

MODULE LECTURER: F. Scott

**HARD DISK RECORDING
*REPORT***

Coursework description: Composing, editing and mixing an original piece of music.

For this assignment we had to take samples from our CD collection and choose at least three instruments including vocals to create our own groove. The songs that I chose to rearrange were 'Fix Look Sharp' by Dizzee Rascal, 'Are You Really From The Ends' by E.N.D, 'Eskimo' by Wiley, 'Made You Look' by Nas and we used short sample from a track taken from Mariah Carry's latest album.

There were a number of reasons that we decided to use these instruments and samples, the first being the tempo of the song. We wanted to create a song with a slow tempo using instruments and samples from songs with fast tempos. The second reason was that there were only a limited number of instruments and sounds used in the composition of this song, we felt that this would be beneficial because it would be easier to edit and rearrange.

We began reconstructing the song by firstly importing the tracks from the CD-ROM drive onto the desktop. We did this by inserting the CD into the machine then dragging the desired track onto the desktop then we removed the CD from the machine. Before we were able to import the files to logic we had to change their preference settings to read/write.

We then listened to each track a number of times to make ourselves familiar with all the beats, bars and the melody. Once we did that began to chop up the track using the sample editor. In order to properly select and edit that desired samples we had to set the start and end regions properly otherwise we would get sound clicks and unwanted noises. We followed this procedure in order to get our kick drum, snare, high hat. Once we acquired those main parts of our drum loop we put them together by rearranging them to sound like our own original drum loop rather than using an existing drum loop from our CD collection. Once we had a fully rhythmic drum loop we played to see where we should add the melody and vocal samples.

We then chopped up our melody, again using the sample editor. We cut the first two bars from a melody we acquired from 'Are You Really From The Ends' by E.N.D and looped it. As its tempo was 140bpm we had to slow it down to 100bpm. We did this by going into the factory drop down menu then selecting the time and pitch machine and then editing the destination tempo to 100 from 140. Once we had our melody looped and in time with our drum loop we then used the same process as before (sample editor) to cut a cymbal sound from our CD collection and imported in onto our track. We then also imported a piano note sample from another CD then we rearranged the track to see how it sounded so far.

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Once we were happy with that we decided it was time to add our vocals. We chose to have two different vocals. One from Dizzee Rascal and another from Nas. We then chopped both vocal samples up in order to get our desired effect. Each vocal sample used was put in a separate audio track, this was because each time we tried editing the same sample in a different area it would change the whole thing so we over came this problem by putting each vocal sample in its own audio track.

We then arranged the whole track and listened to it to see how it sounded before we adjusted the gain, levels, etc. We added several effects to our final mix. We added a limiter to the snare drum, this alternates the signal below the specified threshold. We added a compressor to the melody; this alternates the signal above the specified threshold and also increases the dynamic range. We then added a 'Fat EQ' to the high hats, we found that this increased their dB a bit too much so we just turned the gain down. We added the EQ, compressor and the other effects by double clicking on the EQ area on the mixer channel strip and inserting the desired effect. Once we did that we altered the settings to our specification. We then added a slight panning effect to all our vocals and then added a slight reverb effect to the Nas vocals only.

Once we finished with the effects we listened to the whole track again to hear if there was any clipping or faults in our song. The melody's gain had to be turned up slightly because the drums were over powering it but once that was done we were ready to bounce it to AIFF. But before we did so we assigned a different colour to each group of parts and made sure that the events were named like the tracks.

The main problem we encountered was that we didn't save one of the tracks we were using from our CD collection so when we opened our logic file it was unable to locate the tracks we used therefore we lost our work and had to start again. Another problem we encountered was the mixing process. We found it difficult to adjust all the levels of EQ's and making sure the gain structure is uniform. We had to listen to the track many times in order to perfect it. Other than that we hardly experienced many other problems. I think the main reason for this is because we've learnt a lot more about Mac's and how they operate differently to PC's. I found the previous assignment very useful because it taught me a lot about the way Mac's work.

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DISCOFRAPHY

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