

# GarageBand for iPad: 10+ Lesson Ideas

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## 1. Transforming the Blues

### Aim

To record a 12 bar blues backing in a unique musical style

### Skills covered

- how to play the Smart Instruments and use the Autoplay function
- how to multitrack record multiple parts
- how to record an improvised blues solo using a limited scale
- how to play in time to a metronome
- how to mix the final performance

### Steps (for a Tango Blues)

- Start new project
- Select Smart Strings
- Set Tempo to 100 BPM & key to G major
- Change song section length to 12 bars (use plus button at top right)
- Choose Autoplay pattern number 2
- Record the 12 bar blues sequence
- Add a Smart Bass track
- Record bass line to go with blues sequence
- Add a Smart Drums track or Drum kit track and record a pattern to go with the blues
- Add another Smart Strings track: switch to Notes view, choose violin and select the minor blues scale setting
- Record an improvised solo over your blues backing

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## 2. What's in a name?

### Aim

To compose an original song by sampling your name in the GarageBand Sampler.

### Skills covered

- How to record a sample
- How to play the sampler
- How to multitrack record parts
- How to use the Smart Drums
- How to use loops from the Loop Library

### Steps

- Start new project
- Select Sampler
- Record your name with the Sampler
- Record a rhythm using your sample
- Add a new track: Smart Drums and record a drum part
- Add a bass guitar loop from the Loop Library
- Adjust track volume levels
- Save project

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## 3. Rockstar Drummer

### Aim

To perform and record a basic rock/pop drum pattern

### Skills covered

- How to play the basic rock pattern using body percussion
- How to understand different parts of on-screen kit in GarageBand
- How to play the drum pattern using the GarageBand kit
- How to record the pattern using overdubbing technique
- How to play in time to a metronome

- How to quantize
- How to edit the recorded region

## Steps

- Learn the 3 rhythmic parts that make up the basic rock/pop drum pattern
- Play the drum pattern using body percussion: hi-hat with right hand on left shoulder, snare with left hand on left leg and right foot on floor
- Open GarageBand and start a new project
- Select the Drums
- Experiment with playing the different parts of the kit
- Using the GarageBand drum kit, play the pattern - first with each part separately and then with all three parts together
- Set the tempo (Settings menu) and quantization (Mixer menu)
- Rewind playback line to start
- Press record and play the kick and snare (keep the recording going)
- On the second “pass”, record the hi-hat part
- Press Stop
- Playback the part and listen for mistakes. Make corrections or re-record
- Save and name the project

## Extensions

- Overdub a drum fill - add one in at the end of the 8th bar
- Record another drum pattern, this time using one of the drum machine options in GarageBand

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# 4. Remix Recipe: Pachelbel Reinvented

## Aim

To record a classical theme such as the basso continuo part from Pachelbel's Canon and remix it by changing the style and adding an original melody.

## Skills covered

- How to change the scale in the Smart Strings

- How to record a single note melody using the cello
- How to add a Smart Drums or Drums track
- How to add a Keyboard part and record a melody
- How to add new song sections

### **Steps**

- Background listening: examples of pop songs that have used Pachelbel's Canon
- Record basso continuo line from canon
- Record a drum part
- Optional: record other backing parts
- Add New section - duplicate section A
- Add a Keyboard part and record an original melody
- Turn on All Sections to play through the entire piece

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## **5. Choose Your Own Adventure Arranging**

### **Aim**

To record an arrangement of a mystery song

### **Skills covered**

- How to alter the key, tempo and time signature of a song
- How to play the Smart instruments
- How to listen to and select an Autoplay pattern
- How to record a Smart Instrument part

### **Steps**

- Open GarageBand and start a new project
- Select one of the following: Smart Guitar, Smart Strings or Smart Keyboard
- Choose a tempo: 90, 120 or 160 BPM
- Choose a key signature: 4/4, 3/4 or 6/8

- Choose a sound (ie. the type of guitar, or keyboard or strings)
- Choose an Autoplay pattern
- Record this 8-bar pattern: Am | Am | C | C | G | G | G | G |
- Guess the song! (a recent top 40 pop song)
- At the end, play student projects for each other
- Listening and feedback - what makes each arrangement unique or different?
- What are the musical elements that arrangers can alter to create a new arrangement?

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## 6. Sampling The Movies

### Aim

To use a sampled quote or famous movie line as the basis for a dance remix.

### Skills covered

- How to use the Sampler to record a movie quote
- How to rename the sample
- How to add the sample to the library
- How to edit the sample: trim, tune, shape, reverse, loop
- How to use the Arpeggiator
- How to add Smart Drums

### A few quotes

- Hakuna matata (The Lion King)
- If you hear music, dance (Sleeping Beauty)
- Adventure is out there (Ellie - Up)
- Run like the wind Bullseye (Toy Story)

### Steps

- Record a (spoken) line from a movie in the Sampler
- Rename the Sample and add it to the library

- Use Trim tool to isolate a section (test a few parts out)
- Record your sample in a rhythm (just a bar or two is fine)
- Add a Smart Drums track and record the drum part
- Add 3 more Sampler tracks - each with different trimmed sections of the sample. For each one, add the Sample into the library and rename it
- Experiment with using the Arpeggiator and the other effects in the Sampler

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## 7. Maths Rap

### Aim

To record a rap that demonstrates the learning of a concept such as the times tables (or anything else you can think of!)

### Skills covered

- How to record voice with the Audio Recorder
- How to apply vocal effects
- How to create a drum part
- How to mix parts

### Steps

- Start a new project
- Select the Audio Recorder (plug in a microphone if you have one)
- Set the project tempo and number of bars required (try 16)
- Record the times table in time to the metronome
- Add a drum track and record a drum part
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## 8. DIY Simple Soundtracks

### Aim

To create mood music to accompany a movie scene, or to use as intro/outro music for a radio show or podcast

### **Skills covered**

- Listening skills - listen to different styles of music and discuss what mood or genre they invoke
- How to play and record the Smart Instruments
- How to multitrack record

### **Steps**

- Start a new project
- Choose a Smart Instrument and find an Autoplay pattern that matches your chosen theme style
- Experiment with tempo and key (and possibly time signature)
- Change the song section to 16 bars
- Decide a chord sequence to play for 16 bars (write it down)
- Record the chord pattern you have worked out
- Play student projects for the class - can you guess what the theme style is?

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## **9. And In Tonight's News: Nursery Rhymes Recut**

### **Running of session**

- Record narration
- Edit to split up parts
- Add effects to voice parts
- Record sound effects with the Sampler (ie. growl, others)
- Record SFX in story timeline
- Add music

### **Aim**

To record a Goldilocks and the Three Bears story with narration that uses different voice effects, has accompanying music and sound effects.

### **Skills covered**

- How to set up a song for storytelling
- How to add an Audio track and record a voice part

- Options for microphones and best recording practice for students
- How to organise tracks
- How to add voice effects
- How to create sound effects
- How to do advanced audio editing - cut, copy, paste, split, join
- How to set up empty Audio tracks
- How to move regions from one track to another
- How to copy audio from one project to another (or from another app into GarageBand)

## Steps

- Start a new project
- Select the Audio Recorder (plug in a microphone if you have one)
- Turn off the metronome and count-in
- Change the Song Section length - 40 bars (or Automatic)
- Record the story
- Edit the audio region: split the region up into the different "voices"
- Add new empty Audio Recorder tracks to the project (3 - one for each of the 3 bears)
- Move the 3 bear vocal parts down on to the new tracks
- Apply voice effects to each of the tracks
- Record the father bear's growl with the Sampler (record a cough and play it down two octaves!)
- Record the growl at the appropriate place in the story (don't forget the position can be adjusted afterwards)
- Add other sound effects (that you record with the Sampler, or that already exist in the Sampler, or that you record straight into the project)
- Add mood music from the Loop Library (don't forget that you can shorten or chop up the loops in the loop library) OR from your DIY Soundtrack project



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## 10. Guess My SFX Story

### Aim

To record a short story that is told only with sound effects

### Skills covered


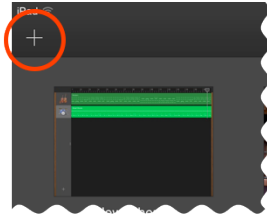
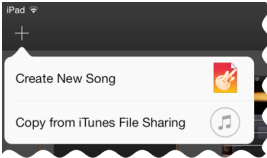
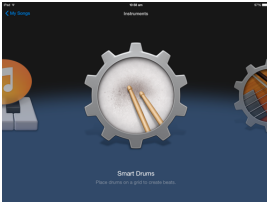
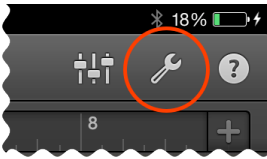
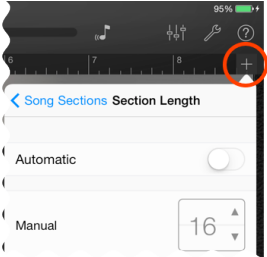
- How to use the Sampler to record sound effects
- How to rename samples
- How to add samples to the library
- How to record sound effects straight into the project

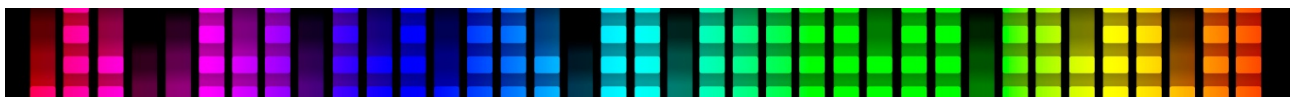
### Steps

- Provide students with two or three very short stories
- Students plan how they will tell their chosen story through SFX
- Plan which SFX are needed
- Record the SFX using the Sampler
- Turn off the metronome, count in and adjust the song section length
- Record the SFX story
- Play student projects for the class - can you guess what the story is?

# GarageBand for iPad


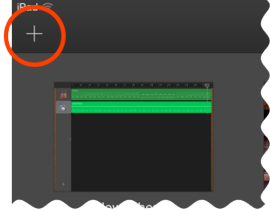
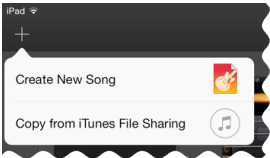

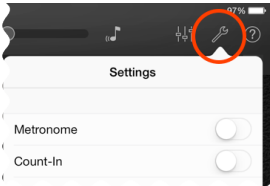
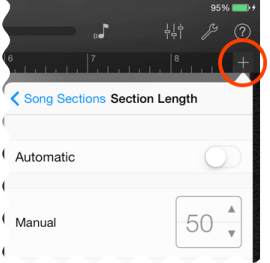
## checklist: song project setup

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Open GarageBand for iPad	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. New Project	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Create New Song	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Select your instrument	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Song Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set Key, Tempo, Time Signature</li> <li>• Optional: Edit Chords</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Song Sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tap Section A</li> <li>• Next to Manual, set number of bars</li> </ul>	



# GarageBand for iPad

## checklist: storytelling project setup

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Open GarageBand for iPad	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. New Project	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Create New Song	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Select Audio Recorder	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Song Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off Metronome and Count-in</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Song Sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tap Section A</li> <li>• Next to Manual, increase bars (40+)</li> </ul>	

# Checklist: Project 11 Rockstar Drummer

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- 1 **Open GarageBand and start a new project** ☐
  - Select the Drum Kit
- 2 **Experiment with playing the kit** ☐
- 3 **Play the basic rock pattern as a class** ☐
  - Try playing the three parts of the pattern separately
  - Try playing all three parts at the same time
- 4 **Set the tempo and quantization** ☐
  - Settings menu > Tempo 100 BPM
  - Mixer menu > Quantization 1/8 note
- 5 **Rewind playback line to start** ☐
- 6 **Record the kick and snare** ☐
  - Tip: if it's too fast, you can slow the tempo down while you record
- 7 **Record the hi-hat** ☐
  - Press Stop when you have finished recording the hi-hat part
- 8 **Playback and check for mistakes** ☐
  - Listen to your recording & fix any mistakes
- 9 **Save & name your project** ☐