

60 Day Ableton Live 10 Routine

Introduction

Having a solid understanding of your DAW is one of the most important skills any producer can have.

This is because by knowing your DAW, you'll be able to turn the musical ideas inside your head into complete songs.

Even when inspiration isn't there, understanding your DAW and the tools in it will allow you to explore sound in multiple ways and create sounds that no one's ever heard of.

That's why when we created our Ableton Live 10 Masterclass, we carefully designed it to help you develop ALL the necessary skills inside this DAW.

By the end of it, you'll be able to navigate seamlessly around Live 10, get the most out of its unique features, and create professional tracks.

Getting to this point may not seem like an easy task, but that's why we've broken the entire Masterclass down into a 60 day program. By following this schedule, you'll be able to learn everything at an easy-to-follow pace.

That's because this 60 day routine takes the "overwhelmingness" out of learning and helps you grasp all the concepts in a timely, organized manner. Even if you can only set aside a limited amount of time throughout your day, you'll still be able to easily tackle all the modules and tasks for the day.

This schedule is of course just a suggestion, but we still highly encourage you to follow this pace or at least something similar to get absorb the information in the most effective way.

The cool part is, even if you decide to go through the Ableton Live 10 Masterclass more than once (which is recommended), following this pace will help you exponentially grow your knowledge each time you go through it, as opposed to catching up on the concepts you missed the first time.

Good luck!

P.S. Just know that sometimes you're bound to have bad days where the information might not make any sense. When this happens, though, don't get frustrated. It's all part of the journey.

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Beginner

Day 1: Watch "Ableton Live 10 Essential Training"

Exercise: Spend 1 hour navigating the interface of Ableton Live 10. Make sure to set up your Audio Preferences and start familiarizing yourself with the several features at your disposal. Don't be afraid to start dragging in sounds and clips to experiment.

Day 2: Watch part 1-4 of the "Ableton Live 10 Quickstart Course".

Exercise: Spend time familiarizing yourself with how to make a beat using the various techniques exemplified in this course. Once you have created a beat that you are comfortable with, start adding basses, synths, and FX using the techniques you have learned in these videos.

Day 3: Watch part 5-8 of the "Ableton Live 10 Quickstart Course".

Exercise: Spend some time exploring the MIDI effects offered in Ableton Live 10, and see if you can use them in a fun and creative way to improve your composition from Day 2. Once you feel familiar with some of the MIDI effects, start to arrange your composition into a full fledged song.

If you followed along with the course and exercises, you will already have already made your first basic track!

Day 4: Watch "Using 3rd Party VST Plugins in Ableton Live 10" and "Setting Up Your Default Template".

Exercise: Spend some time browsing 3rd party VST plugin options - we highly recommend looking into Xfer's Serum as your first 3rd party synthesizer! After that, create your own default template in Ableton Live 10. Feel free to put your new template and VSTs to use by repeating the exercises from Day 2 and 3 to make another basic track!

Day 5: Watch "The Importance of Learning Shortcuts in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Continue making basic compositions and arrangements, but see if you can speed up the process by using at least 3 of the shortcuts that you have learned in this tutorial.

Day 6: Watch "The Beginner's Guide To Writing Drums in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Create 2 basic house drum loops, and 2 basic hip-hop drum loops.

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Beginner (Continued)

Day 7: Watch part 1-4 of "The Basics of Working with Vocals in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Find an acapella stem from a royalty free sample pack, remix competition, or our free project file called "Undercover". See if you can apply some of the basic warping techniques you have learned to change the BPM of the vocal stem. Then, apply a noise-gate and compressor to the vocal stem and listen to how they change the sound of your vocal.

Day 8: Watch part 5-8 of "The Basics of Working with Vocals in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: See if you can identify any tuning fixes that you can make to the vocal stem. If not, spend some time playing with creative FX on the vocal to make it sound more interesting or exciting.

Day 9: Watch part 1-4 of "The Basics of Mixing in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Open the project file for the track you made during Day 2 and 3 and apply the mixing techniques from this video. Organize the project by grouping tracks and start gain staging and applying EQ's where you see fit to improve your mixdown.

Day 10: Watch part 5-9 of "The Basics of Mixing in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Apply and practice the new mixing techniques from today's portion of the course by continuing to mix the track you opened yesterday. Feel free to use a reference track to compare and improve your mixdown.

Day 11: Watch "Everything New in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: You can either start a new project, or go back to the projects you have made in earlier exercises. Challenge yourself to use 3 new Ableton Live 10 audio effects in the track, and try to incorporate the Wavetable synthesizer either by using presets or making your own experimental sounds.

Day 12: Congratulations! You've finished the beginner section of the Ableton Live 10 Masterclass!

Exercise: Spend some time practicing your favorite techniques that you have learned in this section. See if you can apply what you have learned (such as shortcuts) without having to reference the video content. If you feel comfortable, don't be afraid to further explore Ableton on your own!

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Intermediate

Day 13: Watch part 1-4 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Instruments".

Exercise: Take a look at the presets for Analog, Collision, Electric, and Impulse. See if any of the sounds spark your interest and would be useful in the previous tracks you've made. Don't be afraid to experiment and make your own sounds too!

Day 14: Watch part 5 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Instruments".

Exercise: Familiarize yourself with all the features and parameters of Operator. This instrument is a bit more complex than the previous ones so take your time here. Apply what you've learned and make 1 Bass sound, 1 Lead sound, and 1 Pluck sound.

Day 15: Watch part 6-8 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Instruments".

Exercise: Drag in 1 drum sample and 1 synth sample into Sampler. Experiment with the features in Sampler that allow you to mold these sounds. Now do the same with Simpler. After that, open up Tension and browse the presets to gain a better understanding of what this instrument is capable of.

Day 16: Watch part 9 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Instruments".

Exercise: Familiarize yourself with all the features and parameters of Wavetable. Browse the presets and see if any of the sounds spark your interest and would be useful in the previous tracks you've made. This section will prepare you for the advanced Wavetable course later in the curriculum.

Day 17: Watch part 1-5 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Audio Effects".

Exercise: Spend some time applying various audio effects to the sounds and tracks you have made in previous exercises. Try and make some basic processing chains using EQ, compression, delay, and distortion.

Day 18: Watch part 6-10 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live Audio Effects".

Exercise: Spend some time applying various audio effects to the sounds and tracks you have made in previous exercises. Try and extend your processing chains from the previous exercise by adding modulation FX and some of the new Ableton Live 10 audio effects.

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Intermediate (Continued)

Day 19: Watch part 1-3 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live MIDI Effects".

Exercise: Spend some time making a MIDI loop or finding one that you like from a sample pack. Apply some of the various MIDI effects that you have learned about to the MIDI to see if you can improve it or make it more interesting. Alternatively, you can revisit your projects from earlier exercises and experiment with MIDI effects to change and improve them.

Day 20: Watch part 4-6 of "Production Fundamentals: Ableton Live MIDI Effects".

Exercise: Spend some time making a MIDI loop or finding one that you like from a sample pack. Apply some of the various MIDI effects that you have learned about to the MIDI to see if you can improve it or make it more interesting. Alternatively, you can revisit your projects from earlier exercises and experiment with MIDI effects to change and improve them.

Day 21: Watch the "Ultimate Guide to EQ in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Drag EQ Three and EQ Eight onto any melody loop or drum loop of your choosing. Familiarize yourself with the features that each of these stock EQ's contain and experiment with them by EQing sounds in different ways - try doing a high cut, low cut, and bandpass to start.

Day 22: Watch the "Ultimate Guide to Compression in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load Ableton's Compressor onto a track with any drum loop of your choosing. Familiarize yourself with this plugin and the concept of compression by making extreme adjustments to the knobs. This will let you hear how the drum loop is affected by each setting. You can also try this with melody loops and/or vocal loops. Now, do the same with with Ableton's Multiband Compressor and Glue Compressor.

Day 23: Watch "How to Create Your Perfect 'Go To' Sample Pack Using Collections".

Exercise: Open Ableton Live 10 and start adding and categorizing your favorite samples using the Collections feature!

Day 24: Watch "How to Make Huge Buildups in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Recreate the buildup in this tutorial as close as you can with your own samples; go back and watch slowly, pausing as you go to create each part in Ableton Live 10. Then, make your own original build up using the same format and techniques from this video.

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Intermediate (Continued)

Day 25: Watch “How to Sidechain Perfectly Everytime in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Load Ableton’s compressor and set up the sidechain compression technique you learned in this video. Write a kick drum pattern (it can be a simple 4-to-the-floor beat) and apply this technique to sidechain a melody loop to your kick pattern.

Day 26: Watch “Mastering MIDI: Shortcuts, Tips, & Tricks”

Exercise: Write 3 original drum loops using Ableton’s Drum Rack and the Piano Roll. Apply the MIDI shortcuts and tricks you learned in this video to speed up the process!

Day 27: Congratulations! You’ve finished the intermediate section of the Ableton Live 10 Masterclass!

Exercise: Spend some time practicing your favorite techniques that you have learned in this section. Use what you have learned (such as Ableton’s stock instruments and effects) to make loops without referencing the video content. You can experiment further with compression and EQing as well to gain a deeper understanding of these important concepts.

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Advanced

Day 28: Watch part 1-5 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Open Wavetable in Ableton Live 10 and review all the different sections and features. Then spend some time opening several different stock presets (try different basses, leads, plucks, pads, and more) and analyze how the oscillators, filters, mod sources, and matrix work together to make these presets.

Day 29: Watch part 6 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Create 5 Bass sounds using the new techniques you learned. Save them to your personal sound library for later use.

Day 30: Watch part 7 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Create 5 Pad sounds using the new techniques you learned. Save them to your personal sound library for later use.

Day 31: Watch part 8 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Create 5 Lead sounds using the new techniques you learned. Save them to your personal sound library for later use.

Day 32: Watch part 9 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Create 5 Pluck sounds using the new techniques you learned. Save them to your personal sound library for later use.

Day 33: Watch part 10 of “The Ultimate Guide to Synthesis in Wavetable”.

Exercise: Create 3 Chord Stack sounds using the new techniques you learned. Save them to your personal sound library for later use.

Day 34: Watch part 1-4 of “Max for Live”.

Exercise: Open any track or loop you’ve created in Ableton Live 10 and use the Multi Analyzer and the Oscilloscope from Max for Live to assess the waveform and spectrum of your sounds. Familiarize yourself with these tools and use them to study and understand your mix more clearly. Then, experiment with Shaper and map it to various parameters (such as track volume or an Auto Filter) to

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Advanced (Continued)

Day 35: Watch part 5-7 of "Max for Live".

Exercise: Use Impact from Max For Live to process two different drum loops of your choosing (preferably drum loops from different genres or styles to see how this audio effect works in different environments). Experiment with the parameters of Impact and apply what you learned to beef up these drum loops. Then load Convolution Reverb onto a melody or instrument loop and experiment with the different functions of this plugin.

Day 36: Watch part 1-2 of "Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load in a lead loop or preset and create an Audio Effect Rack to process it. Use techniques and effects from this video, as well as your own creative effects if you want!

Day 37: Watch part 3 of "Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load in a bass loop or preset and create an Audio Effect Rack to process it. Use techniques and effects from this video, as well as your own creative effects if you want!

Day 38: Watch part 4 of "Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load in a full track that you previously produced and create a master chain for it. Use techniques and effects from this video to properly master your track!

Day 39: Watch part 5 of "Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load in a drum loop and create an Audio Effect Rack to process it. Use techniques and effects from this video, as well as your own creative effects if you want!

Day 40: Watch part 6 of "Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10".

Exercise: Load in an acapella stem from a royalty free sample pack, remix competition, or our free project file called "Undercover" and create an Audio Effect Rack to process it. Use techniques and effects from this video, as well as your own creative effects if you want!

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Advanced (Continued)

Day 41: Watch part 7-8 of “Creating Advanced Processing Chains in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Load in any sort of chord loop, drop loop, or even a full track that you produced and practice creating washout racks using the techniques and effects from this video.

Pro tip: Ableton Live 10 allows you to save instrument and effect racks. Just like saving presets, saving racks is useful if you want to reuse them quickly in different projects in the future. If you take the time to remake and save the racks in this section of the course, you will have 6 great racks to use in future projects.

Day 42: Watch part 1-3 of “Advanced Mixing in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Load in the stems from a track you produced, a remix competition, or our free project file called “Undercover” (make sure the track you choose has a vocal stem, as this will be useful later in this course). Organize these stems through proper grouping and color-coordination. Then assess the mix and apply dynamics processing as you see fit, using what you learned in these videos to guide you.

Day 43: Watch part 4-7 of “Advanced Mixing in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Continue the mixing process that you previously started; this time add sound coloration, vocal processing, and mixbus processing. Keep in mind the tips and techniques applied in these videos as you work through your own mixdown.

Day 44: Watch part 8-9 of “Advanced Mixing in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Finish off your first extensive mixdown by applying automation (if necessary) and other techniques shown in these videos. Reference your new mixdown with the original to see how you changed the overall sound and quality.

Day 45: Watch part 1-3 of “Mastering in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Make sure your desk is properly positioned in your room and your studio monitors are appropriately aligned. Invest in acoustic foam panels (If your budget permits) and apply any other changes that are highlighted in these videos. Next, load in the project that you previously mixed from Days 42 to 44. Experiment with different compressors and listen for the sound flavors (as

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Advanced (Continued)

Day 46: Watch part 4-6 of “Mastering in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: Continue mastering the track from Day 45. Use the tips and techniques from these videos to help you appropriately apply M/S EQ and stereo width changes, high end improvements, and limiting.

Day 47: Watch part 7-9 of “Mastering in Ableton Live 10”.

Exercise: The master you’ve been doing during Day 45 and 46 should be nearing completion. Familiarize yourself with the different types of masters (Vinyl vs. CD vs. MP3) and amend any final touches you deem necessary before exporting.

Day 48: Congratulations! You’ve finished the advanced section of the Ableton Live 10 Masterclass!

Exercise: Take the day to review and practice your favorite techniques from this section. When it comes to sound design, mixing, and mastering, practice and patience is key! Continue to experiment with your own tracks and continuously apply and develop what you’ve learned to get better.

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Start To Finish

For the Start To Finish course section, we highly encourage you to create the songs in the courses along with us.

Pick two of the genres that you are most interested, watch the courses, and we will create the tracks together!

Make sure to download the Project Files for the courses so you can access all the files and follow along with us.

Because each Start To Finish course is different in structure and length, it's hard to set specific days. So pick 2 of the courses and get started!

Day 49-52: Watch the first "Start To Finish" course you chose.

Exercise: After you watch each section of the course, spend some time each day recreating the things you have learned from the video. This will help the new knowledge stick better and give you an idea of how to apply various sound design techniques in the process of making a full track.

Day 53-56: Watch the second "Start To Finish" course you chose.

Exercise: After you watch each section of the course, spend some time each day recreating the things you have learned from the video. This will help the new knowledge stick better and give you an idea of how to apply various sound design techniques in the process of making a full track.

Day 57-60: To finish your 60 day journey, spend 4 days creating your own song from scratch using the techniques you have learned throughout this course!

Note: Don't forget, you can always watch the other Start To Finish courses if you want to! You will pick up tons of new techniques even if you don't create the genre covered in the course.

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Conclusion

By now, you've completed the curriculum and should be extremely confident within Ableton Live 10, and even be able to translate most of the ideas you have in your mind into completed tracks.

Sometimes, improving your understanding the fundamentals can completely reinspire you. Now that you have that down, you should be trying to push boundaries without being limited by anything else.

These first 60 days should have paved the way for an amazing future in music production. It's the perfect time to take the tools and knowledge you've gained and create some amazing music.