



THE MODERN SESSION KIT



USER + INSTALLATION GUIDE

Contents

The Modern Session Kit: Introduction	3
What's Inside?	4
Articulations & Recording Chain	8
'Velocity Switching' vs 'Round Robin' Kits	11
Kit Layouts & Snapshot Genres	13
Install: Standalone MPC & Akai Force	18
Loading Kits & MIDI (Standalone MPC/Force)	22
Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App	30
Install: Legacy MPCs	38
Further Resources	40
Copyright & License	41

The Modern Session Kit: Introduction

- **The Modern Session Kit** features an extensively multisampled Gatton 'Corian' acoustic drum kit, a very versatile drum kit with an incredibly direct, warm sound, recorded with up to 12 velocity levels and suitable for creating realistic acoustic drum performances in any genre.
- The expansion features 48 unique drum and percussion articulations with two different kit configurations built around two different snares, with 15 additional genre-based 'snapshot' kits and 234 MIDI grooves covering a range of musical styles providing an instant starting point for any project.
- All kits are built using 'sample chains' for rapid kit loading times and streamlined project management.
- This expansion is compatible with all modern MPCs running with MPC 2.11 (or greater) and is also fully compatible with the **Akai Force**, the **MPC Software**, the **MPC Beats App** and the **MPC1000/2500/500/5000**.

What's Inside?

In this expansion we teamed up with legendary session drummer Bobby Arechiga to record his **2010 Gatton Corian Kit**, featuring **48 different drum articulations**, each recorded with up to **12 velocity levels**.



Multiple Kits & Snapshots

The 48 articulations have been organised into two core kits ('A' and 'B'), each one based around a different snare (a 14" Gatton and 10" Gatton) with different combinations of kick, cymbal and percussion articulations (32 articulations per kit, covering banks A and B). 'Lite' versions are provided for smaller memory requirements.

We've then used the MPCs internal FX and other program parameters to create 15 additional 'snapshot' kits tailored to specific music genres. All kits feature the same core layout so you can easily try out different kits with your recorded sequences.

MIDI Grooves & Fills

These kits are complimented by 234 MIDI patterns containing grooves and fills recorded by real drummers in many different musical styles including hip hop, funk, rock, indie, pop, metal, vintage soul, disco and many more. Use the MIDI grooves as instant inspiration and starting points for your own projects.

All MIDI grooves come with their own baked-in browser preview so you can hear how they sound before loading.

Additionally, each kit and snapshot is provided with its own extended demo sequence file (SXQ) built from the provided patterns. Full loading instructions are included later in this guide.

Velocity Switching & Round Robins

‘Velocity switching’ kits are provided with up to 12 dynamic levels to provide an incredibly realistic emulation of the original kit. Additionally, ‘round robin’ kits will play back a different sample timbre each time a pad is played.

For more information on these different kits types and advice on which one to choose, check out the separate ‘**Velocity Kits Vs Round Robin Kits**’ section of this guide.

Sample Chains

The Modern Session Kit utilises 'sample chains', which significantly reduce the number of individual samples needed in a kit. This bypasses the browser loading bottlenecks, dramatically speeding up loading times of multisampled kits in the MPC and Force browser. And as there are less individual samples to load, your project is more streamlined with less clutter within screens such as sample edit, sample assign, the project window etc.

Find out more about sample chains here:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/article/sample-chains-explained>

Articulations & Recording Chain

The Modern Session Kit is built around a 2010 Gatton Corian Kit, a British made drum kit built using 'Corian', a unique material that give the drums a deep, warm and punchy tone. Each instrument was recorded with a number of different articulations over multiple dynamic levels to emulate the different sounds and timbres created by a real drummer.

The full instrument list is as follows:

Instrument	Articulations	Maximum Dynamics
24" Gatton Kick Drum	Isolated With snare bleed	12 velocities, 4 round robins
18" Gatton Floor Tom	Centre hit	8 velocities, 4 round robins
16" Gatton Floor Tom	Centre hit	8 velocities, 4 round robins
13" Gatton Rack Tom	Centre hit	8 velocities, 4 round robins
12" Gatton Rack Tom	Centre hit	8 velocities, 4 round robins
14" Gatton Corian Snare	Centre Halfway (between edge and centre) Rim Shot Rim (edge of casing only) Cross Stick Wires Off	12 velocities, 4 round robins

	Flam (double hit) Drag (short buzz roll)	
10" Gatton Corian Snare	Centre Halfway (between edge and centre) Rim Shot Rim (edge of casing only) Cross Stick Wires Off Flam (double hit) Drag (short buzz roll)	12 velocities, 4 round robins
14" Meinl Soundcaster Fusion Hi Hat	Tight Closed Centre Tip Tight Closed Centre Shank Tight Closed Edge Closed Centre (Tip of stick) Closed Centre (Shank of stick) Closed Edge Hit Open Full Open Halfway Pedal Shut Pedal Open	12 velocities, 4 round robins (open hats = 6 velocities)
22" Meinl Soundcaster Fusion Ride	Centre Edge Bell Choke	6 velocities, 4 round robins (chokes = 4 round robins only)
20" Meinl Soundcaster Fusion Crash	Centre Edge Bell	6 velocities, 4 round robins (chokes = 4 round robins only)

	Choke	
18" Meinl Soundcaster Fusion Crash	Centre Bell Edge Choke	6 velocities, 4 round robins (chokes = 4 round robins only)
18" Meinl Byzance China Cymbal	Edge Choke	4 round robins
8" Meinl Byzance Splash	Edge Choke	4 round robins

Recording Chain

The kit was recorded at Mu Studios in Sheffield, UK using the following mics into an Amek 'Big by Langley' desk:

Kick: Audi-Technica ATM25, AKG D112

Snare Top: Shure Beta 57 beta

Snare Bottom: AKG C414

Hi Hat: Neumann KM84

Toms: Sennheiser E904/5

Overheads: AKG C414

Rooms: Neumann TLM 103, Telefunken ELA M 251

'Velocity Switching' vs 'Round Robin' Kits

In an MPC kit, each pad can be configured to play different dynamics using either **velocity switching** or '**round robins**' (it's not currently possible to combine both techniques together on a single pad).

In '**Velocity**' kits we've configured most pads to play a different sample depending on how hard you hit the pad. So strike a snare pad with a lot of force and it will play a 'hard' hit snare, a softly pad hit will play back a softly recorded snare. Articulations in the Modern Session Kit feature up to **12 velocity layers**.

You may be aware that each pad in the MPC has only 4 velocity layers – to overcome this limitation we've utilised the 'simultaneous play' feature to spread the 12 velocities over 3 linked pads. These additional pads are located in separate pad banks (banks E to H).

The only pads that should be directly played are those in pad banks A and B, the MPC will take care of which velocity layer it will play. For more info check out this

article:

<https://www.mpc-tutor.com/8-velocity-layer-drum-kits-mpc-akai-force/>

Another pad playback option in the MPC is that of '**round robins**'. Here the pad is configured to play a different sample each time it is hit, regardless of the velocity. This works well when the pool of samples are all recorded at a similar velocity (typically using 'hard' or 'medium hard' samples).

In kits tagged '**Round Robin**' each pad is configured to play back one sample from a 'pool' of 4 round robins (this is the maximum allowed by the MPC).

Please note that while most articulations in 'velocity' kits utilise velocity, chokes and percussion use round robins as we felt they just sounded more realistic with this type of pad setup.

Kit Layouts & Snapshot Genres

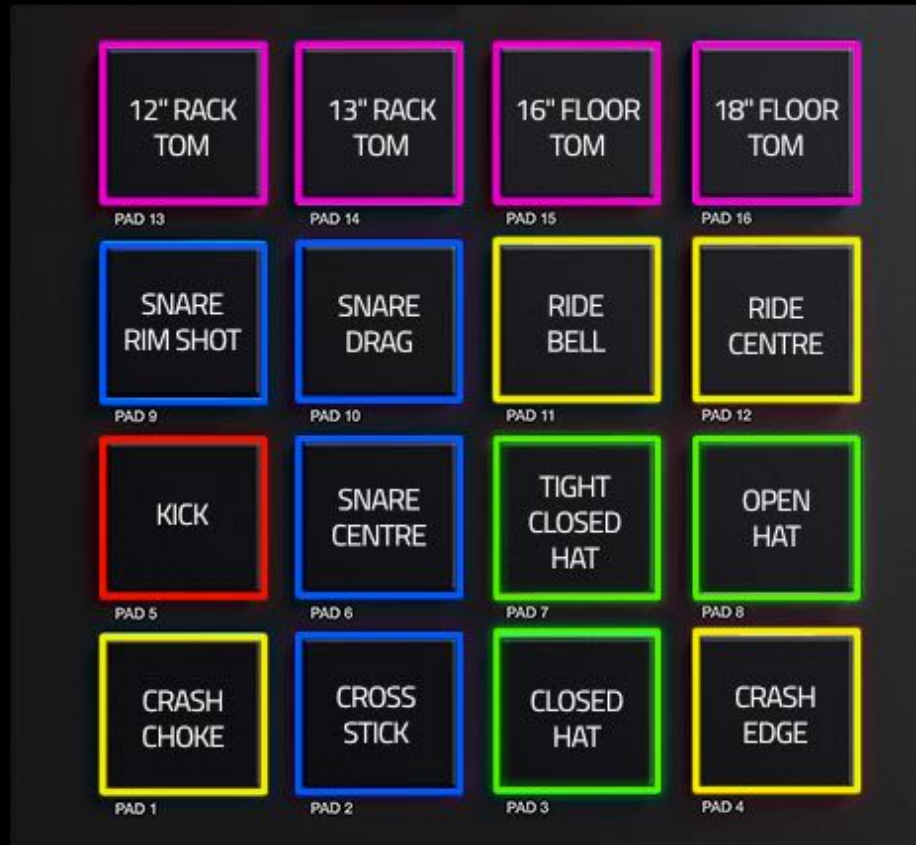
In addition to the complete 'raw' kits (provided in both 'velocity switching' and 'round robin formats), we've provided many different pre-built 'snapshot' kits as part of this expansion.

The kits '**MSK Kit A** and '**MSK Kit B**' are full 32 articulation kits, each built around a different snare and crash cymbal with some differences in chosen articulations to produce slightly different vibe for each kit. **Kit A** is built around a **14" Gatton snare**, while **Kit B** is built around a **10" Gatton snare**. Both these kits utilise the maximum available dynamic levels and hence use the most memory of all the provided kits.

'**Lite**' kits are reduced size versions of the two main kits; these contain 16 articulations in bank A only, with reduced dynamics for cymbals.

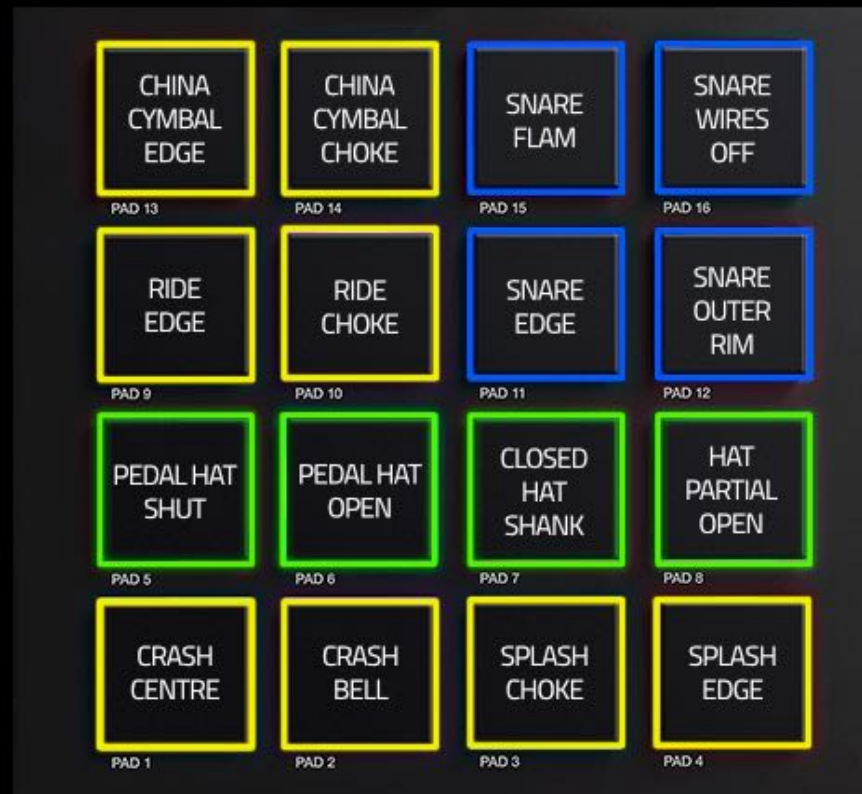
'**Snapshots**' contain FX processing and other tweaked program parameters and are each tailored to a specific musical genre. These kits are mostly 'round robin' kits and contain the full range of available dynamics in pad bank A, with reduced dynamics on some articulations in bank B.

The layout of Bank A in all kits contain the following articulations:



This layout was built with finger drumming in mind, with the core kick, snare & hats on row 2 (A05 to A08). Place your hands over this row and you also have easy access to the related articulations on rows 1 and 3, with minimal effort to reach row 4.

Kits with a Bank B contain the following 16 additional articulations:



All playable pads have pre-configured colours to reflect the type of instrument; **kick**, **snare**, **hi hat**, **cymbal**, **toms**.

Please note that in 'velocity switching' kits there are some pads in banks E-H that have samples assigned, but these are used only for providing the additional velocity layers for the pads in banks A and B (via 'simultaneous play'). The only pads intended for direct playing are those within banks A and B.

Kit 'B' has the same overall core layout as Kit A but uses a different snare (10" instead of 14"), a different kick articulation (fully isolated with no snare bleed) a different crash, and slightly different hi hat articulations in bank A.

In all kits, closed hi hats mute the open hats (including the open pedal hat) and all cymbal chokes mute their related open cymbal.

Here's a summary of the included kits and their file sizes:

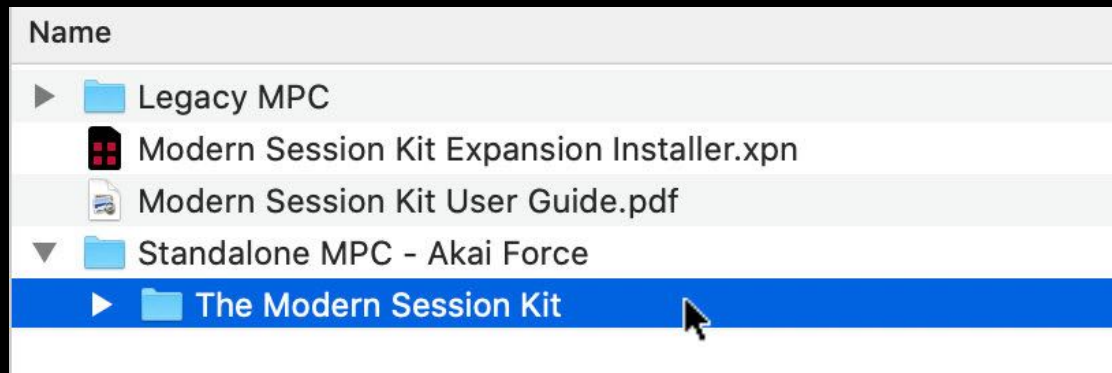
Kit Name	Velocity Kit Size	Round Robin Kit Size	Notes
MSK Kit A (Gatton 14" Snare)	189MB	160MB	12 velocity dynamics, 4 round robins.
MSK Kit A Lite	72MB	50MB	16 articulations, reduced cymbal dynamics.
MSK Kit B (Gatton 10" Snare)	202MB	153MB	12 velocity dynamics, 4 round robins.
MSK Kit B Lite	78MB	50MB	16 articulations, reduced cymbal dynamics.
MSK Alt Rock	123MB		Full dynamics in bank A, reduced dynamics in bank B. Includes FX, additional samples and other program parameter adjustments to obtain desired sound.
MSK Blues	128MB		
MSK Chill Hop	128MB		
MSK Dirt	128MB		
MSK Disco	128MB		
MSK Drum n Bass	123MB		
MSK Funk	130MB		
MSK Hip Hop Kit	130MB		
MSK Indie Kit	143MB		
MSK Metal	123MB		
MSK Neo Soul	123MB		
MSK Pop	123MB		
MSK Rock	143MB		
MSK Trap	123MB		
MSK Vintage Soul	144MB		

Install: Standalone MPC & Akai Force

*The following instructions are suitable for any modern standalone MPC and the **Akai Force**. You can view the most up-to-date expansion installation instructions here: <https://mpc-samples.com/article/standalone-mpc-force-expansion-installation>*

First download the expansion from your File Bank and unzip using your computer's zip application.

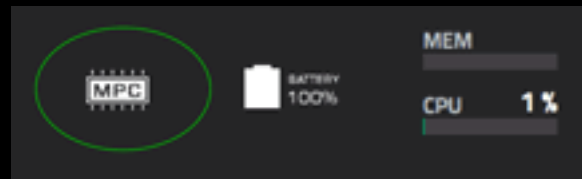
Enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**The Modern Session Kit**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your MPC/Force.



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

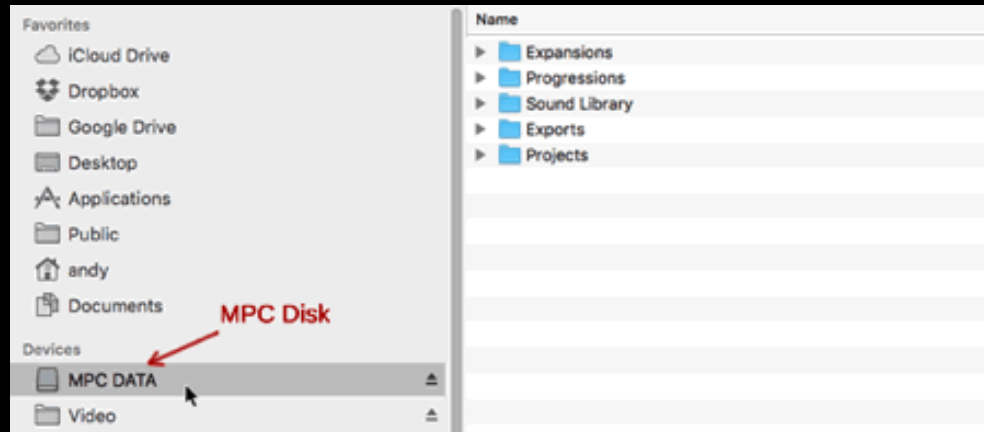
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' on your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, you can just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

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).

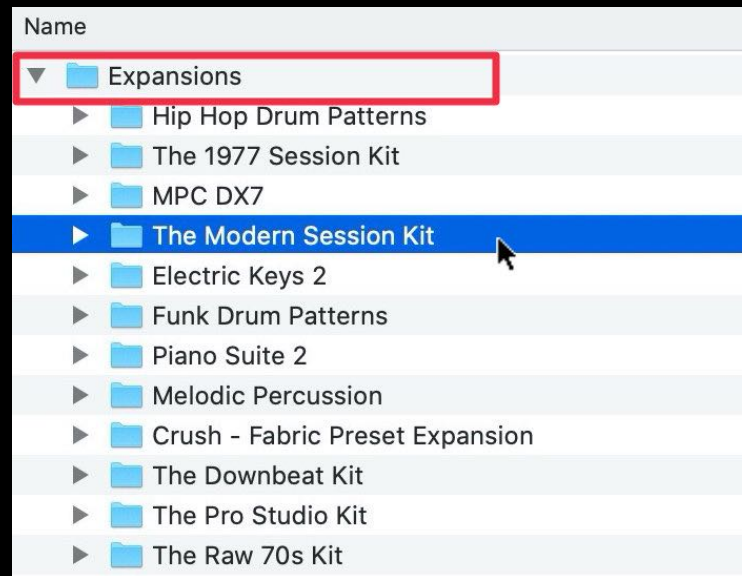


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('**COMPUTER MODE**' in the Force).

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 '**The Modern Session Kit**' standalone expansion folder *inside* this 'Expansions' folder.

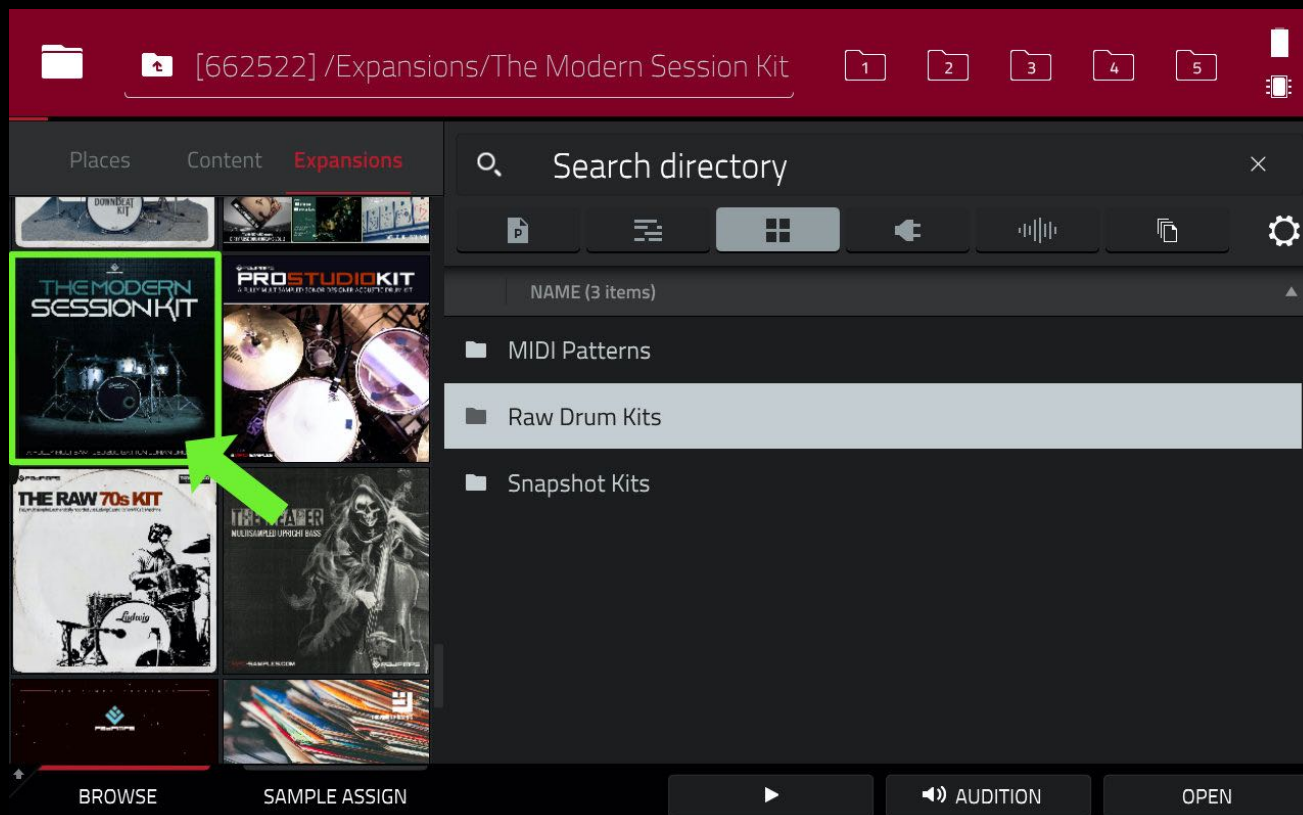


All done! If you had physically transferred the MPC disk to your computer you should now eject the disk from your computer and put the disk back in your MPC.

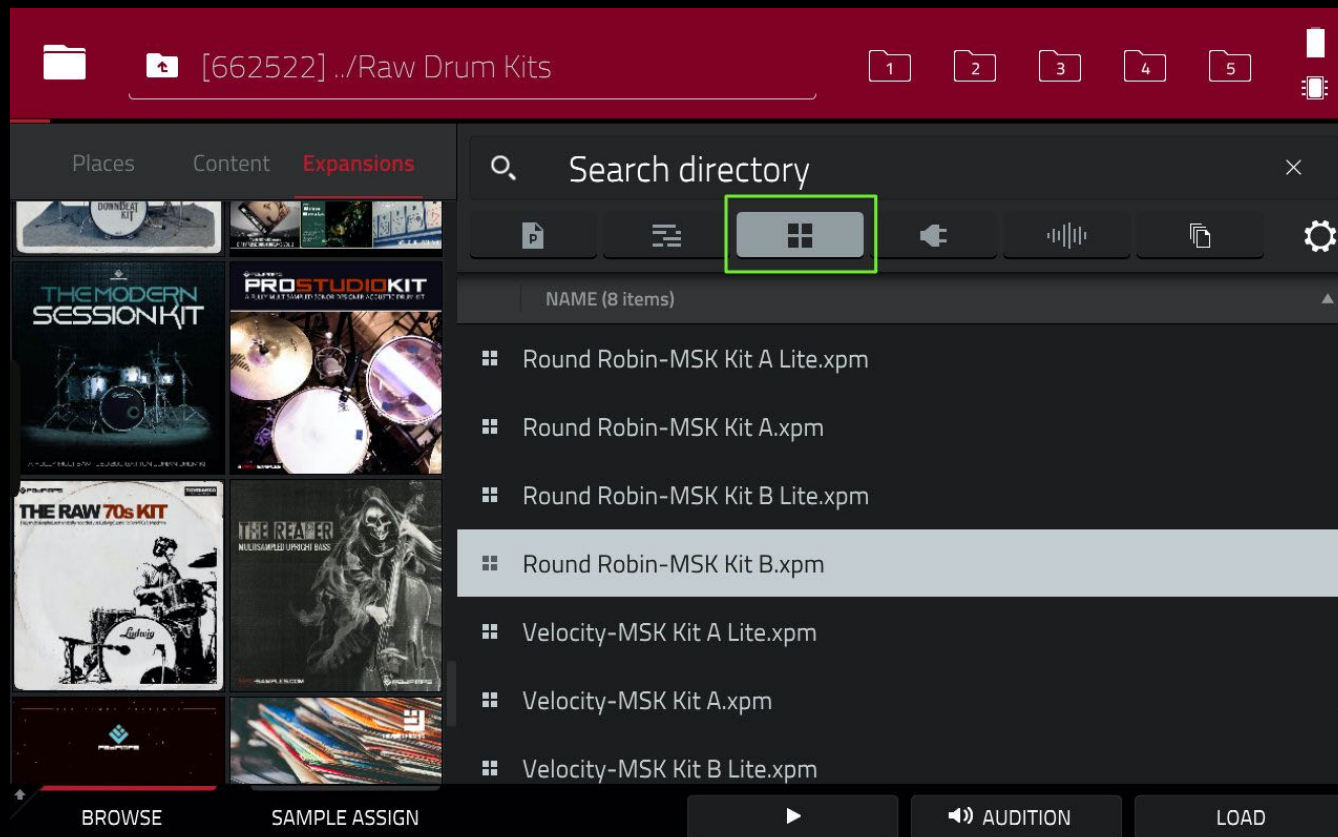
Alternatively, if you used USB transfer then go back to **MENU** and select the computer icon to return to standalone mode - *don't forget to eject/unmount the MPC from your computer first, this avoids any potential data loss.*

Loading Kits & MIDI (Standalone MPC/Force)

Go to 'MENU > BROWSER > Expansions' and tap on the 'The Modern Session Kit' thumbnail. On the right, you'll see multiple folders:

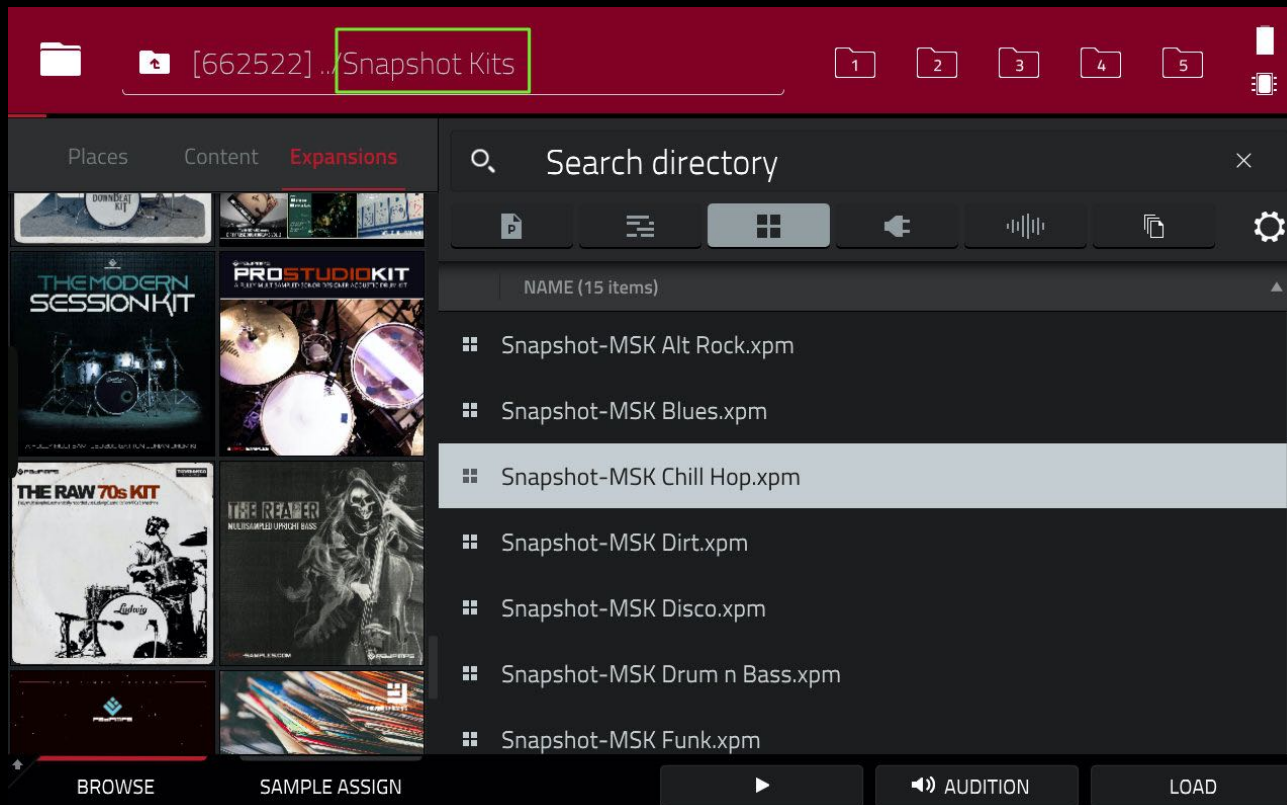


To browse the 'raw' (un-effected) kits, enter the 'Raw Drum Kits' folder and select the **PROGRAM** filter:



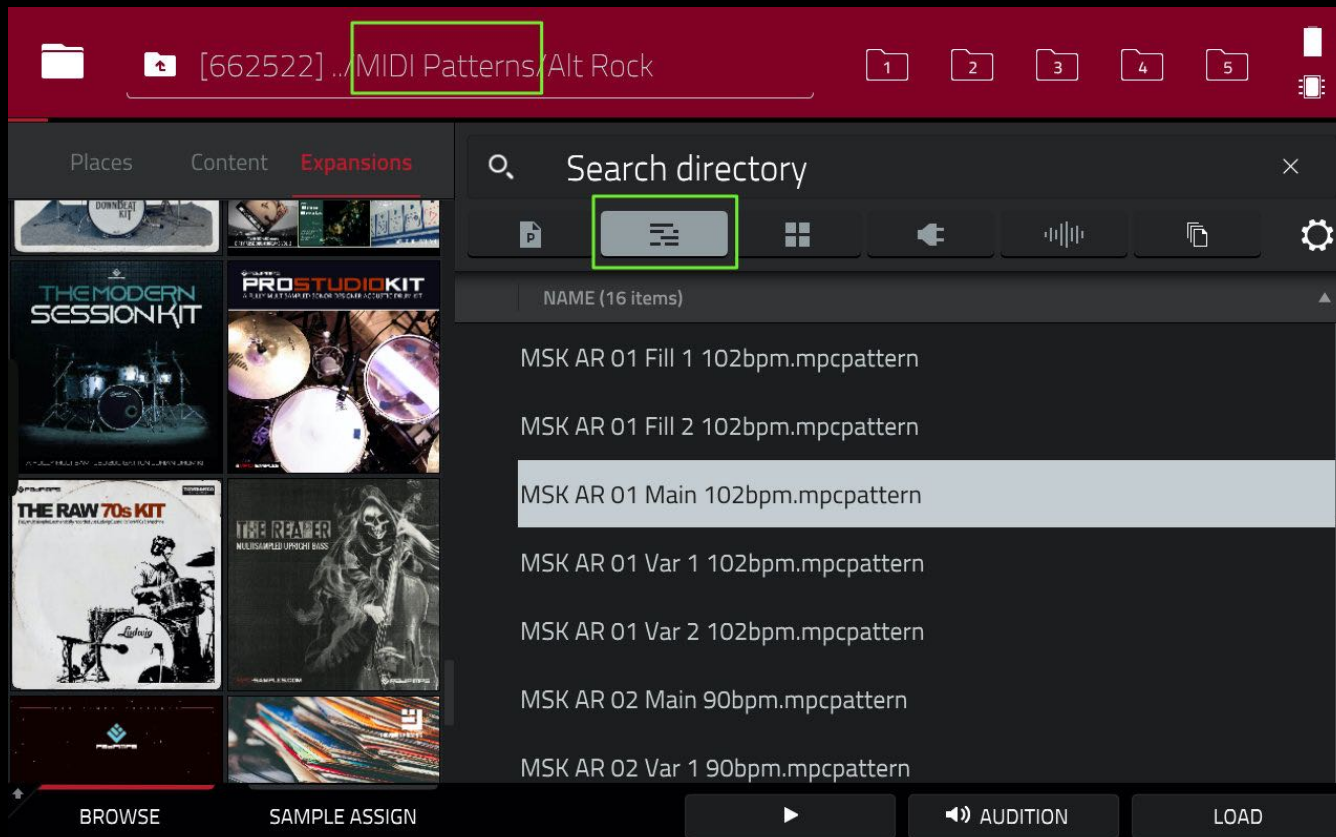
If you have '**AUDITION > AUTO**' enabled (bottom right of BROWSER screen) you can tap any program file to hear a preview of each kit before you load it. Double tap to load the kit into your project and assign it to a '**DRUM**' type track in your current sequence in **MAIN**.

To browse the 'snapshots' kits (which have additional FX and program parameter changes to suit particular musical genres), enter the '**Snapshot Kits**' folder:



Loading MIDI Patterns

Head back to the root location of the expansion and enter the **'MIDI Patterns'** folder. This contains over 230 MIDI grooves and fills, categorized by musical genre. Enter a folder (e.g. Alt Rock) 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 groove contained in 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 **DRUM** track and assign a kit to this track. Hit **PLAY START** to hear your pattern in action.

The screenshot displays a DAW interface with a dark theme. At the top, a red header bar shows the track name 'Track 02', the number of bars '2', and the current bar '9: 1: 68'. Below the header, a grid shows the drum pattern. The grid has 16 rows (A05 to A14) and 24 columns (1 to 2.4). The pattern consists of various colored blocks (red, yellow, orange) representing different drum sounds. The bottom of the interface features a control bar with buttons for 'DON'T SNAP', 'NUDGE', 'EDIT START', 'EDIT END', 'TRANSPOSE', and 'AUTOMATION'. The 'NUDGE' button is currently selected.

Track	1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2	2.2	2.3	2.4
A14								
A13								
A12								
A11								
A10					Yellow			
A09			Red				Red	Red
A08								
A07	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
A06		Yellow	Red					
A05	Red		Red		Red		Red	Red

You can now view and manipulate the MIDI data using the MPC's many different sequencing functions (e.g. **LIST EDIT**, **GRID VIEW**, **MAIN**, etc). Check out the MPC Bible for many sequencing tutorials and workflows:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/product.php/268/mpc-bible/>

Demo Sequences

We have also included 15 demo sequences (one for each snapshot) which have been built from various MIDI patterns. These can also be found in the 'MIDI Patterns' folder via the '[Demo Sequences]' sub folder – again, make sure the 'MIDI' filter is enabled:

[662522] ../MIDI Patterns/[Demo Sequences]

Places Content Expansions

Search directory

NAME (23 items)

- Kit-Round Robin-MSK Kit A Lite.sxq
- Kit-Round Robin-MSK Kit A.sxq
- Kit-Round Robin-MSK Kit B Lite.sxq
- Kit-Round Robin-MSK Kit B.sxq
- Kit-Velocity-MSK Kit A Lite.sxq
- Kit-Velocity-MSK Kit A.sxq
- Kit-Velocity-MSK Kit B Lite.sxq

BROWSE SAMPLE ASSIGN

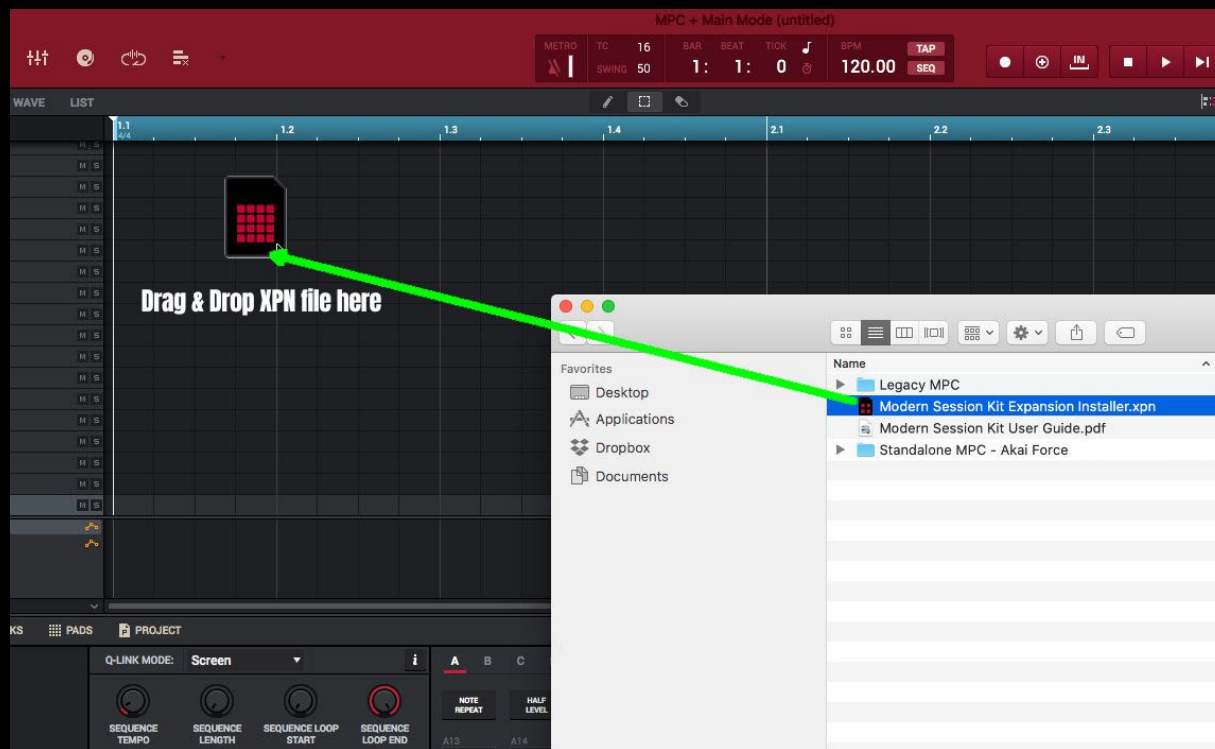
▶

AUDITION

LOAD

Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App

Locate the 'Modern Session Kit Installer.XPN' file and drag & drop it directly into the MPC Software from your computer's File Explorer/Finder:



Please note that an XPN file **cannot** be installed by double-clicking, it must be dragged.

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 **'Modern Session Kit'** thumbnail to view:

The Modern Session Kit
Pad Pimps

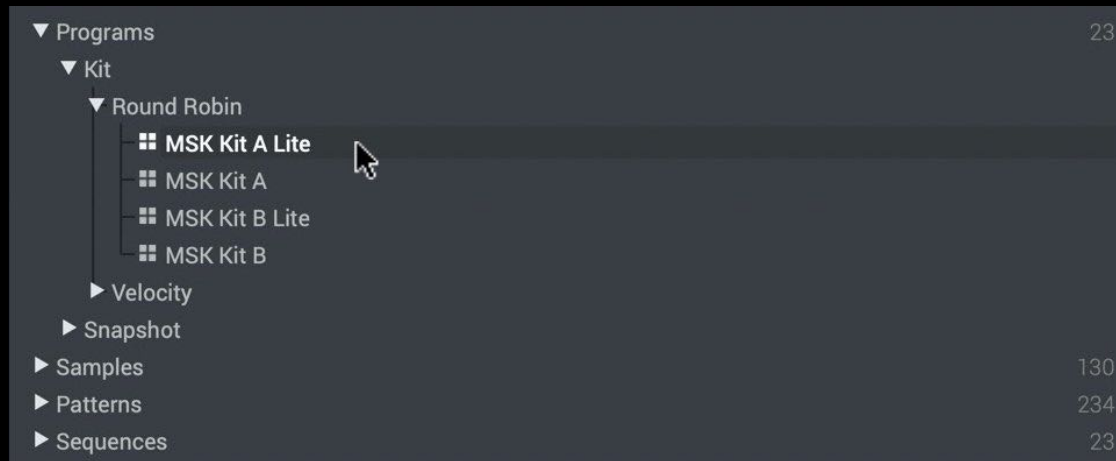


**THE MODERN
SESSION KIT**

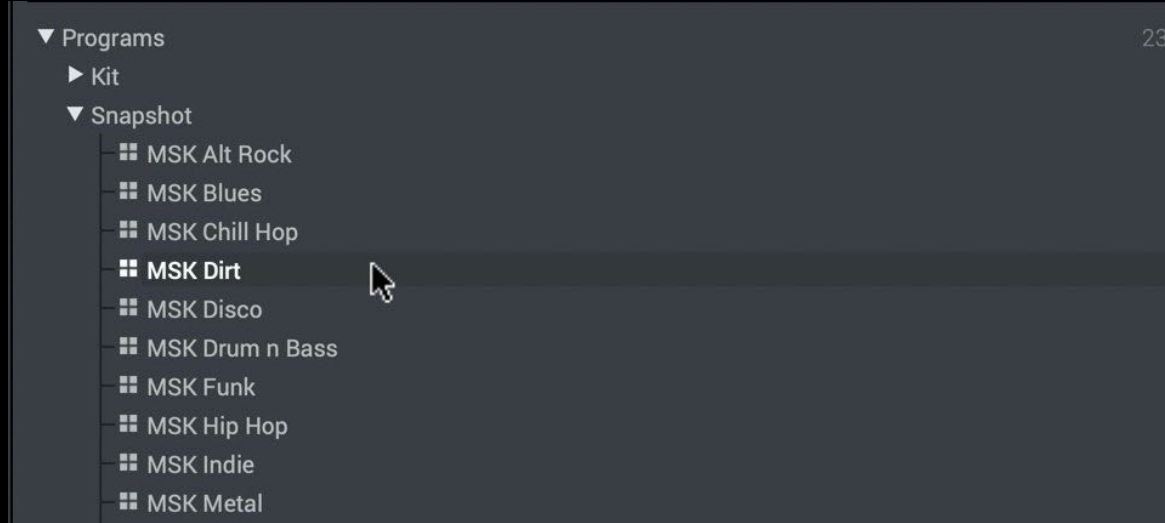
A FULLY MULTISAMPLED 2010 GATTON CORIAN DRUM KIT

▶ Programs	23
▶ Samples	130
▶ Patterns	234
▶ Sequences	23

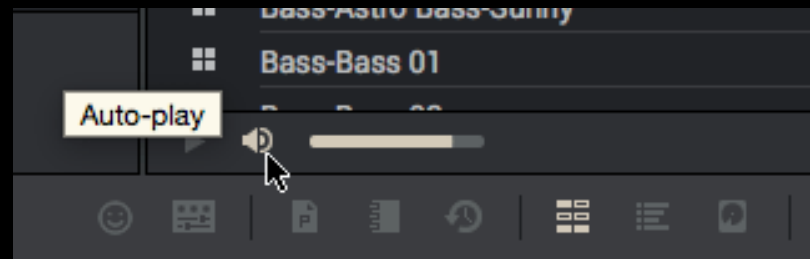
You will find the 'raw' acoustic kits within the '**Programs > Kits**' group, grouped by 'Velocity' and 'Round Robin':



Snapshot kits are found in the separate '**Snapshots**' group:

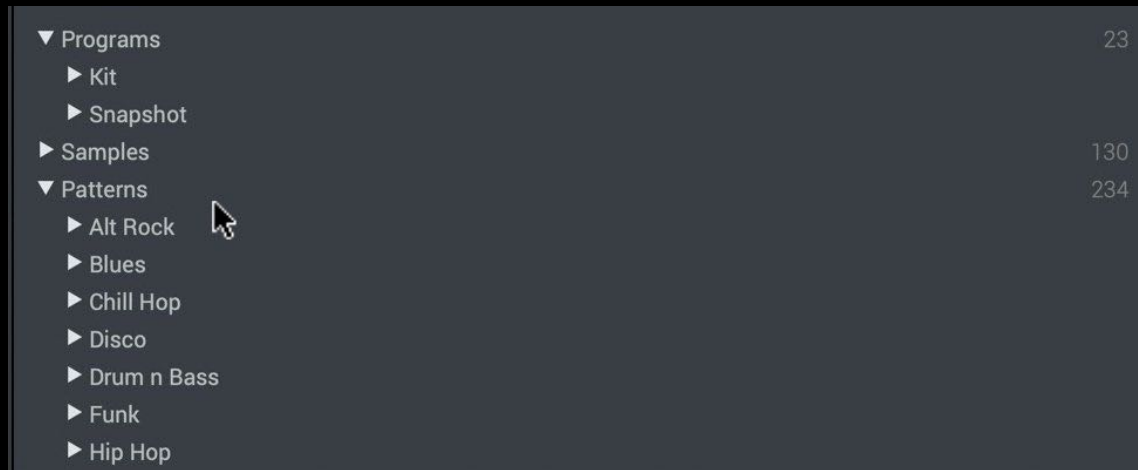


Single click the program to hear a preview (requires **'Autoplay'** enabled).

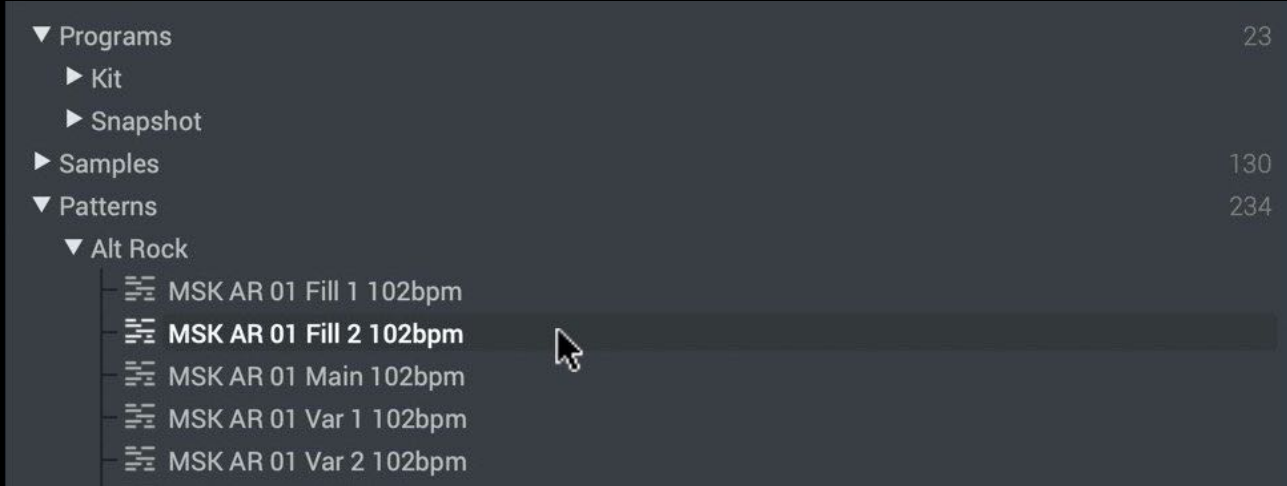


To load a kit, simply double-click the program or drag and drop it to a **'DRUM'** type track in your MPC sequence.

To load a pattern, first expand the **Patterns** group:

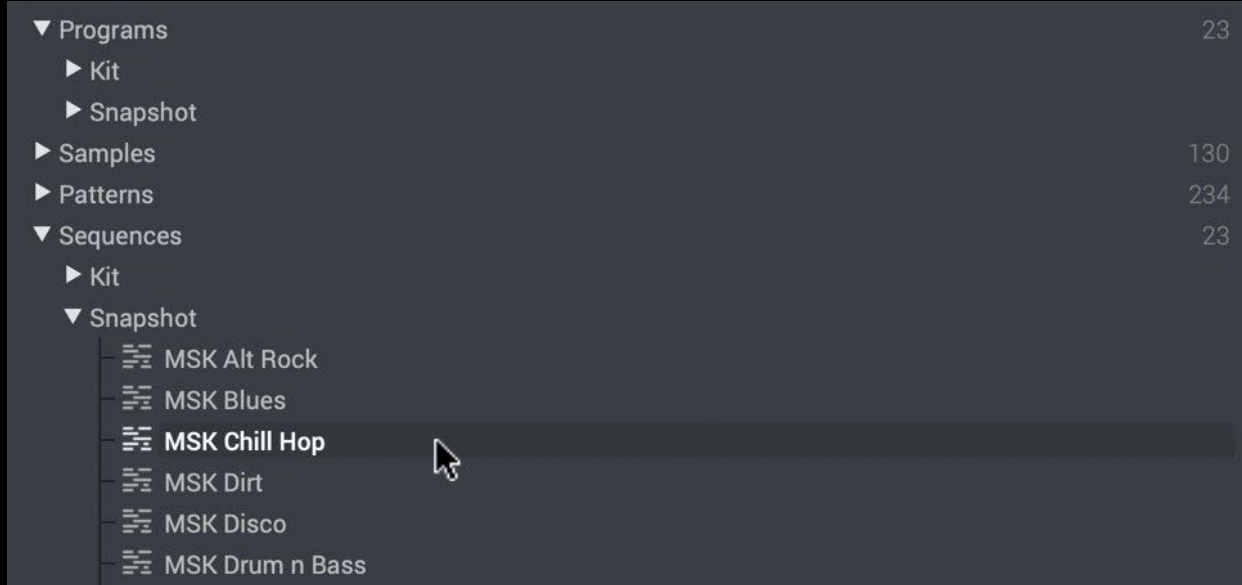


Expand a musical style to reveal the available grooves:



Single click on a pattern to preview the groove (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 DRUM track and assign a kit to this track.

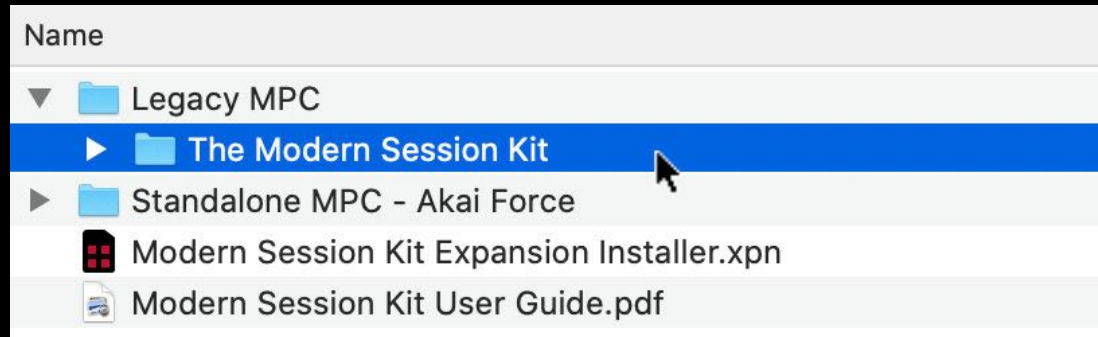
We've also provided a demo sequence for each kit – these are in the '**Sequences**' group:



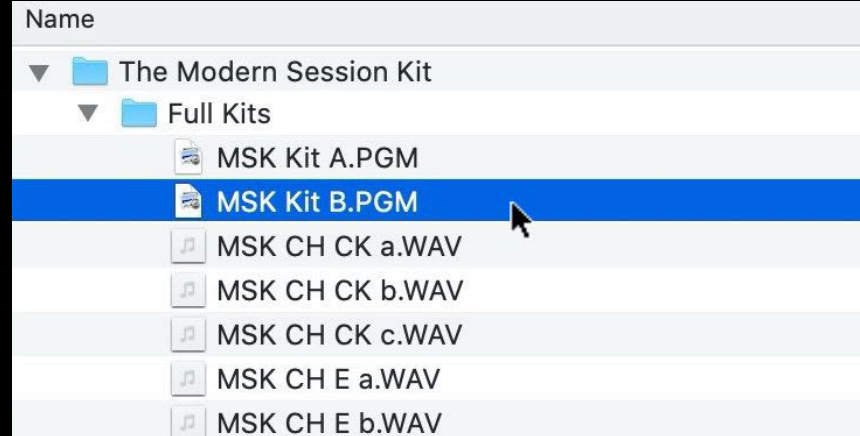
Just double click the sequence file to simultaneously load the demo sequence and the associated kit directly into your project.

Install: Legacy MPCs

In the **Legacy MPC** folder we have provided legacy versions of the two raw kits A and B which are compatible with the **MPC1000**, **MPC2500**, **MPC500** and **MPC5000**. Simply copy the '**Modern Session Kit**' folder to your MPC disk:



The 3-layer, 32 articulation versions of the kits are in the '**Full Kits**' sub folder (.PGM files):



These kits require approximately 22MB each. If you only have 16MB of RAM in your MPC you can use the kits found inside the 'Lite Kits' sub-folder. These kits contain just the primary 16 articulations in bank A (3 layers per pad) and require 11MB of RAM.

Finally the 'MIDI' sub folder contains all the MIDI grooves (as '.SEQ' files), with a recommended tempo already set. To use, load a SEQ file and assign your chosen drum kit to track 1. You can find more detailed legacy MPC transfer instructions here:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/article/mpc-file-transfers>

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/>

The Modern Session Kit 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/>

Copyright & License

'The Modern Session Kit', published by MPC-Samples.com, 2023.

All recordings, MPC program files & audio previews by **Pad Pimps**. Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. User guide by MPC-Samples.com. Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved.

License

MPC-Samples.com ('The Publisher') grants You a royalty free, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicenseable, worldwide License to use The Modern Session Kit ('The Product') to create Musical Compositions for You and for third party projects, such as songs, albums, soundtracks, video and computer games as well as for use in public performances and media presentations. All other rights in and to The Product, including, without limitation, all copyright and other intellectual property rights relating to The Product are fully retained by the Publisher. Under no circumstances can The Product, or modified versions of The Product, be re-distributed, re-sold, sub-licensed, or used to form any part of a commercial sample library. THE SOUNDS ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT REPRESENTATION, WARRANTY OR CONDITION OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE PUBLISHER DOES NOT REPRESENT OR WARRANT THAT THE

SOUNDS WILL MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS. THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO THE QUALITY, PERFORMANCE AND USE OF THE SOUNDS IS WITH YOU.

This License may be terminated without notice by The Publisher if at any time You fail to comply with any of its terms. Upon termination, You must immediately cease using The Sounds, delete all copies and archives of The Sounds and if requested, confirm to the Publisher in writing that You have complied with these requirements.

If You are unsure if this License covers Your intended use, please contact the Publisher for clarification; licensing@mpc-samples.com.

MPC-Samples.com is a trading name of Beat Box Digital LTD, a company registered in England & Wales, no. 06810062