



PROSTUDIOKIT3

A FULLY MULTISAMPLED SONOR DESIGNER ACOUSTIC DRUM KIT



INSTALLATION & USER GUIDE

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The Pro Studio Kit 3: Introduction

- **The Pro Studio Kit** is a multisampled **Sonor Designer** drum kit, a flagship drum kit used in many studios across the world. The kit has an impressively fat warm tone and huge projection and is suitable for creating realistic acoustic drum performances in any genre.
- Version 3 of the kit is built around 25 unique drum articulations, each recorded with up to **12 velocity layers** to perfectly capture the original dynamics and tonal variances of the kit. All sounds are mapped to ready-to-play MPC kits along with additional 'snapshots' covering a range of genres and styles.
- 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+, the **Akai Force**, the **MPC Software**, and the **MPC Beats App**. A legacy version is also provided for **MPC1000/2500/500/5000**

What's Inside?

In this expansion we teamed up Mu Studios (Sheffield, UK) and veteran drummer Darren Ford to record a **2006 Sonor Designer Series Maple Kit**, featuring **25 different drum articulations**, each recorded with up to **12 velocity levels**.



Multiple Kits & Snapshots

With the version 3 update, 25 drum and percussion articulations have been organised into ready-to-play MPC kits, with 'Lite' versions for reduced memory requirements and 16 'snapshot' kits which use the MPC/Force internal FX and other program parameters to create a range of different sounding kits for different musical styles.

All kits feature the same core layout so you can easily try out different kits with your recorded sequences.

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.

MIDI Grooves

Each kit comes with its own pre-recorded browser previews and we've included all the required MIDI to recreate these grooves in your MPC/Force. All MIDI is provided as MPC 'sxq' files (for MPC only) and MIDI 'pattern' files (suitable for MPC & Force).

Full loading instructions are included later in this guide.

Sample Chains

The Pro Studio 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 and the project window.

Find out more about sample chains here:

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

Articulations & Recording Chain

The Pro Studio Kit contains the following articulations:

Instrument	Articulations	Maximum Dynamics
22" Sonor Kick Drum	Isolated With snare bleed	12 velocities, 4 round robins
14" Sonor Floor Tom	Centre hit	12 velocities, 4 round robins
12" Sonor Rack Tom	Centre hit	12 velocities, 4 round robins
14 x5" Sonor Artiste Snare	Centre Edge Rim Shot Cross Stick Flam (double hit) Drag (short buzz roll) Roll (long, looped roll with note off release)	12 velocities, 4 round robins (long snare roll only available as 2 round robins)

13" Zildjian k custom hi hat	Tight Closed Centre Tip Tight Closed Edge Closed Edge Hit Open Full Open Tip Pedal Shut Pedal Open	12 velocities, 4 round robins (open hats = 8 velocities)
18" Zildjian K Custom Ride	Centre Edge Bell	8 velocities, 4 round robins
18" Zildjian K Custom Fast Crash	Centre Edge	8 velocities, 4 round robins
Cowbell	Open Muted	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, Neumann U47, Yamaha Sub Kick Mic

Snare: Shure SM57, Neumann TLM 103

Toms: AKG C414

Overheads: Neumann KM 84

Room: Neumann U87

'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 Pro Studio Kit each 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).

Kit Layout & Snapshot Genres

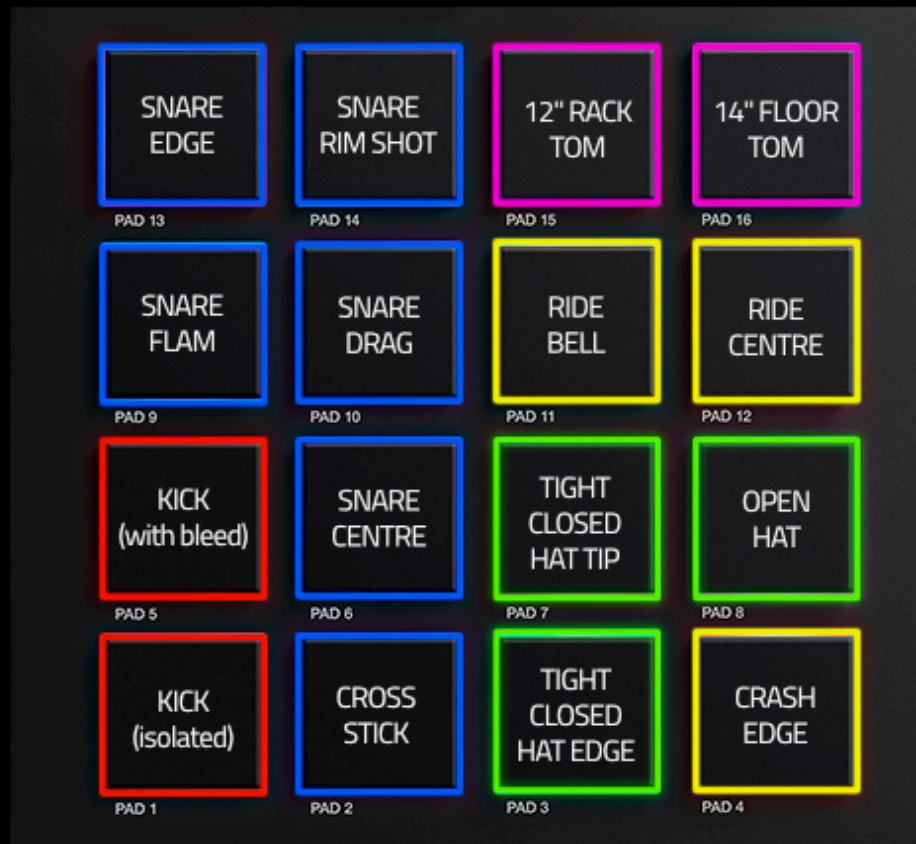
In addition to the complete 'raw' kit (provided in both 'velocity switching' and 'round robin formats), we've provided many different pre-built 'snapshot' kits as part of this expansion.

The kit named '**Pro Studio Kit**' is the full 25 articulation kit which utilises the maximum available dynamic levels (and hence uses the most memory of all the provided kits).

'**Lite**' kit is a reduced size versions of the kit with 16 articulations in bank A only.

'**Snapshots**' contain FX processing and other tweaked program parameters and are each tailored to a specific musical genre (these kits are all 'round robin' kits).

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 9 additional articulations:



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

In all kits, closed hi hats mute the open hats (including the open pedal hat).

The long ‘snare roll’ articulation (pad B02) is a looped sample rather than a one shot. Simply hold down for as long as you need the roll to last. Upon release the roll will end with a final snare hit.

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

Kit Name	Velocity Kit Size	Round Robin Kit Size	Notes
Pro Studio Kit	190MB	93MB	12 velocity dynamics, 4 round robins.
Pro Studio Lite	106MB	46MB	16 articulations, reduced cymbal dynamics.
PSK Indie Rock	74MB	Full dynamics in bank A, reduced dynamics in bank B. Includes FX, additional samples and other program parameter adjustments to obtain desired sound.	
PSK Blues	74MB		
PSK Boom Bap	74MB		
PSK Tripped	74MB		
PSK Disco	74MB		
PSK Jungle	74MB		
PSK Funk	74MB		
PSK Hip Hop Kit	74MB		
PSK Jazz	74MB		

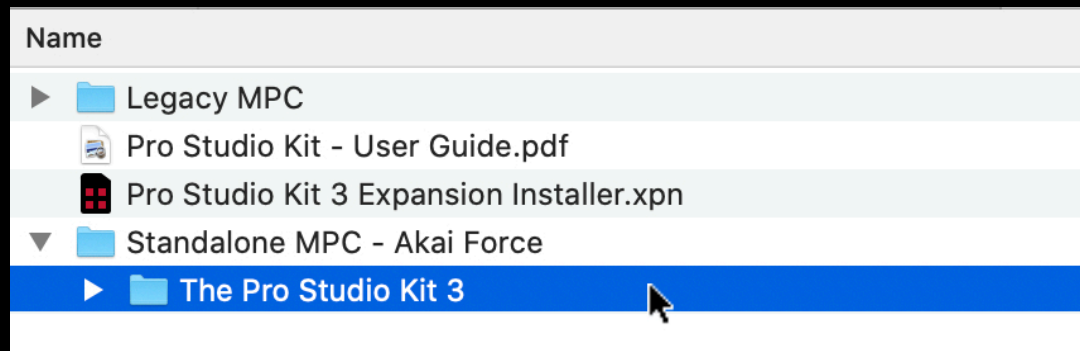
PSK Rock	74MB	
PSK Ambient	74MB	
PSK Neo Soul	74MB	
PSK Pop	74MB	
PSK Tough	74MB	
PSK Chunked	74MB	
PSK Heavy	74MB	

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.

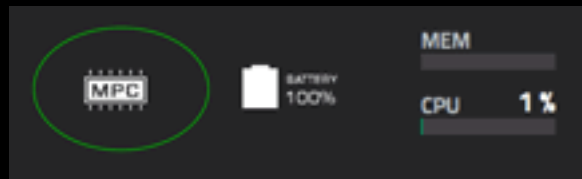
Enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**The Pro Studio Kit 3**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your MPC/Force.



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

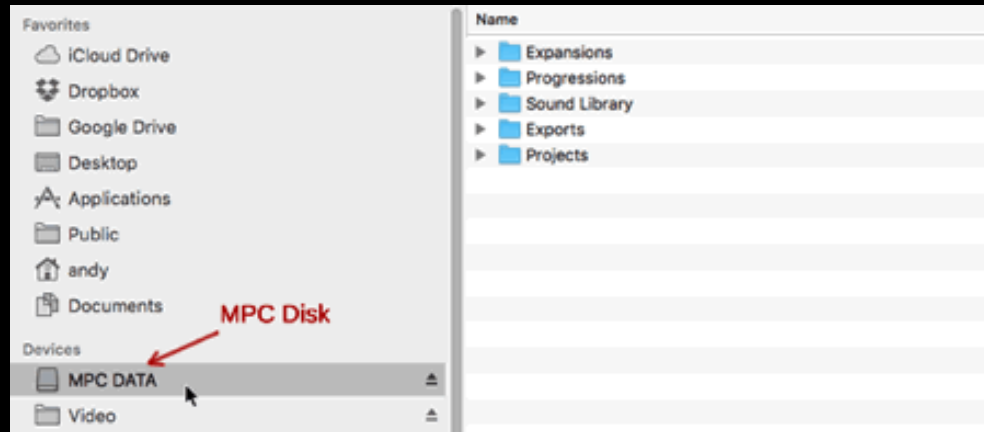
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' on your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, you can just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

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).

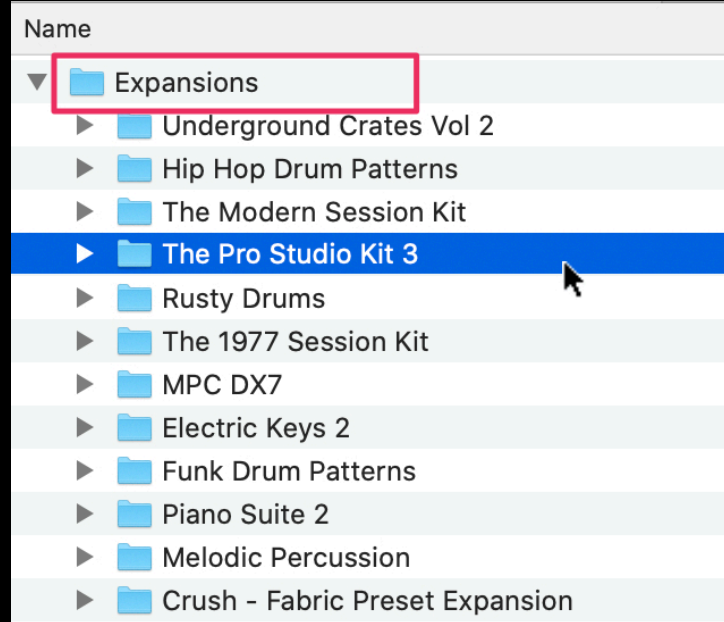


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('**COMPUTER MODE**' in the Force).

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 Pro Studio Kit 3**' standalone expansion folder *inside* this 'Expansions' folder.

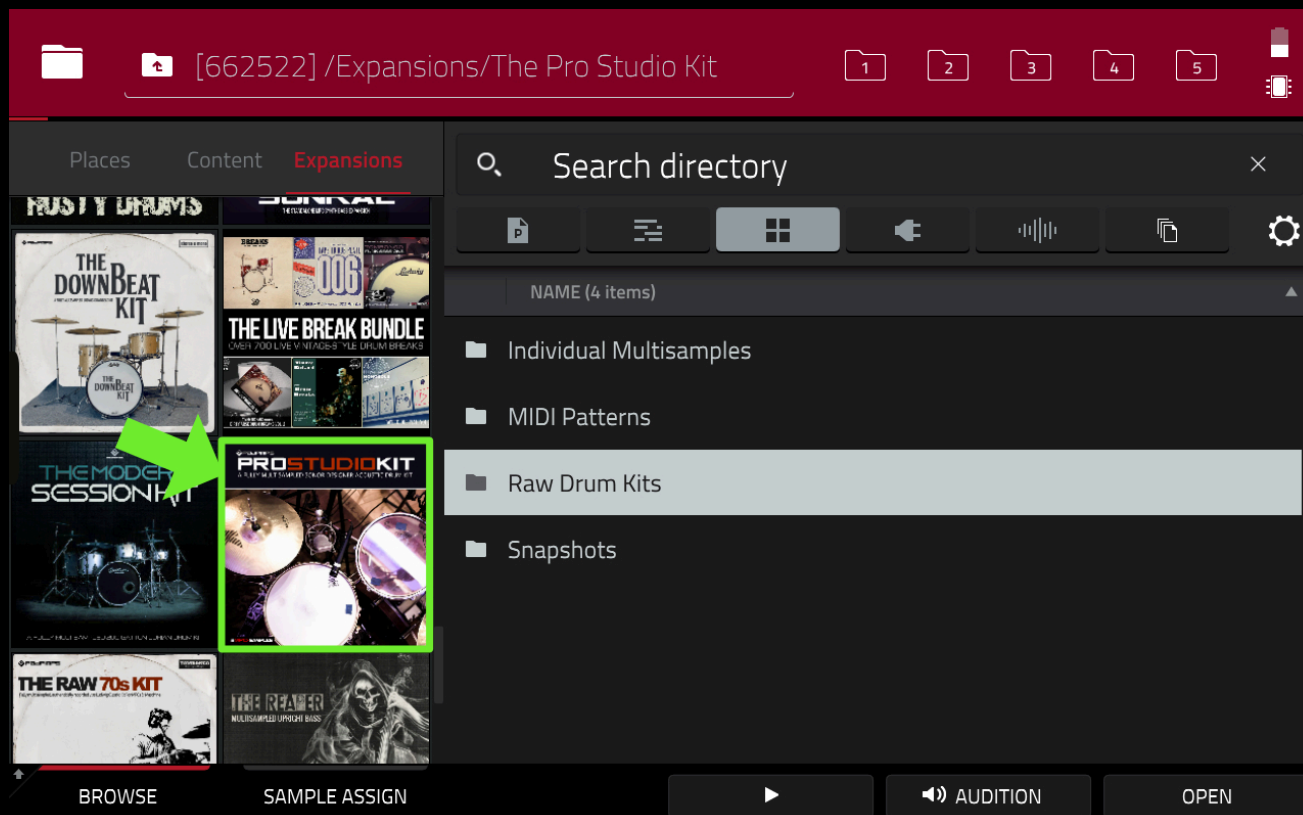


All done! If you had physically transferred the MPC disk to your computer you should now eject the disk from your computer and put the disk back in your MPC.

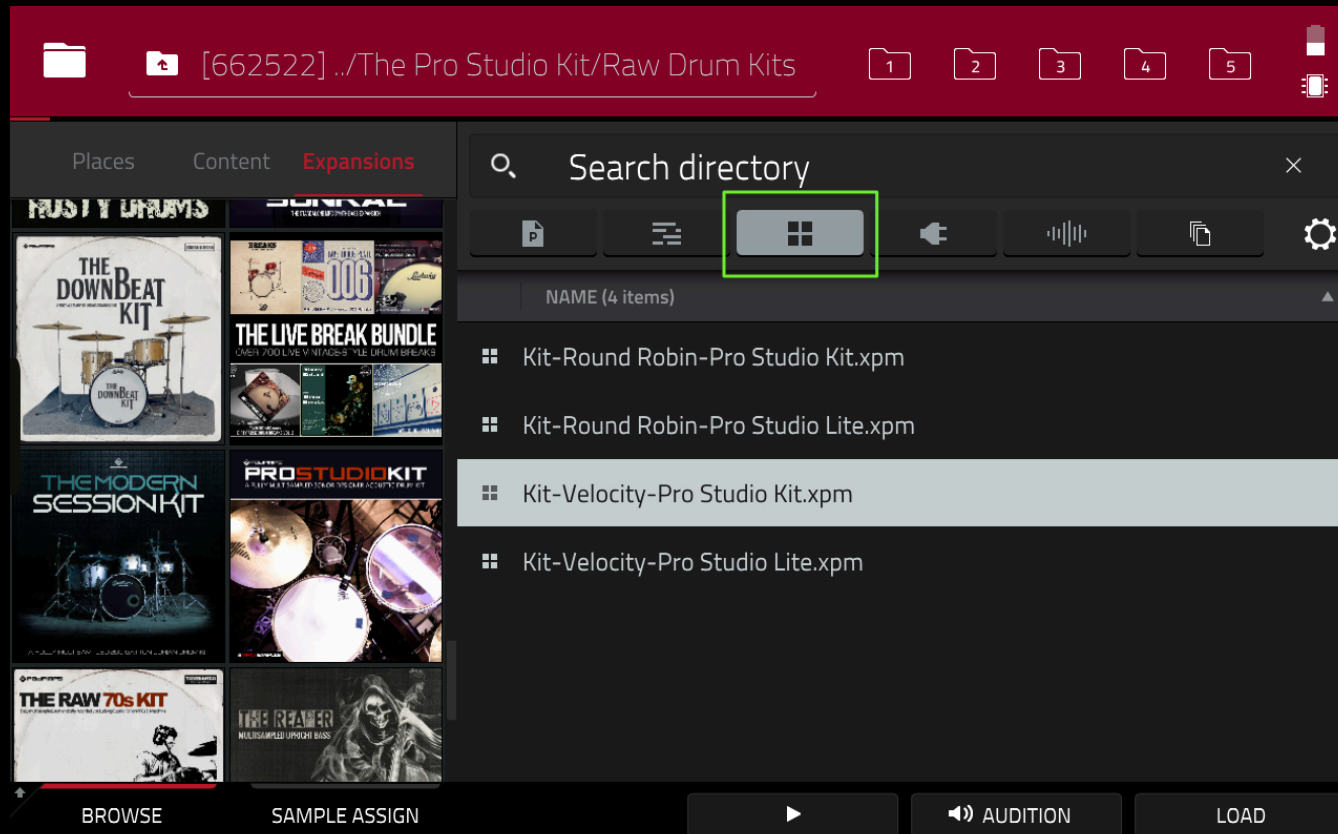
Alternatively, if you used USB transfer then go back to **MENU** and select the computer icon to return to standalone mode - *don't forget to eject/unmount the MPC from your computer first, this avoids any potential data loss.*

Loading Kits & MIDI (Standalone MPC/Force)

Go to 'MENU > BROWSER > Expansions' and tap on the 'The Pro Studio Kit 3' thumbnail. On the right, you'll see multiple folders:

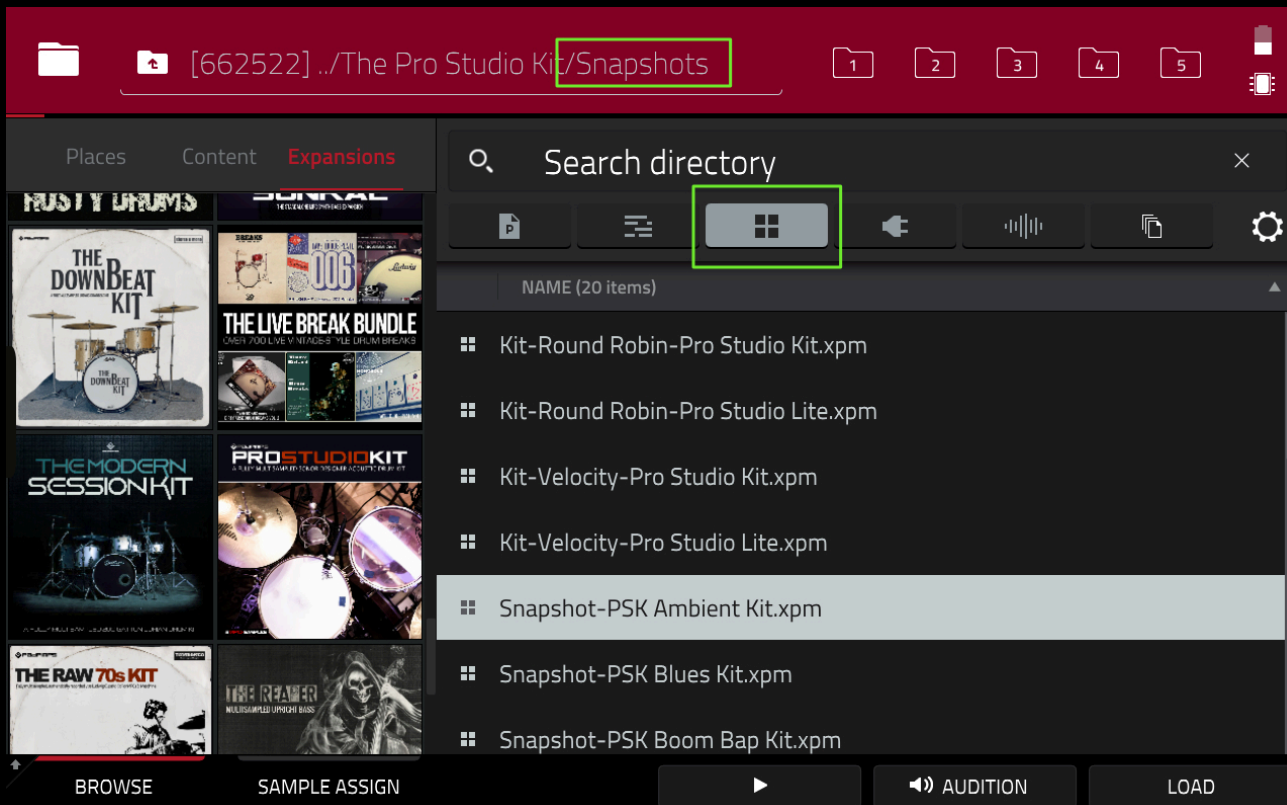


To browse the 'raw' (un-effected) kits, enter the 'Raw Drum Kits' folder and select the **PROGRAM** filter:



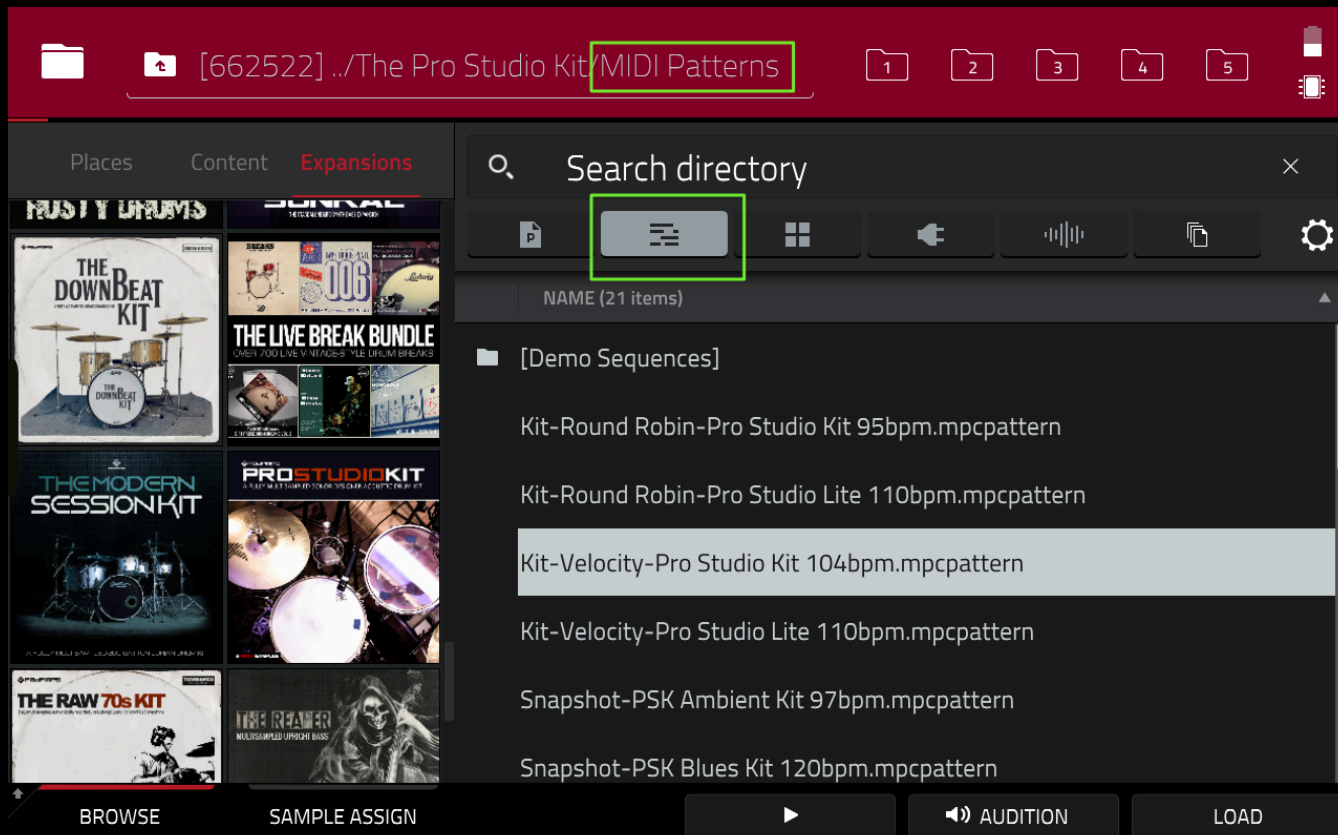
If you have '**AUDITION > AUTO**' enabled (bottom right of BROWSER screen) you can tap any program file to hear a preview of each kit before you load it. Double tap to load the kit into your project and assign it to a '**DRUM**' type track in your current sequence in **MAIN**.

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

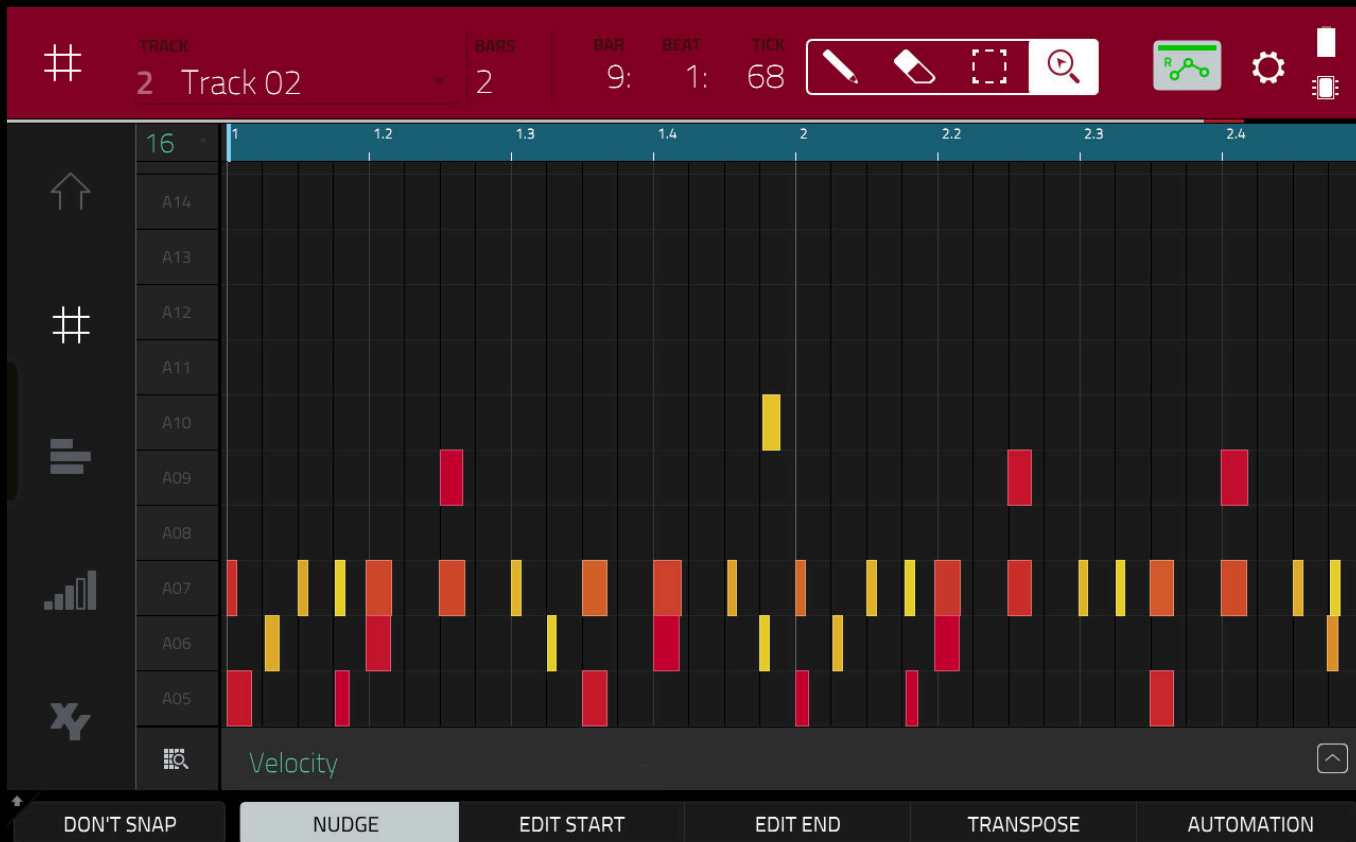
Head back to the root location of the expansion and enter the 'MIDI' folder – select the 'MIDI' filter to view all the available MIDI patterns:



These contain all the MIDI used to create the various kit 'browser previews' – you can use any KIDI pattern with any of the supplied kits. 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.

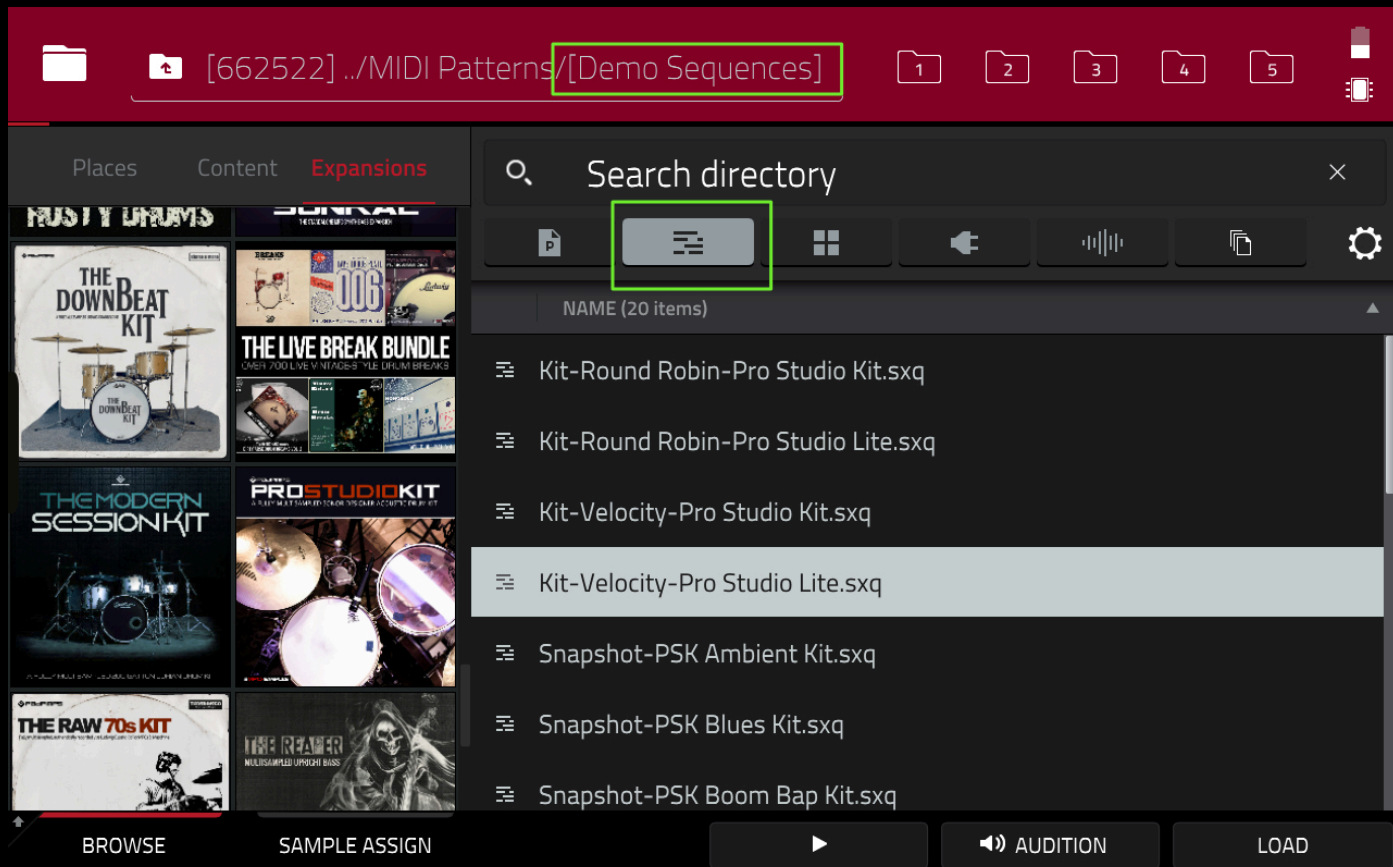


You can now view and manipulate the MIDI data using the MPC's many different sequencing functions (e.g. **LIST EDIT**, **GRID VIEW**, **MAIN**, etc). Check out the MPC Bible for many sequencing tutorials and workflows:

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

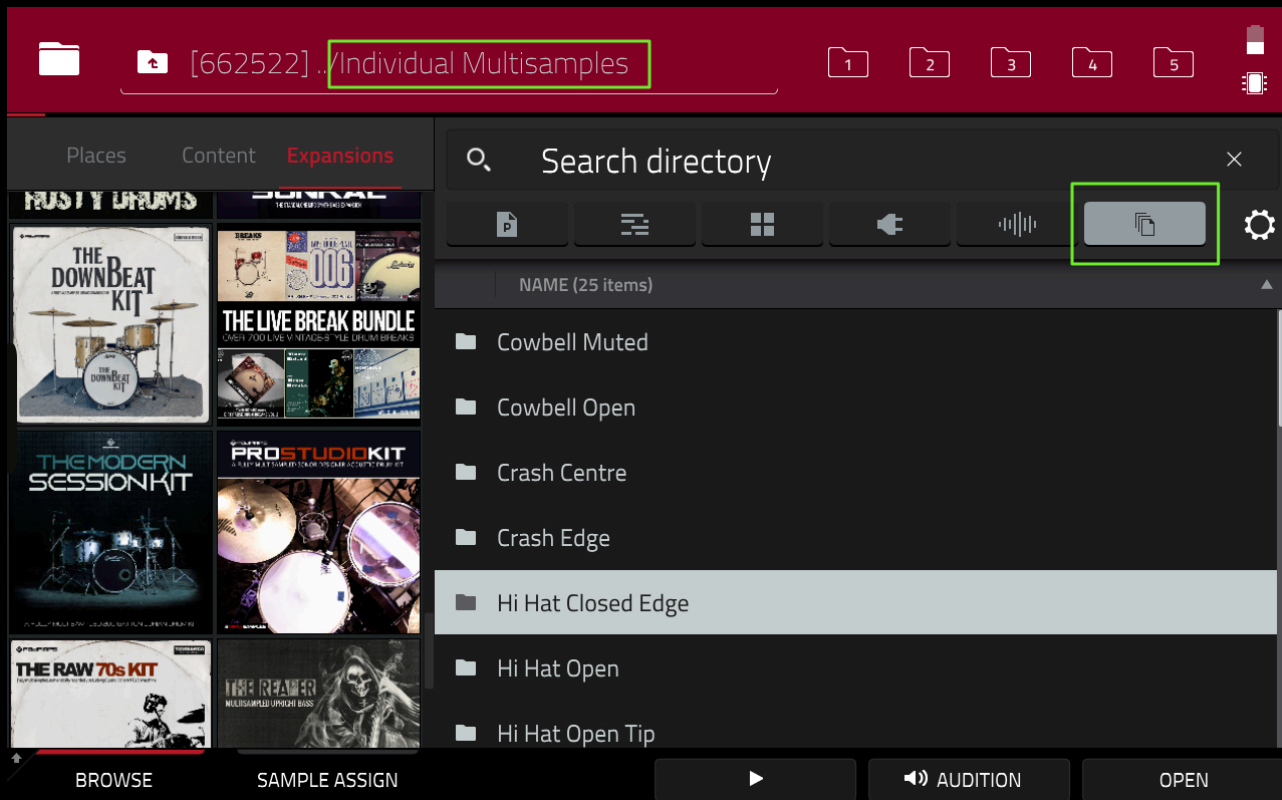
MPC Sequences

We have also included the browser previews in MPC 'sequence' format (suitable for MPC only). These can also be found in the '**[Demo Sequences]**' sub folder – again, make sure the 'MIDI' filter is enabled:



Individual Multisamples

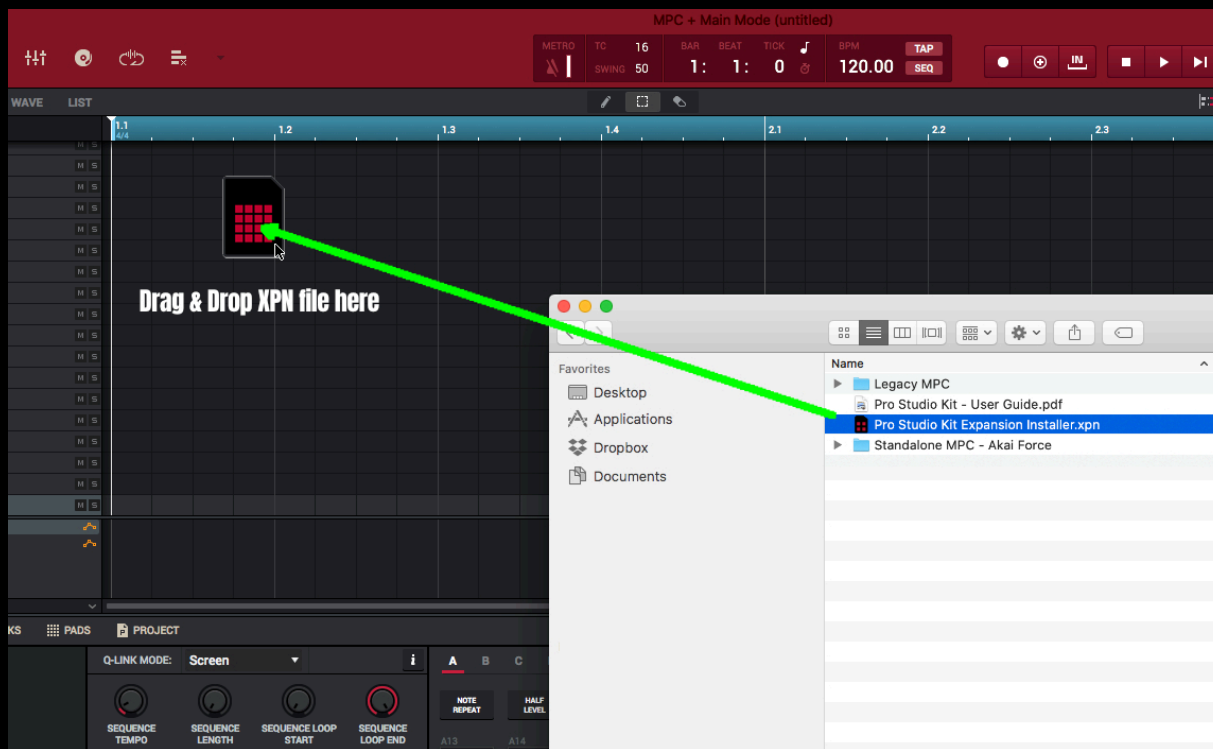
If you wish you can also build your own custom kits using the individual samples provided in the 'Individual Multisamples' folder:



Multisamples are grouped into folders for each unique articulation. Simply preview and load to your custom drum kit pads as you would any normal WAV sample.

Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App

Locate the 'Pro Studio Kit 3 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 'Pro Studio Kit 3' thumbnail to view:



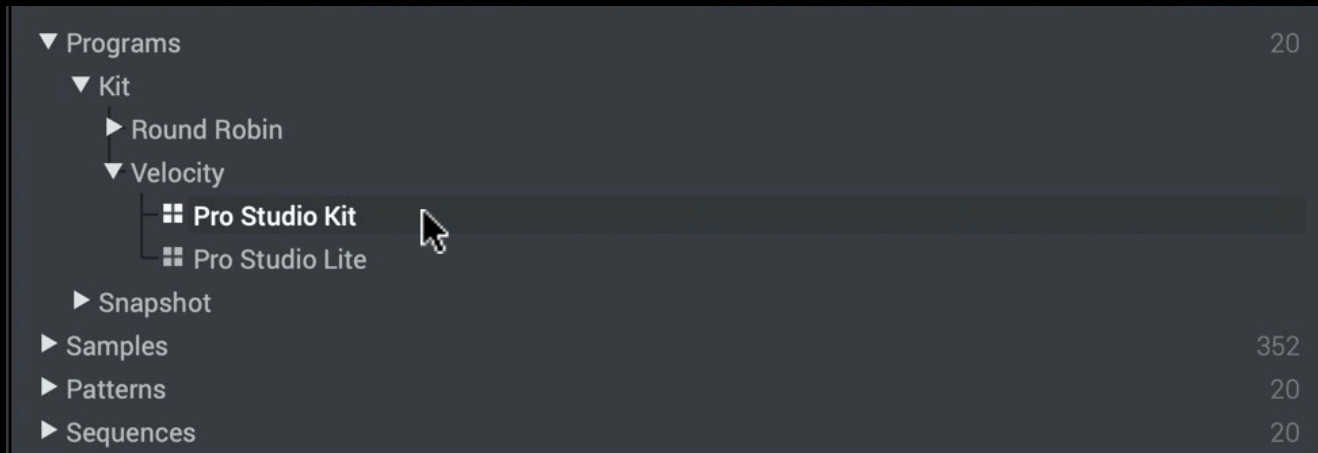
The Pro Studio Kit 3
Pad Pimps

PAD PIMPS
PROSTUDIOKIT3
A FULLY MULTISAMPLED SONOR DESIGNER ACOUSTIC DRUM KIT

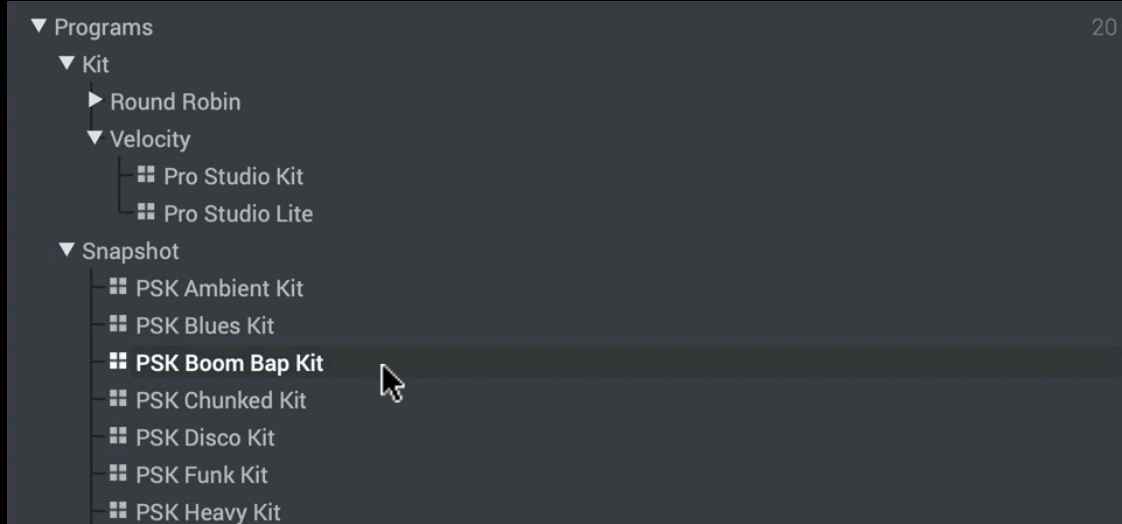
MPC-SAMPLES

▶ Programs	20
▶ Samples	352
▶ Patterns	20
▶ Sequences	20

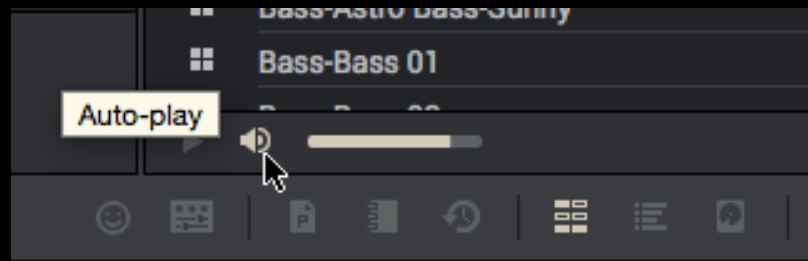
You will find the 'raw' acoustic kits within the '**Programs > Kits**' group, grouped by 'Velocity' and 'Round Robin':



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

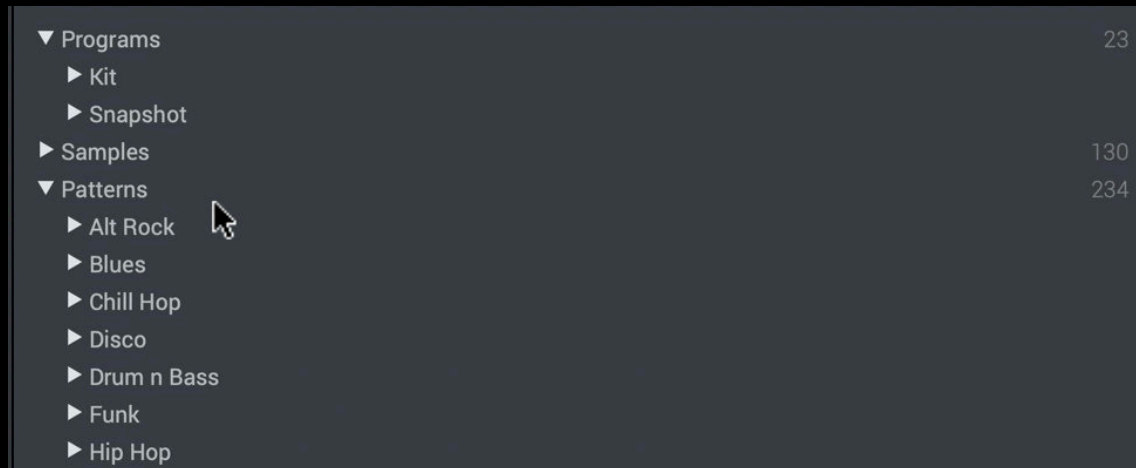


Single click the program to hear a preview (requires **'Autoplay'** enabled).



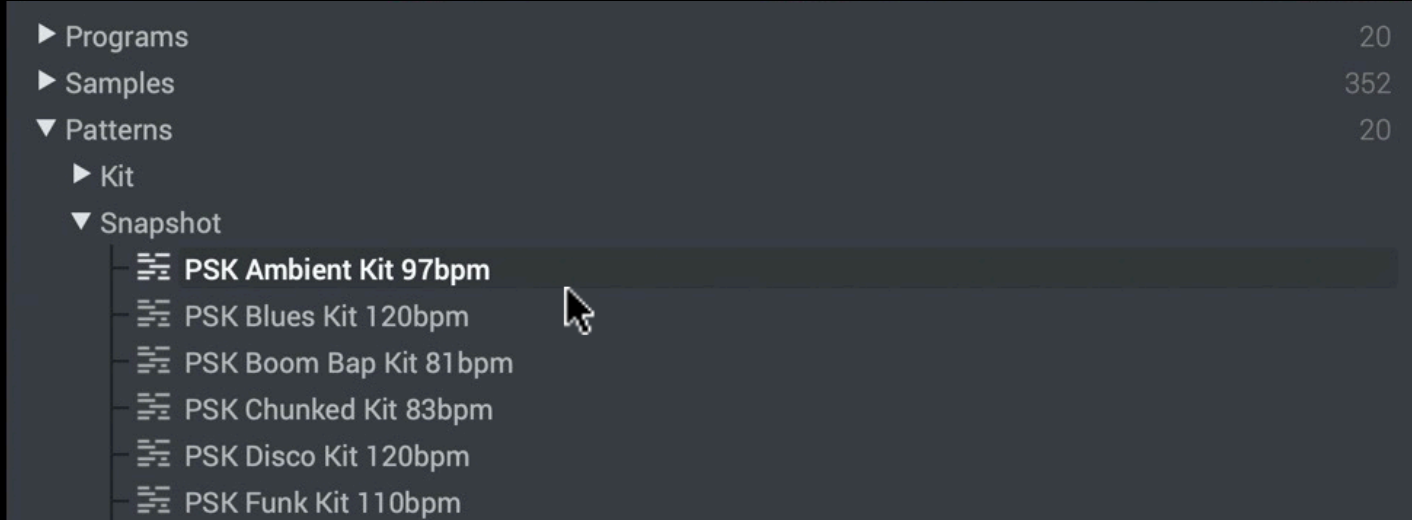
To load a kit, simply double-click the program or drag and drop it to a **'DRUM'** type track in your MPC sequence.

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



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.

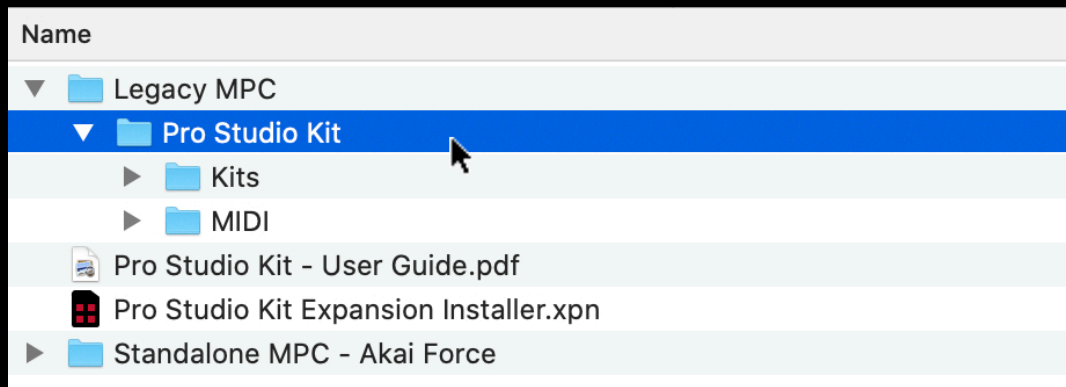
We've also provided the same MIDI as a 'demo sequence' for each kit – these are in the '**Sequences**' group:



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

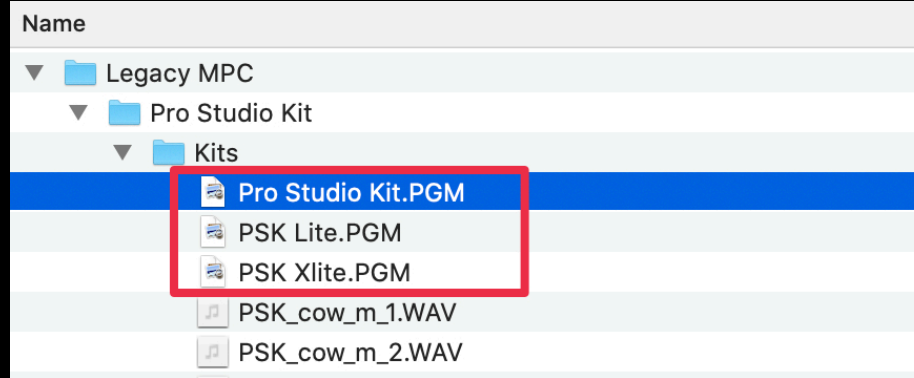
Legacy MPC Information

In the **Legacy MPC** folder we have provided a legacy MPC versions of the kits and MIDI grooves, suitable for the MPC1000, MPC2500, JJOS, MPC500 and MPC5000.



Just transfer the entire '**Pro Studio Kit**' folder to your legacy MPC disk using your preferred method. You can find more detailed transfer instructions here: <https://www.mpc-samples.com/article/transfer-legacy-mpc-samplepacks>

Inside the '**Kits**' folder you'll find the following:



The full 25 articulation kit is '**Pro Studio Kit.PGM**', and requires 18MB to load. The **PSK Lite** kit uses reduced velocities on all long cymbals and only needs 10MB. Or use the **PSK Xlite** kit which features just 16 articulations in bank A and only requires 6MB.

In the **MIDI** folder you'll find all 20 MIDI grooves in MPC 'seq' format.

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/>

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