

CREATING A GROOVE, PART 2

“Who says the bassline always has to be a synth? It could also be a drum. If it sounds good, it is good.”

—Armin van Buuren

SUBCHAPTERS

- The Groove Is in the Details
- Adding Percussion Layers With Ableton
- Fitting Percussion Details Into Your Mix
- Groove Case Study: “You Are”
- Tell a Story With Your Drum Fills

CHAPTER REVIEW

You can create richer, more complex grooves in your tracks by adding percussion elements to your kick and bass. Armin breaks down some of the percussion layering in “Be in the Moment” (a 138 BPM track with more of a psytrance feel), as well as the groove elements in “You Are” (a slower, almost tribal groove).

Armin generates his percussion loops in Ableton, which automatically adjusts them to the proper tempo, then exports and adds them to his Logic projects. Always think about how your percussion is interacting with the rest of your mix. All the elements should tell a story together—not just sit on top of one another. The LFOTool is a great plug-in to carve space for all your different percussion layers, and also can give loops and samples a groovier feel.

EXPLORE THE PLUG-INS

In this chapter Armin makes use of the following plug-ins:

- [LFOTool](#)
- [Nexus 2](#)
- Native Instruments [Kontakt 5](#)

LEARN MORE

- Armin worked with Dutch DJ and production duo Sunnery James & Ryan Marciano on “You Are.” Learn more about the duo’s chart placement and latest releases [here](#).

ASSIGNMENTS

- Take a handful of percussion loops and transform them into new, exciting sounds—chop them up, add volume shaping, add strange effects and EQ. They should sound totally different than how they started.
- Bring your percussion loops, fills, and effects into your tracks—in-progress. If they don’t naturally fit your tempo, or overall sound, adjust as needed. Use these new details to build on your groove, adding texture and complexity.