



MPC UPRIGHT BASS

MULTISAMPLED ACOUSTIC DOUBLE BASS FOR MPC

INSTALLATION & USER GUIDE

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MPC Upright Bass: Introduction

- **MPC Upright Bass** features a fully multisampled 1920 **Andreas Moretti Double Bass** with additional sound presets and a comprehensive library of original MIDI bass riffs to serve as the backbone of your tracks.
- This deep, organic sounding acoustic bass was recorded with **8 velocity layers**, with the MPC 3 versions also featuring **3 unique 'round robins' on each of the 8 layers** guaranteeing a different timbre for every single note played. String release noises and controllable performance parameters combine to create the most expressive & realistic sounding acoustic instrument we've ever built.
- Q-LINK macros give you additional hands-on control of sound design and performance parameters, including string release noises, lofi FX, amp tone, EQ, drive & chorus.
- Compatible with all **modern standalone MPCs** running **MPC 2.11+, MPC 3.4+, Akai Force (3.2+), MPC Software** and **MPC Beats**.

What's Inside?

The expansion contains a collection of ready-to-play keygroup instruments along with a library of over sixty 4-bar MIDI bass riffs in 'MPC Pattern' format.

Keygroup Instruments

MPC Upright Bass features a 1920 Andreas Morelli bass sampled over 8 velocity layers with 18 additional sound presets that use various MPC FX and sound parameters to create a range of different instrument sounds, all fully set up and ready-to-play.



Use your pads via 'pad perform' or a keyboard/MPC Key for even more expression with support for dynamic string bends and mod-wheel controlled vibrato. It's also possible to dial-in 'string release noises' to add even more realism to your performances; these can be configured as 'note off' sounds during playback and can also be triggered manually on demand.

Pre-mapped Q-LINKS give you hands-on control of many different parameters so you can further shape your sound, including EQ, chorus, drive (distortion), amp tone, lo-fi fx and fret release noises.

MPC 3 Enhanced

We've also included enhanced MPC3 firmware versions of all instruments which feature **3 round robins on each of the 8 velocity layers**; giving a natural realistic organic sound to every single note played.

We've also included a dedicated MPC3 'track' file which includes additional MPC3 macros to provide advanced Q-LINK control over many different parameters, including the ability to instantly mute strings 'on-demand' as well as adjustment of string dynamics, attack transients and deeper control string noise probability. **For more information see the 'Q-LINK Macros' section of this guide.**

MIDI Riffs & Loops

If you're stuck for bass line ideas we've included 60 original bass riffs in MPC pattern format, each featuring 4 bars of MIDI bass performances which can be loaded directly into any keygroup track. As these are pure MIDI they will adapt automatically to the tempo of your sequence and can be easily transposed to match the key of your sequence. **Please see the MIDI Library section for more details.**

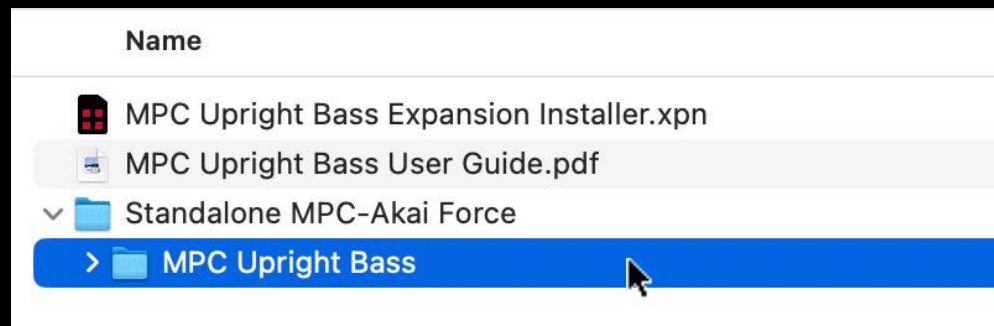
Note Mapping

The instrument covers notes B0 to Db4, and if pad perform 'custom' mode is selected you'll find that all 'active' pads are illuminated in aqua green. Additionally, we've mapped a number of string and body noises for on-demand triggering (in addition to the optional string release noises). These can be found on notes C-2 to G-2 (the pink pads A01 to A08 in 'custom' pad perform mode).

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>

After downloading the expansion, extract the zip file contents to your computer. You will see the following:



Enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**MPC Upright Bass**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your MPC/Force. Expansions must be installed to either an **SD card**, a **USB drive** or, if you have one, an internal **SATA disk**.

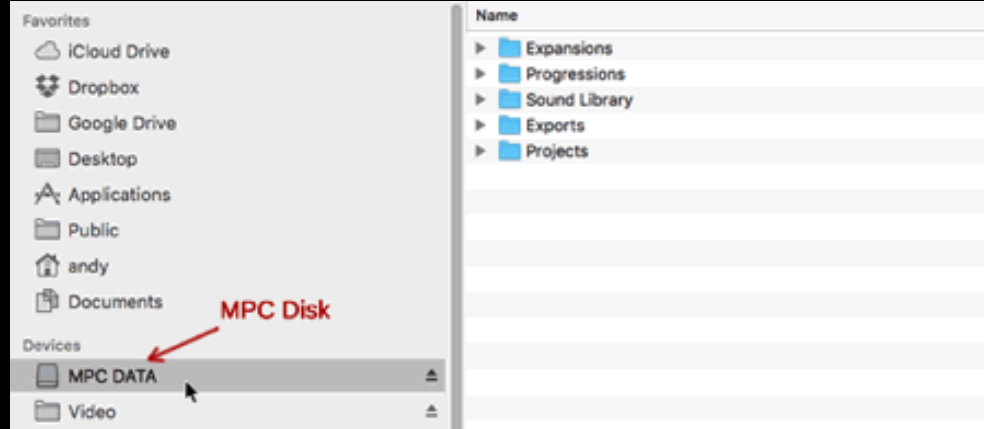
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' on your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, you can just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

Alternatively, 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).

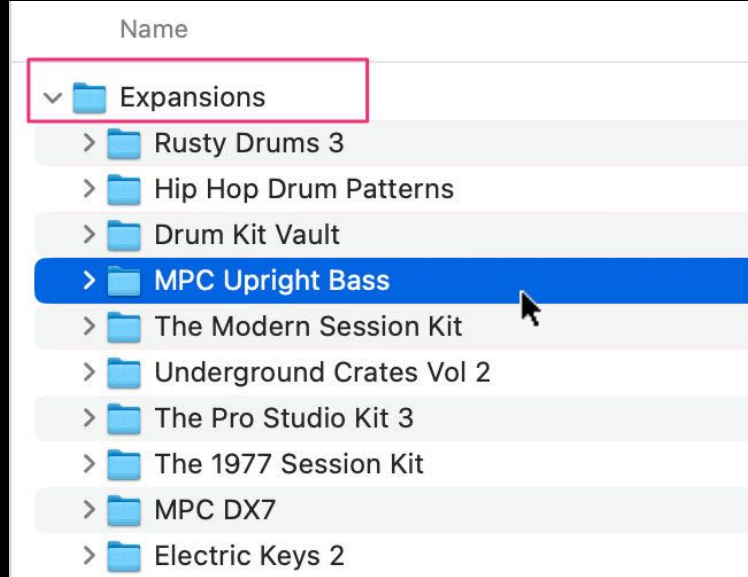


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('**COMPUTER MODE**' in the Force).

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 '**MPC Upright Bass**' standalone expansion folder *inside* this '**Expansions**' folder.

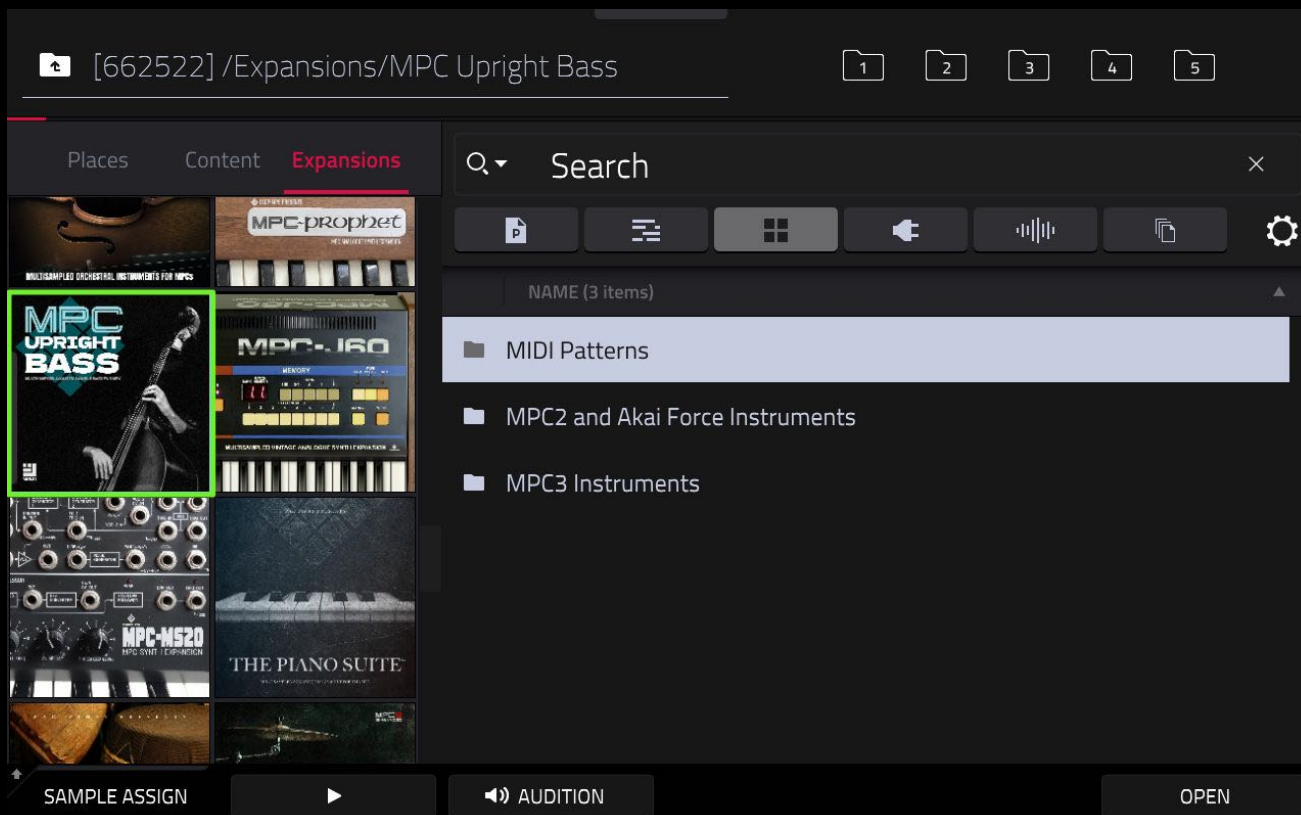


All done! If you had physically transferred the MPC disk to your computer you should now eject the disk from your computer and put the disk back in your MPC.

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.*

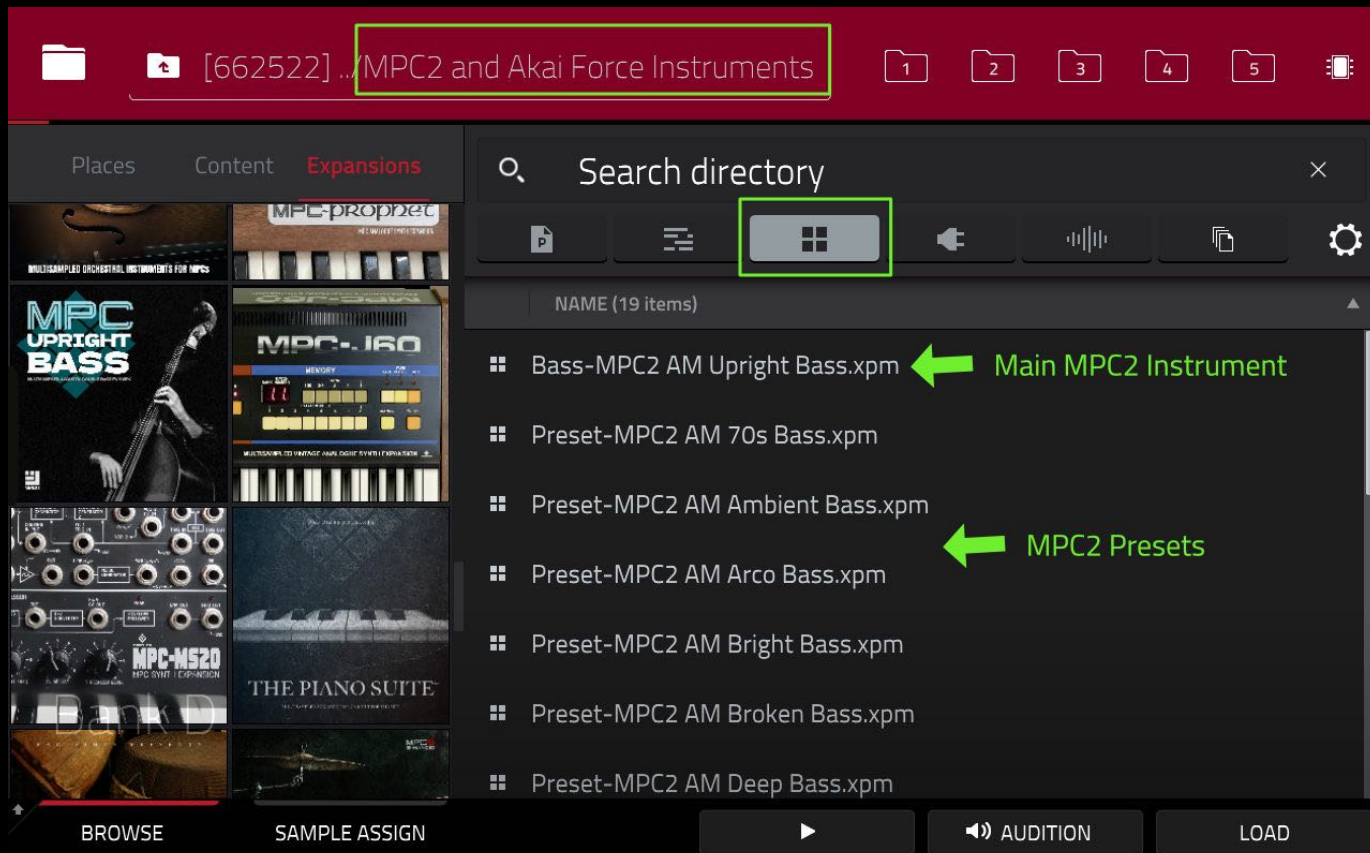
Loading Instruments in Standalone MPCs

Go to 'MENU > BROWSER > Expansions' and tap on the 'MPC Upright Bass' thumbnail. Inside you'll see the following folders:



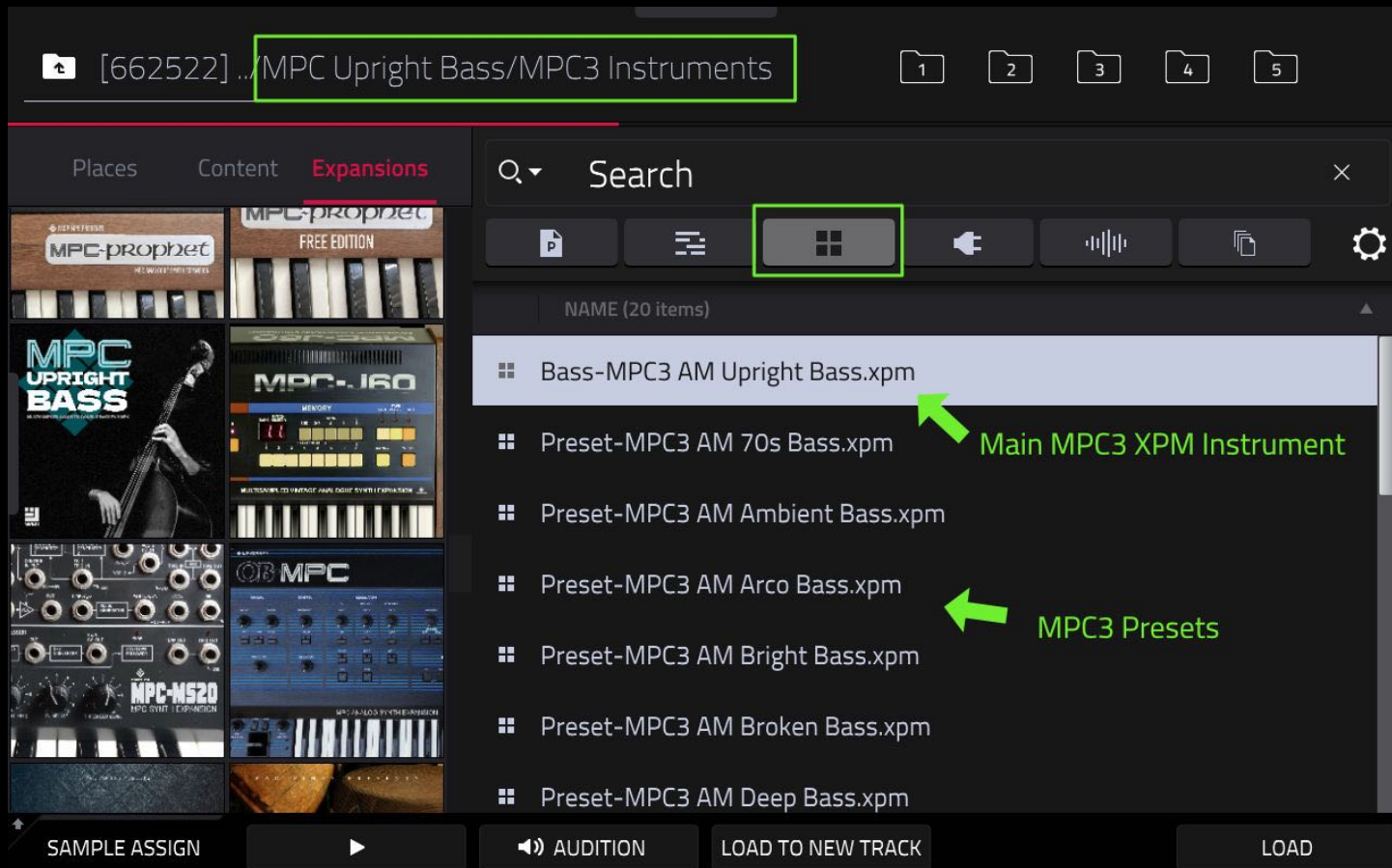
Choose the '**MPC2 and Force Instruments**' folder for any MPC running MPC 2.13+ or Akai Force 3.3. Choose the '**MPC3 Instruments**' folder only if you have an MPC running the MPC 3 firmware.

Select the **PROGRAM** filter. In the **MPC 2** folder you'll now see the following instruments:



'Bass-MPC2 AM Upright Bass.xpm' is the main MPC 2 version of the instrument (8 layers, 1 sample per layer, 132MB). The XPM files prefixed with **'Preset-'** feature different FX and program parameters to achieve different instrument sounds.

In the MPC 3 Instruments folder you'll see the following:



These are the MPC 3 versions of all the XPM instruments and presets; these all feature 8 velocity layers and 3 round robins per layer.

The screenshot shows the MPC3 software interface with a file browser window open. The browser path is "[662522] ../MPC Upright Bass/MPC3 Instruments". The left sidebar shows "Places", "Content", and "Expansions". The main area displays a list of files under the heading "NAME (20 items)". A search bar is visible at the top right of the browser. A green box highlights the "Track-MPC3 AM Upright Bass Advanced.xty" file at the bottom of the list. A green arrow points to this file with the text "MPC3 Track File (Advanced Macros)". The bottom of the interface shows buttons for "SAMPLE ASSIGN", "AUDITION", "LOAD TO NEW TRACK", and "LOAD".

Places Content **Expansions**

Search

NAME (20 items)

- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Jazz Club Bass.xpm
- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Overdrive Bass.xpm
- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Phaser Bass.xpm
- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Retro Bass.xpm
- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Stacc Bass.xpm
- ❏ Preset-MPC3 AM Sub Bass.xpm
- Track-MPC3 AM Upright Bass Advanced.xty

MPC3 Track File (Advanced Macros)

SAMPLE ASSIGN ▶ AUDITION LOAD TO NEW TRACK LOAD

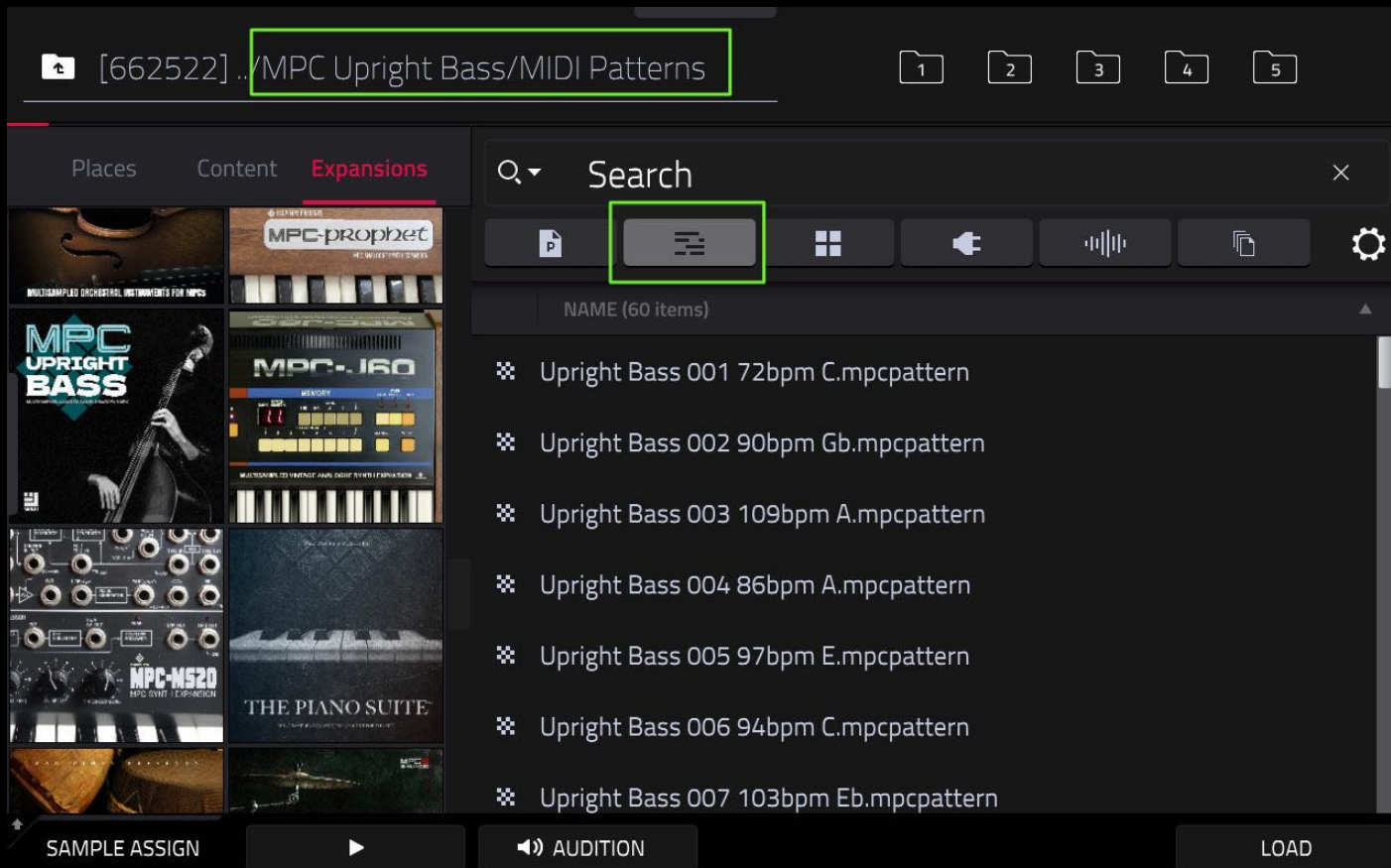
The track file '**Track-MPC3 AM Upright Bass Advanced.xtd**' is the same as the main XPM file but also contains additional advanced Q-LINK macros – please see the '**Q-LINK Macros**' section for more information.

If you have '**AUDITION > AUTO**' enabled you can tap any instrument to hear a preview before you load it. To load a instrument to the currently selected KEYGROUP track in your project, either double tap or single tap and hit **LOAD**.

In MPC 3 and Akai Force you can also choose **LOAD TO NEW TRACK** to load any instrument to a completely new KEYGROUP track in your project.

Loading MIDI Patterns

Enter the **MIDI Patterns** folder and tap on the '**MIDI**' filter:



These patterns are 4 bar MIDI bass riffs in mpcpattern format and are compatible with MPC2, MPC3 & Aai Force. Single tap on any pattern to preview the groove. Double tap to load the MIDI:

- In **MPC 2** the MIDI will be loaded to the first unused track in your current sequence.
- In **MPC3**, the MIDI will be loaded to the currently selected sequence track.
- In the **Akai Force**, the MIDI is loaded to the currently selected clip.

Remember to ensure the track type is set to KEYGROUP.

The native key is shown at the end of the file name along with a guideline tempo; the bass riff will automatically adapt to the tempo of your sequence and you can use the **TRANSPOSE** function in GRID VIEW to change the key to match the key of your project. Please note all patterns use a 4/4 time signature.

Q-LINK Macros

Each instrument features pre-mapped Q-LINK dials to give quick hands-on control of a number of different sound-shaping parameters. The available Q-LINKS depend on the format you have loaded. **XPM** files contain 11 mapped Q-LINKS (in both MPC2 and MPC3), while the MPC3 'track file (**XTD**) contains 16 mapped Q-LINKS.

To access these custom Q-LINKS in MPC 2, hold down the **Q-LINK button** and switch from the default **SCREEN** to **PROGRAM** mode.



In MPC3 and Akai Force, hold down **Q-LINKS** and select **Track** mode. For MPC3 XPM files you'll have the same 11 Q-LINK set up shown previously. For the MPC3 'track' file you'll have the following:



The Q-LINK controls are summarized below:

Q-LINK	Control	Details
<i>Column 1:</i>		
Q13	Amp Model	Guitar/bass amp model selection
Q9	High EQ	Adjust the high frequency (treble) sound to exaggerate string noises
Q5	Low EQ	Control the lower bass frequencies
Q1	Enhance	Provides an additional boost to mid and high frequencies
<i>Column 2:</i>		
Q14	Distortion/Drive	Adds increasing amounts of distortion
Q10	Modulation Mix	Controls the amount of modulation effect added, typically either chorus or phaser
Q6	Lofi Noise Level	Volume of the sampled noise layer, giving additional lofi or retro texture
Q2	Lofi Noise Type	A 'sliced' sample chain containing 7 different lofi noise

		samples; 1. white, 2. pink, 3. tape, 4. vinyl A, 5. vinyl B, 6. vinyl C, 7. static. <i>Please note that a bug in MPC3 means the slices are numbered 2 to 8.</i>
<i>Column 3</i>		
Q15	Portamento Time	How fast the current note slides from the previous note. (notes must overlap for it to be triggered). If introduced subtly, it can help emulate string slides.
Q11	Amp Output	Controls the amplifier output gain
Q7	'Note Off' String Noise Volume	Volume of 'note off' string noises. Set this to be quite audible for a more natural upright bass sound
Q3	'Note Off' String Noise Probability	MPC3 Only. How likely a note off string noise will be triggered (set to 0% for no string noises)
<i>Column 4 (MPC3 Only)</i>		
Q16	Dynamic Range	MPC3 Only. Sets the difference in volume between soft and hard played notes. Set high for maximum sensitivity and expressiveness, set low for nominal volume differences between hard and soft notes.
Q12	Release Time	MPC3 Only. How long the string decays after releasing. Recommend setting around 30-40%.

Q8	Attack Transient	MPC3 Only. Adds a more aggressive attack transient to each note
Q4	On Demand Muting	MPC3 Only. While touching this Q-LINK all notes will have a short, muted sound which emulates playing with one hand partially covering the strings. Use for short, staccato bass lines or for adding brief muted slaps (works really well with string release noise set to high volume)

Deeper Editing

Q-link control is meant for quick, hands-on tweaks of select instrument parameters. If you need even more in-depth, granular control over any of the layers or FX, you can deep dive into **PROGRAM EDIT** (TRACK EDIT on MPC3 & the Force) and directly edit any parameter or adjust any of the deeper FX settings.

This type of advanced editing is of course entirely optional but does open up lots more possibilities for sound design and means you can really make all the instruments your own.

Tips & Tricks

String Release Noises

String release noises are triggered each time you release a pad or key, with a different noise being randomly played back each time. These are the bumps, scrapes and taps that are often strongly associated with a real acoustic bass.

These 'note off' noises are enabled by default but can be turned off in all models using Q-LINK 7 to simply turn down their volume to zero.

In MPC3 you can additionally control the overall 'probability' of a noise being generated using **Q-LINK 3**. Set this quite low if you like to hear the noises but only want them occurring occasionally. Set this high (along with a high noise volume via QLINK 7) to give a more gritty, organic sounding performance.

Remember MIDI notes C-2 to G-2 (pads A01 to A08 in pad perform custom mode) can be used to manually trigger string noises whenever you need them. This is

useful when you want to introduce body knocks,taps and hand movement sounds even when no notes are being played.

Using Portamento

Use **Q-LINK 15** to add a small amount of *portamento* (glide) which will only be triggered when you overlap notes. When used subtly, this can be used to emulate string slides.

String Bends & Vibrato

If you have an attached MIDI keyboard (or use an MPC Key model) you can use the pitch wheel to add string bends. Use the modulation wheel to add 'vibrato' to sustained notes.

Alternatively, in MPC 3 hold down the [**Q-LINKS**] button, select **MIDI** and use **Q-LINK 13** to control pitch bend and **Q-LINK 9** to control vibrato.

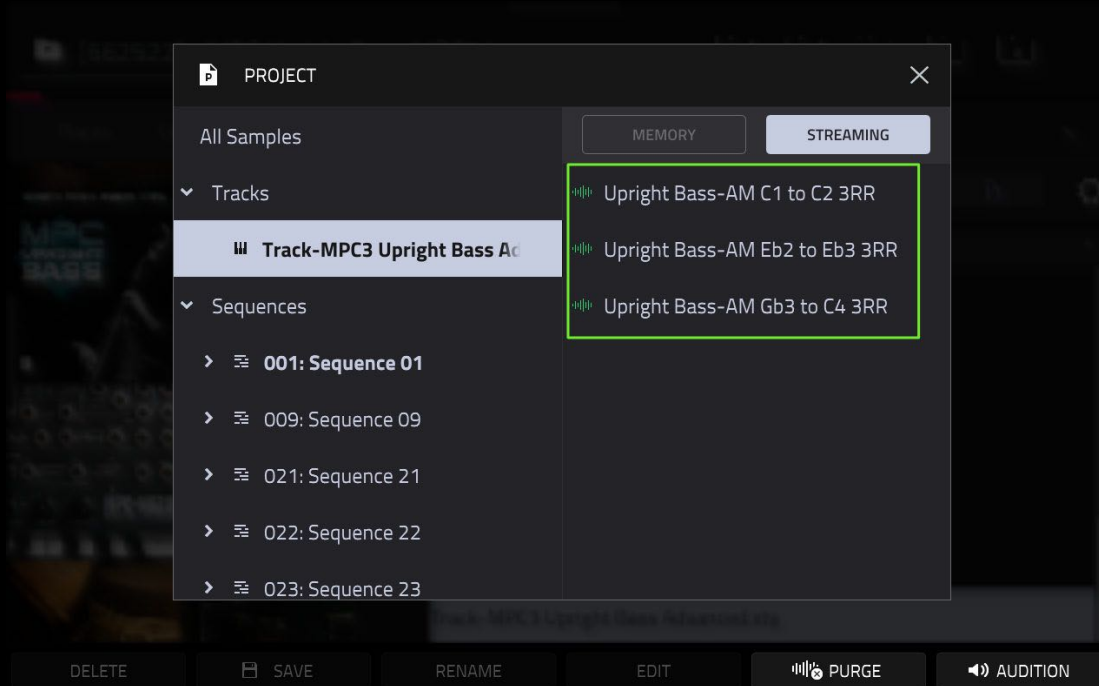
String Muting (MPC3 Only)

If using the MPC3 track file, touch **Q-LINK 4** (bottom Q-LINK, bank 4) to instantly emulate the muting of strings to give a deadened, short staccato sound. Release your finger from the Q-LINK to return to standard playback. You might need to practice the timing but it can sound very effective.

Disk Streaming (MPC3 Only)

As the kits utilise 'sample chains' it's actually minimal effort to set up disk streaming as there's only a handful of samples to configure. Just be aware that ultimately disk streaming was implemented specifically for use with audio tracks and you may experience dropped notes when disk streaming drum kits and instruments.

Go to **MENU > PROJECT**. We've found that the best possible streaming performance is achieved using the **three samples** highlighted below (saving approximately 125MB):



To stream a sample, tap and hold on a sample and select **'Stream From Disk'**. Re-save your project and test the instrument.

Delayed Sample Loading in MPC3 Track Files

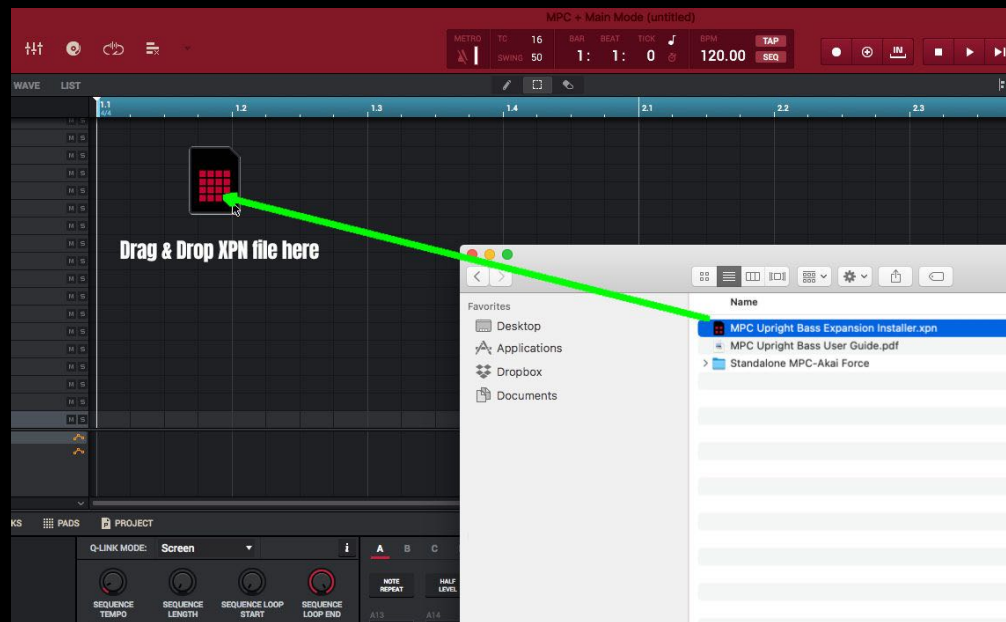
After loading a track file it can take up to 30 additional seconds for the samples to become available in your project - during this time some of your pads may not emit

any sound. This is because the samples are still being loaded as a background process, even after leaving the browser. This issue does not affect the XPM files, only track files. Hopefully Akai will fix this in a future firmware update.

Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App

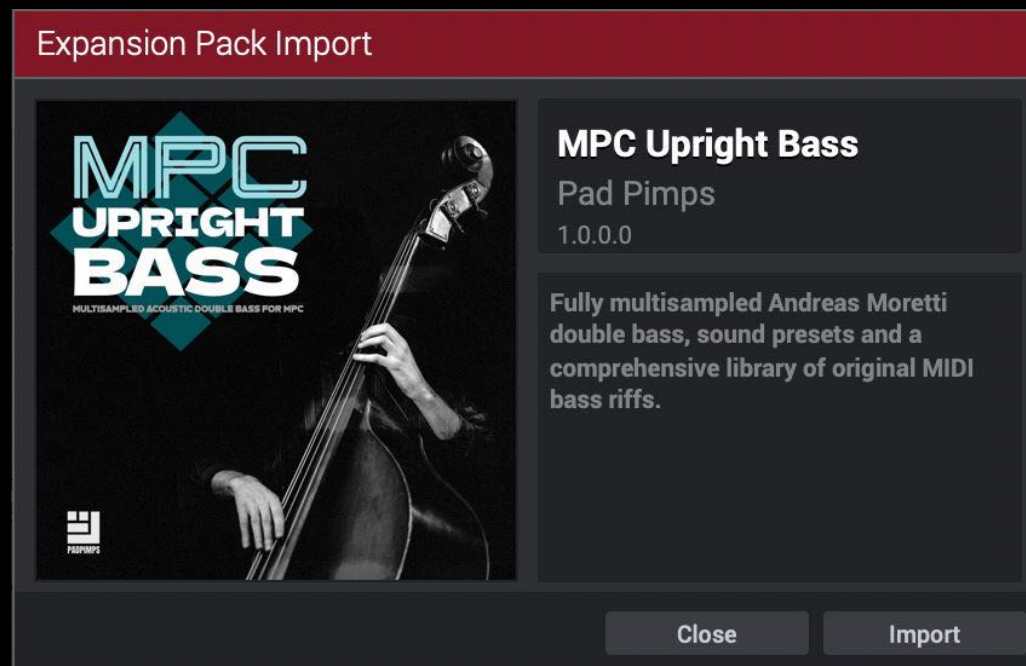
Note: View the most up-to-date MPC Software expansion install instructions here: <https://mpc-samples.com/article/install-mpc-software-expansions-guide>

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



If you have problems getting this method to work, open the File Browser (shortcut 'F') and navigate to the location where you extracted the XPN. You can now drag the XPN from here.

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

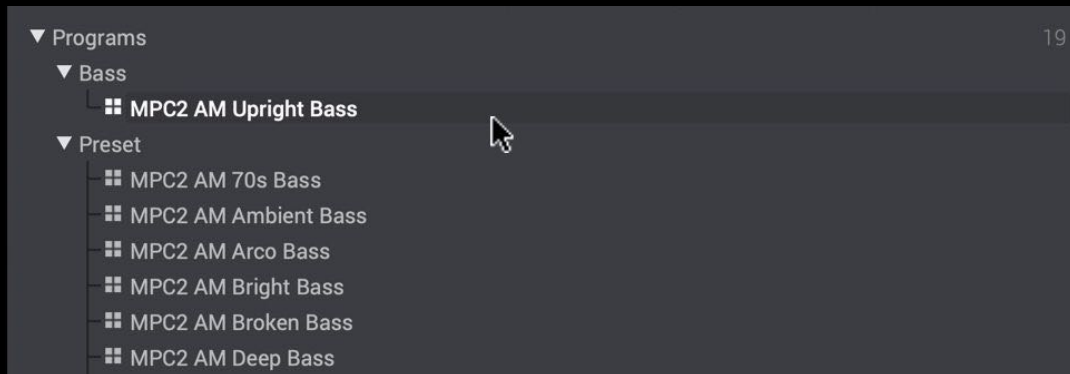


Select **'Import'** and once installed, open the **Expansion Browser** ('X' on your keyboard) and click on the **'MPC Upright Bass'** thumbnail to view:

The screenshot shows the MPC Upright Bass expansion browser interface. At the top left, there is a small thumbnail of the expansion. To its right, the text reads "MPC Upright Bass" and "Pad Pimps". The main area features a large graphic with the text "MPC UPRIGHT BASS" in a stylized font, with "MPC" in blue and "UPRIGHT BASS" in white. Below this, it says "MULTISAMPLED ACOUSTIC DOUBLE BASS FOR MPC". The background of the graphic is a black and white photograph of a person playing a double bass. In the bottom left corner of the graphic area, there is the Pad Pimps logo. At the bottom of the interface, there is a table of contents:

▶ Programs	19
▶ Samples	5
▶ Patterns	60

Expand the 'Programs' group to reveal all the instruments:



Single click any instrument to hear its preview - this requires 'Autoplay' enabled:



Double click an instrument to load it to the current sequencer track. Alternatively, drag the instrument directly into your project. All instruments are 'keygroup' programs and must be assigned to a 'KEYGROUP' type track in your sequencer.

Under some conditions when loading instruments in the MPC Software/MPC Beats, you might receive a 'Sample already exists' message. This is simply because the samples are shared across presets. Simply select the 'Replace' option to continue loading the instruments.

Loading MIDI Patterns

Expand the '**MIDI Patterns**' group:



Click on a pattern to preview it. Double click or drag into your project to load the MIDI to the first unused track in the current sequence. Make sure the track is a KEYGROUP type track and assign one of the Upright Bass instruments to the track.

Each pattern is labelled with its key and a guideline tempo. To transpose your MIDI events to a different key, select all the events and move them up or down the grid accordingly.

Further Resources

MPC Upright Bass is part of our growing range of MPC and Force expansions – 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/78/0/mpc-expansions/>

If you need help learning how to use your MPC, check out MPC-Tutor's range of **MPC tutorial** books and courses at:

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

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