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## OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2012/12/28 22:26

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1 voice, 1 octatrack, everything goes?

Envious of beatboxing skills like Rahzel, Beardyman and his kaosspad(s), Maja Ratkje, Mike Patton and other contemporary vocal virtuosos. Reciting poetry to clarinet improvisations and my experiments in Paris with Stiiiive always made me want to explore, train and get more music out of my voice.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39n4wow8fWE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxOt951ebxY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKcOqZFkzdw>

<http://vimeo.com/23963542> ;)

Another reason to suggest this for a new lab is that the output of elektron musical instruments seems limitless across the musical spectrum, but could use a lot more vocals, creative use of vocals..

Not only curious about what the octatrack could do, but also what we can already accomplish by simply using our voice in new ways. You could sing, scream, cry, laugh, hiss, beatbox or recite poetry with the octatrack simply recording and the results can be beautiful. It is a great opportunity to practice with the pickup machines, for example, or to explore the wonderful world of poetry slams and other exotic uses of the human voice. Most of us have one anyway.

I suggest we not limit ourselves too much as to how to use the octatrack (but feel free to add, subtract and make changes to my plan).

To sum it up:

- 1 microphone
- connect it to octatrack input 'a'
- use your voice as input
- process, sample, program, mangle
- record straight to your computer and post results without further post production outside of the octatrack
- deadline February 14th 2014

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by Didjeko - 2012/12/29 01:53

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i totally agree to this. But the OT does not have a mic in, it just accept line levels ?  
The main problem for text is at least to keep the understandability...

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by the dreammer - 2012/12/29 02:06

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i plug in a mic from time to time  
record it.. normalize it.. and its useable :)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by locksmith - 2012/12/29 02:25

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Another Lab!!

I'm not fond of singing or the sound of my own voice, but the idea of mangling it and making music with it rather than vocals or singing is much more interesting. Big Mike Patton fan here (of his music not his personality!!!), and Bjork for

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that matter, excellent references Husc! And I'm digging "Folie Å 6 in Paris (part III)" - listening now. I'll be giving serious thought to joining in on this Lab, but I make no promise. Will be checking this thread a lot though, as I'm sure it will be inspiring to hear the submissions and whatnot.

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by stiiiiiiive - 2012/12/29 02:28

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Cool initiative Husc :)

No Octatrack here but I experimented yet with a microphone and a MDUW.  
Ask me and I put the links. I'm not sure if I should somehow inspire anyone before they give a try ;)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by darenager - 2012/12/29 05:29

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^ Hey why not allow the MDUW to be used for this lab for those that don't have OT?

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2012/12/29 06:31

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Great!

MDUW is allowed (I'll try that one, as well) ..

About the microphone, workaround could be using your laptop's microphone and the line out (or audio interface) to get a proper signal to the octatrack. Another (allowed) option is to use a mixer, or DI to get the microphone to line level. No problem as long as you don't add fx.

If getting a mic is a problem, or using your own voice is, please let us know. I guess it won't be a problem for someone else in the lab to provide raw material in the form of a recording..

My personal plan is to play safe and work as I do with my ensemble, realtime processing and improv!

A lot of freedom, use it and have fun and post techniques and tips!

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by sicijk - 2012/12/29 17:04

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he made me fall in love for beatbox....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8mISWWZ9zQ>

i'm not a beatboxer though....

Lovely LAB!!!  
try to be in =)

\*\*EDIT\*\*

yeah HUSC ...Jamie Lidell,,,,i saw him years ago in Roma...incredible show,,,,he's amazing!  
Another guy real fun with his voice is Tim Exile !

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2012/12/31 07:47

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Thanks for that Kid Beyond video, great to get some ideas going in my head and practice. Here's another I forgot to mention.. also inspirational for the people aiming for a video of their lab work! ;)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwfbK0b\\_2U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwfbK0b_2U)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by yoof - 2013/01/04 17:01

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Yeah new lab :)

This one's going to take me well out of my comfort zone as I'm another one who hates the sound of his own voice! My first effort seemed to concentrate on disguising my voice as much as possible (turning it into drums and synth lines with some mangling). It turned out ok, but I'll just treat it as a practice session rather than posting and try stepping out of my comfort zone a bit further :)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2013/03/12 16:45

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I started this too quick after lab #4..and never got around to it. I still love to see some results so I changed the deadline to february 14th 2014!!

Let's get this show started! :)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by Daisuk - 2013/03/30 02:49

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Great challenge! I used an old sample I had of myself singing some bullshit, as I didn't have a microphone around, hope that's cool. Have been working on this for the past ... what is it, 5 hours or so, and quite satisfied with it! It was a lot of fun to make, got completely lost in the process, fucking sweet! :)

<http://soundcloud.com/happyleaguecactus/octalab-5>

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2013/03/30 03:54

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I like it a lot, very nice atmosphere and excellent manipulation of the sounds. It has a drone like quality, repetitive yet there is constant movement and increasing tension. Glad to see these lab assignments work in inspiring and opening up the octatrack to new users!

I just packed up my octatrack and am setting up my new studio next week.. first thing should be lab #5 and #6!

Great fun, great work!!! Congratulations! :woohoo:

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2013/03/30 03:55

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Double post.

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by Daisuk - 2013/03/30 04:10

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husc wrote:

I like it a lot, very nice atmosphere and excellent manipulation of the sounds. It has a drone like quality, repetitive yet there is constant movement and increasing tension. Glad to see these lab assignments work in inspiring and opening up the octatrack to new users!

I just packed up my octatrack and am setting up my new studio next week.. first thing should be lab #5 and #6!

Great fun, great work!!! Congratulations! :woohoo:

Thanks a lot, man! :) I hear now that the sound maxes out sometimes on my monitors, didn't do that on my headphones, hmmm, oh well, just a sketch. :) Inspiring indeed! Good luck with the studio setup and getting started on the labs - great fun ahead! :)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by koyl - 2013/05/21 21:48

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I'm very interested by this since I was planning to use my voice alongside the OT in my own music. Is it acceptable to use a guitar preamp stompbox (Tech21 Liverpool) in a transparent setting as a preamp for the microphone ?

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2013/05/22 17:53

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koyl wrote:

I'm very interested by this since I was planning to use my voice alongside the OT in my own music. Is it acceptable to use a guitar preamp stompbox (Tech21 Liverpool) in a transparent setting as a preamp for the microphone ?

A pre-amp is a pre-amp in that case, you do however need to keep in mind there's a difference between microphone level and line level.

Do you have a mixer? If so, plug the microphone into the mixer and use an output (direct out, bus, aux, monitor or control room out) to connect to the octatrack. The octatrack has plenty of gain on the input to boost the signal further to a desired level.

The pedal will work, but it will also change the sound, this has to do with the characteristics of the pedal and impedance difference between a guitar signal and a microphone. A mixer won't change the sound of your voice that much and is in general better practice to use for a microphone.

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by koyl - 2013/05/23 05:20

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I don't have a mixer but I just realized I could probably used my Zoom H2 portable recorder as a mic if I put it in

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Rec/Pause and use the line out. :)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by husc - 2013/05/23 20:42

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koyl wrote:

I don't have a mixer but I just realized I could probably use my Zoom H2 portable recorder as a mic if I put it in Rec/Pause and use the line out. :)

That should work!

Another great trick is to plug headphones into an input and crank it all the way up, certain (big) headphones will give you fantastic lofi crunch and saturation:

[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-sVBUupIWys8/URT7oC7fnVI/AAAAAAAAAMUE/\\_IvIM5AbcUQ/s400/15.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-sVBUupIWys8/URT7oC7fnVI/AAAAAAAAAMUE/_IvIM5AbcUQ/s400/15.jpg)

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## Re:OT lab #5

Posted by koyl - 2013/06/12 06:49

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Soooo, here is my track:

<https://soundcloud.com/koyl/octalab-5-experiment-with-only>

I had the intention to do something calm, pure and beautiful in a (let's say) Sigur Ros kind of way but, because of the way I recorded my voice it didn't really work.

The Zoom H2 being a field recorder, singing close to it distorted my voice and far from it made the sound too distant and undefined..

So I did with what I got and... well... what we got here is some kind of weird Industrial flavored hip hop/DnB track.

I'm not even sure I like it but the process was really interesting and inspired me to do some more (but with a real mic and preamp next time... I have to buy a mixer !)

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