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## Complex Time Signatures

Posted by nokill - 2011/03/31 15:22

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Hi everybody,

i really like complex time signatures e.g. 5/4, 7/8, 15/8.  
But I can't program them in my hardware sequencer (read MDUW).

So can you give me a hint, how to do this?

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by peлектor - 2011/03/31 17:52

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Hold Function, press scale setup, and choose how many 16th-notes you want the bar to consist of..  
5/4, you need 20.. (this means the track bars should be lit up to include the first four of page two, rest should not light up..)  
7/8, you need 14, 15/8 you need 30..

:)

It's in the manual at page 38..;)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by tIB - 2011/03/31 18:11

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More info here: [http://elektron-users.com/index.php?option=com\\_fireboard&Itemid=28&func=view&catid=9&id=106798](http://elektron-users.com/index.php?option=com_fireboard&Itemid=28&func=view&catid=9&id=106798)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by nokill - 2011/03/31 18:37

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I read the manual, but i can't remember this section.  
Probably I should read it again. ;p

thank you.

Edit: After reread the pages and realize, that i've read them, there is a "new" question...  
When I set 20 for a 5/4, it will result in 20/20 in the MD so I get a 5/5 Beat? Now I'm even more confused....side:

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by peлектor - 2011/03/31 19:52

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Yes, it's a bit confusing. However, what you get is a pattern consisting of 20 16th's notes, and you can choose whatever you want to call that :laugh:

Still, the layout of the MD makes it more of a 5/4, because of the highlighted quarternotes on the trig-buttons..  
:)

You can also edit the pattern length in song-mode, making any pattern you have playing however many 16th-notes you want at any time (takes some editing, but works nice..)

This is very nice if you want different time-signatures in one piece..

What would be even greater, was if it were possible to have different lengths in different tracks!.. As requested by many

in the want-list-thread..

:woohoo:

Guess that's too much coding to implement for the Elektron-guys..

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by teacherofstalker - 2011/03/31 20:14

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nokill wrote:

When I set 20 for a 5/4, it will result in 20/20 in the MD so I get a 5/5 Beat? Now I'm even more confused....side:

If you set a pattern to be 20 'steps' (1 step = one 16th note) long, you're operating in a 'scale' of 20/32. If you wanted 7/8, you'd set the scale to 14/16.

The important number here is the numerator, don't get confused by the denominator value.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by FLEATINGMD - 2011/03/31 22:25

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can anyone post their favorite tracks in odd time signatures?

i use them but only as a poly-rhythm - most of the song in 4/4 and a few bits in an odd time signature. i don't think i've heard (or at least recognized) modern music in odd time signatures.

interested to hear some!

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by Duncan - 2011/03/31 22:57

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Plaid - Abba Eedio  
Reload - Le soliel et la mer  
Radiohead - 15 step

:)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by Mr. Sound Boy King - 2011/03/31 23:12

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March of the Pigs by Nine Inch Nails

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by FLEATINGMD - 2011/03/31 23:25

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Thanks all!

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

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Posted by thay bran - 2011/04/01 01:06

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Autechre  
Black Dog  
;)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by teacherofstalker - 2011/04/01 01:15

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FLEATINGMD wrote:

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interested to hear some!

:angry: That's 'polymetric', not polyrhythmic.. :silly:

Steve Coleman - Rhythm People (6/4 + 6/4 + 6/4 + 7/4 + 6/4 + 6/4 + 6/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0Qj36WiMQ8>

Charlottefield - Again (7/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gK8-iGctk-M>

Alice In Chains - Them Bones (7/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTuD8k3JvxQ>

Autechre - Drane (5/4)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7WKTNb\\_\\_4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7WKTNb__4A)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by LIVESEQ - 2011/04/01 01:44

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teacherofstalker wrote:

FLEATINGMD wrote:

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Steve Coleman - Rhythm People (6/4 + 6/4 + 6/4 + 7/4 + 6/4 + 6/4 + 6/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0Qj36WiMQ8>

Charlottefield - Again (7/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gK8-iGctk-M>

Alice In Chains - Them Bones (7/4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTuD8k3JvxQ>

Autechre - Drane (5/4)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7WKTNb\\_\\_4A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7WKTNb__4A)

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nice selection. 5's and 7's are awesome.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by LIVESEQ - 2011/04/01 01:54

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Not sure what signatures this follows but it's great

Mahavishnu orchestra. Miles beyond

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhtJMrAH5q0>

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by teacherofstalker - 2011/04/01 02:13

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^^ Great stuff. It's 6/4 in the quiet section, the loud is in some different grouping.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by jdn - 2011/04/01 03:29

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qt2WbfotkU>

4/4 -> 6/8 -> 4/4

not that 6/8 is super-complex, but the way they transition is really slick.

-j

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by pelektor - 2011/04/01 05:48

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Duncan wrote:

] Radiohead - 15 step

:)

One of my favourites.. :woohoo:

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by BobTheDog - 2011/04/01 05:55

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Pink Floyds Money really got me into 7/4, I like 5/4 as well I must admit.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by stiiiiiive - 2011/04/01 06:04

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The more than famous Lalo Shiffrin's "Mission: Impossible" theme.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by LIVESEQ - 2011/04/01 06:43

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stiiiiiiive wrote:

The more than famous Lalo Shiffrin's "Mission: Impossible" theme.

nice vid. love the version off the original tv series. conga city :)

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by audible - 2011/04/01 07:30

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some of my fav...

...polyrhythms:

Nine Inch Nails: La Mer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOrBaLMBxJw>

Porcupine Tree: Anesthetize

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuJnV8vYivQ> at 4:22

Philip Glass: Glassworks Opening

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqR2BXOSzug>

...polymeters:

Pink Floyd: Mother

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBkTUzKAiXQ>

Mike Oldfield: Incantations 4 and throughout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umwaw46u5R0> at 2:20

...odd time sigs:

Peter Gabriel: Solsbury Hill (7/4)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMwn\\_hnoS5Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMwn_hnoS5Y)

Genesis: Supper's Ready (9/8)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK1K6cP2Gd0> at 1:59

or the 80s version of the above:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWs2aQliCKg> at 3:44

Insight AD (my metal band :whistle: ): Big Crunch (9/8)

<http://open.spotify.com/track/0XQIk75BvuFEMlqLVnO1l8>

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by RubixGroove - 2011/04/02 05:56

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Hella (Biblical Violence)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdMDcG3zAEI>

Zach Hill (Dark Art, complete with a YouTube time sig. debate!)

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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4kVOJfZg\\_E&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4kVOJfZg_E&feature=related)

Tera Melos (40 Rods to the Hog's Head)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9v-y45F-po&feature=related>

Don Caballero (You Drink a lot of Coffee for a Teenager)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xod\\_CrP-YQs&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xod_CrP-YQs&feature=related)

Don Caballero (Details on how to get ICEMAN on Your License Plate)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToKPRnFb7pA&feature=related>

Just a tiny fraction of a "few".

Peace! :D

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by hageir - 2011/08/05 22:05

I've thought about creating overlays for this (one for 3/4 or 12-step 5/4, 6/4 7/4, etc. maybe one with all? -Different colors?)

It would give you a clear view of what you're doing when you're working with other signatures..

Like the swing for example, try it with 5/4 or even 7/4, it gets a bit confusing (you just have to count, really).

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by 181 - 2011/10/15 17:30

snd and mark fell are great for stuff that shifts or straight up ignores time signatures, esp. fell's latest 2 solo albums... really wanted to find track 2 of this on youtube, that boomkat preview doesn't go long enough:

<http://boomkat.com/downloads/365147-mark-fell-ul8>

also, been forever since I've listened, but the orb's track o.o.b.e. had a really fuckin weird polyrhythm. In the live bootlegs it's more clearly in 3/4.

too lazy to figure out what is happening in this om unit track, 5/8?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5ZkKikink8>

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by TOS - 2011/10/16 10:16

^^ Superb tune that Om Unit one. I'd call it 2/4, with the hi-hats and arpeggiator splicing each beat in 5 sixteenths.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by Amanita - 2011/10/16 15:56

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7JiCZvJh5Q&feature=related>

BT - Dynamic Symmetry. I think its 9/8 or something but i'm not that good at diagnosing these things. The section at around 7.00 is a very obvious useage. Good vid too if you can be bothered to sit it out.....

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by Amanita - 2011/10/16 16:01

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Genesis also used varying time signatures in Turn It On - which was very commercial and fooled alot of school disco dance floors.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by goomba - 2011/10/16 18:33

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Does the machinedrum have different pre-scales like a tr-808 ?

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by TOS - 2011/10/26 03:46

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Amanita, yeah - let's call it 9/4 for clarity.

Goomba, yeah, it's got the tempo multiplier for 1x, 2x, 3/2x and 3/4x.

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American Men - Cool World

Epic epic track. Beginning theme is in 4/4, but grouped into 7/4 + 9/4.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by LIVESEQ - 2011/10/27 01:45

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TOS wrote:

American Men - Cool World

Epic epic track. Beginning theme is in 4/4, but grouped into 7/4 + 9/4.

beautiful stuff. Reminds me of these guys. Link: Three Trapped Tigers

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by hageir - 2011/11/03 00:07

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Duncan wrote:

Radiohead - 15 step

I made a 15-step hip hop track and it's got some sort of funky groove to it..

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by redrum - 2011/11/12 10:20

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You can get some extremly complex time signiture in song mode.

It takes a bit of time and preperation but I just love using the mono's bbox. Set up some 'chords' (not the annoying whistle or cowbell) and use the arpeggio's set the speed to whatever you what. Then set up a second, or several. You

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can come up with some fantastic polyrythems. If you have a stedy kick on the MD. You can get away with some wacky stuff and keep it dance friendly.

You can also get some nice off time retrigs. It's limitless.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by SecretMusic - 2011/11/21 02:01

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No one mentions Frank Zappa when talking about complex time signatures??  
Ha ha, look him up then!

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by LoraineSmith56 - 2011/12/13 15:41

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Hi guys can a complex audio signature be made using fruity loops?

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by hageir - 2012/03/01 00:40

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One thing on my to-do-list is to design a little overlay (for swing)  
that you can put on top of the steps, so you can get a clear view of where the first beat of a bar is (VERY CONFUSING when working in 5/3, 3/4, etc.)

The swing is a really, really important factor, especially in 12-step (3/4).  
Every 2 step of 3 should be swung 70+% for a really nice rhythm.  
But it gets confusing when you have to edit the swing for all the tracks.

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by zfigz - 2012/03/01 01:40

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What do you mean by "every 2 step of 3 should be swung 70+%?"

Do you mean the 2nd step of every third bar?

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## Re:Complex Time Signatures

Posted by ThinkTanx - 2012/03/01 02:23

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hageir wrote:

One thing on my to-do-list is to design a little overlay (for swing)  
that you can put on top of the steps, so you can get a clear view of where the first beat of a bar is (VERY CONFUSING when working in 5/3, 3/4, etc.)

My god, that would be amazing! I agree, I find myself going cross-eyed looking at the steps when in odd times.

=====

## Re:Complex Time Signatures

zfigz wrote:

What do you mean by "every 2 step of 3 should be swung 70+%?"

Do you mean the 2nd step of every third bar?

Sorry for being vague:

In 3/4:

It would be (X = normal S = swung)

XSX |Â XSX | XSX | XSX et cetera.

Or:

SXX |Â SXX | SXX | SXX

but as soon as you work in that 3 step signature it's easy to get lost because of the physical graphics on the Machinedrum/MnM (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - 16 = locked to 4/4)

That's why I need to find some time and do this thing so we can all print it out and mark it with swing, the first hit of each beat, etc. :silly:

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