



# AUDIO PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENT 2

Ableton Live 11 MashUp

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## Starting the Project

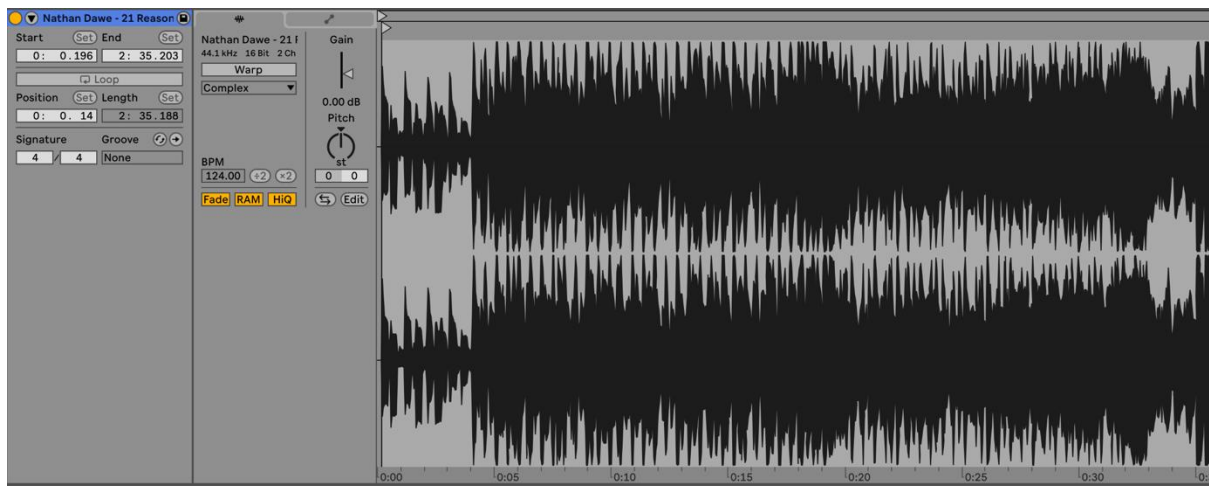
To begin the assignment, I took a listen to the Spotify playlist “UK Top 40 dance Singles Chart”, found at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2KOxVMvXeoq1iDM7gEuyWA?si=0a3c4ac41aaa4421&nd=1>, and chose three songs to bring into my mashup. The three I choose were:

- Nathan Dawe - 21 Reasons (feat. Ella Henderson)
- Oliver Tree - Miss You
- David Guetta - I-'m Good (Blue)

I picked these three tracks mainly because I enjoy them but also that I like the originals of 21 reasons (Mr Saxobeat by Alexandra Stan) and I’m good (Blue by Eiffel 65). The FLAC of these files were acquired and they were brought into Ableton Live11.

## Warping and Looping

In Ableton the tracks were brought into session view on a new column. Selecting the file there brings up its waveform where the track can be warped.

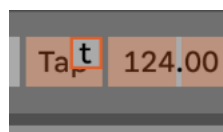


**Track waveform and warp option**

The track was warped by finding the tempo. To find the tempo the tap button was allocated the T key on the keyboard



**Tap for Tempo, actual Tempo, time signature, metro nome**



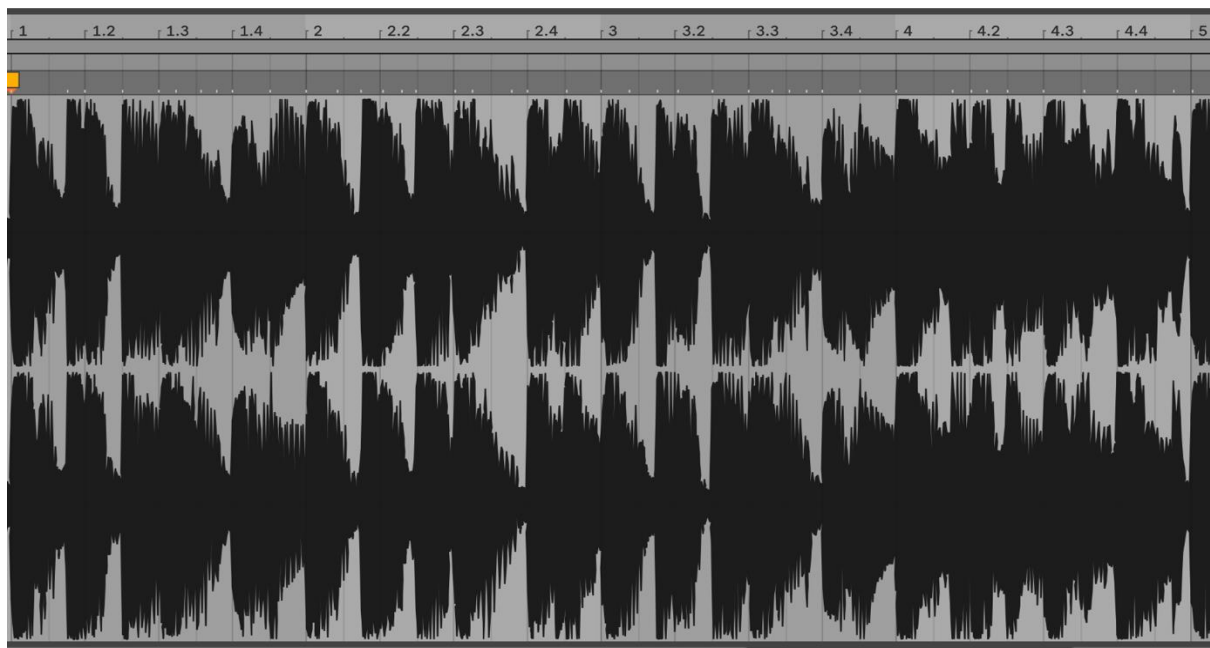
**Assigning the “T” key to the tap button**

After finding the tempo and rounding to the nearest full number the file can be warped. Finding where the drums start in the song, select it and set it as 1.1.1



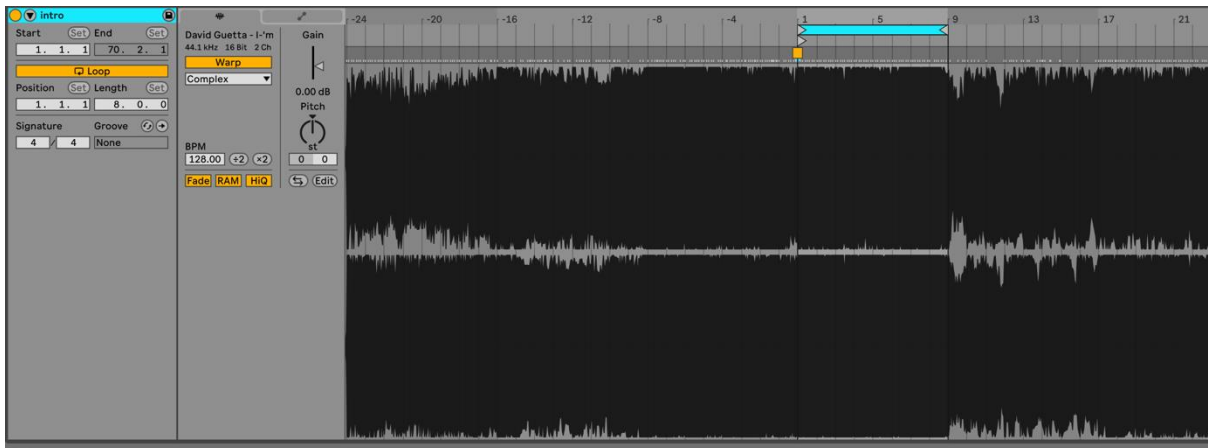
**Setting 1.1.1 to being warp**

If it is warped correctly the peaks of the song will align with the bars such as below.



**The beats are all aligned with the peaks in the waveform**

After each track is warped, sections of loops of the songs can be created by looping specific parts of the warped track



Creating a loop.

The blue bar in the above image is the section of the track that will be looped. Once a collection of sections has been made we can make the drums

3 David Guetta - I	4 Oliver Tree - Mi	5 Nathan Dawe -
▶ David Guetta -	▶ Oliver Tree	▶ Nathan Dawe -
■	■	■
▶ piano	▶ Dont remind me	▶ sax
▶ good	▶ find somebody	▶ one is you make
▶ intro	▶ one thing	▶ breath
▶ in between	▶ chorus	▶ hate
▶ chorus	▶ chorus second	▶ 21 reasons
▶ mid8	▶ better left alon	▶ chorus
▶ let it go	▶ care	▶ floor
▶ na na na	■	▶ know you
▶ Im	▶ middle8	▶ post chorus
■	▶ outro	▶ here comes and
■	▶ piano	▶ shouldnt love
■	▶ piano outro	▶ chrous buildup

All the sections created from the songs for this project

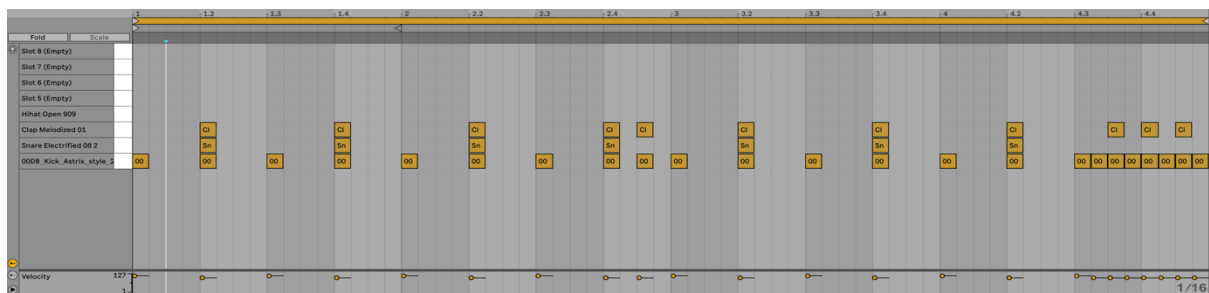
## Drums

The drums were created by creating a new midi track and applying the impulse instrument onto it. Samples of Kick, snare, and clap were added to the instrument. A high hat was also added but I ultimately did not use it.



The impulse device with kick, snare, clap and hihat assigned

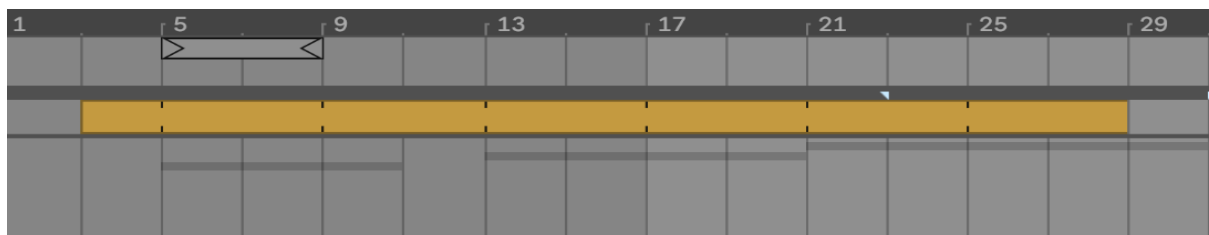
Selecting an empty row in the impulse column, creates a midi track which notes can be added to create the sound on that row.



Drum formation created using midi channel

## Mixing

With the drums created, all the tracks were turned down to -4dB or lower. The songs were grouped into a group called songs and the drums put in a drum group. Tracks could then be added to the arrangement view by grabbing them and pressing tab. The clips are to be placed on their associated tracks. The project is to be 60 seconds long. The first thing brought over was the drums which were placed on 1.1.1 and looped until the minute mark. The first loop and last loop were then removed to add some room to play around with the start and end on the track

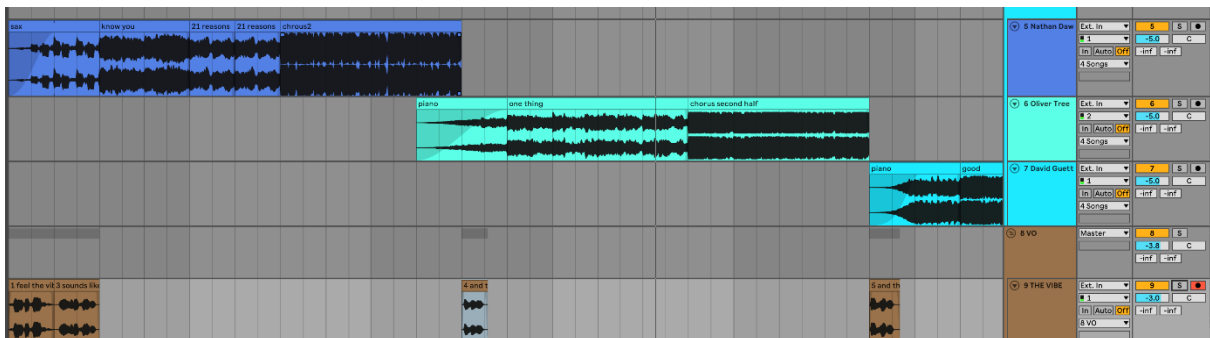


Drums placement in the arrangement view

After dragging the tracks I felt would work well over, they were re-arranged until I was pleased with them.

## VOX

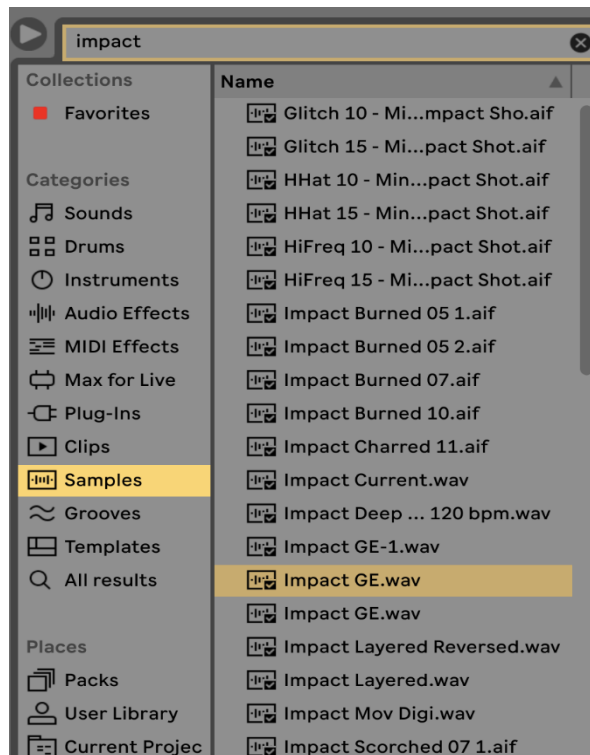
The next step was to bring in the voice over which was provided for us for “The Vibe” radio station. However before they were brought in, the files were processed using Adobe Audition and a effect placed over the recordings. The effect I used was the radio announcer voice provided by Adobe as I felt it worked the best. The recording was exported and renamed to add the word wet to the end to show they were processed. These wet clips were brought into Ableton.



The clip placement in arrangement view of songs and VO

## Adding Additional Sounds

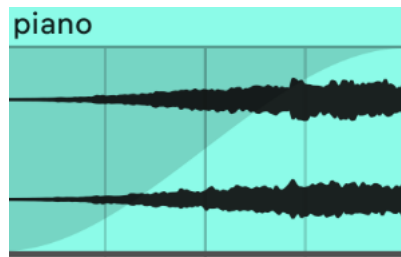
An impact clip was added to the start to add a emphasis to the start of the track. My plan was for the impact to end to create a quieter few seconds for the VO to start playing.



The Impulse clip found in the samples

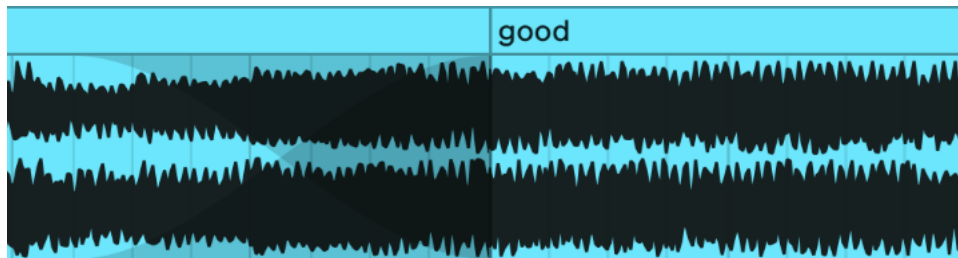
## Further Editing

Being happy with the layout, it was time to finer tun it. A fad in was used to build up new tracks starting.



Fad in example

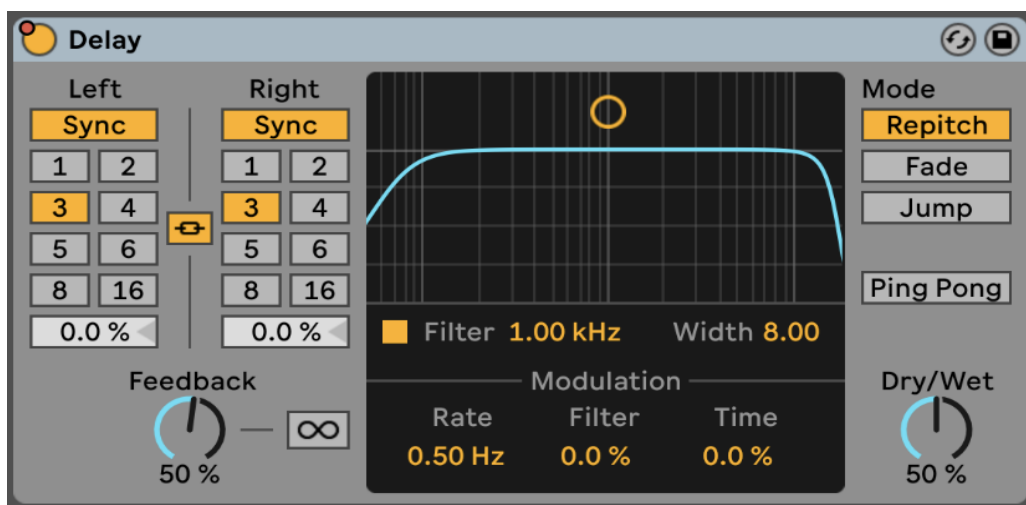
And other tracks could be faded together to help blend them better if they didn't blend too well.



Cross fad, although hard to see on the left clip is a faint "X" in the change of colours which indicates where the tracks cross fad

## Mixing (Adding Effects)

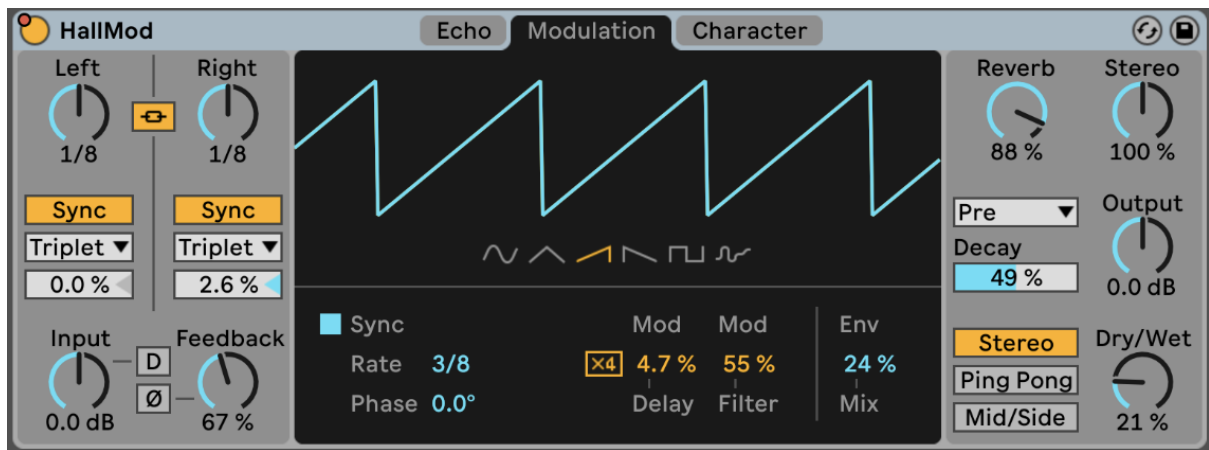
I decided to have the tempo of the project to be 128, I was going to go for 120 but it slowed all the songs down. I decided on 128 as "21 Reasons" has a tempo of 124, "I'm good" has a tempo of 128 and "Miss you" has a tempo of 145 so it felt like a good middle ground between the three songs. The next step was to add effects and filters. I first tried adding effects to the VO. I started with a delay, and found the spot I was happy with it.



Delay device

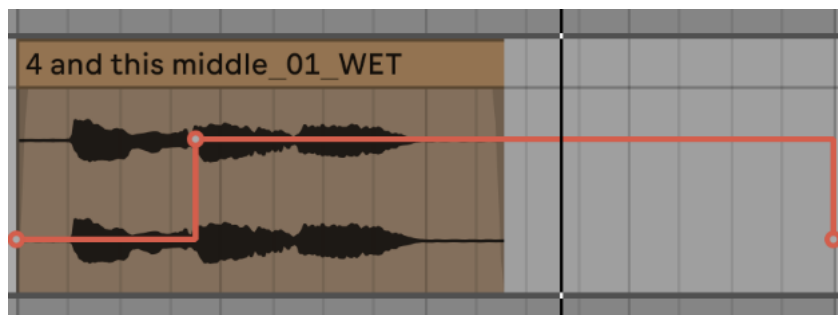


Wanting a bit more, I added the delay HallMod and reduced the Dry/Wet to 21%.



HallMod device

As I didn't want the delay to constantly play, I went into automation mode on the arrangement view. From experimenting with it I found that the best way to have the delays affect the track was to not just turn the effects on and off using the I/O automation, but to fade the dry wet percentage using increases and decreases in automation



IO sudden on and off in arrangement view gives a very mechanical feel and effects suddenly start and stop



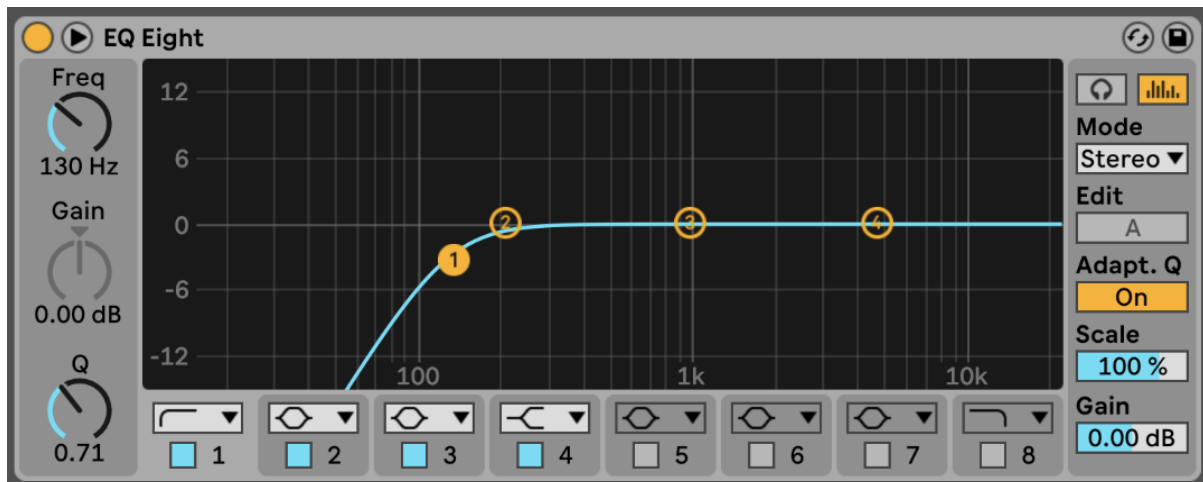
Using the dry/wet to fade into 50% and then back to 0%

In one of our classes we made our own sound clip using filters and MIDI channel. I implemented this clip into my own recording. Some of the effects used were the EQ Eight, Chorus Classic, Ping Pong Wide and Reverb.



Effects used for creating the sound clip

As I realised making the clip, the EQ Eight could be used to remove some of the boom from the tracks it is applied to. I then decided to apply this to my song tracks to reduce the drum sounds from the tracks.



**EQ Eight equaliser with high pass filter used to take the boom out of the tracks applied**

I found the 130 Hz frequency high pass filter worked best on the three tracks.

## Exporting

The last thing done in Ableton was exporting the tracks. I exported them as Wav files ,as they are raw audio and uncompressed completely and when exporting on Ableton to Aif it was slightly compressing the file to 6.5MB, to then be brought into Adobe Audition and be mastered to -14 Lufs.

The mastered Wav file, which was 10.5MB, was saved and exported as a Mp3, sized 2.4MB, as a AAC, sized 496KB, and OGG, sized 3.4MB. These three files will be used for my personal website.

I also exported the WAV file as a Aif for submission with the project.

The audio files were then uploaded to my website which can be found at [www.Diarmuido.com](http://www.Diarmuido.com) .