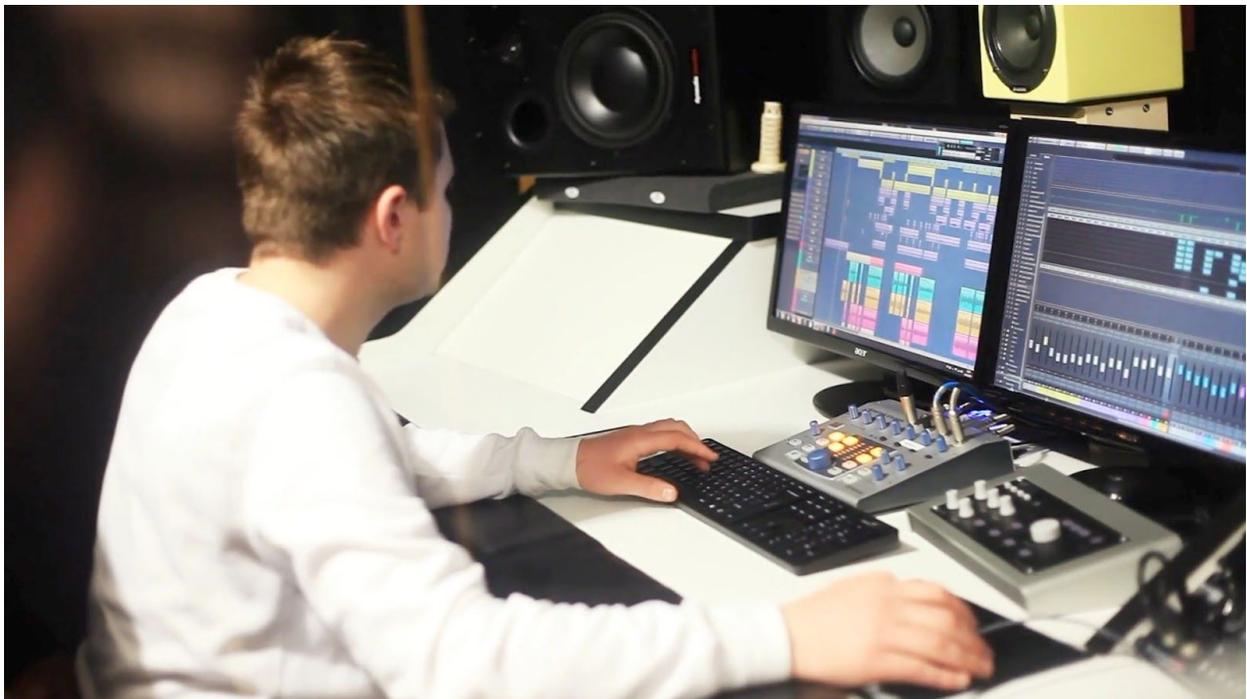


Music Production Boot Camp



Rocking out with Samplers!

Sampling makes up a big part of hip-hop production and as a result, it is a big part of pop music and many other genres. *Classic samplers* were primitive in features and usually had a lower resolution. This same sound is highly emulated today especially through genres like 'lo-fi and chill' beats. Samplers can play melodic sounds that replicate real instruments or pretty much any sound or drum that can be recorded.



Definitions:

Looping - Recording a section of sound and repeating it from end to beginning. In early hip-hop this was done with records and turntables long before samplers were affordable by the masses. A lot of my drum looping technique comes from this era of music.

One Shots - are the small bites of sound that play once with every pad hit. Most samplers will let you play these samples forward or in reverse.

Chopping - Usually refers to breaking up a loop into one-shots. Sample 'chops' can be repitched and reinterpreted in some really cool ways. In practice, I try to use the sounds in a new context as a contrast to the original sound.

Many samplers can stretch the sample to fit a faster or slower tempo. *Let me know if you would like to see a video on this!*

Things to try

- Sample a drum loop and chop the individual drums.
- Sample a melodic sound and play it way higher or lower than the original.
- Record some random sounds and add them in a loop on a song. Try to make it different or make it super obvious!
- Short on sample time? Speed up the source if possible. *One of my old school tricks was to use a hi-speed cassette deck in dub mode, then slow it back down lol!*
- Sample a toy or kids instrument.
- Play samples backward or with effects....or both. Add effects to the reverse sample and play that backward for some trippy vibes.
- Use a filter on the output to make the sound darker or cut out the bass.

My favorite classic samplers (slash drum machines)

- Ensoniq EPS 16+ and ASR-10
- Akai MPC 2000, 60II, and 3000
- SP1200 (I haven't used this one much personally, but I love the sound and groove).
- Akai S-950
- Roland SP-202 thru the current x0x series
- Kurzweil K2000 - way advanced for it's time. Very clean.

[Get Koala Sampler for iOS here](#) - [Koala Sampler for iOS](#)