

Introductory Award in Music Technology

COURSE OUTLINE

The aim of this module is to provide learners with a basic knowledge of MIDI sequencing, which will include setting up the equipment, creating, editing and evaluating a MIDI sequence. This unit will also enable learners to develop their ICT, communication and project management skills through the candidate's investigation of MIDI sequencing techniques.

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

Course Breakdown:

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

Lesson 2: Introducing MIDI, editing MIDI parts in the arrange page (move, copy, paste, MIDI parts), Quantize MIDI parts, editing MIDI in the editing window.

Lesson 3: Setting up a new project (tracks, tempo, locators, tracks), real time recording (to a click) using a MIDI keyboard, create a 8 bars sequence with four parts (drums, bass, percussion and synth).

Lesson 4: editing sounds in software instruments, edit recorded MIDI parts from previous lesson, add a new 8 bar section to existing project, introducing sequencing using the MIDI editor page.

Lesson 5: Audio examples to illustrate arrangement techniques (sounds and parts), apply to a given song template, further sequencing using the MIDI editor (pen and other tools)

Lesson 6: Audio examples and discuss production qualities (what makes a track successful?), tempo changes (tempo track), introducing mixing (levels and pan).

Lesson 7: Song structure, discuss how songs are structured into sections, learners to create a structure to a given project.

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).

Lesson 9: Starting with a given template, the learner will create a short sequence featuring 3 sections (e.g. verse, chorus, Middle 8) and a minimum of 4 parts (e.g. drums, bass, piano, strings), overview of audio playback using audio loops (provided in the template), moving/copying audio parts in the arrange page, set up a good balance of tracks (level, pan, reverb).

Lesson 10: Further mixing, introducing the use of EQ to control tonal balance, simple use of automation (level and pan)

Lesson 11: Recap with learners the final portfolio required for the award, complete written report, Introduce the concept of burning a CD-R.

Lesson 12: 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 MIDI sequencer for operation

- 1.1 Load and/or prepare the MIDI sequencer for operation
- 1.2 Create a MIDI track
- 1.3 Load or connect a MIDI instrument
- 1.4 Select the correct output to control a MIDI instrument
- 1.5 Select a sound preset from the MIDI instrument
- 1.6 Select a tempo
- 1.7 Apply a tempo guide click

2 Create a MIDI sequence

- 2.1 Prepare a MIDI track for recording
- 2.2 Record a MIDI sequence in real time
- 2.3 Create a MIDI sequence in non-real time
- 2.4 Play back and assess created MIDI sequences

3 Edit a MIDI sequence

- 3.1 Open or select an edit page
- 3.2 Use tools to edit a MIDI sequence
- 3.3 Undo sequence editing as necessary
- 3.4 Evaluate the edited MIDI sequence

4 Develop a MIDI arrangement

- 4.1 Use tools to edit MIDI parts in an arrangement
- 4.2 Undo arrangement editing as necessary
- 4.3 Evaluate the edited MIDI arrangement

5 Save and retrieve project information

- 5.1 Create a folder structure for storing files
- 5.2 Save project files to appropriate folders
- 5.3 Retrieve project files from folders
- 5.4 Identify project backup procedures