A close-up photograph of a wooden instrument, likely a kalimba or mbira, showing a row of metal strips (lamellae) attached to a wooden frame. The strips are arranged in a slightly curved pattern and have a polished, golden-brown finish. The background is a dark, rich wood grain.

# MELODIC PERCUSSION

Multisampled Pitched Percussion Instruments For All Modern MPCs & Akai Force

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# Melodic Percussion: Introduction

- **Melodic Percussion** contains an eclectic collection of multisampled pitched percussion instruments including vibraphones, marimba, kalimba, harps, bells, celesta, chimes and melodic drums, perfect for creating melodic leads and chord patterns for any musical genre.
- All instruments are fully set up and ready to play, optimised for super-fast loading & minimal CPU and are categorized and tagged for easy browser searching/filtering.
- We've also included custom MIDI progressions (to install into pad perform mode) and melodic MIDI patterns to use with the instruments to help kick start new song ideas.
- This expansion is compatible with all modern MPCs running with MPC 2.10 (or greater), the **Akai Force**, the **MPC Software** and the **MPC Beats App**.

# What's Inside?

Melodic Percussion contains **72 multisampled pitched percussion instruments** built with **3250 samples** mapped to 'keygroup' programs for the MPC and Force.

- **25 'bars & blocks'** including vibraphones, xylophones, glockenspiels & marimbas
- **23 'bells & chimes'** including Chinese chimes, tubular bells, musical box, hand chimes, glass bells, brass bells
- **7 pitched drums & cymbals** including steel drums, tank drums, hand drums, crotale and thai gongs
- **9 harps and plucks** including folk, Celtic, concert and gothic harp
- **8 kalimbas & celestas**

Many instruments are multisampled over multiple dynamic levels utilising velocity switching or round robins to produce a realistic recreation of the original instrument, with optimised memory & CPU usage to ensure you can comfortably load dozens of instruments into any project.

Each instrument is pre-mapped chromatically for you so you can just load it and play; there's no need for any configuration or tweaking, simply listen to the instrument previews in the browser, load your chosen instruments into your project and start playing chords, riffs and melodies via your pads or an attached keyboard.

Everything is 100% compatible with the arpeggiator and PAD PERFORM ('Notes Mode') while keyboard controllers can also utilise mod wheel control of tremolo for many of the instrument patches.

To provide inspiration for new projects we've also included **72 melodic MIDI patterns** each containing a melodic lead which can be matched with any of the provided instruments (or with any other keygroup program, plugin patch or MIDI device).

We've also included **10 custom MPC MIDI progressions** to install into 'pad perform' mode, each providing an 8-chord progression inspired by the instruments and patterns in the expansion.

This expansion requires approximately 1.6GB of disk space for installation.

## Patch List

Instrument	Family	File Size
Balafon	Bars	24MB
Custom Xylophone	Bars	8MB
Glockenspiel Bright	Bars	13MB
Glockenspiel Concert	Bars	40MB
Glockenspiel Metal	Bars	7MB
Glockenspiel Toy	Bars	40MB
Marimba Birch Mallet	Bars	8MB
Marimba Fibreglass	Bars	6MB
Marimba Jazz	Bars	17MB
Marimba Muted	Bars	12MB
Marimba Orchestral	Bars	54MB
Marimba Padauk	Bars	23MB
Marimba Roll	Bars	47MB
Marimba Yarn Mallet	Bars	16MB
Vibraphone Bowed	Bars	33MB
Vibraphone Concert	Bars	20MB
Vibraphone Gentle	Bars	7MB
Vibraphone Soft Mallet	Bars	5MB
Vibraphone Yarn	Bars	22MB
Xylophone Concert	Bars	9MB
Xylophone Old Toy	Bars	10MB
Xylophone Thai	Bars	13MB
Blown Bells	Bells	23MB
Brass Bells	Bells	10MB

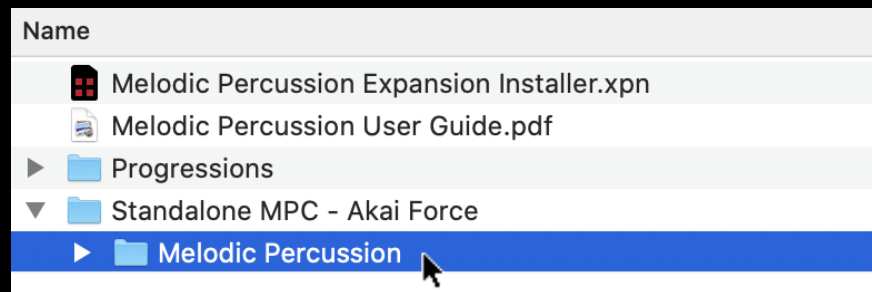
Chamber Bells	Bells	12MB
Crystal Bells	Bells	28MB
Digital Bells	Bells	13MB
Distant Bells	Bells	19MB
Dream Bells	Bells	18MB
Electric Pulse	Bells	8MB
Electro Bells	Bells	18MB
Gentle Bells	Bells	4MB
Glass Bells	Bells	5MB
Sleepy Bells	Bells	21MB
Static Bells	Bells	18MB
Tubular Bells	Bells	9MB
French Blocks	Blocks	10MB
Glass Blocks	Blocks	12MB
Plastic Blocks	Blocks	5MB
Baltic Chimes	Chimes	33MB
Chinese Chimes	Chimes	42MB
Hand Chimes	Chimes	9MB
Musical Box	Chimes	12MB
Musical Box 2	Chimes	6MB
Stick Chimes	Chimes	17MB
String Chimes	Chimes	37MB
Twinkle Chimes	Chimes	7MB
Crotale	Cymbal	17MB
Thai Gong	Cymbal	10MB
Bone Drum	Drum	15MB
Hand Pans	Drum	19MB
Log Drum	Drum	8MB

Steel Drums	Drum	37MB
Tank Drums	Drum	11MB
Celesta Lofi	Keys	4MB
Celesta Pop	Keys	9MB
Celesta	Keys	33MB
Analog Pluck	String	4MB
Harp Ambient	String	23MB
Harp Bright	String	27MB
Harp Celtic	String	43MB
Harp Concert	String	54MB
Harp Folk	String	62MB
Harp Gothic	String	48MB
Harp Harmonic	String	29MB
Harp Pop	String	7MB
Kalimba Crystal	Tines	44MB
Kalimba Cuban	Tines	23MB
Kalimba Koa	Tines	69MB
Kalimba Toy	Tines	26MB
Kalimba Walnut	Tines	7MB

# 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>*

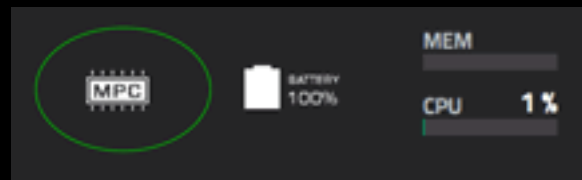
After downloading the expansion, extract the zip file contents to your computer. Enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**Melodic Percussion**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your MPC/Force.



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

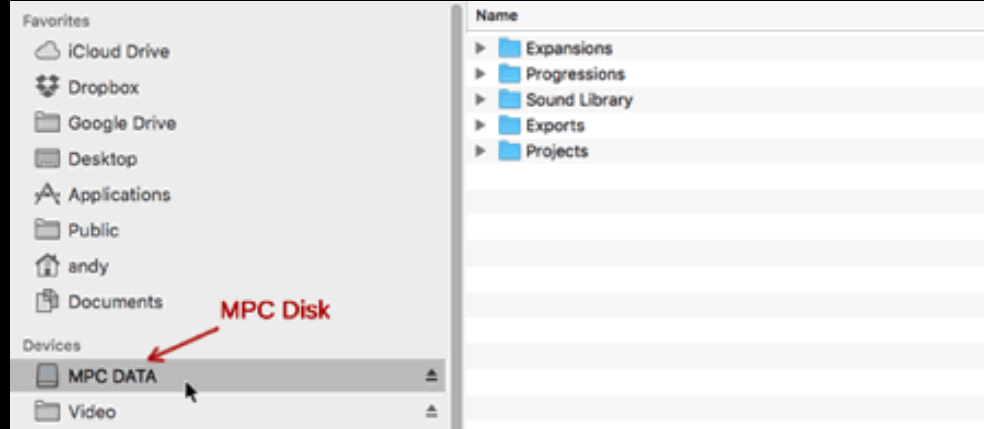
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' on your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, you can just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

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).

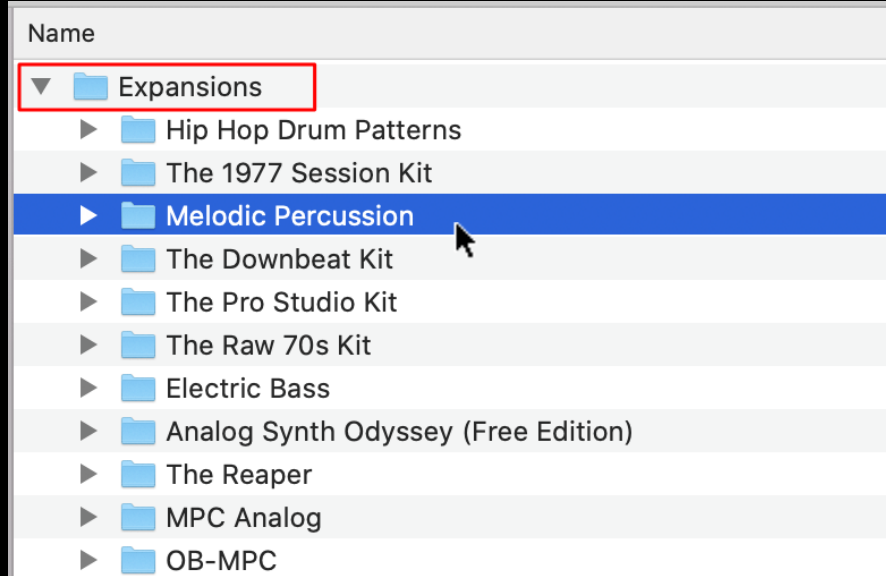


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('**COMPUTER MODE**' in the Force).

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 '**Melodic Percussion**' standalone expansion folder *inside* this '**Expansions**' folder.

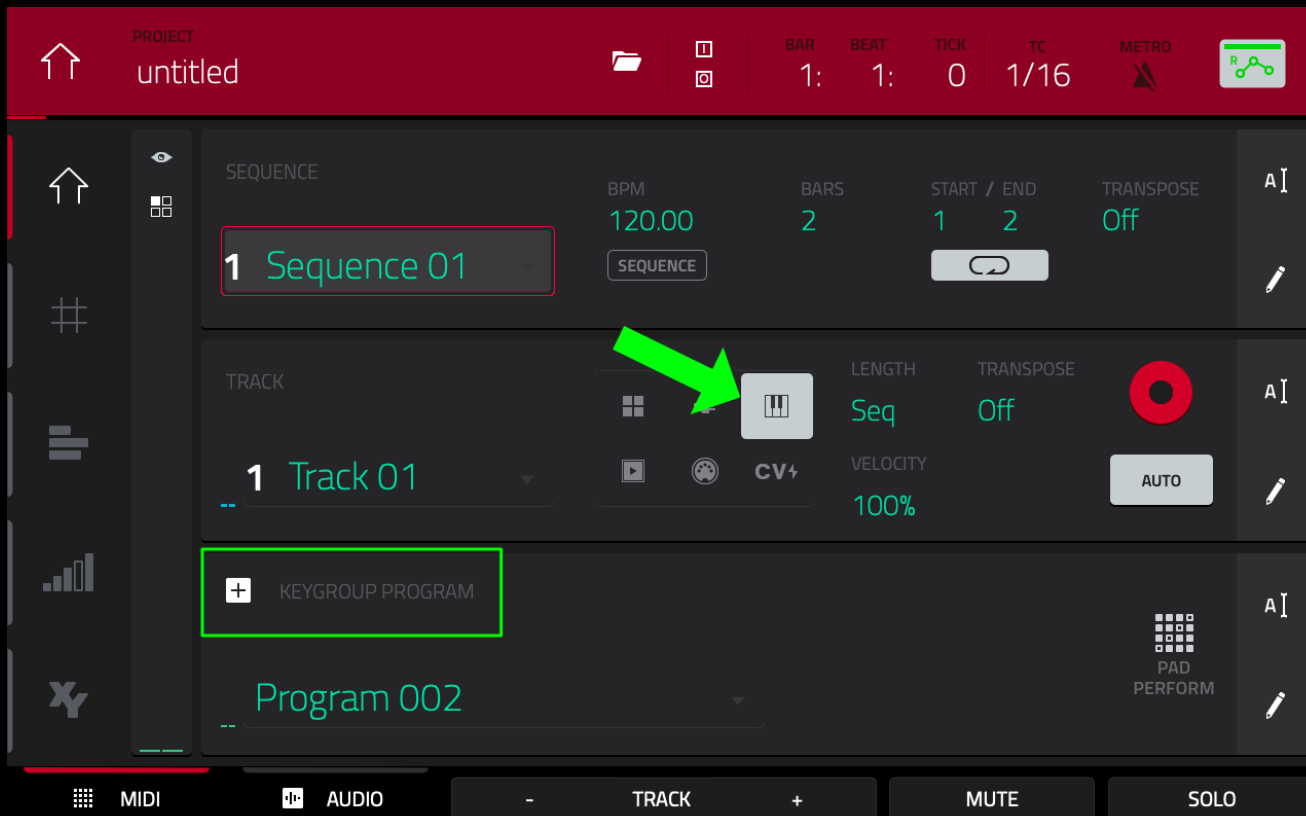


All done! If you had physically transferred the MPC disk to your computer you should now eject the disk from your computer and put the disk back in your MPC.

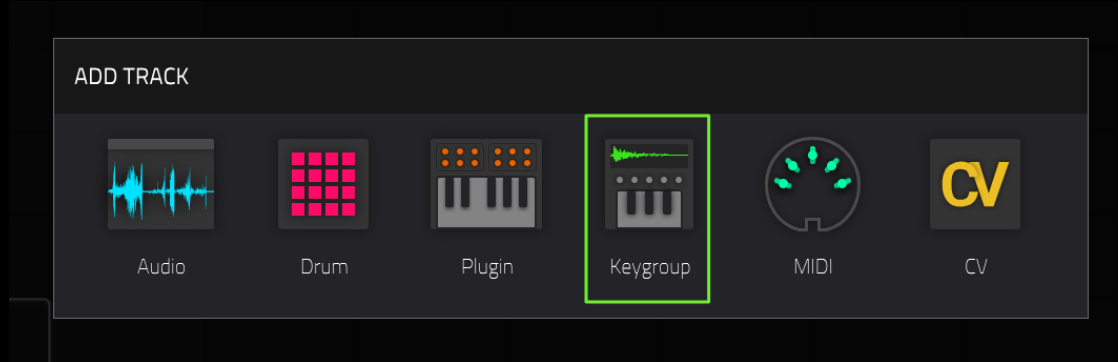
Alternatively, if you used USB transfer then go back to **MENU** and select the computer icon to return to standalone mode - *don't forget to eject/unmount the MPC from your computer first, this avoids any potential data loss.*

# Loading Instruments (Standalone MPC/Force)

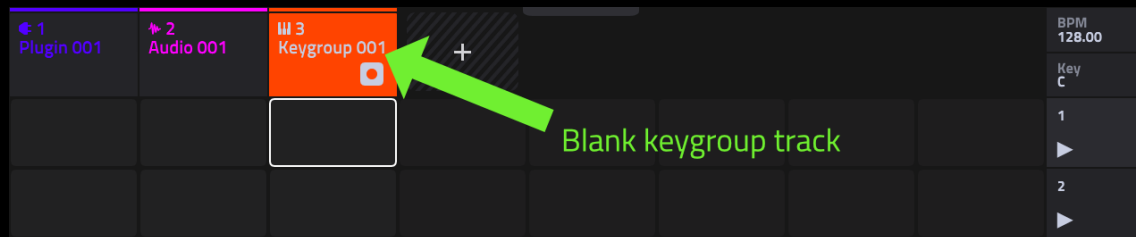
In your MPC, go to **MAIN** and create a **KEYGROUP** type track:



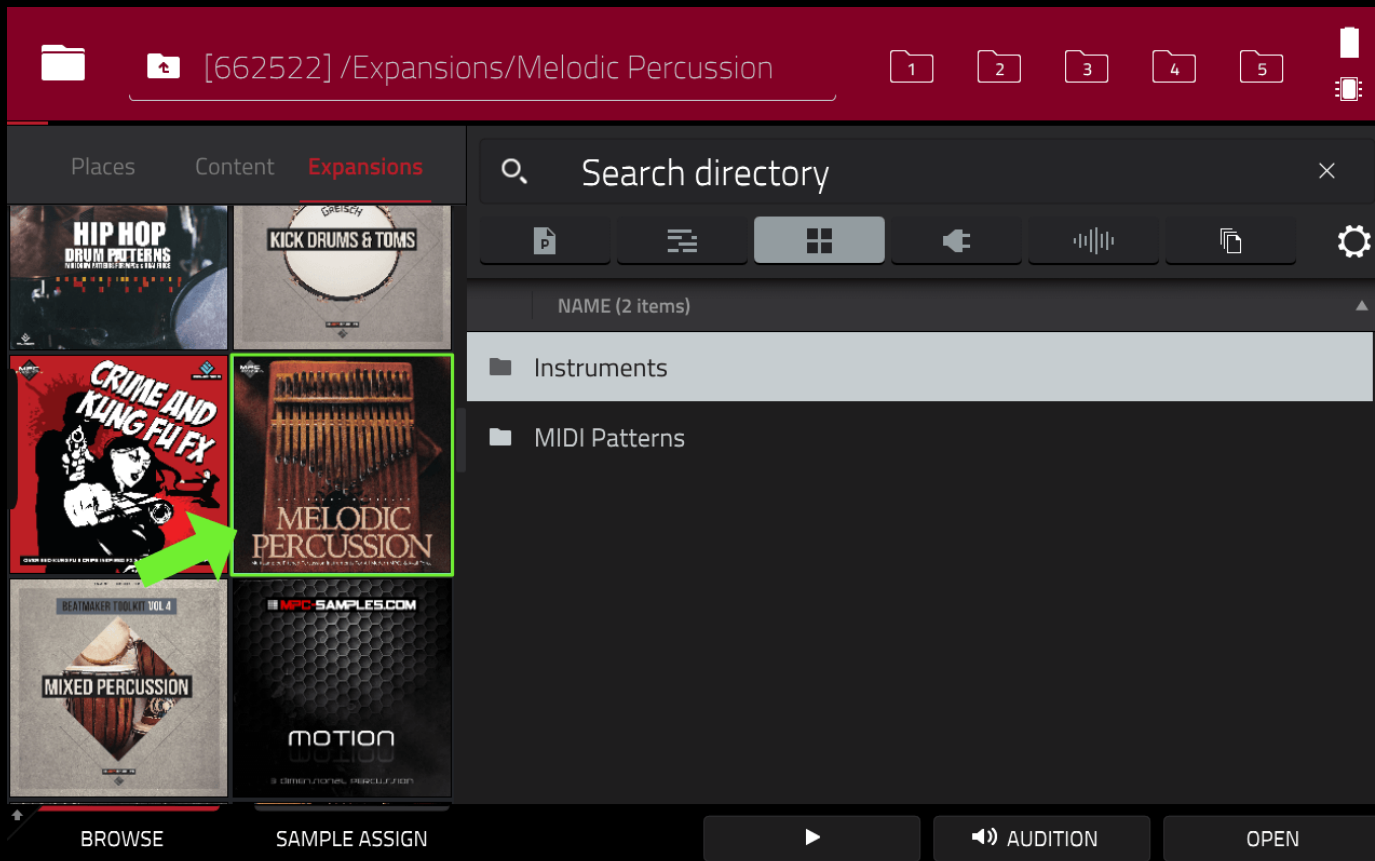
In the Force, hit the '+' icon in the touchscreen matrix and select a **Keygroup** track:



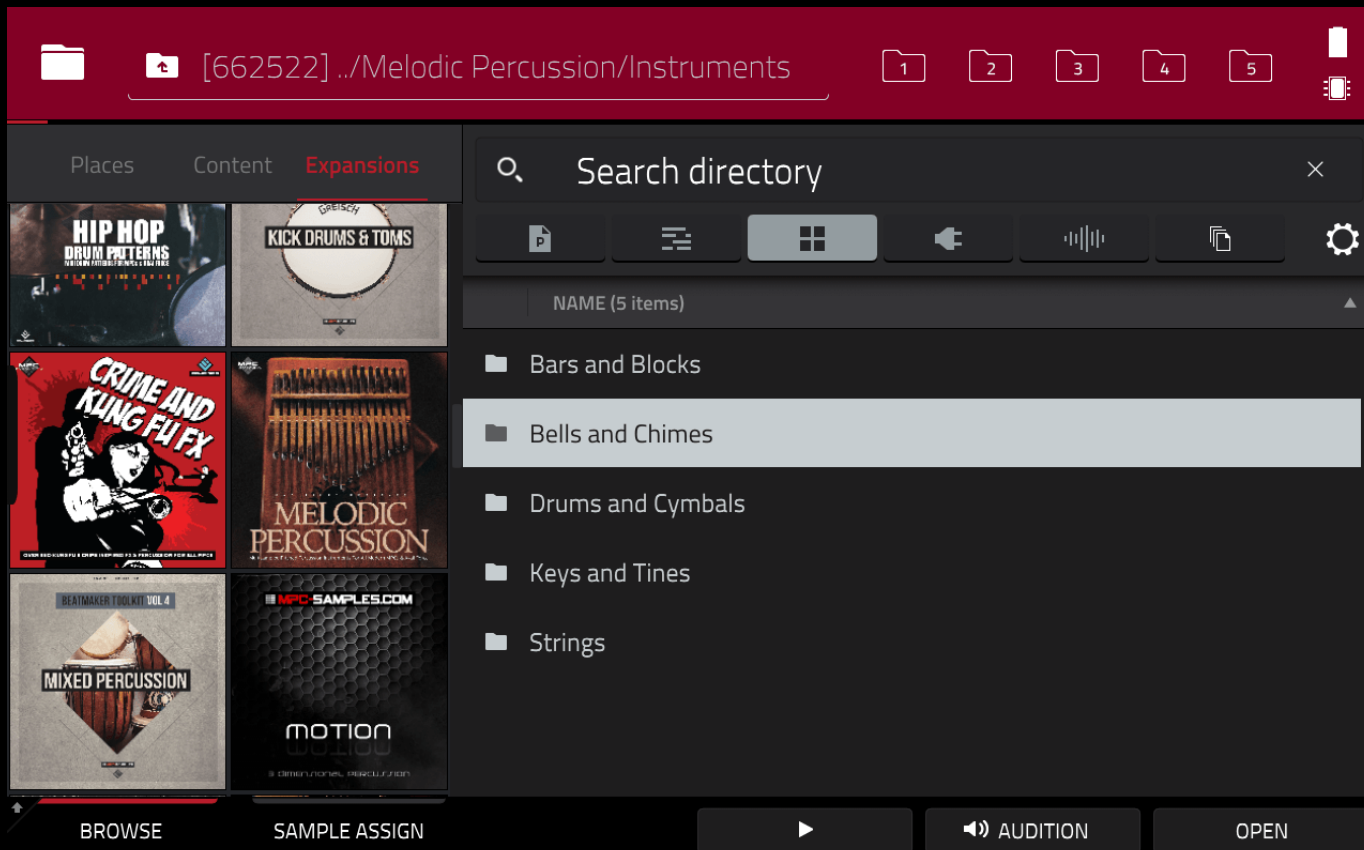
This adds a new blank keygroup track to the matrix:



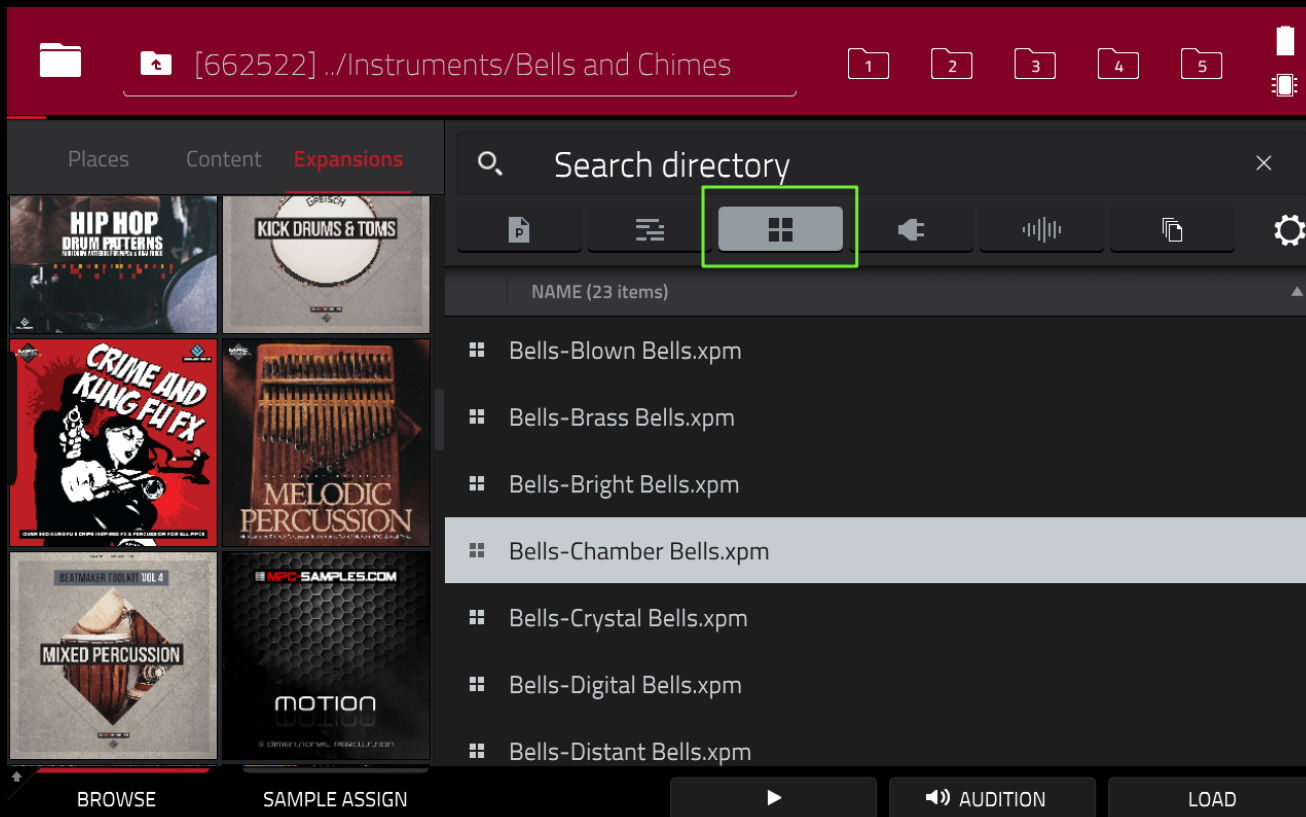
Now go to '**MENU > BROWSER > Expansions**' and tap on the '**Melodic Percussion**' thumbnail. On the right side, you'll see two folders:



Enter the **Instruments** folder:



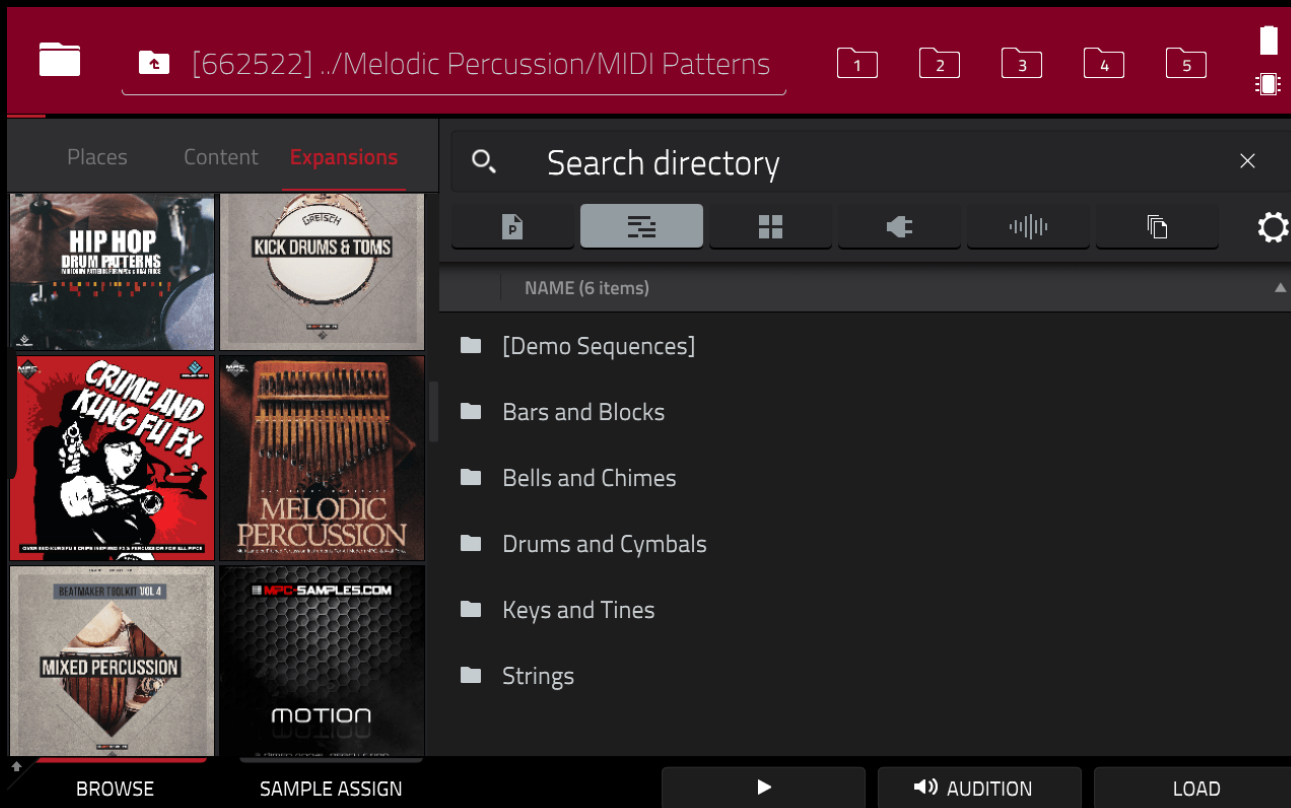
Here you'll find all the instruments organised by the sound generation method employed by the instrument. Double tap any of the folders to enter, for example 'Bells and Chimes' and make sure you select the **PROGRAM** filter to view all the instruments in this group:



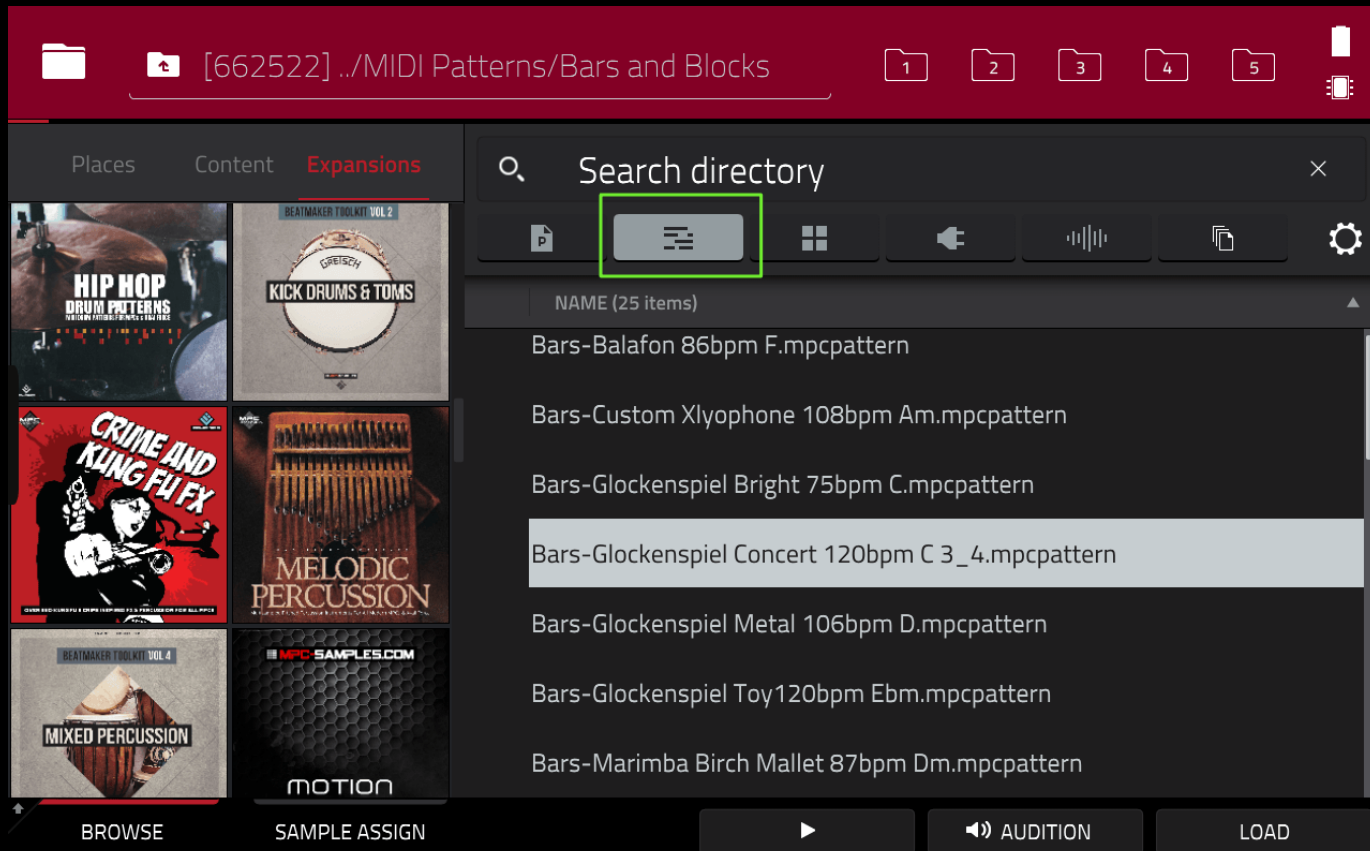
Single tap the program to hear a preview (requires 'AUDITION >AUTO').  
To load the instrument to the current track, either double tap the XPM file or single tap and press **LOAD**.

# Loading MIDI Patterns

Head to the root location of the expansion and enter the 'MIDI Patterns' folder.



These patterns were used to generate the instrument audio previews you heard previously and are organised using the same categories. Double tap a folder to enter and view the available patterns using the 'MIDI' filter:



If you have **AUDITION: AUTO** enabled, tapping a pattern will play a short audio preview of the pattern. Double tap a pattern to load it (*loading occurs in the 'silently' background, there's no on-screen confirmation*).

Your pattern will be loaded to the next available 'unused' track in your current sequence. Make sure this track is set up as a **KEYGROUP** track and assign any instrument to this track. Hit **PLAY START** to hear your pattern in action.

You can now manipulate the MIDI data via **LIST EDIT**, **GRID VIEW**, **MAIN**, etc. For more information on using MPC MIDI patterns, check out our support article:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/article/using-mpc-midi-patterns>

*Don't forget that these MIDI patterns can be used with any keygroup program, plugin or any externally connected MIDI device.*

## **A Note About Time Signatures**

Most of the patterns in this expansion are in 4/4 time, but a small selection are recorded in 3/4 time (i.e. 3 beats to a bar); these patterns have the text **3\_4**

appended to the end. These patterns should be loaded to a sequence with a time signature of 3/4.

I've included a 'blank' sequence already set to 3/4 time signature in the [Demo Sequences] folder – just load up the '**3\_4 time Signature Template**' sequence and you'll have a standard blank sequence but with a 3/4 time signature instead of 4/4.

You can also learn how to set your own custom time signatures here:

<https://mpc-tutor.com/how-to-set-custom-time-signatures-in-mpc-sequences>

## Demo Sequences

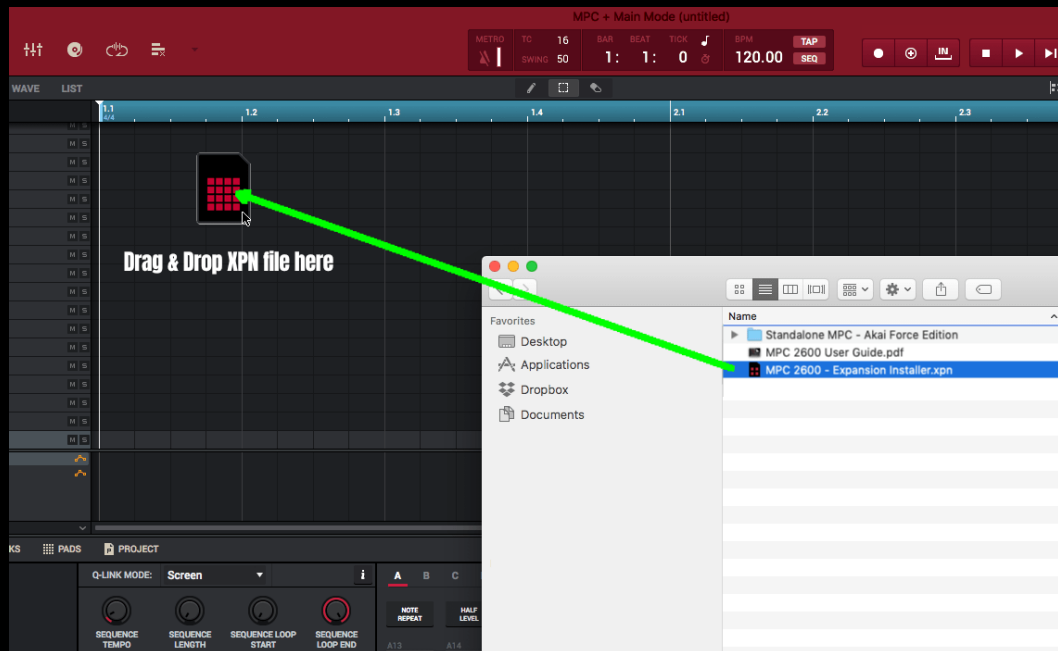
We have included 72 demo sequences for each instrument in the 'MIDI Patterns' folder via the '**[Demo Sequences]**' folder. Make sure the 'MIDI' filter is selected:

Loading a demo sequence will create a completely new sequence with a recommended tempo and time signature already configured. If the associated instrument for the demo sequence is already in memory it should be automatically assigned to this sequence.

# Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App

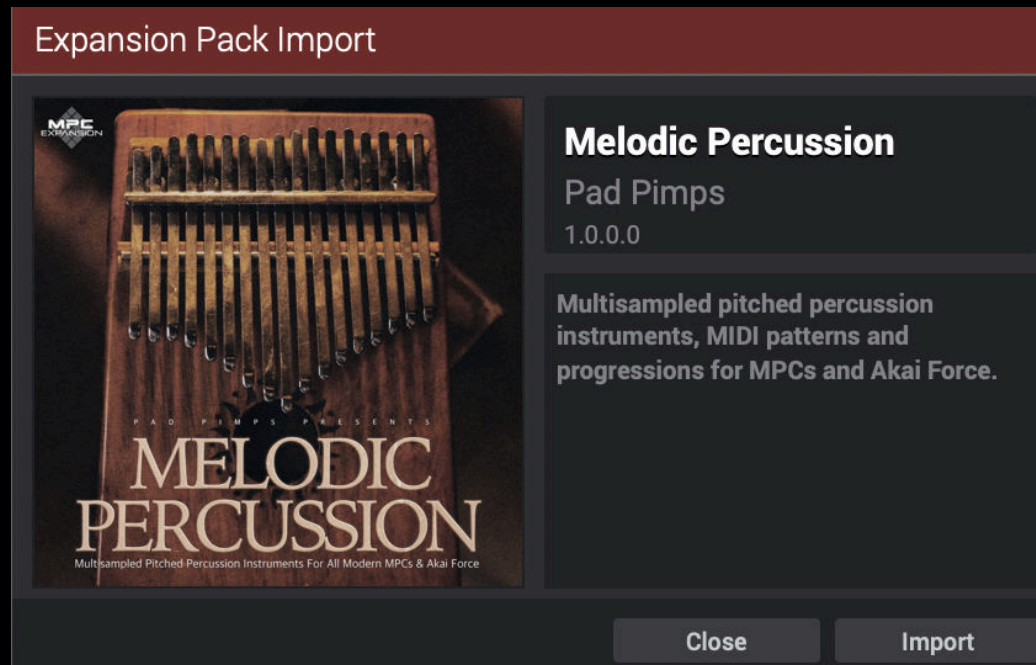
*Note: View the most up-to-date MPC Software expansion install instructions here: <https://mpc-samples.com/article/install-mpc-software-expansions-guide>*

Locate the ‘Melodic Percussion Expansion Installer.XPN’ file and drag & drop it directly into the MPC Software UI from your computer’s File Explorer/Finder:



Please note that an XPN file **cannot** be installed by double clicking from your computer's file explorer.

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 '**Melodic Percussion**' thumbnail to view:



## Melodic Percussion

Pad Pimps



P A D P I M P S P R E S E N T S

# MELODIC PERCUSSION

Multisampled Pitched Percussion Instruments For All Modern MPCs & Akai Force

▶ Programs	72
▶ Samples	3252
▶ Patterns	72
▶ Sequences	72

Expand the **'Programs'** group to reveal all the instruments, all organised into sub-categories based on the instrument type:

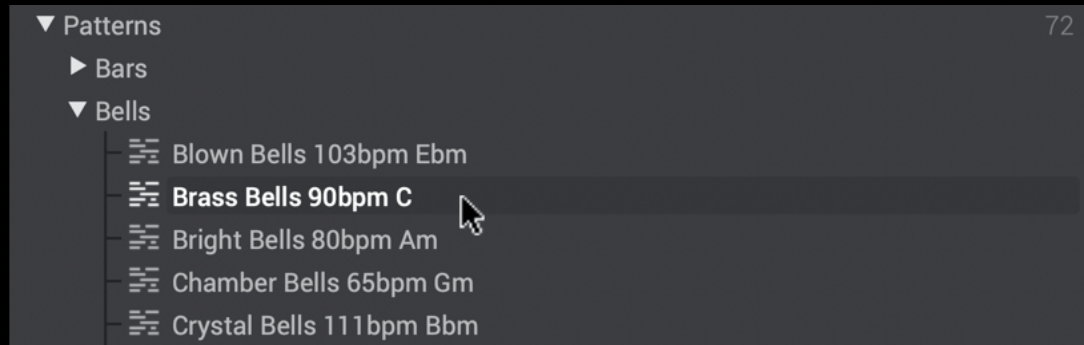


Single click any instrument to hear its program preview - this requires 'Autoplay' enabled:



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

To load a pattern, first expand the **Patterns** group and expand a category to reveal the available melodic patterns:



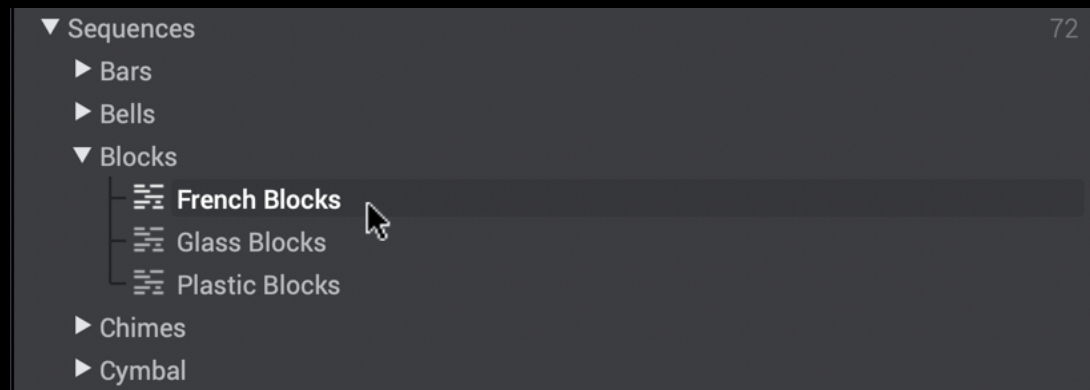
Single click on a pattern to preview it (this is a pre-recorded audio preview). Double click or drag and drop to load the pattern to the next 'unused' track in your current sequence – make sure this track is set as a KEYGROUP track and assign an instrument to this track.

Please note that some patterns use a 3/4 time signature, these patterns have the text '3\_4' appended to the end and should be used with sequences set to '3/4' time.

You can learn how to set your own custom time signatures here:

<https://mpc-tutor.com/how-to-set-custom-time-signatures-in-mpc-sequences>

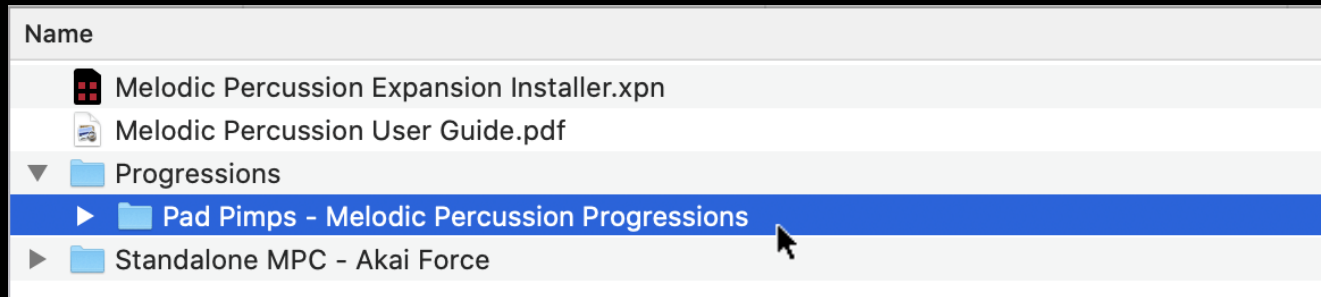
We've also provided a demo sequence for each instrument – these are in the 'Sequences' group:



Just double click the sequence file to simultaneously load the demo sequence and the associated instrument directly into your project.

# Installing MIDI Progressions

This expansion contains 10 custom MIDI progressions for use in 'Pad Perform' mode alongside the existing 'factory' chord progressions. From the downloaded files, locate the '**Progressions**' folder:



Inside you'll see a sub folder '**Pad Pimps – Melodic Percussion Progressions**'; this contains the 10 MIDI progression files.

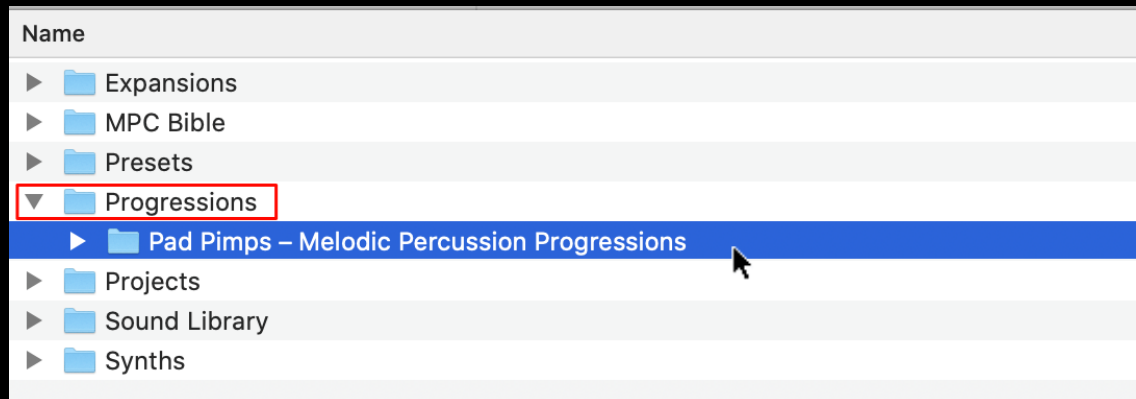
## Installation: Standalone Mode

To install these progressions into a standalone MPC you'll need to copy all the progression files over to any attached MPC disk (e.g. SD card, USB drive, SATA disk),

just like you did with the expansion files. However, this time instead of copying to the 'Expansions' folder, you must copy everything to a folder called '**Progressions**'.

So first, connect your computer to your MPC disk using the same method as you did with the expansion folder (e.g. via USB and controller mode, or by physically connecting your MPC disk to your computer).

Now enter your MPC disk. If your MPC disk already contains a 'Progressions' folder simply copy the '**Pad Pimps – Melodic Percussion Progressions**' inside it:

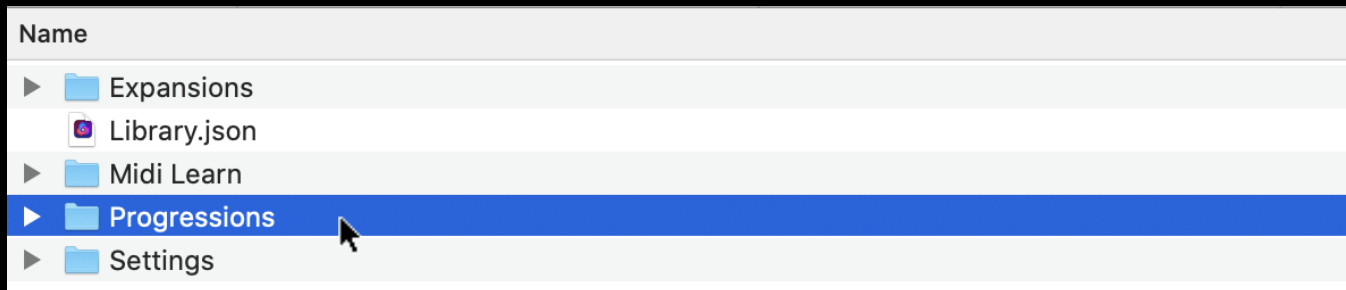


If there is no 'Progressions' folder you'll need to create it first – or you can just copy the entire '**Progressions**' folder over from your computer. The progressions will be available in 'Pad Perform' the next time you use your MPC in standalone mode.

## Installation: MPC Software/Controller Mode

To use the progressions in the MPC Software / MPC Beats (including controller mode) you'll need to copy the progressions to a specific location on your computer. On a **Mac**, navigate to:

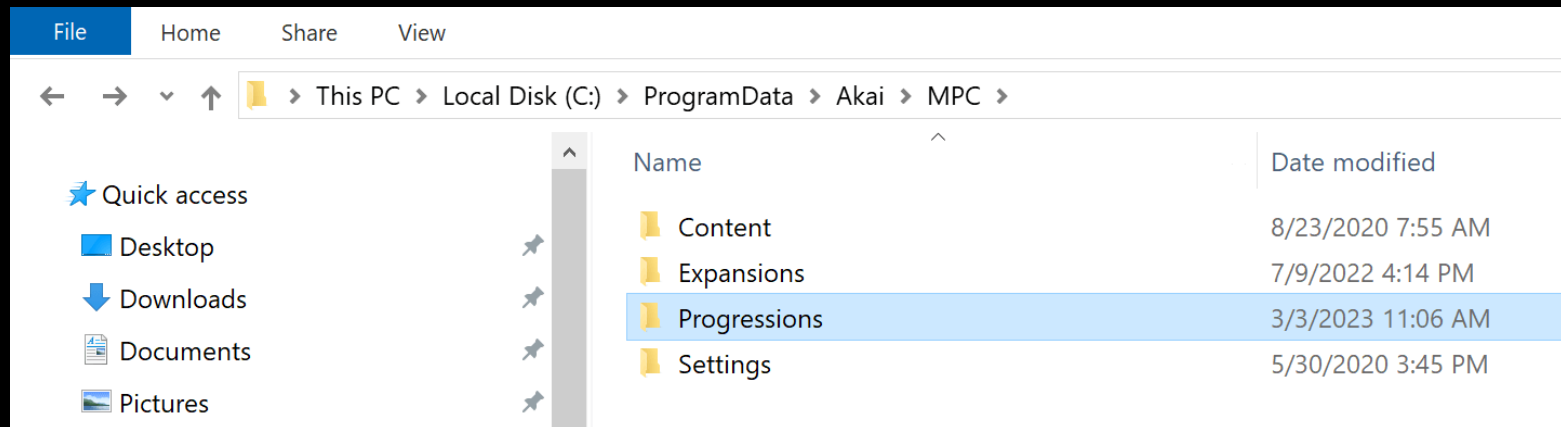
`/Users/your username/Library/Application Support/Akai/MPC (or 'MPC Beats')`:



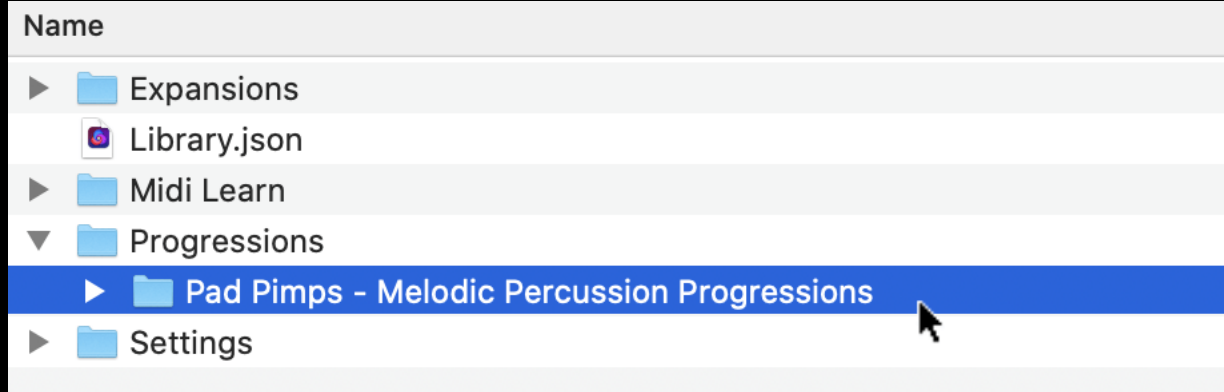
*Please note that the user Library folder is normally invisible by default. To enable it, go to the Home folder in Finder, choose **View > Show View Options**, and select **Show Library Folder**.*

In Windows, go to:

C:\ProgramData\Akai\MPC (or MPC Beats)



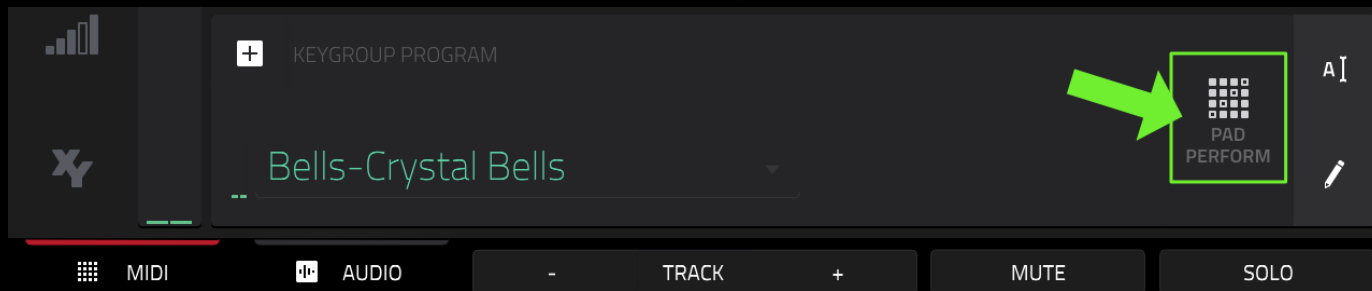
As with the standalone installation, you simply need to copy the **'Pad Pimps – Melodic Percussion Progressions'** inside the existing **'Progressions'** folder:



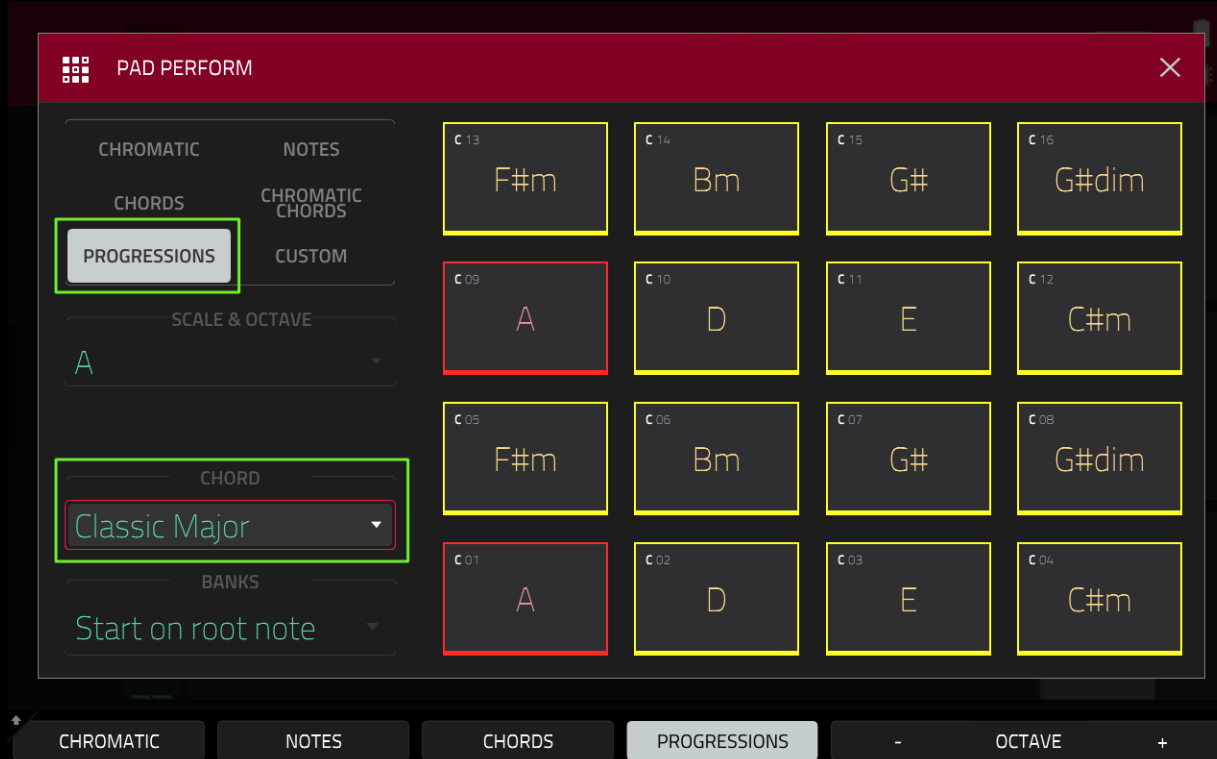
If a 'Progressions' folder does not exist here, either create it or just copy over the entire 'Progressions' folder from the expansion download. The new progressions will be available the next time you fire up the MPC Software (or MPC Beats).

## Using The MIDI Progressions (Pad Perform)

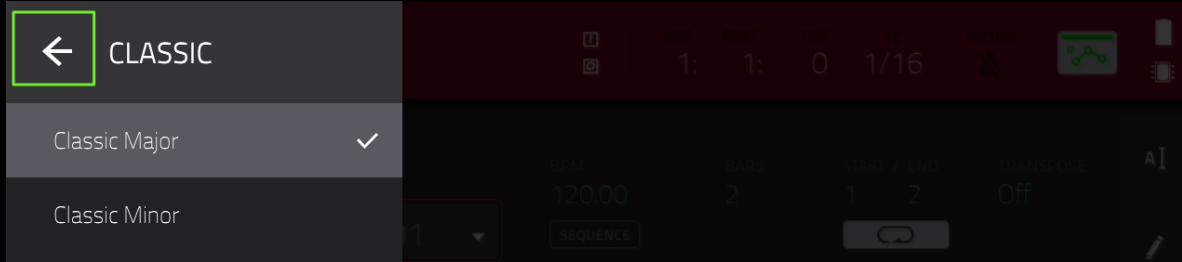
In MAIN, assign a keygroup instrument to a 'KEYGROUP' track and enter **Pad Perform Mode** by hitting the **PAD PERFORM** icon on the 'PROGRAM' row. Alternatively, press **SHIFT & 16 LEVEL**. The following assumes to you running at least MPC 2.11.



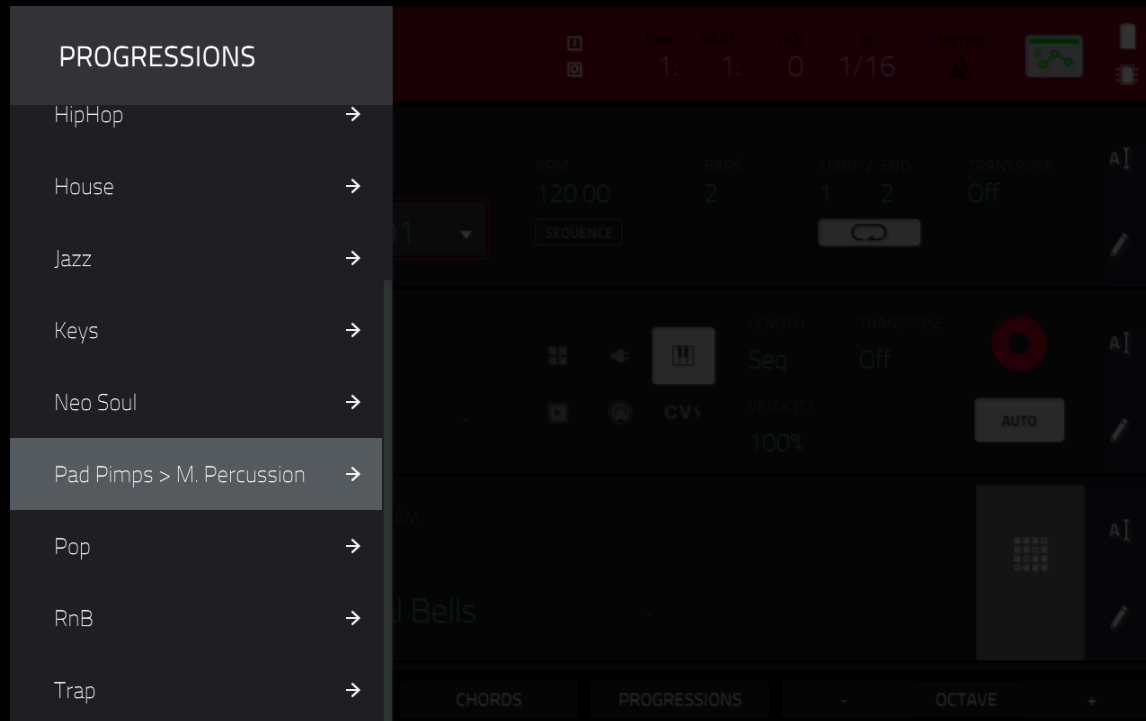
To access the progressions you installed, hit the **PROGRESSIONS** tab:



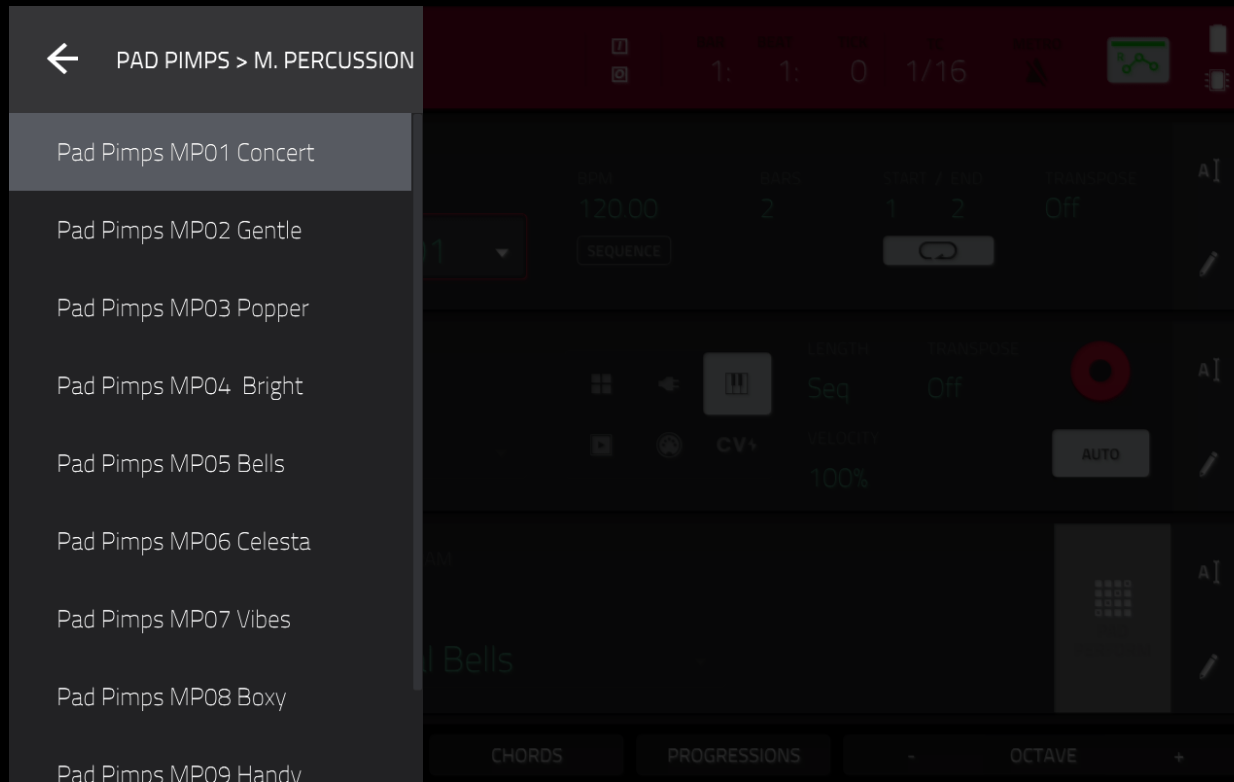
Double tap the '**CHORD**' dropdown on the left hand side of the screen and at the top of the resulting screen hit the top left pointing arrow:



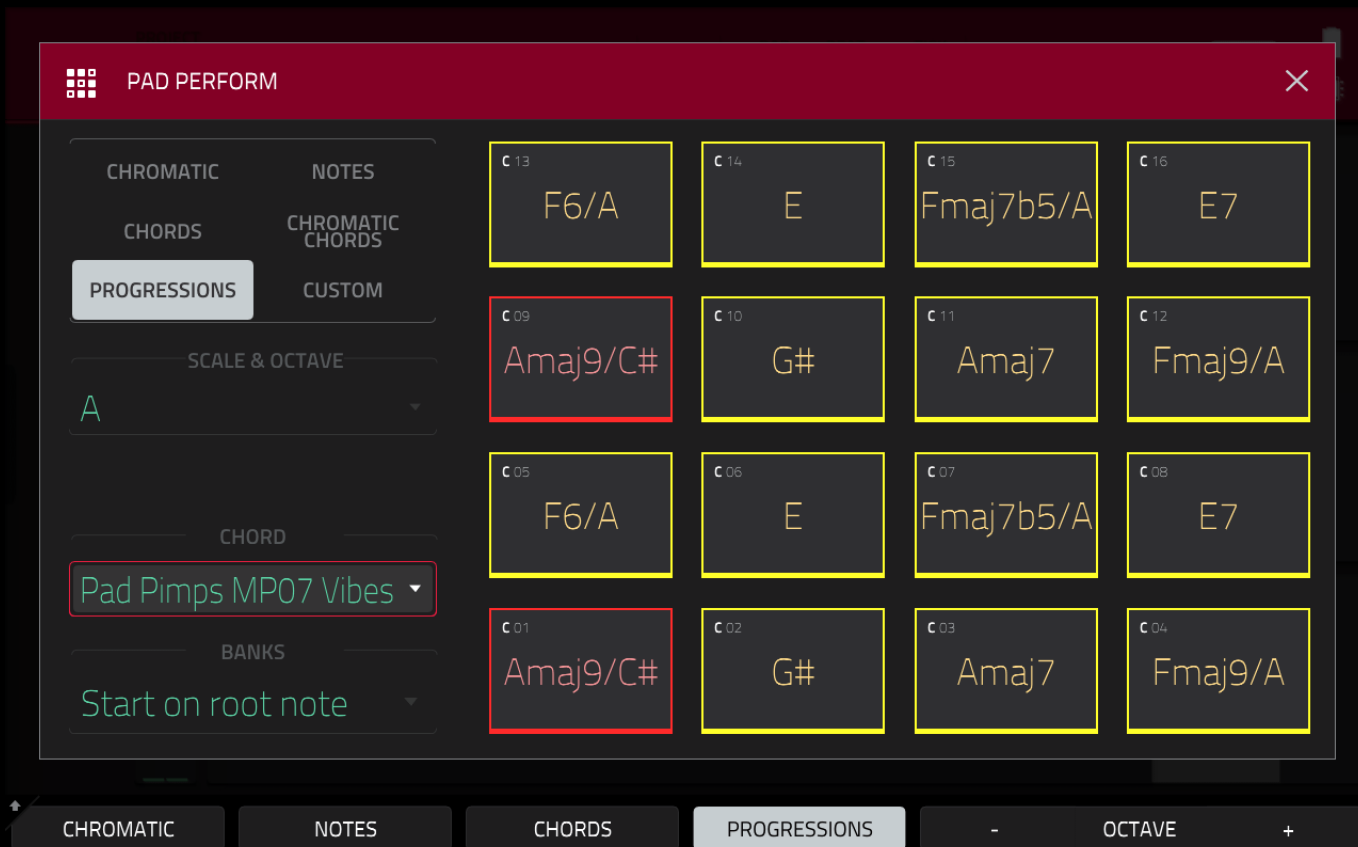
This will take you to the progressions grouping page:



Single tap the **'Pad Pimps > M. Percussion'** folder to enter it and tap to select any of the progressions:



Under **'SCALE & OCTAVE'** you can select a musical key, for example 'A'. You should now see the on-screen pads indicate which exact chords are assigned to each pad:



For more guidance on using all the options within Pad Perform mode to create melodic leads and chord sequences, check out our article here:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/article/mpc-pad-perform-101>

# 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/>

## Tremolo Control

Many of the instruments in this expansion have the ability to control the amount of 'tremolo' applied to all the notes in the instrument. Tremolo is a gentle panning motion which is often used on percussion instruments such as vibraphones, celesta, and marimbas, as well as on electric pianos such as Rhodes and Wurlitzers.

If an instrument has adjustable tremolo preconfigured, you can control the intensity of the tremolo effect in real time using the 'modulation wheel' on any attached MIDI keyboard. Alternatively, if you have a touchstrip on your MPC you can assign the mod wheel control to this instead.

# Further Resources

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/>

**Melodic Percussion** 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/>

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