

DJ FOUNDATIONS

PRACTICE GUIDE

GOAL

Prepare tracks and perform one clean transition between songs

WHAT YOU NEED:

Rekordbox installed • Headphones/Speakers • USB drive • 5-10 songs

01

PREPARE MUSIC (REKORDBOX)

Import & Analyze

- Import music into Rekordbox
- Analyze tracks
- Check BPM is correct

Rule: Fix BPM before anything else

Fix Beatgrid

- Find first kick drum on drop
- Align red line to that beat
- Scrub forward to confirm alignment

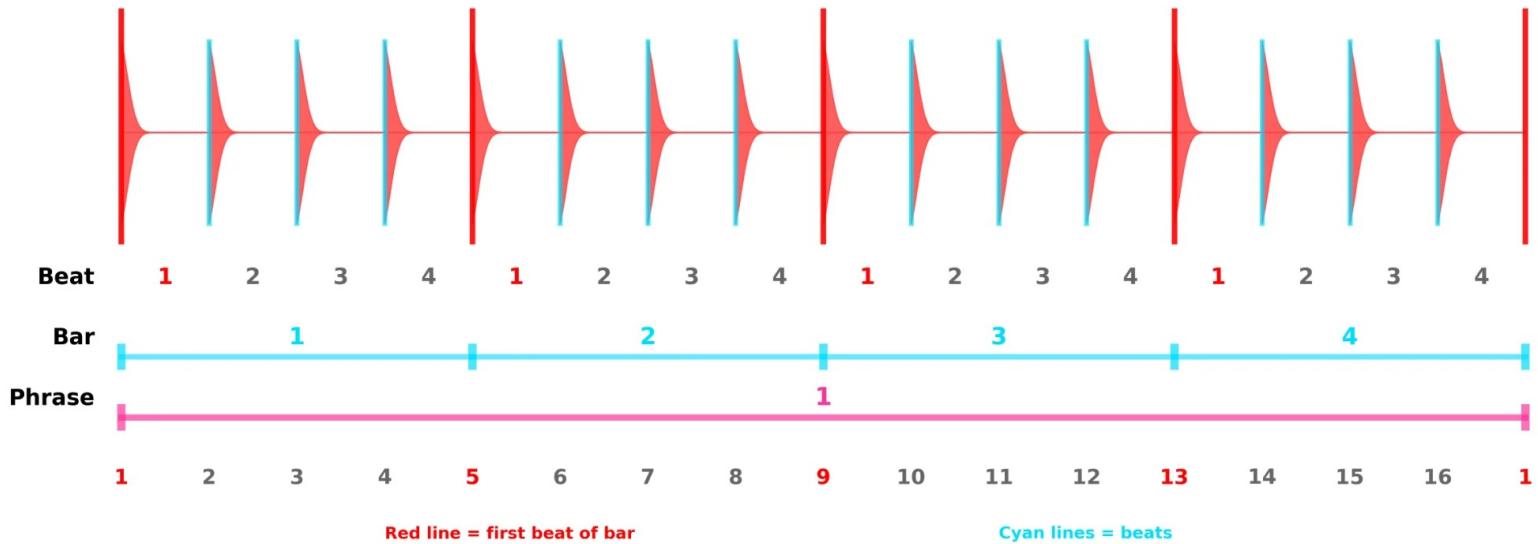
Rule: If grid drifts, mixing fails

Set Cue Points

- Hot Cue A: drop
- Hot Cue H: mix out
- Memory Cue 1: mix in

Rule: Cues = clean starts

Beats, Bars & Phrases



02

EXPORT TO USB

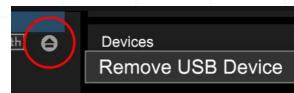
Device Settings

- Play Mode: Single / OFF
- Auto Cue: ON
- Hot Cue Auto Load: ON
- Jog Mode: Vinyl
- Tempo Range: ±8%
- Master Tempo: ON
- Quantize: ON

Create & Export

- Put 5 prepared tracks in playlist
- Right-click playlist → Export to USB
- Click "Remove Device" before unplugging USB
- Test USB on hardware if possible

Rule: Test USB + bring backup



03

MIXING PRACTICE

Load Tracks

- Track A → Deck 1
- Track B → Deck 2

Match BPM

- Match BPM numbers (manual or Sync)
- Listen in headphones
- Nudge jog wheel if drifting

Rule: BPM matching > perfection

Perform Basic Mix

1. Play Track A
2. Cut low EQ on Track B
3. Start Track B on phrase
4. Raise Track B fader
5. Swap low EQs
6. Fade Track A out

Rule: Slow, controlled movements

PRACTICE ROUTINE

Build muscle memory with repetition:

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

SUCCESS CHECK

Ready for open decks when you can:

- Fix a beatgrid
- Start tracks on phrase
- Complete clean transition
- Load and play from USB

REMINDER: Djing = music selection + timing + repetition. Everything else comes later.

