



# MPK<sup>®</sup>mini<sup>IV</sup>

## Ableton Live Setup Guide English

## Introduction

This guide will help you set up your MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV to control the Ableton Live software.

**Important:** Before you use MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV for the first time, we recommend checking for available firmware updates. These updates add exciting new features and improvements, so staying up-to-date ensures the best experience with MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV. Visit [akaipro.com](https://akaipro.com) and go to the MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV product page to check for available updates for download, then follow the instructions to update your device.

## Support

To get started with MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV, download your included software, and access the hardware *User Guide*, visit [inmusic.to/mini4begin](https://inmusic.to/mini4begin).

For additional product support, visit [support.akaipro.com](https://support.akaipro.com).

## Setup

1. Use the included USB-C<sup>®</sup> cable to connect MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV's **USB-C<sup>®</sup> Port** to an available USB 3.0 port on your computer (powered on).

**Note:** If connecting to a USB hub, make sure a powered hub is used.

2. Press the **PLUGIN/DAW** button on MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV to ensure the DAW preset is selected (button is lit red).
3. Open Ableton Live. The control script is compatible with the latest versions of Live 11 and Live 12.
4. In Ableton Live, open the **Preferences** menu.
5. Click the **Link, Tempo & MIDI** tab.
6. Click an available **Control Surface** drop-down menu and select **MPK mini IV**.
7. Click an available **Input** drop-down menu and select **MPK mini IV (Port 2)**.
8. Click an available **Output** drop-down menu and select **MPK mini IV (Port 2)**.

9. Most of the MIDI port settings should be automatically selected, as shown in the image to the right. However, you will need to manually disable **Input Ports > Track** for Port 3 and Port 4. This ensures MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV works properly with the Studio Instrument Collection plugin.

If you are having issues, ensure the settings are still set to these defaults.

### Input Ports:

- **MPK mini IV - Track** enabled
- **MPK mini IV (Port 2) - Track** enabled

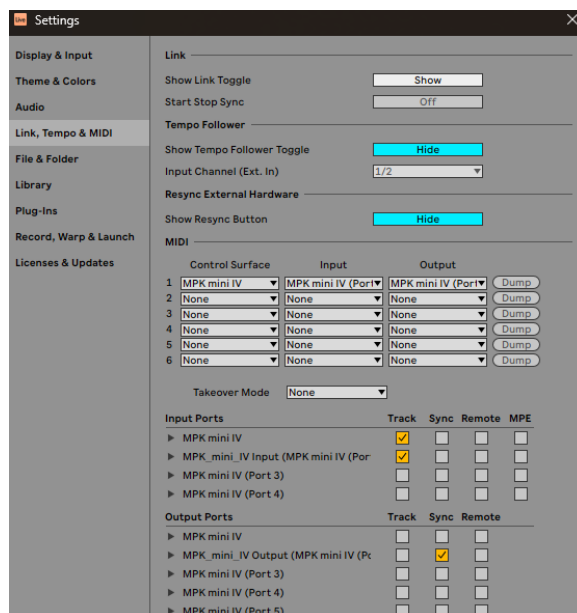
### Output Ports:

- **MPK mini IV (Port 2) - Sync** enabled

**Note:** MPE should not be enabled with MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV.

10. Close the **Preferences** window. You can now use MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV with Ableton Live.
11. *Optional:* If you would like to use Ableton Live to control the tempo of your MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV, such as for use with the Arpeggiator, hold the **SHIFT** button and press **ARP** to open the Arpeggiator Configuration menu on MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV. Use the **encoder** to scroll to the **Clock** setting and set it to **EXT**.

Once the clock is set to External, the Arpeggiator will only function when playback is running in Ableton Live, and will be synced to its tempo.



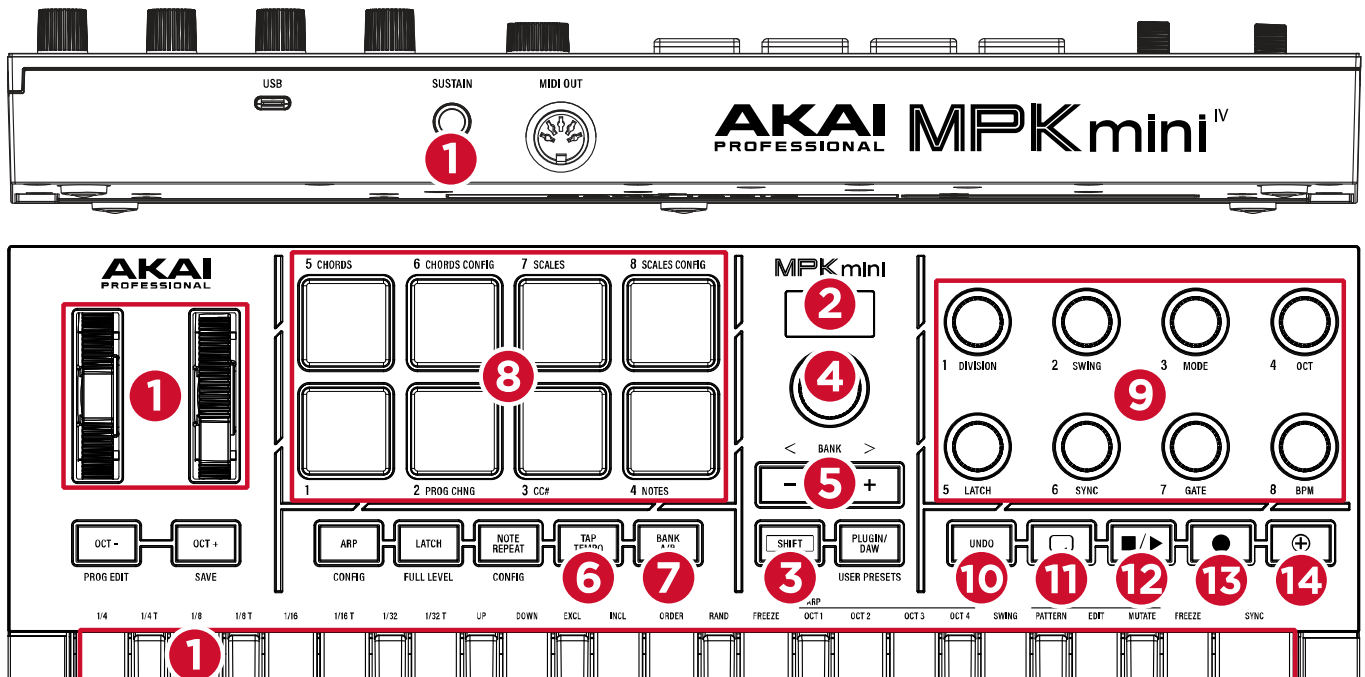
## About MIDI Ports

MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV features five different MIDI ports that are used for communication. Understanding what these ports are used for can help you set it up properly with your software or hardware.

Port #	Name	Description
1	MPK Mini IV MIDI Port	<p>This port will send keybed, drum pad, pitch and mod wheel, sustain pedal, and knob control data.</p> <p>Messages sent to this port are expected to be recorded and edited by a Host DAW. Messages received from this port can be resent to the physical 5-pin MIDI output port, depending on the settings.</p> <p>All Presets will send MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV performance data on this port by default.</p>
2	MPK Mini IV DAW Port	<p>This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls to a connected supported DAW.</p> <p>When using the <b>DAW</b> Preset, this port must be enabled in the DAW software to access the DAW control script.</p>
3	MPK Mini IV Plugin Port	<p>This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls to the Studio Instrument Collection (SIC) software.</p> <p>When using the <b>Plugin</b> Preset, this port must be enabled in the SIC software to access the SIC control script.</p>
4	MPK Mini IV Software Control Port	<p>This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls for generic mapping.</p>
5	MPK Mini IV Din Port	<p>This port is the physical 5-pin MIDI output on the rear panel of MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV.</p> <p>You can choose to send incoming MIDI data from the USB-C<sup>®</sup> port or the internal hardware MIDI data to this port by adjusting the <b>DINsrc</b> setting in the MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV <b>Global</b> menu.</p>

## Control Map

This chapter describes the functions of MPK® mini IV's compatible controls when using Ableton Live.



- 1. Keyboard, Pitch Wheel, Modulation Wheel, Sustain Input:** These basic performance controls are used for controlling and playing virtual instruments in Ableton Live. These controls send their data on MIDI Port 1 and are not part of the additional control script.
- 2. Display:** The display on MPK® mini IV provides instant visual feedback as you play, and displays information from the connected Ableton Live software. This display can also be used to edit various MPK® mini IV hardware settings, such as Arpeggiator parameters or Global functions, as described in the hardware *User Guide*.
- 3. SHIFT:** This button provides access to secondary functions when using MPK® mini IV with Ableton Live. Press and hold it and then press another button or pad to access its secondary function.
- 4. Encoder:** Turn this knob to select scenes. This will also move the 4x4 matrix focus up or down when scrolling past its current bounds.  
Press the encoder to launch the selected scene.  
Hold **SHIFT** and turn the encoder to navigate between different devices in Device Control Mode.  
Hold **SHIFT** and press the encoder to toggle between Device Control Mode and Mixer Mode for the **knobs**.
- 5. -/+:** Press these buttons to move to the previous or next track. This will also shift the current 4x4 matrix focus left or right when scrolling past its current bounds.  
Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to move to the previous or next knob bank in Device Control Mode or Mixer Mode.
- 6. TAP TEMPO:** Press this button three times in the desired tempo to change the BPM (beats per minute) in Ableton Live.

**METRONOME:** Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to turn the metronome on or off in Ableton Live.

**7. BANK A/B:** Press this button to toggle between **Bank A** and **Bank B** for the pads. See the following [Pad Modes](#) section to learn more about this function in each pad mode.

**8. Pads:** These drum pads can be used in three different modes, which can be accessed by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the following pads:

- **Pad 4 (NOTES):** Drum Rack Mode.
- **Pad 3 (CC#):** Record Arm/Clip Stop Mode
- **Pad 2 (PROG CHNG):** Clip Launch Mode

See the following [Pad Modes](#) section to learn more about how each mode functions.

Hold **SHIFT** and press **Pad 1** to stop all playing clips.

**9. Knobs:** These endless knobs can be used for two different functions, which you can toggle between by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the **encoder**:

- **Device Control Mode**
- **Mixer Mode**

See the following [Knob Modes](#) section to learn more about how each mode functions.

**10. UNDO:** Press this button to undo the last action in Ableton Live.

**REDO:** Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to redo the last action undone in Ableton Live.

**11. Loop:** Press this button to turn loop playback on and off in Ableton Live.

**12. Stop/Play:** Press this button to stop or start playback in Ableton Live.

**Continue:** Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to start playback from the current playhead position in Ableton Live.

**13. Record:** Press this button to enable arrangement recording in Ableton Live.

**Quantize:** Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to turn quantization on or off in Ableton Live. This allows the notes you play to snap to the recording grid according to the current time division.

**14. Overdub:** Press this button to enable MIDI overdub recording in Ableton Live.

**Automation:** Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to turn automation recording on or off in Ableton Live.

## Pad Modes

The MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV pads can be used in three different modes with Ableton Live. You can access each mode by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the following:

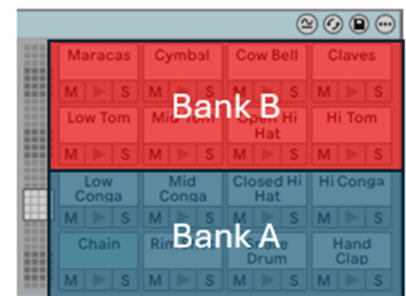
- **Pad 4 (NOTES):** Drum Rack Mode.
- **Pad 3 (CC#):** Record Arm/Clip Stop Mode
- **Pad 2 (PROG CHNG):** Clip Launch Mode

Additionally, you can press and hold **SHIFT** and press **Pad 1** to stop all playing clips while in any Pad Mode.

### Drum Rack Mode

In this mode, the MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV pads will automatically map to a 4x4 Drum Rack in Ableton. Press a pad to launch each sample.

Press the **BANK A/B** button on MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV to access additional samples in the Drum Rack.



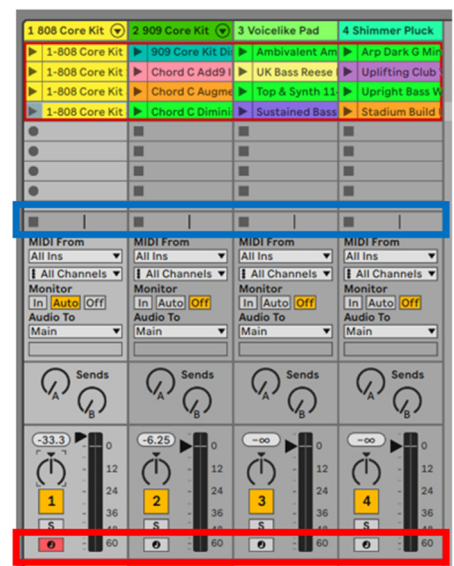
### Rec Arm/Clip Stop Mode

In this mode, the MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV pads will control track Record Arm and Clip Stop functions.

The bottom row of four pads corresponds to the first four tracks' Record Arm function (red outline, right). Press a pad to arm or disarm the selected track for recording. You can arm multiple tracks at a time by pressing and holding the pads simultaneously.

The top row of four pads corresponds to the first four tracks' Clip Stop functions (blue outline, right). Press one of these pads to stop a clip playing in the selected track.

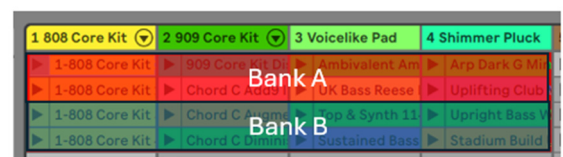
If you have more than four tracks in your project, you can use the **-/+** buttons to move the 4x4 matrix view left or right for additional track control.



### Clip Launch Mode

In this mode, the MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV pads will act as clip launchers for the current 4x4 matrix view focus. Pad **Bank A** will control the top 2x4 grouping of clips in the Matrix grid, and **Bank B** will control the bottom 2x4 grouping of clips. Press the **BANK A/B** button on MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV to toggle between banks. Press a pad to launch the selected clip.

You can also move the current 4x4 matrix focus up and down by turning the **encoder**, or left and right by pressing the **-/+** buttons.



## Knob Modes

The MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV knobs can be used in two different modes with Ableton Live: Device Control Mode and Mixer Mode. You can toggle between each mode by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the **encoder**.

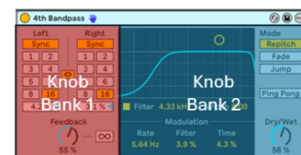
### Device Control Mode

In this mode, the knobs will be mapped to Device Control on the currently selected track. Turn each knob to adjust the corresponding parameter.

Press and hold **SHIFT** and turn the **encoder** to cycle between banks of parameters in the device chain, selecting the next device and its eight associated parameters.



Press and hold **SHIFT** and press the **-/+ buttons** to move to the previous or next bank of parameters in the selected device.



### Mixer Mode

In this mode, the knobs will be mapped to mixer controls on the selected track. Turn each knob to adjust the selected control.

#### Bank 1

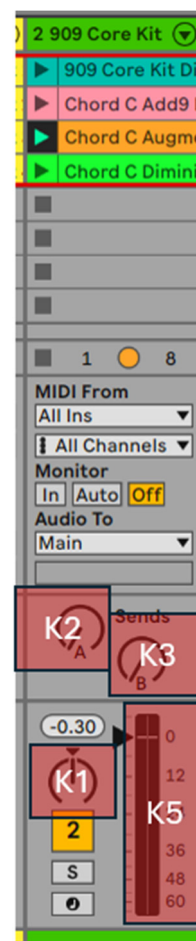
K1: Track Pan	K2: Send 1/A	K3: Send 2/B	K4: Send 3/C
K5: Track Volume	K6: Send 4/D	K7: Send 5/E	K8: Send 6/F

#### Bank 2

K1: Track Pan	K2: Send 7/G	K3: Send 8/H	K4: Send 9/I
K5: Track Volume	K6: Send 10/J	K7: Send 11/K	K8: Send 12/L

Press the **-/+ buttons** to select the previous or next track. The knobs will automatically map to the first bank of Mixer Mode controls on the selected track.

Press and hold **SHIFT** and press the **-/+ buttons** to move to the previous or next bank of controls on the selected track.





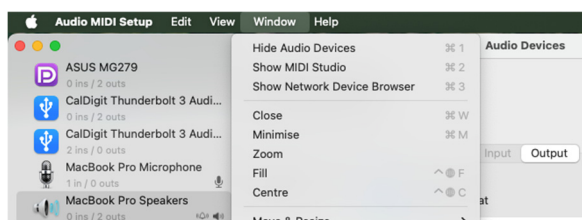
## Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing trouble using the Ableton Live control script, you can try the following.

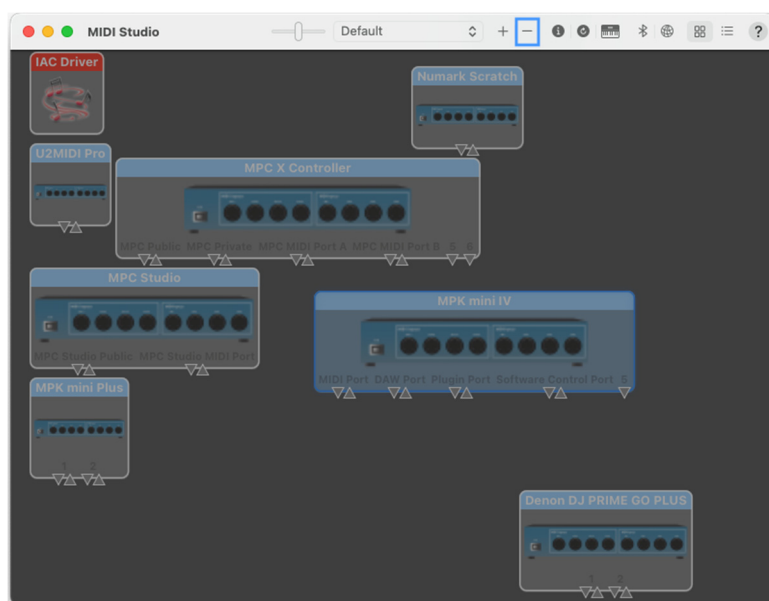
**Check that DAW Control Mode is enabled on MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV:** Press the **PLUGIN/DAW** button on your MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV so that it is lit red, indicating DAW mode is active.

**For macOS users, remove the MIDI device from Audio MIDI Setup and reconnect:**

1. Close Ableton Live if it is open.
2. Disconnect MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV from your computer.
3. On your macOS computer, go to **Applications > Utilities > Audio MIDI Setup** and open it.
4. Enter the **MIDI Studio** tab by going to **Window > Show MIDI Studio**, or by pressing **⌘ (Cmd) + 2**.



5. Locate MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV in the list of devices, and then remove by selecting it and pressing **backspace** on your keyboard, or by clicking the - icon in the MIDI Studio window.



6. Reconnect MPK<sup>®</sup> mini IV and reopen Ableton Live.

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