DJ Foundations

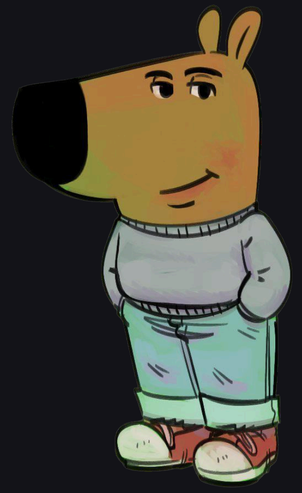
Song Prep & Basic Mixing

- 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

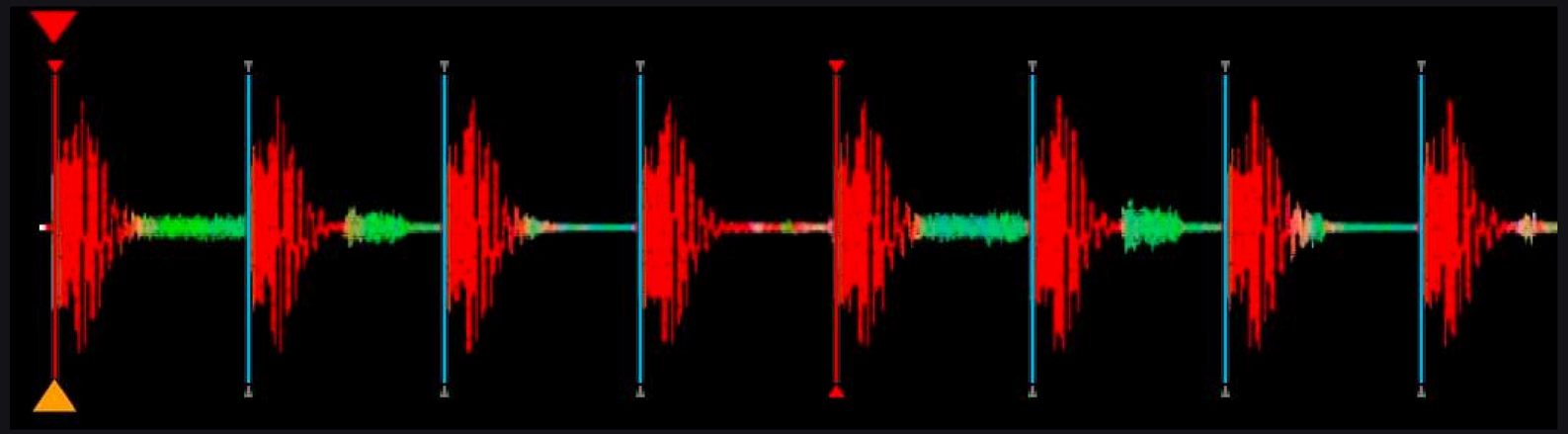
- Soundcloud
- Bandcamp
- Beatport
- Itunes
- Record labels
- Music Collectives

Rekordbox

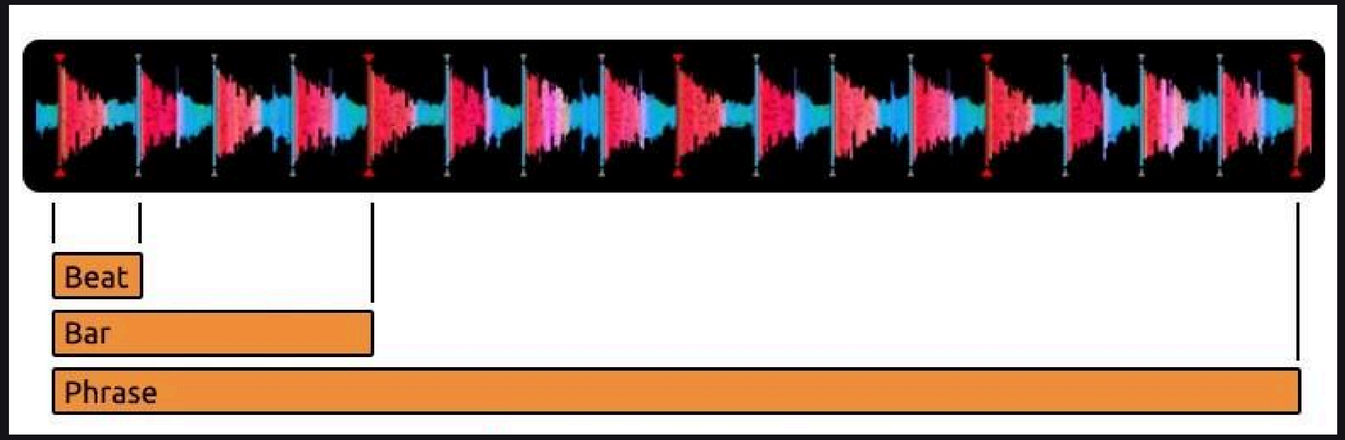
- Player
- CUE/LOOP and GRID
- Playlists
- Library

Beatgrids & BPM

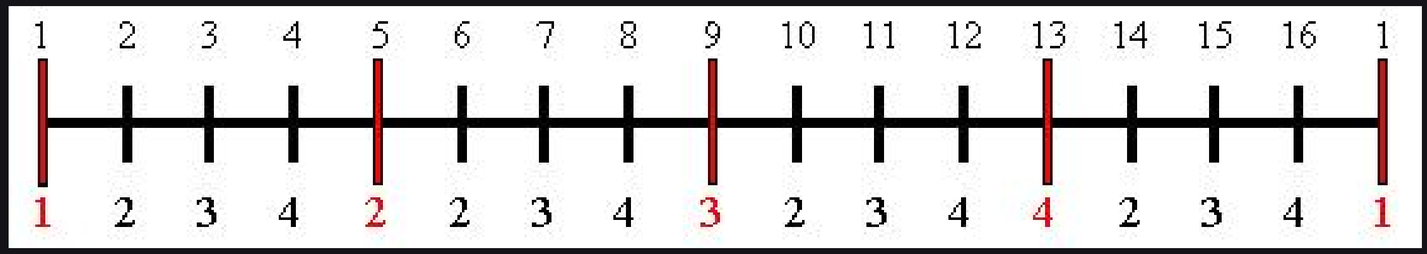
- Beatgrid = timing map
- Red line = first beat
- BPM must be correct



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.,)

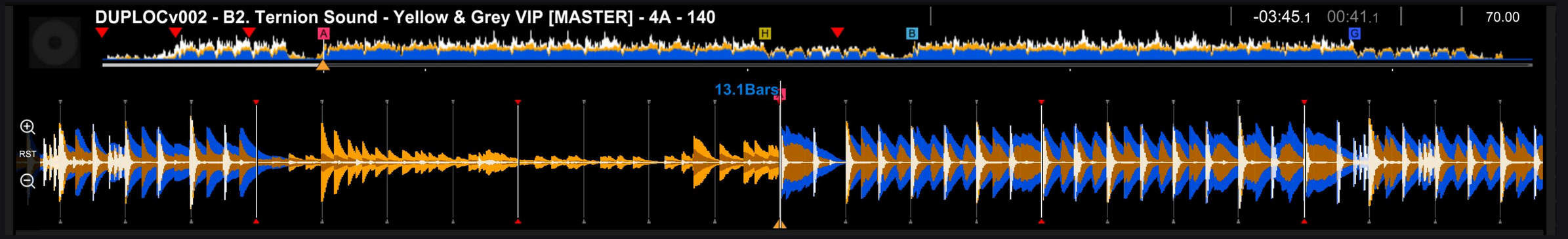


Cue Points

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

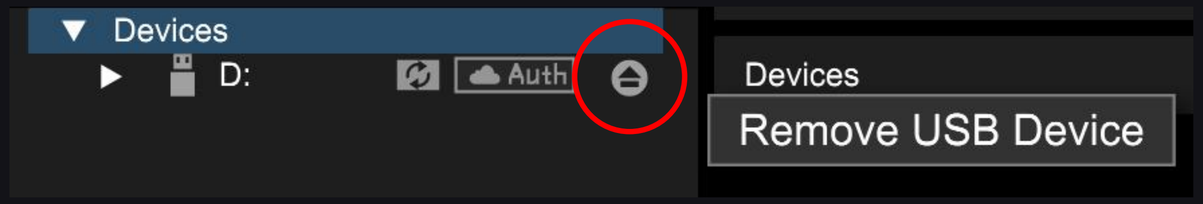
Setting Cues

- 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 Produciton

Q&A