

21.

VOCAL SESSION, PART 1: TRACKING

“Golden rule: Always record your first take.”

—Armin van Buuren

SUBCHAPTERS

- Prepping for a Vocal Session
- Tracking Vocals

In the next three chapters, Armin is going to teach you his approach to working with singers and recording vocals. With help from the song’s original vocalist, Josh Cumbee, Armin will rerecord a portion of the vocal track from his single “Sunny Days.”

CHAPTER REVIEW

Armin begins the vocal session by prepping a new Logic project with a stereo mixdown of “Sunny Days.” This helps avoid latency when the vocalist is recording. Armin asks Josh Cumbee to sing the first verse and they complete four takes before Josh comes back into the control room to have a listen.

The most important part of working with a vocalist is making them feel comfortable. An intimidated vocalist won’t perform the way you’d like them to, which costs time and money. Encourage your artist, keep their emotions in mind, and make sure you both have the same goals for the recording session.

LEARN MORE

- If you’re working in Logic Pro, you can read about bouncing your track to a stereo file [here](#).

ASSIGNMENT

- If you have a vocalist you would like to work with, prepare a stereo mixdown of your track in a new project. Record a few takes of your vocal idea, checking in regularly with your artist to make sure they are comfortable.