



NEVER USED GARAGE BAND?

The purpose of this document is to introduce you to Garage Band. You will become acquainted with the screen and the button functions. Open up the program and follow along step-by-step! By the time you're done, you will be a music composer!

- 1- Open Garage Band.
- 2- From the File menu, choose New
- 3- Make sure the time is 4/4, the tempo is 120 bpm (beats per minute), and the key is C. (This will make it easier for all of us when sharing songs between 9 different locations.)
- 4- Create
- 5- Garage Band opens up.

Let me go over the “look” of the screen: starting from the top, left-to-right, top-to-bottom.

Moving Across the Menu bar (from left-to-right)-

- File: typical file menu, new, open, save... (We will discuss the last icon “export to iTunes” later.)
- Edit: cut, copy, paste
- Track: Two things you will use often here are-
 - i. Show Track Info: this will give you a variety of instruments and cool effects you can use with them. You can add reverb, echo, etc. here.
 - ii. New Track: simply adds a new track of music.

- Control:
 - i. Keep metronome and snap to grid checked.
 - ii. You will also want to check “Count In” when starting to record your music. This will give you a 1-2-3-4 count before the music comes in.
- Window: (minimize, zoom and keyboard)
 - i. If you want to use the computer keyboard, you can find it here. It is really only good for VERY SIMPLE note selections. However, if you are doing a guitar solo, the keyboard is the BEST!!! If you choose electric guitar, and move your cursor up and down the computer-generated keyboard, it sounds like you’re a professional rock-n-roll guitar soloist! (You have to at least try this one!)
- Help: self-explanatory. Super great help, plus keyboard shortcuts.

Now let’s move to the screen.

- * The top instrument track is Grand Piano (right now, it’s green). There is an icon of a piano keyboard. Next to that is are 3 small icons:
 - i. Speakers (this will mute or un-mute this single track),
 - ii. Headphones (solo or un-solo this single track),
 - iii. Arrow down (shows the track volume...similar to when you edit sound in iMovie.)
- Mixer: this allows you to set the volume for the track, or set left/right speakers...probably not needed for this project. (At least at this point!)
- Time line: The numbers running across the page show the beats and measures in the music. This is important!

Middle tool menu (located within the dark gray bar, center screen):

- Plus sign: This also allows you to add a new track. It will give you a menu of different categories of instruments and sounds.
- Circle with “i” in it: This gives you track info. It allows you to add reverb, echo, etc.
- Eye Ball-Searcher: These are all your loops! (Your friends!) This is what makes Garage Band so powerful! A “loop” is a selection of music that can be repeated (looped). It can be drums, keyboards, etc. Put your cursor on the dark gray part of the bar and drag the whole area upward! Wow! Now you have even more options! (It’s hidden and many people don’t know about that!)

NOTE: You can choose to view your loops 2 ways, by button view or column view (located on the very bottom, left side) this will display your options by categories. (For Example, you can choose an instrument by genre, instrument, mood, etc.)

Bottom tool menu: These are all the elongated oval shaped buttons. These are under the dark gray bar, bottom part of screen. This is the FUN part!

- Click “Bass” (notice many options disappeared? Well, that helps you narrow your choices.) The far right column will come up with a list of many, many bass loops. Click on one! Can you hear it? Cool, huh? Now scroll down the list and choose another. (Note: For more advanced options- Look at the icons in front of the loops: The green is actual instruments that you can add to, the blue is MIDI instruments that you cannot manipulate.)
 - i. Let’s say you wanted a specific sound...let’s say, Jazz. In the button option, choose the button “Jazz” (4 columns across, 8th choice down)
 - ii. Scroll down to “Walking Upright Bass 04” Drag and drop that icon to the space just below our “Grand Piano” in the tracks column at the top of the page. When you do this, “Acoustic Bass” should appear in the tracks and a bright green box with “notes” is now in the time-line. (You can play this by clicking the “Play” [arrow pointing to the left, middle of gray bar] or pressing the Space Bar.)
 - iii. OK, stop playing it by either 1- pressing Play again, or 2- pressing the Space Bar again.
- Now try to add drums. Click Bass again and this will un-choose Bass and allow you to choose another instrument. Repeat step 1 (this time, choose drums) If Acoustic and Jazz are both chosen at this point, try clicking Lounge Drums 01.
 - i. NOTE: Clicking Bass again will not unselect Jazz. This must be done manually for every selection made.
 - ii. Pull up the Lounge Drums underneath the Acoustic Bass line. You will now see 2 green boxes stacked on top of one another. To start at the beginning, click the button to the right of the red button (it looks like a little line with an arrow pointing to the left). Now click Play. You will hear BOTH instruments playing together!
- Let’s make the song a little longer. The song is currently about 4 seconds long. We need a little more. So...float your cursor at the end of the green Bass track. You will see it do one of two things happen. The cursor will look like:
 - i. A line with an arrow pointing to the right.
 - ii. A line with an arrow in the shape of a circle. This at the top of the green track bar, and it is what you want to grab! When you see this image, click and drag out the green bar. You will see it stretch out long. The top of the box will become curved when the complete loop is extended. Pull it out 4 full times. (Approx. 16 seconds total)

- iii. Now go back to the beginning and pull out the drum track so it matches the bass.
- iv. Play them!

Now for some fun!

- Ok, you've got it! Now, to really have fun! Now let's add more. First, go to the beginning of the song and click on the "repeat" button. (This is found on the same bar as the Play button. It looks like 2 arrows chasing each other in a circle.) When you do this a bright orange bar appears on the top of your tracks. Drag that bar to the end of the tracks you've already created. Now when you press Play, the song will continually play the same thing over and over. This is VERY HELPFUL when you are looking for new instruments to add and you want to hear how it will sound BEFORE committing to selecting it.
 - i. Play what you have and see how this works.
 - ii. OK, unselect drums. And choose Piano. You will have 2 choices: Blue Jazz Piano 01 and 02.
 - iii. Play your song. While the song is playing, click on one of the piano selections. You will hear the piano start to play with your song. Which one do you like better? Pick that one and drag it under the drums.

NOTE: You do not have to start each instrument at the beginning. You can start it anywhere. Play with where you think each one should start. Maybe you want to gradually bring in each instrument. If so, start the piano later. It's a completely creative choice.

NOTE ABOUT ENDING SONGS: There seems to be a couple of ways we can end our songs.

- 1- If you gradually bring instruments in, you can gradually take them out at the end of the song. (Until one instrument is left playing)
- 2- A song can fade out.
- 3- Or it can stop abruptly. (Not usually the best choice, but one none-the-less.)

There are many, many more things you can do in Garage Band. You can play your own instrument and record it, change the length of notes, delete/add notes, etc.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- 1- As a group, it is best to all stay in the 4/4 time, the key of C and 120 bpm (beats per minute).
- 2- When choosing instruments, it is easier to stay with major keys (not flats or sharps), and a tempo somewhere around the number of 120. The program will automatically transpose the song into a 4/4 time signature, the key of C and 120 bpm. However, if you choose an instrument and the tempo is much lower or higher, it will sound “funny.”
- 3- You are not limited to one drum pattern for the entire 30 seconds. It would be best if each song follow a pattern. I will leave it up to the individual groups to decide what pattern your song follows. (a-b-a-b, a-a-b-a, a-b-a-c, etc.) The patterns will be as diverse as our groups! And that’s a GOOD thing!
- 4- When you have made your final decision on your instruments/sounds, remember to SAVE!