

FROM VOICE NOTE TO DEMO

by Lillian Frances

WHY PRODUCE YOUR OWN MUSIC?

- Empower yourself — no need to rely on others or pay \$\$ every time you want to make a song
- More creative control over your sound
- Fewer voice notes sitting around... finish and release more songs!
- It's FUN
- If I can do it, you can do it... trust me, you've got this!



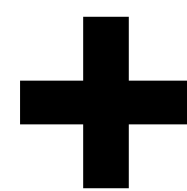
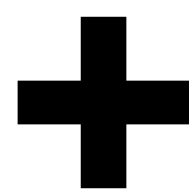
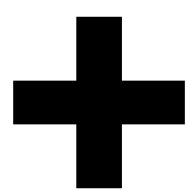
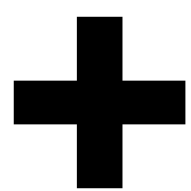
USEFUL HOT KEYS

OPT = MAC / ALT = PC
CMD = MAC / CTRL = PC

Hotkey	Action
Shift + Cmd + T	New MIDI track
Cmd + T	New Audio track
Tab	Switch Session ↔ Arrangement
Spacebar	Play / Stop
Cmd + D	Duplicate
Shift + Cmd + D	Duplicate time
Shift + M	New MIDI clip
Cmd + E	Split clip
Cmd + 1	Smaller Grid
Cmd + G	Group / Effect Rack
Cmd + 2	Bigger Grid
Cmd + 3	Triplet Grid
Pencil Tool	B
M	Toggle MIDI keyboard
Opt + Cmd + F	Clip Fade
Opt + Drag (with B turned on)	Velocity ramp
Double-click transient	Create warp marker
Shift + Click	Multi-select
Cmd + ,	Settings

THE 5 COMPONENTS OF A SONG

1. Vocals
2. Drums
3. Bass
4. Supporting Melody
 - pads, synths, piano, guitar, etc.
5. FX
 - reverb, delay, risers, impacts, ear candy, etc.



STEP ONE

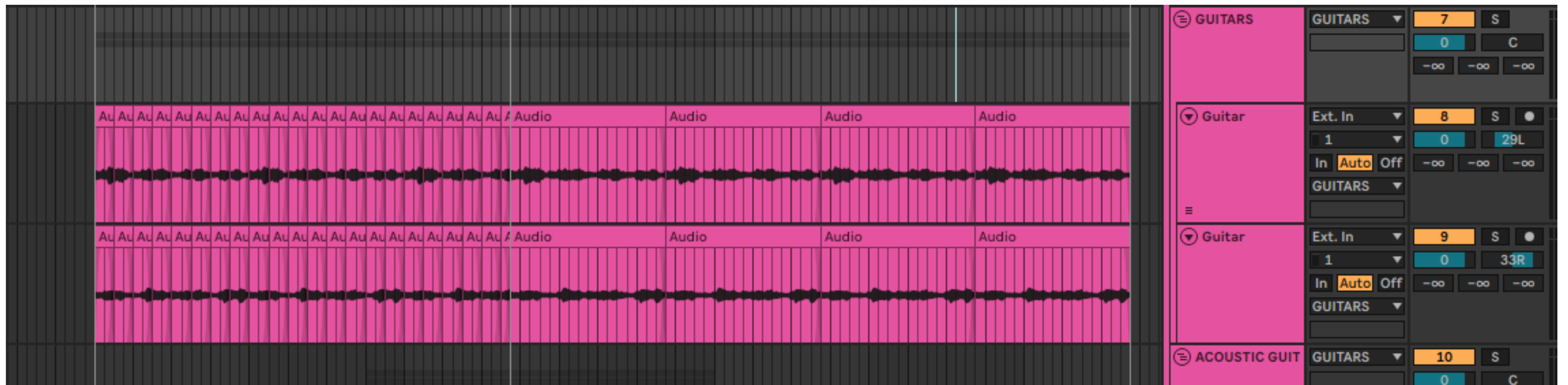
RECORD YOUR FIRST INSTRUMENT

SET UP

- Start with what you already have
 - If you wrote it on guitar → record guitar
 - If you wrote it on piano → record piano
- Find tempo using Tap Tempo
- Set correct audio input in Settings (cmd + ,)
- Set buffer size to 128
- Arm track and record

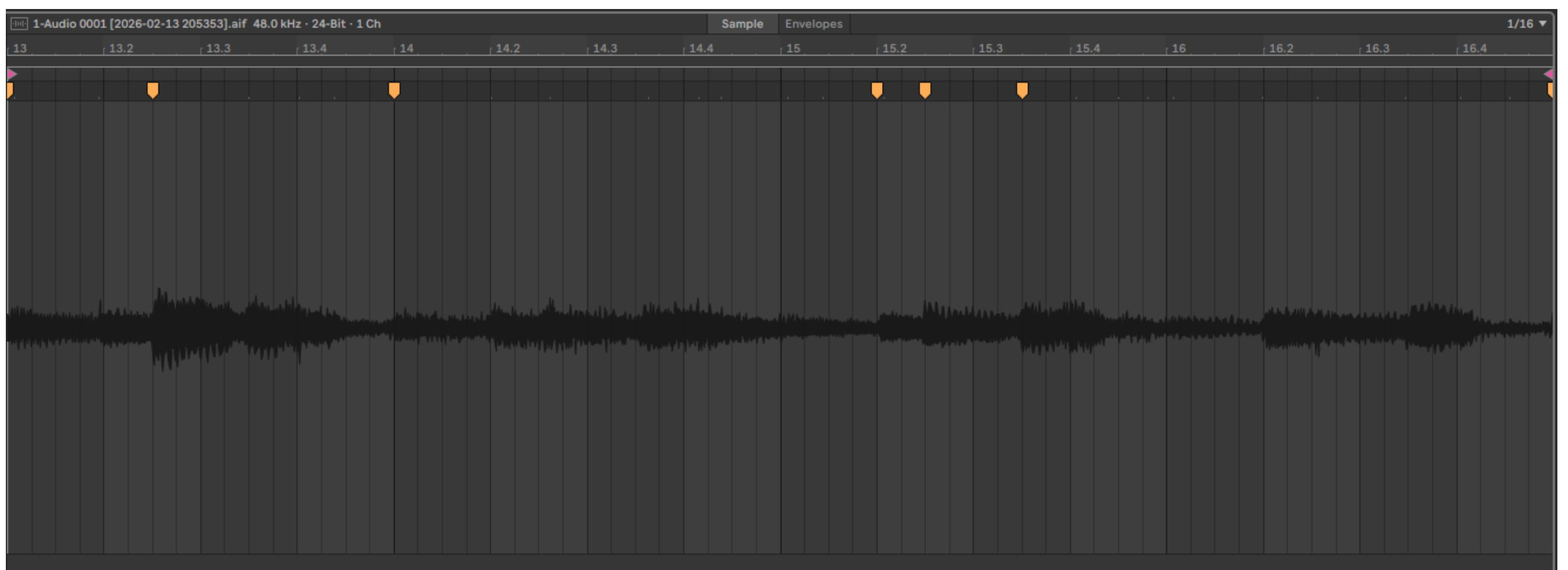
WORKFLOW

- Loop sections and record multiple takes
- Choose best takes later and comp them together
- HOT TIP: record twice and pan left/right for width



QUANTIZING

- Snap audio to grid using warp markers
 - Quantize as much or little as you want
- Use Complex warp mode

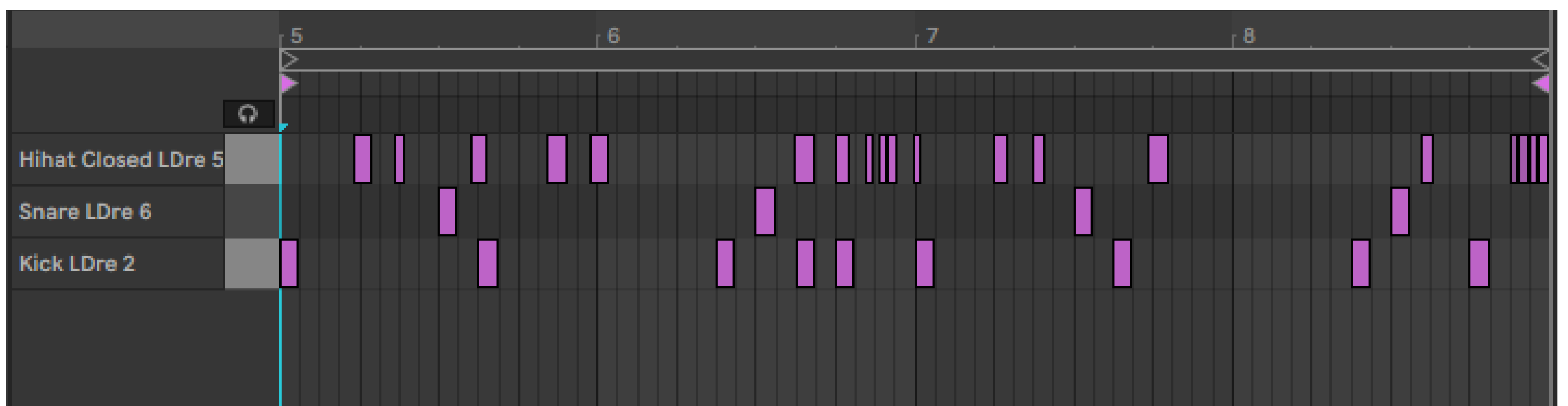


STEP TWO

DRUMS

CREATE YOUR GROOVE

- Choose drum rack (focus on the kick + the snare)
- New MIDI clip (Shift + Cmd + M)
- Start with kick + snare
 - Add hits by intuition
 - Try your best to program what you hear in your head!



RECORD IT IN

- Use computer keyboard (with MIDI keyboard engaged)
- Use X/Y to change your keyboard's octave and find the right keys that trigger your hi hat/percussion
- Turn on overdub (+)

LAYER YOUR BEAT

- Add pre-made percussive/top loops (Core Library, Splice, packs)
 - If you don't have any loops you like, a quick google search will turn up lots more options to download
- Feel free to stretch/warp/reverse/play with your loop until you like it

STEP THREE

VOCALS

RECORD MULTIPLE TAKES

- At least 3 verse takes and 5 chorus takes
- Typically the verse will have fewer voices then get bigger for the chorus

PROCESSING

- EQ, compression, reverb, saturation
- Use my simple vocal chain (download here)
- Watch my full video tutorial on vocal processing



STEP FOUR

FILL OUT THE TRACK

- Instrumentation
 - What's missing? Bass? Secondary melody?
 - Program or record in more instruments until the track is full but not over-saturated!
 - Don't add sounds just to add sounds! You want every instrument to be intentional and contributing positively to the totality of the track!
 - Four Melody Rule
 - Any more than four melodies will confuse your song and the listener!
 - If you already have four melodies going but still want to thicken your song, add in instruments that layer up with melodies you already have!
- Transitions
 - You want your sections to seamlessly flow from one section into the next
 - Add/create risers and impacts
- FX & ear candy
 - Reverb, delay, chorus, etc.
 - Create moments of intrigue!
- Movement
 - Automate tracks and effects to create movement over time

YOU DID IT!

now keep doing that over and over for the rest of your life!!!