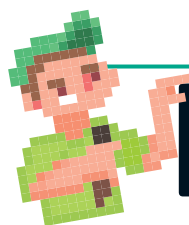


How to...



Be a beatboxer



Beatboxing is a musical art that involves people using their mouth, lips, tongue and voice to create percussion sounds, instead of using drums or cymbals, for example. People have been making musical noises for hundreds of years all around the world, but the word and specific style of beatboxing was first used by hip-hop artists in New York, US, in the 1970s. They copied drum machines, or “beat boxes”, alongside rapping.

Award-winning comedian Jarred Christmas and world champion beatboxer Hobbit are touring the UK with their show, *The Mighty Kids Beatbox Comedy Show* (find out more at tinyurl.com/TWJ-beatboxshow). Here, they share four steps to being a brilliant beatboxer.

LONG SESSION

In 2012, Peter Wehrmann from Germany beatboxed for 25 hours and 30 minutes.



Hobbit and Jarred.

Blow a raspberry



1 Warm up

Hobbit says: Beatboxing uses a lot of air, so get those lungs working by taking a deep breath right down to your belly and breathing out. Do it three times. Warm up your lips by putting them together and blowing air through to create a raspberry. Then hum through your nose and go from as high to as low as you can. This is called a siren and it's great for warming up your vocals.

Jarred says: If you aren't spitting, that raspberry isn't quite right. But don't spit like an angry alpaca, just a sprinkle.

Snare drum



2 Practise the basic sounds

Hobbit says: The three core beatbox sounds are kick drum, hi-hat and snare. For kick drum, put your lips together and push out a “buh” or “puh”. Perfect it by removing the “uh” and build pressure to make it stronger. For hi-hat, say “tss”, but short and snappy. There are lots of snare sounds. For the snare, make a “k” sound, as if you're about to say “cabbage” – really push out that kicking k.

Jarred says: It's basically musical phonics. Glad you listened in class?

3 Create a beat pattern

Hobbit says: Now put your sounds together to create a beat. Copy any music that you like – it could be a hip-hop, rock or jazz. You can plan a beatbox tune by writing it down. Kick drum = b, hi-hat = t, and snare drum = k. A simple beatbox pattern is “b-t-k-t” which you can repeat at any tempo (speed) you wish. Or try “b-t-b-t-b-t-b-t”, for a dance beat, or “b-t-k-t-bb-t-k-t”, for a hip-hop beat. Copy the beat as you hear it or write your own – and have fun.

Jarred says: This is pretty much what spelling would be like without vowels!



4 Share, laugh and beatbox

Hobbit says: Beatboxing is all about practice, experimenting, sounding and looking silly, and having fun. Everyone has their own voice, so all beatboxers have a unique sound. Every sound is good so you can't hit a wrong note or make a mistake. Play around and copy cool sounds you hear – songs on the radio, animals, anything you like the sound of. The possibilities are endless.

Jarred says: If you annoy your parents or make yourself laugh, then you are on the right track.



Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for craft and recipe ideas.

6 May 2023 • The Week Junior



SCAN ME

25