

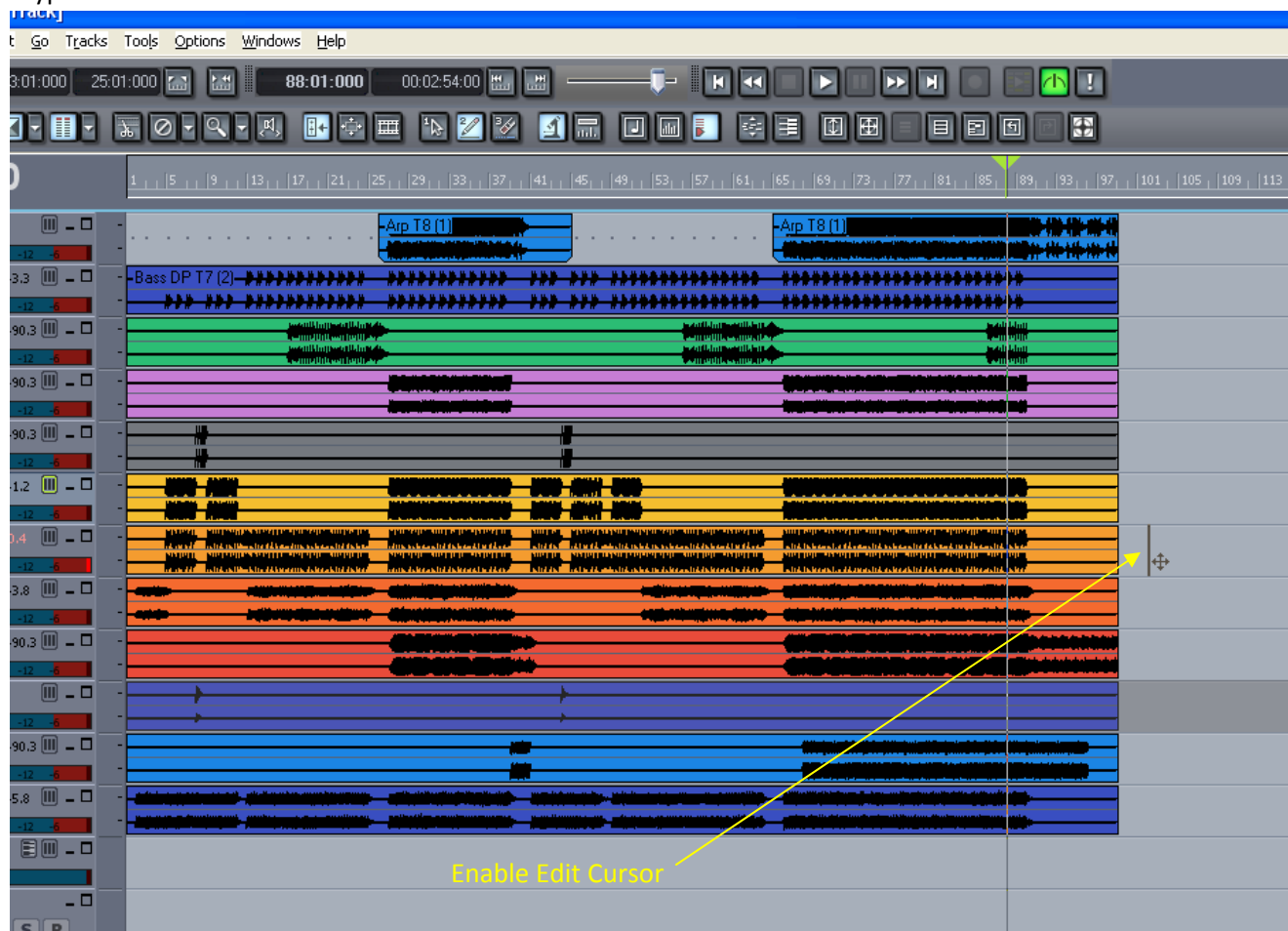
## Time to let go of the Mouse Part 1

I have been using the new Cakewalk by Roland VS-700 Studio a bit recently and one of the many things I enjoyed about it was the fact that I could do a lot of zooming, selecting and editing without using the mouse. For those of you who have actually read the Manual that comes with SONAR 8 Studio and Producer you will know that you can achieve a similar level of control with your QWERTY keyboard. So let's see just how far you can go before you need to touch that mouse. For this tutorial it is better to use a QWERTY keyboard that has the separate numeric pad on the right hand side.

### Step 1: Navigating in your SONAR Project

I am going to use one of the demo songs that come with SONAR called "Crazy" but you can use any Project that you have on your hard drive.

1. Press Alt-0 to make sure the Track View is displayed (TIP: get used to using ALT-0 and ALT-3 to switch between Track View and Console View which are your two most often used Views).
2. With the Track View displayed, press the 0 Key on the numeric keypad. This will toggle on the Enable Editing Function. A new type of cursor will appear when you toggle this function on which looks like 4 arrows pointing north, south, east and west. Move this cursor around your project using the 2, 4, 6 and 8 keys on your numeric keypad.

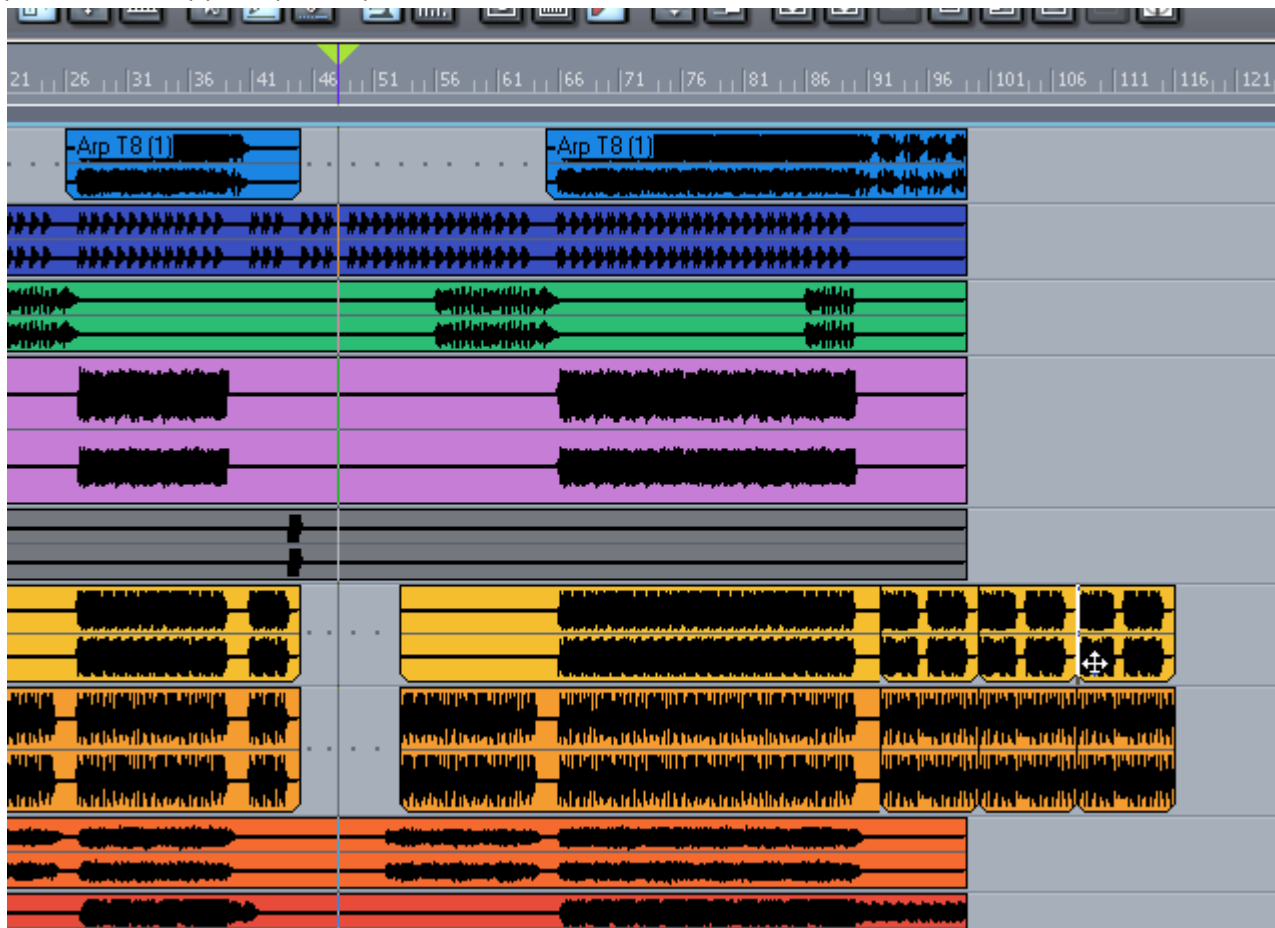


3. Move the cursor to an area in your project where you wish to zoom and press 1 on your numeric keypad. This will enable the Zoom / Scroll Mode. You should see the cursor change from the 4 arrows to a magnifying glass.
4. Hold down the CTRL key and Press the 2, 4, 6 and 8 keys on your numeric keypad. You should see now how you can easily zoom in on a particular location in your project. Cool eh?

## Step 2: Selecting with a Keyboard

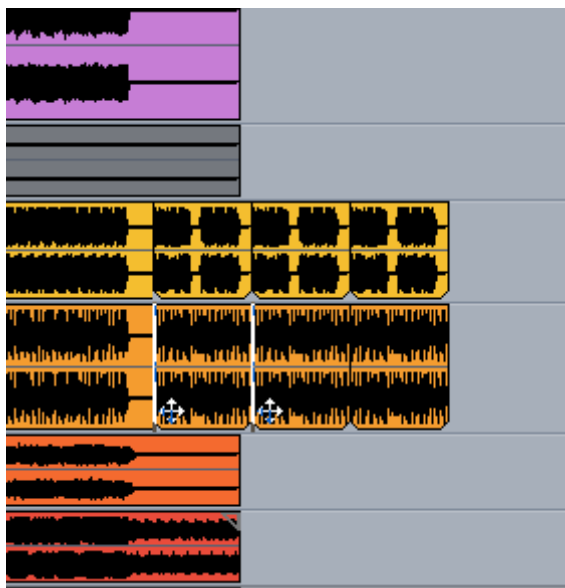
Now we are going to perform a few selection tricks.

1. Press 3 on the numeric keypad to enable Select Mode. The cursor will revert back to the 4 arrow design. Once again, you can use the 2, 4, 6 and 8 keys on your numeric keypad to navigate to the area you want to select.
2. Move the cursor to the left hand side of the area you wish to select. You should be at the start point of your selection.
3. Now with the ALT key pressed, use the 2, 4, 6 and 8 keys on your numeric keypad to select the area you wish to edit. You will see as you operate this command that the area you select will be grayed out to indicate your selection area.
4. Once you have selected the area you want to work on you will be free to use your Windows key commands to perform cut, copy and paste operations.



5. In the above example, I performed a cut command (CTRL-X), used the 8 and 6 key on my numeric keypad and did multiple pastes (CTRL-V) at the end of the track. This really is a great way to work, it's quick and precise.

6. Before we move on, I will show you another selection method. Hold the CTRL key down and press the 2, 4, 6 and 8



keys on your numeric keypad. Now you are selecting whole Clips. Notice that now you have the 4 arrows cursor on both sides of your selected clip.

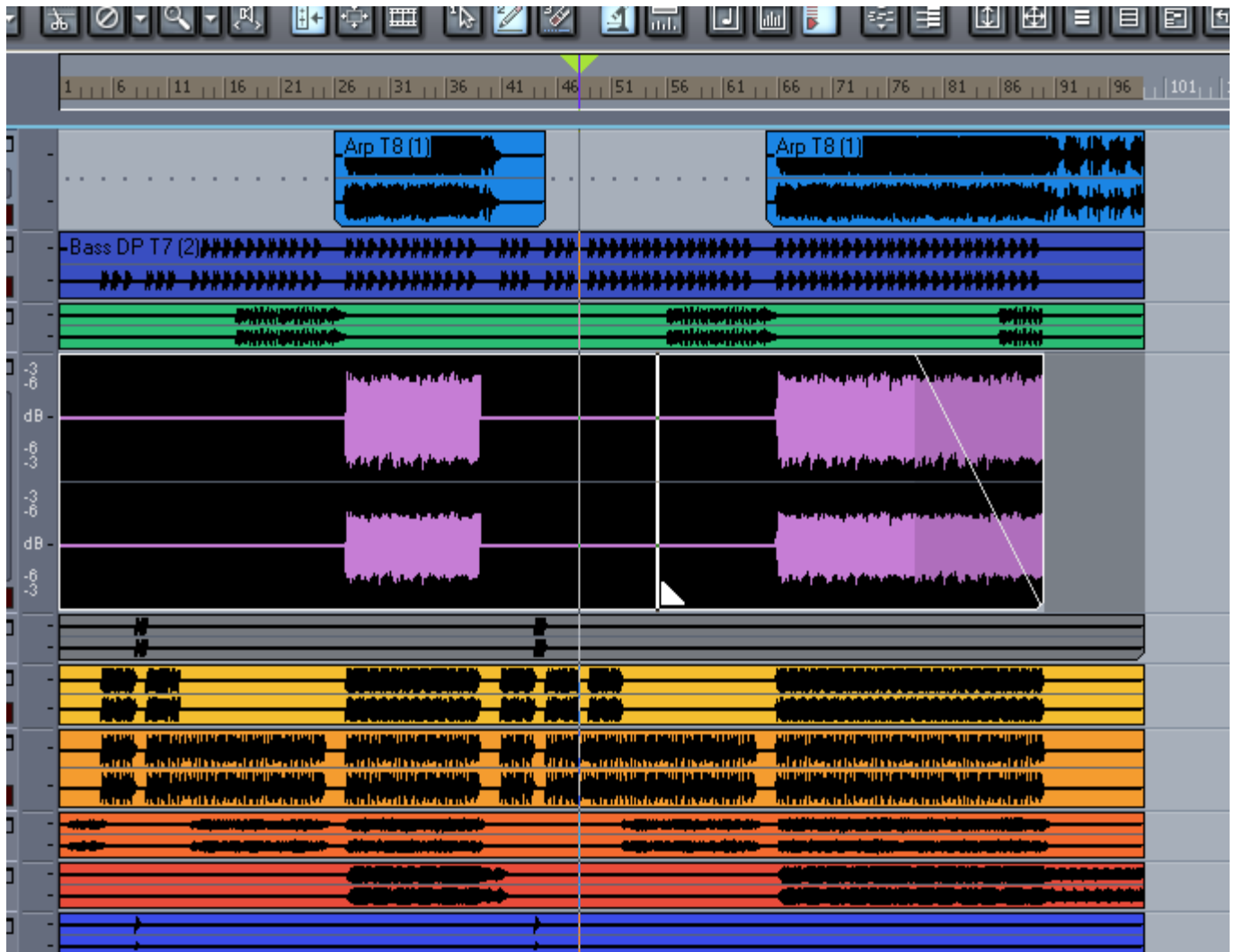
7. If you wish, press CTRL-Z (undo) a few times to take the project back to its original state.

### **Step 3: Clip Editing with a QWERTY Keyboard**

OK, now we are going to see how easy to do basic clip editing from your QWERTY Keyboard.

1. While you are still in Select Mode (3 key on your numeric keypad) move the cursor to a clip you wish to edit.
2. Press the 9 key on your numeric keypad to enable Clip Edit Mode (TIP: you can toggle between Select and Edit by pressing the 3 and 9 key alternately). Notice that when you enable Edit Mode the selected Clip turns black.
3. Now the numeric keypad is mapped as follows;
  - 2 Select fade out for editing.
  - 4 Select left clip edge for cropping.
  - 6 Select right clip edge for cropping.
  - 8 Select Fade in for editing.
  - + Crop or fade right edge of selected clip.
  - - Crop or fade left edge of selected clip.

4. Try out these command keys for your selected clip to see how quick and easy it is to operate these edit commands. Notice how the cursor image changes to show you exactly what edit command you are performing.



5. In the above example I performed the following key presses;
- Pressed 3 (Select Mode) then 2, 4, 6, or 8 to select the clip I wished to work with.
  - Pressed 9 (Edit Mode) and the clip turned black.
  - I decided that I needed to zoom in a bit to see what I was doing so I pressed 1 and then CTRL-8 to zoom in.
  - Pressed 9 to go back to Edit Mode.
  - Pressed 6 to select the right clip edge for cropping.
  - Pressed the minus key to crop.
  - Pressed 2 to select the right fade tool.
  - Pressed the minus key to fade.

Notice how we did all this without touching the mouse. Practice these key commands and you will find yourself working quicker and more efficiently. There are more ways to not use the mouse and I will cover some of those next month.