

Logic Project: 12-Bar Blues

SAVE AS: [username]-12barblues

The goal of this project is: a) to learn the features of Logic Express, and b) to create an original song using the 12-bar blues.

Vocab:

Rhythm section: members of the band that provide the background “groove” or style. (The melody or lead singer/instrument plays *over* the rhythm section.)

Form: the design or structure of a piece of music (how the sections are put together).

Count-off: two-measure click pattern given BEFORE the song begins to show you the tempo.

PREP WORK:

- Import your Standard MIDI File (the SMF created in BIAB) into DP.
- Cut out the BIAB count-in. You’ll be using Logic’s own count-in.
- Place Markers to label Chorus 1 (at measure 1), Chorus 2 (at m. 13), and Chorus 3 (at m. 25).

GUIDELINES:

1. Compose Melody and Solo parts.

So far, the song is just a rhythm section playing background parts. You are to compose a melody for the song, as well as an improvised-type solo. Follow the form below:

Chorus 1: **12-measure melody** recorded on the Melody track

Chorus 2: **improvised-type solo** recorded on the Solo track

Chorus 3: **Return of the original melody** on the Melody track (may be enhanced with slight changes, new twists, new tracks, etc.)

2. Make changes/improvements in the rhythm section tracks. For example:

- Change a track’s software instrument
- Thin out the rhythm section by removing layers
- Add an entirely new track
- Revise or re-write some (or even all) of the tracks

3. (optional): Add an introduction and/or an ending.

For an intro, you’d have to move all of your data over to make room for new measures. (12 measures would be a standard length for an intro.) For an ending, you’d simply add more to the end.

AS YOU COMPOSE: Think about the overall, big-picture effect of your song. There should be a sense of flow from start to finish, and you want a shape that is interesting to the listener. It should also be well mixed with no tracks too loud or too soft.

As a result of this project, you should be able to:

- Change the software instrument assigned to a track
- Record on new and/or existing MIDI tracks
- Arrange and edit MIDI data
- Set a basic mix for your song (volume and pan)