IN:HOUSE

FREE ARTIST RESOURCE / 01

FINISH YOUR TRACK.

THE SPEED ARRANGEMENT CHEAT SHEET

A focused 60-minute method for turning your strongest loop into a complete, pro-quality arrangement - without getting trapped in endless sound design or mix decisions.



ARRANGEMENT FIRST. POLISH SECOND.

Build the full journey before you judge the details.

IN:HOUSE

THE SPEED ARRANGEMENT METHOD

60 MINUTES / 10 MOVES / ONE COMPLETE ARRANGEMENT

Use a reference for pacing and energy only. Your musical ideas, sounds and identity stay your own.

01 — 0-2 MIN

START THE CLOCK

Give the arrangement one focused hour. Silence notifications, save a new version and decide that today is about structure - not perfection.

02 — 2-5 MIN

CHOOSE A REFERENCE

Pick one released track with a similar energy and purpose. Place it at bar one and align the tempo. Use its movement as a map, never its identity.

03 — 5-10 MIN

MARK THE LANDMARKS

Add locators for intro, first lift, peak, breakdown, return and outro. Measure when the energy changes and how long each chapter lasts.

04 — 10-15 MIN

AUDIT YOUR CORE IDEA

Name the job of every element in your loop: drums, bass, harmony, hook, texture and vocal. Mute anything that has no clear role.

05 — 15-22 MIN

BUILD THE EMPTY ROADMAP

Create blank blocks across the timeline for every section. Copy the reference track's energy curve, not its melodies, sounds or exact musical content.

06 — 22-38 MIN

RUN THE FIRST PASS

Populate the whole arrangement quickly. Duplicate your core idea, then subtract and introduce parts so every section has a distinct level of energy.

07 — 38-48 MIN

CREATE THE HANDOVERS

At each 4- or 8-bar boundary, change something on purpose. Use mutes, fills, automation, reverses or short effects only where they help the listener move forward.

08 — 48-50 MIN

REMOVE THE REFERENCE

Mute or remove the reference. Your arrangement should now stand on its own. If it suddenly feels empty, fix the energy curve - do not copy the source.

09 — 50-56 MIN

FIND THREE STALLS

Listen from start to finish at low volume. Mark only the three moments where attention drops. Make one decisive change at each point.

10 — 56-60 MIN

LOCK VERSION ONE

Set a sensible rough balance, protect headroom and export an arrangement demo. Write down the next three production tasks, then stop.

A FINISHED ARRANGEMENT BEATS A PERFECT LOOP.

Need feedback on the version you finish? Visit inhousemgmt.co.uk or email dan@inhousemgmt.co.uk