

Creating a Music Track in Cubase

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Introduction:

We were set the task of creating a music piece in the music software programme Cubase.

Drum loop:

I started by creating a drum loop for my piece. For this I used the internal drum editor. The drum editor allows you to display a pattern of various drum sounds (Bass drum, High hat, Snare drum etc...) on a grid to create the desired drum loop. Once my drum loop had been created I placed it on the pattern display area, using channel 10.

Bassline:

Next I inputted the Bassline for my piece. To do so I selected the channel I wanted to use (channel 1), ensured that the left and right locators were positioned correctly and double clicked within the locators to display my track. To ensure that I played the bassline in time with my drum loop I used the aid of the internal metronome located on the transport bar. I set this to a time signature of 04/04 as my drum loop also followed this signature. I then recorded my bassline by clicking record on the transport bar and playing the individual notes of my bassline for 4 bars. After recording the bassline the instrument sound can be changed. This is done by using the GM/GS/XG Editor located in the edit option at the top of the screen. I decided the best sound for my bassline would be that of a Fingered Bass.

Chords:

Once I was happy with the bassline I went about inputting the chords to my piece. I did this by using the same method used for inputting my bassline. I used channel 2 for the chords and used the same time signature to record them (04/04). I changed the instrument sound of my chords to that of an organ.

Melody:

I inputted the melody of the piece by using the same method I used to inputted the Bassline and chords. I used channel 3 to record the melody and made sure the metronome was at a time signature of 04/04. The tempo of my piece was set to 130 and I found that trying to play the melody at this tempo was difficult. I slowed the tempo down to 100, which made the task much easier. The tempo adjustment is located on the transport bar. I changed the instrument sound of the chords to that of an Electric Piano.