

THE SELF-RECORDING BAND ACADEMY

MODULE 1 - LESSON 3.1:

ARRANGEMENT - THE BIG PICTURE

WHY WORRY ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT?

- ▶ The arrangement determines how much space there is for each element in the mix and how much freedom you have shaping the tone of each element.
- ▶ It also determines how well the song carries emotions and the message of the lyrics. How each part makes the listener feel is largely a matter of arranging it well.
- ▶ It has at least as much influence on the sound of the final product, as mixing.
- ▶ A well arranged song will always sound more professional and will always have more impact than a poorly arranged song, no matter what you do in mixing.

ARRANGEMENT – THE BIG PICTURE

- ▶ Check your transitions and macro-dynamics (loud, heavy parts vs. quiet, soft parts).
- ▶ Find the right tempo. A few bpm up or down can make a huge difference! Also, a song doesn't need to have one tempo from start to finish. Play around with it!
- ▶ Find the right tuning.
- ▶ How dense does each part need to be. Not every instrument has to play all the time.
- ▶ What's „the voice“ of each part?
- ▶ Keep the listener engaged by adding variation and introducing new elements throughout the song.
- ▶ Use exact repetition if you want to make something extra catchy and memorable.
- ▶ Be intentional! Why do you arrange it that way? What's the goal?
- ▶ Be bold, not boring! It's your record, not a copy of something that's already out there.