

LEARNING MADE EASY



2nd Edition

# GarageBand<sup>®</sup>

for  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand



Use built-in instruments  
to create songs

Attach your guitar or mic  
to record live sounds

Mix, master, and export  
your masterpiece

**Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus**

Technology columnist for  
the *Houston Chronicle*



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2nd Edition

**by Bob LeVitus**

*Houston Chronicle "Dr. Mac" columnist*

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dummies<sup>®</sup>**  
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## **GarageBand® For Dummies®, 2nd Edition**

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# GarageBand® For Dummies®

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[FIGURE 21-1: My iPad Pro is the bandleader and created this jam session.](#)

[FIGURE 21-2: My iPhone X \(member\) joining my iPad Pro \(bandleader\) jam session.](#)

[FIGURE 21-3: Sharing my eight-track song with iOS.](#)

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## **Chapter 22**

[FIGURE 22-1: Insert an audio CD, and your Mac sees AIFF files.](#)

[FIGURE 22-2: Compare the file size of the same song saved in four different fil...](#)

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## **Chapter 23**

[FIGURE 23-1: The cycle area is enabled and covering the first two-thirds of thi...](#)

[FIGURE 23-2: The Share to Music dialog ready to share my song to the Music app.](#)

[FIGURE 23-3: Drag songs from your library to the playlist if necessary.](#)

[FIGURE 23-4: Configure the burn settings and then click Burn.](#)

[FIGURE 23-5: You can print a jewel case insert like this from the Music app \(or...](#)

## Chapter 24

[FIGURE 24-1: No! I hate when it says that!](#)

[FIGURE 24-2: GarageBand is consuming roughly 44 percent of my CPU's cycles.](#)

[FIGURE 24-3: Do the math: 16.00GB minus 8.78GB equals 7.22GB. \(7.22GB available...](#)

## Chapter 25

[FIGURE 25-1: It is cheaply made but does what it's supposed to and takes up lit...](#)

[FIGURE 25-2: If you don't look closely it's hard to tell GarageBand \(top\) and L...](#)

[FIGURE 25-3: With prices from \\$299 \(\\$99 for students\) to \\$2,599, there's a vers...](#)

## Chapter 26

[FIGURE 26-1: The tablature for a guitar riff.](#)

[FIGURE 26-2: The Wasted Time MIDI file opened in GarageBand.](#)

# Introduction

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If you want to make music with GarageBand, you've made the right choice twice — once by choosing GarageBand, which is the easiest way to create your own music on a Mac or iDevice — and again by choosing this book to help you along. Before you know it, you'll be topping the charts and basking in fame, glory, and fortune.

Well, it's possible. By the time you finish this book, you'll possess the knowledge to do so, although I'm afraid it's up to you to provide the talent.

Don't worry. Just sit back, relax, and get ready to have a rockin' good time. That's right. This may be a computer book, but we're going to have a good time together. What a concept!

Whether you're new to music making or a grizzled studio veteran, I guarantee that learning to make music with *GarageBand For Dummies* is going to be fun and easy. Hey, it wouldn't say "Learning Made Easy" on the cover if it weren't true.

## ***About This Book***

Of course, *GarageBand For Dummies*, 2nd Edition is going to show you everything you need to get the most out of Apple's amazing GarageBand, which is a complete recording studio and much more.

But I hope to give you much more than that. Here's a quick look at just some of what you can do:

- » Discover how to use GarageBand's numerous (and very cool) features on the Mac and iDevices.

- » Get the lowdown on the equipment you will definitely need, the gear you don't need but may want, and the gear that you don't need — plus all the details on setting up and connecting everything.
- » Find details about creating great-sounding songs all by your lonesome and then distributing them to your friends (or enemies) and (gasp) perhaps even selling them.
- » Be gently introduced to many professional audio recording and engineering techniques that will impress your friends with slick, professional-sounding recordings.

*GarageBand For Dummies*, 2nd Edition is chock-full of useful information, plus tips and techniques for making good multitrack recordings. If you follow my simple instructions, you'll gain the skills you need to produce great-sounding recordings that are sure to impress your family and friends, not to mention musicians, singers, songwriters, and producers.

## ***Not-So-Foolish Assumptions***

Although I know what happens when you make assumptions, I've made a few anyway. The biggest is that you, gentle reader, know nothing about making multitrack recordings or using GarageBand.

I also assume that you know what a Mac, an iPad, and an iPhone are, you know how to turn them on and use them, and you know they have a copy of GarageBand installed. I assume also that you want to understand GarageBand without digesting an incomprehensible technical manual

(which, by the way, doesn't exist anyway) and, finally, that you made the right choice by selecting this particular book.

One more thing: I assume you can read. If you can't, please ignore this paragraph.

## *Conventions Used in This Book*

To get the most out of this book, you need to know how I do things and why. Following are a few conventions I use in this book to make your life easier:

- » When I want you to open an item in a menu, I write something like “Choose File ⇒ Open,” which means, “Click the File menu and choose the Open command.”
- » Stuff that you're supposed to type appears in bold type, **like this**.
- » **Sometimes an entire sentence is in bold**, as you'll see when I present a numbered list of steps. **In those cases, I unbold what you're supposed to type**, like this.
- » When I refer to the Mac's  menu, I'm referring to the menu in the upper-left corner of the macOS menu bar that looks like an apple (called the *Apple menu*).
- » For Mac keyboard shortcuts, I write something like “press  +A,” which means to hold down the  key (the one with the little pretzel or  symbol or both on it) and then press the letter A on your keyboard. If you see something like “press  +Shift+A,” that means to hold down the  and Shift keys while pressing the A key.

# Icons Used in This Book

You'll see little round pictures (icons) off to the left side of the text throughout this book. Consider these icons as miniature road signs, telling you a little something extra about the topic at hand. Here's what the different icons look like and what they all mean.



**TIP** Look for Tip icons to find the juiciest morsels: shortcuts, tips, and undocumented secrets about GarageBand. Try them all; impress your friends!



**REMEMBER** When you see this icon, it means this particular morsel is something I think you should memorize (or at least write on your shirt cuff).



**TECHNICAL STUFF** This icon signifies something that's not required reading. It could be about pro audio, programming, or progressive rock, but whatever it is, it's not required for you to master GarageBand. (On the other hand, it must be interesting or informative, or I wouldn't have wasted your time with it.)



**WARNING** Read these notes very, very carefully. Did I say *very*? Warning icons flag important information. The author and publisher won't be responsible if your Mac explodes or spews flaming parts because you

ignored a Warning icon. Just kidding. Macs don't explode or spew (with the exception of a few choice PowerBook 5300s, which can't run GarageBand anyway). But I got your attention, didn't I? It's a good idea to read the Warning icons carefully.

## ***Beyond the Book***

In addition to what you're reading right now, this book also comes with a free access-anywhere Cheat Sheet that provides a handy list of useful keyboard shortcuts as well as instructions for silencing mistakes. To get this Cheat Sheet, simply go to [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com) and type **GarageBand For Dummies Cheat Sheet** in the search box.

I've also created a downloadable GarageBand tutorial with a completed GarageBand project, the finished master track, and a PDF explaining how and why I did what I did in the project, which you can download at [www.workingsmarterformacusers.com/blog/garageband](http://www.workingsmarterformacusers.com/blog/garageband).

## ***Where to Go from Here***

Go to a comfortable spot (preferably not far from a Mac or iDevice) and read the book.



TIP

I didn't write this book for myself. I wrote it for you and would love to hear how it worked for you. So please drop me a line or register your comments through the Online Registration Form, which you can find by clicking the Customer Care link (under Contact Us) at [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com).

Did this book work for you? What did you like? What didn't you like? What questions were unanswered? Did you want to know more about something? Did you want to find out less about something? Tell me!

You can send email to me at [GarageBandForDummies@boblevitus.com](mailto:GarageBandForDummies@boblevitus.com). I appreciate your feedback, and I *try* to respond to all reasonably polite email within a few days.

So, what are you waiting for? Go enjoy the book!

## **Part 1**

# **Starting on a Good Note**