

# Arranging For Singers – Week 6 – Automating a Software Instrument

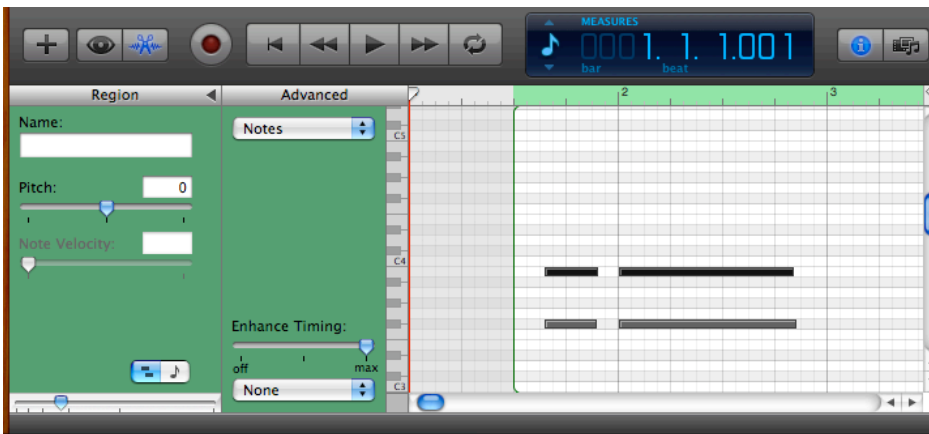
## Adding the Guitar Tracks

Today, we're going to add the guitar tracks. There are two – one is the main guitar, and the other is background 'chunks' using a muted sound. On my track at home, they're both MIDI, but the version of GarageBand in class does not have the same sounds, so I am exporting the muted guitar part as an audio file – an mp3, and you will drag it into the Track Window. The main guitar part will be a MIDI file, and I will show you how we can automate the pitch bend in MIDI.

**MAKE A NEW TRACK FOR THE FIRST GUITAR –  
CHOOSE THE CLEAN ELECTRIC SOUND.**

Drag the file 'I'mYours-gtr-1.mid' into this new track. Double-click on the track name to rename it and call it Guitar 1.

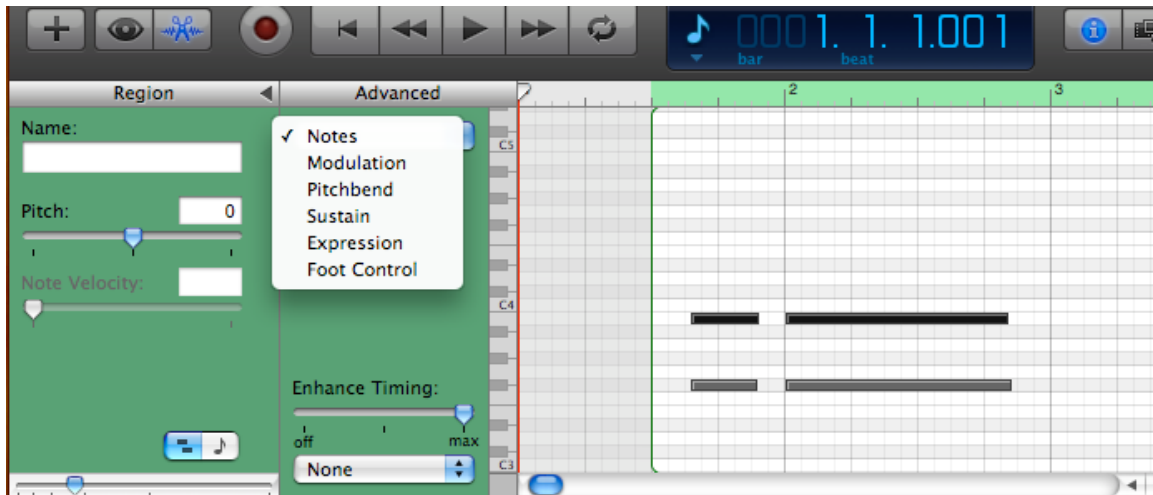
When you look at the file in the Track Editor (the Scissors icon) make sure that the second set of MIDI notes are on the the downbeat of measure 2:



# Automating MIDI

So far, when we have edited MIDI, we have been editing notes. We have made them longer or shorter; we have made them louder or softer; we have changed their pitch by dragging them up and down; we have changed their time value by quantizing (what GarageBand calls 'Enhance Timing') - applying swing.

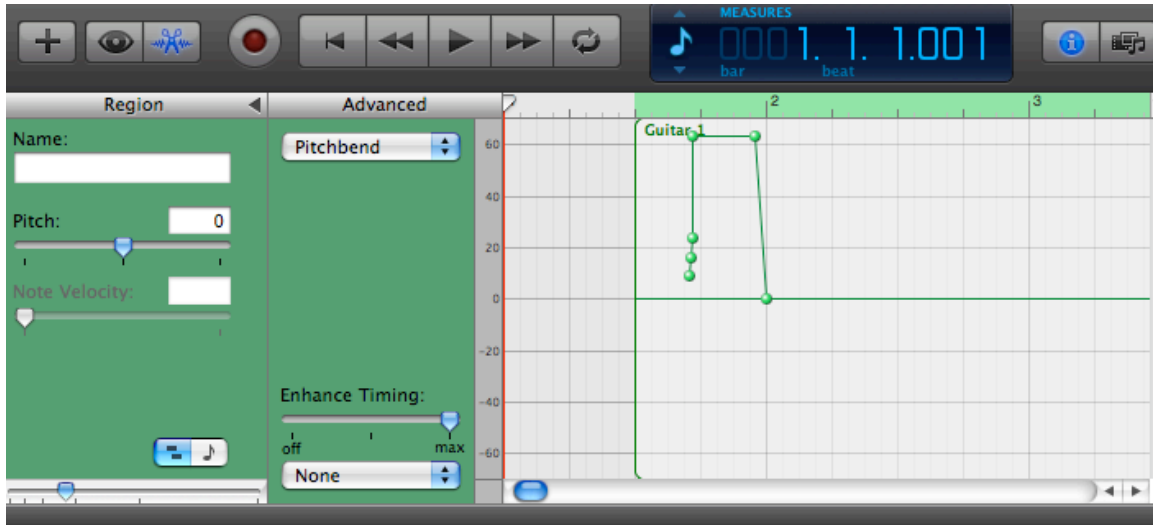
However, there is more to edit in MIDI than just the notes themselves. If you click on the menu that says 'notes', right under Advanced, you will see a list of the other parameters that are editable in MIDI:



As you can see, the other parameters are Modulation, Pitchbend, Sustain, Expression and Foot Control. All of these can be controlled by drawing lines in the track with the Pencil Tool. This is called Automation – that is, it happens automatically while the track is playing.

## AUTOMATING PITCHBEND

We are going to look at automating pitchbend. In the original song “I’m Yours”, the guitar slides up and down to make that first pickup note. We are going to approximate that in MIDI using the Pitchbend parameter:



To draw an automation curve, you click on the Command key, which turns your cursor into a Pencil Tool. Wherever you click on that green line, a dot will appear. You can drag that dot anywhere you want in the window, and the pitch will go up and down accordingly.

Experiment with the Pitchbend – draw different lines in the track and see what it sounds like. You can also experiment with the other parameters such as Modulation or Sustain; you can drag a new copy of the file with the correct automation in it after you’re done experimenting.

## ADD THE SECOND GUITAR TRACK

You can drag the mp3 of the second guitar track into the Track Window and it will open up in its own track. Make sure that it starts at the beginning of measure 2. Name it Guitar 2.

Now, we have all of our basic tracks in place.

We will start mixing the tracks tomorrow.

If you want to add vocals yourself, I will give you extra credit. I will have a handout tomorrow that shows how to do this. You can do this during lab hours.