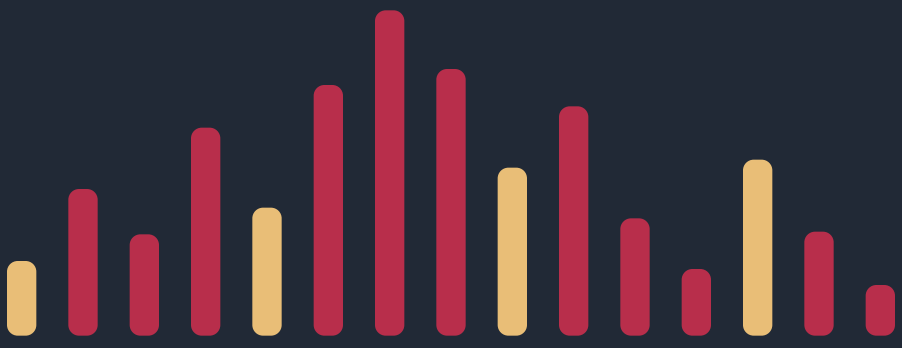
SAMPLEDEX / WINDOWS

Windows user guide

Make music. Keep your work.

Sampledex 0.20.0 | Windows Build 76

The complete Windows guide: instruments, Steps and Piano, recording and takes, routing, processing, saving and delivery.



VERSION 0.20.0 | BUILD 76 | NOVEMBER 9, 2026

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Start here: install and launch

Windows 10/11 x64 | Keep the complete download

This package is unsigned. If Windows shows "Windows protected your PC", choose **More info**, check that it is the intended Sampledex Setup file from a source you trust, then choose **Run anyway** if offered. You may see Unknown publisher. This prompt does not appear on every computer.

1. Right-click the downloaded ZIP in File Explorer and choose Extract All. Open the extracted folder and read START_HERE_FIRST.txt. Do not launch from inside a ZIP preview.
2. Open CLICK ME - Install Sampledex.exe in the customer ZIP, or the installer ending in Windows-x64-Setup.exe in the official workflow download. Follow setup, then launch Sampledex from the Start menu. If Run anyway is unavailable, ask the computer administrator to review the package. Do not disable security software or change school/work policies.
3. Alternatively, extract the portable ZIP into its own folder and run Sampledex.exe. Keep the scanner, all DLLs, documentation and licenses together. Choose installer or portable; you do not need both.
4. On Home, choose Audio / MIDI settings and select your playback output. Open the House demo and press Play. Save your own projects in a folder you own, using a complete .sdxp package.

The Windows prompt instructions apply to an unrecognized app, not a malware detection. No certificate account is needed to use Sampledex. BUILD_INFO identifies the package; its associated manual workflow supplies native build and installer evidence.

Build 76: VST3 layers keep their first bars, an EQ you can see, and a Home that remembers your projects

Tester fixes. On some VST3 instruments a chord at the start of a pattern stayed silent for its first two bars after Play, at loop restarts and in exports, especially with a track selected. Sampledex now ends sounding notes with ordinary note-offs before the next notes start, so the opening chord plays every time, in exports too. The mixer's Add effect menu lists each Sampledex effect once after a VST3 scan.

EQ frequency display. The Sampledex EQ shows its curve and the live spectrum before and after it. Drag the L, M and H points to change the bands. See See and shape the EQ.

New Home. Recent projects, your studio setup, template previews and a guide to where each job happens. See Use the Home page. No project fields changed; the shared document stays schema 13. See the `WINDOWS_RELEASE_NOTES_BUILD76` notes for the full list and known limits.

Included from Build 75: a piano roll that keeps going, and quicker key, quantize and velocity tools

No end at four bars. The piano roll runs on past the pattern's end. A note drawn, moved, stretched, pasted or duplicated there grows the pattern to the end of that bar, and every clip that reached the old end grows with it, so you hear the new notes. Drawing on a MIDI track with no clip starts its first pattern. See Draw past the end.

Clips. Double-click a clip to open it, right-click empty space on a MIDI track to add an empty clip, and drag a MIDI clip's edge to widen it without repeating. The **Pattern** menu in the Piano toolbar places linked copies, repeats a pattern to the song end, makes a clip unique and sets pattern and song length. See Arrange clips.

Key, scale, quantize and velocity. Draw new notes in scale, Detect key from notes, tools that act on the whole pattern when nothing is selected, new notes that copy the last note, and velocity ramps. Bounce and Freeze now show the new audio track. See Key and scale and Edit MIDI notes. No project fields changed; the shared document stays schema 13. See the `WINDOWS_RELEASE_NOTES_BUILD75` notes for the full list and known limits.

Included from Build 74: the Rack, more export formats and cleaner sound

The Rack. Rack in the top bar, the Rack editor tab or **Ctrl**+**R** opens every track in one rack: instrument, level, pan, mute, solo, meter and clickable 16th-note steps. **+ Drums**, **+ Bass / 808**, **+ Keys** and **+ Synth** add a track with an empty four-bar pattern. See The Rack.

Export. WAV 16-bit, 24-bit or 32-bit float, AIFF, FLAC, MP3 and OGG Vorbis. Song exports stop after the last bar with music, the dialog shows the exact length, file count and size, and stems go into a folder named after the project. Right-click a track name, clip, empty timeline space or the ruler for **Export audio**. See Export and share.

Cleaner sound and editing. A sampler note cut off by a new note fades out over 3 ms instead of clicking, and chopped or trimmed samples fade at the cut; whole samples play exactly. Reverb keeps its 48 kHz tone at 88.2 to 192 kHz, and rhythmic gate edges no longer move with the buffer size. In a transposed clip, the piano keys and drawn notes play the pitch the clip sounds. A MIDI take recorded over an empty pattern replaces it in one Undo step. Section names and markers stay pinned above the tracks. **Edit > Remove hidden duplicate clips** cleans up empty clips that earlier builds hid under a track's first clip; see Troubleshooting. No project fields changed; the shared document stays schema 13. See the `WINDOWS_RELEASE_NOTES_BUILD74` notes for the full list.

Included from Build 73: the Mac layout, MIDI learn and faster editing

Same layout as the Mac app. The top bar holds Timeline, Beat Making, Panels and Rack, the project name and save status, then New project, Open, Save project and Export. The transport reads Undo / Redo, the playback buttons with **Record take** and **Loop: off**, the LCD, then the display units, Live keyboard, **Click: off** and Count-in. The LCD shows the position first, then the tempo, then the key above the time signature. Editor tabs sit above the docked editor. Rack opens the Rack, every track at once; Panels also opens Home and Audio / MIDI settings.

Mac shortcuts with Ctrl. **Ctrl**+**1** to **Ctrl**+**6** open Piano, Sound, Mixer, Audio, Steps and Automation; **Ctrl**+**R** opens or closes the Rack; **Ctrl**+**K** the live keyboard; **Ctrl**+**T** splits the selected clip at the playhead; **Ctrl**+**/** lists shortcuts and **Ctrl**+**** opens Panels.

MIDI learn links a controller's knobs, faders and pads to volume, pan, plug-in parameters, tempo and the transport; see Mix and route. **Faster editing:** notes sound as you click and drag them, clips drag between tracks and in groups, copied sections paste across tracks, and edits past the song end lengthen the song. See the `WINDOWS_RELEASE_NOTES_BUILD73` notes for the full list.

Included from Build 72: tools that respond and a cleaner studio

Piano roll tools. With the Piano roll focused, press **1** Select, **2** Draw, **3** Erase, **4** Length, **5** Velocity or **6** Paint. Letters also work: **V** Select, **D** Draw, **E** Erase, **T** Length and **B** Paint. The pointer shows what a click will do: a pencil for Draw, an eraser for Erase, a brush for Paint, a move hand over notes and a resize cursor at a note's right edge. In Draw, click to add a note at the chosen Length or drag right to set its length while drawing. In Erase, drag across notes to remove them all in one Undo step; locked notes stay.

Arrangement cursors. Each timeline tool shows its action over a clip before you click. Clip edges show the resize cursor; an audio clip's upper corner handles show the fade cursor. The **Fade** tool is in the tool bar beside Select, Move, Trim, Split and Erase (**4** or **F** with the timeline focused). Fades apply to audio clips.

Resize tracks. Point at the lower edge of any track, in its header or the arrangement, until the up/down cursor appears, then drag. All tracks share one height from 48 to 240 pixels. Double-click the edge to restore the default. Track height is a view setting and never changes the song.

A cleaner look. Controls follow sampledex.audio: outlined rounded buttons, Sampledex crimson for Play, Export and the selected tool, segmented tool and editor bars, grouped transport controls and two-line track headers with R, M, S and A.

Included from Build 71: start safely and keep your work

After an unexpected exit, Sampledex asks before starting and reopens nothing automatically. Choose **Start normally**, **Start without outside plug-ins**, or, when the last session left unsaved work, **Recover without outside plug-ins**. Without outside plug-ins, only Sampledex sounds play for that session; projects keep every plug-in's saved settings, and a warning names each silent slot. Restart normally to use them again. Hold **Shift** while starting to see these choices any time.

The previous session's unsaved work is renamed to `Recovery before restart ...` in `%APPDATA%\Sampledex\Recording` before anything can overwrite it. Recovering opens it as an unsaved project; choose **File > Save As** to keep it. If the last session stopped while loading a plug-in, the prompt names it. That shows which load was interrupted, not a proven cause.

When a plug-in change cannot be saved because audio stopped or the plug-in did not respond, closing its window hides it and keeps the change; open the plug-in again to see it. Save, Open, New, Quit, Reconnect audio and editing offer **Use confirmed settings**, **Try again** or **Cancel**. Use confirmed settings keeps notes, clips, recordings and every other edit and uses each plug-in's last saved settings; only the unsaved plug-in change is left out. While recording, exporting or saving, plug-in changes stay live and save afterwards.

Included from Build 70: direct VST3 hosting

Windows VST3 instruments and effects run inside Sampledex again. Playback, live instruments, native plug-in editors, bounce and export use the same direct hosting approach. The extra interprocess audio queues, isolation delay and plug-in-process restart controls have been removed. A plug-in's own latency still receives the existing timing compensation.

The separate plug-in scanner remains included. Scanning examines candidate plug-ins in its helper process; playing or editing a loaded plug-in runs that plug-in in Sampledex. A crashing loaded plug-in can therefore close the DAW. Save regularly, keep project backups and use current Windows x64 VST3 versions.

Your recorded takes, folders, mixer and editing tools remain. Project files still use genuine schema 13; saved plug-in settings and portable media keep their existing format. This hosting repair does not make a missing Windows plug-in or a Mac-only Audio Unit available. See Use VST3 plug-ins for loading, editing and troubleshooting.

New in Build 68: choose what to bounce

Build 68 puts source selection, file formats, combined or separate output, range, effect tails and playback behavior in one bounce dialog. Original tracks stay as they are unless you explicitly request a supported replacement. The default adds muted audio so the new render does not double the song.

1. Use the timeline **Select** tool. Hold **Ctrl** or **Shift** and click the MIDI and audio clips you want, even on different tracks. Or drag a rectangle from empty timeline space.
2. Right-click a highlighted clip and choose **Bounce / combine selected clips...**. Right-clicking within the group keeps your selection.
3. Choose project audio or exported files, then **One stereo mix** or **Separate source stems**. Review sources, range, tail and processing before rendering.
4. For project audio, review **After bounce**. Keep originals and add muted audio is the default. To replace complete tracks during playback, explicitly choose the supported source-muting option.
5. Listen to the result. Keep the originals and use Undo if you want to revise the choice. Export WAV or AIFF for further production, or MP3 for convenient listening.

See Export and share for the complete walkthrough, formats and shared-effects limits. Bouncing MIDI renders its instrument to audio. Converting recorded audio to editable notes is the separate Pitch editing / audio to MIDI workflow for a single melody.

Workflow tools carried forward

Sampledex 0.20.0 Build 76: check the package's `BUILD_INFO` for its version and build. The associated manual Windows workflow identifies the source commit and records native build, test and installer checks. Local checks do not replace testing with your audio/MIDI hardware or exchanging projects through both installed Windows and Mac apps.

Use the menu map below to find the new controls. Finish recording and Apply or Revert any pending Sound/Steps edits before opening a processing editor. Processing editors hold a private draft: typing, analysis and preview leave the project unchanged. Apply publishes one completed Undo edit. Cancel, closing the editor, changing the selected source or editing the project elsewhere prevents an outdated result from replacing newer work.

Workflow	Open it here
Clean up a recording	Select an audio clip > Clip > Recording cleanup...
Correct a melody or create MIDI	Select an audio clip > Clip > Pitch editing / audio to MIDI...
Organize track folders	Track > Track folders...; click a folder's name for its menu
Review Undo history	Edit > Undo History...
Find or rescan a VST3	Tools > Scan VST3 plug-ins
Audition a file at the song's tempo	Browser > Files > Original / Sync / Timing
Extract or apply groove	Piano Tools or right-click a note > Groove templates... for MIDI; Clip > Audio groove templates... for audio
Listen to a bus or return alone	Mixer > the bus/return's Solo button
Keep a recent MIDI idea	Transport > Recover recent MIDI performance...

1. Clean up a recording

1. Select the audio clip and open **Clip > Recording cleanup...**.
2. Enable only the repairs you need: **Reduce mains hum** at 50 or 60 Hz, **Repair isolated clicks**, or **Reduce steady noise**. Start with modest reduction and compare the result.
3. For steady noise, enter a source range that contains noise without music or speech. Confirm **This selection contains noise only...**, then click **Learn noise profile**. The profile needs at least 2,048 source frames and at most 120 seconds. Choose audible steady noise; a completely silent profile provides no noise reduction. If you edit the profile start or length later, confirm the new noise-only range and click Learn again. Changing the checkbox alone does not relearn it.

4. Set a comparison start and length, then use **Original** and **Processed**. They audition the same dry source range, up to 30 seconds. Click **Apply cleanup** when the result is useful.

Cleanup preserves the complete original source, clip duration and stereo alignment. Undo restores the previous edit; the Audio inspector's **Revert processing** operation followed by **Apply precision edit** restores the retained source. Strong reduction can remove wanted sound, so judge the recording by listening. This tool does not remove arbitrary background voices or replace a clean recording.

2. Correct one melody or turn it into MIDI

1. Select a vocal, bass or other recording with one note sounding at a time. Open **Clip > Pitch editing / audio to MIDI...**.
2. Set a useful minimum/maximum analysis frequency and minimum note length, then click **Analyze melody**. Review the contour and detected notes; detection is a proposal.
3. Edit each note's enabled state, start, length, target MIDI pitch, cents and strength in the table. You can drag a note vertically in the contour to change its target pitch. Invalid or overlapping boundaries must be corrected before continuing.
4. Select a note and compare **Original** with **Corrected**. Try **Preserve formants** when correcting a voice. Click **Apply pitch correction** to change the audio, or **Create MIDI track** to add a separate editable MIDI melody while retaining the original audio.

Corrections are limited to ±12 semitones per operation and keep the source duration. MIDI uses nearest-semitone pitches; it does not reproduce every vocal slide or timbre. Choose a sound for the new MIDI track and inspect the notes. Chords, full mixes and polyphonic transcription are unsupported. Use Undo or the Audio inspector's Revert operation to return to retained original audio.

3. Keep a large session organized

1. Select a track and open **Track > Track folders... > Group selected track...**. Name the folder. **New empty folder...** creates an empty container.
2. Use **Move to**, **Move up** or **Move down** to organize tracks and folders. Drag a folder onto another folder to nest it; Shift-drag places it before or after the target.
3. Click the folder's plus/minus disclosure to hide or show its tracks and takes. With the folder focused, Left/Right collapses/expands and Enter or Space toggles it. F2 or Shift+F10 opens its commands.
4. **Remove folder, keep all tracks** removes only the container. Undo restores the organization.

Folders organize the timeline; they do not create buses, change audio routing, mute tracks or disarm hidden tracks. The supported limit is 128 folders nested up to eight levels. Save the complete package to retain their ordering and collapse state; see folder compatibility below.

4. See what Undo will do

Open **Edit > Undo History...**. Choose Undo or Redo in the list selector; the next available operation appears first with a meaningful label. Use the panel's **Undo** or **Redo** button for one operation at a time. Selecting a row does not jump over several edits. History retains up to 256 edits, with a 256 MiB budget for older history. Older entries are released when needed; the most recent edit remains undoable even if that single edit exceeds the budget. It clears when the project closes and is not saved as part of the musical document.

5. Use external VST3 instruments and effects

Load Windows x64 VST3 instruments and effects through the Browser or the selected track's instrument/effect controls. The plug-in's native editor opens inside its Sampledex host window. Changes in a live editor affect the sounding track; Save and closing the live editor capture its settings. If capture fails, keep the editor open and retry instead of discarding the last confirmed state.

Choose Tools > Scan VST3 plug-ins to rescan a missing or updated plug-in. Use Tools > Add VST3 folder... if it is installed in a custom folder. Unavailable plug-ins retain their saved identity and settings in the project. Keep the supplied scanner, required DLLs, docs and licenses beside Sampledex.exe. There is no separate audio worker or process restart command in this build. See Use VST3 plug-ins.

6. Try an audio loop before importing it

1. Open **Browser > Files**, navigate to a supported audio file and select it.
2. Click **Original** to hear its recorded pitch and speed through the current output. This does not add a clip.
3. Click **Sync** or **Timing**. After analysis, **Loop preview timing** shows the source name, duration and a **Detected**, **Ambiguous** or **Tempo unknown** assessment. Treat detected timing as a suggestion, especially for irregular or nonrhythmic recordings.
4. Review or enter the correct **Source BPM**, **Quarter-note beats** or **4/4 bars**. The Files timing fields can supply your suggested value. A bar here always means four quarter notes; use beats for another meter. The first source sample is treated as the downbeat.
5. Choose **Preview loop** to confirm and audition at the project's tempo, or **Cancel** to dismiss the proposal. Analysis alone does not begin playback. The loop follows project tempo, seeks and loop wraps, and can audition while the song is stopped without starting or moving the arrangement.
6. Use Preview level to balance the audition. Browser Stop or the main transport Stop ends it; choosing another preview replaces it. Changing the reviewed timing cancels the old Sync request.

Audition accepts mono/stereo files up to 64 MiB decoded and tempo ratios from 1/16 to 16×. Reviewed source BPM must be 4-1,000; musical length must be positive and at most 120,000 quarter-note beats. Timing review never rewrites the audio file, adds a clip or creates an Undo edit. Import separately when ready. Browser and processing editors share one audition owner; hiding the Browser does not stop a later editor preview. Export releases audition resources before rendering.

7. Transfer a rhythmic feel

MIDI: select a source pattern and, if needed, a subset of notes in Piano. Open **Piano > Tools > Groove templates...**, right-click a note and choose **Groove templates...**, or use the main Tools menu. Right-clicking an unselected note selects it without deleting it. With no note selection, the editor uses the pattern's unlocked notes. Choose a cycle length in quarter-note beats (up to 64) and a grid, including triplets; click **Extract source**, **Straight** or **Light swing** to rebuild the private table for those settings. Review timing offsets and accents, set independent Timing and Accent strengths, then Preview and **Apply groove**. Existing locks and overlap rules still apply. Notes retain pitch, duration and supported expression; linked placements of the same source pattern update together.

Audio preparation: first select the clip and open **Clip > Audio timing / beat markers...**. Use **Analyze beats**, or enter its known Source BPM (20-400) and click **Build from BPM**. Review the table's source seconds, target beats and pinned markers. Add or remove interior markers as needed; endpoints cannot be removed, and markers must remain ordered. Changing the BPM field requires another Build from BPM. Compare Original and Preview draft, then **Confirm timing**. This enables the reviewed Follow-project timing and prepares its audio before publication.

Now open **Clip > Audio groove templates...**. Audio needs confirmed interior beat markers. Extract or import a template, adjust Timing strength, Preview and Apply. Audio contributes timing, not MIDI velocity. Linked timing-group clips are prepared together; crossing markers or invalid ranges leave the current project unchanged.

Import... and **Export...** exchange independent `.sdxgroove` version-1 template files. Exporting a template does not apply it to the song. A template is a repeating timing/accent pattern, not an audio file or a new project format. Give it a readable name: ordinary multilingual text is supported, while invisible control characters and malformed template data are rejected.

8. Hear a bus or return without changing the saved mix

In Mixer, click **Solo** on a bus or return. Multiple listening Solos combine their routes. A bus includes the tracks and paths feeding it; a return keeps its send/sidechain processing while suppressing unrelated dry paths. Explicit mutes still matter. The Master strip and Routing panel display a notice while a bus or return audition is active. Click the lit Solo buttons again to clear them. This is temporary listening state: it is **not saved and not included in export**. Change the actual routing/mutes or export source selection when you want a permanent delivery change.

9. Keep an idea played before pressing Record

1. Connect and select your MIDI input, select an instrument track and confirm that its monitored notes sound. Recent capture uses the loaded arrangement's MIDI input; it is not a background recording of the microphone.
2. After playing an idea, open **Transport > Recover recent MIDI performance...**.
3. Choose an available Playback, Stopped or Count-in section and the last 5, 15, 30, 60 or 120 seconds. Review the notes, controllers, pitch changes and original destination track names. Selecting a recovery pins that version for retry.

4. Choose **Keep in Project** to place it on its original tracks in one Undo edit, or **Save Separate** to write a portable recovery project. The status message reports its path under Sampledex Recording / Project History / Unplaced Takes.

Play, seek, loop and stopped sections retain their own timing. Events already captured by Record are excluded. A retained performance from another project must use Save Separate; it must not be redirected to a different instrument. Applying the exact same window again is blocked while its inserted clips remain. Failed or stale placement retains the selected recovery for retry. Save a recovery you need before quitting; this feature is recent MIDI recovery, not unlimited history or retrospective audio capture.

Keep the whole project when moving computers

The musical document remains genuine `SAMPLEDEX_PROJECT 13`, with supported older Windows inputs still readable. Pitch, cleanup and groove publish ordinary supported notes/audio/markers rather than a new required schema. Keep the whole `.sdxp`, including media, `RecordingState`, Windows supplemental state and the new optional `WorkspaceState` folder.

`WorkspaceState/Folders.json` stores folder organization, stable track IDs and collapse state separately from music. Its digest must match the exact musical document before it is restored. Missing, invalid or stale folder data opens with a flat track list and cannot overwrite newer music. For a single `.sdx`, retain the adjacent hidden `.<filename>.workspace-state` directory as well. Older apps may omit companions when resaving; preserve an untouched package. Do not rename IDs, change headers or copy an old companion onto a newer project to force a match.

Local independent codec/fixture checks provide compatibility evidence. Transfer through both actual installed Windows and Mac applications for this combined upgrade remains untested. Missing third-party plug-ins still need compatible installations; their retained state alone cannot make them play. Windows row mute/solo has the existing schema-13 conversion limits described under project compatibility.

1. Audio setup

Choose **Audio / MIDI settings** on Home, or open **Audio / MIDI** near the transport in the studio. Select your Windows playback device, playback buffer and sample rate. Device default, 44.1, 48 and 96 kHz are available; unsupported settings are rejected before changing the active output. A smaller buffer responds faster; a larger buffer gives the computer more time to process instruments and effects.

Use a moderate buffer such as 256 or 512 samples, where your device offers it. If you need to change the device's default sample rate, use Windows sound settings or the interface's control panel, then reconnect audio in Sampledex. Increase the buffer if you hear clicks or dropouts. The main track recorder uses WASAPI shared input on Windows; ASIO input is not included. Available physical channels depend on the Windows endpoint exposed by your interface driver.

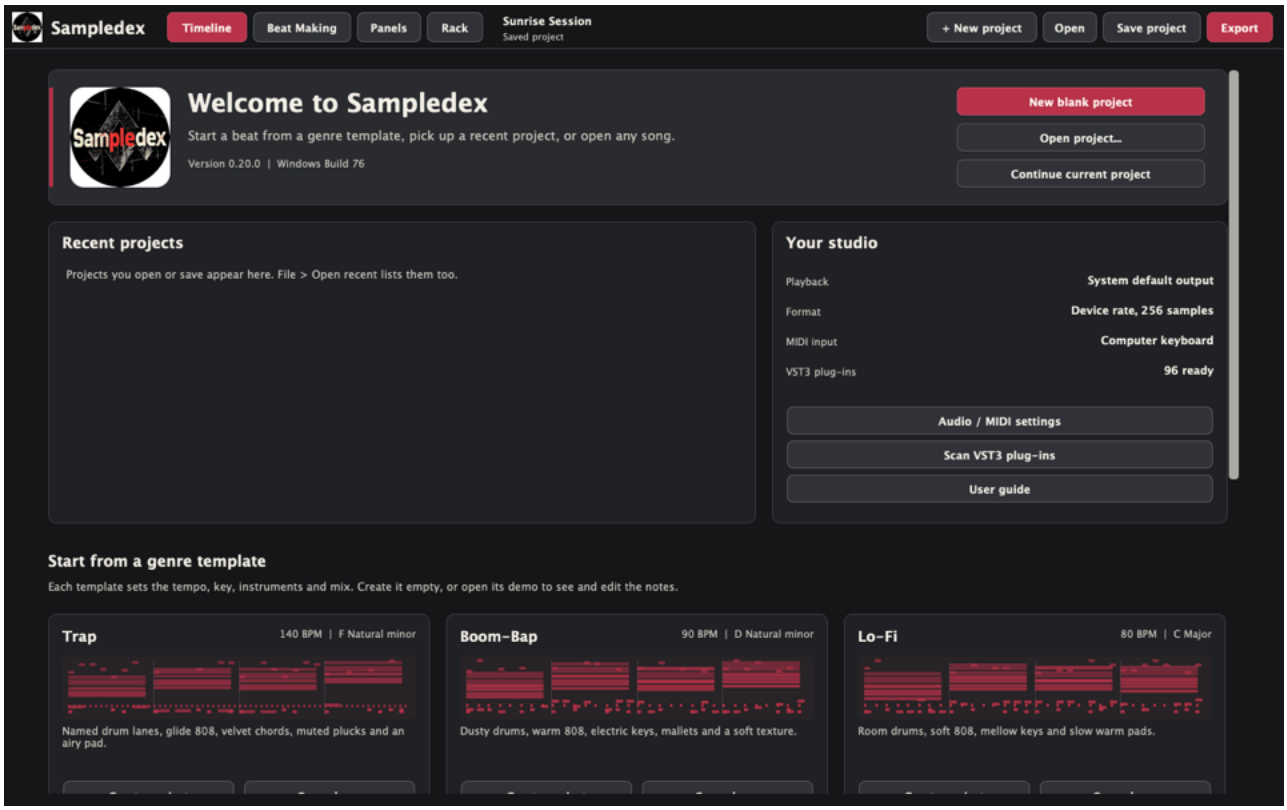
To test output, load a factory demo from **New project**, select **Song** and press Play. Headphones are useful when recording a microphone.

Working on a slower laptop

Start with the built-in instruments and a small project. If playback clicks, try a buffer of 512 or 1024 samples where available. A larger buffer adds delay when playing live, so reduce it when recording if playback stays clean. Close other demanding applications and reduce the number of heavy instruments and effects in the project. Keep the laptop connected to power for longer sessions. When an instrument is using too much processing time, select its MIDI track and choose **Track > Freeze instrument**. Sampledex renders the instrument to audio while keeping mixer, effects and routing controls live. Use **Track > Unfreeze instrument** to return to MIDI editing; the original notes are retained. Freeze supports single-output instruments; shared drum-kit parts and samplers with separate pad/zone outputs require a supported bounce/export route or routing changes.

2. Find your way around

Area	What it does
Windows menu bar	File, Edit, View, Track, Clip, Transport, Tools and Help. Press Alt or F10 to enter the menu bar, then use the arrow keys and Enter.
Top bar	Timeline, Beat Making, Panels and Rack, the project name and save status, then New project, Open, Save project and Export. The layout follows the Mac app. Rack opens or closes the Rack, with every track's mix, instrument and clickable steps; Panels also opens Home and Audio / MIDI settings.
Transport	Undo/Redo, seek, Play, Stop, Record, Quick audio take, Loop, position, BPM, display units, Live keyboard, Click and recording options.
Left browser	Factory sounds, project patterns, files and buttons to add common instrument tracks.
Arrangement	Track controls, clips, sections, markers, loop range and the tempo row.
Editor strip	Above the docked editor: the track picker, then Piano, Sound, Mixer, Audio, Steps, Automation, Routing and Rack tabs (Ctrl+1 to Ctrl+6 for the first six). Expand gives the editor the workspace; Restore brings the timeline back. With no editor docked, the tabs sit at the bottom of the window.
Footer	Operation status and keyboard hints.



Home brings back your recent projects and shows your studio setup.

Use the Home page

Home opens at launch. Reopen it with **File > Home** or **Panels > Home**. Choose **New blank project**, **Open project...**, or **Continue current project** to return to the song that is open.

Recent projects lists every project you open or save, newest first, with its folder and when it was last saved. Click one to open it. Right-click for **Open**, **Show in Explorer** or **Remove from recent projects**; **Clear list** forgets them all. A project that was moved, renamed or deleted shows **Not found**; click it to remove it from the list, and use Open project to find it in its new place. Removing a project from the list never touches its files. **File > Open recent** lists the last 12. Sampledex checks whether each project still exists in the background, so a disconnected network or USB drive never holds up Home; a row reads **Checking...** until it knows.

Your studio shows the playback device, the sample rate and buffer size the device is using with the resulting latency, the MIDI input and how many VST3 plug-ins are ready. **Audio / MIDI settings** opens device configuration, **Scan VST3 plug-ins** scans the configured folders, and **User guide** opens this guide. Add other plug-in folders through Tools.

Find your way around at the end of Home shows where each job happens: arranging in the Timeline (**F6**), notes in Piano (**Ctrl**+**1**), drum hits in Steps (**Ctrl**+**5**), every track in the Rack (**Ctrl**+**R**), mixing in the Mixer (**Ctrl**+**3**), sounds in the Browser (**F8**), automation (**Ctrl**+**6**), and Play selected pattern or Play song in the Transport menu. **All keyboard shortcuts** opens the full list (**F1**).

Each genre template shows a miniature of its demo's first four bars, its tempo and key, and two choices: **Create project** loads instruments and empty patterns; **Open demo** loads editable notes as well. Scroll Home to see the remaining templates on a short display.

Give the timeline more room

1. Press **F6** (**View > Focus timeline**) to hide the browser and editors, including floating panels. This gives the arrangement the available workspace.
2. Click an editor tab when you need to edit notes, sounds or audio. Press **F7** to show or hide the current editor and **F8** to show or hide the browser.
3. In split view, drag the horizontal divider **down** to enlarge the timeline or **up** to enlarge the editor. Double-click it to give each area equal space.
4. Drag the divider beside the browser to change its width. Double-click to restore its default width.

Use the Windows title-bar maximize button or **View > Maximize / restore main window** to fill the available desktop area.

Expand gives the selected editor the workspace. Click **Restore** to bring the timeline back. **Timeline** in the top bar shows the arrangement over the Piano roll with the browser; **Beat Making** shows it over Steps. **View > Balanced workspace** shows the browser and docked editor alongside the arrangement. Time and Height controls change zoom within an editor; the dividers change how much screen space it gets. The arrangement has Time and Height sliders at its lower right, and **-** / **+** zoom buttons beside the bar range. Hold Ctrl while using the mouse wheel over the timeline to zoom around the pointer, or use **View > Zoom timeline in / out**. **Fit arrangement horizontally** shows the song width; **Make timeline tracks taller / shorter** changes the lane height. You can also drag the lower edge of any track, and double-click that edge to restore the default height.

Float, dock, hide and restore panels

Each Browser, Piano roll, Sound, Mixer, Audio, Steps, Automation, Routing and Rack panel has **Float** and **Hide** controls in its header. Float opens a resizable window that you can move independently. Its **Dock** button returns it to the main workspace. Several different panels can float at the same time.

Closing a floating window hides that panel. It keeps the project and edits intact. Reopen it with **View > [panel name] > Show** or its editor tab. Each panel's View submenu also offers **Hide**, **Float in its own window** and **Dock in workspace**. The top-bar **Panels** button (Ctrl+\) opens the same workspace choices.

For a single laptop screen, keep the editors docked and use F6 to return to the arrangement. Scroll inside compact panels to reach their remaining controls. If you lose track of a panel, choose **View > Reset layout and dock all panels**.

Sampledex saves panel positions and sizes when it closes and restores them at the next launch. Floating panels are moved onto an available display if a previously used screen is disconnected. Workspace settings are separate from your song.



Desktop layout with resizable arrangement and docked piano editor. Zoom the PDF to inspect the labels.



Timeline focus at 960×600 logical pixels. Browser and editor can be restored with F8 and F7.

3. Create and save a project

1. From **Home**, choose Blank studio, Create project on a genre template, or Open demo. The File menu also provides New project, New from template and Factory demos.
2. Use the browser's Add Drums, Add Sample Kit, Add Bass / 808, Add Keys or Add Synth buttons for more instruments. Add Drums creates synthesized drums; Add Sample Kit creates a separate sample drum track and a four-bar pattern. Open the **Track** menu to add, rename or remove tracks, choose instruments and manage effects.
3. Select a track to edit its clips, instrument and mixer controls.
4. Choose **Save project** or press **Ctrl**+**S**.

Move projects between Windows and Mac

Windows Build 76 saves format 13 for the existing Mac Build 51. Open a Windows Build 53 format-14 project in Windows Build 76, then use Save As to create a compatible copy. Windows Build 76 also continues to read supported older projects.

Save the project as `.sdxp`. Close it, then ZIP the **entire .sdxp folder/package** for transfer, including `Project.sdx` and its media. Extract the ZIP on the other computer and open the .sdxp. Do not send only Project.sdx. Keep an untouched backup before updating or transferring work.

Windows row mute/solo is carried into the Mac-readable notes as zero hit probability for inaudible sounds. The notes remain editable. In Windows Steps, right-click a hit and choose **Hit chance > 100%** to make it play on every pass. On Mac, use the note/step Chance control to change those hits; Mac Build 51 does not have the newer Windows row mute/solo controls. Existing drum-sampler pads carry custom names. Windows keeps supplementary edit-state files with the project so an unchanged return restores its original row settings and note probabilities. If the Mac edits or resaves the project, Windows honors that newer musical document instead of restoring stale settings. Keep a Windows backup when moving work between these versions. For a single-file `.sdx` project, its adjacent `.<filename>.windows-state` folder holds the supplementary settings; keep it alongside the file. Using a complete `.sdxp` package is simpler for transfer.

Sampledex stock sounds travel with their project settings. Third-party instruments and effects need compatible plug-ins installed on both computers. Audio Units are Mac-only; bounce those tracks to audio when sharing with Windows. The project retains unavailable plug-in state, but that plug-in cannot sound until a compatible installation is available.

Use a `.sdxp` project package for projects with audio. It is a folder containing `Project.sdx` and the project's media. Move or back up the whole package. Open project asks whether you want a **Project folder (.sdxp)** or a **Project file (.sdx)**, then opens the matching Windows picker. Choose the complete package folder, or choose its internal `Project.sdx` through the file picker. Both open the package and its media.

Save As creates a separate destination. Save checks for changes made to the destination outside Sampledex so it does not silently overwrite a newer project. Keep working copies outside the application's installation folder.

Keep original takes when sharing

Build 76 saves original recordings and comp choices in the optional `RecordingState` folder inside a complete `.sdxp`. Keep that folder and all its contents with `Project.sdx`, media and any Windows supplemental state. The audible arrangement remains genuine format 13 and can open without the new take editor. Older Mac and Windows builds can play that arrangement, subject to available plug-ins, but cannot edit take lanes they do not support.

A companion is restored only when it matches the musical document. If another app changes the song, Sampledex honors that newer music and preserves stale take material separately for recovery; it does not overwrite the song with old choices. Save As in an older app may omit take metadata it does not understand. Keep the original complete package before using an older app. For embedded `.sdx` files, keep the adjacent hidden `.<filename>.recording-state` folder and any `.<filename>.windows-state` folder with the file; using `.sdxp` is easier.

Import audio and MIDI

1. Select one or more audio and MIDI files in Windows File Explorer. You can mix file types in the same drop, up to 64 files within the project's track limits.
2. Drop them on the arrangement at the desired time. The snap grid sets the position, and the files become separate tracks at that position. Dropping elsewhere in Sampledex uses the playhead position, except a single audio file dropped on a sampler drum row in Steps, which loads that pad. The File menu and browser also provide import commands.
3. Review **Import audio and MIDI**. The summary shows each file's audio tempo information or MIDI tracks, tempo and meter events.
4. Leave **Project timing > Keep project tempo and meter** selected to preserve the current clock. To adopt MIDI timing, explicitly choose **Use tempo and meter from [file]**. Only that chosen MIDI file supplies the project's timing over its imported span.
5. Click **Import**. Wait for completion before editing the new tracks. One Undo removes the entire batch. Use **Edit > Undo** or Ctrl+Z; read-only filename and status fields do not intercept project Undo. While typing in an editable text field, Undo still edits that text.

Cancel the review or press Escape during preparation to leave the project unchanged. A file that cannot be decoded stops the batch with an error; Sampledex does not publish a partial import. A Sampledex project must be opened on its own rather than mixed into an audio/MIDI drop.

MIDI uses the project clock unless you choose a timing source. Standard MIDI File formats **0 and 1** with ticks-per-quarter-note timing are supported. Format 2 and SMPTE-timed files report an unsupported-format error; export a supported MIDI format from the source application first. Tempo-only files have no importable performance tracks and are rejected. MIDI brings in musical events, not the source application's instruments or sound.

4. Playback, tempo and time signature

Song plays the arrangement. **Pattern** auditions the selected MIDI pattern in a repeating loop. Return to Song to hear every track. The transport can show Bars/beats, Clock, Seconds, Samples, 30 fps non-drop Timecode or Time remaining. The arrangement ruler seeks within the song.

Change the tempo

1. Use the BPM field in the transport or the visible tempo picker above the tracks.
2. Choose **Fixed** for one tempo across the song, or **Tempo Map** for changes over time.
3. In Tempo Map mode, a BPM edit creates or updates the point at the playhead. Step holds its BPM; Linear and Smooth change it toward the following point.

Tap estimates BPM from repeated taps. The **Tempo** button opens the graph, where you can add, drag or remove tempo points. **Tools** includes half/double tempo, constant tempo over a loop and map reset. Tempo-follow audio is prepared after timing changes; watch the status area while it is processing.

Drag to loop a section

1. Find the **loop band directly above the tracks**, below the section names. Choose the arrangement snap grid.
2. Drag from the start to the end of the section you want to repeat. Release to set the highlighted range and turn on Song looping.
3. Drag either end of the range to resize it. Drag its middle to move the whole range. **Shift-drag** draws a replacement even when you start inside the existing range. Hold **Alt** during the drag to ignore snap.
4. Click **Play** to repeat that section. For recording passes, first configure and arm the tracks, then use main **Record take** with Loop on.
5. Double-click the band, click the transport **Loop: on** button (it changes to Loop: off), or press **L** with the timeline focused to stop looping while keeping the range. Right-click the band and choose **Clear custom loop** to remove the range and turn Loop off.

Ctrl+L with timeline focus creates a loop covering the selected clips. The same command and **Loop whole arrangement** are in **Markers**. The band's boundaries and status text show the chosen range; its end is where playback returns to the start. A plain click in the upper section strip or the bar ruler moves the playhead. The loop band stays visible when you scroll through tracks or expanded take lanes.

Escape cancels an unfinished drag. Changing horizontal zoom, scroll position, window layout or project also discards that unfinished range. A finished range edit is one Undo step. Range editing is unavailable during recording or a protected operation. Saved boundaries travel with the project; reopening starts with Loop off, so turn it on when you want repeated playback. Pattern mode separately auditions a source pattern; creating an arrangement loop returns to Song.

Enter an exact loop range

With the timeline focused, press **Ctrl+Shift+L**, or use **Transport > Edit loop range...**. Enter **Loop start** and **Loop end** as `bar.beat.tick`, then click **Set loop**. The end is exclusive: `1.1.0` to `5.1.0` repeats four bars in 4/4. Cancel or Escape leaves the existing range unchanged. If the project changes while the dialog is open, reopen it before setting the range.

Meter and markers

Click the time signature in the LCD (below the key), or use Tempo Tools, to set a time signature. Right-click the BPM field for the tempo menu. **Markers** adds, jumps to and removes markers. **Click: off** / **Click: on** turns the metronome on and off. **Transport > Position display** chooses among the six displays; **Transport > Recording count-in** selects Off, 1 bar or 2 bars.

5. Arrange clips

Double-click an empty area of a MIDI track to create a pattern clip, or double-click a clip to open it: MIDI in Piano from its first bar, audio in the Audio editor. Right-click empty space on a MIDI track for **Add empty MIDI clip here**, which starts at that bar or straight after a clip ending inside it, or **Add empty MIDI clip of length** 1, 2, 4, 8 or 16 bars; a length that would cover the next clip is greyed out. On a drum kit split into part tracks, add clips on the part tracks. Select a clip to edit its source pattern below. Pattern clips can share their notes: editing one source updates all linked placements. Use **Clip > Make pattern unique** before changing only one placement.

Tool	Action
Select / Move	Drag the clip body to move it; Ctrl-drag its body to copy it. Drag either MIDI/audio edge to trim. MIDI clips can be moved to another MIDI track.
Trim	Drag the nearer edge to change the retained clip range.
Fade	Adjust an audio clip's fade from either side.
Scissors / Split	Click inside a clip to split it at the snapped position.
Erase	Remove the clicked placement.
Slip source	Move audio inside its existing clip boundaries.
Clip gain	Adjust an audio clip's level.
Loop / Repeat	Repeat an audio clip across a longer range.
Time stretch	Change an audio clip's duration while retaining its pitch.

Ctrl-click or **Shift-click** adds or removes clips from the selection, including MIDI and audio on different tracks. Drag from empty timeline space to select a rectangle; right-click within the highlighted group for

bounce, combine and export. The Clip menu also provides Copy, Cut, Paste, Duplicate and Delete. Commands limited to one track reject a cross-track selection rather than applying only part of it. Paste onto a track of the same type; the snap grid sets the paste position. Choose **Clip > Join selected clips** or press **Ctrl**+**J** with the timeline focused to join MIDI patterns or consolidate audio clips within one track. Use Bounce / combine for mixed media or several tracks. Undo restores the original placements.

Resize clips directly

With **Select** or **Move**, point at either clip edge until the resize cursor appears, then drag. Both MIDI and audio have visible edge handles. The snap grid controls the position; audio can extend only into available source material. Widening a MIDI clip never makes it repeat: its pattern grows, so the new bars are empty and ready to draw in. A pattern with looping linked copies keeps its length, and the extra part of the clip stays silent. Drag the clip body when you want to move or Ctrl-drag a copy. The upper audio fade handles retain their fade action. Press Escape before releasing to cancel an unfinished edit.

Duplicate a track

Right-click the track header and choose **Duplicate Track**, or focus the header and press **Ctrl+D**. The copy appears directly below it and becomes selected. Clips, independent editable patterns, instrument and effect settings, sampler controls, mix, sends and automation are copied together. One Undo removes the duplicate. Bus destinations remain shared. If copying is unavailable, follow the explanation: unlock or unfreeze the track, restore a separated shared kit, disconnect incoming sidechains or unlink timing groups that span tracks. The project limit is 64 tracks.

Edit fades precisely

Select audio clips and choose **Clip > Fades...**. Set each end's duration and curve, choose a duration preset, or use **Remove** for one end. The **5 ms** button applies a Linear de-click fade. Presets fit the shortest selected clip and keep the chosen curve. Switch the preview between **Whole clip**, **Fade in** and **Fade out** to see short fades on long recordings. Where fades overlap, their gains multiply.

Fields marked Mixed stay unchanged unless edited; untouched text retains its stored precision. Apply commits one edit; Cancel retains the project. Hold **Alt** while dragging a timeline fade handle for fine adjustment.

MIDI notes and pattern controller events move, copy and join with their clips. **Track automation stays at its arrangement positions**, including imported pitch-bend automation. Review and edit those automation lanes independently after rearranging clips.

The **Tools > Timeline tool** menu exposes the same editing tools as the arrangement toolbar. The **Clip** menu includes duplicate, split at playhead, delete and the available audio-processing commands for the selected clip.

Choose the snap grid before editing. Use the visible bar count, zoom, overview and scrollbars to navigate; **Fit song** at the end of the bar choices shows the whole song. Choosing a track in the editor's track menu scrolls the timeline to it. The ruler, section names and markers stay above the tracks while you scroll vertically, so every track name stays beside its own lane and continues to label visible empty bars after the song ends. Eight extra bars provide workspace for your next idea. Looking or scrolling there does not change the song length or playback end. **+ 8 bars** extends the arrangement; use it before seeking or creating a loop beyond

the current endpoint. Right-click a clip for commands; Undo restores the previous project state. The arrangement's Duplicate button or Ctrl+B / Ctrl+D copies selected clips after their end. Right-click a track name or empty track-list space to add a track, import audio/MIDI, load a sample, or delete a track and its clips. Ctrl+Z restores a deleted track.

6. Edit MIDI notes

Select a MIDI clip and open **Piano**. Click or drag over the vertical piano keys to audition the selected instrument while stopped. Releasing the mouse ends the audition; no notes are added. Drum racks sound only on their mapped pitches. In a clip transposed in its clip settings, the keys and newly drawn notes play the pitch the clip sounds, and the pattern menu names the transpose; the grid still shows the written notes. The note grid spans all 128 MIDI pitches; scroll or change Height to reach another register.

Tool or control	Use
1 Select (V)	Select notes or drag a selection rectangle. Shift-click toggles individual notes in the selection. Drag a note to move it or its right edge to resize.
2 Draw (D)	Click to add a note at the chosen Length, or drag right while adding to set its length. The note starts in the clicked grid cell. New notes take the length and velocity of the last note you clicked or edited, and the Length box shows it.
6 Paint (B)	Paint repeated notes at the snap value while dragging.
3 Erase (E)	Click a note or drag across notes to remove them in one Undo step. Locked notes stay.
4 Length (T)	Drag to resize selected notes.
5 Velocity	Drag vertically to change note strength. You can also drag stems in the velocity lane.
Time / Height	Zoom horizontally or change the note-row height.

Draw past the end

The piano roll does not stop at the pattern's end: it runs on at least eight bars, or two screens, further. Draw, move, stretch, paste or duplicate a note past the end and the pattern grows to the end of that bar, in its own time signature. Every clip that reached the old end, including the right half of a split clip, grows by the same amount and the song grows to hold it, so the new notes play; a loop that covered exactly that clip grows with it. A clip blocked by the next clip on its lane, or a locked clip, keeps its length, and the status bar says to drag its right edge to hear the new bars. A looping clip repeats the longer pattern. All of it is one Undo step. A new pattern starts at four bars; that is only a starting length.

On a MIDI track with no clip, draw in the Piano roll to start one: a pattern named after the track and its clip at bar 1, four bars long or as long as the note needs. The first note keeps sounding while you hold the mouse.

The **Pattern** menu in the Piano toolbar has New empty clip at playhead, Place linked copy at playhead, Repeat pattern to song end, Make Unique, Pattern name and length, Resize to 1, 4 or 8 bars (cutting notes after it), octave transpose, Humanize velocities, Song length and Add 8 bars to the song. **Linked: N** beside it shows how many clips share the pattern.

Selected groups move together and stay within the MIDI pitch range. Locked notes are protected. Click the piano roll first, then use Ctrl+A to select all, Ctrl+C/X/V to copy/cut/paste notes, and Delete to remove selected notes.

Duplicate in the Piano toolbar, **Ctrl+B** or **Ctrl+D** copies selected notes immediately after their end. With Select or Draw, hold Ctrl before dragging selected notes to copy them. Up/Down moves notes by one semitone; Shift+Up/Down moves by one octave. Copies that pass the pattern's end grow it by the same rule as drawing there (see Draw past the end). Linked clips share the new source notes. Undo restores the notes and any automatic length change together.

Snap to Scale moves the selected unlocked notes, or every unlocked note in the pattern when none are selected, to the current key/scale, choosing the lower pitch when both are equally close. It retains timing, velocity and other expression. **Scale guide** changes the display only. **Random Velocity...** works on the selection, or the whole pattern when none is selected, and opens a private draft: choose an integer amount from 0-32 (default 8), then Apply. Results stay within MIDI velocity 1-127. Cancel or amount 0 creates no edit. Changes to the project, pattern, selection or owning Piano window reject an outdated dialog.

Drag a velocity stem below the notes to set that note to the pointer's height; selected notes move by the same amount. A click without dragging changes nothing. Drag across empty lane space, or hold **Alt** and drag anywhere, to draw a straight ramp over the selected notes, or over every note on screen when none are selected. Values show while you drag, and **Esc** cancels. Selected or hovered caps show their values; the nearest cap is preferred when several notes start together. Narrow and floating Piano windows keep the full action labels in an extra row.

Right-click a note to open its Piano tools without deleting it. Right-clicking an unselected note selects it; right-clicking a selected note retains the group selection. Use Erase or Delete when you want to remove notes.

Quantize moves note starts to the current grid: the selected notes, or the whole pattern when none are selected. A note near the pattern's end stays on the grid inside it. **Tools** also quantizes starts, ends or lengths, snaps pitches to the selected scale, transposes by an octave or humanizes velocity, each on the selection or the whole pattern, and reverses the whole pattern's timing. Each says in the status bar what it changed.

Key and scale

Choose the song's key and scale in the Piano toolbar or the **Song key** menu: click the key in the LCD, or right-click the piano roll or the ruler. **Scale guide** highlights the pitches in the key; highlighting does not itself change notes. **Draw new notes in scale**, in Piano Tools and the Song key menu, moves each new note to the nearest pitch in the key and turns on the scale guide; drum tracks are left alone. It is a view setting and is not saved in the project.

Detect key from notes, in the same two menus, sets the song's key and scale from the melodic notes in the song, leaving out drums and split drum parts. It needs at least four notes and says when its answer is only a best guess. Undo puts the previous key back. Then use **Snap to Scale** to move stray notes into the key.

7. Sounds and sampling

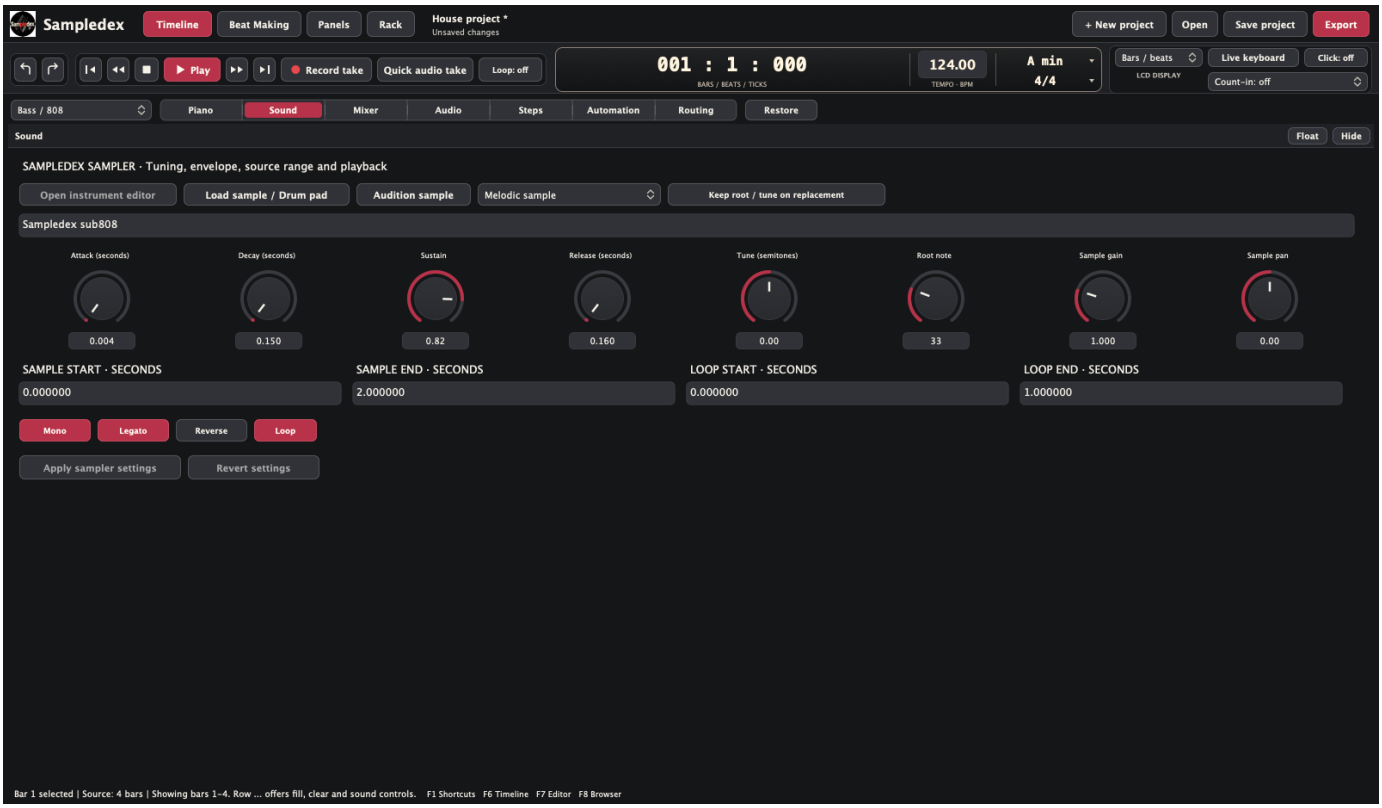
The browser contains 74 factory presets. Search by name or choose a category. **Load** applies a preset to the selected track; when an instrument needs a MIDI destination, Sampledex can create one. Use a preset's Preview button to hear it without replacing the project instrument. Preview level controls audition volume; Stop preview ends it. Right-click a factory sound to preview, load it, add a new instrument track, or change its favorite state. Factory previews share the song's playback output and keep their own preview level. **Preparing preview** identifies a waiting request; **Stop** cancels it or ends a playing preview. Choosing another preset replaces the waiting request. Hiding the browser or changing the project stops the preview. Opening the playback device for the first sound can still take time, depending on its driver. Click the star to save a favorite and choose Favorites only to narrow the list. Project Patterns places an existing pattern, and Files navigates local folders for audio, MIDI and projects.

The **Sound** tab opens the selected instrument editor or a sampler inspector. For a melodic sample or drum pad, set the root note, tuning, gain, pan, envelope and playback options. Loop and One-shot control playback. Source and loop range fields specify the retained sample region.

Load sample / Drum pad and **Track > Load sample into selected sound** use the same import controls. Select the destination pad before loading a drum sample. New drum samples use their trigger pitch as Root and Tune 0 to retain their recorded speed. Existing melodic samplers keep their root mapping; play that note to hear the source at original pitch. Enable **Keep root / tune on replacement** to retain deliberate tuning. The source filename, including its extension for new imports, appears in the copyable source field; melodic track and Mixer labels also show it. Old projects retain their existing names. Loading a sample into a synth drum instrument replaces the entire instrument with a single sampled sound; choose a sampler rack to replace individual pads while keeping the rest of the kit.

After a sample loads, Sampledex opens **Sound**, displays its source filename and confirms the MIDI pitch to play. Click **Audition sample** to hear it without starting the song; click **Stop audition** to release it. Audition follows the track's mute, solo, effects and routing. It also releases the note after ten seconds, when you change sounds or when Sound is hidden. Apply or Revert pending sampler settings before auditioning.

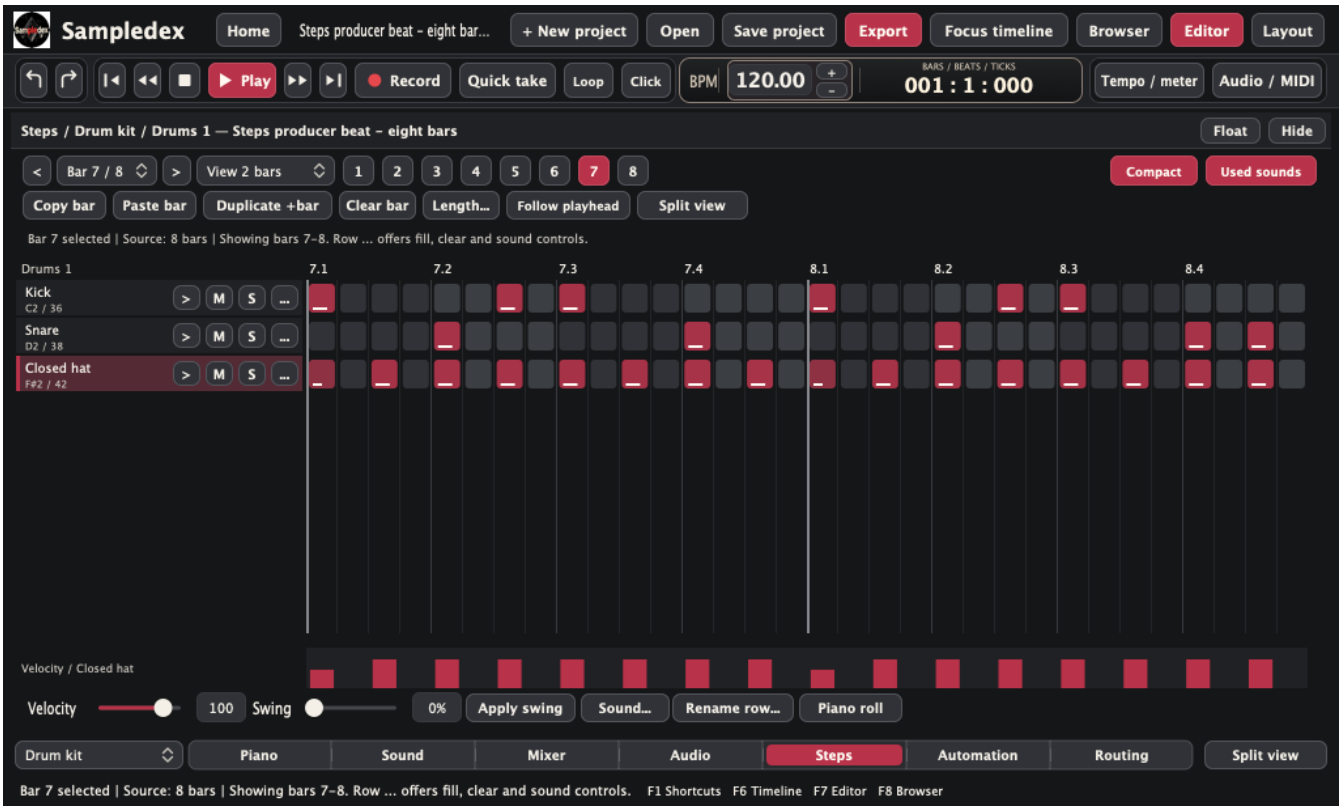
On a narrow panel, controls wrap into a vertical list; scroll to reach the source, loop and envelope controls. Sampler edits remain pending until **Apply**; **Revert** reloads the saved settings. Apply affects the selected instrument or pad. If that sound changes elsewhere while you are typing, Sampledex keeps your exact unfinished text and disables Apply. Use **Reload current sound** to discard that draft and display the current sound; Reload adds no Undo edit. Select an unlocked MIDI track before loading a sample. A drum rack's pad selector chooses the pad being edited.



The sampler inspector keeps source, loop and envelope controls together. Zoom the PDF to inspect the labels.

8. Build a beat

1. Select a MIDI track and its pattern, then open **Steps**.
2. Choose a sound row. Drum instruments show their pad names; other instruments show note names. **Rename row...** gives a pitch your own name. Leave the name blank to restore its instrument name.
3. Click a step to add a hit; click it again to remove it. **Shift-click** selects a hit without toggling it.
4. Steps starts at **View 1 bar**. Use the **Bar** selector, arrows or numbered tabs to select another source bar. For example, choose **8** to see and edit source bar 8 of an eight-bar pattern. The selector shows the current and total bars; hover over a numbered tab for its meter and partial-bar status. Beat divisions and the number of sixteenth-note cells follow the pattern's time signature.
5. Start playback to see the active step. Enable **Follow playhead** to follow the playing source bar; choosing a bar manually turns this off.



Source bars 7 and 8 with Used sounds enabled. The lane below the grid shows the selected sound's velocities.

Build a kit from your own audio files

1. Finish any active Steps edit, or Apply/Revert pending Sound settings, then click **Add Sample Kit** in the Browser. It creates a separate sample drum track and four-bar pattern; existing instrument tracks remain unchanged. **Add Drums** remains available for synthesized drums.
2. Open that kit in Steps. Drag **one audio file** from File Explorer onto the destination sound row. The highlighted row identifies the pad that will receive it.
3. Wait for the load to finish, then click the row's **>** audition button. The pad uses the full source at its original pitch and playback speed. Other pads and the track's mixer settings stay intact. Undo restores the previous pad sound.
4. Use **Sound...** or the row's **... > Sound settings...** for deliberate tuning, source trimming or other pad adjustments.

Drop one audio file on an existing, untransposed sampler drum row. Multiple or mixed-file drops, locked tracks and a destination changed during loading are rejected. A drop cannot replace a synth or VST instrument with a sampler; use Add Sample Kit to create the appropriate destination. To add audio tracks instead, drop files on the arrangement.

If the selected clip is transposed, Steps still shows its source pitches and refuses a row drop. Select an untransposed placement or use **Sound** to choose the exact drum pad. For a shared drum part, click **Sound > Load sample / Drum pad** to load its pad on the kit owner.

Creating any Browser instrument or preset on a new track also requires pending Sound or Steps edits to be finished or discarded. A rejected creation keeps your draft and current track/clip selection. In Sound, use Apply/Revert; in Steps, finish the gesture or press Escape to cancel it, then retry.

Sampledex does not automatically detect the sample's musical key. A pad's root note defines its MIDI trigger mapping; it is not a detected key. Listen and use Sound settings if you want to tune the sample.

Hear and balance each sound

Each row has **>** to audition its pitch, **M** to mute it, **S** to solo it within the instrument, and **...** for its sound and editing menu. Choose **Sound settings...** there to open the sound, or use **Rename sound...** and **Open Piano roll**. The lower **Sound...** button opens the selected row's sound. Row names, mute and solo are saved with the track and apply across its patterns. Separated drum parts share these controls with their kit's instrument. Muting keeps the notes available for editing.

Row mute and solo work with sounding MIDI pitches. Transposed shared drum parts retain their correct pad controls. For an ordinary instrument track with transposed clips, row mute and solo are disabled; use the Mixer for track mute and solo.

Draw drums in Piano roll

1. Select a drum row in Steps, then click **Piano roll** in the Steps footer. You can also choose **... > Open Piano roll** beside that row or press **Ctrl+P** while Steps has focus.
2. Piano opens the same selected pattern, centered on that row's source MIDI pitch. Choose **Draw**, set Snap and Length, then click to add drum notes. Use the mapped drum pitches to choose sounds; Piano can edit drum patterns as well as melodic parts.
3. Adjust note lengths or velocity, or use a finer snap for rolls and fills. Return to **Steps** to see the same pattern's grid-aligned hits. Both editors change the same notes; there is no copy or import step.

Off-grid timing is retained when switching editors. Steps reports notes that do not fit its grid; use Piano to view and edit those notes precisely. Source edits still affect linked placements, and Undo restores the musical edit.

Fill a drum row quickly

1. Select the source bar you want to change, then right-click the sound row or open its **...** menu.
2. Choose **Fill every step (1/16)**, **Fill every 2 steps (1/8)** or **Fill every 4 steps (1/4)**. This replaces that sound's notes in the active source bar with evenly spaced hits at the current new-note velocity.
3. Use **Clear this sound in this bar** to remove that row's notes from the active bar. Other rows, other bars and MIDI controllers stay unchanged.
4. Press **Ctrl+Z** to undo the entire fill or clear. A locked note in the affected row and bar blocks the operation. Windows preserves these protected notes; use an editable source copy when replacement is required.

Imported MIDI can place several notes of one pitch in the same step. Clicking that occupied cell off clears its matching notes together in one edit. If any of them is locked, the cell stays unchanged and explains why. Use Piano to inspect the individual notes. Steps also reports notes that cannot be shown on its sixteenth-note grid; their timing is retained, and Piano remains the precise editor for them.

Choose an editing range or an overview

View 1 bar is the default. Choose 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 bars in the View menu to work across a larger range. Hit targets keep a readable minimum width, so a wide range may need horizontal scrolling. Use Shift+mouse wheel, a horizontal trackpad gesture or the bottom scrollbar. Choosing a numbered tab or Bar selector brings that bar into view. The status message identifies the active source bar and the bars currently on screen.

Choose **Overview (64 bars)** to fit up to 64 source bars into the panel. Each row shows a small preview of the rhythm and hit strength in each bar. Narrow summaries combine nearby hits; open a bar for individual-step detail. When notes are stacked in one step, the preview retains the strongest visible hit and whether any hit has a chance to sound. A later zero-chance note does not hide the others. Click a bar in that overview to open it in View 1 bar. This click navigates without changing notes. Use an editing view for individual hits and velocity. View and Overview leave pattern length unchanged; use **Length...** to change the source length.

Steps edits the **source pattern** used by the selected MIDI clip. A one-bar source can repeat through an eight-bar arrangement clip; it still has one source bar. To write eight different bars, extend the source with Length or Duplicate +bar. Source edits affect its linked placements. Choose **Make Unique** first if you want an independent variation. Pattern playback auditions the source; Song playback follows its arrangement placements.



Overview shows the rhythm across eight source bars. Click a bar to open its editable steps.

Velocity and swing

Drag an active step up or down to change its velocity. Release to keep the change as one Undo step. The velocity lane below the grid edits existing hits on the selected row. You can also select a hit and set **Velocity** numerically from 1 to 127; with no hit selected, this sets the level for new hits. Locked hits retain their values.

Set **Swing** from 0 to 75%, then click **Apply swing**. This edits eligible notes throughout the shared pattern, not just the visible bar. Zero is straight timing; the percentage is the delay applied to alternate sixteenth-note steps. Applying the same amount again does not keep moving those steps later. Locked notes and notes that do not lie on the nominal step grid are preserved. Existing note ends are retained, so a delay that cannot fit a note is rejected; reduce swing or lengthen that note in Piano.

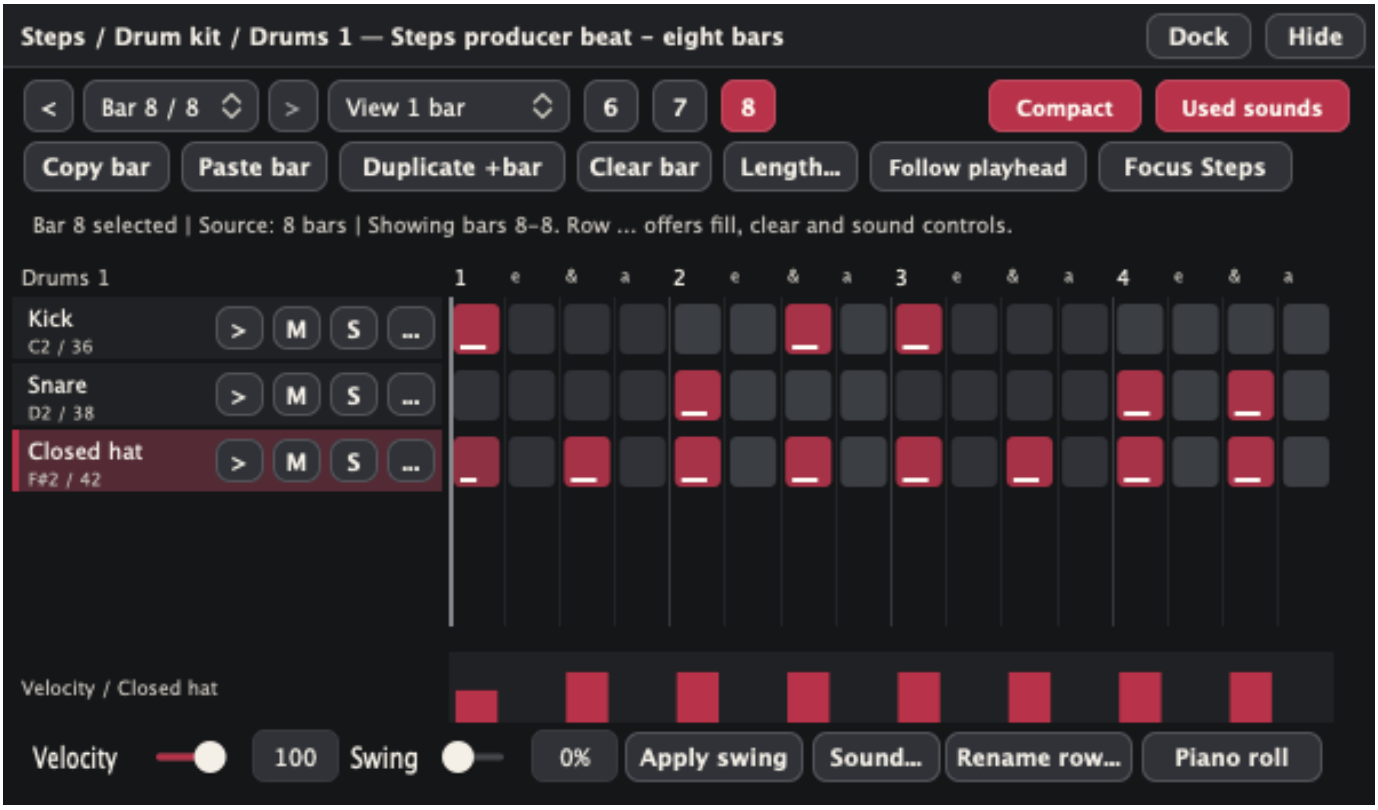
Copy bars and change pattern length

Control	Result
Copy bar / Ctrl+C	With Steps focused, copy the current source bar's notes and MIDI controllers.
Paste bar / Ctrl+V	With Steps focused, replace the destination bar's notes and controllers. Its time signature stays unchanged. A longer copied bar or a note tail that cannot fit is rejected.
Duplicate +bar / Ctrl+D / Ctrl+B	With Steps focused, append a copy of the selected source bar after the pattern's final bar boundary, including its meter, and select the new bar. Existing bars stay in place; note tails can extend the result.
Clear bar	Remove the current bar's notes and controllers. Protected notes block removal and remain unchanged.
Length...	Choose the shared source length in bars. Shortening asks for confirmation, removes later events and trims crossing notes. Protected notes cannot be removed or trimmed.

The Steps message identifies the copied source and the selected destination bar. **Paste bar** replaces the destination's notes and controllers; Undo restores it. If the displayed pattern changed before a command could finish, check the refreshed bar and try again.

These edits affect every placement linked to the source pattern. Use **Make unique** first for an independent variation. Each completed operation is one Undo step. When changing the length, a selected placement showing the complete source follows the new length; trimmed or looping placements keep their own arrangement windows. Other linked placements keep their existing windows.

Work on one screen



A compact floating panel keeps bar navigation, sound controls and velocity editing together. Click Dock to return it to the main window.

Opening Steps gives its grid more initial height; the workspace divider remains adjustable. **Compact** reduces row height; short panels use compact rows automatically. **Used sounds** shows pitches used anywhere in the current pattern; turn it off to add another sound. Scroll vertically for more rows. Use Shift+mouse wheel, a horizontal trackpad gesture or the horizontal scrollbar when a bar has more cells than fit. **Focus Steps** docks a floating Steps panel if needed, hides the browser and gives the editor more room; **Split view** restores the divided workspace. If the grid is too short to work comfortably, use Focus Steps or enlarge the editor with the workspace divider. Use Piano for detailed pitches, note lengths, off-grid timing and note locks.

Right-click a step

Right-click a step for **Hit chance**, **Hit velocity** presets of 32, 64, 96 or 127, and **Remove hits in this step**. The same menu provides bar copy, paste, duplicate and clear, **Sound row tools...** and **Open Piano roll**. Hit edits require an existing editable hit; bar commands act on the selected source bar. Right-clicking alone does not add or remove notes.

Hit chance

Right-click an existing hit and use **Hit chance** to choose 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100%. Zero is silent and keeps the note; 100% plays on every pass. A zero-chance hit is dimmed and shows 0% when space allows. Locked hits cannot be changed. Each change is one Undo step.

Use the keyboard in Steps

Click the grid or a row name to focus Steps. Arrow keys move the selected row or cell and scroll it into view without changing notes. **Enter** toggles the selected hit; **Delete** or **Backspace** removes it. **Page Up / Page Down** changes bars, **Home / End** selects the first or last step in the visible range, and **F2** renames the selected row. **Ctrl+C / Ctrl+V** copies or pastes the selected source bar; **Ctrl+D / Ctrl+B** appends a duplicate at the pattern's end and selects it. **Ctrl+P** opens the selected drum pitch in Piano. These shortcuts apply while Steps has focus; text editors retain their usual typing, copy and paste controls.

When Used sounds leaves no visible rows, Delete has no hit to remove. Delete and unsupported modified Delete combinations stay within Steps and leave arrangement clips intact. Changing bars during an unfinished velocity gesture cancels that gesture and refreshes the accepted pattern.

The Rack: every track at once

Click **Rack** in the top bar, the **Rack** editor tab, or press **Ctrl**+**R**. Click Rack again to close it. Like other panels it can float in its own window from its **Float** button. Each track has one row:

Control	What it does
Track name	Selects the track. Right-click it for the track menu, including export.
Instrument	Shows the track's sound. Click it to choose another instrument. Drum parts that share a kit show the kit's sound.
Level and Pan	Drag to mix. You hear the change while dragging; releasing saves it as one Undo step and **Esc** cancels the drag. Locked tracks and Read automation keep their values; recording blocks changes.
M / S and meter	Mute and solo, each with Undo. The meter shows the track's output during playback.
Piano, Steps, Sound	Open that track's pattern in the Piano roll or Steps editor, or its Sound tab for instrument settings and effects.
Step sound	The drum sound (for example Kick) or note the row's steps play. Click it to choose another sound from the kit, or another note.
Steps	One bar of 16th-note steps. **Click a square to add a hit; click a lit square to remove it.** Each click is one Undo step. A small dot marks a step where a different sound plays. Use the arrows beside **Steps: bar 1 of 4** to show another bar.

+ Drums, **+ Bass / 808**, **+ Keys** and **+ Synth** add a track with an empty four-bar pattern. Steps in the rack edit the same pattern as Steps and Piano, so linked clips change together. A track without a pattern starts a four-bar pattern on its first step. Audio tracks show their mix controls and no steps. The step sound and bar

you pick are view settings; they are not saved in the project. For velocity, swing, bar copy and every drum sound at once, open **Steps**.

9. Edit audio clips

Import audio and MIDI from File Explorer, the browser, File commands or the Audio tab. Select the audio track and use the Audio tab's clip selector to choose the clip.

- **Start bar / Move clip:** move the clip to a musical position.
- **Source offset / Length / Apply trim:** set the portion of the source to retain.
- **Duplicate after:** place a copy immediately after the selected clip.
- **Lock clip:** protect it from edits; unlock before changing it.
- **Fade in / Fade out:** set fades in seconds.
- **Reverse, Normalize and Split:** process or divide the clip.
- **Processing tools:** slip the source, change gain, repeat, stretch or revert processing.

Scroll the Audio panel to reach all controls at smaller window sizes. Choosing a processing operation sets its amount to a useful starting value; check that amount before applying it. Revert does not use an amount.

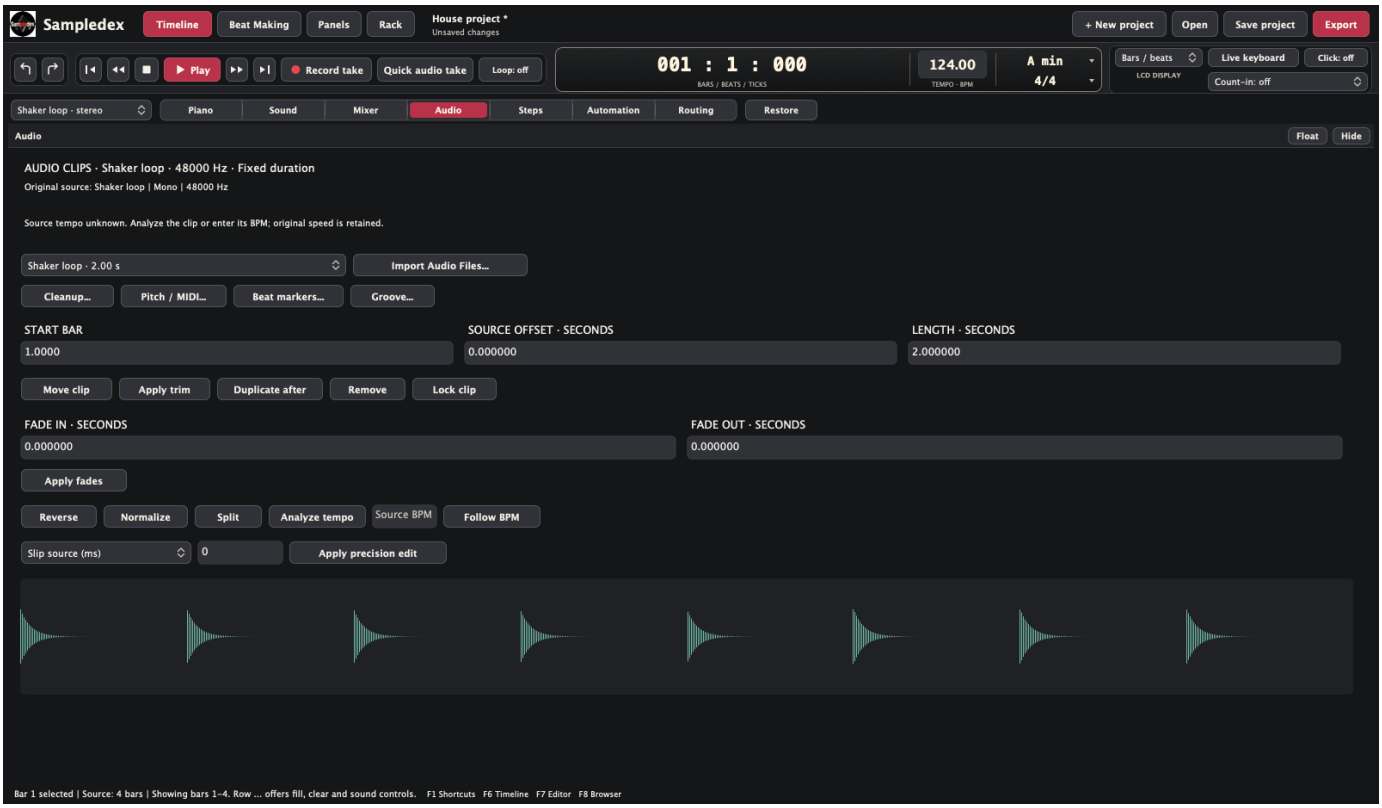
Source tempo and original playback speed

Imported audio keeps its original speed. Sampledex reads embedded tempo tags when available, otherwise estimates the pulse from a bounded part of the audio. The import review and Audio editor distinguish metadata, an estimate, an uncertain estimate and unknown tempo. Unknown tempo leaves the Source BPM field blank. An estimate can be half or double the intended BPM, especially for sparse or changing rhythms; listen and verify it.

Use **Analyze tempo** to analyze the selected clip again, or enter the known source BPM manually. Only clicking **Follow BPM** adapts that clip to the project's timing. Entering a number or importing a file does not itself stretch the audio or change project tempo. The source timing of a clip already following tempo is retained in the project. For editable beat markers, use **Clip > Audio timing / beat markers...**. Review source seconds, target beats and pinned markers, then Confirm timing. See Audio timing and groove.

Imported tempo tags and estimates are cached for the current app session. After restarting Sampledex, a fixed-speed clip may show unknown source tempo; use Analyze tempo again or enter its BPM. Saved Follow BPM timing remains part of the project.

Full-file imports are limited to two hours, mono or stereo, and 8-192 kHz. Oversized recordings are rejected rather than silently truncated. WAV and AIFF are the most predictable interchange formats; compressed support depends on the decoder and Windows codecs.



The Audio tab provides clip position, source range, fades and processing controls. Zoom the PDF to inspect the labels.

10. Mix and route

Open **Mixer** for track, bus and return strips. Master stays in its own column while channels scroll horizontally. Volume, pan, mute, solo and meters are at the top; short strips use horizontal level controls to keep the mix visible. Scroll below these controls for instruments, inserts and channel routing. Click an instrument to open its editor. Click an insert for a menu with Open editor, Toggle bypass, Remove insert and Learn MIDI controller for a parameter.

Control Sampledex from a MIDI controller (MIDI learn)

1. Right-click a track's volume or pan, in the Mixer, a track header or beside the transport, and choose **Learn MIDI controller**. Choose **Learn for the selected track** instead to have one fader follow whichever track is selected.
2. Move a knob or fader on your controller. The status line confirms the link; press **Esc** to cancel.
3. Use **Options > MIDI learn** for buttons and pads: Play / pause, Stop, Record, Loop, Metronome, and selected-track mute or solo, plus Master volume, Master pan and tempo. Right-click the tempo display for **Learn MIDI controller for tempo** (60-187 BPM, one BPM per step).
4. For an instrument or effect parameter, click its insert in the Mixer and choose **Learn MIDI controller for a parameter**, or use **Learn... > A plug-in parameter** in the links window.

Moving a control previews the sound at once and keeps one Undo step once the control rests, as a mouse drag does. A linked knob no longer plays into tracks or records into clips. Faders with Read automation, locked tracks and locked sections refuse the controller and say why. **Options > MIDI controller links** lists every link and removes them. Links are saved on this computer, not in projects, so projects open unchanged on macOS and other computers. Links to the selected track, Master, tempo and the transport work in every project; a link to a particular track, bus or plug-in works in the project it was learned in and follows it when you save it under a new name.

Add an effect to the right channel

1. In **Mixer**, find the track, bus, return or Master strip and click its **+ Effect** button. For the selected track, the **Add effect** button in Piano opens the same picker.
2. Choose a stock effect or a scanned, available Windows VST3 effect. The choice stays attached to the channel whose button you opened, even if you select another track before choosing. Cancel makes no project edit.
3. Click the new insert to open its editor, bypass it or remove it. Save the project to retain the chain and its settings. Undo removes the addition as one edit.

See and shape the EQ

Open a **Sampledex EQ** insert to see its frequency display above the knobs. The bright line is the EQ's exact curve from 20 Hz to 20 kHz. While the song plays, the grey area is the spectrum of the audio going into the EQ and the red area is what comes out.

1. Drag **L** (low shelf) or **H** (high shelf) up or down to boost or cut. Drag **M** (mid band) up or down for gain and left or right for its frequency.
2. Hold **Shift** while dragging for fine changes. Double-click a point to reset it.
3. Click the display, then use **Up**/**Down** for gain, **Left**/**Right** to move the mid band, **Tab** to choose a band and **Delete** to reset it.

Each change is a normal edit, the same as turning a knob: you hear it, it saves with the project, and Undo reverses it. The display only listens while the editor is open and never changes the sound. At sample rates below 40 kHz the plot ends at half the sample rate, the highest frequency the audio can hold.

Each track, bus, return and Master supports **eight insert effects**. Bypassed effects still occupy a slot, and **Limiter input gain** uses one slot. Remove an insert before adding another to a full chain. The button is disabled when the channel is full, the track or a song section is locked, or recording/current work prevents editing. Hover over it for the channel restriction. The picker checks the target again before committing, so a removed channel, new project or newly filled chain cannot receive an outdated choice.

For a frozen instrument, the original MIDI source stays protected. Add effects to its **rendered audio track**; those inserts transfer back when you use **Unfreeze instrument**. Unfreeze first if you need to add directly to the original source. Browser factory-effect loading follows the same channel checks. If a VST3 is missing from the picker, use **Tools > Scan VST3 plug-ins** and, for a custom location, **Tools > Add VST3 folder...**.

Click **Sends** in the Mixer header to show or hide the selected track's sends below the strips. The count in the button shows how many sends the track has. Drag a send to hear its level change during playback; release to

keep one Undo step, or enter a level in decibels. Send headings show Pre/Post, Off and Read state. Read automation controls its fader while active; turn the lane Off or edit its points before adjusting the level manually. The send area scrolls when more sends are present.

Open **Routing** to add buses and returns, change a channel's output, and create or edit sends. Post-fader sends follow the source fader; pre-fader sends do not. Sidechain sends feed a compatible effect's detector input. Invalid feedback routes are rejected. Shared reverb and delay returns start fully wet.



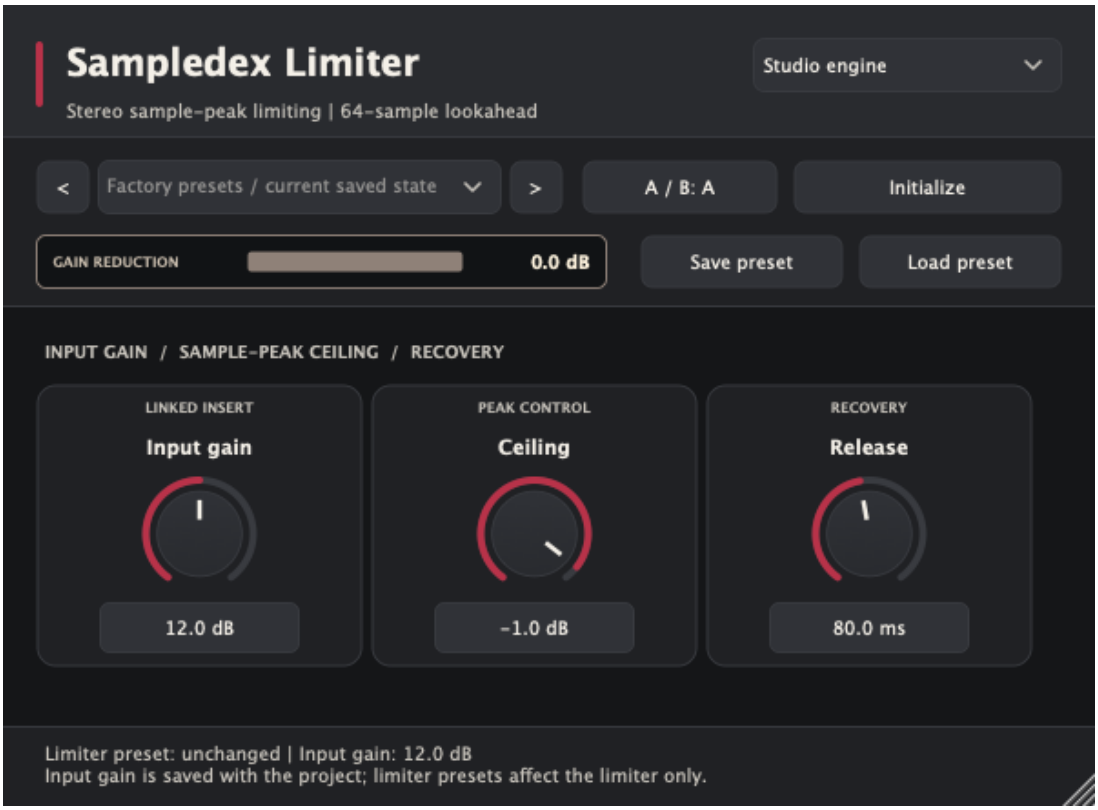
Mixer channels scroll while the Master strip stays visible. Zoom the PDF to inspect the labels.

Built-in effect controls

Built-in plug-in editors group controls by purpose and show their values and units. Dynamics editors include a numeric gain-reduction readout. Third-party VST3 plug-ins retain their own editors where provided.

Boost into Sampledex Limiter

1. Open **Sampledex Limiter** from its Mixer insert.
2. Click **Add input gain**. A visible **Limiter input gain** effect is inserted immediately before the limiter. It uses one of the channel's eight insert slots.
3. Adjust **Input gain** from 0 to +24 dB. Zero adds no boost; double-click resets to zero. Watch gain reduction while setting the limiter's Ceiling and Release.



Input gain boosts the signal before limiting. The separate gain stage is saved with the project.

The added effect is the existing stock compressor at **Ratio 1:1** and **Mix 100%**. This keeps its sound readable and savable by older Mac and Windows apps without changing the limiter's saved format. It is a separate insert: limiter presets and A/B do not change this input gain.

Bypassing, removing or reordering **Limiter input gain** changes the signal path. Keep that stage directly before its own limiter, with Ratio 1:1 and Mix 100%, to keep the linked knob available. If you change those compressor settings, the editor asks you to restore them rather than resetting them silently.

11. Automation

1. Select the destination track and open **Automation**. Press A with the timeline or track header focused to show a compact lane; click its heading to open the full lane controls.
2. Create a Volume, Pan, Modulation or Pitch bend lane.
3. Click the graph to add a point. Drag a point to adjust time and value; right-click to remove it.
4. Choose Linear, Hold or Smooth for a point's transition to the next point.
5. Enable the lane's Read mode to hear it during playback.

The toolbar wraps when the panel is narrow so Read and Delete remain available. Switching tracks changes the available lanes. Creating plug-in parameter and send automation from this interface remains a difference from the macOS application; existing saved lanes still use the shared playback engine.



Automation lanes show editable points and transition curves. Zoom the PDF to inspect the labels.

12. Record MIDI and audio

The main **Record take** button records all armed tracks together. Use it for MIDI, mono or stereo audio, simultaneous inputs, count-in, loop takes and punch. Track headers and track strips in Mixer have an **R** arm button and a Monitor/Input button that shows **Auto**, **On**, **Off** or **No input**. An armed **R** stays visibly highlighted while recording, even though arming controls are temporarily unavailable. Timeline and Mixer arm buttons expose their armed or disarmed checked state to accessibility tools. A disabled or rejected arm action leaves the indicator matched to the actual track.

First MIDI recording

1. Select an unlocked MIDI track with an instrument. Click its **Auto** / Monitor button.
2. Choose your MIDI device, **Default MIDI input**, or **Computer / on-screen keyboard only**. Use **Hardware channel** to accept all channels or one channel from 1-16. This filters incoming hardware; it does not change the instrument's output channel. On a Launchkey, choose the musical MIDI port; DAW, InControl or MIDIIN2 ports are usually for control surfaces.
3. Click the track's **R** button to arm it. Keep **Monitor: Auto** to hear the armed track.
4. Set the playhead and choose **Transport > Recording count-in > Off, 1 bar or 2 bars**. The main recorder applies this count-in to both MIDI and audio.

5. Press **Record take**, play, then press **Stop** or **Finish take**. Wait for the take to finish preparing. Play it back and save your project.

A MIDI take recorded over an empty pattern clip on the armed track, such as a new track's starter pattern, replaces that empty clip instead of stacking on top of it. One Undo removes the take and brings the empty pattern back. Clips with notes or controllers and locked clips are never replaced.

Hardware MIDI routing works with the Live keyboard window closed. Open **Live keyboard** to use the computer/on-screen keys or choose the default input. Computer keys audition the selected eligible track independently of the hardware destinations. With nothing armed, Record arms the selected eligible track; an audio track still needs an explicit input first.

First audio recording

1. Allow desktop microphone access in Windows Settings and create or select an unlocked audio track. Use headphones when recording through a microphone.
2. Click the track's **No input** / Monitor button. Open your interface's submenu and select a named **Mono** channel or **Stereo** pair. No microphone is selected by default.
3. Click **R** to arm the track. Choose **Monitor: Auto** to hear it through Sampledex while armed. Check the interface's input level before recording.
4. To record several inputs, repeat on other audio tracks using channels from the **same interface**. You can also arm MIDI tracks.
5. Set the playhead and optional **Recording count-in**, then press main **Record take**. Press **Stop** or **Finish take** and wait until the retained take appears.

Audio is captured dry. Software monitoring passes it through the track's effects, sends, buses and Master, so you can hear processing while preserving the original input. Windows input uses **WASAPI shared mode**; ASIO input is not included. The driver must expose the channels you need. One input interface is supported per live session, with at most 64 audio and 64 MIDI destinations and a two-hour capture limit.

Choose how to monitor

Mode	What you hear
Auto	Audio is monitored while armed. Hardware MIDI goes to armed Auto tracks; when none are armed, the selected eligible Auto track is monitored. Computer keys can still audition the selected eligible track.
On	Monitor the track even when it is not armed.
Off	Silence software input monitoring for that track. Armed capture still works.

If your interface provides direct monitoring, use it with Sampledex monitoring Off, or disable direct monitoring and use Sampledex monitoring. Hearing both can double the signal. Smaller playback buffers reduce software monitoring delay, while large buffers and effects can increase it. The audio input menu shows an estimated monitoring latency when active; check the result with your own hardware.

Opening an input list does not activate the microphone. Explicit Arm/Monitor/input actions can activate a configured input for monitoring; Record activates the inputs needed for capture, including armed Monitor Off tracks. Arm, monitor, per-track routes and recording setup are workspace-session choices. They reset when opening another project, so that project cannot automatically activate a microphone from the previous session. Review them after reopening.

Inline takes and preview

Click **Expand takes (+)** in the original track's header to expand its recorded passes. During recording, held MIDI notes grow and audio waveform previews appear beneath their destinations. Select a retained lane and click **Audition** to hear that pass through its original track, instrument, effects and routing. This does not save a new comp or add Undo history. **Stop Preview** restores the prior playhead and song loop. Escape also stops take preview. Use the normal transport Stop to stop playback.

Use Take applies the full pass. Drag across a take lane, then click **Use Phrase** to choose a smaller range. Linked recording destinations change together. **Exact...** opens that group's detailed phrase and crossfade editor, which also offers **Audition take**. Applying creates one Undo edit. Escape from the selected lane cancels pending apply or preview work. A click between grid lines still selects the whole take; drag to choose a phrase. Changing horizontal zoom cancels an unfinished drag or selected phrase and restores **Use Take**. Follow the status message and select the phrase again before applying it. Ordinary note/clip edits and later comp choices retain the original takes. Restore a deleted original track before reusing its takes; Sampledex will not send them to a different instrument.

Record loop passes

1. Choose the timeline loop you want to perform over. For example, select a clip and use the Markers loop command. Recording Setup displays the resolved loop; without a custom loop it uses the arrangement range.
2. Open **Transport > Recording Setup...**. Set **Maximum passes (1-256)**. The panel reports the current main Loop state. Reduce the pass limit if the combined duration would exceed two hours.
3. Click **Apply setup**, click the main **Loop: off** button so it reads Loop: on, arm the destinations and press **Record take**. Capture starts at the loop's beginning after the selected count-in.
4. Perform successive versions. Stop when finished, or let the pass limit finish capture. Available complete and partial passes are retained. The latest common usable pass is placed for linked destinations.
5. Open **Transport > Take Lanes & Comp...** to choose an earlier pass or combine phrases.

Choose phrases from takes

1. In **Take Lanes & Comp**, choose a **Recording** group. The list shows destination track names and pass counts; new recordings also include their date and time. Linked destinations in a group change together.
2. Click a take name for its available range, or drag a phrase in its lane. For precise choices, enter **From** and **to**, choose the pass, and click **Choose phrase**. Positions are relative to the recording; the end is exclusive. Audio offers Seconds or Source frames; MIDI offers Quarter notes or Musical ticks.

3. Choose **Silence** explicitly when a phrase should contain no performance. A missing input is not automatically treated as silence. A partial pass can supply only its available range.
4. For audio, set **Crossfade (ms)**, choose Linear, Equal power, Slow or Fast, and click **Set crossfades**. Zero removes crossfades; other fades must fit the neighboring source phrases.
5. Click **Apply comp** (or Ctrl+Enter). Sampledex prepares the result and retains originals before applying one Undo edit. Play the result. Undo/Redo restores the music and take choices together.

Phrase and fade selections are a private draft until Apply comp. An untouched editor refreshes after Solo/Mute, Undo/Redo or a new recording. If you have typed a range or changed a pass, fade or phrase, a later project change preserves your exact text and disables Apply and Recording group changes. Read the message, then use **Reload project choices** to discard that draft and work from the current project. Reload also resets the private fade fields to 5 ms and Linear; it does not change the accepted comp. When the draft is current, changing the Recording group discards its unapplied choices. Closing an idle editor keeps its draft while that project/editor remains available; it does not save it. During processing, **Cancel processing** keeps the private draft for retry. Closing the window with X during processing cancels and discards that draft. If you reopen immediately, wait for processing to finish; the retained groups and controls then return. Both cancellation paths keep the accepted project and original takes. If Undo removed all recorded takes, Reload clears the editor without restoring the undone recording or changing Undo/Redo.

A recovered group may already contain a proposed comp that has not been made audible. When the summary says **retained take, Apply to hear**, you can click **Apply comp** without first changing its phrases. Inspect and listen to the result before using it.

Punch in a replacement phrase

1. Open **Transport > Recording Setup...** and enable **Punch in / out**.
2. Enter **Punch in: bar.beat.tick** and **Punch out: exclusive**, or click **Use timeline selection** / **Use timeline loop**. Bars and beats begin at 1; ticks begin at 0. For one bar in 4/4, 1.1.0 to 2.1.0 covers bar 1.
3. Keep the range inside the arrangement. With the main Loop button enabled, the punch must also fit inside the recording loop. Review the Capture summary, then click **Apply setup**.
4. Place the playhead before punch-in if you want playback lead-in. Arm the tracks and press Record. Only the punch range is retained for replacement; the punch-out position itself is outside the range.
5. Wait for publication, then listen before, through and after the replaced phrase. Supported surrounding notes, audio offsets and expression remain intact. Undo returns to the previous project and take choices.

Some sustain/controller boundaries or crossing audio fades cannot be replaced safely. Sampledex reports the reason and retains the captured originals instead of silently changing surrounding music. Adjust the range and retry, or save a recovery copy.

If a recording cannot be placed

Wait for capture and storage cleanup to finish. If capture was interrupted and usable originals remain, Sampledex attempts to save them in a recovery project automatically. A successful save reports the reason and full package path, leaves the current arrangement unchanged and makes editing available again. Sampledex also tries to restore MIDI monitoring; resolve any remaining input warning before recording again.

If that recovery save fails, the originals stay retained and **Finish take** remains available. Resolve the reported storage problem, then click **Finish take** to retry. If ordinary placement was cancelled or rejected, follow the status message to retry placement or choose **Transport > Save retained recording recovery...**. Keep Sampledex open until the retained material has been saved successfully.

Save your current work before opening the complete recovery package at the reported path. Use **Take Lanes & Comp** to inspect its available passes and apply a usable comp. Disk-write failure, disconnected inputs, stale project edits or a plug-in latency change can prevent a mixed take from being published; an incomplete recording is not reported as a completed take. Captured MIDI may remain recoverable when an audio capture fails, but unfinished audio from that failed capture is unavailable. Read the recovery message before continuing.

Save after a successful take or comp. Paired saving, autosave and project history retain the accepted song with its take state. Protected original and failed/cancelled recovery copies can accumulate outside automatic history limits; check the reported folders before deleting any material. Save As to a new package when an external-change or uncertain-save message prevents an ordinary save.

If Sampledex reports a limit of **64 retained recording groups from earlier edits**, save the project successfully, then close and reopen the saved project before continuing. Save archives the originals but does not clear the open session's backlog. If Save fails, keep the project open so those takes remain available. Do not delete original media to work around this limit.

Quick audio take

Transport > Quick audio take retains the earlier single-input recorder. Configure it through **Audio / MIDI > Recording input** and **Recording channels**. It starts without count-in and imports a completed WAV into an audio track. If the input disconnects, reports an error or changes during capture, the interrupted take is not added as complete. When a usable recorded portion remains, the message gives its WAV path; import that file and check its timing before using it. If import fails after a normal stop, the message reports the retained raw WAV path. Use main Record for armed tracks, shared MIDI/audio timing, monitoring, loop takes and punch.

Recorded MIDI limits

Notes, supported controllers and pitch bend can be retained. Polyphonic aftertouch, channel pressure and program changes may be heard live but are not retained as recorded pattern expression; the app reports unsupported events. A pass containing no notes, controllers or pitch bend is not retained as a new MIDI performance. Use the comp editor's explicit Silence choice for a silent phrase.

13. Use VST3 plug-ins

Install a **Windows x64 VST3** edition of the plug-in. Open Audio / MIDI to manage scan folders, then run the scan. The scanner runs separately so a failing vendor scan can be stopped without running it inside the main app.

Build 67 corrects a Windows loading failure affecting VST3 plug-ins in deeply nested folders. Retry loading an affected Windows x64 VST3 after updating; its saved identity and settings are retained.

Load an instrument onto a MIDI track or add an effect to a track, bus, return or master. Apply changes in the editor as required before saving or changing the project. Missing plug-in identities remain in the project and are reported during playback.

An external instrument's own editor keyboard can sound while transport is stopped. It follows the same track, effects and mixer routing as playback and respects mute/solo. Closing the editor leaves a release tail of up to ten seconds. If preset capture fails, the editor stays open so you can retry without losing the sounding state.

Audio Units, VST2 and macOS plug-in binaries do not run in this Windows build. The supplied macOS Indie collection binaries are excluded; use available Windows editions separately.

14. Export and share

Click **Export** in the top bar or open **File > Export**. The same **Export audio** choices are on the right-click menus of a track name, a clip, empty timeline space and the ruler, and in the Track and Clip menus: **Song mix**, **Stems: every track as its own file**, **Selected track only**, **Selected clips**, **Loop range** (when a loop is set), **Quick MP3 of the song** and **MIDI file**.

Format	Use it for
WAV 24-bit (recommended)	Your studio master and mixing or mastering engineers.
WAV 16-bit	CD and music distributors that ask for 16-bit, 44.1 kHz.
WAV 32-bit float	Maximum headroom for further processing.
AIFF 24-bit	Logic, GarageBand and other Mac tools.
FLAC 24-bit or 16-bit	Lossless: every sample is kept exactly, in about half the size of WAV.
MP3 (128 to 320 kbps)	Sharing and previews; plays everywhere.
OGG Vorbis (about 128 to 320 kbps)	Small open-format files for games and the web.

WAV, AIFF and FLAC support 44.1, 48 or 96 kHz. MP3 and OGG are 44.1 or 48 kHz. Before you choose where to save, the bold line under the options shows exactly what will be written, for example **Length 2:08.0 (64 bars + 2 s tail) · 1 file, 22.1 MB**.

1. Choose **Sources**: the complete song, chosen tracks, buses/returns, selected clips or an active pattern loop. The track checklist supports one or several sources.
2. Choose **Output**: one combined stereo mix or separate source stems. Song mix honors the current Mute/Solo state. Explicit selected sources start with independent Mute/Solo handling; review the checkbox before export.
3. Choose the format, and the bitrate for MP3 or OGG. See the table above.
4. Choose the **Range**. A song export starts on **Song to the end of the music**, which stops after the last bar that has notes or audio, so empty bars at the end are not exported. Choose **Whole song timeline** to include them. Choose a **Tail after end** of 1, 2, 5 or 10 seconds to keep reverb or delay ringing out. Review the wet/dry, returns, sidechain and Master options; bus/return capture is taken before downstream Master processing.
5. Click **Choose where to save...** (or **Choose folder for stems...**) and wait for the confirmation, such as *Saved 320 kbps MP3 (2:08.0) as My song.mp3*. The file extension follows the chosen format. Stems are saved in a new folder named after the project, such as `My song Stems` (or `My song Stems 2` if that exists), with one numbered file per track, `Bounce.txt` and `source-arrangement.json`. Every stem has the same length and start, so they line up when imported into another program.

Quick MP3 presets

File > Export > Quick MP3 (320 kbps) opens the same settings with Song mix, All-track stems, Selected-track stems or Active pattern loop selected. Selected-track stems starts with the focused track checked; select more sources in the checklist as needed. Active pattern loop exports its full source length using the selected placement's musical context. Its default tail is zero, so one pattern cycle is retained. You may change bitrate, rate and processing before choosing the destination.

MP3 and OGG are lossy and clip peaks outside full scale; no format normalizes loudness. Keep your project and a WAV or FLAC master for future production. External delivery renders the captured project and publishes completed files together. Cancelling, a render failure or a changed destination prevents publication of that incomplete delivery.

Bounce, combine and export selected clips

Choose the timeline **Select** tool. Hold **Ctrl** or **Shift** while clicking clips to highlight several MIDI and audio clips, including clips on different tracks. Drag a rectangle from empty timeline space to select a group. **Ctrl+A** selects all arrangement clips when the timeline has focus. Right-click a highlighted clip and choose **Bounce / combine selected clips...** or **Export selected clips...**. Right-clicking inside the group keeps the selection. Single-track Join remains available for clips within one track; use Bounce / combine for mixed media or multiple tracks.

1. Choose **Destination**: add audio to the project or export audio files. Project audio retains 32-bit float samples; external files offer WAV, AIFF, FLAC, MP3 and OGG.

2. Choose **Sources** and review the highlighted tracks. Selected clips includes only those clips. Choose tracks lets you check several complete tracks, including a complete drum kit or its individual parts.
3. Choose **One stereo mix** to combine the sources at their existing timeline positions, retaining overlaps and gaps. Choose **Separate source stems** for one aligned result per source track. Review the range, sample rate, effect tail and processing options.
4. For project audio, choose **After bounce**. The default keeps originals playing and adds muted audio; unmute the new track to audition it. You can instead play the new audio alongside the originals. This can increase the level. Optional muting of originals is available only for complete-track, complete-song bounces.
5. Choose **Bounce to project**, or choose an export destination. New project audio is committed only after successful rendering. One Undo removes the bounce and restores any requested source mutes.

Original tracks are not automatically muted. Shared reverb, delay or bus processing can be rendered while keeping originals. If you explicitly request source muting and it would change shared effects or sidechain processing, the dialog explains the conflict before rendering; choose to keep originals instead. Separate stems through shared nonlinear effects may not sum to the same sound as one combined render. Master processing stays live for project bounces so it is not applied twice.

For a complete track, choose **Track > Bounce selected track to audio...** to open the same options. Fixed-time recordings retain their actual start time when combined, including starts between musical ticks after tempo changes. The source notes, clips and media stay editable.

Audio export renders the instruments and effects. MIDI files contain musical events; they do not carry VST3 software or its sound. A MIDI file export also creates a companion `.json` file with arrangement and routing reference information. Keep the exported pair together. Sampledex asks before replacing an existing companion file or an existing MIDI file reached by correcting the typed extension to `.mid`. Review both names; Cancel preserves the existing files. If either file or the project changes while that confirmation is open, start a new export. Share the complete `.sdxp` folder when another Sampledex user needs the editable project and its audio.

15. Keyboard shortcuts

Press **F1** or choose **Help > Keyboard shortcuts** for a searchable, scrollable reference. Search by a key or command name. Click the timeline or a track header before using timeline shortcuts.

Shortcut	Action
Alt / F10	Open the Windows menu bar; use arrow keys and Enter
F1	Open the searchable shortcut reference
F6 / F7 / F8	Focus timeline / show or hide the current editor / show or hide the browser
Space	Play / pause; with a take lane selected, preview that take

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl+N / Ctrl+O	New / Open project
Ctrl+S / Ctrl+Shift+S	Save / Save As
Ctrl+I	Import audio or MIDI
Ctrl+E / Ctrl+Shift+E	Export song / Export stems
Ctrl+,	Audio / MIDI settings
Ctrl+Z / Ctrl+Y / Ctrl+Shift+Z	Undo / Redo
Ctrl+A / C / X / V	Select all / Copy / Cut / Paste in the focused editor
Ctrl-click / Shift-click clips	Add or remove MIDI/audio clips from a timeline selection, including across tracks
Ctrl+J	Join selected clips within one track; use Bounce / combine for mixed media or several tracks
Delete / Backspace	Delete selected notes or clips
Ctrl+B / Ctrl+D	With Piano or timeline clips focused: duplicate after the selection. Ctrl+D in a track header duplicates that track.
L / Ctrl+L	With timeline focus: turn Loop on/off / loop the selected clips
Ctrl+Shift+L	With timeline focus: enter an exact loop range in bars, beats and ticks
Home / End	With timeline focus: seek to arrangement start / end
+ or = / -	With timeline focus: zoom in / out. Numeric keypad also works.
Ctrl+0	With timeline focus: fit the arrangement horizontally
Ctrl+1 to Ctrl+6	Piano, Sound, Mixer, Audio, Steps, Automation (as Cmd+1 to Cmd+6 on the Mac)
Ctrl+R / Ctrl+K	Open or close the Rack / show or hide the live keyboard
Ctrl+T	Split the selected clip at the playhead
Ctrl+/ / Ctrl+\	Keyboard shortcut list / Panels menu
F2	With timeline focus: rename selected track
Shift-drag / Alt-drag loop band	Draw a replacement loop / ignore snap during the loop gesture

Shortcut	Action
1 / 2 or V / 3 or T / 4 or F / 5 or B / 6	With timeline/header focus: Select / Move / Trim / Fade / Scissors-Split / Erase
7 / 8 or G / 9 or R / 0	With timeline/header focus: Slip / Gain / Loop-Repeat / Stretch on audio lanes
P / A	With timeline/header focus: toggle pattern painting / show or hide track automation
Alt-drag fade handle	Fine fade adjustment
Ctrl-drag a note / clip body	Copy notes with Select or Draw / copy a clip with Select or Move
Up / Down; Shift+Up / Down	With Piano focus: move selected notes by a semitone / octave
Ctrl+C / Ctrl+V	With Steps focus: copy / paste the selected source bar
Ctrl+D / Ctrl+B	With Steps focus: append a duplicate of the selected source bar at the pattern's end
Ctrl+P	With Steps focus: open the selected source pitch in Piano roll
Arrows / Home / End	With Steps focus: move between rows and cells / first or last step
Enter / Delete / Backspace	With Steps focus: toggle / remove the selected hit
Page Up / Page Down / F2	With Steps focus: previous bar / next bar / rename row
Escape	Cancel a gesture or supported background operation, or stop take preview and restore its prior position

Editable text fields handle typing and text-editing shortcuts. Read-only filenames and status fields leave Undo/Redo with the project. File dialogs, plug-in editors and the performance keyboard retain their own input. Timeline commands do not replace the different Home/End/F2 behavior in Steps or pitch navigation in Piano.

16. Troubleshooting and current limits

Symptom	Check
Timeline too small	Press F6 for Focus timeline, or drag the horizontal divider down. Windows shorter than 720 pixels use one compact transport row; windows narrower than 1100 pixels keep Quick take and Count-in in the Transport menu. Use F7 and F8 to hide the current editor and browser.
Panel hidden or on another screen	Use View > [panel name] > Show, or View > Reset layout and dock all panels.
Controls below the panel edge	Scroll inside the panel, make it taller, or use Expand.
Dragging a clip leaves a second, empty clip behind	Windows builds from September 28, 2026 through Build 73 could leave, in a new project or after loading an instrument preset as a new track, an empty clip hidden exactly under an instrument track's first clip. Choose **Edit > Remove hidden duplicate clips**. It removes only empty clips stacked exactly under another clip on the same track, never a clip with notes, a linked copy or a locked clip, so nothing you hear changes; Undo brings them back. When you open a project that has them, Sampledex asks whether to remove them: choose **Remove them** to clean up now, or **Not now** to leave the project as it is and use the Edit menu command later. The project changes only if you choose to remove them.
Missing DLL or app will not start	Extract all portable files together, or reinstall with setup. Keep the packaged runtime files.
No sound	Output selection, Windows volume, Master mute, track mute/solo and the instrument. Try a factory demo.
Clicks or dropouts	Increase the audio buffer, reduce simultaneous heavy effects, and check background CPU/disk activity.
Recording is silent	Choose the track's physical input, click its R arm button, allow desktop microphone access and check the interface level. Monitor Off silences live software monitoring while armed capture still works.
Plug-in missing	Use its Windows x64 VST3 build, add its folder and rescan. Keep the scanner executable beside Sampledex.exe.
MIDI controller does nothing	Check Options > MIDI controller links. A link to a particular track works in the project it was learned in; learn it again here, or use a selected-track link. Reconnect the controller and wait a second for Sampledex to find it.
A control will not edit	Stop recording, wait for the current operation, select the appropriate track/clip, and check locks.
Project media missing	Restore or transfer the entire .sdxp folder, including media.

Verification and current limits

The Windows interface follows the original Sampledex workspace, but some workflows remain incomplete: direct arrangement-marker dragging, full section editing, plug-in/send automation creation and parts of native accessibility. Audio beat markers can now be edited in the dedicated timing table. Main recording supports audio/MIDI count-in; Quick audio take remains a separate recorder without count-in. This guide describes the available Windows controls rather than assuming every macOS command is present.

Prior Build 66 development checks covered source-bar navigation, queued selections, all editing views, overview previews, row fills, locked and stacked notes, sample loading, small panels, draft preservation and Undo/Redo. An eight-bar beat was entered through the interface, saved, reopened and rendered to WAV. Local compatibility checks use the preserved schema-13 codec. The manual Windows workflow is the separate gate for compiling and testing the Windows app, checking the download, and validating installation, reinstall/upgrade registration and uninstall. Review the Build 75 workflow result for the package you received; this guide describes controls and does not itself establish a test result. BUILD_INFO identifies the packaged version and build; the successful workflow identifies the source commit. Physical audio/MIDI devices, monitoring latency, unplug/reconnect, screen readers, long sessions and exchange through both installed applications still require tests on the target computers.

Windows interface screenshots are control references. Theme, saved layout, screen scaling and project contents may differ. Local synthetic checks and preserved-codec checks do not establish native Windows hardware behavior or interchange through both installed apps.