

# Feelin' Loopy: Using Garage Band and Acid Software for Composition

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## Building a composition with these applications...important topics

Using pre-existing loops	New Song <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tempo/ Key</li></ul> Adding Loops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Browsing Loops</li><li>• Adding to Arrangement Window</li><li>• Positioning</li><li>• Extending</li></ul> Adjusting Track <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mute</li><li>• Solo</li><li>• Volume</li><li>• Pan</li></ul>
Using MIDI/software synthesizers	Software Instruments Recording <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metronome</li><li>• Count-off</li></ul> Editing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Event Editing</li><li>• Quantization</li><li>• Looping Regions</li><li>• Adding Effects</li></ul>
Using live audio recording	Line Level Instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electric Guitar/Bass</li><li>• Keyboards</li><li>• Amp Simulators</li><li>• Editing tracks</li><li>• Overdubs</li></ul> Microphone Recording <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connecting Microphones</li><li>• Setting Input Levels</li><li>• Overdubs</li><li>• Adding Effects</li></ul>
Saving	Saving as proprietary format

Mixing & Exporting	Exporting to iTunes
Extras	Adding Loops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating in GarageBand</li> </ul> Importing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIF, WAV, MP3</li> <li>• MIDI Files</li> </ul>

## Comparison of *Really* Essential Features

	<b>Garage Band 2.0</b>	<b>Acid Pro 5.0 (Full version)</b>	<b>Acid Music Studio 5.0 (lite version)</b>	<b>Acid Express</b>
<b>Operating system</b>	Mac OSX	Windows	Windows	Windows
<b>Price (academic, as of 1/5/05)</b>	\$79.00, as part of the iLife suite (packaged with iTunes, iPhoto, iDVD, iMovie)	\$159.95 upgrade from any previous version, \$399 full version	\$69.95	Free
<b>Included media</b>	Over 1,000 Available JamPacks include additional loops, software instruments, effects, and amp simulators	Free CD of 375 loops, many free downloadable loops	1,000 loops, many free downloadable loops	None (available for download from acidplanet.com)
<b>Import formats</b>	AIFF, WAV, MP3, Acid Loops, MIDI	AIFF, MP3, OGG, PCA, MIDI, SFA, W64, WAV, WMA, AVI, BMP, GIF, JPG, SWF, TGA, TIF, and Windows Media®	AIFF, MP3, OGG, PCA, MIDI, SFA, W64, WAV, WMA, AVI, BMP, GIF, JPG, SWF, TGA, TIF, and Windows Media®	AIFF, MP3, OGG, PCA, MIDI, SFA, W64, WAV, WMA, AVI, BMP, GIF, JPG, SWF, TGA, TIF, and Windows Media®
<b>Export formats</b>	MP3 (iTunes)	WAV, MP3, WMA, WMV, RM, WAV, AIF, and PCA	MP3, RealMedia™, and Windows Media 9	MP3 (20 free encodes), RealMedia, PCA, WAV, Windows Media
<b># of Tracks</b>	Unlimited based on computer capability	Unlimited based on computer capability	Unlimited based on computer capability	10
<b>Included audio effects</b>	16 (supports Audio Units plug-ins)	20 (supports DirectX and VST plug-ins)	EQ, Reverb, Delay, Distortion, LFO	None
<b>MIDI implementation</b>	Import, record, playback, edit in piano roll view and notation view.	Import, record, playback, edit in piano roll view, generates and responds to MIDI Time Code	Import, record, playback, edit in piano roll view	Playback only
<b>Video scoring track</b>	No	Yes (WMV and AVI)	Yes (WMV and AVI)	No

<b>CD extraction/burning</b>	Links with iTunes for these functions	Extracts audio from CD, burns projects directly to CD	Extracts audio from CD, burns projects directly to CD	No
<b>Unique features</b>	8 track audio recording, time stretch, track slip, master pitch change	Time stretch (Acidizing)	Time stretch (Acidizing)	Exports to Sony portable devices (NetMD, Clie)

## Resources

### ACID

#### Books

- Franks, D. E. (2001). *Acid power!* Cincinnati, OH: Muska & Lipman.
- Rebholz, G. & Bryant, M. (2001). *Sams teach yourself Acid 3.0 in 24 hours*. Sams.

#### Websites

- <http://mediasoftware.sonypictures.com/products/acidfamily.asp> -- Sony Music's website for the Acid family
- <http://www.acidplanet.com> – community of Acid software users where you can publish your work to the web and listen to others' published work. Also offers regular downloads of free loop material.

### GarageBand

#### Books

- Shaffer, J., Rosenzweig, G. (2004). *Making music with GarageBand*. Que Publishing.
- Pogue, D. (2004). *GarageBand: The Missing Manual*. O'Reilly Publishing.
- Levitus, B. (2004). *GarageBand for Dummies*. For Dummies Publishing.
- Gavenda, Victor. (2004). *GarageBand for Mac OS X : Visual QuickStart Guide*. Peachpit Press.

#### Websites

- Apple Computer's GarageBand support web site.
  - <http://www.apple.com/support/garageband/>
- Apple Computer's GarageBand Discussion Board web site.
  - <http://discussions.info.apple.com/webx/garageband/>
- GarageBand.com – an independent web site devoted to GarageBand

### **General Music Technology**

Williams, D. B. & Webster, P. R. (2005, in press). *Experiencing music technology: Software, data, and hardware* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Schirmer. [Accompanying CD-ROM will contain tutorials on Acid Music Studio and Garage Band authored by Jay Dorfman and Marc Jacoby respectively.]