**Unit 01 Using a Digital Audio Workstation (D/507/5002) Internal assessment tasks**

**Task 1** - **Describe a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)**

**Learning outcome 1: Understand the hardware component and software functions of a DAW**

Your school is holding an open evening for the music department and lots of people are interested in the music technology course. However, it is likely that some people are not sure what a digital audio workstation is.

To help people understand the music technology course you have been asked to produce information material describing how a DAW functions.

The information that you produce must describe how each of the hardware components works together and what each of the software functions are used for in a DAW.

You should use technical terms in your descriptions, eg:

hardware components:

* computer
* computer peripherals/hardware
* keyboard and other MIDI controllers
* audio/MIDI interface

software functions:

* differences between audio, software instrument and MIDI tracks
* software instruments
* editing tools
* plug-ins.

**Types of evidence:**

Your information could be presented as:

* a presentation
* a report with annotated diagrams
* a video recording
* a poster.

[**Unit 01 Using a Digital Audio Workstation (D/507/5002) (cont’d)**](http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Unit/Details/D_507_5002)

**Learning outcome 1: Understand the hardware component and software functions of a DAW**

**(cont’d)**

**Grading descriptors Example**

**Pass:** Describes the hardware components and software functions of a DAW and correctly uses some technical terms.

Learners should describe all hardware components and software functions shown in the specification. The learners may not be able to relate technical terms to some specific areas.

*The keyboard is connected to the computer by a cable which sends information.*

**Merit:** Describes the hardware components and software functions of a DAW and correctly uses a range of technical terms.

Learners should consistently use technical terms to describe both hardware components and software functions. There may be some minor errors of understanding.

*The controller keyboard generates MIDI data and is connected to the computer via a USB cable.*

**Distinction:** Describes the hardware components and software functions of a DAW supporting most points with well-thought-out examples/explanations. Consistently and correctly uses a wide range of technical terms.

Learners should support points with well thought out explanations (for example, the learner should explain how hardware components interrelate and how software functions could be used creatively in the context of producing music). Technical terms should be used consistently and correctly throughout.

*The controller keyboard generates MIDI data, which allows the pitch, velocity and length of notes played to be recorded into the software to create music. The cable acts as a MIDI interface with a MIDI connector plugging into the keyboard and USB to connect to the computer.*