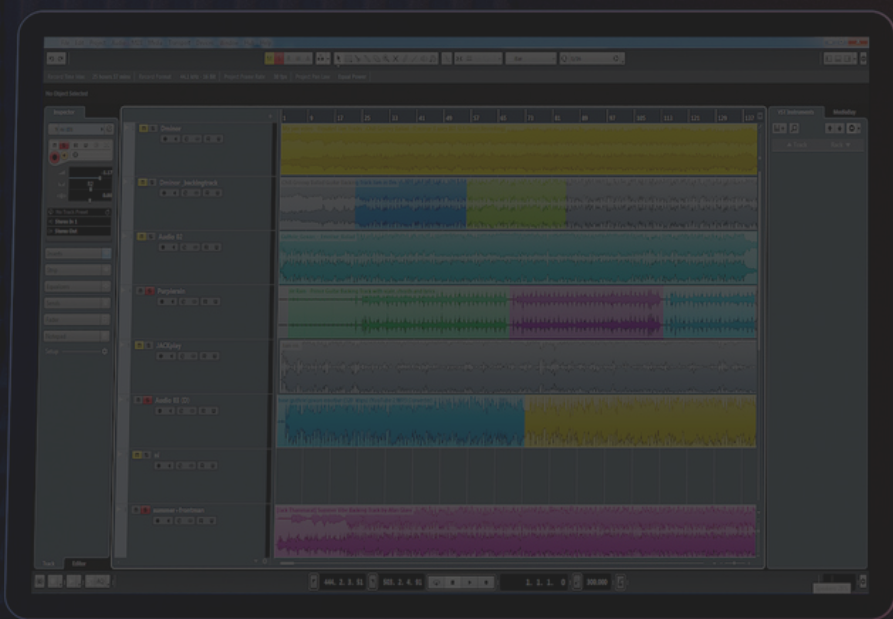
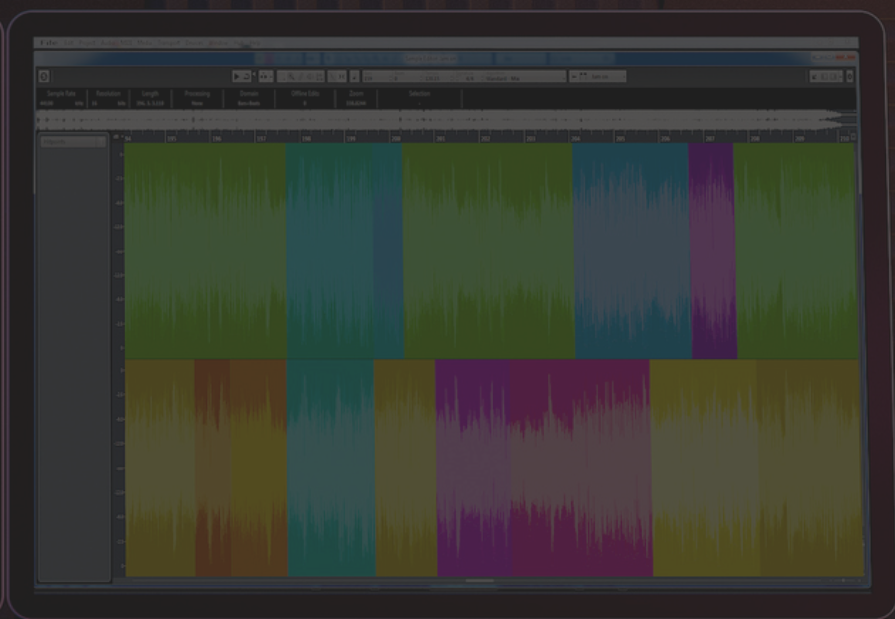


AUDIOLAY
COURSES

AND PHIL LOBER PRESENTS:

TRAILER MUSIC FAST TRACK



YOUR STEP-BY-STEP BLUEPRINT TO SCORING YOUR FIRST EPIC CUE
— IN 1 HOUR OR LESS

LET'S GO

If you've ever dreamed of composing cinematic trailer music — but felt overwhelmed by where to start — you're in the right place. This is a fast guide to composing your first trailer-style cue using a 3-part structure, and simple production tricks.

LET'S LEARN:

- The 3-act structure used in most trailer music
- What sounds & instruments to use
- How to create a boom sound from scratch!

STRUCTURE

INTRO (0:00 - 0:30)

SETS THE TONE & MOOD

BUILD (0:30 - 1:00)

TENSION AND MOMENTUM

CLIMAX (1:00 - 1:30)

DELIVERS THE EPIC PAYOFF



HOOK SOUND
PADS, DRONES
SUBTLE RISERS
REVERSE FX

PULSES
PERCUSSION
SHORT STRINGS
RISER AT END

BRASS
BIG HITS
BRAAAMS
LAYERED IMPACT

STEP BY STEP

1. **CREATE** a new project in your DAW
 - Tempo: 100 BPM
 - Key: D minor (or dark, dramatic key)
2. **INTRO** (0:00–0:10): Set the Atmosphere
 - Add a pad or drone
 - Layer soft textures (reverse piano, ambient noise)
 - Fade in with volume automation
3. **BUILD** (0:10–0:20): Add Momentum
 - Start a low percussion pulse (kick or taiko every 2 beats)
 - Add rhythmic strings or synth pulse
 - Insert a subtle riser building to Act 3
4. **CLIMAX** (0:20–0:30): Deliver the Hit
 - Add a braaam or brass swell
 - Layer epic drums and a final hit
 - Use riser → impact → tail FX
5. **EXPORT** your cue!



Don't worry about perfection — just **FINISH IT**.
You've now composed your first trailer cue!

SOUND

Dif

Different styles of trailer music use different soundscapes

- **Orchestral tracks** will focus on acoustic instruments with organic hits and percussion.
- **“Sound Design”** tracks will focus on synthetic elements and minimalism
- The most common setup is a hybrid between **both**, appropriately deemed “hybrid” music
- FX such as **booms, hits, risers, downers and sound design** are used throughout every style of music. This is because FX are treated psychologically as sound effects in the trailer itself, not only the music.

Let's create a boom sound!

1. Take a drum recording or sample with bassiness in it
2. Cut all of the high frequencies in your equalizer
3. Add 90% reverb 8 seconds long

SOFTWARE

DAW, Digital Audio Workstation aka the program you make the actual music in, can vary. Most trailer music is made in either Cubase, Logic, or Digital Performer. That being said, it can be made in any traditional sequencer. Even FL Studio!

Brass: Tom Holkenborg's Brass, Trailer Brass by Musical Sampling

Strings: LA Scoring Strings 2, Cinematic Studio Strings, Berlin Strings

Sound Design: Instinct by AVA, Gravity by Heavyocity



Want to go further?

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LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MAKING TRAILER MUSIC

LESSONS ON MELODY, STRUCTURE (SIMPLE AND COMPLEX), ACHIEVING
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WATCH ME CREATE A TRACK FROM START TO FINISH

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