



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Benchmark EOY

Grade 8

Student Materials

Digital Music Recording

Just a little over a century ago, the only way to enjoy music was to play it or listen to it in person. Then, with the discovery of radio waves and the invention of recording technology, people could enjoy music anytime. Today, digital recordings make enjoying music even easier and more portable than ever. However, the process of producing music has become more complex.

Prior to the sale of the first compact disc, or CD, music was sold and listened to on wax cylinders, phonographs, vinyl records, or cassette tapes. Although most of these technologies are thought to be obsolete, you can still buy music in these formats.

Prior to recording the music, musicians would thoroughly practice their songs. Then they would head to a recording studio. The musicians would want to make sure their songs were ready for recording because studio time can be expensive. Some musicians who had the equipment could record from their home or garage, but the sound quality would not be as good. Either way, the technology didn't allow for much post-recording editing as the technology does now. So, they had to make sure to minimize mistakes prior to recording. Finally, the musicians would have to be in-sync because everyone would play together in real time.

Although decades in the making, digital music wasn't available for purchase in the United States until the late seventies when the first compact disc was sold. Digital music recording has changed how music is recorded, produced, and sold. With digital music, musicians no longer have to be physically together to play together. In fact, with pop music, musicians may never see each other—ever!

In digital music, each part, voice, or instrument can be recorded on its own track. Usually, the first track is just a metronome or drum beat to keep time. Then, everyone records their own track when listening to that track and any other already-recorded track. Usually, the rhythm section lays the first music track. Then, basic chords and harmonies are added as the next track. Finally, the main melody is added. But a song isn't finished yet. The last step is for a producer to edit, enhance, and combine all the tracks into a final recording.