

Adding Drum Fills

Drum fills can be used to add variety and texture to parts, to create breaks and drum solos, and to serve as transitions from part to part. To add a drum fill to a measure do the following:

1. Move the cursor in the *Measures Window* to the measure where you want to add a drum fill. (Move to measure 4 for this example)
2. Click and hold down the right mouse button and a pop-up menu will appear.
3. While holding the right mouse button down, drag the highlighted menu bar downward and release it on the *Long Drum Fill* selection.

The JAMMER will now display a thin blue bar at the top of the measure to show you that a drum fill will be composed there the next time you click on the *COMP* button. Placing the drum fill mark there does not compose the drum fill. It is just a marker that lets the musicians know to compose a drum fill there when you click on the *COMP* button.

Compose bars 1-4 a few more times now by clicking on the *COMP* button and listen to the different drum fills that get composed. When you compose a piece that sounds cool to you, move on to the next section.

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Adding Transitions to the Groove

Not only can you create and control grooves in the JAMMER, you can also control groove transitions. Transitions are short runs which can be inserted in the middle of a groove to spice up the groove or can be used to create movement into chord changes. To get a feel for transitions, do the following:

1. Double left click on the *Major Scale* field in the *Scales* box to select it as the only scale choice.
2. Double left click on the *Blues Hold* field in the *Styles* box to select it as the only fundamental style choice.
2. Double left click on the *Blues Med* field in the *Transitions* box to select it as the only transition type.
3. Click on the *MORE* button to go to the *Melody Controls* screen. At this point, when you compose, you should be hearing just the *Slow* groove notes of the main style.
4. Inside of the *Transitions* box in the *Melody Control* screen, set the *Into Chords %* field to *100*, set both the *Min Length* field and the *Max Length* fields to *6* and set the *Threshold* field to *4*. This instructs the JAMMER to do a transition 100 percent of the time going into chord changes, to make the transitions 6 triplet 8ths long, and to only do a transition if there is 4 triplet 8ths of room to do one.
5. Now compose a few times by clicking on the *COMP* button at the bottom of the screen and listen as the JAMMER plays the main groove with slow notes and does a triplet 8th type transition into each chord change.
6. Leave the *100* by *Into Chords* and place a *50* by *Into Notes %*. This will cause the JAMMER to do extra transitions 50 percent of the time leading into the notes of the main groove causing the part to get even busier. Compose a few times to hear the extra transitions being added.
7. Now go back to the *Melody Style* screen by clicking on the *MORE* button at the bottom of the screen.
8. Compose a few more times to get used to the medium transitions that you are hearing and then double left click on the *Medium+* field in the *Transitions* box to hear a slightly faster type of transitions being added to the slow groove.
9. Ok, now you're ready to really blend some variables together. Leave the *20* by *Medium+* and double right click on *Medium*, *Blues Med* and *Blues Shuffle* in the *Transitions* box to blend four types of transitions together. Also double right click on *Chord Notes*, *Pentatonic*, *Minor Blues*, *Major Blues* and *Chromatic* in the *Scales* box and *Blues 8ths* in the *Styles* box. Now compose a few times to hear the blend of all these variables. It's probably obvious by now that the JAMMER can create billions of different parts for you - all under your control!

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Advanced Tutorial

(Pro Version Only)

Each band style in the JAMMER is made up of a selected group of individual musician styles. These have been setup at the factory for you, but they are just the beginning of what you can do with the JAMMER. With the Professional version of the JAMMER, in addition to loading band styles you can also modify band styles, create new band styles, bring new musicians into a style and change the style of each musicians independently of the others.

Choosing Your Musicians

The *Player* field in the *Tracks Window* allows you to choose what type of composer will be jamming on each track. To change the composer selection for a track either double click on the *Player* field, right click and drag on the *Player* field or move your cursor to the *Player* field and press *Enter*. The composer type choices are Bass, Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Duplicator, Kick, Snare, and Percussion. Normally the *Bass*, *Rhythm*, *Melody* and *Harmony Composers* are used on the instrument tracks (1-27) and the *Kick*, *Snare* and *Percussion Composers* are used on the drum tracks (28-55).

Once you have chosen the composer type for a track, you can edit the style for its musician by double clicking on the track's *Edit Style* field or by moving your cursor to the *Edit Style* field and pressing *Enter*.

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Blending Fundamental Styles

Now that you have learned how to preview individual styles let's blend a few styles together:

1. Double left click on *Blues 8ths* to preview this one style. Notice that this style does not pause or hold but continues to jam with a triplet 8th feel.
2. Double left click on *Blues Hold* to preview this one style. Notice that this style holds a lot of notes and does not jam around like the *Blues 8ths* style.
3. Double right click on *Blues 8ths* to place a 20 by it creating an equal blend of *Blues Hold* and *Blues 8ths*.
4. Now click on *COMP* at the bottom of the screen to hear a melody composed using the blend of styles. Compose a few times to hear the randomness in the blend.
5. Leave the 20 by *Blues 8ths* and change the 20 by *Blues Hold* to a 10. This will create a blend with twice as much *Blues 8ths* as *Blues Hold*.
6. Now click on *COMP* at the bottom of the screen to hear a melody composed using the blend of styles. Compose a few times to hear the randomness in the blend.

You can blend as many styles together as you like using the weights of your choice. You can use values like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 18, 20, 37, or 45 to create whatever type of blend you are looking for. Remember to compose a few times to give yourself a fair sampling of the blend.

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Choosing and Blending Scales

The *Melody Style* dialog box also allows you to choose individual scales and blend different scales together. For notes with an extended duration, the JAMMER will force the use of chord tones for these notes rather than using the designated scales to avoid having accidentals (notes out of key) or weaker notes being held for an extended time. For this reason it is best that we preview the scale choices with a timing style that moves along and does not hold a lot of notes such as the first custom pattern. To preview some scales do the following:

1. Double left click on the usage weight field to the left of the first (top) custom pattern. The JAMMER will now play the major scale up and down using solid triplet 8ths.
2. Now double left click on each of the scale choices at the top right of the screen and you will hear the JAMMER play the various scales up and down using solid triplet 8ths.
3. Place a *100* by *Scale Change %*. This will allow the JAMMER to potentially change scales on a note by note basis.
4. Now place a *20* by *Chord Notes* and a *20* by *Chromatic*, and then click on the COMP button to hear the blend.

Of course you can blend as many different scales together as you like using the usage weights of your choice.

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Chord Entry Window

Another way to enter chords is to use the *Chord Entry Window*. It allows you choose from a list of all the different types of chords supported by the JAMMER. This window also allows you to preview or hear what a particular chord sounds like. To enter a chord using the *Chord Entry Window* do the following:

1. Move the cursor in the *Measures Window* to the chord position where you want to enter or edit a chord.
2. Click on the *Edit Chord* tool: The JAMMER will then display a list of all supported chords.



Enter/Edit Chords (Press right mouse button to preview chords)

C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	/	Sharps
Major	maj7add9	Minor	m-maj7	7	7#5	9#11							
5	maj7#5	5m	m9	7sus4	7b9	11b9							
add9	maj7#11	madd9	m9add11	9	7#9	13b5							
sus2	maj9	msus4	m11	9add11	7#11	13b9							
sus4	maj13	msus46	m13	9sus4	7b5b9	13#9							
sus46	aug	msus469	maug	11	7b5#9	13b5b9							
sus469	augsus4	m6	maugsus4	13	7#5b9								
6		m69	dim	13add9	7#5#9								
69		m7	dim7	13sus4	9b5								
maj7		m7b5		7b5	9#5								

Clear

Comp

Stop

Help

Cancel

Close

Preview Trk

Am-maj7

G#maugsus4

Bm9add11

Emadd9

C#maj7add9

Clear Chords

3. Click on the root of the chord at the top of the dialog box and then click on the chord type below. The JAMMER will fill this chord in for you in the *Measures Window*.
4. If you want to preview a chord (see what a particular chord sounds like) click and hold down the right mouse button on either the chord root or the chord type and the chord will be sustained until you release the mouse button.
5. If you want to work on another chord in a different position in the *Measures Window* you can use the mouse to choose a new chord position while the *Chord Entry Window* remains open.
6. Click on the *Close* button to close the *Chord Entry Window*.

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Composing Made Easy



To have the JAMMER compose music for you from the main screen, simply click on the *COMP* button.

Any tracks that are set to *Comp* in the *Action* field in the *Tracks Window* will have new parts written to them in the measures designated by the punch in and out values. Any tracks that are set to *Eras* in the *Action* field in the *Tracks Window* will have all notes erased in the measures designated by the punch in and out values. Any tracks set to *Keep* in the *Action* field in the *Tracks Window* will be left unchanged. These action fields are setup for you when you load a band style. This architecture allows you to work on any combination of tracks and measures you like. You could compose parts on 10 selected tracks over 8 selected measures all at once or you could focus in and compose just one part on just one track for a single measure.

In our current example, measures 1-4 are selected for composing and looping. When you click on the *COMP* button, the JAMMER will compose measures 1-4 and then replay them for you in a loop. You can compose a few times by clicking on *COMP* to hear some parts being created for your introduction.

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Configuring MIDI Channels

If your MIDI channels need to be setup differently than the way they are set in the default mix you will need to create a custom mix file to accommodate your setup. If you have a Sound Blaster or your setup is totally GM or GS compatible then you may skip to the next section.

To create your own default mix, first select *Load Mix* from the *Styles* menu. Then select the mix file entitled *GS* and press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. Now make your channel changes to accommodate your studio setup. To save your new mix select *Save Mix* from the *Styles* menu, enter a name for your mix file and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button to save and exit.



Now that you have a new mix file, you need to let the JAMMER know you want it loaded automatically when you start the program. To do this select *System Options* from the *Devices* menu. Now tab down to the field called default mix, enter the name of your mix file you just saved and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. Now the JAMMER will automatically load your mix file when the program is started.

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Configuring the JAMMER

If your MIDI devices are General MIDI (GM) or General Standard (GS) compatible, then your drum kit and instrument patches are already setup for you and you may skip the next two sections.

In order to create, sequence and play back beautiful jams, the JAMMER needs to know a little bit about the MIDI devices that you plan to use. The JAMMER keeps drum key numbers and synthesizer patch information in files which may be loaded and reconfigured from within the JAMMER.

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Welcome to the JAMMER for Windows version 2.0 tutorial by Soundtrek.

Get ready for the ultimate experience in MIDI software. The JAMMER provides you with a 256 track MIDI sequencer, a complete studio interface plus an array of studio musicians ready to write parts, record tracks and jam with you. This tutorial will help you get the JAMMER setup for your studio and then explain the basic architecture of the JAMMER showing you how to compose and produce parts along the way. These exercises build on one another and are context sensitive so it is best to go through the entire tutorial at a single sitting. The tutorial is a hands on learning experience and only takes about an hour or two. It will help you get the most out of the JAMMER in the least amount of time.

Tutorial Hints

For a quick tour through the JAMMER, select *Getting Started* from the *Help* menu.

If you want the tutorial to stay on top of all other windows, click the *On Top* button at the top of this help window. Click the *On Top* button again to restore tutorial to normal windowed operation.

To proceed through the tutorial, use the browse buttons located at the top of this help window. Proceed to the next topic by clicking the \geq button. You may move to the previous topic by clicking the \leq button.

This tutorial is designed to acquaint you with the basic features and operation of the JAMMER. It is not intended to be general reference. For detailed reference on all of the JAMMER's features, open the included help file from the Program Manager.

Let's Begin

JAMMER Tutorial

Advanced Tutorial (*Professional Version Only*)

List of Topics

Controlling Playback

Playback, recording, and composing in the JAMMER can be controlled by the row of transport control buttons in the *Status Windows*.

Click each button below for its description.



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Copying Chords and Lyrics

Most popular songs have parts repeated through out the song such as verses, refrains, and choruses. Once you have entered the chords for a part, there is no need to type the same chords in again and again. Now that we have some chords and drum fill markers typed in for our first verse we can copy these measures to create another verse. To copy the verse we just entered do the following:

1. Select the measures you want to copy by clicking the mouse down on the first measure you want to copy and then dragging the mouse to last measure you want to copy before releasing the button. (Select measures 5-16 for this example) The selected measures will appear inverted or black to show that they are selected. The *Measures Window* will automatically scroll for you if you go down below or up above the measures currently displayed.
2. Click the mouse button down anywhere inside of the selected measures and drag the measures down to the measure where you want them to be copied (measure 17 for this example). The *Measures Window* will automatically scroll for you if you go down below or up above the measures currently displayed.
3. The JAMMER will now display the *Copy Song Measures* dialog box, allowing you to review or change the settings before actually doing the copy function. The measures you selected and the place you dragged them to should already be filled in. The screen should read:

Copy Song Measures

From Measure: 5 Thru: 16

To Measure: 17.

Make sure these values are correct. If these values are correct then move ahead to step 4 but do not click on *Ok* yet. If they are not correct then click on *Cancel* and try the select and drag operation again until you get it right.

4. Set the *Repeat* field to 3 so that it says *Repeat 3 Times*. This will cause 3 copies of the selected measures to be inserted in front of measure 17.
5. Click on *OK* or press *Enter* to complete the copy operation.

Now that you have copied the 12 bar verse a few times it would be a good idea to change the label (lyrics field) on the second 12 bar verse to "Verse 2", the label on the third 12 bar verse to "Verse 3", and the label on the fourth 12 bar verse to "Verse 4".

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Creating A Drum Solo

Now, let's create a drum solo by using a drum break style with some long drum fills. To create the drum solo do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 29-40.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Break | Drums Straight / Stop Bass (1)

4. Click on *OK* to load the style.
5. Remove the short drum fill on measure 30 by clicking the right mouse button down on measure 30. A pop-up menu will appear. Drag the highlighted bar in the pop-up menu down to the *Short Fill* selection before releasing the button.
6. Place a long drum fill on measures 31,32,35, 36, 38, 39 and 40.
7. Compose until your heart is content.

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Creating A Verse With a Melody Player

Now, let's compose a verse with a melody being played throughout it. To create this verse do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 17-28.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Click to clear the **X** by the *Exclude Melody* field in the bottom right part of the *Load Band Style* dialog box. This will cause the style to be loaded with a melody player if one is listed with the style.
4. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Groove | Piano Sync Cut / Jazz Bass (2) Piano Lead

5. Click on *OK* to load the style.
6. Now compose until your heart is content.

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Creating A Verse With a Melody and Harmonies

Now, let's compose a final verse with a melody being played with a two part harmony. To create this verse do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 41-52.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Make sure the **X** is cleared by the *Exclude Melody* field in the bottom right part of the *Load Band Style* dialog. This will cause the style to be loaded with a melody player if one is listed with the style.
4. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Groove | Piano Sync Cut / Jazz Bass (2) Piano Lead

5. Click on *OK* to load the style.
6. Click on the *Electric Piano* tool on the top tool bar to take you to the electric piano track (track 14 in the *Tracks Window*).
7. Click and drag with the right mouse button on the *Action* field of track 14 to set it to *Comp* (it is currently set to *Eras*). This will cause the measures in the punch zone on track 14 to be composed when you click the *COMP* button.
8. Click and drag with the right mouse button on the *Player* field of track 14 to set it to *Harm* (the harmony composer). This will select the *Harmony Composer* to write a part on track 14.
9. Double click the left mouse button on the *Edit Style* field of track 14 and the *Harmony Composer* control screen for track 14 will be displayed.



10. Click once on the *Reset* button at the bottom right of your screen to reset all of the values in this screen to a default state.
11. Click once with the left mouse button on the square button below the number "1" to enable *Voice 1* of the *Harmony Composer*.
12. Double click the right mouse button on the field with a zero in it just below the *Voice 1* enable button and to the right of the voice selection "3rd Scale Tone Up". This will put a 20 in this field causing *Voice 1* of the *Harmony Composer* to use the third scale tone up of the major scale from the source tone.
Note: The value of 20 is a relative weight used to show how much of the interval "Third Scale Tone Up" is to be used relative to other intervals for the first harmony voice. These relative weights allow you to blend intervals together based on the relative weights placed by each. Since all the other intervals in the column below *Voice 1* have a zero in them, the interval *Third Scale Tone Up* will be used exclusively since it is the only choice. The number 20 is just a good arbitrary medium sized number to start with when blending things together in the JAMMER. The double right mouse click is just a quick way to enter a 20 in a field.
13. Click once with the left mouse button on the square button below the number "2" to enable *Voice 2* of the *Harmony Composer*.
14. Double click the right mouse button on the 2nd and 6th fields just below the *Voice 2* enable button. This will place a 20 by *3rd Scale Tone Down* and a 20 by *1 Chord Tone Down* for voice 2. This will cause voice two of the harmony to be an equal random blend of two different types of harmony, 3 scale tones down from the source tone in the major scale and 1 chord tone down from the source tone based on the current chord in the *Measures Window*.
15. Click once on the *Source Track* button at the top right of your screen to open the list of available source tracks, and then double click on track *003 Acoustic Grand* to select it as the source melody track. This is the melody track from the style we loaded previously. (You can tell it is the melody track in the *Tracks Window* because the *Player* field of track 3 is set to *Melo* and the *Action* field is set to *Comp*).
16. Now set the velocity offset for *Voice 1* and *Voice 2* at the bottom of your screen to -10. This will cause

the harmonies to be a little softer than the source melody tones. Of course you can mix these any way you like to get whatever effect you desire.

17. Now you're ready to compose a 12 bar section with a melody and a two part harmony where one of the harmony voices is a static tertian harmony and the other is a blend of tertian and chordal harmony. Wow!



18. Click on the *COMP* button at the bottom of your screen and away you go. Feel free to experiment in this screen for a minute by removing and or adding and blending harmony voices. Each time you make a change, you need to click on the *COMP* button to hear a part being composed using your new settings.

19. When you are done having fun with harmonies, click on the *Ok* button to store your settings and return to the *Tracks Window*.

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Creating A Verse Without a Melody Player

Now that we have an introduction, we can begin work on a verse. In most cases, it is important to hear how one part leads into another so that you can insure that you have smooth transitions between parts. For example to hear how the introduction leads into the first verse as we are composing the first verse, do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 5-16.
2. Click the right mouse button down on measure 1 and drag the highlighted bar down to *Loop From* before releasing the mouse button. This will cause the JAMMER to start playback at measure 1 after composing measures 5-16.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Click to place an **X** by the *Exclude Melody* field in the bottom right part of the *Load Band Style* dialog. This will cause the style to be loaded without a melody player.
4. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Groove | Piano Sync Cut / Jazz Bass (2) Piano Lead

5. Click on *OK* to load the style.
6. Put a short drum fill marker on measures 10, 12, and 15, and put a long drum fill marker on measure 16.
7. Now compose until your heart is content.

Sometimes you may need to go back and recompose a part like the introduction after composing the verse to get the intro to lead into the verse the way you want it to. You can build a lot of strength into your songs by massaging and reworking the various parts as you go to insure the whole thing flows smoothly.

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Deleting Unused Measures

Measures 60-140 will not be used for our example so they can be deleted. To delete these unused measures do the following:

1. Select the measures you want to delete by clicking and dragging the mouse over the measures.
(Select measures 60-140 for this example)



2. To delete the selected measures, press the *Del* key on your keyboard or drag the selected measures to the *Trash Can* tool at the lower left of your screen.
3. The *Delete Song Measures* dialog box will be displayed and should have the proper values already filled in for you. The dialog text should read

Delete Measure: 60 Thru: 140.

If these values are correct then click on *OK*. If they are not correct then click on *Cancel* and try the select and delete operation again until you get it right.

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Drum Kit Configuration

To see a list of the available drum kit configuration files select *Load Drum Kit* from the *Devices* menu. To select a drum kit configuration file, move the highlighted bar to the desired filename and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button.

If there is no drum kit file which matches your MIDI drum device then you can create one by selecting *Edit Drum Kit* from the *Devices* menu. You will then see a full screen of drum key assignments.

There are 60 pieces in the JAMMER drum kit. To edit a drum number, double click the mouse on the drum name or move the cursor to the drum name and press *Enter*. When you are through editing drum numbers, click on the word *File* at the top left of your screen (or press *Alt+F*) to open the *File* menu, and select *Save and Exit* to save your new drum key assignments. The JAMMER will open a dialog box allowing you to save your drum setup under the name of your choice. After you save your drum setup, the JAMMER will remember it's name and will automatically load it the next time you start the program.

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Editing an Individual Musician Style

To get setup for this section do the following:

1. Load the band style:

Blues Upbeat Groove Piano Syncopated/Blues Bass (1) Piano Lead



2. Enable the *Progression Composer* by clicking the right mouse button on the *Progression Composer* tool until it says *COMP* beneath the chord diagram.

3. Set your *Punch* and *Loop* measures to 1-8.



4. Compose a few times until you find a progression that you like and then set the *Progression Composer* back to *KEEP* by right clicking on the *Progression Composer* tool again until it says *KEEP*.
5. Select *Keep All Tracks* from the *Util* menu.
6. Set the *Action* field of track 3 (the second Piano) back to *COMP*. This will cause all of the parts you just composed to be kept the same while you compose new melodies on track 3.
7. Select *Edit Style* in the *Tracks Window* on track 3. Since track 3 is set to be a *Melody Composer*, the JAMMER will open the *Melody Style* dialog box.

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Endings

There are many different ways to end a song. One common way to end a song can be described as being made up of three pieces: the pre-ending, the ending hold, and the ending stop. The pre-ending is usually some riff or break type part that leads you into the final chord or ending hold. At this point you can let the last chord hold and fade out or you can bring it all to a sudden stop with an ending stop or a stinger.

To create a pre-ending for our example do the following:

1. Select measures 1-4 and then drag them down and drop them on top of measure 53. The *Copy Song Measures* dialog box will be displayed and should read

Copy Song Measures

From Measure: 1 Thru: 4

To Measure: 53.

If these values are correct then click on *OK*. If they are not correct then click on *Cancel* and try the select and drag operation again until you get it right.

2. Type the word Pre-Ending into the lyrics field.
3. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 53-56.
4. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
5. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Pre-Ending | Piano Syncopated / Simple Bass (1)

6. Click on *OK* to load the style.
7. Compose a few times to find a part you like.

You should now have some blank measures at the end of the song starting with measure 57. Type the chord Bbmaj7 in the first position of measure 57 and enter the word "Ending" into the lyrics field for measure 57. We will let the final ending ring out for three measures up through measure 59.

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Enhancing Your Drum Solo

To add a little change of pace to our drum solo let's recompose the last four measures of the drum solo with a variation of the band style. To create this change in feel do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 37-40.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Break | Drums Straight / Stop Bass (2)

4. Click on *OK* to load the style.
5. Compose until your heart is content.

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Entering Lyrics or Comments

If you have lyrics or comments that you wish to enter in your song you can place them under any measure. To enter lyrics or a comment, do the following:

1. Move the cursor in the *Measures Window* to the measure where you want to enter some text. (Go to measure 1 for our example)
2. Press the letter 'L' (unshifted or shifted) and the *Edit Lyrics* dialog box will appear.
3. Type in the desired comment or lyrics and press *Enter*. (Type in the text "Intro" for our example)

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Fundamental Styles and Usage Weights

The names in the first two columns on the left in the top half of the *Melody Style* screen represent the fundamental melody styles. These control the timing of the notes in the main groove of your melody. Each different type of composer in the JAMMER has a different set of fundamental styles to choose from. For instance, while the *Melody Composer* has fundamental style selections like *Slow*, *Slow Cut*, *Medium* and *Medium Cut*, the *Bass Composer* has fundamental style selections like *Straight Pop*, *Easy Blues*, *Funk Master*, *Walking Jazz* and *Country*, and the *Rhythm Composer* has fundamental style selections like *Straight Chords*, *Syncopated Chords*, *Reggae*, *Funk* and *Pick Slow*.

The numbers to the left of each of the fundamental style names represent how much that particular timing style is to be used. These weighted values are not probabilities or percentages but are usage weights which are relative to the weights of other items in the same group. In other words, if you have a value of 10 by *Slow* and a value of 5 by *Slow Cut* the JAMMER will use *Slow* timing patterns twice as much as it will use *Slow Cut* patterns to compose your part. If you have a value of 10 by *Slow* and a zero by all other fundamental style selections then the JAMMER has no choice but to use just *Slow* timing patterns to compose your part. You can blend as many fundamental styles together as you like to create a part.

You'll see the number 20 used a lot as a usage weight in the tutorial and in the style files. The number 20 is a good average weight to use since it is not too big and not too small. If you have 20 by a field and you want to blend in half as much of another field, put 10 by the other field. If you want just a tiny bit of another field blended then put a 1 or a 2 by the other field. If you want twice as much of another field you can place a 40 by the other field. There is nothing magic about the number 20. Its just a good starting point that leaves your options open for adding heavier and lighter weights to other fields.

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Getting In The Swing Of Things

Now that you've had a quick tour of the studio, let's listen to the demo song *WELCOME* and make sure everything is hooked up right. If your machine is slower than a 386 DX 25 MHZ you may need to turn off the tape deck and LED animation before starting playback as these features require more processing power. Alternatively, you may keep the animation enabled and try running Windows in standard mode (WIN /S).

To disable tape deck and LED animation, select *Preferences* from the *Window* menu and clear the check boxes labeled *Enable Track LED's* and *Enable Tapedeck Animation* by clicking on the checked items.



To start playback of the song, click on the *Play* button, press *F2* or press the space bar. If everything is set right you should hear a drum roll start the song followed by a jammin jazz / blues swing beat with a burnin sax on top of it all. Welcome to the JAMMER!



You can stop playback by clicking on the *Stop* button or by pressing the space bar. If the drums or instruments do not sound like you think they should then you probably need to go back and check your drum, patch and mix settings. Some MIDI devices can be a real challenge to setup so make sure you read the documentation carefully. If you have read your sound module documentation thoroughly and still can't get the sounds to come out right, you may need to contact [Soundtrek technical support](#) for some assistance.

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How About the Other Composers?

For each different type of composer that you select on a track, you will get a different type of style screen and control screen when you edit the style for that track. Each of the different composers have different fundamental style selections, but the layout and operation of the control parameters are very similar from composer to composer. To get a good understanding of each composer, do like we did here with the *Melody Composer* and limit the variable interaction to start with until you get a good feel for each control. Then start experimenting with blending fundamental styles and controls. Pretty soon you will be able to create just about any type of parts you want.

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JAMMER Tutorial

Let's fire it up. Double click the left mouse button on the JAMMER icon in the JAMMER Program Manager group. The JAMMER will initialize itself, display the title screen followed by the main screen and then give you a chance to select a mix file that matches your sound card or module. A mix file sets the patches, banks, channels, levels, velocities, pans, reverb and chorus settings to make your system sound it's best. If you see your sound card or module listed, choose the "Standard" mix file for your device. If your device is not listed then choose the General MIDI Standard mix file.

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Just a Few More Chords To Go

Next let's enter some chords to create a 12 bar verse. First enter the words "Verse 1" in the lyrics field of measure 5 and then enter the following chords into the first position of the specified measures starting with measure 5:

(5) Bbmaj9	(6)	(7) Dm7b5	(8)
(9) G13	(10)	(11) Gm9	(12) F9
(13) Bbmaj7	(14) G13	(15) Gm7	(16) F7#5

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Limiting the Variables

The best way to get a feeling for how the *Melody Composer* writes parts is to keep things simple at first and then start adding more variables later. In order to simplify things do the following:



1. Click the *Reset* button. This will zero out all of the fields on this screen.



2. Click the *More* button. This will take you to the *Melody Controls* screen.
3. Click the *Reset* button. This will set the fields to a default state.
4. Click the *More* button. This will take you back to the *Melody Style* screen.

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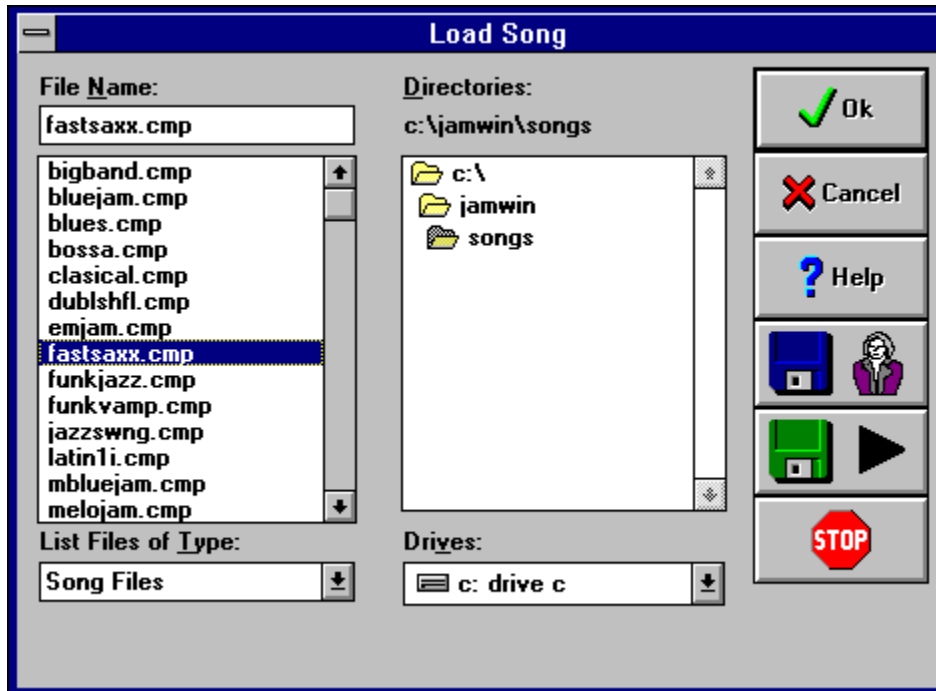
Advanced Tutorial (Professional Version Only)

Editing an Individual Musician Style
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Load the song Welcome

The JAMMER will now display the main windows for you in the tiled format. It will also display the on-line tutorial in a dialog box in the top right of the screen. The printed tutorial is more extensive than the quick start on-line tutorial so click the *Close* button in the on-line tutorial dialog to close it for the time. You can reopen it later by clicking on *Getting Started* under the *Help* menu at the top right of the screen.

Now select *Load Song* from the *File* menu and the JAMMER will display the *Load Song* dialog box.



Locate and select the song called *WELCOME* and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button to load the song and exit the dialog box. You should now see the song *WELCOME* loaded into the JAMMER with some highlighted tracks in the *Tracks Window* and some chords in the *Measures Window*.

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Main Windows

The JAMMER has two main windows for viewing your songs, the *Tracks Window* and the *Measures Window*. The default window layout for the JAMMER is the "tiled" layout where the two main windows share the screen and one is displayed above the other. This is a powerful view because you can see track data as well as your chord progression at the same time. When you click your mouse within one of these windows, the title bar of the window will become highlighted and that window becomes the *active* window. Keys typed on the keyboard are sent to the active window for processing. You can toggle the active window by pressing *Ctrl+W* or by clicking on the *Swap Window* tool on the side tool bar.



In some cases you may want to see a lot of tracks or a lot of measures all at one time. In this case you can maximize a window so that it takes up all of the available window space. Let's maximize the *Tracks Window* and take a look at the track layout. Click on the maximize button for the *Tracks Window* (the little black triangle pointing upward in the top right corner of the *Tracks Window*). The JAMMER will now display the *Tracks Window* in it's maximized form.

When the *Tracks Window* is maximized like this you can swap back and forth between it and the *Measures Window* by pressing *Ctrl+W* or by clicking on the *Swap Window* tool on the side tool bar. Click on the *Swap Window* tool to swap to the *Measures Window* and then click on it again to bring you back to the *Tracks Window*.

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Measures Window



Click on the *Swap Window* tool on the side tool bar to swap from the *Tracks Window* to the *Measures Window*. You should now see the *Measures Window* in its maximized form.

The *Measures Window* allows you to view and enter chord progressions, lyrics and drum fills. Each measure is displayed as a single staff with the measure number and chord names above it.

The blue rectangle to the right of the number '1' above the first measure is the *Measures Window* cursor and can be moved about using the arrow keys or by clicking on a measure with your mouse.

A long thin blue line under the top staff line of a measure represents a long drum fill. A short thin blue line under the top staff line of a measure number represents a short drum fill.

A green vertical arrow under a measure shows the *Punch In* location (the measure where composing or recording will begin) and a red vertical arrow under a measure number shows the *Punch Out* location (the measure where composing or recording will stop). The measure numbers for measures within the punch zone are displayed in red letting you know those measures will have new parts written to them when you click on the *COMP* button.

A double bar with two dots at the beginning of a measure shows the *Loop From* location (the place where playback will loop back to when looping is enabled).

If your chord progression is very sparse (very few chord changes) you may want to increase the number of measures per line so that you can see more measures in the same sized window. Press the number '4' key on your keyboard and the JAMMER will display 4 measures per line. If you are using the keypad on the far right of your keyboard, *Num Lock* will need to be on. If your chords are very dense (a lot of chords per measure with long chord names) then you may want to see one measure per line. Press the number '1' key and the JAMMER will display one measure per line. The JAMMER can display 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 measures per line. Set your measures per line back to 2 before continuing.



If you are not concerned with details like time signatures and drum fill placement and you want to see the most measures possible at one time on the screen, the JAMMER can pack the *Measures Window* for you. Click on the *Pack* tool on the side tool bar and the JAMMER will display the *Measures Window* in packed mode.

Click on the *Pack* tool again and the JAMMER will return to the unpacked measures view.

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Melody Movement

Now that we have scales and timing under control, we need a way to control the direction and flow of the parts we are composing. The three controls *Jump %*, *Change Direction %*, and *Cascade %* are probabilities from 0 to 100 percent which allow you to control the direction and flow of your melodies. To hear a good example of these variables in action do the following:

1. Click the *Ok* button to exit the *Melody Style* dialog box.
2. With your cursor still on track 3, click on the word *Solo* at the top left of the main screen to put track 3 in solo mode. Track 3 will be the only track displayed in white and will be the only track heard when playback is started. This will help us concentrate on the melody part.
3. Double left click on the *Edit Style* field for track 3 to continue editing the style for the melody.
4. Double left click on the *Major Scale* field in the *Melody Style* screen to select it as the only scale choice and then click on the *MORE* button at the bottom of the screen to go to the *Melody Controls* screen. Click the *Stop* button if you wish to stop playback.
6. Set the *Low Note* field in the *Note Range* box to *50* to give us a much wider range in which to observe the melody's motion.
7. Click on *COMP* once and you should be hearing just the piano run up and down the major scale sequentially.
8. Double right click on the *Jump %* field in the *Melody Movement* box to place a *20* there. Now, compose a few times. You will hear the piano play the major scale and jump (skip notes in the scale) every now and then. The *20* means there is a 20% probability that the JAMMER will jump on any given note in the melody.
9. Single right click on the *Jump %* field in the *Melody Movement* box to place a *0* there, double right click on the *Change Direction %* field to place a *20* there and then compose a few times. Now you will hear the piano play the major scale without skipping any notes but it will change directions (ascending or descending) every now and then. The *20* means there is a 20% probability that the JAMMER will change directions on any given note in the melody.
10. Single right click on the *Change Direction %* field in the *Melody Movement* box to place a *0* there and then put a *100* by the *Cascade* field. Also put a *100* by the *Scale Pattern %* field in the *Repeat* box on the left side of the screen. Now you are setup to hear the JAMMER play the major scale using a single cascading pattern. The *100* by *Cascade* tells the JAMMER to use a cascading pattern such as *up one scale tone, up one scale tone, down one scale tone*. The *100* by *Scale Tone Pattern %* in the *Repeat* box tells the JAMMER to lock on to the scale tone pattern it selects and use it repeatedly.
11. Compose a few times and you will hear the melody cascading up and down, traversing the note range. Every time that you compose, the JAMMER will choose from many different scale tone patterns.
12. Now for the blend! In the *Melody Movement* box, put a *2* by *Jump %*, a *10* by *Change Direction %*, and a *50* by *Cascade %*. Then, put a *75* by *Scale Tone Pattern %* in the *Repeat* box. Now compose a few times and listen as the JAMMER blends all of the variables together to create an original melody line.
13. Before continuing on to the next section, put the *Low Note* back to *65*, click on *Ok* to exit to the main screen, click on *Solo* at the top left of the main screen to turn solo back off and then double left click on the *Edit Style* field of track 3 to get back to the *Melody Style* screen.

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On to the Final Ending

To create the final *ending hold* do the following:

1. Set the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* to measures 53-56.
2. Click on the *Load Style* tool to open the *Load Band Style* dialog box.
3. Select the style:

Jazz Swing Fast Ending | Piano Simple / Simple Bass (1)

4. Click on *OK* to load the style.
5. Compose one time to hear the ending chord.

At this point you could load another style to do a band or orchestra hit to stop our tune but that's rather strong for this type of song so let's use a more subtle type of stop where the drummer does a very short roll to stop the song. Place a short fill marker on the last measure (measure 59) and then recompose a few times to get a roll you like.

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Other Tips and Hints

Copying Track Styles: When you load a band style, only the tracks that are set to *Comp* in the *Action* field are setup to create parts in that style. However you can copy the style from any one of those tracks to any other track and then start composing on the new track. For example, if you are using a style with a sax lead and you want to bring in another instrument to play melodies you can copy the style from the sax track to another track and compose a melody on the new track. To copy a track style, select *Copy Track Style* from the *Edit* menu and then select the source and destination tracks.

Removing Parts From A Style: You can remove any part of any style that is set to *Comp* in the *Action* field simply by changing the *Action* field for that track to *Eras* and then composing again.

Blending Band Styles Together: If you hear components of one band style that you would like to use in conjunction with another band style first load the main band style and compose the parts you like. Then load the other band style, make a note of the tracks that are on *Comp* in the *Action* field that you want to use, click on *Set All Tracks to Keep* under the *Util* menu, set the tracks that you want to compose back to *Comp* in the *Action* field, and then compose away.

Getting Takes On Specific Tracks: If you are really into detailing your songs and you are listening closely to each track part composed, you can lock down each track individually as they play parts that you really like. For example, if the bass player plays a great part that you want to keep, but you want to continue composing the piano part, you can put the bass player's track on *Keep* in the *Action* field and continue to compose, getting new drums and piano parts while the bass part remains untouched.

Working On A Group Of Tracks: To compose a group of tracks without having to worry about the settings of the others, select the desired tracks by clicking on their track number. Make sure the *Action* fields are set to *Comp* for the selected tracks. Then, hold down the *Control* key while you click the *COMP* button.

Working On A Single Track: To compose a single track without having to worry about the settings of the others, move the *Tracks Window* cursor to the desired track. Then, hold down the *Control* key while you click the *COMP* button. Make sure that there are no other tracks selected, or they will be composed instead.

Working On Specific Measures: To compose a group of measures that are inside of your current punch zone, without having to reset your *Punch In* or *Punch Out Measures*, first select the measures. Then press the *COMP* button. Only the selected measures will be composed. This is a good way to "touch-up" a small section of your punch zone. Combining this technique with that of composing selected tracks allows you "hone in" on small sections of your song, with very little effort on your part.

Use The Undo/Redo Feature: Use the *Undo* feature to perform back and forth comparisons when composing or performing editing operations. For example, compose a part. Then compose again. Now, select *Undo* from the *Edit* menu. The first part will be restored. After performing an *Undo*, the *Edit* menu will show *Redo*. Selecting *Redo* will, in effect, re-perform the last operation. Go ahead and select *Redo*. Now, the second part is restored. Using this method, you can perform "before and after" comparisons on any of the JAMMER's operations. So, do not be afraid to experiment with the JAMMER. You always have the *Undo* feature to fall back on.



Using The Progression Composer: If you don't have a chord progression in mind or you are looking for some new chord ideas, you can enable the *Progression Composer* by right clicking on the *Progression Composer* tool in the top left corner of the screen. Now when you click on *COMP*, new chords will be written to the *Measures Window* in the punch zone. You can control what type of chords are written by left clicking on the *Progression Composer* tool, and editing the *Progression Composer* style.

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Patch Table Configuration

To see a list of the available patch table configuration files select *Load Patch File* from the *Devices* menu. To select a patch table configuration file, move the highlighted bar to the desired filename and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. If there is no patch table file which matches your MIDI device then you can create one by selecting *Edit Patches* from the *Devices* menu. You will then see a full screen of instrument patch assignments.

There are 256 available slots in the patch table. Each table entry equates a patch name with a patch number. When playback starts the JAMMER will automatically set the patches on each track for you according to the values in this table. The patch table is already filled in with the standard patch names. If your MIDI devices are not GM or GS compatible then we recommend that you use the patch names furnished and just change the patch numbers to match your synthesizer as close as possible. Doing this will allow you to have your songs played properly by a number of different synthesizers even though they may all have different patching conventions. The quickest and easiest way to get up and running is to set just the patch numbers for the instruments used by the JAMMER in the provided mix files.

Acoustic Grand	Jazz Electric	String Ensemble1
Electric Piano1	Distortion	Trumpet
Clavinet	Acoustic Bass	Synth Brass1
Rock Organ	Fingered Bass	Alto Sax
Nylon String	Slap Bass 1	Synth Square
Steel String	Violin	Banjo

The JAMMER patch tables are "1 based". In other words, the patch numbers start at 1 and end at 128. When entering patch numbers, If your sound module's patch numbers start at 0, add 1 to the number of your sound module's patch numbers.

To edit a patch number, double click the mouse on the patch name or move the cursor to the patch name and press *Enter*. When you are done, click on the word *File* at the top left of your screen (or press *Alt+F*) to open the *File* menu. Then select *Save and Exit* to save your new patch assignments. The JAMMER will open a dialog box allowing you to save your patch table under the name of your choice. After you save your patch setup, the JAMMER will remember it's name and will automatically load it the next time you start the program.

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Pick a Style, Any Style



Now, let's load a band style and compose some music for our introduction. Click on the *Load Style* tool or select *Load Style* from the *Styles* menu and the JAMMER will present you with an alphabetical list of the available band style files. Each band style file contains a preset group of selected musicians on selected tracks who are setup to compose parts under that style to yield a full band sound.



To hear some music created under a given style, select the style using your mouse or arrow keys and then click on the *Load and Compose* tool on the right side of the dialog box.

Then, the JAMMER will load the style into memory, compose the measures in the punch zone and play the measures for you. You can get a good feel for what each style is like by staying in this dialog box, highlighting various styles and then clicking the *Load and Compose* button. There are over 200 different band styles from which to choose.

The JAMMER actually improvises to create original parts for you and can come up with many different parts under each given style. Some styles are very dynamic and can yield millions of different parts while other styles are more groove oriented and yield fewer variations. When previewing styles, go ahead and have the JAMMER compose 5 or 10 times to get a good feel what for that style can produce. When working on your songs, feel free to compose as many times as you like listening for that special part that fits your song just right.

Take a few minutes now before we continue with the tutorial to preview some of the styles. Remember you can select the *Load and Compose* button as many times as you like on the same style to hear different parts being created.

When you are done previewing styles for the time, load the band style called:

Jazz Swing Fast Intro | Piano Simple / Simple Bass (1)

Find this style in the list of styles and press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. The JAMMER will then load the style into memory and return you to the main screen. You may find it useful to put a comment in the lyrics field of each measure where you start using a different band style letting you know what style you used there.

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Previewing Fundamental Styles

First let's hear just a single fundamental timing style. The easiest way to preview a single fundamental style is to double click the left mouse button on the edit field that is next to the fundamental style name. To get a feel for previewing fundamental styles do the following:

1. Double right click on the *Major Scale* edit field at the right of the *Melody Style* screen. This will place a value of 20 in the *Major Scale* field, making it the only scale choice.
2. Double click the left mouse button on the *Slow* edit field at the top left of the *Melody Style* screen. You will hear a simple melody being played on the piano which holds its notes rather than cutting them short. You can hear more takes under the same settings by double left clicking on the same spot again or by clicking on the *COMP* button at the bottom of the screen. Remember that the JAMMER improvises and will play something different each time you compose. Feel free to compose as many times as you like in each of these examples.
3. Double left click on *Slow Cut* and you will hear a simple melody composed that cuts some notes short rather than holding them.
4. Double left click on *Blues 8ths* and you will hear blues runs being played with a triplet eighth feel.
5. Double left click on *Medium* and you will hear a triplet 8th feel melody.

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Punching In and Out

One of the main keys to producing good songs is the use of dynamics. For example you may have an 8 bar verse in a song with a straight drum beat, a bass guitar, and a six string guitar which leads into an 8 bar refrain where an organ part joins in and the hi hat goes to double time. Then the refrain might lead into a 16 bar chorus where the organ drops back out, a synthesizer and a ride cymbal come in, and the bass guitar and kick drum change grooves together. These are the types of dynamic parts you can create using the automatic punch in and out feature. Listen carefully to some professionally produced songs and you'll hear all kinds of production techniques that give the songs texture and life. With a little creativity you can create thousands of dynamic parts in the JAMMER simply by deciding who plays what, when, and where.

The automatic punch in and out allows you to work on a specific group of measures in your song while leaving the rest of the song measures alone. Let's start by working on the introduction to our example song in measures 1-4. To set the punch do the following:

1. Select measures 1-4 by clicking the mouse down on measure 1 and dragging the mouse to measure 4 before releasing the button. Measures 1-4 should now appear inverted (or black) to show that they are selected.



2. Now click the mouse button down anywhere inside of measures 1-4 and drag the measures over to the *Punch* tool and then release the mouse button.
3. Look for the word *Loop* at the top of the screen to the right of the tape deck icon and make sure looping is enabled. You can click on the word *Loop* to toggle looping on and off. The *Loop* display should read: *Loop 001-004*.

The *Punch In* measure (measure 1) will now have a green arrow under it, the punch out measure (measure 4) will have a red arrow under it and the measures in the punch zone (measures 1-4) will have their measure numbers displayed in red to let you know they are selected for composing.

Now when you ask the JAMMER to compose some music, it will compose only the measures in the punch zone and then play them back in a loop for you to review the new parts. This is the heart of the JAMMER's flexibility, as you can work on any section of a song you choose while leaving the rest of the song as it is. You can have the JAMMER work on a group of measures or even work on a single measure at a time.

You may also set the punch and loop measures by first selecting the desired measures and then clicking and holding the left mouse button down on the *Punch* tool. A fly-out tool bar will appear. By dragging the mouse and releasing the mouse button on one of the various tools on the fly-out tool bar you can set the punch and loop values, just the punch values, just the loop values, or go directly to the punch dialog box and type in values.



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Quick Clicks in the Style Screens

There are four different ways to click the mouse to get quick results while in the style screens of the JAMMER. These quick clicks are as follows:

1. Single clicking the left mouse button on a field will move the cursor to that field.
2. Double clicking the left mouse button on a style, transition or scale usage weight field will place a weight value of 20 in the field, put a value of 0 in all of the other fields in the same group and then compose and start playback. This is a quick and easy way to sample or preview various individual styles, transitions, or scales.
3. Single clicking the right mouse button on a field will place a 0 in that field. This is a quick and easy way to clear a field or remove it from an existing blend of various individual styles, transitions, or scales.
4. Double clicking the right mouse button on a style, transition or scale usage weight field will place a weight value of 20 in the field and do nothing more. This is a quick and easy way to place a 20 by a field when blending various individual styles, transitions, or scales together.

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Remember to Eat and Get Some Sleep

Now you're ready to create a masterpiece and have a ton of fun at the same time. Just try to remember to stop and eat every now and then, and try to get some sleep at least once a day. Have fun jammin.

If you own the Professional version of the JAMMER, you may proceed to [Advanced Tutorial](#). Or, if you do not own the JAMMER professional, and wish to find out what extra features it offers, you may want to look through the [Advanced Tutorial](#).

Reviewing and Saving Your Work

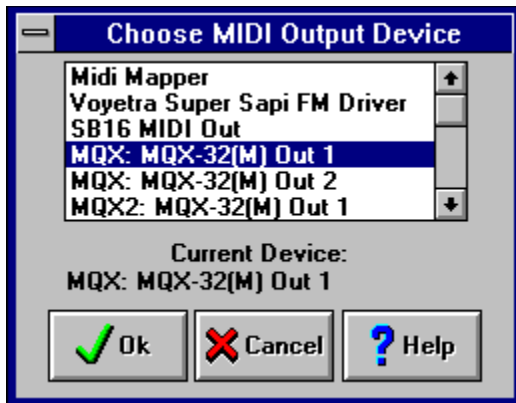
To review all of the parts that you have created, simply click on the word *Loop* at the top of your screen until it says *Loop Off*. You can then put the playback cursor anywhere you like and click on the play button. To start playback from the beginning of the song click on the rewind button twice and then the play button. Clicking on the rewind button once will rewind to the *Loop From* measure if you are past it. The second click on the rewind button will rewind back to the beginning of the song.

As with any computer program, save your work frequently. To save your song, select *Save Song As* from the *File* menu. The JAMMER will then open the *Save Song* dialog box allowing you to save the song under the name of your choice. If you want to save it as a Standard MIDI File then select *Export to MIDI File* from the *File* menu and the JAMMER will open a dialog box allowing to save your song as a Standard MIDI File with the name of your choice. **Note:** Whether or not you export your song as a Standard MIDI File (SMF), you should **ALWAYS** save it as a *.CMP* file using the *Save* or *Save As* selection under the *File* menu since this format saves your entire JAMMER working environment, your musical tracks and your chord progression.

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Selecting MIDI Devices

The JAMMER will try to establish the MIDI devices that you plan to use. First, you will be prompted for the output port that you want to use in the JAMMER.



Select the port you want the JAMMER to use for playing your music and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. The JAMMER will then prompt you for the input port that you wish to use.



Select the port you want the JAMMER to use for recording your live playing and then press *Enter* or click on the *Ok* button. If you do not have a MIDI input device then select *None*.

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Setting the Tempo

When you load a style in the JAMMER, the tempo is automatically set to the tempo that the style was designed for. Changing the tempo too dramatically can make the style sound unreal or awkward. If you want to make a moderate adjustment to the tempo, start playback and then click on the word *Tempo* at the top right of the main screen. If you make a tempo adjustment like this, then you need to make sure you put an X by *Exclude Tempo* in the *Load Band Style* dialog so that the JAMMER will not set your tempo for you anymore. As you load different styles to use in your song, it is recommended that you use styles of the same relative tempo (Slow, Medium, Upbeat, Fast) as the one you started with since styles are tempo dependent. In other words don't create a verse using a Jazz Swing Slow type of style and then try to use a Jazz Swing Fast type of style for the chorus. But of course, you are free to experiment.

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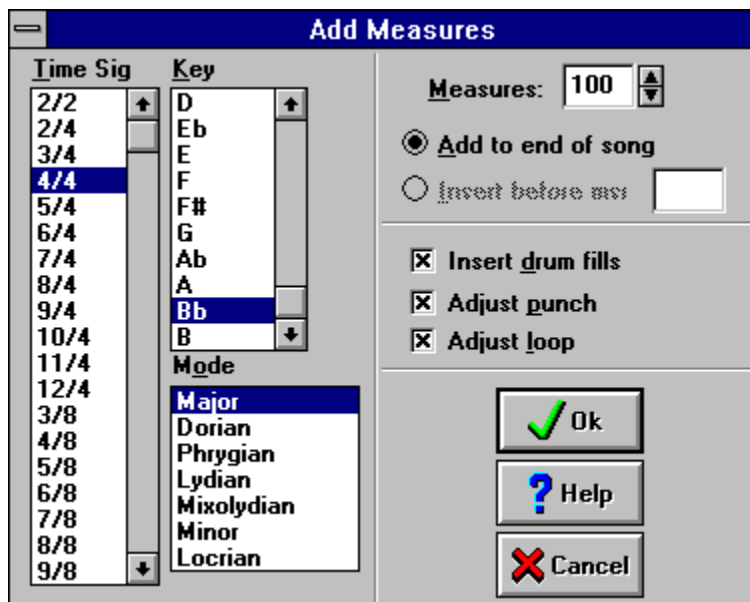
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Starting a New Song

Now you're ready to build a song. Set your active window to the *Tracks Window* and then select *Tile* from the *Window* menu. You should now see the *Tracks Window* displayed above the *Measures Window* in the tiled format.

You can build songs in the JAMMER in a variety of ways. One method is to add enough measures for the whole song, type in all the chords to the song and then compose the individual pieces of the song using the styles of your choosing. This method works well if the song is already written and you know all the chords, parts and arrangement ahead of time. Another method is to build your song one part at a time letting the creative process take you where it will. This method works well when you are creating an original song and are starting from scratch. For the purpose of this tutorial we will use the first method as though we were doing a remake of a popular song, however the things you learn to do here can be easily applied to the part by part method of building originals. To start a new song do the following:

1. Clear out the current song by selecting *New* from the *File* menu. The *Measures Window* will go blank.
2. Click on the *Add Measures* tool or select *Add Measures* from the *Tools* menu and the JAMMER will open the *Add Measures* dialog box.



3. Select the time signature and key signature for the measures you are adding. (Use 4/4 and Bb Major for this example)
4. Enter the number of measures you wish to add. (Use 100 for this example)
5. Remove the check mark by the *Insert Drum Fills* check box. (You will learn how to add your own drum fills in this tutorial)
6. Now press *Enter* or click on *Ok* and the JAMMER will add the new empty measures to the *Measures Window*.

Now you have 32 blank measures ready for you to add chords. Set the active window to the *Measures Window* by typing *Ctrl+W*, or by clicking in the measure window or on the *Swap Window* tool and then press the number '4' key to display four measures per line.

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The Sky's the Limit

The JAMMER is a product which gives you a large amount of control in creating original parts and lets you get involved in producing songs with great detail. The example song we built here is just one of a billion different ways you can produce songs with the JAMMER. The more ideas and work you put into a song the more you will get out of the JAMMER. If the JAMMER automatically produced your whole song from beginning to end with the touch of a single key then it wouldn't really be "your" song and you'd probably get bored in a hurry. So take advantage of the flexibility the JAMMER has to offer and use it as a tool to help you realize your creative musical potential.

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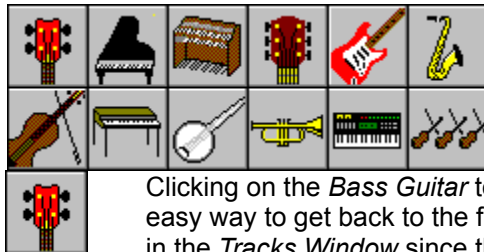
Tracks Window

The *Tracks Window* allows you to scroll through, view and edit the settings for the 256 MIDI event tracks. The JAMMER is setup with particular instruments on tracks 1-27 and particular drums on tracks 28-55. It is best to use this format since the band style files that come with the JAMMER use this format. You should always leave the drums on tracks 28-55 since they are a special case in MIDI and are treated differently by the JAMMER.



You can go directly to the drum tracks from anywhere in the JAMMER by clicking on the *Drum Set* tool on the top tool bar.

You can also go quickly to any instrument track from anywhere in the JAMMER by clicking on the tool for that instrument.



Clicking on the *Bass Guitar* tool is an easy way to get back to the first track in the *Tracks Window* since the bass is always on track 1. Go ahead and click on the *Bass Guitar* tool now to take you back to first track.



The tracks you see highlighted are tracks with MIDI events on them. If you want to see all of your tracks that have events grouped together, the JAMMER can pack the tracks for you. Click the *Pack* tool on the side tool bar to the left of the *Tracks Window* and the JAMMER will display the *Tracks Window* in packed mode.

Now you can see all active instrument tracks and the drums tracks together. The drum tracks are displayed in blue to make it easy to tell them apart from the instrument tracks. Click on the *Pack* tool again and the JAMMER will return to the unpacked tracks view.

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Typing in Chords

Before letting the JAMMER compose some music we need to enter a chord progression for the musicians to follow. Let's create a simple jazz swing progression for an example of how to build a song in the JAMMER. To enter a chord do the following:

1. Using the mouse or arrow keys, move the cursor in the *Measures Window* to the place you want to enter or edit a chord. Move to the first position in measure 1 for this example.
2. Type in the chord *Bbmaj9* and then press the Enter key.

Now that you know how to enter chords put a *Gm7* in the beginning of measure 2, a *Cm9* in measure 3 and an *F7#5* in measure 4. You can move from measure to measure using the mouse or by holding down the *Ctrl* key and using the arrow keys. You can move an eighth note at a time in a measure by using the right and left arrow keys. To edit an existing chord, move to the chord and press *Enter* or double click the left mouse button on the chord and an edit field will appear allowing you to edit the chord. Press the *Enter* key when you are through editing.

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Using Custom Timing Patterns

There are four custom timing patterns available to the *Melody Composer*. These are shown on the bottom portion of the style screen.

	- - - + - - - - - - + - - - - - - + - - - - - - + - - -
20	# - - - - - * - - - - - * - - - - - * - - - - -
20	# - - - - - * - - - - - * - - - - - * - - - - -
10	# - - * - - * - - + - -
0	# - - * - - + - -

The custom patterns allow you to set the note timing, note values, and velocities of riffs to be composed by the JAMMER. The custom patterns you type in can be blended with the fundamental patterns provided for you in the top left section of the screen. To enable a custom pattern, put a usage weight by it just like you would for a fundamental style.

Each character position in a custom pattern represents a 48th note. Therefore, 3 character positions make up a sixteenth note, 4 make up a triplet eighth, 6 make up an eighth, and 12 make up a quarter note. Each custom pattern can be up to 8 quarter notes long. Custom patterns are hooked together repeatedly to build a larger pattern which is then used to compose a part.

The following table shows some commonly used note durations:

Pattern	Length	Note Type
* - - - - -	12	Quarter
* - - - -	9	Dotted 8th
* - - - -	6	8th
* - - -	4	Triplet 8th
* - -	3	16th
* -	2	Triplet 16th
*	1	48th

The '#', '*', and '+' characters are used to indicate that a wild card note is to be played at that point. Wild card notes are notes where the JAMMER is allowed to choose the note value (frequency). The '#' character represents a heavy velocity note, the '*' character represents a medium velocity note, and the '+' character represents a lightly played note. The velocity to be used for each of these is defined in the *Melody Control* screen. You can also designate certain chord tones to be played by using the numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, where 1 represents the tonic, 2 represents the second, 3 the third, and so on. The JAMMER will perform corrections to insure that the proper 3rd (major or minor), 6th, 7th, etc. will be used over the various types of chords (major, minor, dominant and dominant altered). For the complete reference of designated note types, search for *Designated Notes* in the on-line help file (Choose *Search For Help* from the *Help* menu).

Dashes following a '#', '*', '+', or scale tone character indicate that the note is being held. Spaces in a custom pattern represent silence. Since spaces can be on the end of a pattern, to see where a pattern really ends, place your cursor in the custom pattern field and press the *End* key on your computer keyboard keypad. The cursor will then move to the end of the pattern. To get a feel for how custom patterns work do the following:

1. Double left click on usage weight field to the left of the first (top) custom pattern. The JAMMER will now play the major scale up and down using solid triplet 8ths.
2. Double left click on usage weight field to the left of the second custom pattern. The JAMMER will now play the major scale up and down using triplet 8ths again but with the last three triplets of each six

being played staccato (with a short duration).

3. Double left click on usage weight field to the left of the third custom pattern. The JAMMER will now play the major scale up and down using triplet 8ths with some light triplet sixteenths at the end of the pattern.
4. Double left click on usage weight field to the left of the fourth custom pattern. The JAMMER will now play the octave tonic, seventh and fifth of the chord over which it is playing.

There are millions of different patterns you can use to create original music or to recreate popular songs. You can even blend wild cards with designated notes to give variation to a known riff. And of course you can blend these patterns together with one another and with the fundamental styles above, using the weights of your choice. The possibilities are in the billions!

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The Compose button

Clicking on this button or pressing *F7* will cause the JAMMER to compose parts in the measures designated by the *Punch In* and *Punch Out* values on all tracks where the *Action* field is set to *COMP*.

The Fast Forward button

Clicking on this button or pressing *F4* will fast forward to the *Loop From* measure or to the end of the song (which ever comes first).

The Play button

Clicking on this button, or pressing *F2* or the spacebar will start playback from the current measure. You may also click on this button to stop playback.

The Record button

Clicking on this button or pressing *F5* will start playback from two measures before the *Punch In* measure and will start actually recording notes starting at the *Punch In* measure.

The Replay button

Clicking on this button or pressing *F6* will move the cursor to the *Loop From* measure and then start playback.

The Rewind button

Clicking on this button or pressing *F3* will rewind to the *Loop From* measure or to the beginning of the song (which ever comes first).

The Stop button

Clicking on this button or pressing the space bar while playback is active will stop playback.

