Instrument Player Manual

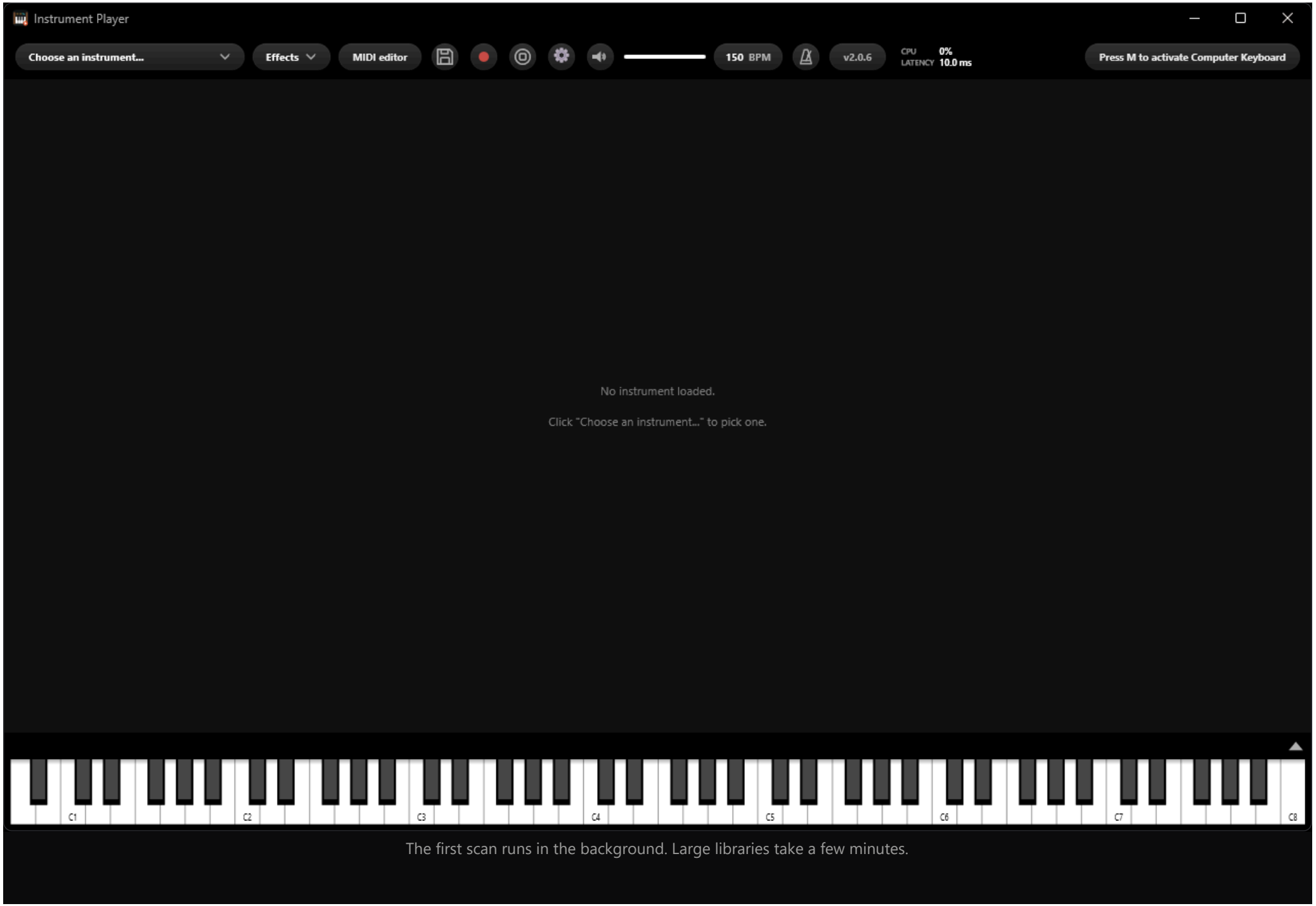
YBK.AUDIO

Version 2.0 · Standard edition

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1. Get started

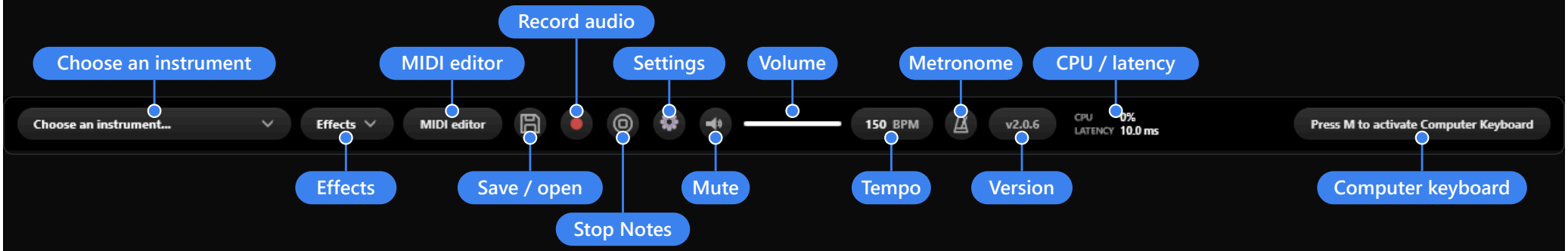
1. Run **InstrumentPlayerSetup.exe** and open Instrument Player.
2. Paste the license code from your purchase email and click **Activate**.
3. Wait while it scans your plugins. You can play the built-in synth **Basic** right away.
4. Click **Choose an instrument...** and double-click one.
5. Press `M` and play with your computer keyboard, or play your MIDI keyboard.



The first scan runs in the background. Large libraries take a few minutes.

Tip: Settings > Show runthrough plays the welcome tour again.

2. The main window



The toolbar




Sounds
Remove instrument
Your instrument
Instrument Player
Basic
Effects
MIDI editor
150 BPM
v2.0.6
Press M to activate
BASIC
OCTAVE
0
ARP
HOLD
MONO
FILTER
Low 24
RATE
1/16
Soft Keys
Big Saw Lead
Fat Bass
Sub
Bright Pluck
Warm Pad
Dream Bell
Wobble Bass
Retro Organ
Glass Arp
String Swell
Chip Blip
Night Pad
Hollow Flute
Punch Stab
Sci-Fi Sweep
Pick a sound on the left, then point at any control to see what it does.
OSC
WAVE A
OCT A
WAVE B
OCT B
DETUNE
VOICES
SPREAD
GLIDE
FILTER
CUTOFF
RESO
ENV AMT
DRIVE
ATTACK
DECAY
SUSTAIN
RELEASE
FX
LFO
VIBRATO
WOBBLE
TIME
FEEDBACK
SIZE
CHORUS
TONE
MIX
OSC A
OSC B
SUB
NOISE
CHORUS
DELAY
REVERB
MASTER
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5
C6
C7
C8
On-screen keyboard
Hide keyboard

Control	What it does
Choose an instrument…	Opens your instrument list. The × beside it takes the instrument out.
Effects	Opens the effects rack on the right.
MIDI editor	Opens the MIDI editor in its own window.
Disk icon	Save or open a project.
Red dot	Record audio.
Stop Notes	Silences any stuck note.
⚙	Settings.
Speaker and fader	Mute and output level.
BPM	Tempo. Drag up or down. Double-click to type.
Metronome	Click on or off (`Ctrl` + `M`).
Version	See what's new and update.
CPU / LATENCY	How hard the computer works, and the delay from key to sound.
Press M to activate Computer Keyboard	Play with your computer keyboard.

- The window fits the instrument's own size.
- `F11` or the maximise button: fullscreen. The instrument grows to fill the screen when it can.
- The arrow under the instrument hides or shows the on-screen keyboard.

3. Play notes

MIDI keyboard

Plug it in and play. Instrument Player listens to every MIDI input, even ones you connect later.

Computer keyboard


Computer keyboard on (Oct 3)
Instrument Player
Basic
Effects
MIDI editor
150 BPM
v2.0.6
BASIC
OCTAVE
0
ARP
HOLD
MONO
FILTER
Low 24
RATE
1/16
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OSC A
OSC B
SUB
NOISE
CHORUS
DELAY
REVERB
MASTER
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5
C6
C7
C8
Keys you can play

- Press `M` to turn it on. Press `M` or `Esc` to turn it off.
- White keys: `A` `S` `D` `F` `G` `H` `J` `K` `L` `;`
- Black keys: `W` `E` `T` `Y` `U` `O` `P`
- Octave down / up: `Z` / `X`, or the `-` and `+` beside "Oct".
- Notes you can reach light up on the on-screen keyboard.

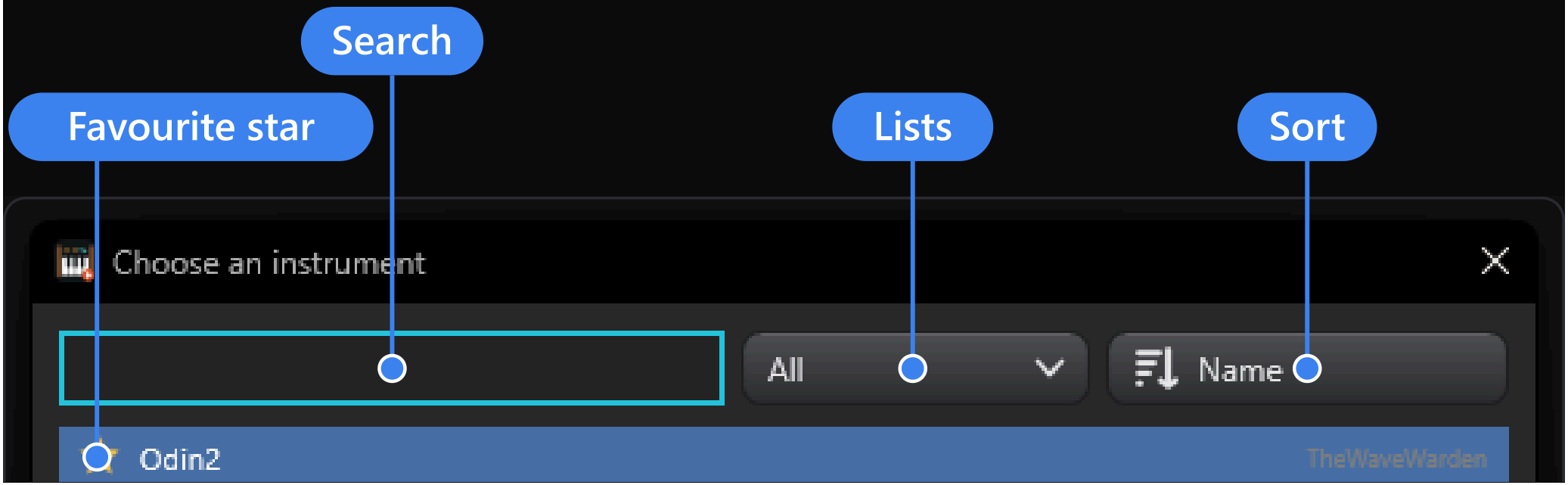
Change the layout

Right-click the keyboard button, or open Settings > **Computer keyboard**.

- **One row - 1½ octaves**: like Ableton Live and Logic Pro (default).
- **Two rows - 2 octaves**: like FL Studio and Cubase. Octave keys are `[` `]`.
- **+ Make my own keys...**: put any note on any key.

Tip: Notes clicked on an instrument's own on-screen keyboard can't be brought back with MIDI Replay. Play on Instrument Player's keyboard instead.

4. Find your instruments



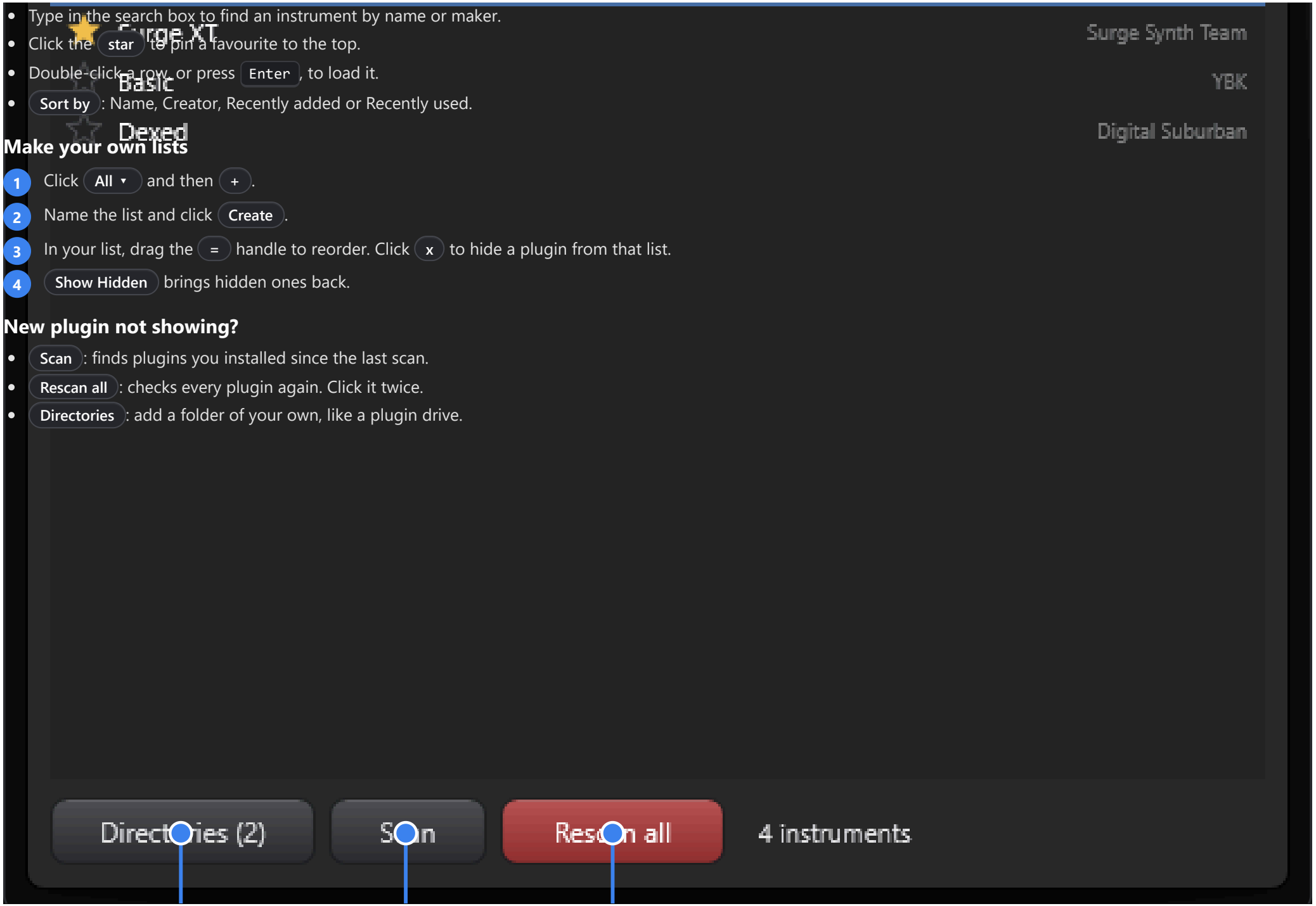
- Type in the search box to find an instrument by name or maker.
- Click the **star** to pin a favourite to the top.
- Double-click a row, or press `Enter`, to load it.
- **Sort by**: Name, Creator, Recently added or Recently used.

Make your own lists

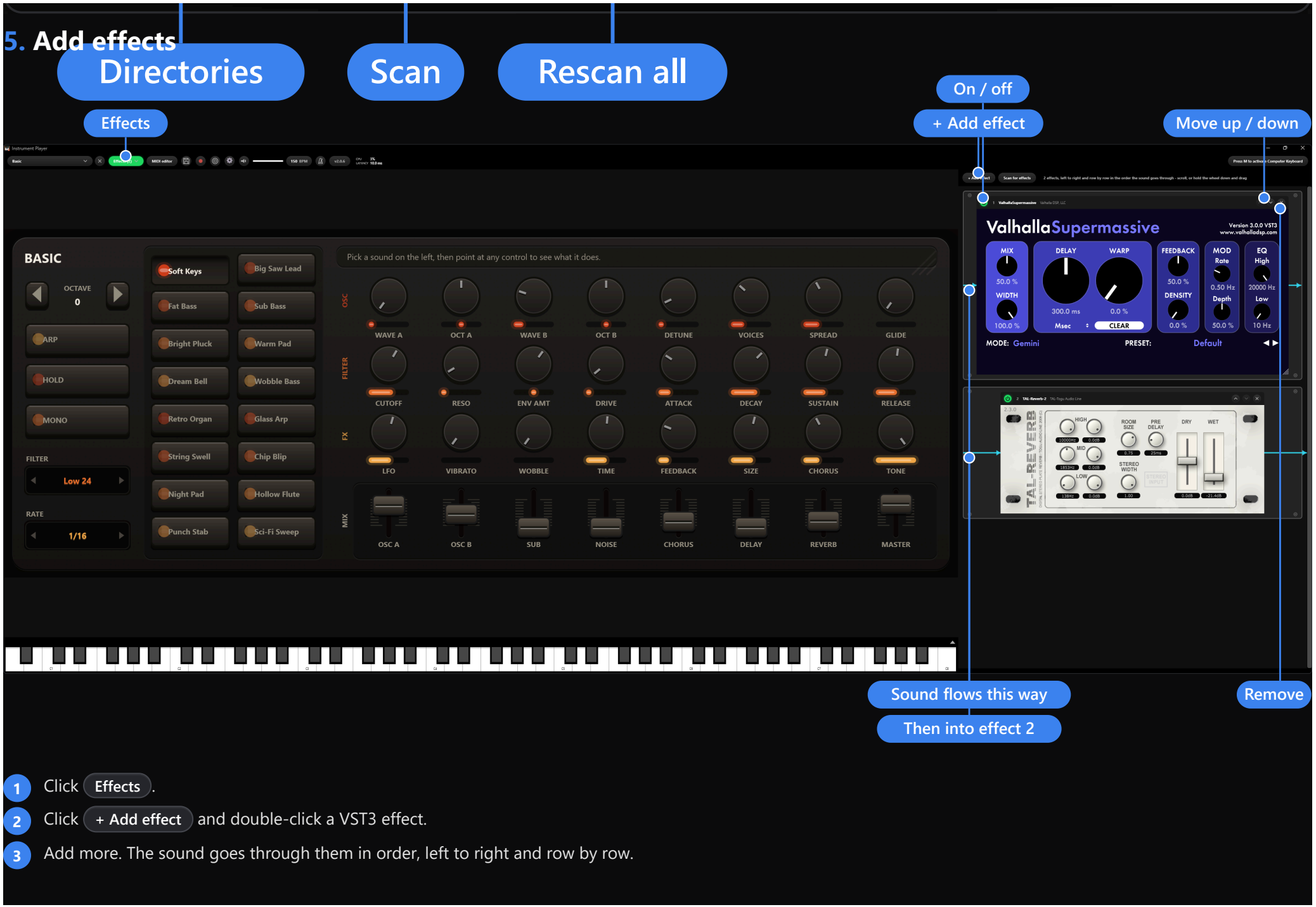
1. Click **All** ▾ and then **+**.
2. Name the list and click **Create**.
3. In your list, drag the **=** handle to reorder. Click **x** to hide a plugin from that list.
4. **Show Hidden** brings hidden ones back.

New plugin not showing?

- **Scan**: finds plugins you installed since the last scan.
- **Rescan all**: checks every plugin again. Click it twice.
- **Directories**: add a folder of your own, like a plugin drive.



5. Add effects

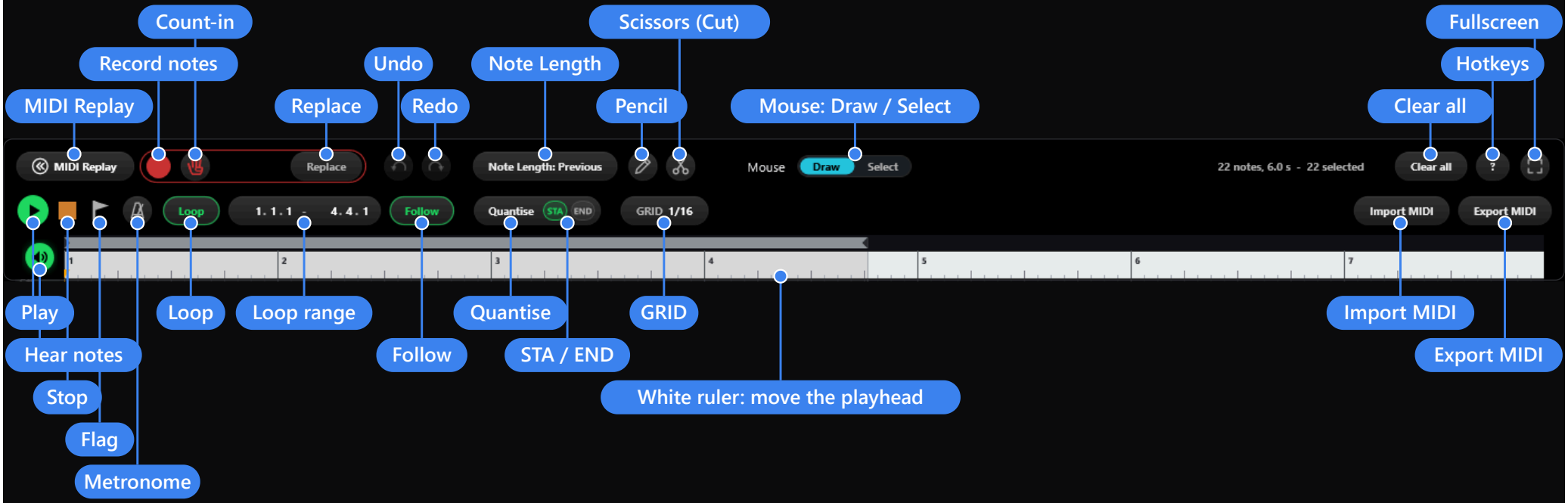


1. Click **Effects**.
2. Click **+ Add effect** and double-click a VST3 effect.
3. Add more. The sound goes through them in order, left to right and row by row.

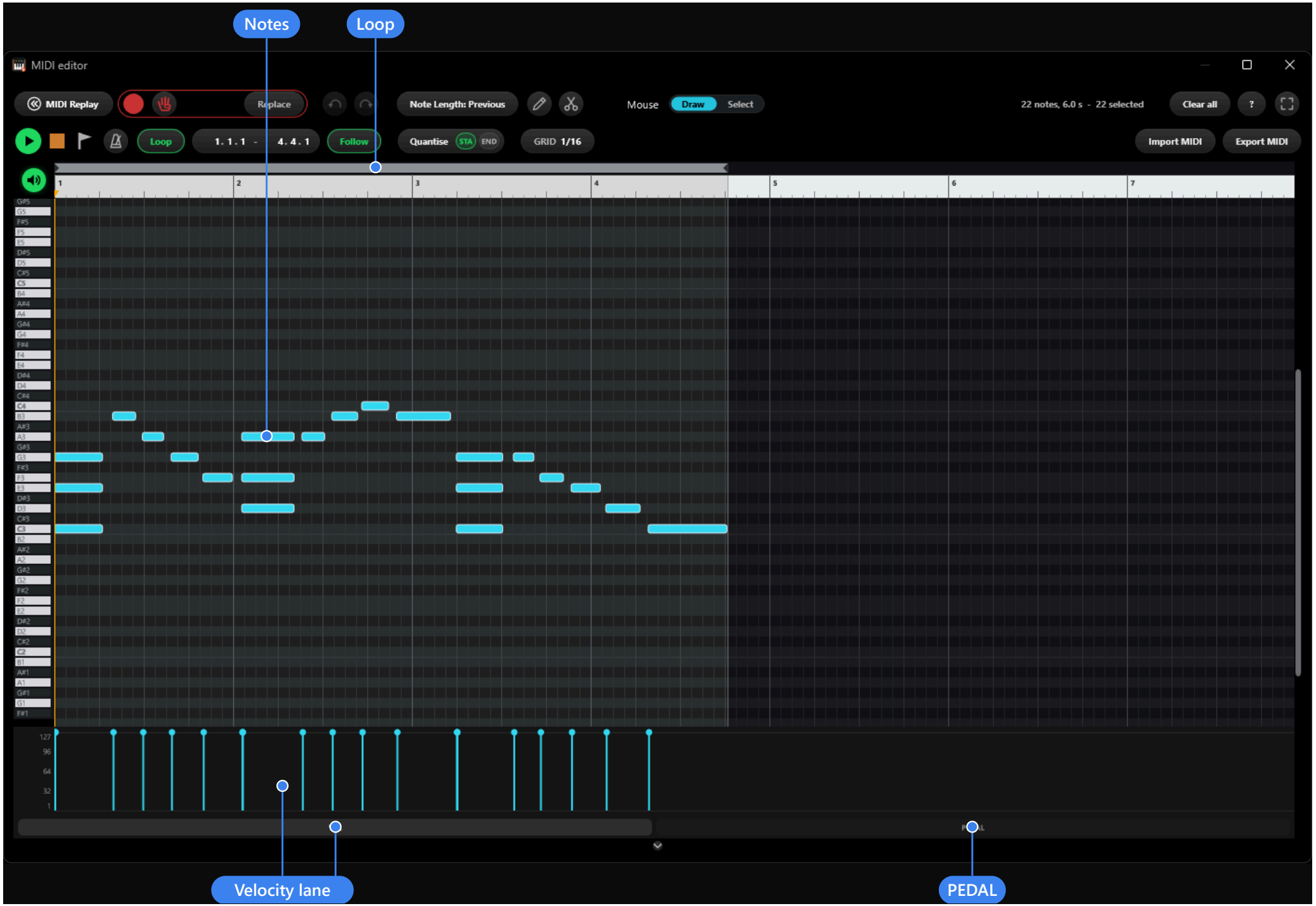
- Power button: switch an effect off or on.
- Drag an effect's header, or use the arrows, to change the order.
- `×` takes the effect out.
- `Ctrl` + `Z` / `Ctrl` + `Y` undo and redo knob moves, on/off and order. Click the rack first.

6. MIDI editor

Click **MIDI editor** in the toolbar. It opens in its own window, so you can keep playing.



The MIDI editor controls


Notes
Loop
MIDI editor
MIDI Replay
Replace
Note Length: Previous
Mouse
Draw
Select
22 notes, 6.0 s - 22 selected
Clear all
Loop
1. 1. 1 - 4. 4. 1
Follow
Quantise
STA
END
GRID 1/16
Import MIDI
Export MIDI
Velocity lane
PEDAL

VEL

Control	What it does
MIDI Replay	Brings back what you just played.
Red circle	Record notes into the pattern.
Hand icon	Count-in before recording.
Replace	On: recording replaces old notes. Off: adds to them.
Undo / Redo	`Ctrl` + `Z` / `Ctrl` + `Y`
Note Length	How long new notes are.
Pencil	Drag to draw notes.
Scissors	Cut out parts of the pattern.
Mouse : Draw / Select	What a click on the empty grid does. See Edit notes.
Clear all	Deletes everything. Click twice.
?	Shows all hotkeys.
Play / Stop / Flag	Play from the playhead. Stop twice jumps back to the flag.
Loop	Repeat the loop range.
Follow	Keep the playhead in view.
Quantise	Snap notes to the grid.
GRID	Grid size. Drag up or down, or double-click.
Import MIDI / Export MIDI	Load or save a .mid file.
Speaker icon (above the keys)	Hear notes as you place them.
White ruler	Click or drag to move the playhead.

The editor uses the tempo from the main window.

7. MIDI Replay

Instrument Player keeps everything you played in the last **5 minutes**. You don't need to press record.

1. Play something you like.
2. Open the MIDI editor.
3. Click **MIDI Replay** (`Ctrl` + `P`).

- A white glow on the button means there's new playing to bring in.
- If the editor already has notes, the new playing goes after them, from the next bar.
- Sustain pedal moves come too.

8. Edit notes

Mouse

Pick how the mouse works with the **Mouse** switch in the toolbar: **Draw** (like FL Studio) or **Select** (like Ableton Live or Logic).

Do this	Draw	Select
Click empty grid	Add a note. Hold to move it.	Start a selection box.
Double-click empty grid	-	Add a note.
Select notes	`Ctrl` +drag on empty grid	Drag on empty grid
Add or remove one	`Ctrl` +click a note	`Shift` +click a note
Move a copy	`Shift` +drag a note	`Ctrl` +drag a note

In both modes	To
Drag a note	Move it.
Drag a note's edge	Make it longer or shorter.
Double-click a note	Delete it.
Right-drag	Erase notes.
`Alt` +drag a note	Change how hard it plays.
Hold `Alt` while moving	No snapping to the grid.
Click a key on the left	Play it and select every note on it.

Moved notes snap to the grid only when they get close to a line.

New notes, pencil notes too, are as long as the last note you clicked. Click **Note Length** to pick a fixed length instead: **One grid step**, or 1/16 to 1 bar.

With several notes selected, dragging one velocity bar moves them all.

Keys

`↑` / `↓`	Up or down a semitone (`Shift`: an octave)
`Alt` + `←` / `→`	Move by a grid step
`Shift` + `←` / `→`	Shorter or longer by a grid step
`Ctrl` + `C` / `X`	Copy or cut the selected stretch
`Ctrl` + `V`	Paste at the playhead. Press again to add copies end to end.
`Ctrl` + `D`	Duplicate the selected stretch right after itself. Press again to keep going.
`Ctrl` + `E`	Split selected notes on the grid
`Delete`	Delete selected notes

Quantise

1. Select notes, or select none to quantise all of them.
2. Pick a grid with **GRID**.
3. Choose **STA** (note starts), **END** (note ends) or both.
4. Click **Quantise**.

Velocity and sustain pedal

- **VEL**: drag a bar up or down. Drag across several bars to draw a ramp.
- **PEDAL**: drag across to hold the pedal. Click a block to remove it.
- The small arrow under the lanes folds them away.

Zoom and scroll

- `Ctrl`+wheel: zoom. Over the keys: taller or thinner rows.
- Wheel: scroll up and down. Middle-drag: move around.

9. Loop, record and cut

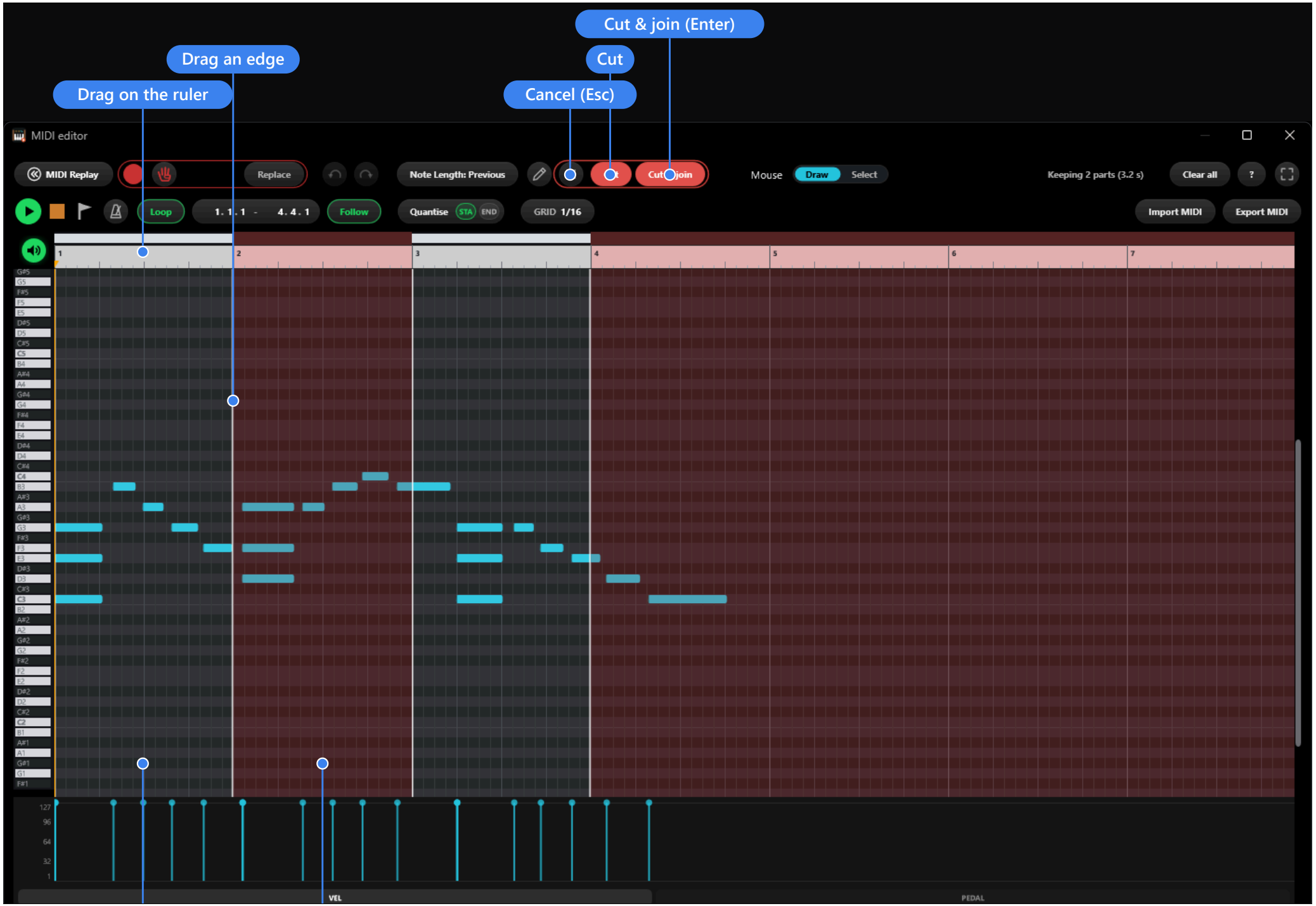
Loop

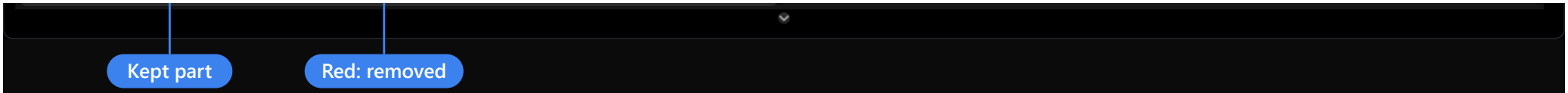
- The bar at the top of the ruler is the loop. Drag its ends or the whole bar.
- Drag across the empty top lane to draw a new loop.
- Or type it in the range box, like **3.2.1** (bar 3, beat 2, sixteenth 1).
- `Ctrl` + `[` / `Ctrl` + `]` set the loop start or end at the playhead.

Record notes

1. Turn on the hand icon for a count-in, and pick how many beats.
2. Click the red circle (`Ctrl` + `R`) and play.
3. With Loop on, each pass adds more. Turn on **Replace** to play over old notes.
4. Click again to stop. `Ctrl` + `Z` removes the whole take.

Cut


Cut & join (Enter)
Drag an edge
Cut
Drag on the ruler
Cancel (Esc)
MIDI editor
MIDI Replay
Replace
Note Length: Previous
Cut
Join
Mouse
Draw
Select
Keeping 2 parts (3.2 s)
Clear all
?
Loop
1. 1. 1 - 4. 4. 1
Follow
Quantise
STA
END
GRID 1/16
Import MIDI
Export MIDI
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
127
96
64
32
1
VEL
PEDAL



1. Click the scissors. Everything turns red.
2. Drag on the grid or the ruler to mark what to keep. Mark as many parts as you like.
3. Drag a part's middle to move it, its edge to resize it. Right-click to remove it.
4. Click **Cut** to clear the red parts and leave the rest in place, or **Cut & join** (`Enter`) to join the kept parts end to end.

Changed your mind? Click `x` or press `Esc`. `Ctrl` + `Z` brings a cut back.

10. Import and export MIDI

- Import MIDI: load a .mid file. The tempo changes to the file's tempo.
- Export MIDI: save the pattern as a .mid file to drag into your DAW.
- Exports are also kept in **Documents\YBK AUDIO\Instrument Player\MIDI**.

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11. Record audio

1. Click the red dot in the toolbar.
2. Play. The toolbar shows **REC** and the time.
3. Click again and choose where to save. Type .wav, .mp3 or .flac at the end of the name.

It records the instrument and effects. The metronome is left out.

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12. Save your sound

A project keeps the instrument and its settings, the effects, the MIDI pattern, the tempo and the volume.

- Save: disk icon > Save project... (`Ctrl` + `S`).
- Open: disk icon > Open project... (`Ctrl` + `O`), or double-click the .ipproj file.
- When you start the app, click Restore to pick up where you left off.

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13. Settings

Click ⚙ or press `Esc`.

Audio & MIDI

- Choose your audio interface and MIDI inputs.
- Use **ASIO** for the lowest latency. Set its buffer in the interface's **Control Panel**.
- Crackles? Choose a bigger buffer.
- The power switch beside **Input** plays a microphone or guitar through your effects. Use headphones.

Computer keyboard

Pick a layout, the octave keys, or make your own.

Hotkeys

- **MIDI Editor: Mouse**: **Draw** or **Select**. Same as the switch in the editor.
- Click a key to change it, then press the new one. **Reset all** puts them back.

License & data

- Your projects, MIDI, audio and a copy of your settings live in **Documents\YBK AUDIO\Instrument Player**.
- **Change...**: keep them somewhere else.
- **File names**: how saved files are named.
- **Factory reset...**: start fresh. Your license and data folder stay.

14. License and new computers

One license works on one computer at a time.

1. On the old computer: Settings > License & data > **Release license...**
2. Copy **Documents\YBK AUDIO\Instrument Player** to the new computer.
3. On the new computer: enter your code, then Settings > **Load from folder...**

A license can be moved once every 30 days. Lost your code? Email support@ybkaudio.com.

15. Updates

Instrument Player tells you when a new version is out. Click **Update now**. Your sounds and settings are kept.

The version button in the toolbar shows what changed in each version.

Prefer the old way of clicking in the MIDI editor? Switch `Mouse` to `Select`.

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16. Keyboard shortcuts

Change them in Settings > `Hotkeys`. The `?` button in the MIDI editor shows your current keys.

Key	Action
`M` / `Esc`	Computer keyboard on / off
`Z` / `X`	Octave down / up
`Ctrl` + `S`	Save project
`Ctrl` + `O`	Open project
`F11`	Fullscreen
`Ctrl` + `M`	Metronome
`Space`	Play / pause
`Shift` + `Space`	Stop (twice: back to the flag)
`Ctrl` + `P`	MIDI Replay
`Ctrl` + `R`	Record notes
`Ctrl` + `L`	Loop on / off
`Ctrl` + `F`	Follow on / off
`Ctrl` + `Home`	Flag at the playhead
`Ctrl` + `B`	Pencil
`Ctrl` + `C` / `X` / `V` / `D`	Copy / cut / paste / duplicate
`Ctrl` + `Z` / `Ctrl` + `Y`	Undo / redo
`Ctrl` + `A`	Select all
`Ctrl` + `1` / `2` / `3`	Finer grid / coarser grid / triplets

17. If something goes wrong

Problem	Try this

A note won't stop	Click **Stop Notes**.
Crackles or clicks	Settings > Audio & MIDI: choose a bigger buffer. Watch CPU in the toolbar.
No sound	Check the speaker icon isn't red, and the right output is chosen in Settings.
A plugin is missing	Open the instrument list and click **Scan**.
Letters don't play	Press `M`. Click the Instrument Player window first.
"Active on another computer"	Release the license on the old computer, or email us.

Still stuck? Email support@ybkaudio.com.

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