using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by tngregory - 2011/02/15 07:31

_____

i am a singer/songwriter. i write songs like movie scores with lyrics and i usually make my tracks in logic or live. i had the notion of performing live without a computer. i just got the octatrack last week. have been trying to suss out how best to use it for backing tracks being remixed live.

i've bounced out selected stems from finished tracks and i'm trying to figure out how to get the octatrack to play those full songs in their entirety without looping them at 16, 32, 64, etc. while still having the ability to mess with other tracks that loop regularly.

what i want is for one set of stereo tracks to play "one shot" style from beginning to end.
while simultaneously having other tracks with parameter locks, fx, etc. that can be manipulated live on the fly and loop to the beat against the backing tracks.

first, is this possible? if so, could someone give me insight into how best to organize this?

much obliged for any assistance anyone might be able to provide. i want to make youtube videos of this and will gladly get the word
tngregory

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by darenager - 2011/02/15 08:54

_____

You can set long samples to play by turning loop off, then just trigger them manually.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by gjvti - 2011/02/15 15:10

_____

From what I understand Octatrack at its current stage of development is not quite appropriate for backing purposes. Nice to hear that there is a way how to trigger/play long samples manually at least, but unlooped recording of audio stream longer than 16 seconds is not possible anyway, as well as midi synced (from external source) playback of audio (what is both really important for backing track purposes if you plan to play/overdub arpeggriated performances over your recorded audio material) and most likely won't be possible anytime soon. I asked this to Elektron support and got no replay. So I made conclusion that Octatrack is not intended as backing player/recorder. Its purpose is for chopping and rearranging parts of audio loops. Probably question "I play in a band and sometimes we need backing tracks. Can the Octatrack help us?" in OT FAQ page looks somewhat misleading at the moment.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by brettweldele - 2011/02/15 15:39

_____

the easiest way to get everything in sync is to use grid recording mode. with the longer song length samples, i'd put a trig on step 1 of that track and after it gets triggered by the sequencer, i'd take it off so it won't retrig the next time the sequencer comes around.

the loops with all the plocks would get triggered similarly. you can use mutes to bring tracks in and out.

All of this can be automated with the Arranger.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by daswesen - 2011/02/15 17:47

_____

I'm triggering longer samples using a trig in recording mode, and using the possibility to have different running lengths to

set up, for example:

track 1 has a loop of 32 bars, I set the track length to 64, with speed 1/8x -> 32 bars
track 2 has a loop of 8 bars, I set the track length to 64, with speed 1/2x

and the rest has loops of 2 bars or 1 bar, depending on the stuff.

To record 8 bars, I do the following:

I record on :
- recorder 7 (track 7 plays back the sampled stuff, is 8 bars long, and set the recording trigger on first step, so that it recording the first 4 bars),
- recorder 8 (track 8 is main playback, so I set track length of 8 bars there, and trigger the recording on the start of the 5 bars, and records the last 4 bars),

I play back on track 7, using a FLEX lock on the first step for Recorder 7, and FLEX lock on first step of 5 bar, playing back Recorder 8.

All a bit crazy, I know, but it works. Hopefully there'll be an easier way for this later.

One thing that I'm annoyed with those longer tracks is that switching patterns makes you wait 8 bars, I'd like to have a way to setup the pattern changing immediately or something like that.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by daswesen - 2011/02/15 17:48
_____

Btw, if the explanation above is too complicated, I can draw a quick diagram to explain more carefully.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by data-line - 2011/02/15 17:58
_____

daswesen wrote:

One thing that I'm annoyed with those longer tracks is that switching patterns makes you wait 8 bars, I'd like to have a way to setup the pattern changing immediately or something like that.

Same here too!

It is great to have option to make other tracks longer shorter whatever but it would be super duper if we had the option to switch patterns without finishing the master length.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by mcniplz - 2011/02/15 20:36
_____

data-line wrote:
daswesen wrote:

One thing that I'm annoyed with those longer tracks is that switching patterns makes you wait 8 bars, I'd like to have a way to setup the pattern changing immediately or something like that.

Same here too!

It is great to have option to make other tracks longer shorter whatever but it would be super duper if we had the option to switch patterns without finishing the master length.

YES!
+1
realtime pattern changing (even with a smidgen of 1/16th or 1/4 note quantization) would fit thee OT lovely.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by bob3k - 2011/02/15 22:40
_____

mcniplz wrote:
+1
realtime pattern changing (even with a smidgen of 1/16th or 1/4 note quantization) would fit thee OT lovely.
I'd like to see it on all of the Elektron gear. You actually can set it as an option in the MIDI triggers on the MD. Its in the
Control Map, they call it TRIG and the choices are GATE, STRT, or QUE. But the only way you can use it is with an
external MIDI trigger.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by mcniplz - 2011/02/16 00:14
_____

bob3k wrote:
mcniplz wrote:
+1
realtime pattern changing (even with a smidgen of 1/16th or 1/4 note quantization) would fit thee OT lovely.
I'd like to see it on all of the Elektron gear. You actually can set it as an option in the MIDI triggers on the MD. Its in the
Control Map, they call it TRIG and the choices are GATE, STRT, or QUE. But the only way you can use it is with an
external MIDI trigger.

interesting...thanks for inspiring me to download the manual for thee MD.
Its giving me a general idea on what might p0tentally be available when
future OS is implemented on thee OT.

thread got hijacked a bit,
if not completely inverted.
from
how to handle loooooong samples,
reversed to
how quickly can one change patterns.
:side:

to bring it back, what brettweldele & daswesen stated is how i would go about it.
trig on the one.
drop the scale as low as it can go,
and if you need more time turn the trig off so it wont trigger again when the pattern repeats,
and before the samples over, turn the trig back on.

its the best way i"ve been able to pull it off
and i don't see any implementation in future OS that will improve on it.
but it certainly gets the job done.

respect goes to daswesen for sharing that bit of recording trickery,
i'm going to give that a try.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by diabolik! - 2011/02/16 00:55
_____

pretty disappointing if they don't implement this a little better. its pretty much the reason i bought this machine, especially since they advertised it somewhat heavily as a backing track machine. it seems like it would be easy for them to streamline the process; maybe make a dedicated submenu for backing tracks. as it is now there are just too many hoops to jump through to get the tracks to play back properly. i've got a lot of other stuff happening on stage (playing synth with both hands, tweaking knobs etc), and i need my drum tracks to be foolproof; as it is now there are too many steps in the process where something can go wrong.

don't get me wrong, i'm really loving the octatrack from a production standpoint. i'll probably produce more of my next record on in than on ableton, and thats a good thing. it just kind of sucks that it excels so well at the complicated tasks, while the easier "no-brainer" stuff like backing track functionality is made more complicated than it should be.

FWIW, they way i'm currently doing my backing tracks is to turn off the sequencer, set all tracks to play freely, and then trig the backing track manually. this works ok i guess, but the setup between songs is not as reliable as i need it to be. also, by trigging the track this way, i'm only getting access to one track per song. i had intended on using all 8 tracks per song, with track one being the drum master track, and tracks 2-8 being the seperated component drum tracks (track 2 bass, track 3 snare, etc.) so i could manipulate them on the fly. as it is now, the only way i can see to have them all play at the same time is to manually trig them all at once, which is virtually impossible.

anyway, i know this topic is going to be a little simplistic for most of you here, but i still hope elektron offers a better way to do this in an upcoming OS

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by spasticelastic - 2011/02/16 01:01
_____

I agree! hopefully they'll address playback of backing tracks in a future firmware update.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by sovietpop - 2011/02/16 01:17
_____

Well, i have to say i do agree .
As a backing track machine the Octatrack is not good at all sorry .
I really like the Octatrack for everything else but i really hope they work on the Backtrack aspect because that is one of the reason i bought the Octa.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by juliflash - 2011/06/23 00:03
_____

Hello to everyone.

I was thinking to get an octatrack, but after reading this post Im not sure anymore. I was looking for a way of playing my tracks without a laptop, cause I use to play with hardware and enjoy a lot, I had to change my setup due to airlines restrictions, so I end up doing my live set with ableton and apc-20.

Anyway after searching online a lot, I end up finding the octatrack the most suitable solution for my need, due to the CF streaming wich would allow me to load my live set.

I add a picture so you can see how I organize my live set in ableton once I have all the tracks ready...

Basically in my set, the tracks need to be mixed by hand using the clips, but once I hit the first scene within a track, BPM change to match the new track and the scenes will follow playing automaticly untill the end, the result is like the original estructure, but I can allways change it, mute parts, affect them with effects or create new estructures...

My question is simple, is this possible within the octatrack?

Thanks a lot in advance and sorry for my english :)

All the best! http://elektron-users.com/images/fbfiles/images/ableton_screen.png

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by sputnikviper - 2011/07/19 09:05

_____

I have been using the OT for backing tracks and it works pretty slick and easy to setup if you use the arranger. Here is how I do it.

Setup a part to have 6 different tracks and on each static track is a different backing track . Be sure to nail down the tempo of your track and align the start of the sample perfectly. Set a oneshot recorder trig on each track.
Now got to the ARRANGER and setup an arrangement. I have many songs so I need way more than 8 arrangments. My remedie is putting all the songs (or as many as I want) on the first arrangement. Go into the arrangement edit screen, setup the first step as a naming step, name your song, go to the next step and set that to whichever bank and pattern it is on. Now go to the mute window inside the arrange edit menu and set the correct mutes. I leave tr 6 and 7 always unmuted because those are my thru inputs so I can use outboard synths and drum machines. Then go to the bpm area and set your tempo. In the next row, place a loop to go back to where the song started. Now go to the next row, set a name for the next song, and then got the next row and set the bank, pattern, mute and tempo and so on and so on. Now I can have as many songs in the arrangement area and have the tempos locked as well with all my favorite scenes ready to roll.
Now when you exit the arrange edit menu and you are just in arrangement view, you can use the cursors to move to whichever song you need. Just remember that when you hit stop, you have to hit it twice (sometimes more than that) so that it re-arms your one shot trigs.
I also have midi setup so I can keep all my synths in sync, although I have not found a proper way to send prgrm changes in this type of situation.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by electrolegs - 2011/07/20 19:33

_____

For program changes, just have each song in a different bank.

==

Re:using the octatrack for live backing tracks
Posted by sputnikviper - 2011/07/21 00:09

_____

Thats a good idea, in fact, I could probably just use a few banks, and have 4 songs (parts) per bank. Have a neighbor machine on each song track for added effects to the backing tracks. Then I could have it send out the prgrm changes as well. Good tip
D

==