



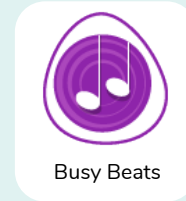
## Year 4

# Composing Beats

### Key Learning

- To identify and discuss the main elements of music.
- To understand and experiment with rhythm and tempo.
- To create a melodic phrase using varied notes and pitch.
- To compose a piece of electronic music.

### Key Resources



Busy Beats

### Key Vocabulary

#### BPM

Beats per Minute. Changing the BPM changes the speed of the music.

#### Patch

A saved collection of sound settings that creates a specific tone or effect.

#### Sample

A short recording of a sound that you can use in your music e.g. a drumbeat.

#### Dynamics

How loud or quiet a sound is.

#### Pitch

How high or low a sound is.

#### Synths

Short for synthesizer. Electronic musical instrument sounds.

#### Electronic Music

Music that is made using electronic instruments, computers, or other technology, rather than only traditional acoustic instruments.

#### Pulse

The steady beat of a piece of music.

#### Tempo

How slow or fast a piece of music is.

#### Melody

A sequence of notes which make up a tune.

#### Rippler

The moving line in Busy Beats that travels across the screen and “plays” the sounds you’ve put on the grid.

#### Texture

The different sounds you can hear in a piece of music.

#### Rhythm

A pattern of long and short sounds and silences.



### Key Images



Play and add different synth notes



Play and add different sample sounds



Clicking on the rippers triggers the sounds



Add a new patch



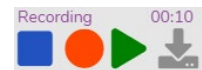
Switch between different patches



Change the speed – Beats per minute



Stop the music by pressing here



Record, play and download your composition

### Key Questions

#### What are the main elements of music?

The main elements of music are pulse, rhythm, tempo, pitch, melody, dynamics, and texture. The pulse is the steady beat, like a heartbeat. Rhythm is a pattern of long and short sounds. Tempo describes how fast or slow the music is, while pitch tells us how high or low notes sound. A melody is the tune, the part we usually hum or sing. Dynamics describe volume, and texture refers to the layers of sounds in a piece.

#### How do rhythm and tempo affect music?

Rhythm and tempo help shape the mood and feel of music. Rhythm is the arrangement of long and short sounds and silences, while the tempo controls the speed at which the music is played. Changing the BPM (beats per minute) can transform a piece; slower tempos may feel calm, while faster tempos can feel exciting or tense. Together, rhythm and tempo provide the structure and energy that keep music moving and make it engaging.

#### How can we compose electronic music using Busy Beats?

We can compose electronic music in Busy Beats by combining samples and synths to create rhythm and melody. Samples are short, recorded sounds, while synths are electronic instrument tones. Pupils experiment with pitch and layer patches for variety. Recording and switching between patches creates arrangements, mirroring how producers use technology to refine music.