

# Making The Zillion Dollar Beat!

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The glue that holds everything together in every song—from the guitar, to the keyboards, to the vocals—is a tight beat. And why are you reading this? Are you aspiring to be the next great music discovery? If yes, then read on!

In your opinion, putting out songs or tracks for the world to hear cost a fortune. But guess what? You don't have to rely on expensive equipment or the talents of a professional drummer to get you started on your own musical journey. With today's technology, the Internet and your own taste and diligence, you, too, can make music beats right on your desktop. Here are a few pieces of advice to follow so that you can be next big thing!

## **Find a suitable program**

First, you have to have a program or application that can provide you with the tools and instruments you need to be able to make your own beats. There are many programs out there that are free while others will only cost you a small amount. Make a list of the programs you think are good and research on these by visiting music forums, reading consumer reviews and checking out the products' support sites to see how often or how rare people complain about the programs before you decide to purchase or download.

## **Listen with a keen ear**

Study your favorite songs, and the tracks of the musicians or artists you look up to. Figure out what makes these tracks great by dissecting the different instruments and elements of the songs—do they have a catchy melody? Do the songs have bass lines that make you want to dance? Do the drum patterns change a lot? Figure out how a song's rhythm or tempo makes you feel and how different beat patterns change your mood.

## **Know your beat basics**

Before you start making your own music beats, you first have to understand what a beat is. It is, in music, the basic time, tempo or meter. There are tons of materials online that you can refer to, to learn more about the theory behind music beats and time signatures. Different beats connote different moods, different genres and styles of music and can add various flavors to songs and tracks.

## **Experiment and be creative**

Although it is tempting to rely on the library of samples and loops available over the Internet and included in beat makers, it's best to use your own creativity so you don't sound like everybody else. Start with a simple drum beat using just a kick and a snare, then experiment by adding layers. Don't go overboard, though—it's easy to cross the thin line between music and noise, so use your own taste and judgment to decide which layers to delete and which to keep.

## **Practice. Practice. Practice.**

The cliché 'practice makes perfect' holds true for just about everything, including writing your own music. Having a steady rhythm, especially when you make your own beat is important, and this can be achieved through practice. There are a lot of tutorials online that can teach you basic music theory and how different time signatures and tempos help create different moods. You can also look for an online metronome to help you practice your beats and keep in time.

It used to be very difficult to be able to create and record your own songs, but with these simple guidelines and enough skill, you can make music beats and very well be on your way to music stardom.

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