

THE 808 CHECKLIST

8 TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOUR 808S ARE 🔥🔥🔥

By Simon Servida



Greetings and salutations fellow homeslice,

My name is **Simon Servida**, and I've been producing modern music for the last 10 years.

In the process, I've been lucky to build a YouTube channel with nearly 600,000 subscribers and accumulated millions of downloads online.

A lot of my top videos are the ones where I fix listeners beats, and if there's a pattern I see again and again it's this:

Most beginning producers have no idea how to use 808s in their beats.

Which is why I created this quick "808 Checklist" to help make sure every beat you make has 808s that are clean and 🔥🔥🔥.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

My goal with this "checklist" was to create a simple step by step guide that you can easily print out or load up on your monitor next to your DAW that will guarantee your 808s are popping.

If you're just starting out, I'd suggest giving it a quick read through right before you create any new 808.

And even if you're a more experienced producer, you can use this checklist during the mixing and mastering process to give your beat a more polished and professional sound.

Enjoy!



1. Is my 808 in key?

808s are an instrument just like any other instrument in your beat. Which means you MUST figure out what key your song is in and tune your 808s to match!

2. Does my 808 follow the chord progression?

Not every song has a chord progression, but when it does, it's important to make sure your 808 follows each chord in the progression to anchor your melody and harmony. Just because it's in the right scale doesn't mean it's playing the right note!

3. Does the sound of my 808 match the song and genre?

What genre of music are you trying to create? Listen to some of the top songs in that genre and pay attention to the 808s. Are they long? Short? Is their distortion? Or lots of BASS SLIDES? Make sure your 808s sound similar.

4. Does my 808 and kick drum hit at the same time?

If you want more punchy low end, make sure each note of your 808 hits at the same time your kick drum does. (You don't need to do this on EVERY note, but when you do it will make your beat sound more powerful)

5. Is my 808 too boring?

Once you know the rules, it's time to break them! You can start by using the root note of each chord in the progression, but if it's sounding too boring, try using another note in the chord. (PRO TIP: You can also add 808 slides, reverse 808s, and other creative effects – just don't over do it!)

6. Is my 808 in mono?

The general rule of thumb is anything that's in the low end of your mix should be set to mono. This creates the cleanest sounding mix and also prevents phase issues.

7. Does my 808 complement the drums?

When the 808 comes in with the drums, it's one of the most exciting parts of your beat! Which is why it's so important to have them compliment each other in the mix! If your 808 is clashing with the kick, try using a different sample with a softer attack to give your kick more space.

8. Does my 808 have presence?

And finally, make sure the 808s in your beat are easy to hear on ALL types of speakers. Not everyone has studio speakers with giant subwoofers. So play your beat in the car and on your phone. And if you can't hear your 808s, add some saturation to give it more presence.



CONCLUSION

After nearly a decade in the game, I can confidently say there are few things in life as rewarding as being able to express yourself through your music – **And creating fire beats with 808s that you KNOW drop hard.**

And I hope this quick checklist helps YOU create more 🔥🔥🔥 beats as well!

If you're looking for more tips like this, make sure to check out my comprehensive beat making and music theory course: **Pro Level Beats**

Specifically designed to help producers make better beats directly inside your DAW. (No prior musical knowledge required)

With a visual step-by-step process where I hold your hand every step of the way as we move from the basics to "Pro Level" chord progressions, syncopation and of course Bass slidezzz!

Here's the link to see what's all included: www.prolevelbeats.com

Enjoy!



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