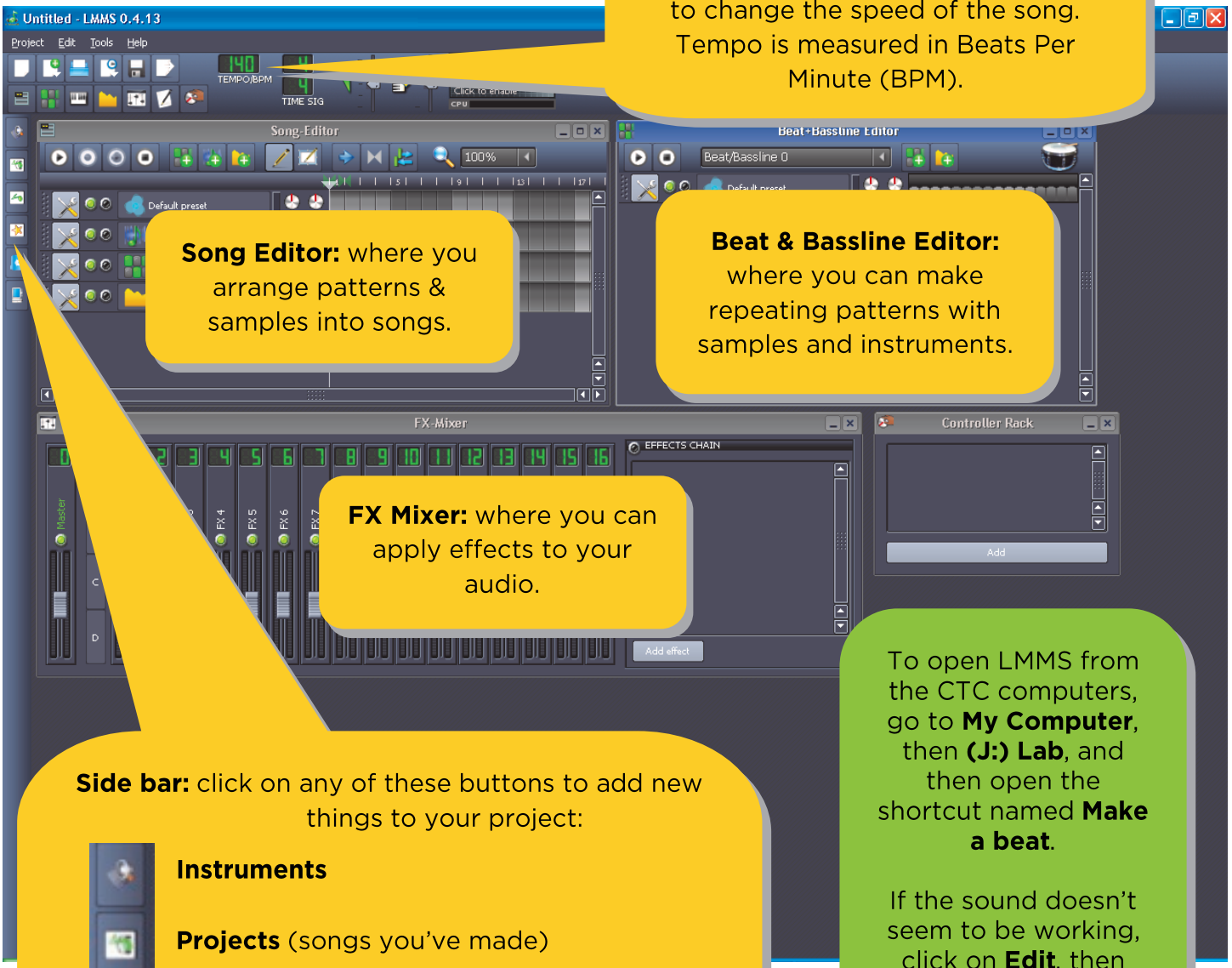
Make your own beats!
LMMS basics

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The basic interface



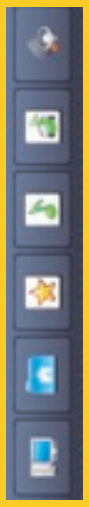
Tempo: click and drag up and down to change the speed of the song. Tempo is measured in Beats Per Minute (BPM).

Song Editor: where you arrange patterns & samples into songs.

Beat & Bassline Editor: where you can make repeating patterns with samples and instruments.

FX Mixer: where you can apply effects to your audio.

Side bar: click on any of these buttons to add new things to your project:



Instruments

Projects (songs you've made)

Samples (basses, drums, etc.)

Presets (saved settings for instruments)

My home documents (My Documents, etc.)

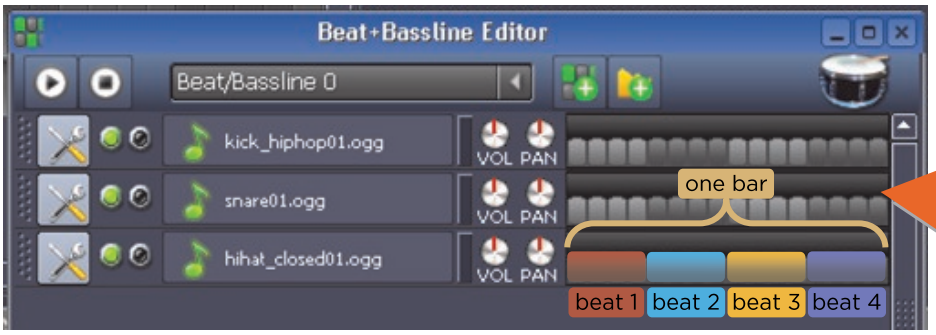
My computer (your drives)

To open LMMS from the CTC computers, go to **My Computer**, then **(J:) Lab**, and then open the shortcut named **Make a beat**.

If the sound doesn't seem to be working, click on **Edit**, then **Settings**. Click on **Audio Settings** (the speaker icon) and change the audio interface to "**SDL (Simple DirectMedia Layer).**"

Making your first beat





4 Each sample you brought over has its own **step editor**. By default, LMMS starts with 4 beats in a bar, with each bar divided into quarter beats.



5 Click on a step to make the sample sound on that beat. Click again to remove a step.

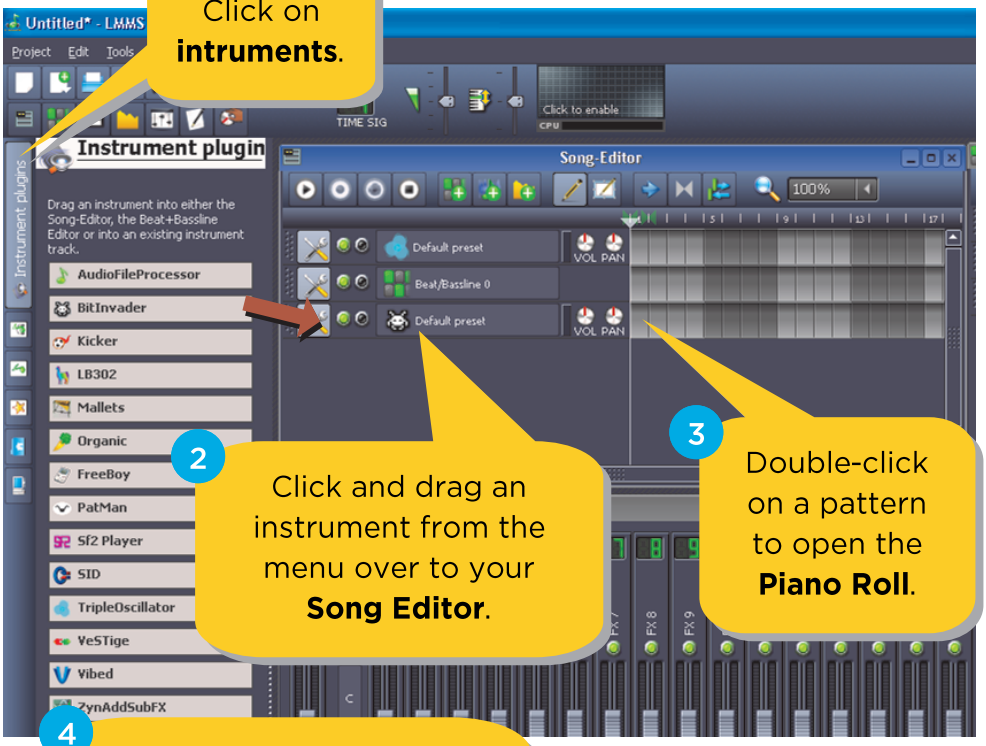
6 Click on the play button (or hit the space bar) to hear your beat.



7 In the **Song Editor**, click in the timeline next to your pattern to add it to the song.

Adding instruments

1 Click on **intruments**.



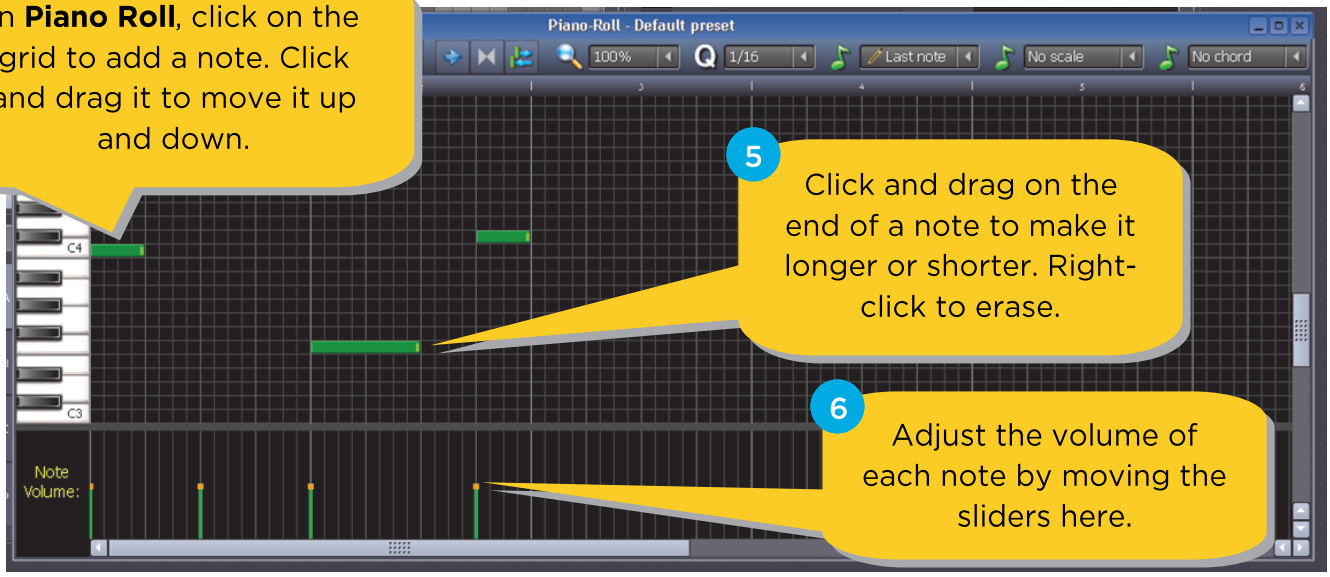
2 Click and drag an instrument from the menu over to your **Song Editor**.

3 Double-click on a pattern to open the **Piano Roll**.

LMMS is what is referred to as a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) program. (Others include FL Studio, ACID, Ableton, etc.)

The majority of DAWs can use the VST (Virtual Studio Technology) interface. VST plugins are virtual instruments or effects - LMMS comes with many preinstalled. There are many more free VSTs out on the web.

4 In **Piano Roll**, click on the grid to add a note. Click and drag it to move it up and down.



5 Click and drag on the end of a note to make it longer or shorter. Right-click to erase.

6 Adjust the volume of each note by moving the sliders here.



7 Back in the **Song Editor**, you will see your pattern. Hold down the CTRL key and drag a pattern to copy it. Delete a pattern by clicking with the middle mouse button.

Some tips for making a good beat:

- **Start with a kick on the first beat** to establish a downbeat, when listeners can tell when a new bar starts.
- It often helps to **start with a snare on beats 2 and 4** - they provide a strong skeleton to with which to build the rest of your beat
- Don't forget to **play with the tempo.** Changing the speed at which your beat is played will drastically change the tone and atmosphere of your song.
- **Change your drum sounds!** Electronica drums sound different than reggae sound different than punk. Mix up your drum samples to create new tones with the same beat.

Some sample beat patterns

Basic hip-hop: 80-110 BPM



Reggaeton: 90-150 BPM



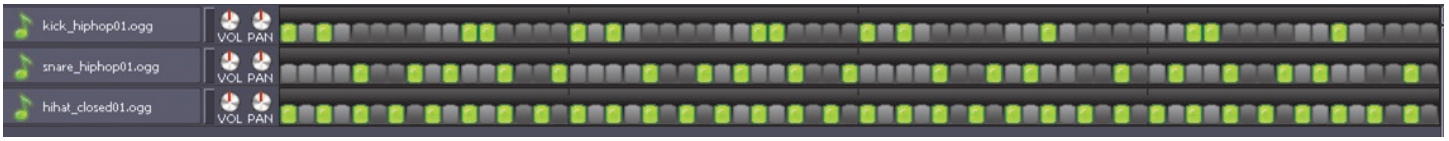
Techno (four on the floor): 120-150 BPM



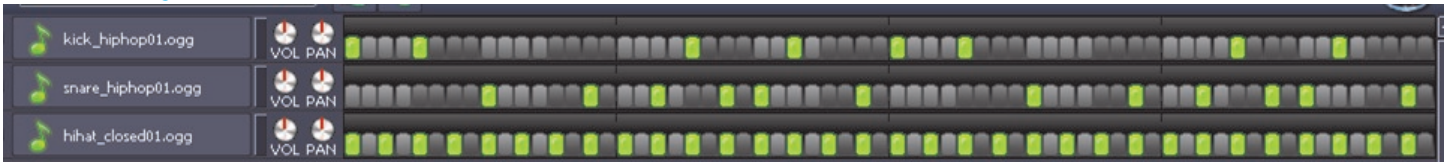
Dancehall: 95-115 BPM



The Amen Break: 135 BPM (played at 150-170 for drum and bass)



The Funky Drummer Break: 195 BPM



WHERE TO GET MORE HELP:

The CTC: come to the desk and ask for help, schedule a 1-on-1 tutoring lesson, come to more classes, or attend one of our open labs to answer your questions.

The LMMS wiki: The LMMS webpage has a getting started guide and other tutorials at: http://lmms.sourceforge.net/wiki. You can also get to it from the Help menu in LMMS.

YouTube: search for "LMMS tutorial" and watch one of the 600+ video tutorials posted.

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