The background of the slide is a light blue-tinted image of mechanical parts, including several interlocking gears and a watch movement, suggesting a theme of engineering or precision.

Reverse Engineering Instrumental Cues

Dean Krippaehne
Taxi Road Rally 2016
(Fair use – educational only)

DRAMEDY



- Dramedy is *not* Cartoony
- Pizzicato strings
- Pizzicato strings
- Pizzicato strings
- Mischief, light, sneaky
- AABA
- 1, 4, 5 progression
- Playful piano melody
- Counterpoint

REVERSE ENGINEERING: GAGA



LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS

- Don't infringe on a © (ie: don't release copies)
- This is a LEARNING TOOL
- Practice LISTENING
- What is the bpm? – use it
- What are the drums doing? – do it
- What is the bass doing? – do it
- What are all the other instr. doing? – do it
- What is the chord structure? – alter it slightly
- What are the FX used on each instrument?
- How is the track mixed? – do that to your cue

**Doing this will teach you how to produce
Cool and useable stuff...**

“I HATE RULES!!!”



PARAMETERS

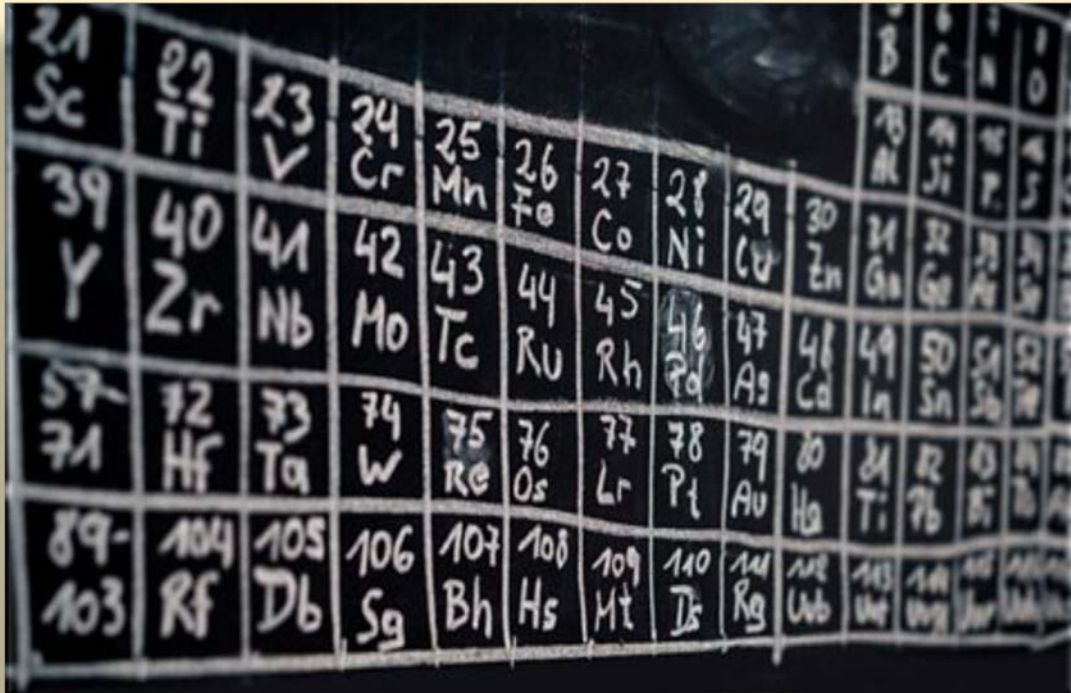
- Time Signature (4/4, 3/4, 6/6)
- 12 note Chromatic scale
- Note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth, etc...)
- 26 letter alphabet
- Language vernacular (common words, phrases)
- Every instrument has parameters
- Your voice has parameters
- Gravity, sunlight, midnight – parameters
- Fashion parameters (or so my wife tells me)

PARAMETERS ARE COOL

PICK A TARGET

GO HIT IT

Identifying elements



A hand-drawn periodic table of elements on a dark background with white lines and text. The elements are arranged in rows and columns, with their atomic numbers and chemical symbols written in white. The table is tilted slightly to the right.

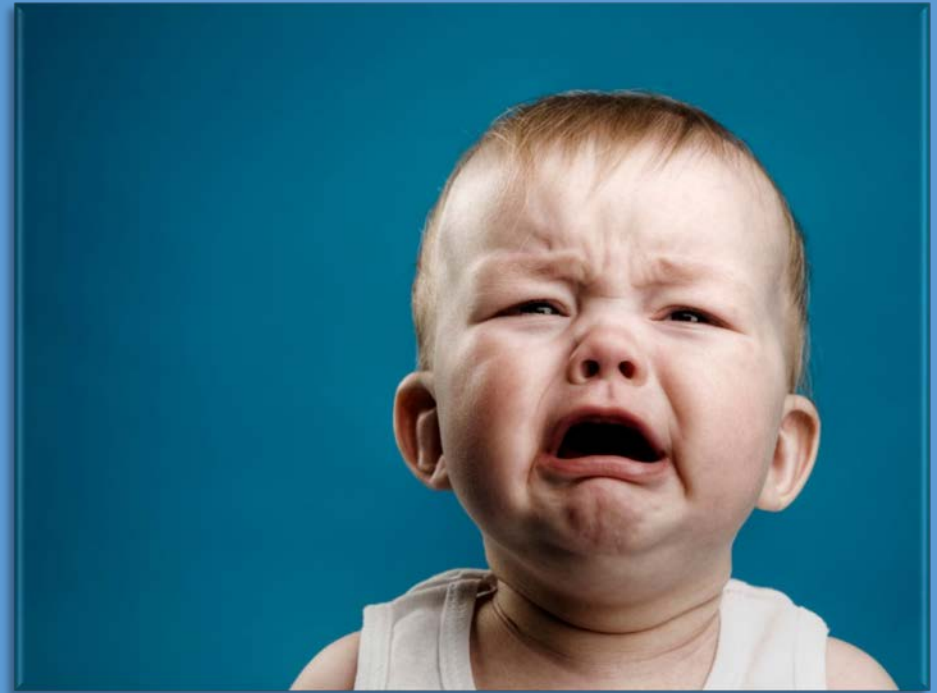
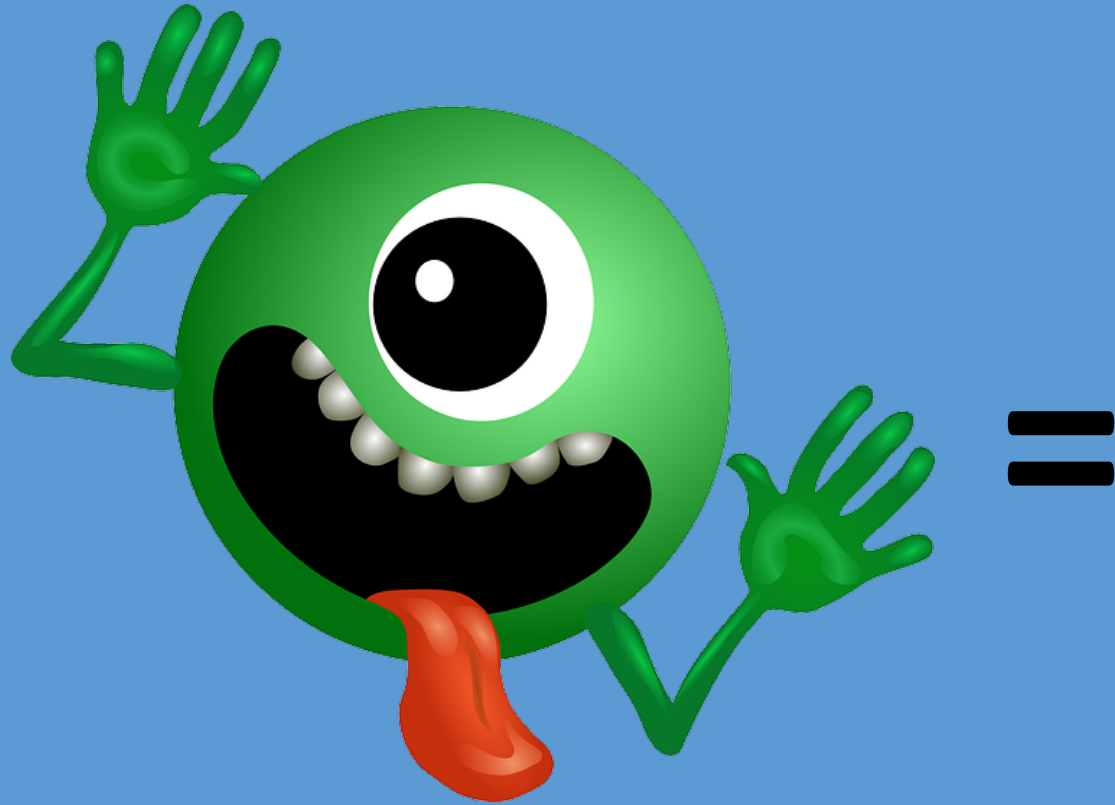
21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	72 Hf
71 La	72 Ce	73 Pr	74 Nd	75 Pm	76 Sm	77 Eu	78 Gd	79 Tb	80 Dy	81 Ho	82 Er	83 Tm	84 Yb	85 Lu	86 Hf
89 La	90 Ce	91 Pr	92 Nd	93 Pm	94 Sm	95 Eu	96 Gd	97 Tb	98 Dy	99 Ho	100 Er	101 Tm	102 Yb	103 Lu	104 Rf
103 La	104 Ce	105 Pr	106 Nd	107 Pm	108 Sm	109 Eu	110 Gd	111 Tb	112 Dy	113 Ho	114 Er	115 Tm	116 Yb	117 Lu	118 Hs

- Up-tempo shuffle (ZZ Top, Molly Hatchet)
- Sticks (ZZ Top)
- Crunchy Guitars (ZZ Top, Molly Hatchet)
- Guitar riff theme (Both)
- Blues Harp (Molly Hatchet)
- Rockin' Drum kit (ZZ Top, Molly hatchet)
- Driving Bass guitar (ZZ Top, Molly Hatchet)
- Fairly "Dry" Reverb (ZZ Top, Molly Hatchet)
- Sound like a BAND (ZZ Top, Molly Hatchet)
- B-3 Organ (other *Southern Rock*)
- DO WHAT THEY DO

IT'S NOT THE GEAR – IT'S THE EAR

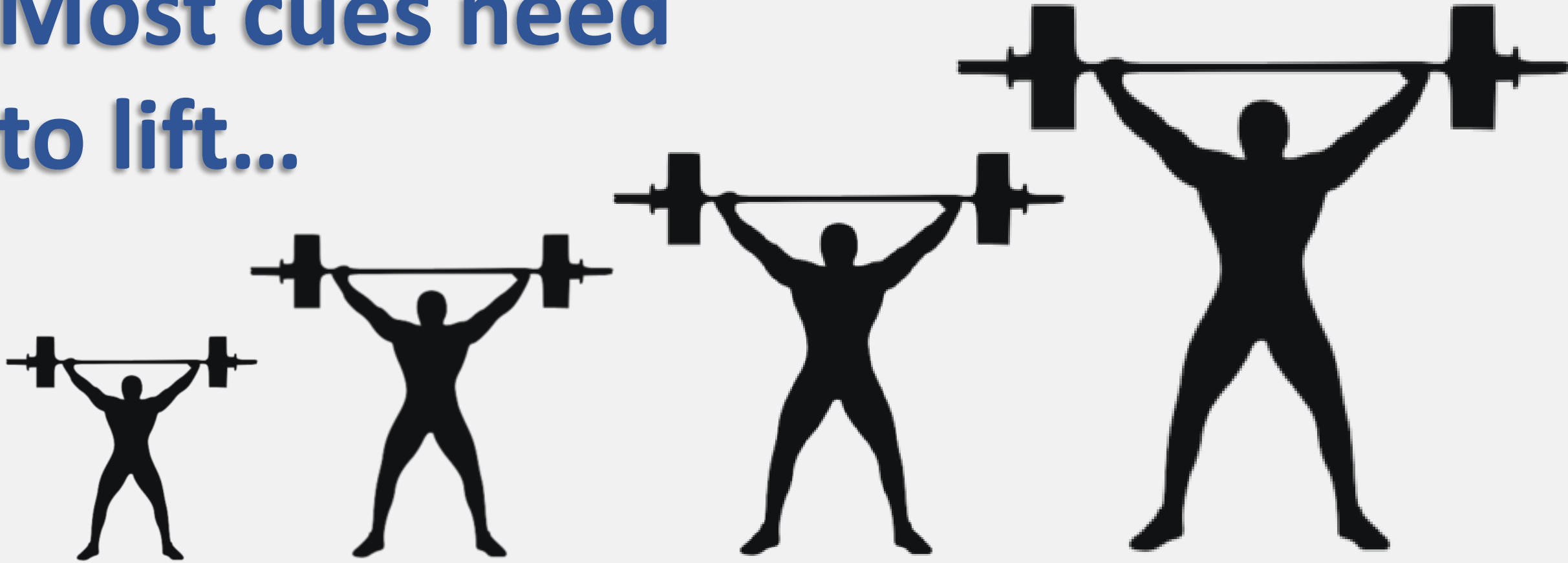
- Drums (EZ Drummer and Sampletank)
- Bass (SampleTank 2 – P-Bass)
- Guitars (Strat through POD)
- Organ (Korg SP-200)
- Piano (SampleTank)
- Mastering (Ozone 3)

Don't make kids cry...



...use Marimba in your tension cues

Most cues need to lift...



...every eight measures or so

Common ways to LIFT a cue:

- Add percussion
- Add a pad, or high string line
- Add a more rhythmic bass line
- Add a "B" section
- Start with sparse instrumentation

Neo-Soul: Analyzing Corinne

What are the songwriting elements?

- Common chord structures
- Melodic structure
- Lyric vernacular (positive, female empowering)

What are the production elements?

- Drums, old school, loop
- Rhythm guitar vibes
- Tempo
- Old school instrumentation (Rhodes, etc...)
- Sparse arrangement
- Real instruments (horns, etc)
- **VOCAL VIBE** and sound



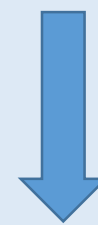
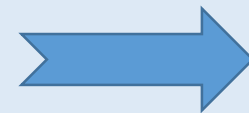
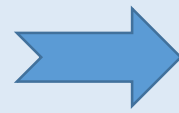
SWAMP: capture the *vibe*



COMMON SWAMP ELEMENTS

- Stereotypical Instruments
- Dobro
- Slide guitar
- Blues harp
- Banjo (not hillbilly)
- Drop D tuning
- Percussion
- REAL instruments
- Heavy reverb (deep in swamp)
- Light reverb (not-so-deep in the swamp)

Underscore =



Mute

The

Lead

CAPTURING THE ESSENCE

...without infringing on copyright

Discovering the song DNA

- Tempo
- Rhythm interplay
- Instrumentation
- Chord structure
- Melodic structure
- Arrangement
- “Sounds” of instruments
- Instrumentation combinations
- FX
- Mix
- Lyric vernacular
- Vocal sound and performance
- Do not copy note for note



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