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Subject: Anyone game for some drum editing?

Posted by [Dan B](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 21:16:45 GMT

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Hi,

I am interested in what services some of you may be able to offer in relation to multi-track drum editing.

Since I'm a Paris user I thought it'd be good to ask the group to see what editing servies might be available. I'm in the UK but am happy to work remotely on this (e.g. by sending files by post on DVD).

During a recent session, I recorded a drummer playing some drum tracks to a click (multi-tracked to 12 x 24 bit wav files). Unfortunately the performances are not tight enough and need micro-editing, either by hand, or perhaps using Cubase SX3's audio quantising / ProTools Beat Mapper or similar). I suspect the former would give the best results, but since the playing is off throughout most of the performance, this could be rather time consuming. Sensitivity will need to be paid to the groove and feel of the music, rather than a straight 100% iterative quanitze.

The drum parts are generally very simple. The style is hard to describe, but broadly speaking it is alternative folk, but with rock / jazz / world and other influences. Each song is under 5 minutes; and there are between 1 and 5 songs requiring attention.

I'd be grateful if you could let me know what services you can offer that might be of assistance, what your proposed working method would be and what your rates for each of them would be, both per hour and per song. It would also be useful to have an idea of how long the project would take you to complete (i.e. not just the working hours but estimated time to overall completion).

Unfortunately the band this is for is currently unsigned and so the budget is somewhat limited. They are, however, quite perfectionist and interested in obtaining a professional product.

Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

Daniel

daniel\_burne@yahooNOSPAM.com (just delete the no spam).

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?

Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2006 22:21:54 GMT

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\$0.10 per edit per track per song

;-)

Don

ps. I can do it, and do it well but it's not one of my favorite things to

do...and I'm a drummer!

"dan b" <daniel\_burneNOSPAM@yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:451998bd\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 01:20:18 GMT  
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If you've never done this, let me offer a big gotcha I've run into before you blow a wad of cash on edits. If the other tracks are playing to these 'grooves', you'll be redoing them too. Reason? Once you move the drums around the other parts will need to follow it because that timing reference is now gone. However, if you played the other guys in on the click, that's a good thing.

AA

"dan b" <daniel\_burneNOSPAM@yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:451998bd\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 02:56:57 GMT  
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Funny... I'm in the midst of a project in which I'm having to do much drum editing, sometimes with a click, sometimes without. There were a few tunes that needed so much repair that I convinced them to re-record them. I almost had them convinced to use a real studio drummer, but alas, they decided that a band is a band, and the old drummer came back. He did better, but he's still not a great studio player. There are so many little things that go into making what I consider to be a studio quality drum performance: Good, constant time; good constant tone; a solid groove that makes the other musicians want to play their best; good taste when it comes to where and when to play fills. I can fix timing, although sometimes the life of the groove suffers, and I can fix the occasional less than stellar snare or kick drum hit, but if I've learned nothing else in 19 years of doing this for a living it's this: The best money anyone can spend on a project - maybe even more important than the \$\$\$ spent on the studio - is to hire the very best studio drummer you can find!

All that said, my first question would be - Is it possible to hire a better drum to come in and replace the existing drums? My guess is that it wouldn't be more expensive than hiring someone to edit the drums you already have. I'd be happy to do it for you, but I charge \$75 per hour and drum editing is painstaking work...

Good luck!

Gantt

"dan b" <daniel\_burneNOSPAM@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 03:09:26 GMT  
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You & Aaron both make some good points... these guys could EASILY spend more \$\$\$ in edits than on re-tracking the whole thing - and they still may have to retrack the "other than drums" parts.

These guys are picky & want to do it right, but can't nail it themselves? Here's my advice in that scenario, FWTFIW:

- 1.) get a MIDI track going with a rudimentary programmed drum track for the rest of the guys to play with.
- 2.) once the basic rhythm tracks are done, have the drummer play along with these, but mute the MIDI drums.
- 3.) Have someone who's got either PT with Beat Detective - or something like CubaseV3 so they can create audio slices from the hitpoints - edit the drummer's tracks to the MIDI groove.

They don't have to nail everything down perfectly locked if you want it to swing a little.

In this case, I think that'd be the best way to go... and probably the least expensive, as well. Either way, you're gonna have to retrack the other instruments if you edit the drums - if they're as off as much & as often as you say they are.

Neil

"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [Dan B](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 08:47:48 GMT  
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Thanks,  
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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [rick](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 09:00:16 GMT  
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"and I'm a drummer"...and you seemed so normal...wow...

On Tue, 26 Sep 2006 18:21:54 -0400, "Don Nafe" <dnafe@magma.ca> wrote:

>\$0.10 per edit per track per song

>

>:-)

>

>Don

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>ps. I can do it, and do it well but it's not one of my favorite things to

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by Nil on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 12:59:37 GMT  
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Dan, just curious:

a.) How many tracks are the drums themselves on?

b.) How did the singer record vocals to the drums only (i.e.: with no pitch reference from any instruments)?

Not that one question has anything to do with the other, but I was just wondering.

Neil

"dan b" <daniel\_burneNOSPAM@yahoo.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 16:38:54 GMT  
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Price  
Time

Pick 2

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Subject: Re: Anyone game for some drum editing?  
Posted by [Dan B](#) on Wed, 27 Sep 2006 18:58:03 GMT  
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Lol!

I think we're heading towards re-recording the drums (with a session drummer).  
Probably easier and much better results! I guess we went with option 1!

Neil - drums are recorded across 12 channels (though probably unnecessary to use them all). Not the greatest selection of mics, but that's the extent of the mic cupboard:

AKG D112 inside Kick  
Shure SM57 outside Kick (poorly positioned, however!)  
Shure SM57 Snare top  
Shure SM57 Snare bottom  
2 x Studio Projects C4s as XY stereo overheads  
AKG C1000s Ride  
AKG C1000s Crash  
AT4033a Hi Hat  
AKG C418 Hi Tom  
AKG C418 Mid Tom  
AKG C418 Low Tom

As for qu 2: Guitar guitar recorded to a click; then guide vocals; then drums.  
Then we'll re-record everything (drums apart). A little long winded, but getting the band in the same room together at the same time proved impossible. Fortunately not a band politics issue - more a schedule thing!

Best wishes,  
Dan

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