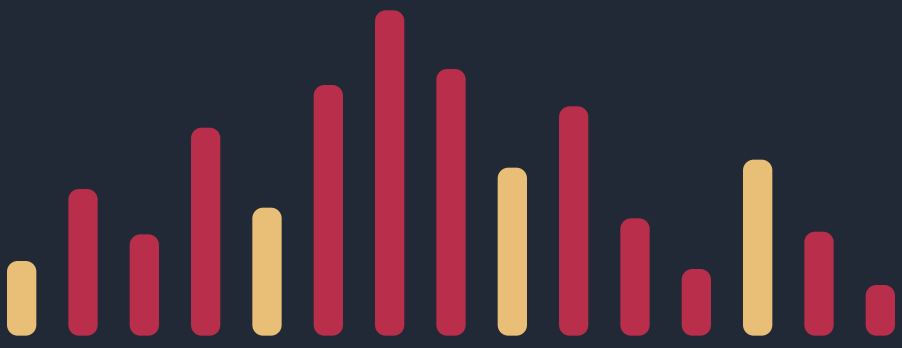
SAMPLEDEX / WINDOWS

Windows installation instructions

Start here first.

Sampledex 0.20.0 | Windows Build 74

Extract the package, start setup, handle the Windows prompt and make your first sound.



VERSION 0.20.0 | BUILD 74 | NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Customer ZIP: after using Extract All, open **CLICK ME - Install Sampledex.exe**. This is the Sampledex Windows installer under an easier-to-find filename. The official workflow download uses the original name ending in **Windows-x64-Setup.exe**; either installer starts the same setup. You only need to run one.

Check your package: `BUILD_INFO` identifies the packaged version and build. The associated Windows workflow identifies the source commit and records build, test and installer checks. Keep the complete extracted folder and use the instructions below.

Before you install: the Windows prompt

This release is unsigned. If Windows says **Windows protected your PC** when you open setup, choose **More info > Run anyway** to start the installer. Only continue for a Sampledex download from a source you trust.

The warning does not appear on every computer. A school or work computer may prevent continuing; ask its administrator to review the package if **Run anyway** is unavailable. Keep antivirus and your organization's security policies enabled.

1. Extract the entire download

In File Explorer, right-click the downloaded ZIP and choose **Extract All**. Open the new folder. Run setup and the application from an extracted folder so Windows can find the required files.

2. Install Sampledex

1. In the customer folder, double-click **CLICK ME - Install Sampledex.exe**. If you are using the official workflow download instead, open its installer whose name ends in **Windows-x64-Setup.exe**.
2. If **Windows protected your PC** appears, click **More info**.
3. Check that the warning belongs to the installer you just opened from your trusted Sampledex download. This unsigned release may show **Unknown publisher**.
4. Click **Run anyway** to start setup. If no warning appears, setup opens directly.
5. Follow the setup screens, then open **Sampledex** from the Start menu.

Setup installs for your Windows account and includes uninstall support, runtime files and these guides. You can choose a desktop shortcut. Keep your projects in Documents or another folder you own.

The steps above apply to the unrecognized-app warning. If Windows reports a malware detection or your organization blocks the app, ask the administrator or publisher to review it. You do not need a certificate account to install Sampledex.

3. Optional: run the portable version

Choose this if you want to run Sampledex without installing it. You only need one option: installer or portable.

1. Extract the included portable Windows ZIP into its own folder.
2. Double-click **Sampledex.exe**. The same unrecognized-app prompt can appear on first launch; follow step 2 only if you trust the download and Windows offers that option.
3. Keep the included scanner, DLLs, docs and licenses with the application.

Moving only the EXE leaves required files behind. The included `SHA256SUMS.txt` records release file checksums. A checksum confirms file integrity; it is not a publisher signature.

4. Make your first sound

1. On **Home**, choose **Audio / MIDI settings** and select your playback device.
2. Find the **House** template and choose **Open demo**.
3. Press **Play** or **Space**. If you hear nothing, check Windows volume, the selected output, and track/master mute.
4. Use **Save project** to save a copy in your Documents folder.

On one laptop screen, press **F6** for **Focus timeline**. Click an editor tab when needed; **F7** shows or hides the editor and **F8** shows or hides the browser. See workspace controls for resizing, floating and docking panels.

For audio recording, allow desktop microphone access under Windows Settings > Privacy & security > Microphone (Windows 11), or Privacy > Microphone (Windows 10). On an audio track, click its **No input** / Monitor button, select the interface and mono or stereo channels, then click **R** to arm it. Main **Record** captures all armed audio and MIDI tracks. Follow the recording tutorial for input monitoring, count-in, loop takes and punch. The main **Loop** button controls repeated passes. Use **Expand takes (+)** on the original track to audition and choose its retained passes.

5. Read the Windows user guide

The guide covers the tempo picker, arrangement, Steps and piano tools, sound browser, mixer, audio inspector, recording, VST3 plug-ins and export. See what changed in Build 74: a channel rack with clickable steps, FLAC and OGG export, stems in a project folder and export from right-click menus, and fixes for sampler clicks, reverb tone at high sample rates and gate timing, plus Build 73's same layout and shortcuts as the Mac app, MIDI learn and faster clip and note editing, plus Build 72's piano roll tool keys and cursors, drag-to-resize tracks, clip-edge trim and fade cursors and a cleaner studio look, plus Build 71's safe start after an unexpected exit and recovery choices for unsaved plug-in changes, plus the complete bounce dialog, mixed MIDI/audio clip selection, combined or separate stems, explicit playback choices and WAV/AIFF/FLAC/MP3/OGG delivery. See the Bounce walkthrough and complete export tutorial. Earlier cleanup, pitch editing, folders, Undo history, direct VST3 hosting and recording tools remain included. Loop editing, take lanes and earlier recording corrections remain included. Keep a backup before resaving older projects.

Drag across the **loop band above the tracks** to set a repeating section. Drag its ends to resize, or Shift-drag to replace it. With the timeline focused, press **L** to toggle Loop or **Ctrl+L** to loop selected clips. **Ctrl+Shift+L** opens exact loop positions. Press **F1** for the searchable keyboard guide.

Open the Windows user guide

The customer ZIP includes the Windows user guide and these installation instructions as PDFs. Keep them for reference. Release notes are supplied separately to the publisher and are not included in the customer ZIP. The installed and portable application also include offline HTML guides.

Plug-ins after updating

VST3 instruments and effects run inside Sampledex again. The separate scanner remains; no separate playback worker is required. A crashing or hanging third-party plug-in can crash or hang the DAW. Save regularly and keep project backups. A plug-in's own latency still receives timing compensation.

If Sampledex closes unexpectedly, the next launch asks before starting. Choose **Start without outside plug-ins** or **Recover without outside plug-ins** to load only Sampledex sounds for that session; your projects keep every plug-in's saved settings. Hold **Shift** while starting Sampledex to see these choices any time.

Working between Windows and Mac

Windows Build 74 saves project format 13, which the existing Mac Build 51 can open. For a Windows Build 53 project, open it in Windows Build 74 and use Save As to create a compatible copy. Keep the original backup. Transfer the entire .sdxp folder/package, including `Media`, `RecordingState`, `WorkspaceState` and Windows supplemental state when present; ZIP it first and extract it on the receiving computer. RecordingState retains original takes and comp choices. Older apps can play the main song but cannot edit the new takes. Their musical edits can make the optional take state stale, and their Save As may omit it. Keep an untouched backup. WorkspaceState stores optional folder organization and restores only when its digest matches the music. Stale or missing folder state leaves a flat list without changing the song. Actual Windows/Mac app exchange for these combined upgrades remains to be tested; local codec checks do not replace it. Read the user guide for companion files and third-party plug-in requirements.