

1. Music Mixing - Lab 1

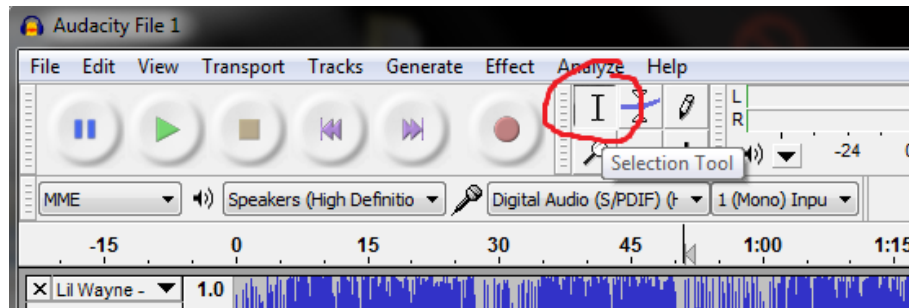
Find the file “Audacity File 1.aup” in your Lab 1 folder. Double-click on it to open it with audacity.

You’ll see four separate tracks of music in the project - one long one, which plays the main beat, and 3 shorter vocals tracks. They’re out of order, though, and some of them are going to overlap and sound bad. Your job is to fix them!

We’re going to start with the first vocal track, right under the the background beat track. That means you should mute the other two vocal tracks so they don’t interfere when you’re trying to hear the beat. Mute them by pressing the ‘mute’ button on their tracks:

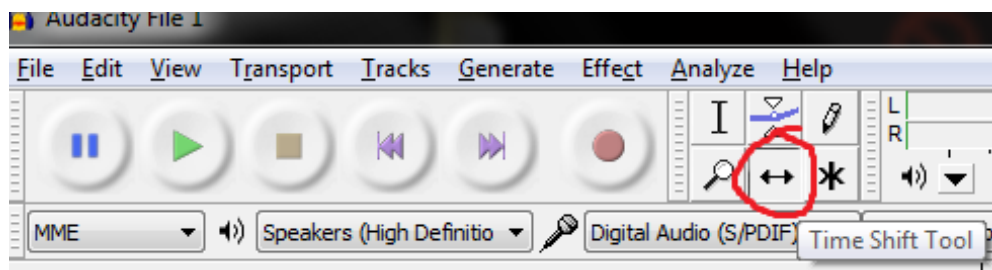


Now, move the first track so that the vocals start when the bass kicks in on the main beat. You should listen to the beginning a bit first, so you know when that is. To move a track, you first need to select it. Click on this tool:



Then click and drag from a little before the beginning of the vocal track to somewhere after the end of it.

Now click on the 'Time Shift Tool':



You can now click and drag anywhere in the track you just selected to drag it around. Try to line it up so the vocals start right with the first bass note! After you've finished this, save your work by going to File and choosing 'Save Project'. Remember to save often so you don't lose your work!



(If you're having trouble, try zooming in. The button looks like this:  Zoom In)

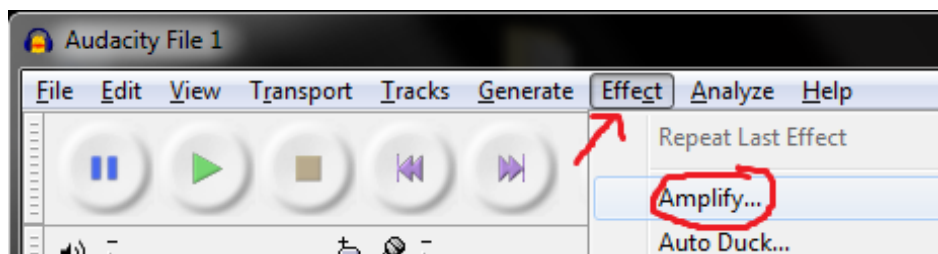
Now, un-mute the second vocals track (by clicking its mute button again) and move it so it starts almost right after the first one ends. Make sure it's in time with the beat! Again, zoom in if it's just a bit off to make a smaller adjustment.

Finally, the last vocal verse is going to start near the end of the second

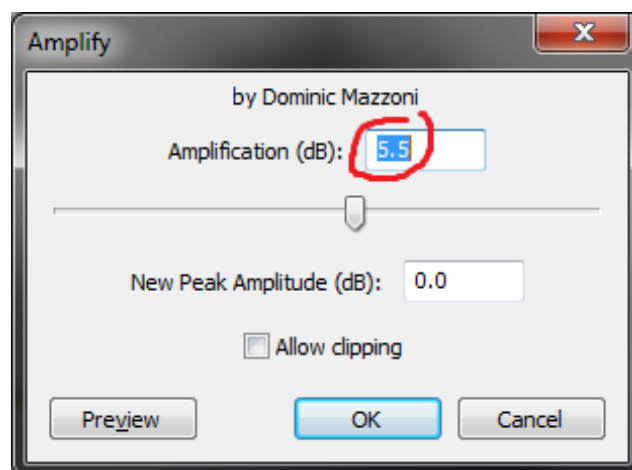
one. The last time you hear “I want this sh*t forever, mine ever, mine ever,...” and it starts to fade out, the third track needs to start at that first ‘ever’.

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to sound just right - matching the beats is one of the hardest things about music mixing. You'll get used to it!

The last change we're going to make is to make the last verse a bit louder than the other two. Make sure it's still selected, then click on “Effect” on the top menu bar and choose the first effect, “Amplify”.



Make sure the Amplification box says '5.5', and then press OK.



Congratulations! You've made your first remix! Just one step left - export it into a .WAV file so that everyone can listen to it. Click on File, then choose 'Export...'

Give it a good name, and make sure that the 'save as type' says WAV, **not** MP3. Hit Save, and you're done with Lab 1. Good job!

