

THE SELF-RECORDING BAND ACADEMY

MODULE 1 - LESSON 3.2:

**THE ARRANGEMENT - DRUMS, BASS &
RHYTHM TRACKS (GROOVE)**

ARRANGEMENT – DRUMS & BASS

- ▶ What's the groove, the main pattern? Listen to the guitar riff!
- ▶ Should the bass „lock in“ with the drums to create a solid foundation and groove or does it play a different role in your music?
- ▶ Rehearse drums and bass only from time to time!
- ▶ Are all the drum fills and bass lines perfectly playable?
- ▶ Do some drum fills or bass licks mask other, more important stuff?
- ▶ Would simplifying the drum and bass parts help the song?
- ▶ As a drummer and bass player, you have a very important job. And your job doesn't become less important if you don't play as much.

ARRANGEMENT – RHYTHM TRACKS

- ▶ What's the strumming pattern or picking pattern? Does it need to lock in with the drums and bass?
- ▶ If the guitar riff came first (which is often the case), adjust the drums and bass accordingly.
- ▶ If there's multiple guitars / keys, do they lock in with each other? Listen carefully to what everyone else is playing!
- ▶ Can complicated chords be split up into root (or power chords), octaves and harmonies for more clarity?
- ▶ Try adding additional layers (octaves, harmonies, doubles) to make some parts bigger or enhance the vibe of a part.
- ▶ Is there enough space for lead instruments and vocals?
- ▶ Is there enough space in the low-end for the bass to be the foundation without everything becoming muddy?
- ▶ Is there enough space in the top-end to make the cymbals shine without everything becoming harsh and sibilant?
- ▶ What about the stereo image? What's left/right/center? If you only have one rhythm guitar, don't forget to add doubles, if you want a wide stereo mix. Simply copying a part after the fact does not work! If you want it stereo, you have to record it twice, or fill the other side with a different element.