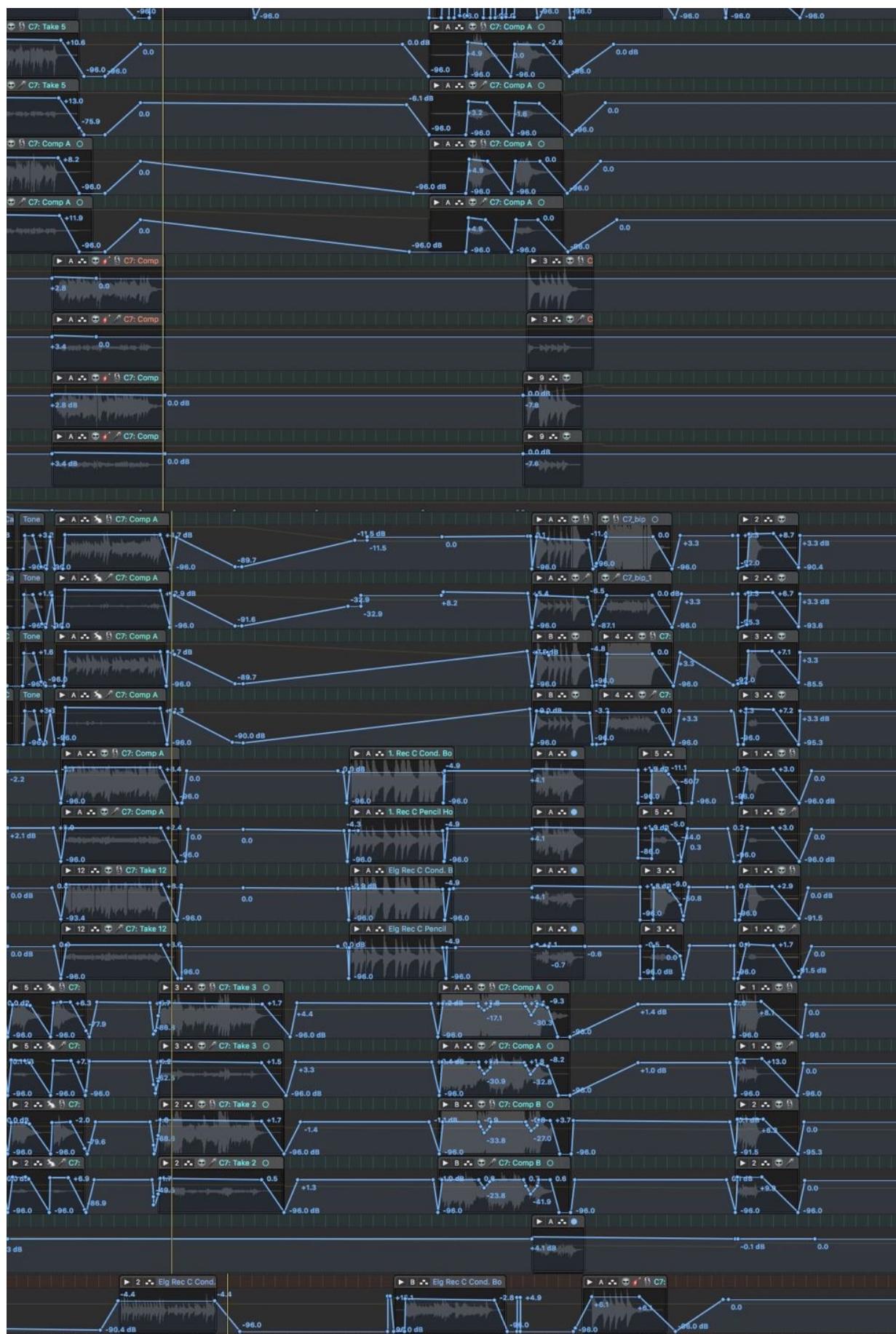


SPENDING
MORE TIME

WITH TRACK AUTOMATION

June 12, 2018 / Ryan Alvarado







I've been relying more on track automation to control the movement of my songs. In Logic Pro X you can drag aux busses from the Environment (⌘0) to the arrange window to create tracks for them. Those then can be automated. Try dropping the volume level of all reverbs on loud sections of your songs.

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QUICK TIP: MAKE YOUR SNARE FATTER VIA "DOUBLING"

October 03, 2015 / Ryan Alvarado

Everyone wants a fat snare and kick sound in this rock or metal mix. This is because having small wimpy drums personally reflects on you. If you do not have a meaty, buff, and confident kick or snare, you are not the hip studio owner and recording engineer everyone thought you to be. The kick and snare are the most important part of your song. The entire

song revolves around the snare. Without a good snare, your guitars will become acoustic and your vocalist will become Britney Spears. This is a well known fact in physics.

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tags / Tutorial

ALEXANDER JAMES GUITARS URSA REVIEW

August 07, 2013 / Ryan Alvarado

Ever since I was a young child, I've wanted a custom-made left-handed guitar. Being a lefty, very few of the guitars I saw in my

local music shops were playable, and some flat out didn't sell lefty instruments.

Walking into a musician shop is still, to this day, like walking into a candy shop where every piece of candy is a delicious jawbreaker that won't fit into your mouth.

I was on the search for a custom lefty guitar for a few years before I found Alexander James Guitars and his small team, owned by Alexander James Colarassi. Despite wanting a custom, I didn't put aside money for the occasion since I assumed it was out of my budget and couldn't give me much more value than my current collection of low-end Ibanez and ESPs. I found Alexander James Guitars on LeftFretz.com's blog, a website dedicated to left-handed guitars and basses, and within moments of seeing his Macassar Ebony Ursas, I fell in love with his guitars and was writing him an email to enquire about prices, details, and endorsements. It's been a few weeks and a year since I've owned my Ursas and about two years since I placed the order, and I

want to share why I think anyone who loves exotic wood guitars should consider buying one of his instruments.

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tags / Guitar, Ursa

DETAILS ON MY NEW CUSTOM URSA GUITAR

June 21, 2013 / Ryan Alvarado

As many of you know, I'm getting a new hand-built custom guitar forged by Alexander James Colarossi, exotic wood luthier. Being left handed, I've always been stuck with sub-\$500 black or grey guitars.

After 12 years of playing, I felt I finally deserved a nice guitar that would get me through the next decade of adventures.

URSA GALLERY

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ACHIEVING DECENT RECORDINGS

April 14, 2012 / Ryan Alvarado

Every decade seems to have its own definition of a “good” mix. The 80s was famous for its overuse of reverb. The 90s,

especially 90s rock, had its own sound too. I'm guessing the 2000s will be known for its over-compressed music. From rap to metal, no one has escaped this loudness war. I don't think the 2010 decade will have a defined sound since home studios are becoming standard. The more audio engineers, the more diverse mixes there will be.

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EXONOVA, MY FIRST ELECTRONIC ALBUM IS

OFFICIALLY FOR SALE!

February 08, 2012 / Ryan Alvarado

I've finally released my first electronic/rock album. Yay! This album is available for free on SoundCloud and for very cheap on BandCamp. You can also download it in nice little ZIP file. The album is for sale on several stores for those who want to support my musical endeavors. I truly enjoy writing and producing music, so any support I can get for this album will help me dedicate more time to doing what I love.

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categories / Music, Personal

tags / Electronic, ExoNova, Metal, News

REFLECTION ON TIME IN ITALY

September 11, 2011 / Ryan Alvarado

A little over a year ago, my girlfriend and I attended a study-abroad program in Italy. What an experience. It was adventurous, fun, tough, exotic, and delicious. Here are 21 pictures (out of thousands) of our journey. Enjoy!



Cinque Terre.
Absolutely beautiful.
Took this picture on a
hike.



Staying warm in the
winter, staying cool in
the summer.





Composing. I wrote
Syzygy in Italy.

Lunch in Cinque Terre.
Had some Angler fish.



On the top of the
Duomo, the largest
church in Florence.

Celebration in front of
the Duomo, Florence.



Beer from the tap at
an American
resturaunt in Italy.

At the London Train
Station. Also, a tasty
Cappuccino.





Just look at this. I
probably don't even
need to say that it was
tasty.

More dessert. Fluffy
Tiramisu. Gained 15
pounds in Italy.



Gelato stores stacked
their ice cream high.
The giant mounds of it
made it irresistible.

Mini chocolate
cappuccinos that we
bought at a chocolate
fair.



Top = Fiesole, neighbor

Looking over a

of Florence. Bottom = vineyard in San Capri, famous Italian Gimignano. island.



Ellyn in front of the
Tower of London. We
just started watching
The Tutors.



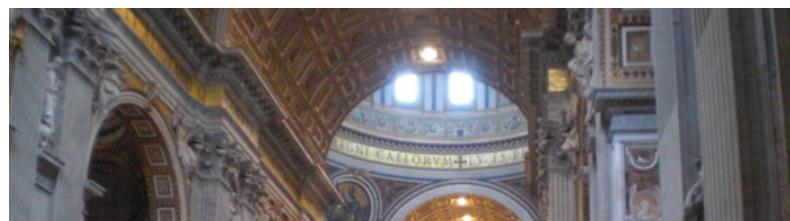
Walking around the
city above Florence.
Fiesole was one of my
favorite destinations..



On a boat in Venice.



Rumor has it there is a
leaning tower in Piza.





Sistine Chapel, Vatican City.



2 Likes

categories / Personal

tags / Travel

EXPENSIVE MICROPHONES: WHO NEEDS THEM?

June 01, 2011 / Ryan Alvarado

Can you hear the difference between the \$3,200 and the \$400 microphones above? I sure can, but I don't think either one sounds patently superior than the other. For this individual's voiceover, I preferred the much cheaper Shure microphone over the golden standard Neumann microphone

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tags / Opinion, Video

THOUGHTS ON EXTENDED RANGE GUITARS

April 17, 2011 / Ryan Alvarado



I have mixed opinions on these seven and eight string guitars that are all the rage these days. Today, many guitar manufacturers are producing more seven and eight string guitars than ever. There are even some companies who are commercially selling nine and ten string guitars. This is nothing new, but the extended range guitars have hit the mainstream allowing musicians to easily purchase them in any music shop. Before, these guitars had to be custom designed by companies that specialize in making personalized (and very expensive) guitars. Are standard tuning six-string guitars

becoming extinct within the heavy metal music genre?

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categories / Personal

tags / Bass, Guitar

REMIX MY SONG: THERMOGENESIS (METAL)

October 19, 2010 / Ryan Alvarado

This technical death metal song will consume, then destroy you. It's fast, brutal, and has more notes than there are molecules in the ocean. Warning: trying to

mix this song might cause you to give up on your recording hobby. I dare you to mix this mind-blowing song.

Thermogenesis Files

Thermogenesis Tempo + Time Signature Info

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categories / Recording
tags / Logic Studio, Remixable Songs, Royalty Free

REVIEW: M-AUDIO PROFIRE 2626

October 15, 2010 / Ryan Alvarado

For the average home studio owner, the

M-Audio ProFire 2626 comes with all the accessories you would expect a consumer-grade recording interface to have. It includes the power cable, the FireWire 400 cable, the driver CD, a breakout cable for some more input options, and the unit itself. The ProFire series recording interfaces do not come with XLR cables (for plugging in microphones), ¼ plugs for guitars, nor a ¼ to 1/8 headphone adapter (although most high quality headphones should come with an adapter). You must purchase all of these separately. You won't have to spend more than \$50 on quality cables.

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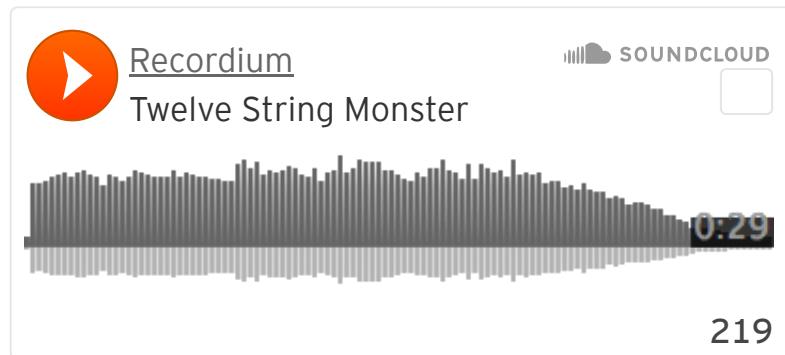
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LOGIC PRESET: TWELVE STRING MONSTER

October 05, 2010 / Ryan Alvarado



(Logic 9 Only) This mysterious preset uses the EXS24's Dual 12-string guitar preset along with many modulating effects, including a flanger and tremolo. It's an eerie sounding effect. I imagine it would be great for a quite part of a rock song when few instruments are playing. It would add a unique flavor to a suspenseful part of a song. You could also loop the

playback of this sample for your first date.
Once she hears this bittersweet effect,
she'll be coming back for more.

[Download Preset](#)



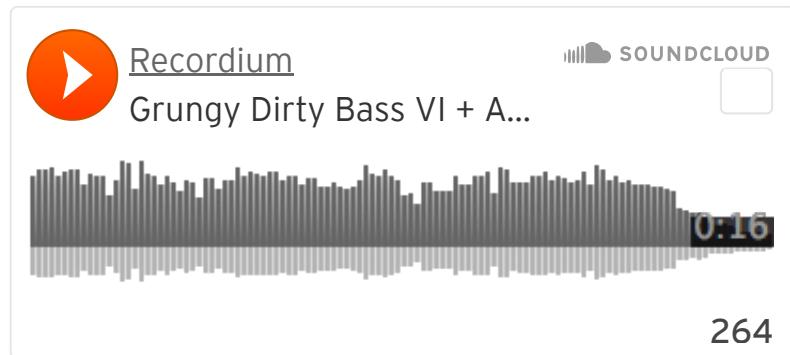
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categories / Recording

tags / Logic Studio, Preset

LOGIC PRESET: GRUNGY DIRTY BASS VI + AMP

October 04, 2010 / Ryan Alvarado



(Logic 9 only) This plugin is nice, fat, and dirt virtual instrument bass. Great for rock and metal mixes. This bass preset uses the following plugins: EXS24, Bass Amp, Amp Designer, Echo, Channel EQ, AVerb.

[Download Preset](#)



2 Likes

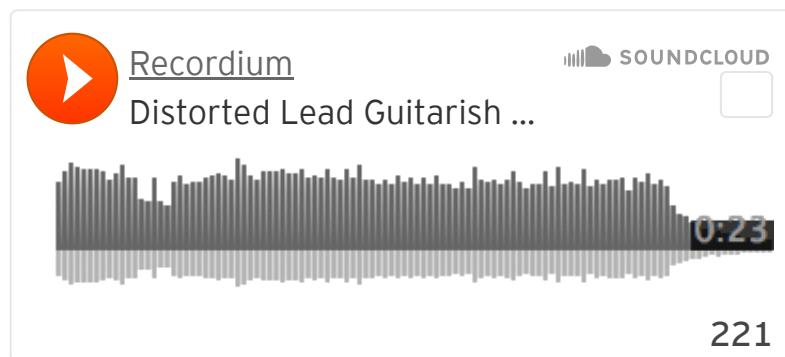
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LOGIC PRESET: DISTORTED

LEAD GUITARISH SYNTH

October 04, 2010 / Ryan Alvarado



(Logic 9 only) This is a great lead distorted synthesizer. It has the smooth, yet cutting effect of a sawtooth synth but with the effect of a distorted guitar. Plugins used: EXS24, Amp Designer, AVerb, Echo, Chorus, Channel EQ.

[Download Preset](#)



3 Likes

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