

Handout 1 - Glossary of Terms

- **Sample:**

- Noun:

1. a sound such as a musical tone, drumbeat, single drum hit, voice or any sound digitally stored in a synthesizer or audio workstation (such as the EMU-1200, pictured here) and used for playback in a recordings.
2. an excerpt from a musical recording that is used in another artist's recording



- Verb:

1. To use a part of something, for instance a guitar riff or vocal phrase, as part of one's own composition
2. To extract a piece of an existing sound recording using a sampler

- **Soundsystem:** A person or team of people with a system of speakers and power amplifiers sufficient to broadcast albums in public. The 1960s marked the beginning of the Jamaican tradition of naming soundsystems and pitting them against one another at public dance events, much like a "Battle of the Bands."
- **Toasting:** The practice of musical, rap-like talking over an existing musical track pioneered by Jamaican DJs at "sound system" dances in the late 1960s. In its earliest phases toasting was mostly used as a creative way to introduce records but by the early 1970s toasters had become performers themselves, writing new lyrics to existing instrumental recordings.
 - *Note: In Jamaica, the person who plays the records is the "selector" and the person who "toasts" into the microphone is the DJ; in U.S. terminology the DJ plays the records and the MC uses the microphone.*
- **Dub:** A remix of a recording in which the original vocal track has been partially or completely omitted. Dub originated in the late 1960s in Jamaica as recording format that provided soundsystems with a means to feature the "toasting" of their DJs.
- **Break:** An instrumental passage in funk and soul recordings in which the lead instruments and vocals stop, "breaking down" to just drums and bass or just drums. DJ Kool Herc popularized the extended "breakbeat" by developing a technique that toggled between two copies of the same record on different turntables.