TRANSITION: THE KEY TO DJING
How to Smoothly Transition Between Songs

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Transition is the key to producing quality music. This report is designed to help improve your productions by teaching you the valuable qualities and techniques that make up transition. You will learn about the different styles of transition that depend on your style of DJing: Equalizer (EQ) or Scratch. Also, you will become more informed about the qualities of good transition: beat synchronization, EQ blend, swapping basslines and tone matching. I guarantee that reading this will not only improve your DJ skill set, it will also begin attracting other benefits into your life as a result of success in producing smooth, transitional music. Benefits such as an increase in reputation/popularity, money and travels for all the hours of practice that are required to master this skill. No matter your skill level, this report will teach you ways to improve your sets and productions, giving you the opportunity to connect with the world through the musical bridge and transition.

In a world where competition increases by the minute, mastering the skill of transition will give you a significant advantage against other DJs and producers. Furthermore, transition will improve all of your future work and even has the capability to fix previous mistakes. This booklet is guaranteed to make difficult DJ qualities and techniques such as beat synchronization, EQ blend, swapping basslines, tone matching, effect usage and song selection easy to learn through my simplified system.

Our system is designed to teach you transition for both the studio and live events. During a live event such as a set, it is crucial to have certainty about the transition from song A to song B since this can either “make you or break you” in terms of reputation. Similarly, while producing music it is also important to make sure that all sections of the production are harmonious. The harmonious sound should be able to take your audience on a journey, this is why people commonly recall specific memories due to music. Smooth transition is key to increasing your DJ credibility. Bumpin’s system will increase your credibility through smooth transition mastery.

Along with credibility is the scarcity of relevant venues. Credibility of a DJ with good transition skills is the answer to getting the chance to perform at relevant venues such as Pacha, Space and Webster Hall in NYC. The competitive edge obtained by transition will present these opportunities, along with many more, once you have mastered the skill.
Nevertheless, there is no room for error once you gain access to these opportunities. Many hours of practice are required and every gig counts, transition is a skill that becomes a habit over time. Live events will require you to be able to arrive in fashion and leave with requests (maybe even an encore), this will occur once you master the qualities and techniques of transition.

The goal is to be able to make events and productions sound like a continuous melody, not separated by any distortion or off-beat errors. Distortion occurs when one subtle song is transitioned into a loud, bass-filled song (this is also an advanced DJ effect that you can learn to master after years of practice and excellent song recognition). Achieving this goal will mark a new chapter for your current DJ status by opening up new doors. Transition mastery will greatly benefit your DJ career towards success, popularity and prosperity.

PREREQUISITES

Characteristics, Equipment and Experience Evaluation

DJs face many responsibilities. From practicing at home to being the last one to leave the party, being a DJ is no easy task for the ordinary man. First, you need to have patience, coordination and superior anticipation for your audience wants and needs. Patience is necessary because some songs take longer than others to drop, this is the ideal time phase for transition. Transition comes into play with coordination since you will be required to react at an exact moment for the skill to translate over to your productions. Audience want/need anticipation is also very important as a prerequisite because knowing what type of music the audience wants/needs will change the transition style. Responsibilities faced by DJs requires you to have these prerequisites before you can begin learning transition.

Equipment is the next step. In order to begin implementing transition into your work I recommend either a Pioneer DDJ or Numark brand controller for beginner and intermediate level DJs since they are simple to use and have most of the functions that separate CDJs and mixers have. For experts, I recommend purchasing the separate CDJs and mixer for compatibility at professional-grade clubs and venues. Speakers also make a big difference. For studio use I recommend KRK studio monitors, the size will depend on how big your studio is. On the other hand, if you are looking to perform at a party, club or other venue then you should purchase powered speakers. Personally, JBL and Electric Voice brands are quality but a bit pricier than the rest. Nonetheless, they are built to last for a long time. Quality equipment is an important variable for good transition.
Depending on your DJ experience, you will need to evaluate your current skills and necessities. For example, if you are a beginner, you need to figure out what type of DJ you want to become and start building a musical library for your future career. Also, beginners need to become familiar with the equipment; hi, mid and low knobs, effect buttons and the software that they use. My software preference is Serato but many DJs also use Rane. Intermediate skilled DJs usually have a better idea of their skills and potential, they also know the basic controls of their equipment. Expert DJs do not need to put much thought into this prerequisite since most of them have already created their personal style and usually look to learn new effects and techniques, not transition entirely. Personal evaluation is vital to the learning process and the next steps for transition mastery.

Prerequisites are the first step to the transition learning experience. You will need to ensure that all of these requirements are fulfilled before you can begin learning the ins and outs of how to improve your music through using this valuable skill. Throughout my DJ experience these three prerequisites have been some of the most fundamentally safe investments that I have used to increase my DJ human capital potential. I am certain that you will benefit from using these tips, transition highly depends on your prerequisite success.

**Benefits of Transition Mastery**

**Music variety, FX effect and DJ Drops**

Transition within your productions will benefit your overall performance for three main reasons. The opportunity to vary your music lineup, the FX effect and DJ drops are three of the main reasons why transition will begin to attract a bigger, more diversified audience and help you market yourself. These benefits can be experienced at any skill level around the world, this is why I emphasize that the world is connected by a musical bridge, it gives people a mutual sensation with it is quality production. I am positive that you will enjoy these benefits as you begin to learn the skill of transition.

The opportunity for music variety during a set is a huge advantage. As a DJ you most likely begin with one type of audience that is attracted to a specific sector of music genres. This does not have to be true for your entire career since transition can help you blend together different music genres so that you can begin attracting other individuals and even introduce new music to your original fans. This benefit is even more appealing since it will give you the opportunity to start performing at venues that would not have been available if it was not for transition. During my time DJing, I have experimented with music variety and it has brought me new opportunities as well as improved reputation. Transition will do the same for anyone who has the passion and interest in experimenting with different music genres for a wider range of people.
The usage of FX throughout music production is essential to a DJs success. Programs such as Serato provide an entire collection of FXs (some that are free and the rest need to be purchased). While DJing, it is important to use these tools because they will make transition extremely easy, it is almost like using a cheat code in a video game. I personally enjoy utilizing filters, echoes and delays since they are easy to detect and popular within the music industry that I am part of, Electric Dance Music. The key to using this benefit to your full advantage is testing out the FXs to find your personal favorites, there are too many to list them all but here is a short list of my favorites available on the Serato DJ software platform:

- Tape Echo
- Combo Tape Echo
- Time Freeze
- Bass Ducker
- Pitch Delay
- Bit Crush
- Repeater

The FX effect is something remarkable that you will get the chance to experience for yourself once you begin using these tools throughout your DJ career. FX make transition easy and if used correctly, will make your audience beg for more of your production.

DJ drops are great for personal marketing. This benefit is also a great tool for easy transition. A drop is a simple voice recording of your DJ name or just a quote to hype up the crowd. I prefer using my DJ name (Mani) as my drop, it is an easy way to go from song A to song B without having to use too much strategy while getting your name out there at the simultaneously. Usually, drops need to be purchased through the internet or a producer if you know one and do not cost much, on average they are $20. Nonetheless, this small investment is perfect for marketing and transition purposes, I highly recommend using this benefit during your career.

**STEPS FOR TRANSITION**

**Beat Synchronization. Equalizer Blend. Swapping Basslines and Tone Matching**

Beat synchronization is the first step to transition for any DJ. Beats per minute (BPM) can be matched automatically through most DJ software programs. Even so, automatic BPM sync is not respected by most DJs, this is why it is important to learn how to manually match beats. Luckily, learning to match BPM is not hard at all, it takes three simple steps:

1. First, pick two songs (ideally within the same music genre)
2. Second, identify the BPM for song loaded on deck A
3. Finally, adjust the pitch level for deck B until the BPMs match for both decks

These three simple steps are the foundation to transition. BPM matching is the first thing you need to do before you can begin adding effects and drops into your transitions.
Equalizer blend is the original transitional tool. EQ was the only tool available before FXs were invented, this is why it is a harder concept to learn. Nevertheless, this concept is foundational to your success as a DJ. In order to blend EQ you need to become familiar with the hi, mid and low pitch knobs located on the mixer section of your equipment. The hi knob controls the volume for the high frequency sounds such as violin and flute. The mid knob controls the volume for the middle frequency sounds such as cello and oboe. And the low knob controls the volume for the low frequency sounds such as bass and baritone (bass sounds overall). Learning how to blend EQ will depend on the songs that you decide to use, but this will require many hours of practice and experimenting. Ideally, I like to cut off the bass when transitioning over to another song but there are other ways to go about this, all it takes is practice and song recognition. With these descriptions you will be able to figure out how to blend songs by cutting off and increasing hi, mid and low pitches. EQ blend can be used separately or together with other transition tools, it is a great concept to learn.

- **Swapping Basslines** goes along with EQ blend. The low end variable is considered the bass of a song, this is very important to keep in mind when transitioning. Bass takes the majority of a songs emphasize, this is why it is ideal to cut it off before transitioning to song B. After cutting off song A’s low end, you may want to add an effect or even a drop to make the transition even smoother. After this, you can begin to increase song B’s low end to continue shaking the party with bass. Low end is important to any music production but it can also ruin your music instantly, this is why you want to master this skill along with EQ blend.

Tone matching is the final foundational skill necessary for transition. Equalizing songs cannot be emphasized enough, this is why tone is yet another important EQ lesson. Tone has to do with the EQ range that depends on the music genre and time period of when a song was released. Nowadays, it is not too hard to match tones because most music production is done professionally inside of a studio with quality equipment. However, using music from previous years and of different music genres will make it hard to match tones. Overall, you may want to cut out the mid of older tracks and increase the highs when scratching. Tone matching is not as important as the previous three steps but it will also determine the quality of your music production. This technique is also harder to learn but by mastering the previous steps you will get used to tone matching and it will become a habit within all of your music.

Transition is made up of countless techniques that continue to improve by the day. Still, these four fundamental techniques are required before you can start using the newer, more modern transitional tools that sound engineers and DJs alike have created in recent years. Learning these techniques will guarantee a solid transition that will attract many people to your music.

Just like there are different genres in music, there are also different types of DJs

The previous techniques can be used for both EQ and Scratch specialty DJs. Yet, there are some techniques that must be learned separately for each type of DJ.

Overall, there are two broad categories for DJs: EQ and Scratch
Based on your style follow the tips accordingly:
**Equalizer DJs**

This style is usually associated with slower, similar music genres such as house, techno, R&B, trance and other similar genres. This also means that the transition process is less riskier due to the more time and space for error as a result of the average beats per minute (110-140 BPM).

Smooth transition for this style of DJ is made possible mostly through the use of effects and the control of the hi, mid and low EQ variables.

- Effects may be used throughout your entire set, even during songs. Transition purpose effects are ideal when you have two distinct songs with either no beat or tone match, this can also be replaced by adding a drop. The best way to master this technique is to play around with all of the effects available and create your customized list of your favorites. Effects are gold in the DJ industry, make sure you use them wisely.
- EQ will also take experimenting to master. Once you have a lengthy music library and recognize the songs, you will be able to identify what frequencies you may want to increase or cut off before transitioning to song B. I recommend learning EQ match for any DJ, it is the foundation to many other skills.

**Scratch DJs**

This style is usually associated with faster, more diversified music genres such as hip-hop, reggae, reggaeton, salsa, merengue and other similar genres. This also means that the transition process is more riskier due to the less time and space for error as a result of the average beats per minute (85-100 BPM).

Smooth transition for scratch DJs is made possible through the common use of effects, drops and scratches such as the Tear, Chirp and Uzi techniques.

- Effects are not as important for this style of DJ as for EQ styled. Nevertheless, scratch DJs use effects for genre music transition, when they go from one genre to another. This technique helps to blend in the different BPMs. Effects are still very valuable to this DJ but scratch techniques are the go to alternative for this style.
- Drops are used much more than effects by scratch DJs. My good friend DJ Wikii uses this technique about 15 times per night (usually around 5 hours) because of the quick transitions that he makes and the high risk involved in these mixes. Drops are a good way to spread a message or market your brand name anywhere you produce music, while concealing any distortion for smooth transition to occur.
- Scratches are the number one technique for this style. Tear, chirp and uzi techniques are some of the most popular scratches. These techniques involve very fast hand motions and extremely accurate time coordination in order to sound good. It is very easy to make mistakes in the process of these techniques.
You can learn more about scratches through our online lessons available on our website. In relation to their difficulty, it takes more time to master scratches than the rest of the transitional techniques. Scratches are essential for this DJ style.

Once you master transition; prove yourself, many doors will open up for you.

The transitional stage in your DJ career will highly depend on this extremely important skill. Transition in life can be compared to the one used in music in many ways, it is how we take the people in our lives through a journey that they can easily describe and for the most part, enjoy. Your goal should be to master this skill, use it during your music production and the rest will come naturally. You will make better music, attract new audience and introduce benefits into your life as a DJ by learning to use transition to your advantage. No matter your skill level, these techniques will make the quality of your music better than ever before. I invite you to join us for a journey through more lessons on DJing available now on our website. Also, visit our site for EDM news, music, and event information.

For more information visit us at: www.Bumpin.com
I wish you much success during your learning experience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jose Zambrano

Jose A. Zambrano