

Introductory Award in Music Technology – Level 2

COURSE OUTLINE

The aim of this module is to introduce learners to music sequencing and the operation of sequencing-based software. The learner will gain an understanding of the importance of the software sequencer in a recording studio setup and prepare them for more advanced audio sequencing, sampling and recording-based work in later units.

The course is accredited by NCFE. Learners who complete this course will receive the following qualification: NCFE LEVEL 2 INTRODUCTORY AWARD IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (equivalent to 25% of 1 GCSE Grade A-C).

Course Breakdown

Lesson 1: Orientation to computer suite and file management, Introduction to music production package, muting tracks, tempo, basic introduction to software instruments, saving project.

Lesson 2: Introducing MIDI and connections, set-up the computer (MIDI/USB & Audio), setting up a new project (tracks, tempo, locators, tracks), creating a rhythm track, looping, copying & pasting MIDI regions.

Lesson 3: Introduction to bass lines and how it relates to drums (Kick drum), using software instruments for bass sounds, creating bass lines with a simple but coherent harmonic structure, introducing simple harmonic chord to complement the bass line, using the key editor.

Lesson 4: Basic editing of sounds in Software instruments, introducing simple melodic phrasing, how to use automation to change volume and pan.

Lesson 5: Filling portfolio and creating evidence (video, audio or written), completing CIP for the achieved learning outcomes, burn data to CD-R.

Lesson 6: The learners will be given two projects to complete, practical session on project 1: 32 bars long and a minimum of 4 elements (drums, bass, melodic, harmony tracks), using quantize and editing tools.

Lesson 7: Song structure, discuss how songs are structured into sections, learners to create a structure to their first project (3 mins maximum), practical session on project 2.

Lesson 8: Discuss different types of song structure, develop further the project from previous lesson applying the techniques taught until that point (adding new parts and arrangement), completion of project 2.

Lesson 9: Discussion on the content of portfolio report and completing portfolio (audio & video where necessary), bouncing a mixdown of both projects.

Lesson 10: Final review of the work completed by learners (song projects, portfolio), burn a CD in the required format, learners to submit their completed portfolio.

Learning Outcomes:

The learners will be able to . . .

1- Set-up a sequencer for operation

- 1.1 Start and initialise sequencer
- 1.2 Demonstrate the basic functions of a MIDI system
- 1.3 Demonstrate the basic configuration of the sequencing package
- 1.4 Retrieve, load and audition sequencer data
- 1.5 Identify and correct simple problems if appropriate
- 1.6 Save sequencer data appropriately
- 1.7 Back up data files
- 1.8 Observe appropriate Health and Safety procedures

2- Create a MIDI sequence

- 1.9 Set up MIDI track
- 1.10 Assign a sound and MIDI channel number to MIDI track
- 1.11 Record a MIDI sequence
- 1.12 Evaluate the quality of the recorded sequence and amend where necessary
- 1.13 Quantise track/part
- 1.14 Set up and record additional track/parts where necessary
- 1.15 Evaluate the quality of the final recording
- 1.16 Observe correct Health and Safety procedures

3- Edit and arrange a sequence

- 1.17 Move, edit, repeat, copy and paste where necessary
- 1.18 Use common editing modes available for MIDI event editing
- 1.19 Evaluate the quality of edited MIDI sequence
- 1.20 Observe appropriate Health and Safety procedures