

CREATING YOUR CUSTOM MUSIC

Where do you start when creating music? It depends on the composition. If it is a piano piece, that's easy. The piano is the only instrument, so we start and finish right there. But you may want to do more. You may want a band playing your music. Now we need to give that a little thought.

For most composers, drums seem to take the most thought. We all have played air drums before, but now it's time for the real thing. You can program each note a drummer would play in MIDI, but that could take some time. Luckily there is a short cut. Included with Pro Tools is a set of plugin instruments that play back samples of pretty much every instrument you would need, from pianos to guitars to orchestra strings. It's all there. There also is a large selection of drum loops.

Drum loops are pre-programmed drum sounds that are designed to mimic various styles of music with stylistic sounds and drum patterns. The plugin XPAND has hundreds of loops with styles ranging from dance, hip hop, jazz, bossa nova, pop, reggae, urban, rhythm & blues and more. Loops are created to play a complete measure of time, so all that is needed is to audition the loops and place your selection on the instrument track. Now you have great sounding drums played to the tempo you select. This is a much easier and faster way to get started with your music.

The software plugin XPAND also has loops for percussion, guitars and other instruments. Come in and have a listen! A lot of these loops will really inspire your creativity.