

19.

IN THE STUDIO, PART 8: BUILDING THE DROP, REVIEWING THE TRACK

CHAPTER REVIEW

SUBCHAPTERS

- A/B-ing the Big Leads
- Arranging the Drop
- Finessing the Drop
- Listening and Critiquing
- Naming a Track

Armin knows he wants this track to have a powerful drop with big staccato leads, so he starts A/B-ing with the drop from his similar and already successful track “J’ai Envie De Toi” Remember, A/B-ing isn’t about copying the musical ideas of the other track, it’s about trying to create a similar impact or sound color.

Armin and Benno start honing the sonic quality of the big leads, trying to give them more attack. They also test the drop out by listening to it closely, and they notice the lead up to the drop is louder than the drop itself—a big problem in dance music. To fix this, they add a gain automation, which Armin reminds us is easier than automating track volume.

LEARN MORE

- Armin uses one of his tracks, “J’ai Envie De Toi,” to A/B his new leads. Listen to “J’ai Envie De Toi” [here](#).

ASSIGNMENTS

- Armin wants to share his work with you to study and even remix. You can download the Logic project of this MasterClass jam or just the audio stems [here](#). Take a close look at the creative choices Armin and Benno made. What is each track contributing to the overall sound? What journey is the arrangement taking you on? Feel free to play around and make some changes.
- Build your drop! Use volume automation, effects, and A/B-ing to craft the perfect drop to get your audience dancing.