

MPC HORNS

MULTISAMPLED JAZZ HORN SECTION
MPC X, MPC LIVE & MPC SOFTWARE EDITION



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MPC Horns: Introduction

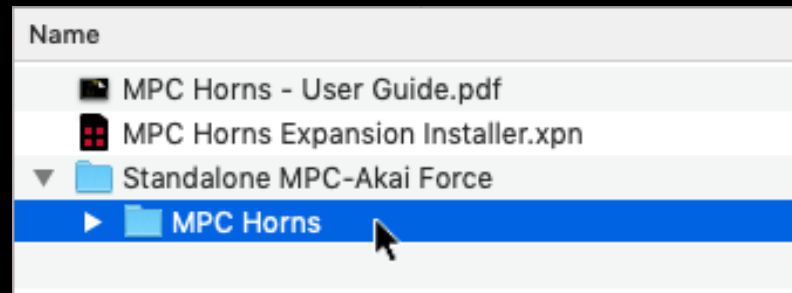
- **MPC Horns** is a fully multisampled jazz horn section with trumpets, trombone, flugelhorn and 4 different saxophones which can be used to create realistic jazz and funk horn performances in your MPC.
- All samples have been edited and mapped to MPC instrument programs to provide out-of-the-box playback in the MPC.

The Expansion is fully compatible with all modern MPCs (2.10+) the MPC Software/MPC Beats (2.10+) and the Akai Force

Install: Standalone MPC & Akai Force

Note: You can view the most up-to-date expansion installation instructions here: <https://mpc-samples.com/article/standalone-mpc-force-expansion-installation>

From the downloaded files, enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**MPC Horns**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your standalone MPC or Force.



Expansions must be installed to either an SD card, a USB drive or, if installed, an internal SATA disk.

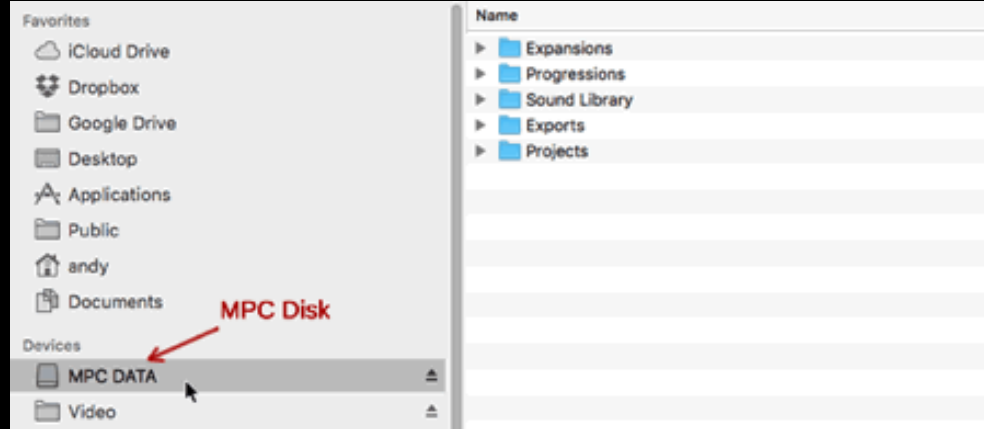
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' in your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

Alternatively (except the MPC One), connect your MPC or Force via USB to your computer and go to **MENU** and hit the '**MPC chip**' icon at the top of the screen (this is the '**Laptop**' icon in the Force).

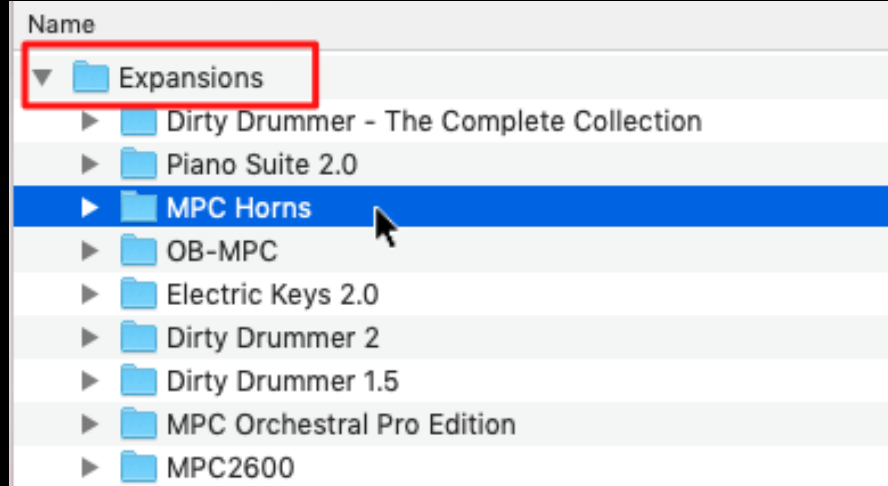


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('**COMPUTER MODE**' in the Force).

Whichever connection method you choose, your MPC disk should now appear as a removable drive in your computer's file manager (e.g. Finder or File Explorer). Click on the drive to open its file system:



If it doesn't already exist, create a folder called **'Expansions'** in the root of your disk. Now copy the **'Dirty Drummer 4'** standalone expansion folder inside this **'Expansions'** folder.

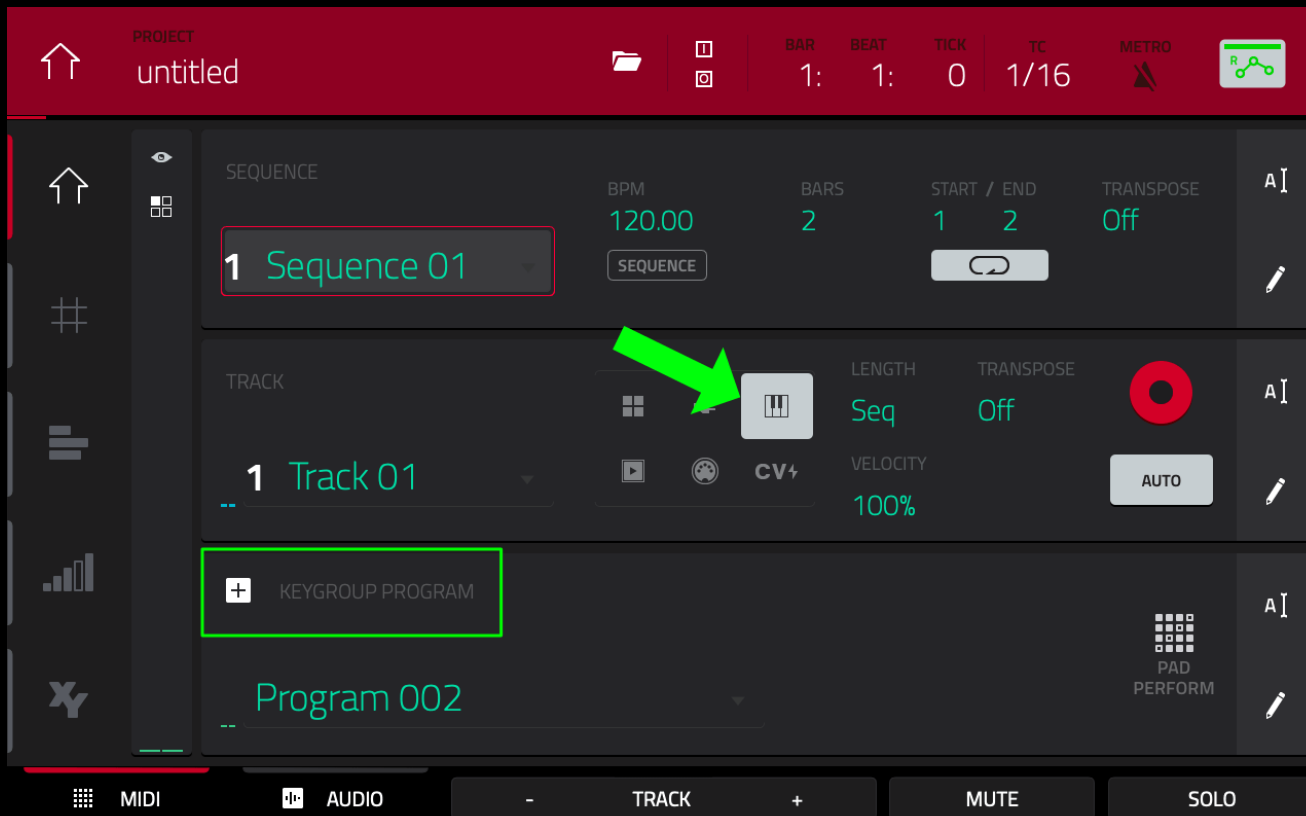


All done! If you had physically transferred the MPC disk to your computer you should now eject the disk from your computer and put the disk back in your MPC.

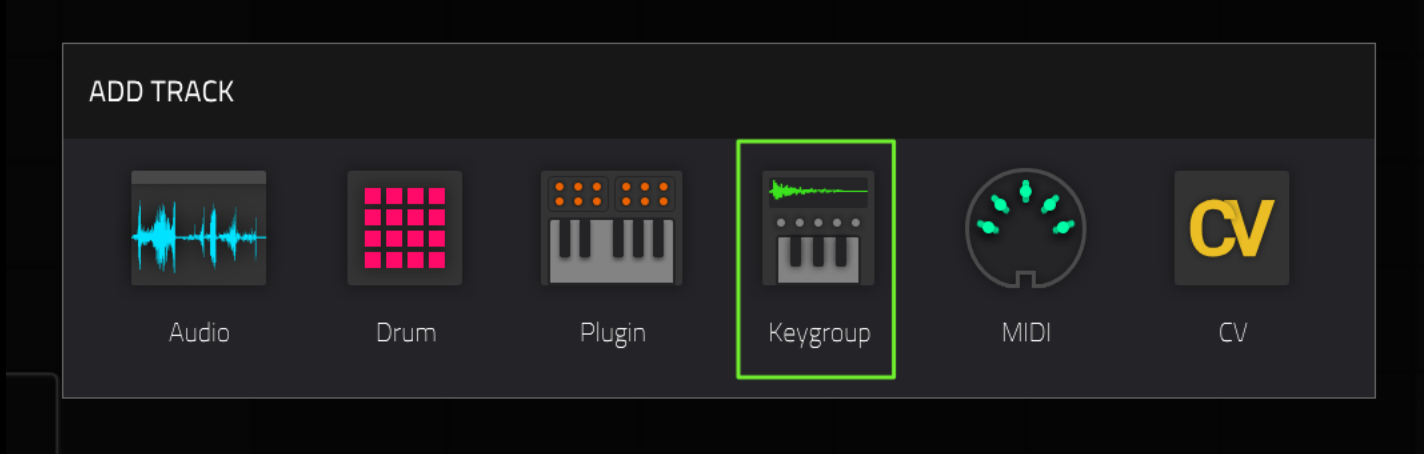
Alternatively, if you used USB transfer then go back to **MENU** and select the computer icon to return to standalone mode - *don't forget to eject/unmount the MPC from your computer first, this avoids any potential data loss.*

Loading Instruments (Standalone MPC/Force)

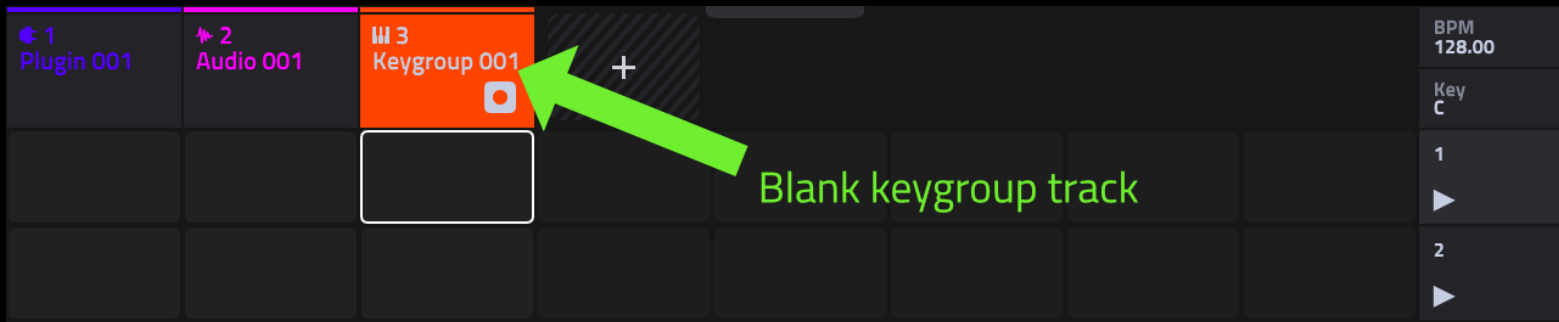
In your MPC, go to **MAIN** and create a **KEYGROUP** type track:



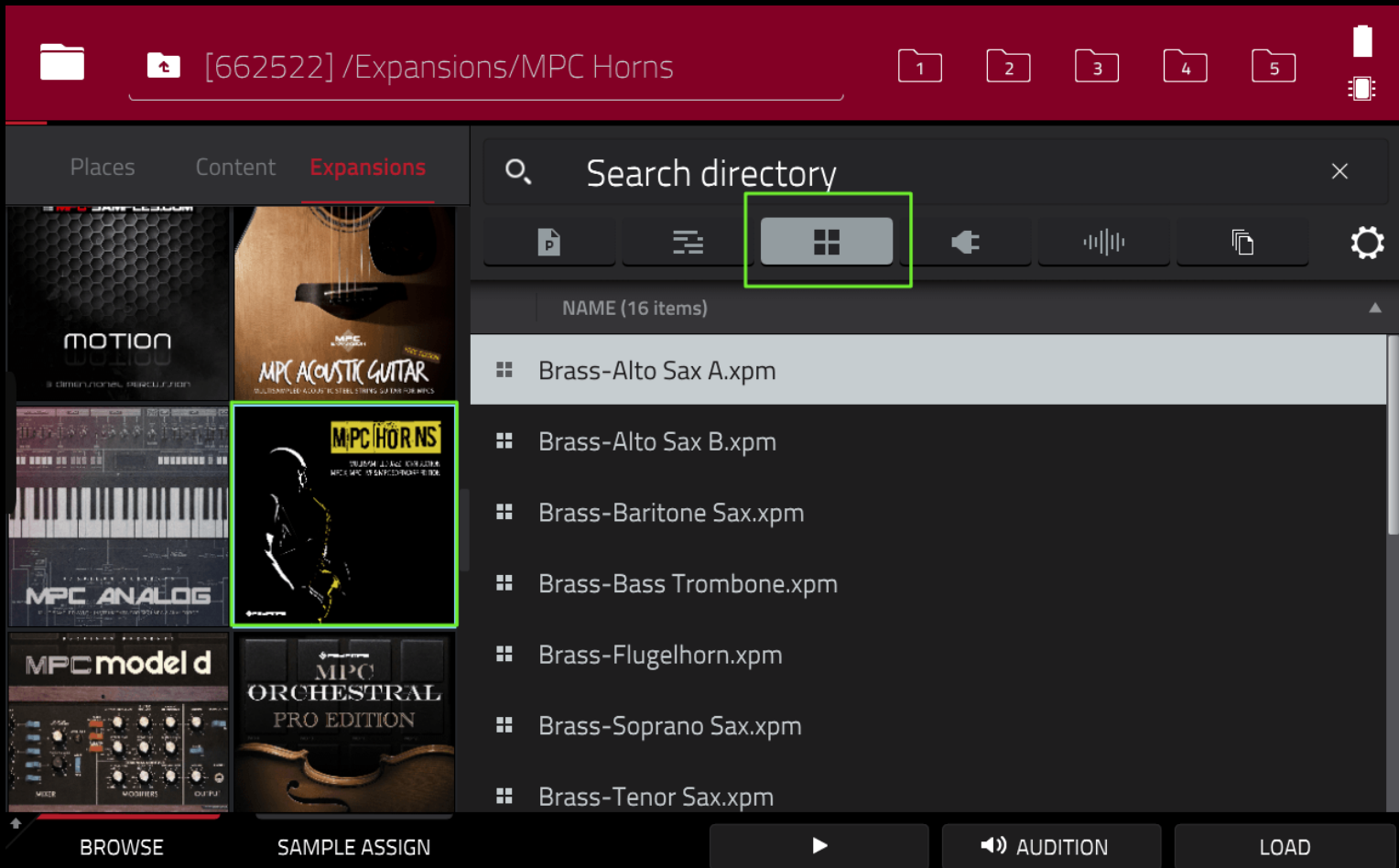
In the Force, hit the '+' icon in the touchscreen matrix and select a **Keygroup** track:



This adds a new blank keygroup track to the matrix:



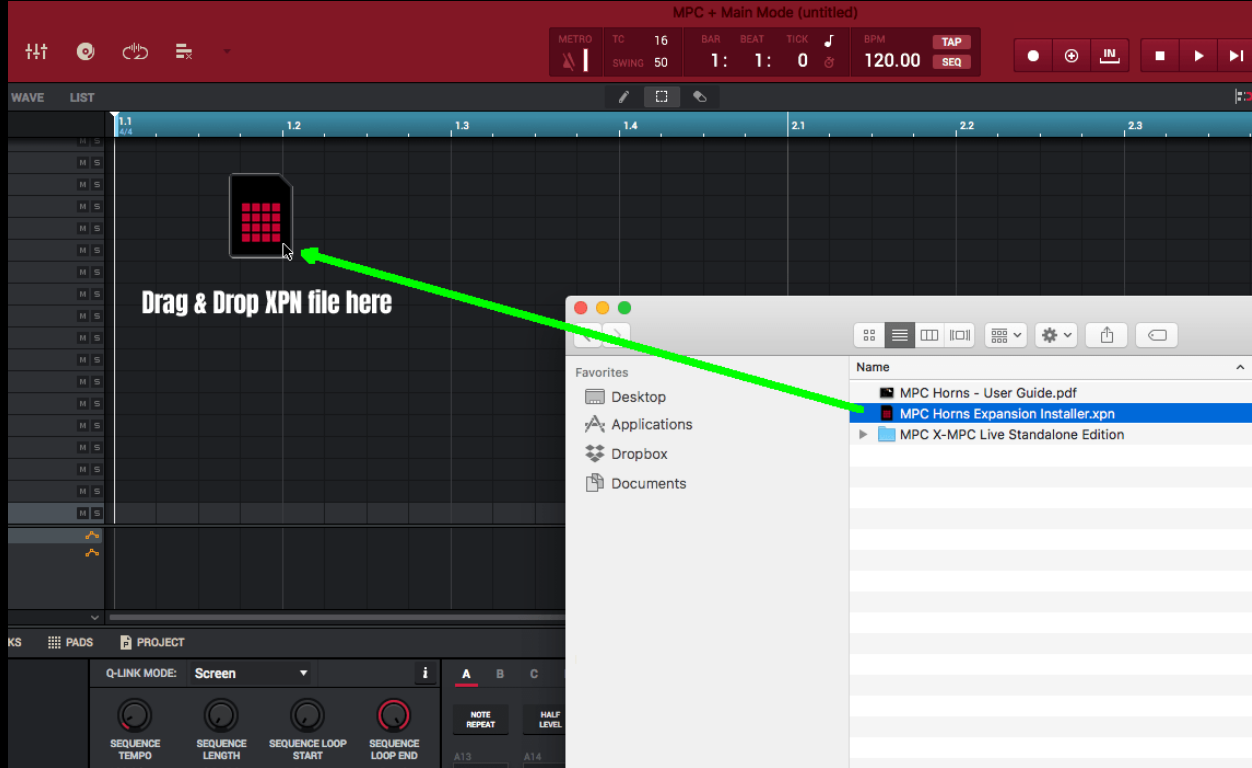
Now go to 'MENU > BROWSER > Expansions' and tap on the 'MPC Horns thumbnail. On the right side, select the PROGRAM filter to view all the instruments:



Install: MPC Software Expansion Browser

Note: View the most up-to-date MPC Software expansion install instructions here:
<https://mpc-samples.com/article/install-mpc-software-expansions-guide>

Locate the '**MPC Horns Expansion Installer.XPN**' file and drag & drop it directly into the MPC Software/MPC Beats UI from your computer's File Explorer/Finder:



*Please note that an XPN file **cannot** be installed from the MPC Browser, nor can it be installed by double clicking.*

After dragging the XPN into the software UI you should see the following:



Select **'Import'** and once installed, open the **Expansion Browser** ('X' on your keyboard), and click on the **'MPC Horns'** thumbnail to view:



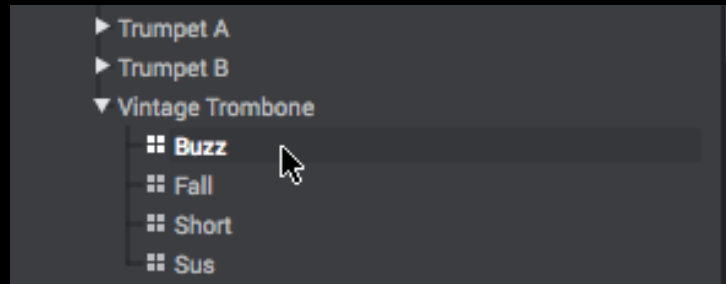
MPC Horns

Pad Pimps

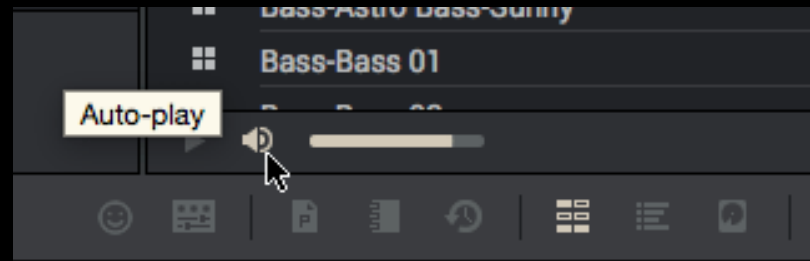


▶ Programs	16
▶ Samples	396

You will find all the instruments within the **'Programs'** group. Instruments with multiple articulations and/or patches will contain further expandable sub-groups.



Single click the program to hear a preview (requires **'Autoplay'** enabled).



To load an instrument, simply double click the program or drag and drop it to a **'KEYGROUP'** type track in your MPC sequence.

Playing the Instruments with MPC Pads

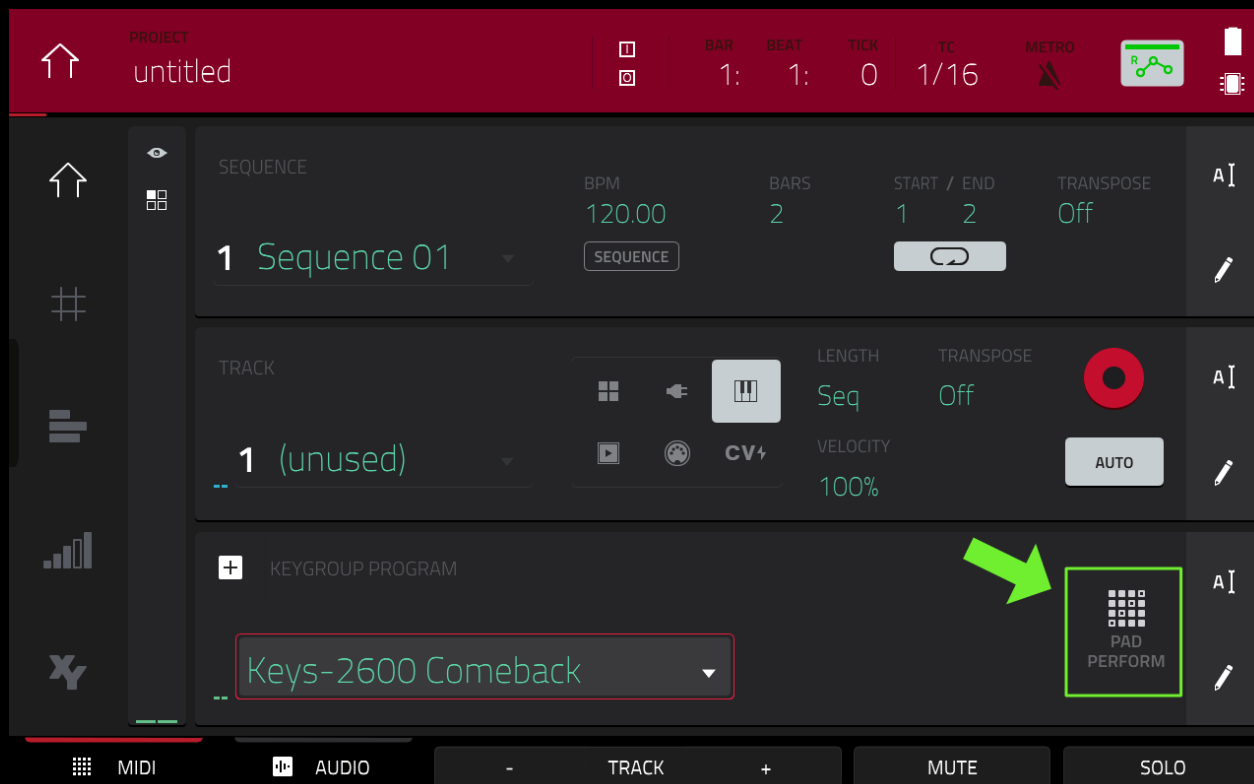
We've mapped all programs to match the natural pitch range of each individual instrument, and as such the available note ranges will vary depending on the type of instrument selected.

The MPC pads in a standard keygroup program are hard coded to their MIDI note pitches with the note ranges of acoustic instruments typically starting in bank B or C . To quickly identify 'active' pads, we've set those pads to be lit (in yellow).

We have incorporated a number of velocity sensitive features in the programs, with velocity sensitive filter and attack, and many instruments feature round robins and/or multiple dynamic levels – to take full advantage of these features, we recommend that FULL LEVEL is set to 'off'.

A great way to play instruments with your pads is to use **Pad Perform Mode** ('Notes Mode' in the Akai Force) which will allow you to set your pads to only play back notes from specified scales, or even trigger an entire chord from each individual pad.

With your instrument assigned to a track, in the MPC go to **Pad Perform Mode** by hitting the **PAD PERFORM** icon on the 'PROGRAM' row in MAIN. Alternatively, press **SHIFT & 16 LEVEL**. The following assumes to you running at least MPC 2.11.



To create melodic leads and riffs, select **NOTES** & under 'SCALE & OCTAVE' select your preferred scale, octave & musical key.

The screenshot shows the 'PAD PERFORM' interface with the 'NOTES' mode selected. The 'SCALE & OCTAVE' section is highlighted, showing 'G' as the key, '2' as the octave, and 'Pentatonic Minor' as the selected scale. A grid of 16 notes is displayed, with the 'G 4' note highlighted in red. The notes are arranged in a 4x4 grid:

A 13	A 14	A 15	A 16
C 5	D 5	F 5	G 5
A 09	F 4	G 4	Bb 4
A 05	G 3	Bb 3	C 4
A 01	Bb 2	C 3	D 3

At the bottom of the interface, there are buttons for 'CHROMATIC', 'NOTES', 'CHORDS', 'PROGRESSIONS', and 'OCTAVE' with '-' and '+' symbols.

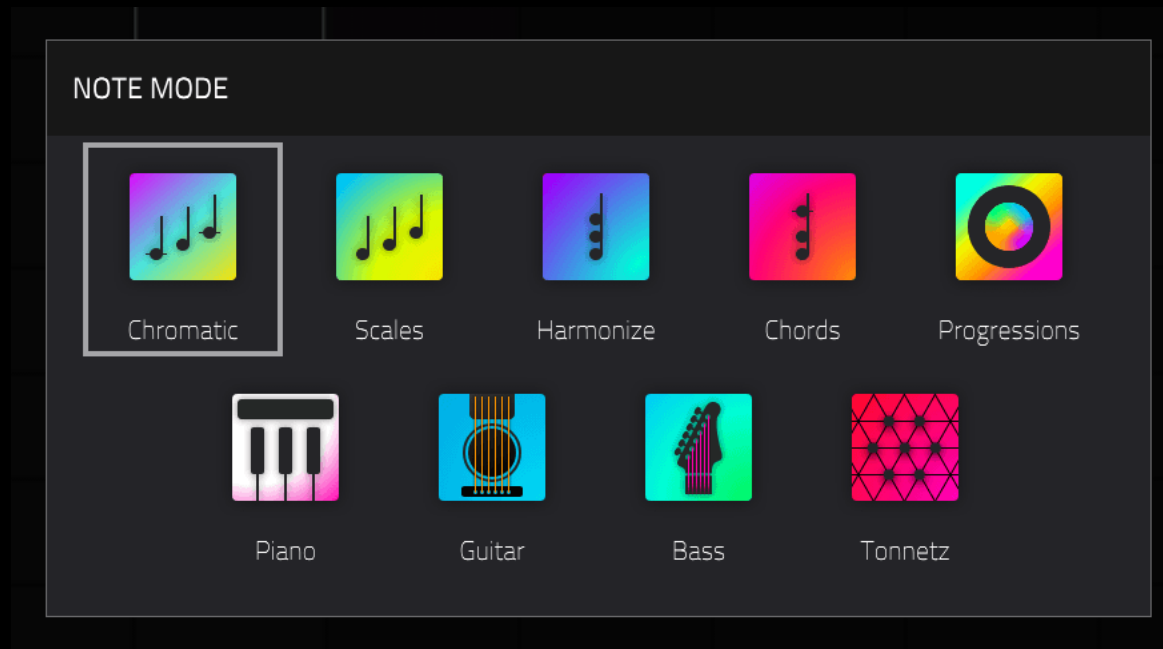
The 16 pads on your MPC will now only play back the notes in this specific scale. Red pads indicate the 'root' note in the scale. We suggest you select bank A and use the OCTAVE +/- buttons to select a suitable octave range. You can also play a complete chord on a single pad by selecting the **CHORDS** or **PROGRESSIONS** options.

The screenshot displays the 'PAD PERFORM' interface with a dark background and a red header. The interface is divided into several sections:

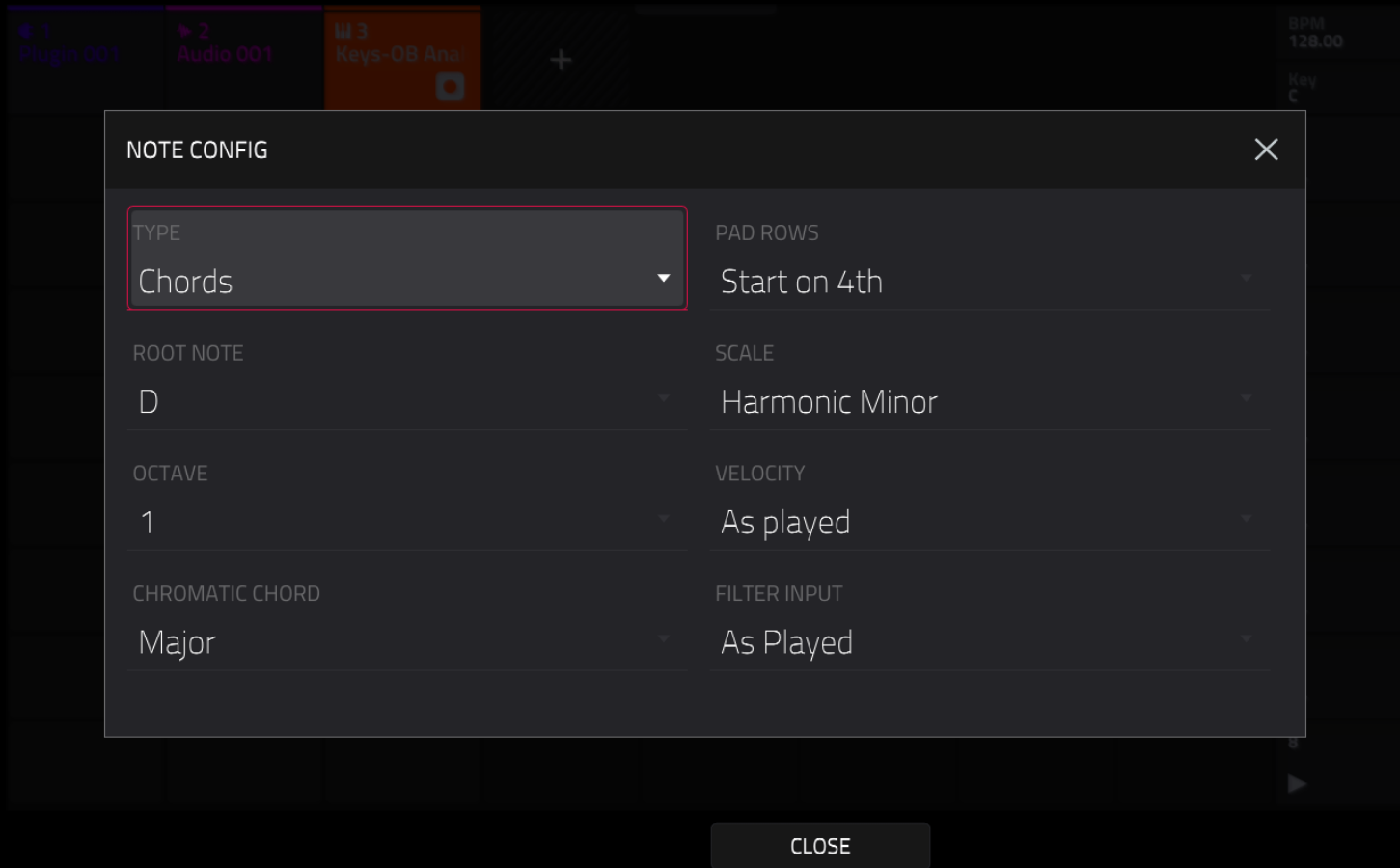
- Navigation:** A top bar with a grid icon, the text 'PAD PERFORM', and a close button (X).
- Mode Selection:** A grid of buttons for 'CHROMATIC', 'NOTES', 'CHORDS', 'CHROMATIC CHORDS', 'PROGRESSIONS' (highlighted with a red border), and 'CUSTOM'.
- Scale & Octave:** A section with 'SCALE & OCTAVE' text, a dropdown menu set to 'G', and a numeric input field set to '2'.
- Chord Selection:** A 'CHORD' dropdown menu set to 'Ballad 01' (highlighted with a red border).
- Banks:** A 'BANKS' dropdown menu set to 'Start on root note'.
- Pad Grid:** A 4x4 grid of 16 pads, each with a label and a chord name:
 - Row 1: A 13 (G/C), A 14 (Emin11), A 15 (Fmaj9), A 16 (Dsus4)
 - Row 2: A 09 (G/C), A 10 (Emin11), A 11 (A7sus2), A 12 (Dadd9)
 - Row 3: A 05 (Cadd9), A 06 (C/D), A 07 (G), A 08 (Dadd9)
 - Row 4: A 01 (G), A 02 (D/F#), A 03 (Emin7), A 04 (Emin7/D)The A 01 pad is highlighted with a red border, while all other pads have yellow borders.
- Bottom Bar:** A row of buttons: 'CHROMATIC', 'NOTES', 'CHORDS', 'PROGRESSIONS' (highlighted), a minus sign, 'OCTAVE', and a plus sign.

Important: If you wish to return the pads to a 'chromatic' layout, select **CHROMATIC** mode, or **CUSTOM**. In **CHROMATIC** mode the pads will light up to show the currently selected scale, but you'll still be able to play the (unlit) notes outside of the scale.

In the Force, hit the **NOTE** hardware button to enter **NOTES** mode. Now press and hold the **NOTE** button to select the preferred note mode:



Press **SHIFT** and **NOTE** to launch the full **NOTE CONFIG** screen:



You can now play the instrument across the Force's 64 pads.

Playing the Instruments with a MIDI Keyboard

Instruments can be also played using an attached MIDI keyboard. For standalone MPCs/Force you can connect a USB keyboard directly to your MPC's USB port and you should immediately be able to play the instrument assigned to the current track, no additional configuration needed.



If your MPC has Bluetooth support you can configure a Bluetooth controller via **Preferences > Bluetooth**. Alternatively connect a keyboard via the 5 pin MIDI ports.

If you are using the MPC Software/MPC Beats you can connect your controller to your computer directly via USB or use a 5 pin MIDI cable connected to a suitable USB-MIDI interface. If you have an MPC controller such as the MPC Touch, MPC Renaissance or MPC Studio already connected to your computer, you use the MPC itself as the MIDI interface.

For more information about connecting MIDI controllers to the MPC, check out my dedicated article:

<https://www.mpc-tutor.com/mpc-midi-tutorial-connecting-midi-controllers/>

Many instruments in this expansion are configured to allow subtle vibrato control by using the modulation wheel of a MIDI keyboard. You can also assign mod wheel to the touch strip if your MPC model has one.

Further Resources

To learn more about creating your own MPC programs, sequences, sounds and expansions, please refer to MPC-Tutor's range of **MPC tutorial** books at:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/section.php/8/0/mpc-tutorials-courses/>

MPC Horns is part of our growing range of 'virtual' MPC instruments – check out our entire range here, with loads of acoustic keys, pianos, drum kits, bass, synths & much, much more:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/section.php/73/0/mpc-instruments/>

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