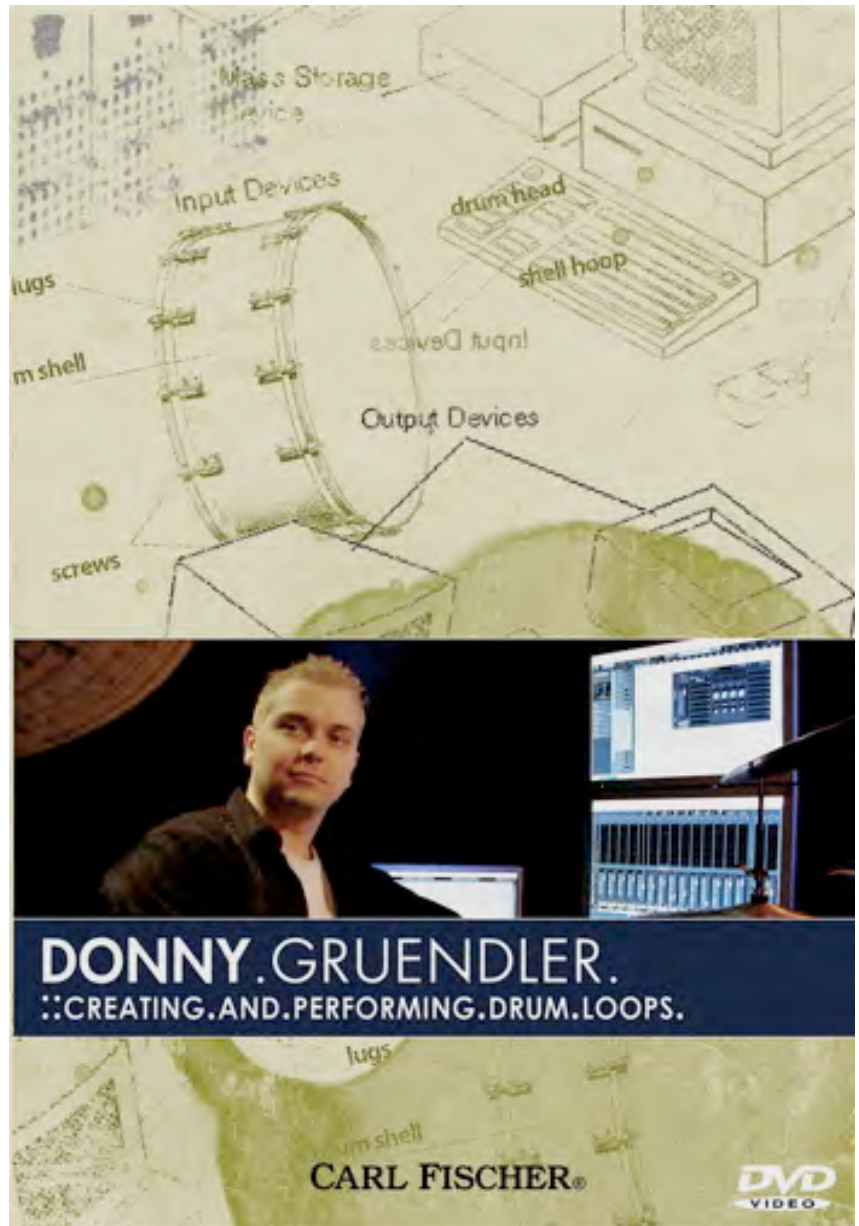


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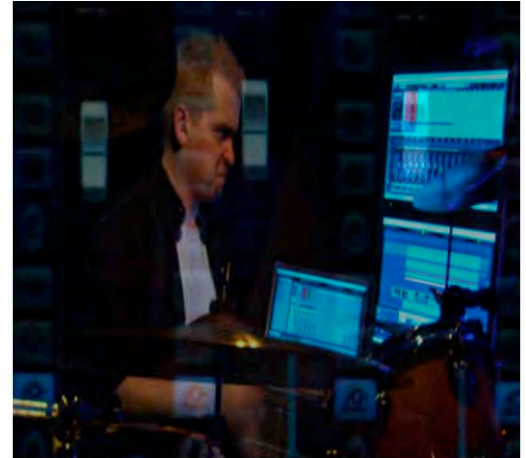
***Donny Gruendler's
new Drum Educational
DVD recorded and
mixed with Cubase***

A master of digital drum loops, Donny Gruendler incorporates seemingly static loops, samples and backing tracks into improvisational performances. He has created rich and even epic mixes on the fly for artists like John Medeski, D.J. Logic, Rhett Frazier Inc and Rick Holmstrom. He also educates drummers how to tie these electronic elements together as a faculty member at Musicians Institute in Hollywood, CA. In addition (and as a long-time Cubase user), Gruendler has just released a new Educational DVD in which the audio was recorded, mixed and mastered with Steinberg's Cubase music production software. 'Creating and Performing Drum Loops' is the latest drum instructional product to demonstrate Donny's unique take on technology and drum set performance.



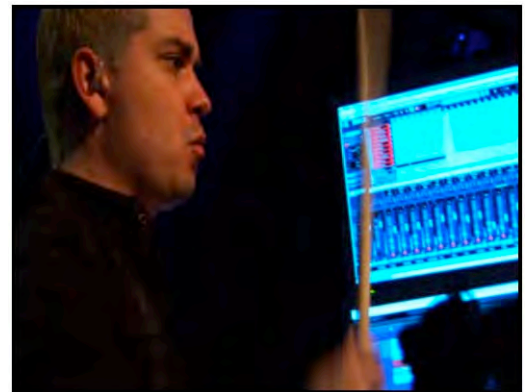
“ I wanted to prepare my students for what they will encounter in the real world. When they leave school – they won't just play jazz or snare drum etudes. They will also need to play alongside prerecorded material and deal with a wide array of tech-driven issues. So I decided to create a DVD that will display and discuss these commercial music requirements. Ultimately, I present the viewer with 4 songs -- each of which features a different programming method, equipment setup, and performance strategy. Therefore, creating (and performing to) drum loops, click tracks, predetermined backing tracks, manually triggering loops and acoustic drum triggering is presented in great detail”.

Gruendler recorded (and mixed) the entire DVD's audio, in his Encino, CA home studio with Cubase. "It just works for me," he says. "As we were filming, I forgot that the software was even running! I opened up my drum-tracking template, set the record levels, made a killer headphone mix with the *Control Room* feature, pressed record, and then I proceeded to concentrate on my educational content, performances and various film crew issues. There was never a glitch or hiccup with the software – it just worked! When it came time to mix, Cubase made it easy to seamlessly blend my vocal lav mic and my drumset performances together as well. In certain scenes, I would forget that I was talking and playing drums in unison – so at first the drum bleed into my vocal mic made much of the dialogue *seem* unusable. However, with Cubase's detailed mixing and audio waveform manipulation, this initial oversight was not an issue. Cubase's workflow is quick, simple and I can make my tracks sound really good."



How did you first come to find out about Cubase?

I built a studio on my property that was designed to specifically track a drumset. It has the high ceilings in both the tracking and control room – the whole nine yards! I also wanted to manipulate the control room computer from behind the drumset (in the next room) too – to track myself. So I had a computer designed with 4 monitors, two keyboards and mice (one set for each room). My friend and great audio engineer (who mixed my DVD and designed my computer rig) Christian Lundberg – recommended Cubase. He said that many LA mix guys were moving to this platform. I checked it out and fell in love with it. I have been on it ever since!



What aspects of Cubase do you use more often?

I like do like all aspects of the software, I feel very comfortable tracking and composing within it. However, I especially like being able to store a few different tracking templates and not needing an analog board – this is where the *Control Room* feature comes in handy!

What are your reasons for choosing this system over other products?

Over the years, I have worked with many different systems at other studios, but I think Cubase is the perfect mix between a sequencer and a recorder. Its powerful – yet simple to use, and fully customizable. Also, the audio editing is simple and second-to-none. Thus is extremely important while tracking acoustic drums (And cannot be said about other DAWs). With audio and MIDI working seamlessly together – I can achieve some great sounding recordings.

About Donny

Author of CF's Playing With Drum Loops DRM 120 and the newly released Creating and Performing Drum Loops interactive DVD

BACKGROUND INFO

Producer, **Drummer, Programmer, Educator**

Donny Gruendler was born and raised in the diverse Musical surroundings of Detroit, Michigan. As a result, Gruendler grew up alongside an unusually broad range of influences including: Rock, Soul, Funk, Pop, Hip Hop, traditional Swing, Hard Bop, and Blues.

At age twenty, Gruendler graduated from Berklee College of Music with a Bachelor's of Music Degree. At age 21, he earned his Master's of Music Degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Gruendler now living in Los Angeles, California – can be found Performing in a wide variety of Musical genres. Thus, Gruendler has Performed, Programmed, Toured and Recorded Behind such diverse artists as Kenny Burrell, John Medeski, D.J. Logic, Rhett Frazier Inc., Rick Holmstrom, Rebecca St. James, Julia Fly, Denny Freeman and numerous other independent Los Angeles based artists. Consequently he has become an expert at performing with backing tracks, manually triggering samples, and playing with loops (both live and in the studio). Additionally, he has programmed (and played on) numerous jingles (Remax On the Blvd Radio/TV Campaigns, KFC, and NPR), created content for sample and loop libraries (East West, Eclectic Ensembles) and even writes Music for TV and film.

As for education, Gruendler is a faculty member at Musicians Institute (PIT) in Hollywood, CA, he is the author of Playing With Drum Loops - How to Work with Loops, Samples and Backing Tracks by Carl Fischer Publishing - and he has a series of articles published in Modern Drummer.

Endorsements:

DW Drums
Pasite Cymbals
Vic Firth Sticks
Remo Drumheads

BFD2 Expansion Software
Steinberg Software