
Subject: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [TCB](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 21:13:11 GMT

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Greetings, Parisians! After missing AES thanks to work in the office I spent the rest of the weekend in a stinking hot recording room doing Monkiedrums. So then, I how have six tunes to edit.

In previous experiences doing this lovely task I have manually edited all of the kick/snare/tom mics instead of using gates to get rid of extra sonic trash bleeding through from the rest of the kit.

First, do you folks who work a lot with acoustic drums usually do this? If not, do you do something else?

Thanks,

TCB

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [DJ](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 21:14:50 GMT

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I'm almost embarrassed to post this but the "kick" preset on UAD-1's Neve 88RS plugin has such an efficient use of gating, EQ and compression that just dropping it on a kick absolutely transforms it into something altogether different.....and different in a good.....err.....no, not good.....great way. Drumagog is also your friend in this situation and using Drumagog BFD with the Neve 88RS...well.....anyway....

;o)

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote in message news:470a9d67\$1@linux...

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> Thanks,
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> TCB

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Cujjo](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 22:03:05 GMT
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I never gate drums, but in some busy tunes, I edit the tom tracks. I'm pretty over samples for now anyway.

"DJ" <animix _ at _ animas _ dot _ net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 22:35:39 GMT

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I do it with Tom tracks, but that's it... I just trim the start of each roll/fill right up to the beginning of the first hit, then fade out the last hit in no particular length, just as long as each fade sounds natural.

When I'm working with real drums, then I'm definitely going to use the "organic-ness" (organosity? organiousness? organitude? :)) of the atmosphere of the whole kit, which includes a certain amount of leakage. Now, I will admit this much: back in the late 80's/early 90's I used to gate the shit out of drums, because there was a certain discrete sound that came from doing that, but I don't do that anymore.

Actually, Thad, I'm kinda surprised you'd even consider doing that (editing or gating), I kinda thought I recall you mentioning you had a lot of taste for the lo-fi - if that's the case, then the more bleed, the better, usually.

Neil

"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [rick](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 22:49:30 GMT
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depends on the song and the kit but mainly yes i gate the inn and out
kicks plus the top snare and the toms unless the bleed adds something
needed. it really cleans up the verb if added.

On 9 Oct 2007 07:13:11 +1000, "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [rick](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 22:51:19 GMT
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i should add that with 11-13 mics per kit the OH's, M/S and room mic
add the rest of the sonic pallet.

On 9 Oct 2007 07:13:11 +1000, "TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 23:09:16 GMT
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"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:470ab0bb\$1@linux...
>
> I do it with Tom tracks, but that's it... I just trim the start
> of each roll/fill right up to the beginning of the first hit,
> then fade out the last hit in no particular length, just as
> long as each fade sounds natural.

Check. Only exception is when I get a weak performance/drum under a mic in the snare or kick dept and the bleed is just too much. Not often, but has happened and I usually have to edit the 'non' hits out and trigger a sample in these cases.

> When I'm working with real drums, then I'm definitely going to
> use the "organic-ness" (organosity? organisiousness?
> organitude? :)) of the atmospheere of the whole kit, which
> includes a certain amount of leakage.

Check.

> Neil

Yup, we agree on this process, but I might also add that it really depends on the player, the kit, the room, the mic placement and the song as to what vibe I'm batting for. Gating is the lazy way to fix those kinds of things (and the sound suffers for it IMHO) that should be attacked manually to keep a real kit vibe going. If you're going after the Phil Collins thing, well then gating will be your tool of choice. retriggin' samples off a sloppy kit can get pretty sketchy, and you're fairly well assured to kill any finesse or ghost notes, and that is where the vibe lives, again IMHO. I've never dug gates, and in the 90's I had some DOD piece (single rack, 4 'gates') that allowed leakage via potentiometer using DBX VCA's in it. Jeez, I wish I still had that thing, you could dial up the 'organic' right there on it but control the bleed factor.

Happy editing!
AA

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [TCB](#) on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 23:38:16 GMT
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Believe me, Neil, If had a great sounding kit in a great room I'd do everything with five great mics and wouldn't edit a thing. But to steal a line from the Donny Rumsfeld Quote Book you don't make a record with the drums and room you want, you make a record with the drums and room you have. In this case I'm fighting the room (a lot) and the kit (a little, it's a Yamaha Recording Custom kit, good drums but not stylistically perfect for the sound I want). Lastly, the Monkees tend to layer it on a bit when it comes to guitars/vox/keys later on, so I'm sure we're going to be going for much more of the spot mics than I would like given my own stylistic tendencies.

I'm trying to be flexible with these guys. I have my own (very strong) opinions, but even though I'm kind of in charge of the recording I think I have to respect the ideas and sonic preferences of the whole band. We even used a click for the drum tracks because the drummer actually likes to record with a click.

Favorite drums I've ever recorded were an old Ludwig maple kit that had what I swear were bullet holes in one of the toms. I got to use a huge concert hall at Yale and tracked with two Octava overheads, an SM-57 on the snare, I forget what kick mic, and a stereo pair about ten rows into the hall for ambience. This time I'm recording in a 14x12x11 room that is on the end of someones garage. A slightly different animal I fear.

Thanks for the tips, I think I'm just going to do what I did before, even if it is pretty time consuming.

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [DJ](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 00:50:23 GMT
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Me too/either. I was completely off the idea of using gates and samples until I got the UAD-1 Neve 88RS.
;o)

"Cujo" <chris@applemanstudio.com> wrote in message [news:470aa919\\$1@linux...](mailto:news:470aa919$1@linux...)

>

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 01:03:19 GMT
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"TCB" <nobody@ishere.com> wrote:
>Thanks for the tips, I think I'm just going to do what I did before, even
>if it is pretty time consuming.

In that case, you can save yourself some headaches, you know, if you just use the Hitpoints feature in SX that allows you to chop/segment tracks at the start of each hit. This'll work great for your kick & snare tracks (which have the most strikes on 'em anyway), but horribly for toms (which have the least - in most cases, anyway). Do that for the kick track, then double-click on it once it's segmented & then zoom all the way out so you can select the whole track (all the hit segments) at once. Now, zoom back in so that you can see individual waveforms, but keep all of them selected.

THEN... decrease the "end" length of each hit till it's right at the end of the main kick waveform, and apply a fade (you're doing all of 'em at once, remember), NEXT - with all of the hits still selected - click the start point of all of 'em over to the left one notch & apply a short fadeup to just before the start of the waveform... this eliminates any clicks/pops as each file segment plays. Using this method, you'll no doubt have to go back in & edit the fades on some double-kick hits, quick accents, etc., but it's still going to take you less time to do that than it would to start from the beginning of the song & labor your way through it hit by hit.

Repeat this process with the snare track. Tom tracks, just do by hand.

I know you wrote the (a) book on Cubase, but I thought I'd mention this in case you haven't tried this method yet - will save you a ton of time.

Neil

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 01:47:38 GMT

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I let 'em hum 90% of the time. I think the "hum" is an important part of the sound of drums. I've tried to get that incredibly clean, almost sample-like sound that, for example, Roger Nichols gets on a lot of Steely Dan stuff but I seem to almost always prefer the "hum". One project in 10 might cry out for the edited/gated tom sound and for those I'll gate the toms (sometimes snare and/or kick but not as often) and sometimes I'll edit them. Whatever works...

Gantt

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [DJ](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 01:56:06 GMT

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Thad,

Upload the kick track to a server and I'll DL it and apply the Neve 88RS to it and upload it to another server for you. wouldn't hurt to try. You might like it.....and/or if you want, I'll run it through Drumagog BFD and send you back a few different kicks that you could use. I've gotoh.....something like 20 different high end, unprocessed BFD kicks here. ^The Drumagog BFD can filter part/all of the noise out of the kick and leave you with a relatively pristine product that you can then integrate back into your room by way of paralleling it with your original kick track and/or mixing in the room/OH mics.

Deej

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 02:09:38 GMT

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Yes, slow, painful editing of only toms, usually.

TCB wrote:

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 02:21:37 GMT

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"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>Yup, we agree on this process, but I might also add that it
>really depends on the player, the kit, the room, the mic
>placement and the song as to what vibe I'm batting for. Gating
>is the lazy way to fix those kinds of things
>(and the sound suffers for it IMHO) that should be attacked
>manually to keep a real kit vibe going.

Here's the biggest downside of gating (or editing leakage manually), as I see it: The Snare.

Toms, no biggie - I probably "need" to gate or edit those anyway because unless I've got some condensor mics on 'em AND I'm going for a more natural sound, then I'm going to be doing some crazy shit on the EQ side like boosting 7k & 10-12k a ton, carving out some low mids, and then boosting somewhere in the 100hz zone perhaps, as well. Maybe 700hz too if I want some more "pong" in there. Now that sounds great on the tom hits, but what about all the cymbals & rest of the kit in between? YEECH! Pretty harsh, to say the least. So it's edit/gate/automate.

Kick - also no biggie, because you so often don't get all that much of the rest of the kit in there anyway (assuming we're talking about an inside-the-kick mic), and I like a totally open front on the kick, too! So, gate, don't gate - with the kick it's usually not a problem. Biggest issues in this department come with double-kickers, where they're doing 16th notes on the kicks & you've got snare hits on top of kick hits. Sometimes the snare can screw you up there, but if you use a frequency-keyed gate, it can easily be worked around.

Snare... now THIS is the beeyatch. If you have to tweak the track a lot, EQ, compression, yet more compression, more EQ - hey do we have any more bands of EQ? Then yer pretty much fukt & you will almost definitely have to gate it - how do you know? Well, because if you're having to tweak THAT much to get a decent snare sound, then think of how the hi-hat right next to it is going to sound through the majorly-tweaked snare mic! Think of how the rest of the kit's going to sound through that same mic that you're (more than likely) going to want kind of in the forefront - yeah, the one that you've boosted 18 db at 5k, and another 12 at 7k just to get that "crack" just right, and also at 10k because now you've got the "crack" but you've lost the "zing", and just to lose some of that shoebox sound, you've cut a big swath out of 300hz - ok, let's add another EQ plugin & cut the same at 400, but with a sharper "Q" setting so we don't lose the 500 we need for some body... hmm - sounds a little thin, better add some 120hz. And all that's compressed with an LA2A emulation on that track on top of an SSL quadcomp emulation across the whole kit.

So now you have to gate the snare, so you do... problem is, on all the hat hits (half of which are executed AT THE SAME TIME as the 2 & 4 on the snare) you're still hearing some harsh hat tone through the snare mic... can't get rid of it though, even if you gate/edit real tight, because the initial part of the hat strike still comes through... so then you end up with a big pulsing hi-hat thing going on & this also means that you can't pan the regular hat channel at all (otherwise, you'll hear it going from side to center as the snare gate does it's thing).

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is that you have to have good snare mic placement - using the null in your snare mic's pickup pattern to minimize how much hat gets in there in the first place - in order to successfully gate your snare... and if you have good snare mic placement, then it also follows that usually you don't have to tweak the snare track much... and if you don't have to tweak the snare track much, then the rest of the kit through that mic sounds pretty natural, hence no need

to gate it in the first place!

And then you get to pan your hi-hat!

:D

Neil

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 03:48:52 GMT

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"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:470ae5b1\$1@linux...

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> you don't have to tweak the snare track much, then the rest of
> the kit through that mic sounds pretty natural, hence no need
> to gate it in the first place!
>

Definitely the best way man. However, I wanna share a little trick I've used live, that might help out with a little modification for the gate-heads that must have their gates.....

key the gates from piezos placed on the drum being gated, or in the recording version of that setup send the piezo pulse to a track for triggering a gate later for it's adjoining track.

AA

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Sarah](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 08:59:51 GMT

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Same here, tom tracks only, and then not always. I only have live drums on final versions, and sometimes I like the racket and leave it in. It's like ... all organic and stuff. :)

S

"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:470ab0bb\$1@linux...

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>>Thanks,
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>>TCB
>

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 13:29:10 GMT

Thad, another way to go is with expansion. It gives a gentler effect.

TCB wrote:

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> the rest of the weekend in a stinking hot recording room doing Monkiedrums.
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> TCB

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Cujjo](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 18:39:25 GMT

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What she said and stuff.

I have tried the Paris gate for effect, but it's latency seems to render it useless on drums for me. I have tried a posted compensation number, but still did not sound right to me.

"Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

>Same here, tom tracks only, and then not always. I only have live drums on
>final versions, and sometimes I like the racket and leave it in. It's like

>. . . all organic and stuff. :)

>

>S

>

>"Neil" <IOUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:470ab0bb\$1@linux...

>>

>> I do it with Tom tracks, but that's it... I just trim the start

>> of each roll/fill right up to the beginning of the first hit,

>> then fade out the last hit in no particular length, just as

>> long as each fade sounds natural.

>>

>> When I'm working with real drums, then I'm definitely going to

>> use the "organic-ness" (organosity? organisiousness?)

>> organitude? :)) of the atmosphere of the whole kit, which
>> includes a certain amount of leakage. Now, I will admit this
>> much: back in the late 80's/early 90's I used to gate the shit
>> out of drums, because there was a certain discrete sound that
>> came from doing that, but I don't do that anymore.
>>
>> Actually, Thad, I'm kinda surprised you'd even consider doing
>> that (editing or gating), I kinda thought I recall you
>> mentioning you had a lot of taste for the lo-fi - if that's the
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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 20:46:24 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Wow, after reading the other posts, I feel kind of wierd saying this, but I like to use gates on the toms. I like the Paris gate a lot. I use the analog

x gate or sinus Golden gate if I want to render the tracks. I do a lot of drum tracks for people and this works really good for me, and everyone always comments on likeing my toms. I like them because I can let how ever much "rumble" I want to get through. I don't use any lookahead on the Paris gate. With no lookahead,it adds 2 samples latency, usually not a big deal, and sometimes I like the coloration, but if I want to have them totally transparent, I just back the toms up 1 paris ms, and add 78 samples, via sampleslide. This will make them totally sample accurate. I like the Paris gates better than the other 2 that I mentioned, but the native ones have no latency, and work well also.

I've tried the automation thing with the toms, and for me it's not as good. I really don't like cutting the space out between the toms all together, it sounds too much like "parts is parts"

I don't do anything gate wise to the kik or snare.

FWIW, I'm currently mixing an album that I played on most of the tracks but the artist hired a "BIG" name drummer for a couple tracks, like one of the biggest, who is known for his drum sound and engineering chops. The artist really liked my tom sound better than his, soooo, I'm mixing his tracks to make them sound like mine. Thankfully he didn't gate the toms on the multi tracks, I'm gating them, but letting "just enough" through to glue everything together.

Anyway that's how I like to do it, it really does depend on the drummer though. If the Hihat is bleeding all over the snare mic, then it may be time for drumagog.

Rod

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2007 22:07:20 GMT

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me too. I use Paris's gates on live drums. But I think what we are dealing with hear is :

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- Genre Of Music Style.

Like Reverb. in the 80's we spattered verb all over the place. Gate verb settings on the kits..

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 03:49:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:
>
>Wow, after reading the other posts, I feel kind of wierd
>saying this, but I like to use gates on the toms.

Why do you feel wierd? Of the ones that said they use gating,
Toms seemed to be the most prevelantly-gated thing.

Neil

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 04:52:52 GMT
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Tom???

I don't see any post from Tom.

I just meant most posts seemed to be bagging on gating stuff. So I was taking the unpopular stance. That's what I ment by weird.

Rod

Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 05:04:10 GMT

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Exactly...Thad's band (as I remember some past posts, correct me if I'm wrong Thad)like's thing raw. Editing out the in between stuff totally makes for a "not organic" sound, and for whatever reason using automation isn't my favorite way either...I've tried it several times. I can hear it.

Using the gates, I can control the bleed, letting as much pass as I want.

I can still get a raw sound, but just a little more controled. Gates can be a pain sometimes also, that's why I've tried automation. But for me, for this kind of music, that's what I'd recommend.

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Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 05:07:23 GMT
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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 13:11:29 GMT
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Oh man....your post seems so clear this morning. Can't believe I thought you were talking about Tom instead of "a tom" last night, just goes to show you what a good night's sleep will do.

Rod

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>lol, not Tom's... TOMS! Tom-Toms, you know, the things that
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>>Rod

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 13:13:59 GMT
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I get what you mean - you're not letting the gates close all the way, so you've still got SOME kit bleed coming through the tom mics, but not as high a degree of bleed as you would get if you hadn't gated them at all.

FYI when I was mentioning that I used to gate the hell out of drums back during "that" era, I wasn't necessarily referring to the Collins gated-reverb thang or gated-live-ambience (although in SOME cases, yes, that was the intent) I was really referring to gating the drums themselves - the purpose being to get more of a discrete drum sound... I think that's mainly a Def Leppard influence there - for awhile there, it seems lots of the rock guys were asking: "Can you get my drums to sound like this?" and they'd hold up a copy of Pyromania. So, sometimes you'd trigger samples even back then but most often I could get something they liked with just the kit itself. Gate the kick, snare, toms, add some exciter to the toms to enhance the stick hit, all these discrete, distinct drum sounds that would just seem to explode when you applied any 'verb to 'em, since there was no rumble behind anything except the overheads & hat mic.

I think Lamont's right in the sense that nowadays the trend seems to be going back to a more natural kit ambience, but it's obviously supplemented by a lot of samples, and in modern rock or metal it's also a whole different feel - no one's really looking for that "exploding" drum sound, they want the drums to be a constant roar - just look at how much these newer guys are all over the brass CONSTANTLY, they've gone from that splashy open-hat sound to simply using crashes as hi-hats, more or less. Fills are a lot shorter than they used to be, there's no measure-long tom rolls, as that would take them off the cymbals too long LOL and it's generally a more straight-ahead style, in my view... you gotta keep that drive and angst going. :D

OK, now I feel old. lol

Neil

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Subject: Re: Editing rock'n'roll drums
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Wed, 10 Oct 2007 13:39:38 GMT
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This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=_NextPart_000_0359_01C80B21.79A434D0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Hey you guys quit talking about me behind my back!
Tom

Paris gate is great but not all the time.
"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote in message =
news:470ccf81\$1@linux...

Oh man....your post seems so clear this morning. Can't believe I =
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