

NZQA Assessment Support Material

Unit standard	32304				
Title	Operate a music sequencing application				
Level	3	Credits	4	Version	1

Teacher guidelines

The following guidelines contains two assessment tasks with associated exemplars and have been supplied to enable teachers to carry out valid and consistent assessment using this internal assessment resource. Teachers should use these materials alongside a copy of the unit standard.

Authenticity

Because students can access these materials, teachers must manage authenticity for any assessment. Use of this assessment resource without modification may mean that students' work is not authentic.

See Generic Resources and Guidelines at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation/assessment-of-standards/generic-resources/>.

Assessment criteria

This unit standard can be awarded with an **Achieved**, **Merit** or **Excellence** grade.

For an **Achieved** grade, all outcomes must be achieved as specified in the outcome statement.

For **Merit**, learners must assemble, edit and mix a sequence that is balanced and has sonic clarity, feel and depth.

For **Excellence**, learners must assemble, edit and mix a sequence that is balanced and has sonic clarity, feel and depth, refinement and stylistic integrity.

Context/setting

Ideally in the interests of a holistic education these tasks should be done within the context of candidates own original compositions. However, the quality of the composition is not to be assessed for the purposes of this Unit Standard.

If students do not have their own material they can use any existing piece of music.

Resource requirements

- Digital music sequencing and editing application, which may include a musical instrument digital interface (MIDI) sequencer or a Digital Audio Workstation that has four or more tracks, editing capability, and is able to modify and mix samples.
- Audio interface
- MIDI keyboard
- Microphone and cable
- Physical or Digital Synthesiser

Recommended texts:

Bartlett B & J "Practical Recording Techniques" ISBN 0.672.30265.9 Sams publishing IN, USA, 1992

Davis G Jones R "Sound reinforcement handbook" ISBN 0.88188.900.8 Hal Leonard Corp Milwaukee WI USA 1987

Lehrman PD & Tully T "MIDI for the professional" US 0.8256.1374.4, UK 0.7119.2327.2, Amsco publication NY 1993

Nisbett A "The sound Studio" 6th ed, ISBN 0.240.51395.9 Focal press Oxford UK 1962

Rudolph T E, "Teaching Music with technology" ISBN 1.57999.313.3, GIA publications INC Chicago, IL, USA, 2004

Stark SH "Live sound reinforcement" ISBN 0.918371.07.4, Mixbooks Emeryville CA USA 1996

Watkinson J "An introduction to digital audio" ISBN 0.240.51378.9 Focal Press Oxford UK, 1994
Huber & Runstein "Modern recording techniques" 4th ed, ISBN 0.672.30639.5 SAMS publishing IN, USA 1995

Pejrolo A & Richardson D "Acoustic and MIDI Orchestration for the Contemporary Composer" 2nd ed, ISBN 978-1-138-80150-9, Focal Press, 2017

Assessment tasks

Outcome 1 Operate a music sequencing and editing application

Range: a sequence of a minimum of three minutes and four instrument tracks.

Task 1

Assemble, edit and mix a multi-tracked sequence using a combination of at least four software instrument MIDI tracks and real instrument audio tracks.

Your project should contain the following:

- at least one tempo change
- MIDI and/or audio tracks should have some level of quantisation while maintaining the feel of the original performance (this can be done by quantizing by a percentage, or by applying a groove template to MIDI and/or audio).
- at least one audio track which contains manipulations to an audio sample. These can be variations in pitch, time, compression/expansion, warping/slicing or altering the envelope (ADSR). You must use at least two manipulations.
- a physical or digital synthesiser, to which functional timbral changes have been applied. Include manipulation of at least two parameters such as oscillators (such as changing between saw and square waves), filters, envelopes (ADSR) or LFOs.

You should mix your project using a variety of insert and mix effects such as EQ, compression, reverb, delay and other plugins to achieve sonic clarity, feel and depth (for Merit) and to achieve refinement and stylistic integrity (for Excellence).

You should submit the following files for assessment:

- a bounced (or exported) MP3 of your finished project
- your DAW file

- a document containing annotated screen shots demonstrating that you have done all of the above requirements (this is so that an assessor or moderator who is unable to open your DAW file can easily see that you have completed all of the requirements).

Assessment Schedule

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Task 1: Assemble, edit and mix a multi-tracked sequence using either software instruments, or a combination of software and real instruments.

Judgement for achievement	Judgement for merit	Judgements for excellence
<p>The candidate has produced a sequence of an original composition or another piece of music containing at least four MIDI or four MIDI and audio tracks that contains the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least one tempo change • quantisation while maintaining feel • at least two manipulations of an audio sample and/or track (such as variations in pitch, time, compression/expansion, warping/slicing or altering the envelope (ADSR). • a synthesiser containing at least two functional timbral changes (such as variations to oscillators, filters, envelopes or LFOs. 	<p>The candidate has met the requirement for achievement but has produced a sequence that is balanced and has sonic clarity, feel and depth.</p>	<p>The candidate has met the requirement for achievement but has produced a sequence that is balanced and has sonic clarity, feel and depth; refinement and stylistic integrity.</p>

The candidate has mixed the sequence using insert and mix plugins.		
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