AKAI®
PROFESSIONAL

MPK®mini IV

Cubase
Setup Guide

English

Introduction

This guide will help you set up your MPK® mini IV to control the Cubase software.

Important: Before you use MPK® 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® mini IV. Visit **akaipro.com** and go to the MPK® 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® mini IV, download your included software, and access the hardware *User Guide*, visit **inmusic.to/mini4begin**.

For additional product support, visit **support.akaipro.com**.

Setup

To begin, download and install the latest Cubase control script:

1. Close Cubase if it is running before beginning the installation.

2. Download the latest Cubase control script by going to **inmusic.to/mini4begin**.

3. Open the downloaded file and follow the instructions to complete the installation.

You can now open connect MPK® mini IV and open Cubase:

1. Use the included USB-C® cable to connect MPK® mini IV's **USB-C® 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® mini IV to ensure the DAW preset is selected (button is lit red).
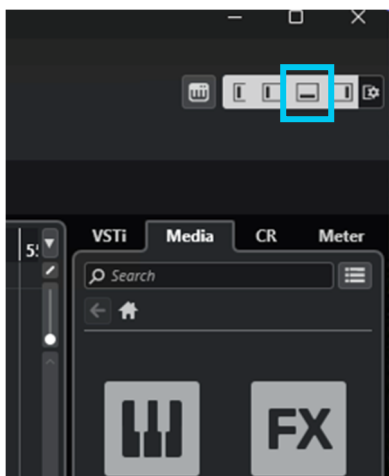
3. Open Cubase.

    For Windows users, proceed to the following *Windows Setup* section for directions on how to set up the controller.

    For Mac users, Cubase should automatically assign and enable the appropriate MIDI ports for MPK® mini IV if you have installed the control script. If you have any issues, or if you need to manually set the MIDI ports, use the directions in the following *macOS Setup* section.
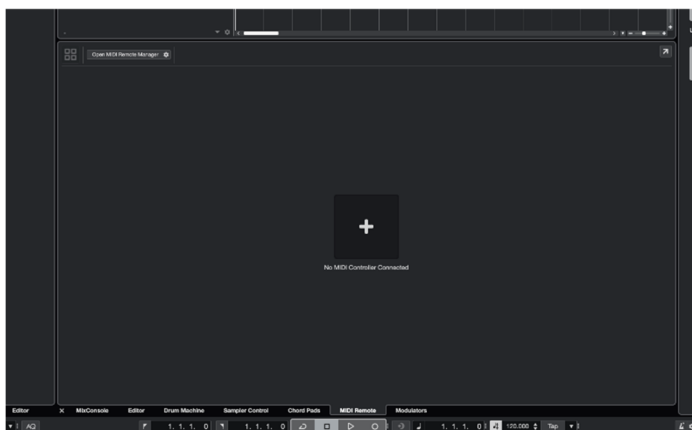
    If you have any further issues, refer to the *Troubleshooting* chapter for more information.
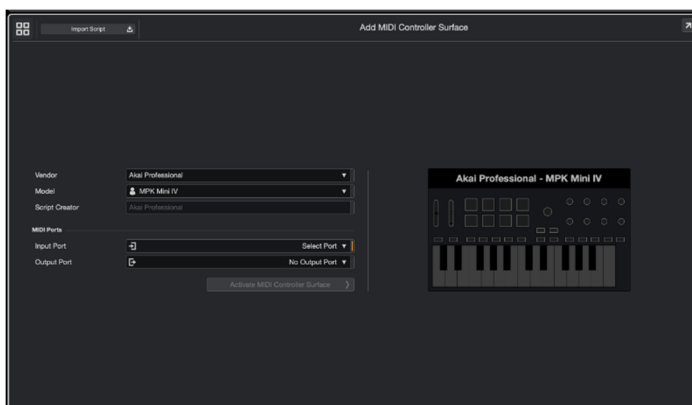
Windows Setup

1. In Cubase, open the **bottom panel**.

2. Navigate to the **MIDI Remote** tab, and then click the **+ icon**.

3. In the **Add MIDI Controller Surface** menu, set the following:

   a. **Manufacturer:** Akai Professional

   b. **Model:** MPK Mini IV

   c. **Input Port**: MIDIIN2
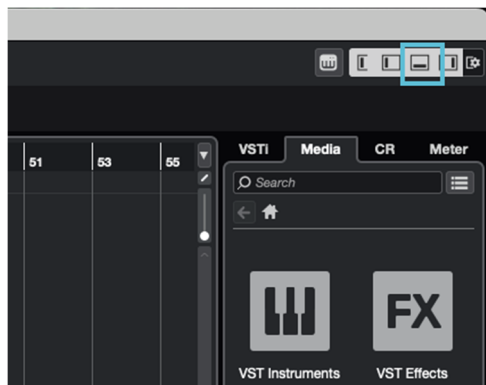
   d. **Output Port:** MIDIOUT2

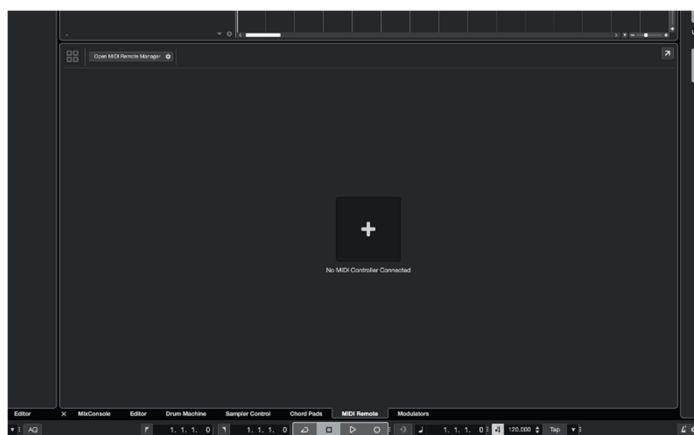4. Click **Activate MIDI Controller Surface**.

macOS Setup

For macOS users, MPK® mini IV should be automatically detected and selected when opening Cubase. If you have any issues, or if you need to manually set the MIDI ports, follow the directions below.
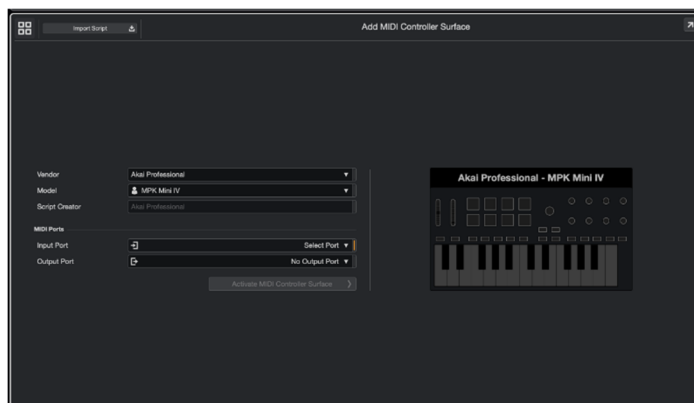
1. In Cubase, open the **bottom panel**.

2. Navigate to the **MIDI Remote** tab, and then click the **+ icon**.

3. In the **Add MIDI Controller Surface** menu, set the following:
   a. **Manufacturer:** Akai Professional
   b. **Model:** MPK Mini IV
   c. **Input Port**: MPK mini IV DAW Port
   d. **Output Port:** MPK mini IV DAW Port
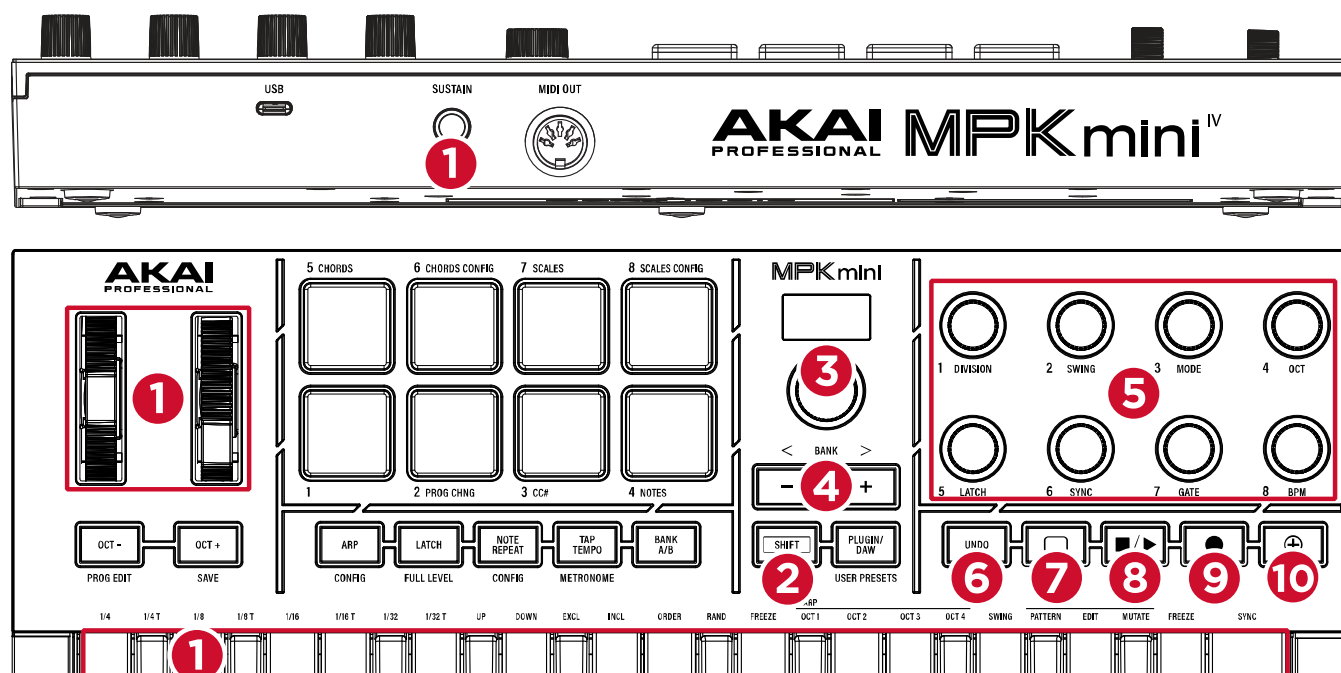

4. Click **Activate MIDI Controller Surface**.

About MIDI Ports

MPK® 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	This port will send keybed, drum pad, pitch and modwheel, sustain pedal, and knob control data. 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. All Presets will send MPK® mini IV performance data on this port by default.
2	MPK Mini IV DAW Port	This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls to a connected supported DAW. When using the **DAW** Preset, this port must be enabled in the DAW software to access the DAW control script.
3	MPK Mini IV Plugin Port	This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls to the Studio Instrument Collection (SIC) software. When using the **Plugin** Preset, this port must be enabled in the SIC software to access the SIC control script.
4	MPK Mini IV Software Control Port	This port will send all interface controls, screen controls, and transport controls for generic mapping.
5	MPK Mini IV Din Port	This port is the physical 5-pin MIDI output on the rear panel of MPK® mini IV. You can choose to send incoming MIDI data from the USB-C® port or the internal hardware MIDI data to this port by adjusting the **DINsrc** setting in the MPK® mini IV **Global** menu.

Control Map

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

1. **Keyboard, Pitch Wheel, Modulation Wheel, Sustain Input:** These basic performance controls are used for controlling and playing virtual instruments in Cubase. These controls send their data on MIDI Port 1 and are not part of the additional control script.

2. **SHIFT:** This button provides access to secondary functions when using MPK® mini IV with Cubase. Press and hold it and then press another button or pad to access its secondary function.

3. **Encoder:** Turn this knob to select tracks.

4. **-/+:** Press these buttons to move between banks of knob controls. See the following *Knob Modes* section to learn more.

   Hold **SHIFT** and press these buttons to cycle between knob control modes in Cubase.

5. **Knobs:** These endless knobs can be used for six different functions, which you can toggle between by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the **-/+ buttons**. See the following *Knob Modes* section to learn more about how each mode functions.

6. **UNDO:** Press this button to undo the last action in Cubase.

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

7. **Loop:** Press this button to turn cycle playback on and off in Cubase.

8. **Stop/Play:** Press this button to stop or start playback in Cubase.

   Hold **SHIFT** and press this button go to the left locator in Cubase.

9. **Record:** Press this button to enable recording in Cubase.

   Quantize: Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to quantize the selected region, track, or notes in Cubase. This allows the events to snap to the recording grid according to the current time division.

10. **Overdub:** Press this button to record enable the current track in Cubase.

    Automation: Hold **SHIFT** and press this button to cycle between automation modes in Cubase.

Knob Modes

The MPK® mini IV knobs can be used in six different modes with Cubase. You can cycle between each mode by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the **-/+ buttons**. The **display** will show the currently selected mode.

- **Quick Controls**

    In this mode, the knobs will be assigned to quick controls for the current track.

    Press the **-/+ buttons** to switch between banks of quick controls 1-8 and 9-16.

- **Volume and Pan**

    In this mode, the top row of knobs controls the volume of tracks in the current bank, and the bottom row controls the panning of tracks in the current bank.

    Press the **-/+ buttons** to bank through tracks in groups of four. The current bank will be highlighted in Cubase.

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4
K1: Volume	K2: Volume	K3: Volume	K4: Volume
K5: Pan	K6: Pan	K7: Pan	K8: Pan

- **Sends**

    In this mode, the top row of knobs controls the odd numbered sends for tracks in the current track bank, and the bottom row controls the even numbered sends.

    Turn the **encoder** to change tracks, which will also change the current track bank in focus. The current bank will be highlighted in Cubase.

    Press the **-/+ buttons** to bank through send pages for tracks in the current bank.

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4
K1: Send 1	K2: Send 1	K3: Send 1	K4: Send 1
K5: Send 2	K6: Send 2	K7: Send 2	K8: Send 2

- **EQ**

    In this mode, the knobs control EQ in the Channel Strip for the selected track.

    Turn the **encoder** to change tracks.

LO	LMF	HMF	HI
K1: Frequency	K2: Frequency	K3: Frequency	K4: Frequency
K5: Gain	K6: Gain	K7: Gain	K8: Gain

- **Navigation**

  In this mode, the knobs control important navigation commands in Cubase.

K1: Nudge	K2: Horizontal Zoom	K3: Cycle Region	K4: Navigate Track Marker
K5: -	K6: Vertical Zoom	K7: -	K8: Adjust Project BPM

- **User Mode**

  In this mode, the knobs are unmapped and send standard MIDI CC messages that can be mapped as desired in Cubase.
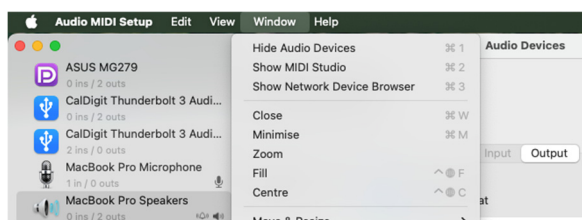
Troubleshooting

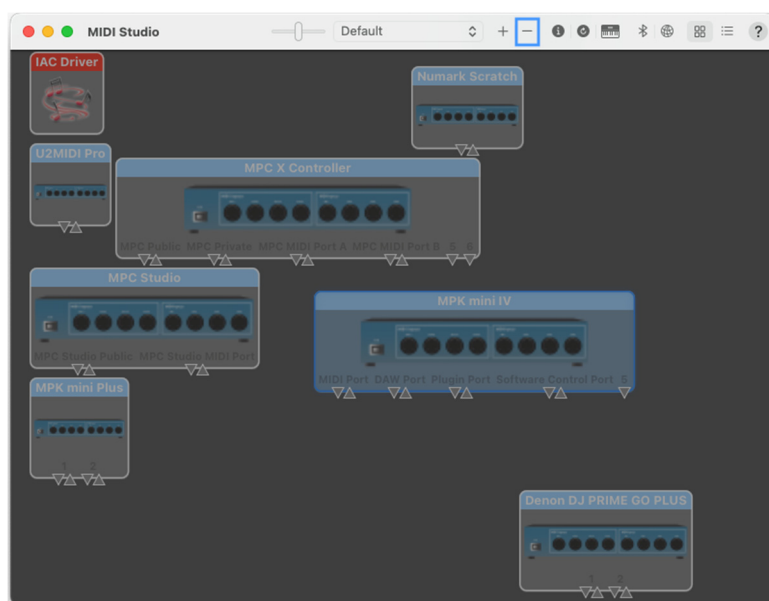If you are experiencing trouble using the Cubase control script, you can try the following.

Check that DAW Control Mode is enabled on MPK® mini IV: Press the **PLUGIN/DAW** button on your MPK® 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 Cubase if it is open.

2. Disconnect MPK® 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® 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® mini IV and reopen Cubase.

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