

# BUILD-A-BAND



SUGGESTED TIME  
30–45 MINUTES

## OBJECTIVES

By completing this activity, students will:

- + create a program that combines interactive sprites with interesting sounds
- + develop greater fluency with sequence, loops, events, and parallelism
- + practice experimenting and iterating in building up project creations

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- ☐ Optionally, show example projects from the Build-a-Band studio and have the Build-a-Band handout available to guide students.
- ☐ Give students time to create interactive instruments by pairing sprites with sounds. Encourage them to experiment with different ways to express sounds in Scratch by exploring other blocks in the Music category or using the editing tools within the Sounds tab.
- ☐ Allow students to demonstrate their bands to one another or let students walk around to interact with classmates' instruments. We recommend a gallery walk: have students put their projects in presentation mode and then invite them to walk around and explore each other's projects. Optionally, have students add their projects to the Build-a-Band studio or a class studio.
- ☐ Ask students to think back on the design process by responding to the reflection prompts in their design journals or in a group discussion.

## RESOURCES

- ☐ Build-a-Band handout
- ☐ Build-a-Band studio  
<http://scratch.mit.edu/studios/475523>

## REFLECTION PROMPTS

- + What did you do first?
- + What did you do next?
- + What did you do last?

## REVIEWING STUDENT WORK

- + Do projects make creative use of sounds?
- + Are the sprites in the projects interactive?

## NOTES

- + To share as a whole group, have students perform their Scratch instruments together to form a class band!

## NOTES TO SELF

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
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- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

# BUILD-A-BAND

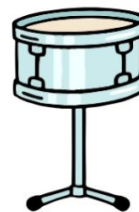
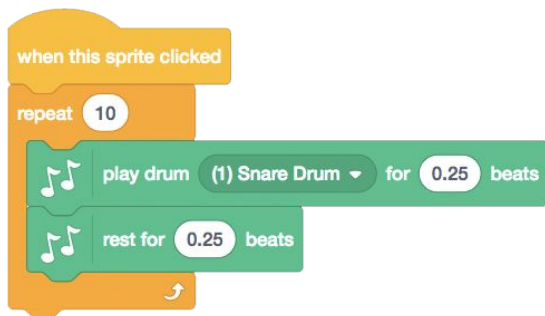
HOW CAN YOU UTILIZE SCRATCH TO CREATE SOUNDS, INSTRUMENTS, BANDS, OR STYLES OF MUSIC THAT REPRESENT THE MUSIC YOU LOVE MOST?

In this activity, you will build your own music-inspired Scratch project by pairing sprites with sounds to design interactive instruments.

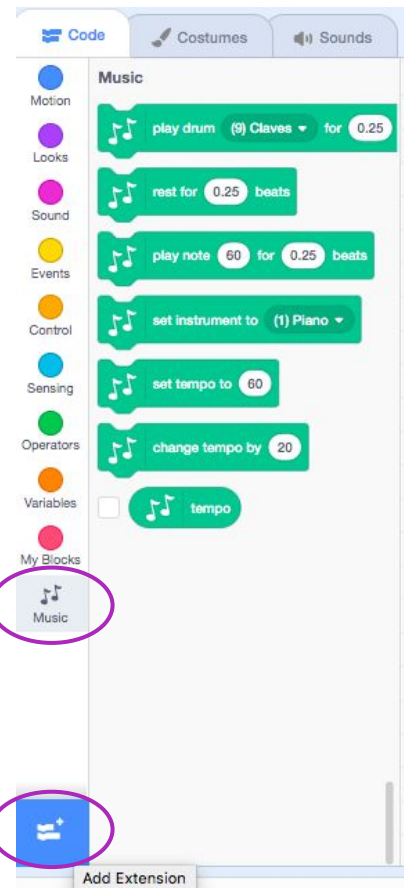


## START HERE

- ☐ Create a sprite.
- ☐ Find the music blocks by clicking into the Extensions menu.
- ☐ Select “Music blocks.”
- ☐ Add sound blocks.
- ☐ Experiment with ways to make your instruments interactive.



Choose instruments from the sprite library or create your own.



## THINGS TO TRY

- ☐ Use repeat blocks to make a sound play more than once.
- ☐ Import or record your own sounds or experiment with the Sounds editor.
- ☐ Try playing with the tempo blocks to speed up or slow down the rhythm.

## FINISHED?

- + Add your project to the Build-A-Band Studio:  
<http://scratch.mit.edu/studios/475523>
- + Challenge yourself to do more! Invent a new instrument or record your own sounds.
- + Help a neighbor!

# BUILD-A-BAND REFLECTIONS

NAME:

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING REFLECTION PROMPTS  
USING THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW OR IN YOUR  
DESIGN JOURNAL.

+ What did you do first?

+ What did you do next?

+ What did you do last?