



Making Music with Computers and Digital Tools

KS2 MUSIC

KS3 MUSIC

Ages 9-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What is Digital Music Making?

Digital music making means using computers, tablets, or phones to create, record, and edit music. Instead of only playing a piano or guitar, you can now make any sound imaginable on a screen.

Professional musicians and composers use digital tools every day. But you don't need to be famous to try it—there are free programs and apps that anyone can download.

Think of it like cooking: a real kitchen has pots and pans, but a computer's kitchen has digital ingredients and tools that let you make the same meal in a different way.

Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)

The main tool musicians use is called a **Digital Audio Workstation**, or **DAW**. This is software that lets you record, arrange, and mix music all in one place.

Popular DAWs include **GarageBand** (free on Apple devices), **Audacity** (free for everyone), and professional ones like **Ableton Live** and **Logic Pro**. These programs show your music as coloured waves or blocks that you can move, copy, and edit.

Think of it like a video editor: just as you cut and paste clips to make a film, you cut and paste sounds to make a song.

Instruments and Sounds

In a DAW, you can choose from thousands of **virtual instruments**—digital copies of real instruments like drums, pianos, guitars, and violins. You can also make completely new sounds that don't exist in nature.

Synthesizers are special tools that let you create brand-new sounds by mixing different frequencies and effects. Many modern pop songs use synthesizers to make unique, electronic sounds.

Recording and Mixing

You can record your voice or play live instruments into your computer using a **microphone** and an **audio interface**. Then the DAW stores your recording as a digital file.

Next comes **mixing**—making different sounds blend together nicely. You can control how loud each sound is, add special effects (like echo or reverb), and move sounds left or right to create space.

Think of it like controlling the volume on your school speakers: you can make the drums louder, the singing quieter, and add echo to make it sound like you're in a big cave.

Why Digital Music Matters

Digital tools have made music creation faster, cheaper, and more creative. Young people around the world now produce hit songs in bedrooms using computers. The barrier to making music has never been lower.