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MPC 500 Sample Support with Audio Editors

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1 Introduction

In this short introduction I want to show you my way to prepare samples, I want to use with my MPC 500 from AKAI. The sample process and the sample management itself are not parts of this short document. For sample management take a look at this page (*http* : *//www.thomassindt.de/mpc/*).

The MPC 500 is a great sample maschine, but it is a little bit restricted if it comes to sample editing (if you compare this unit to the first bigger one, the MPC 1000, which have extensive sample editing features; especially with the JJOS). So I want to show you, how I prepare a sample. The first usecase is to slice a loop into equal sample parts. In most cases you want to slice a loop into 4, 8 or 16 steps (as I told you, with the MPC 1000 this task is a no brainer). The secound use case is the choping of a drum sample into single hits (also with the bigger MPCs no problem).

For the sample preparation I use two audio editors. The first one is Audacity (*http* : *//www.audacityteam.org/*) and the second one is Wavosaur (*https* : *//www.wavosaur.com/*). Both a open source and can be used for free.

2 How to slice an audio file into x equal slices

OK, lets start to slice an audio file into 8 equal long peaces. At first I load my loop into Audacity[1].

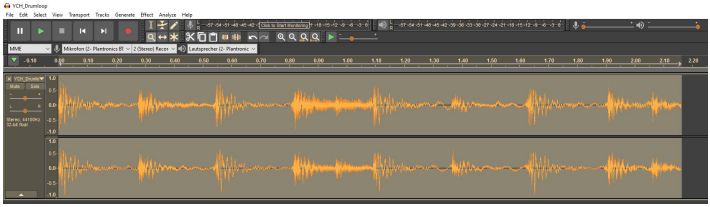

Figure 2.1: Step 1: load audio sample

Then I select the feature "Regular Interval Labels...". You can found this in the "Analyse" menue. If you call this function, a dialog box will pop up.

Make shure, you fill in the same values in your box (see image 2.2). Important is the first one "Use Number of lables OR Label interval". Set this to "Number of labels". In teh second box enter the number (normaly 4, 8 or 16). The third box is

[1] by the way: I use Audacity 2.2 with the dark theme

irrelevat. The forth box has to be set to "yes". Label Text is optional and don't touch the other boxes.

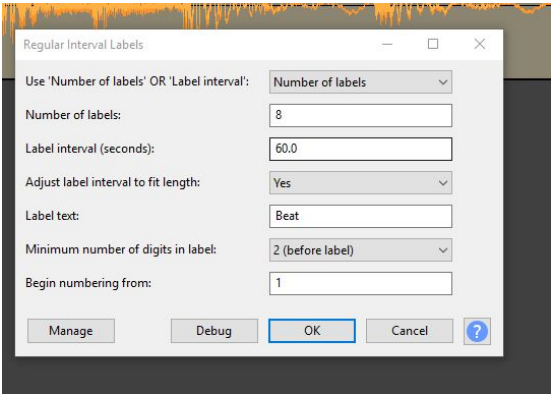

Figure 2.2: Step 2: Regular Interval Labels

After clicking OK you can see an additional track under the audio track, a so called label track (see image 2.3).

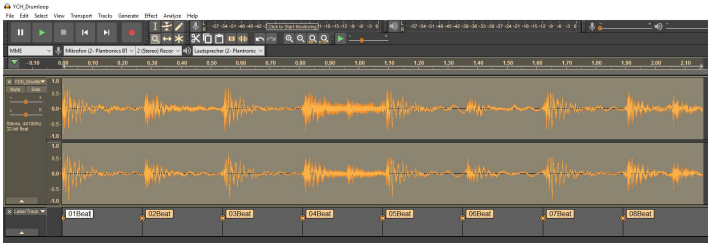

Figure 2.3: Label track

Now you have to export each region to an audio file. Here we can use the funktion "Export multiple ...". You can find this feature under the "file" menue and then go to "Export". A menue with many export posibillities will be shown. If you call the "Export nultiple" function, a dialog as seen in picture 2.4 will open.

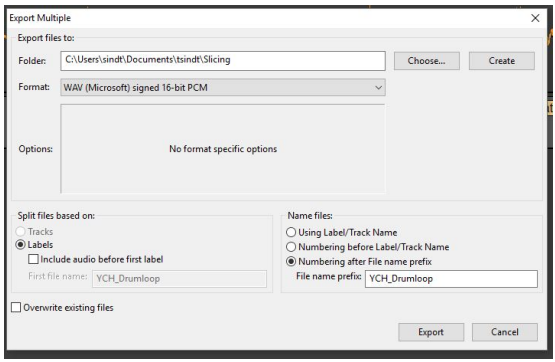

Figure 2.4: Step 3: "Export multiple" function

In this dialog, you can choose, where to store your sliced samples. Furthermore you can define, how the filename of the new samples is build up. I normaly choose "Numbering after file name prefix". And take care that "Format" is set to "WAV ... 16-bit PCM".

After clicking "Export" a dialog for each sample pop up. Ignore the content and say "ok" in each pop up. If the last sample is created, a new dialog tells you (hopefully), that everything is ok (see figure 2.5). Now you have all your sliced

samples in your given folder. Copy them to your CF-Card and create a program with your new samples. Have Fun.

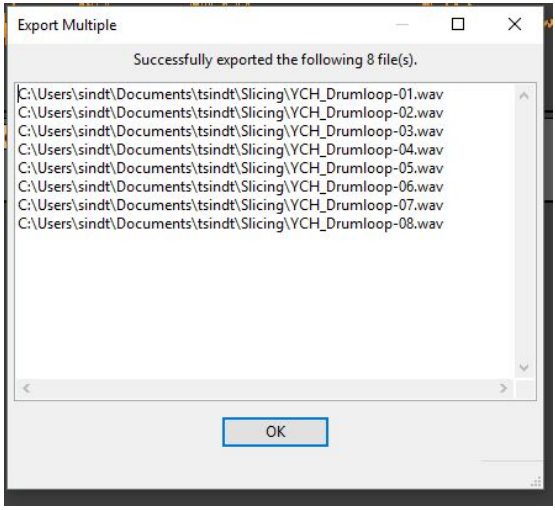

Figure 2.5: Step 4: "Export multiple" function finished

3 How to chop a beat

Now we want to chop a drum beat to its single drum hits. To do so, we load our drum sample into Wavosaur (pay attention: use 16 BIT .WAV files). See image 3.1.

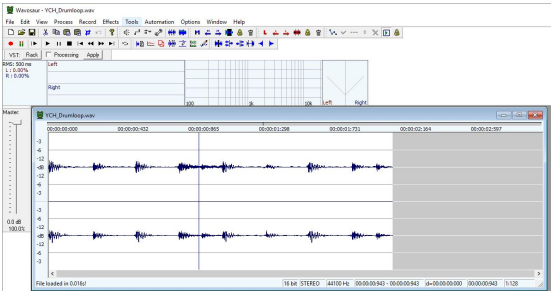

Figure 3.1: Wavosaur with loaded sample

Now select the whole sample (press ctrl+a) as you see in picture 3.2.

After that, go to the menue and select "Tools" and than "Slicing/Region" and than "Auto slice region". This will slice your samples at the beginning of beats (see image 3.3). You have no possibilities to adjust the algorithem, so maybe you have to to some homework manualy in rearange the slices, delete or

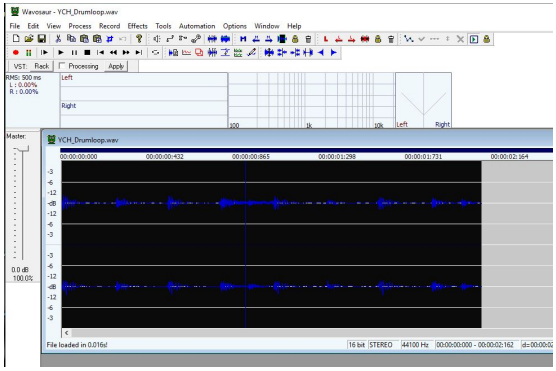

Figure 3.2: Wavosaur with selected sample

add new slices seperatly. But mostly it works good.

Ad the end, you can export single audio files from each region by selecting the menue "File", "Export" and then "Export all regions". Select your directory and select a good filename. Wavosaur adds "-M00x" to each slice (see picture 3.4).

Now you have all your sliced samples in your given folder. Copy them to your CF-Card and create a program with your new samples. Have Fun.

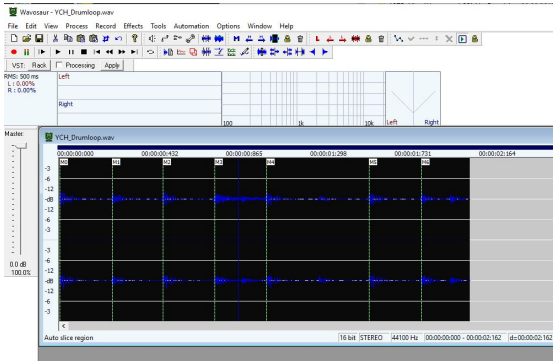

Figure 3.3: Wavosaur Auto slice region

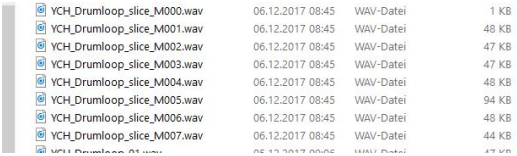

Figure 3.4: All slices