

PRE-IGNITION BRIEF (LITE VERSION)

How to Get Started Making Music on a Computer Beginner's Checklist

Choose Your DAW & Get It Working

- Examples: Ableton Live, FL Studio, Studio One/Fender Studio, Cubase, Logic
- DAWs with Free Versions: Ableton Live Lite, GarageBand, Waveform Free

Set Up Your Audio Devices

- Set up your headphones or speakers
- Set up audio interface (optional)
- Set up your MIDI controller (optional)

Install One Instrument You Can Play

- Your DAW may include instruments, loops, and samples
- Install free virtual instrument or synthesizer (optional)

□ **Create Your First Project**

- Open your DAW and start a new project
- Set your tempo (120 bpm is likely default)
- Select an instrument

□ **Record Something Simple**

- Hit the record button
- Play some notes

□ **Save Your Work**

- Saving often is a habit every producer learns early - it keeps your momentum alive
- Losing work is a pain, so remember to back up your files

□ **Export Your Audio**

- Export your song into an audio file (WAV, AIFF, etc.)
- Listen back to what you made - even if it's simple, it's a real beginning

Getting started with music production doesn't require perfection - just curiosity and a willingness to explore. As you work through these first steps, give yourself room to experiment, make mistakes, and follow whatever sparks your interest. Every project begins with a single sound, and every sound moves you closer to the music you want to create. No matter where you are starting from, keep building your skills and practicing.