

# DJ Foundations

## Song Prep & Basic Mixing

- What DJs actually do
- How to get started
- One clean transition



# Who Am I?

Multidisciplinary artist of 15 years

- DJ/VJ/Producer
- Encanti Music Academy Alumni
- St. Cloud native
- pretty chill guy



# What You'll Be Able to Do

- Prepare tracks in Rekordbox
- Load music on club gear
- Match BPM
- Perform a basic mix
- Practice at home confidently



# What You Need

- Computer
- Headphones/Speakers
- Music files
- Rekordbox installed
- USB drive
- Optional: controller



# DJ Workflow

- Get music
- Prep tracks
- Make playlist(s)
- Export
- Mix



# Finding Music

- Soundcloud
- Bandcamp
- Beatport
- Itunes
- Record labels
- Music Collectives



# Rekordbox



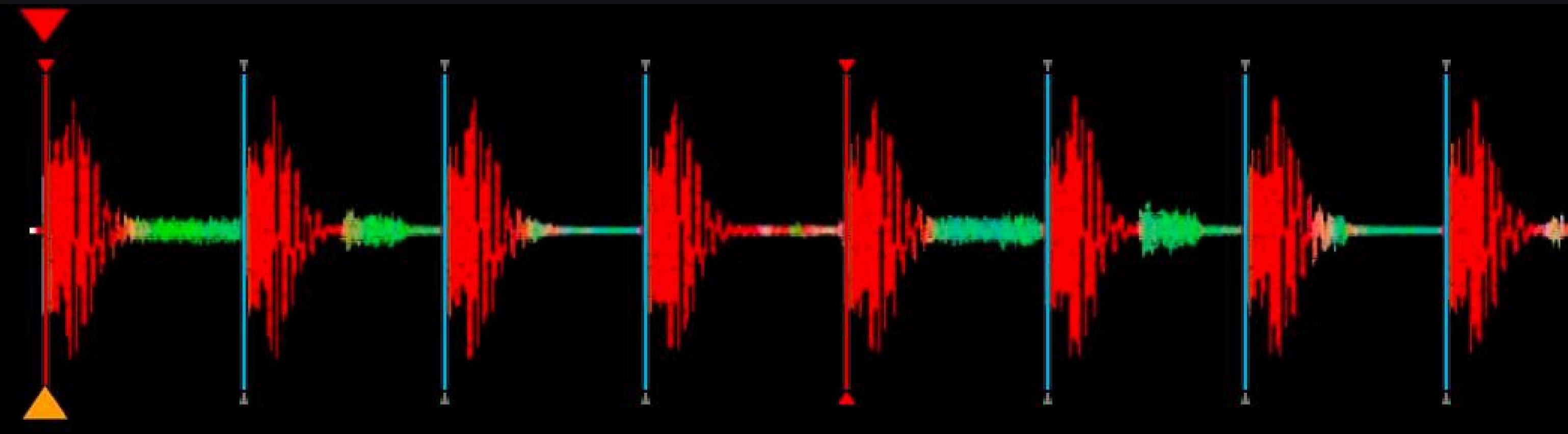
- Player
- CUE/LOOP and GRID
- Playlists
- Library

The screenshot shows the Rekordbox software interface. At the top, there's a menu bar with File, View, Track, Playlist, Help, and an EXPORT dropdown. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations like Import, Export, and Cue/Loop/Grid settings. The main workspace is divided into several sections: a waveform viewer at the top right showing a track with multiple cue points marked by vertical lines; a library view on the left showing a tree structure of tracks and playlists; and a detailed track list in the center-right. The track list for "140 deep (38 Tracks)" includes columns for Preview, Artwork, Track Title, B, K, Tim, Fi, and Artist. A green border highlights the library and track list areas, while a red border highlights the top toolbar and waveform area.

Preview	Artwork	Track Title	B	K	Tim	Fi	Artist
★CUE 1	[Thumbnail]	Don Jamal - Quack	70.00	12A	03:12	MP3	16 Don Jamal
★CUE 2	[Thumbnail]	Barbies Dub (1)	69.00	2A	02:50	MP3	16
★CUE 3	[Thumbnail]	Danger	70.00	4A	04:34	MP3	16 Kursa
★CUE 4	[Thumbnail]	Goals	70.00	4A	03:42	MP3	16 Kursa
★CUE 5	[Thumbnail]	Communicate	70.00	4A	02:58	MP3	16 Kursa
★CUE 6	[Thumbnail]	Gopher	70.00	2A	02:49	MP3	16 Ivy Lab
★CUE 7	[Thumbnail]	Tears	70.00	4A	03:05	MP3	16 Skrillex, Joker & Sleepnet
★CUE 8	[Thumbnail]	Inhale Exhale	72.50	4A	03:25	MP3	16 Skrillex, Aluna & Kito
★CUE 9	[Thumbnail]	Black Katana w/ Alix Perez	69.00	9A	04:30	MP3	16 Visages
★CUE 10	[Thumbnail]	FREEWAY (feat. Sunshine Scott & Go Yama) puddleslip v3 (Edit)	70.00	7A	03:12	MP3	16 Sterfy
★CUE 11	[Thumbnail]	Do You Mind	70.00	8A	02:08	MP3	16
★CUE 12	[Thumbnail]	ALRA - TOXIC WASTE	70.00	5A	03:46	MP3	16
★CUE 13	[Thumbnail]	take them out	70.00	7A	03:29	MP3	16
★CUE 14	[Thumbnail]	Badman x Mixed Mind - BadMinds [MASTER]A (8	70.00	8A	03:42	MP3	16
★CUE 15	[Thumbnail]	20.Trolley Snatcha - DontStep (Dubzta Remi-1	70.00	12B	03:46	WAV	16
★CUE 16	[Thumbnail]	Fishing	70.00	4A	04:20	MP3	16
★CUE 17	[Thumbnail]	Coalescence feat. Poeta	70.00	4A	04:34	MP3	16 Grimbie
★CUE 18	[Thumbnail]	STRTRMF084 SUSP3C - Oxana	70.00	6A	04:48	MP3	16 SISTER MARY
★CUE 19	[Thumbnail]	What U Need	70.00	1A	03:12	MP3	16
★CUE 20	[Thumbnail]	Migl	70.00	4A	04:11	MP3	16 Andrea
★CUE 21	[Thumbnail]	Deadcrow - Transmission - 01 Drone	70.00	9A	04:00	MP3	16 Tsuruda
★CUE 22	[Thumbnail]	Alix Perez - Ravana EP - 02 Lifeline	70.00	8B	04:44	WAV	16
★CUE 23	[Thumbnail]	SpaceJall_ The Greys - Bushwick (2018) Master	70.00	6B	04:17	WAV	16
★CUE 24	[Thumbnail]	Smoke	70.00	8A	04:54	MP3	16
★CUE 25	[Thumbnail]	Verify Me (The Maker Bootleg)	70.00	6A	04:48	MP3	16
★CUE 26	[Thumbnail]	Rules Of The Dance (Kahn Remix) (The Maker Bootleg) [2018 REMASTER]	70.00	1A	04:54	MP3	16
★CUE 27	[Thumbnail]	Zbantu Shake	71.00	6A	04:11	MP3	16 J-Kenzo
★CUE 28	[Thumbnail]	Ritualistic Properties	70.00	9A	04:06	MP3	16
★CUE 29	[Thumbnail]	Tremors	70.00	9A	03:46	MP3	16 Sleep Bloop & Tsuruda
★CUE 30	[Thumbnail]	Trashbat - Electric Ape	70.00	7A	06:02	MP3	16 Trashbat
★CUE 31	[Thumbnail]	Trashbat - Groove Pulse	70.00	4A	05:38	MP3	16 Trashbat
★CUE 32	[Thumbnail]						

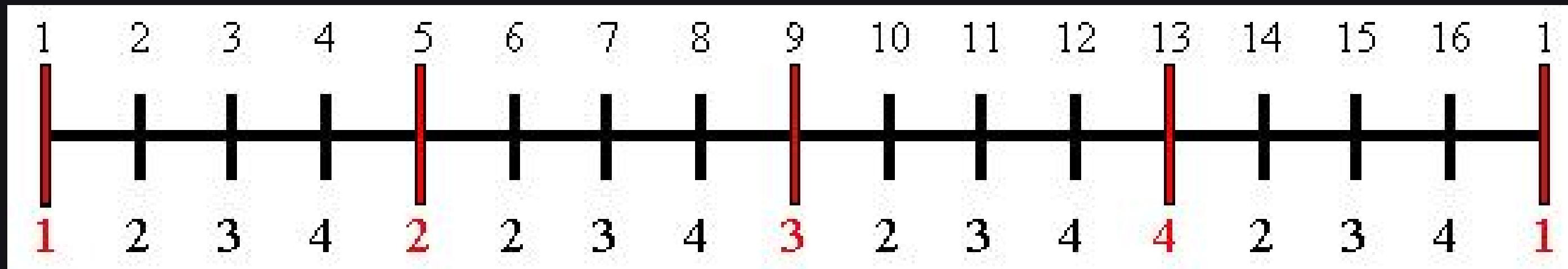
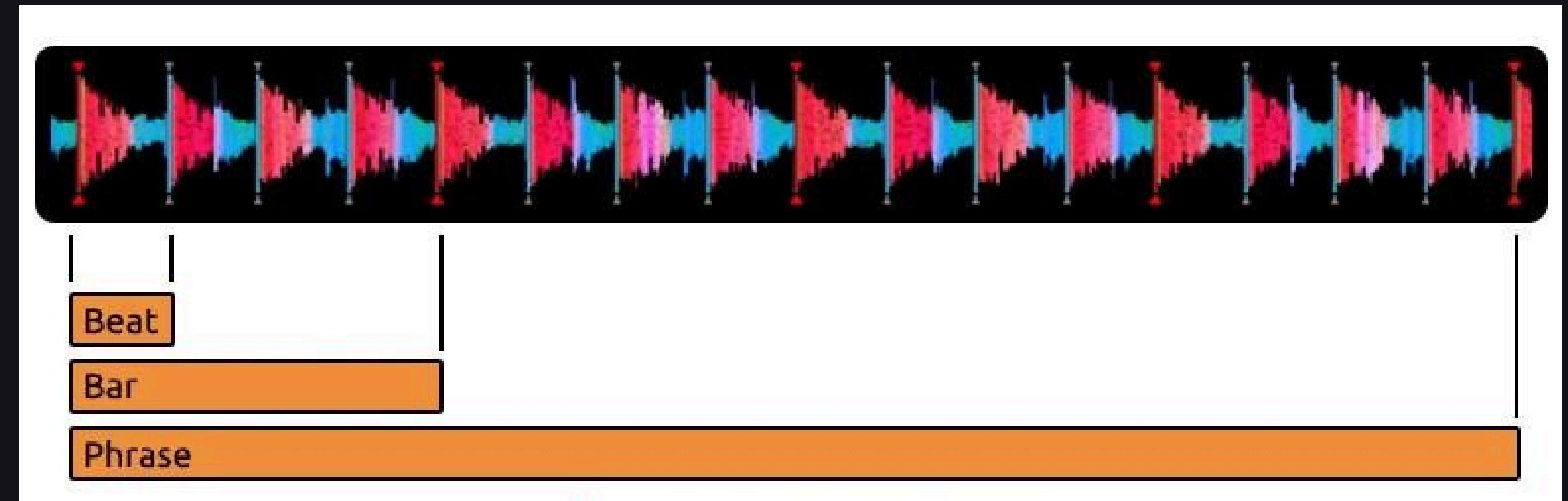
# Beatgrids & BPM

- Beatgrid = timing map
- Red line = first beat
- BPM must be correct



# Beats, Bars, and Phrases

- Beat = steady pulse
- 4 beats = 1 bar
- Bars repeat in groups
- Groups form phrases
- Most phrases = multiples of 4 (e.g., 4, 8, 16, etc.,)



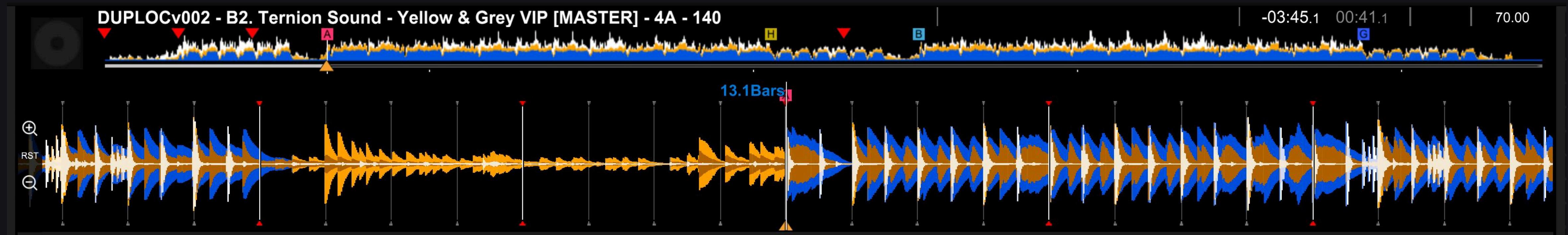
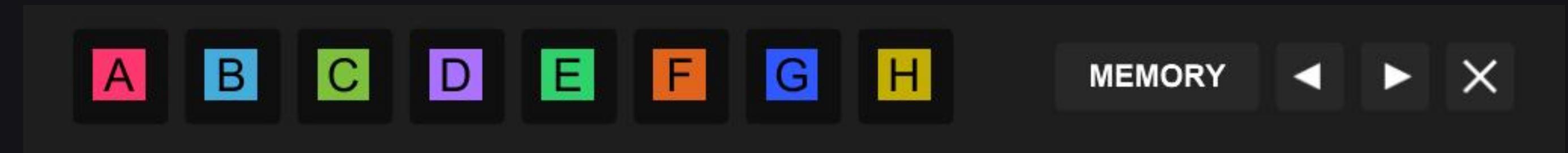
# Cue Points

- Cue = bookmark
- Hot Cue = play from here
- Memory Cue = jump to here



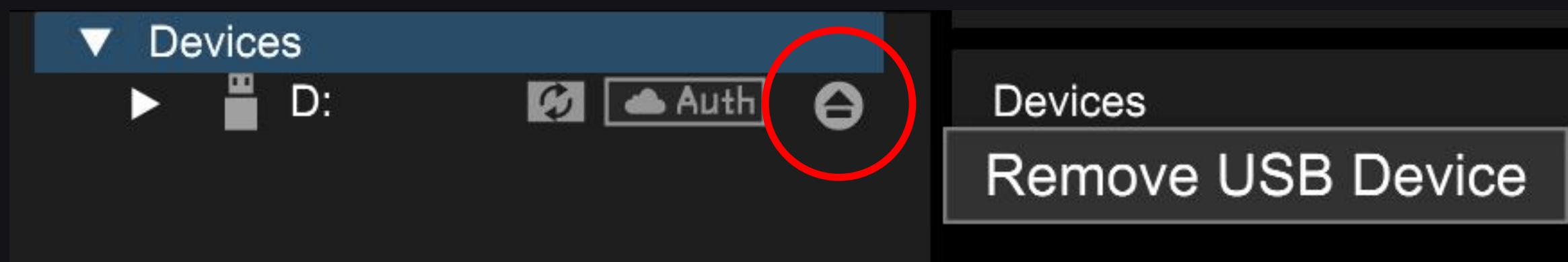
# Setting Cues

- Hot Cues A-D = drop
- Hot Cues E-H = mix out
- Memory Cue = mix in



# Exporting to USB

- Create playlist(s)
- Check device settings
- Export playlist or folder to USB
- \*EJECT DRIVE BEFORE REMOVAL\*  
(extremely important)



# Player Basics (CDJ / XDJ)

- Play / Cue
- Hot Cues
- Jog wheel
- Cue/Loop Call
- Tempo slider
- Browse knob
- USB Select / Eject



# Mixer Basics

- Channel faders
- Headphone Cue = audition
- Color FX / FX
- EQ: lows / mids / highs





# WALKTHROUGH

# The First Mix

- Track A playing
- Find Track B
- Audition in Headphones
- Start Track B on phrase
- Balance w/ EQ / Volume
- Fade out Track A by end of phrase



# Practice & Next Steps

- Prep 10-15 tracks
- Mix A → B → C
- Repeat basic mix
- Come to open decks!!



# Take It Further

- Slam Academy DJ course
- Attending shows
- Attending festivals
- History of DJing
- Recording a mix
- Uploading a mix
- Connecting with promoters
- Connecting with other DJs
- Watching iconic sets on youtube
- Incorporating live instruments
- Manual beatmatching by ear
- Harmonic mixing (Camelot wheel)
- Cue based live remixing
- Loop-based transitions
- Tempo and genre jumps
- Library organization strategies
- Set planning vs. freestyle
- Performance psychology
- Mixing with Vinyl
- Music Production



# Q&A

