



PADPIMPS PRESENTS

THE UNDERGROUND CRATES

MPC EXPANSION EDITION

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Installation

For the most up-to-date, step-by-step installation instructions for your MPC/Force, please refer to our comprehensive set of installation guides on our web site:

<https://www.mpc-samples.com/support/expansions>

Underground Crates was built for any modern MPC or Force running **MPC 2.13 or greater**. We've also included versions compatible with the **MPC Sample** & most legacy MPCs.

Requirements are as follows:

Any modern standalone MPC running MPC 2.13+

MPC Sample running 1.2.1+

MPC Software / MPC Beats 2.13+

Akai Force 3.3+

Legacy MPCs: MPC1000, MPC2500, MPC500, MPC5000, MPC4000, MPC2000/XL

What's Inside?

'**The Underground Crates**' expansion features a sublime blend of boom bap, instrumental hip hop, downbeat & lofi, with kits, sequences and dusty instruments inspired by legendary producers such as Dilla, Rock, DJ Shadow & Madlib.

The modern MPC expansion contains **25 hip hop themes** each consisting of a 16 pad kit (in DRUM format) and a matching sequence made from the sounds in the kit.

Kits generally contain the following sounds:

- **Drums:** two kicks, two snares, closed & open hat, crash, ride
- **Percussion:** clap, snap, shaker and tambourine
- **Melodic One Shots:** Bass tone, lead tone and two chord/hit sounds.

All kits are color-coded for easy identification of the various sounds:



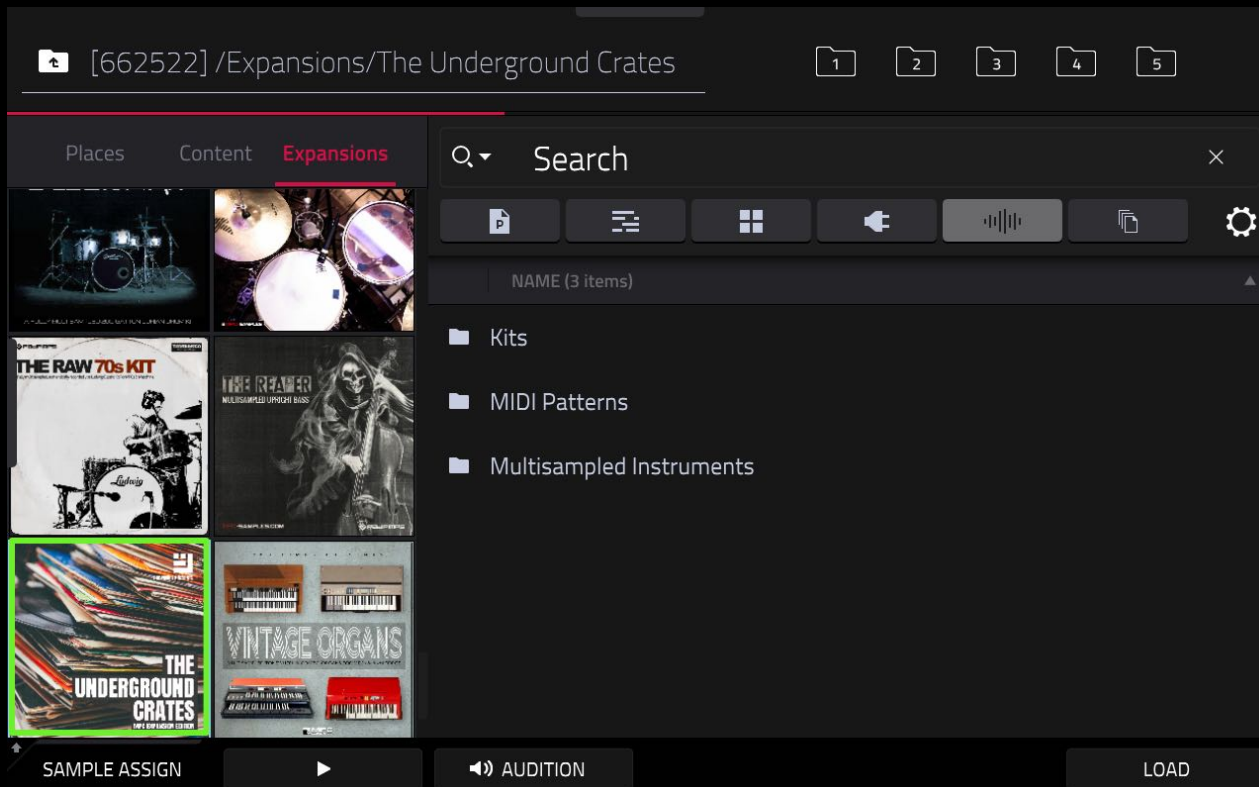
The closed hat in each kit is configured to mute/cut the open hat.

The four melodic tones on the top row can be combined with 16 LEVELS to create custom melodic lines.

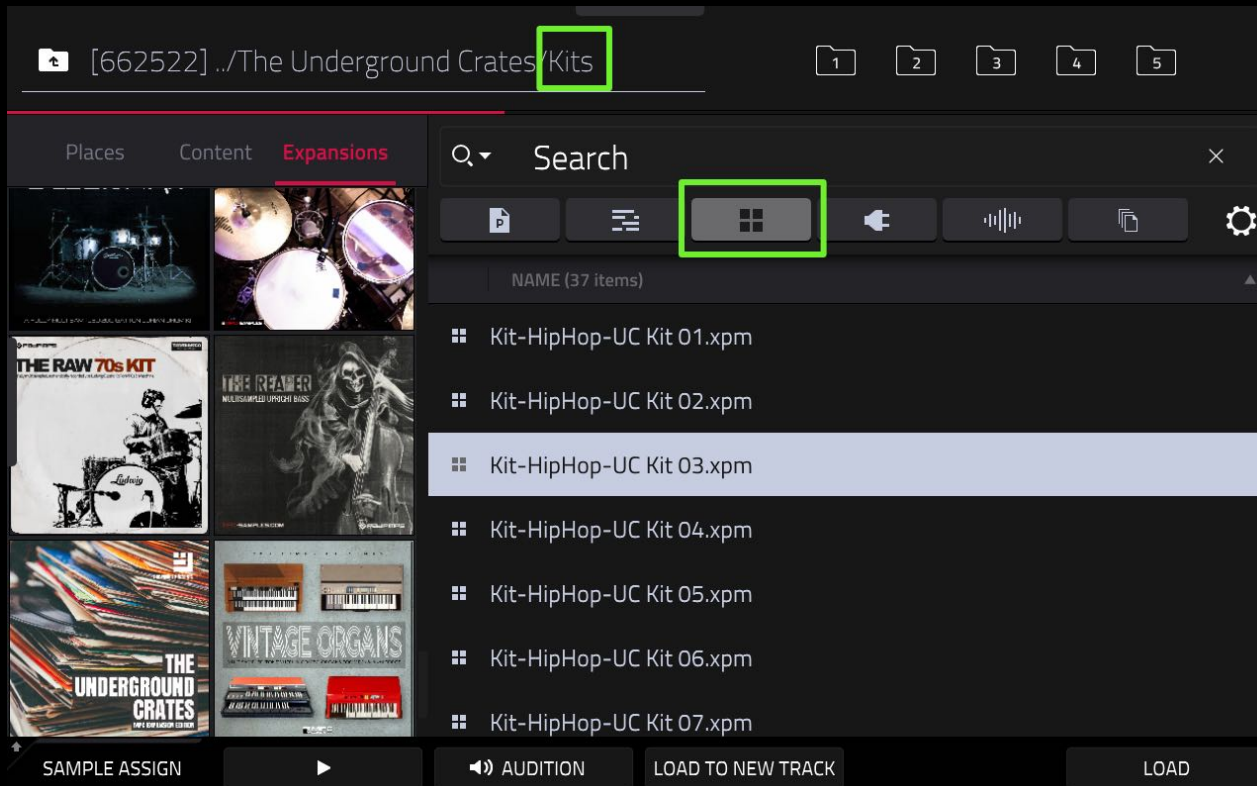
For MPCs that support keygroups, we've included 18 sampled instruments including acoustic piano, Rhodes, Wurlitzer, custom keys, sub basses, acoustic double bass and acoustic and synth lead sounds. For the Akai MPC Sample we've added a playable multisampled instrument in PAD BANK B which is pre-mapped to a scale that compliments the main theme.

Standalone MPC / Force

After [installation](#), go to 'MENU > BROWSER > Expansions', tap on the 'Underground Crates' thumbnail:

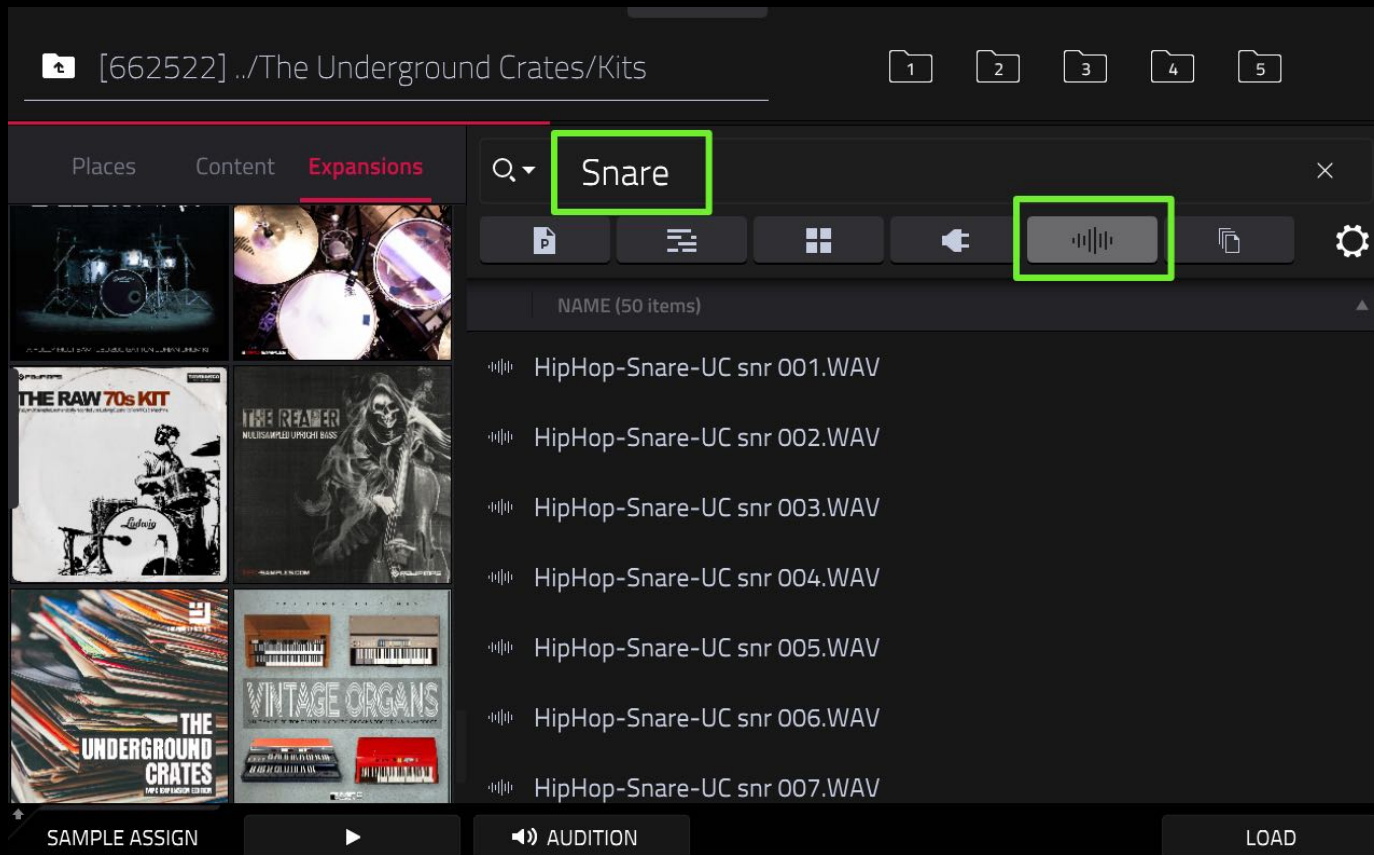


Enter the 'Kits' folder and select the **PROGRAM** filter to view all kits:

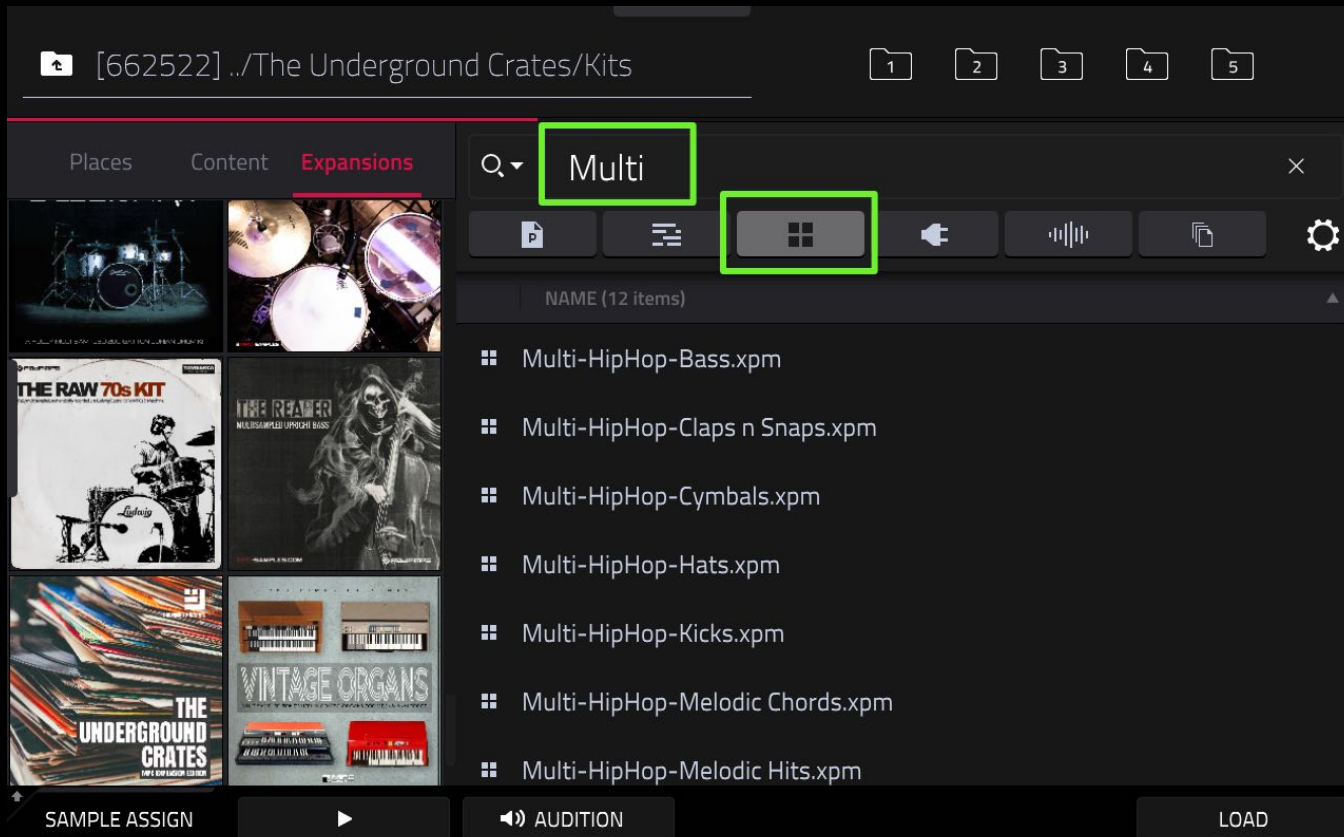


Single tap/click a kit to hear a preview (requires '**AUDITION >AUTO**'). Double tap to load the kit directly into your project.

Select the 'Samples' filter to view individual samples – combine this with the 'Search directory' option to filter the results by 'tag'; for example, enter 'Snare' to display only snare samples:



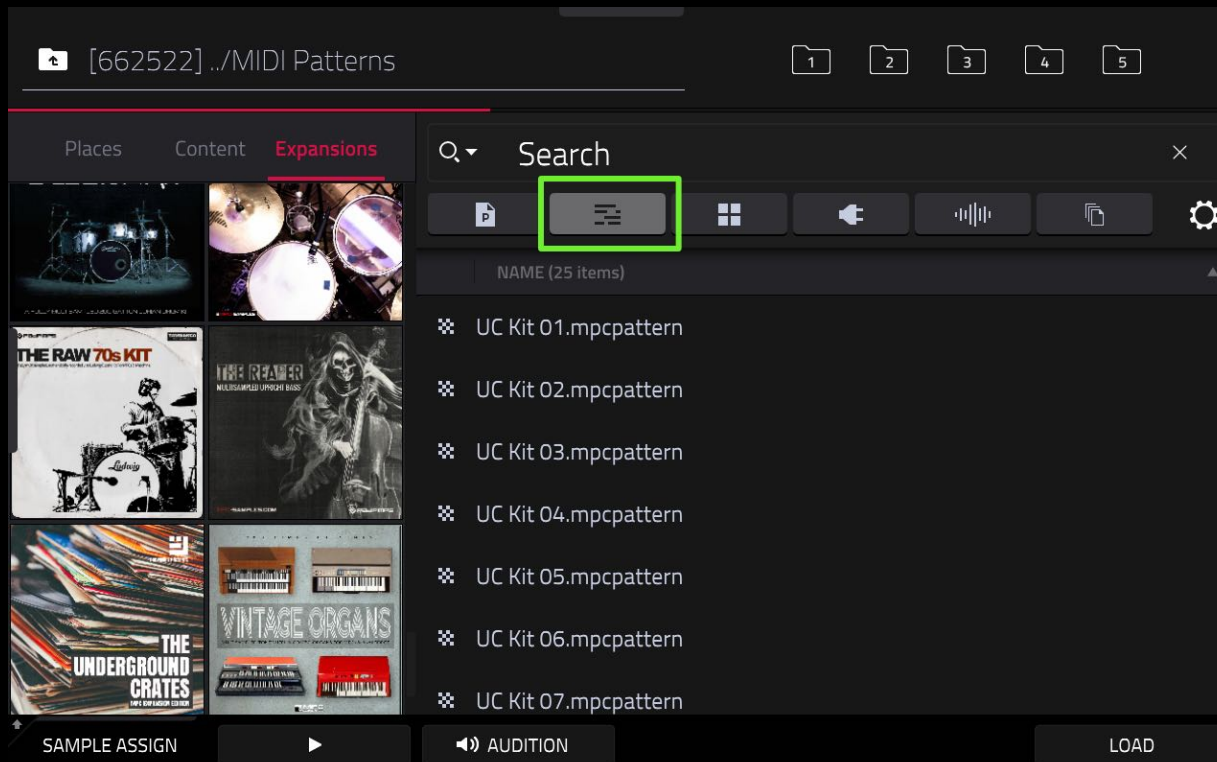
If you prefer to audition sounds from your pads to build custom kits, select the **Program** filter and search for the term **'Multi'**.



These 'multi' programs load one specific type of sound into memory and automatically map them across the pads for easy preview.

Enter the 'Multisampled Instruments' folder to view the 18 sampled keygroup instruments:

Enter the 'MIDI Patterns' folder with the '**MIDI**' filter enabled to display the MIDI patterns – these are 4 bar 'theme' sequences made for each kit. Each has its own browser audio preview.

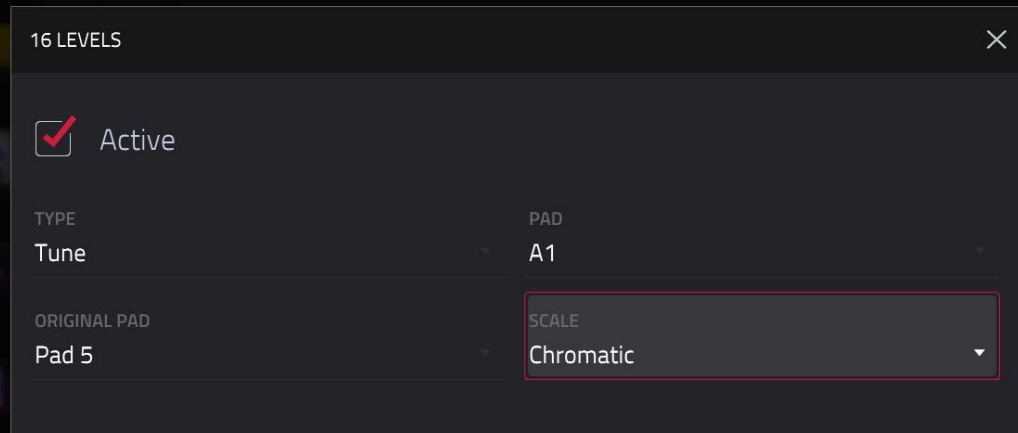


Double tap an **mpcpattern** file to load the theme as a pattern to the current track in an MPC3 project. You can experiment by assigning different kits to each sequence (all kits are laid out identically, so it's easy to mix and match).

In MPC2, the pattern will be loaded to the first available 'unused' track in the current sequence.

Using 16 LEVELS & Keygroups

To create melodic lines, hit a pad on the top row, e.g. the bass on pad **A13**, press the **16 LEVEL** button, select **TUNE** and set the **ORIGINAL PAD** to your preferred setting (I often set this to 5). You can also select a preferred scale – if in doubt, use 'chromatic':



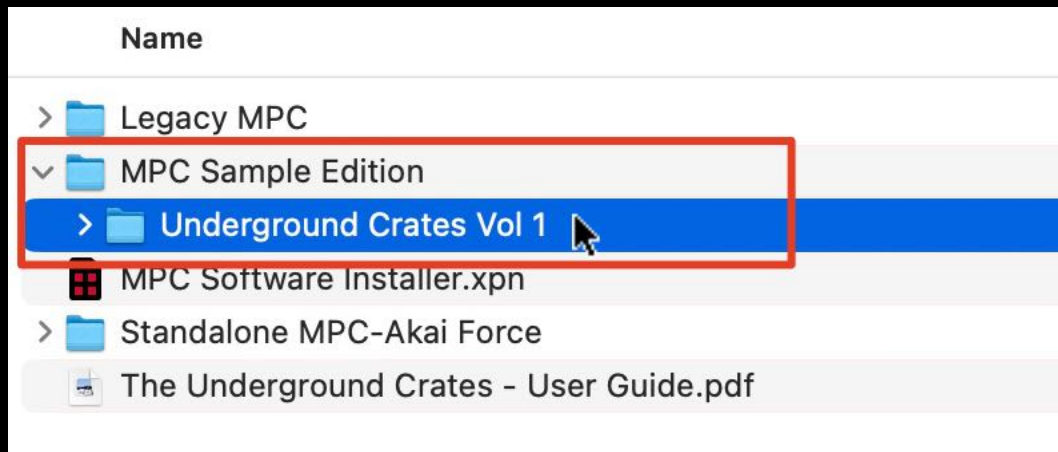
Hit **CLOSE** and you'll now find the MPC has mapped your bass tone chromatically across all 16 pads. You can now use the pads to record a bass line to your sequence; when you are finished, remember to press the 16 LEVEL button again to exit 16 level mode. You can also use 16 LEVEL on any other melodic one shot on the top row of your kit.

You can also create melodies, chords and riffs with the included sample instruments. Simply load an instrument to a **KEYGROUP** type track in your sequence and play with your pads or an attached keyboard controller.

All instruments are fully compatible with **Pad Perform Mode** ('Notes Mode' in the Akai Force) which can configure your pads to only play back notes from specified scales, or can be used to trigger entire chords from each pad.

Akai MPC Sample

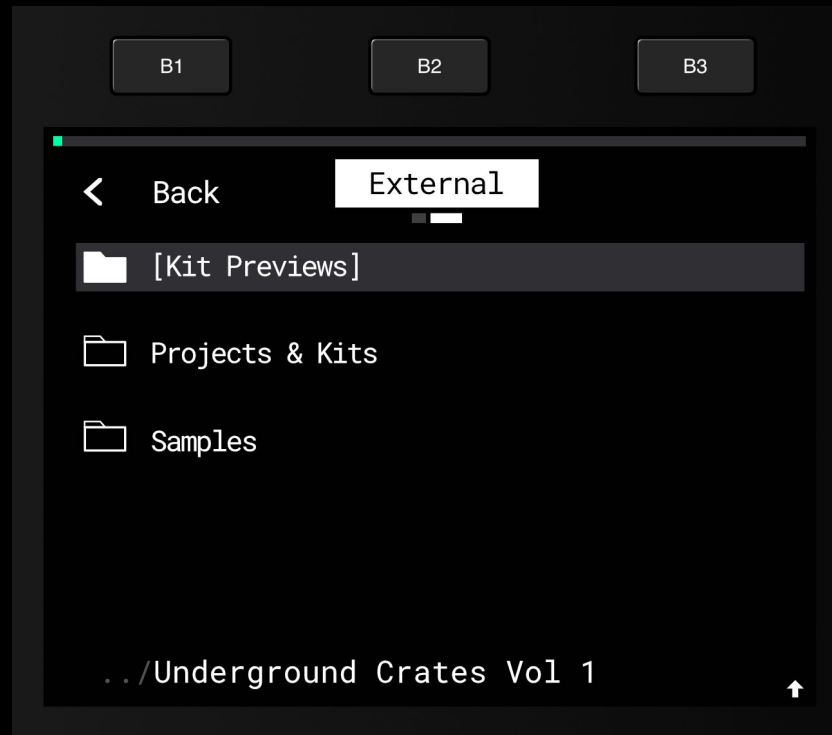
From the downloaded files, enter the 'MPC Sample Edition' folder:



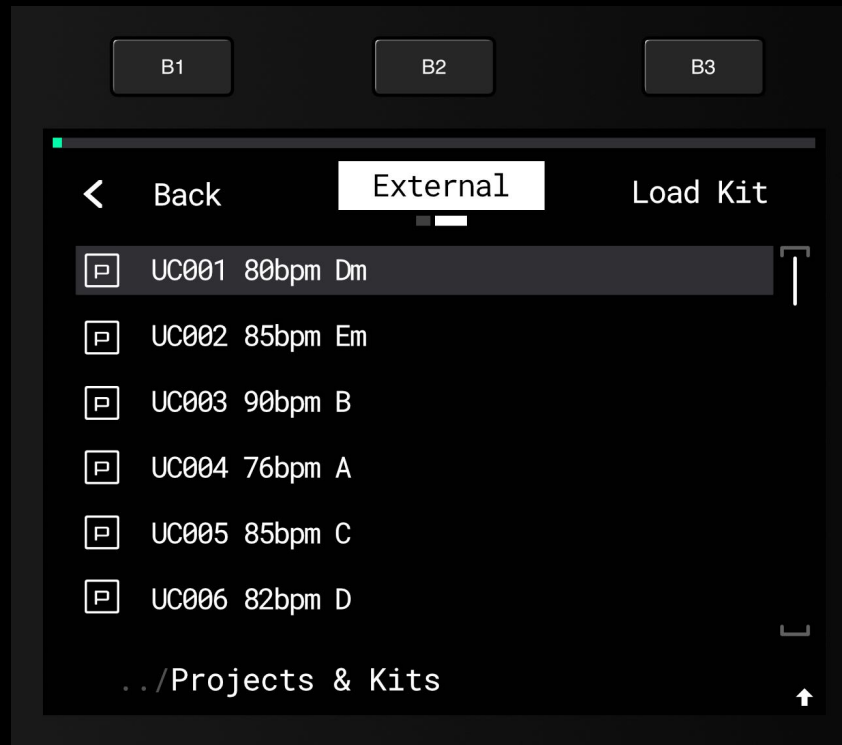
Now copy the folder 'Underground Crates Vol 1' to your preferred location on your MPC Sample SD card; check out our [MPC Sample Expansion Installation](#) guide for more details on this process.

Loading Projects

In your MPC Sample, press **[SHIFT] + [PAD 16]** and select **Load Project**. Now press **[B2]** to select your 'External' disk and if required, use the **[B1]** button to navigate inside the **Underground Crates Vol 1** folder:



Use your (ENCODER) to highlight & click down on the 'Projects & Kits' folder:



Here you'll see a list of projects; turn your (ENCODER) to highlight a project and press down to select it - confirm 'Yes' with the [B3] button to load the project.

A project contains a construction kit in [**PAD BANK A**] and a four bar sequence built with the kit (always located in **Seq A01**). Press the [**PLAY**] button to play the sequence. Hit the pads of **PAD BANK A** to play the individual pads. The top row of pads feature melodic one shot samples which work well with the **16 LEVELS** function.

Press the [**SEQ**] button and hit pad [**A02**] to select **SEQ A02**. Press [**PLAY**] to hear an alternative sequence built around a more stripped down version of the beat, but this time containing a melodic performance made from a multisampled instrument.

To play the instrument yourself, return to the [**SAMPLE**] screen and select [**PAD BANK B**]. Here we have mapped the multisampled instrument across the 16 pads of bank B, using a scale which compliments the key of the main construction kit theme.

This bank also utilises ‘knob fx’, usually to apply some additional ambience – please note that if you load a kit individually, these knob FX will not be applied as they are linked with the main project file. In which case, simply add your own preferred knob FX via [**SHIFT**] + [**KNOB FX**].

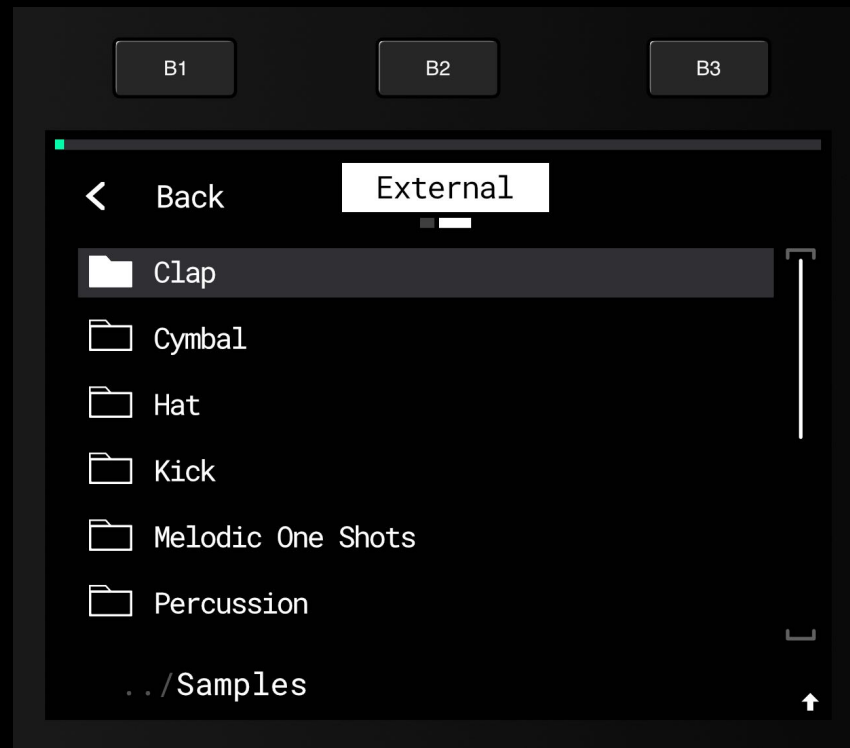
Loading Individual Kits

To load just the kit from any project (thus replacing the kit currently loaded to your project), head back to the **Load Project** screen, enter a project folder but instead of clicking down on the project with your (ENCODER), hit [B3] - 'Load Kit'.

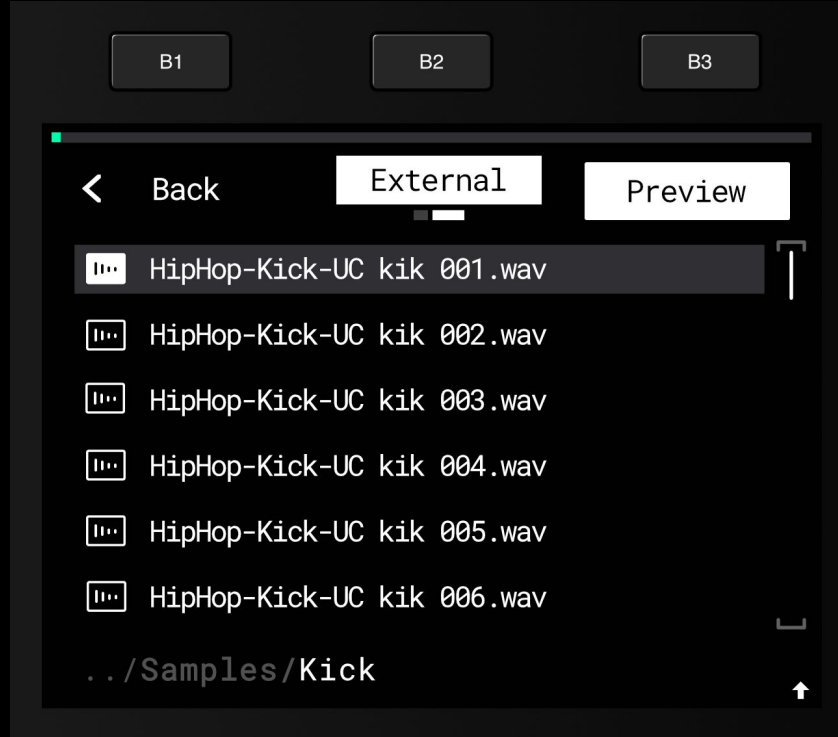
Loading Individual Samples

To load and assign individual samples to any project, go to [SAMPLE SELECT] > External' and navigate to the root location of the 'Underground Crates' expansion folder.

Enter the '**Samples**' folder where samples are organised by sound type:



Enter a folder to view the samples used on layer 1 for that kit:



To load a sample to a pad, first tap the pad so it is lit yellow, then use the (ENCODER) to highlight and click on the sample you wish to load to that pad.

Project / Kit Previews

The MPC Sample browser does not currently offer any way to ‘audition’ the sound of a complete project or kit, so as a workaround go to [**SAMPLE SELECT**] and navigate inside the ‘[**Kit Previews**]’ folder where you’ll find short WAV file previews of all projects / kits.

Using 16 Levels

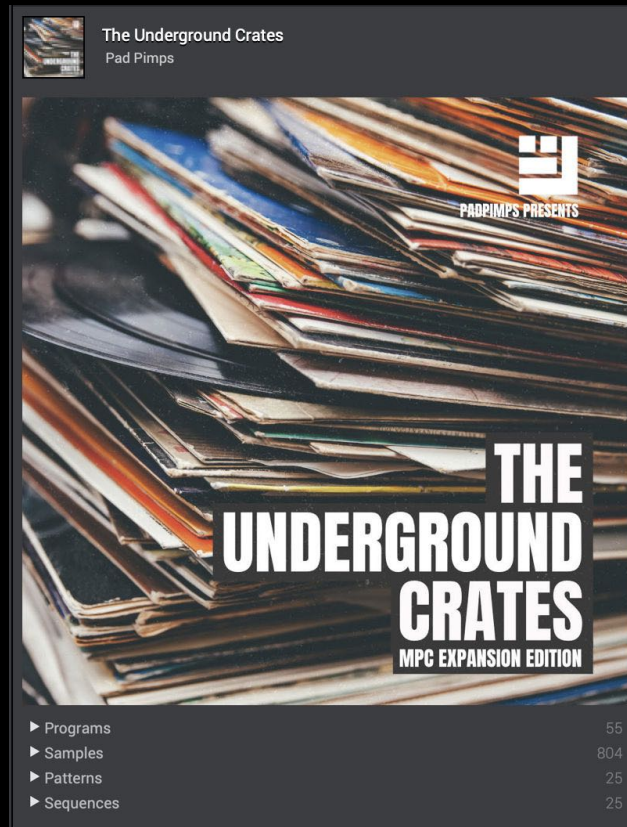
The ‘**Melodic One Shots**’ folder contains single instrument notes (one from each instrument), perfect for making 16 LEVELS ‘tune’ melodies.

First select the pad you wish to convert, then hold down [**SHIFT**] and continually press the [**16 LEVELS**] button until it says ‘**Tune**’.

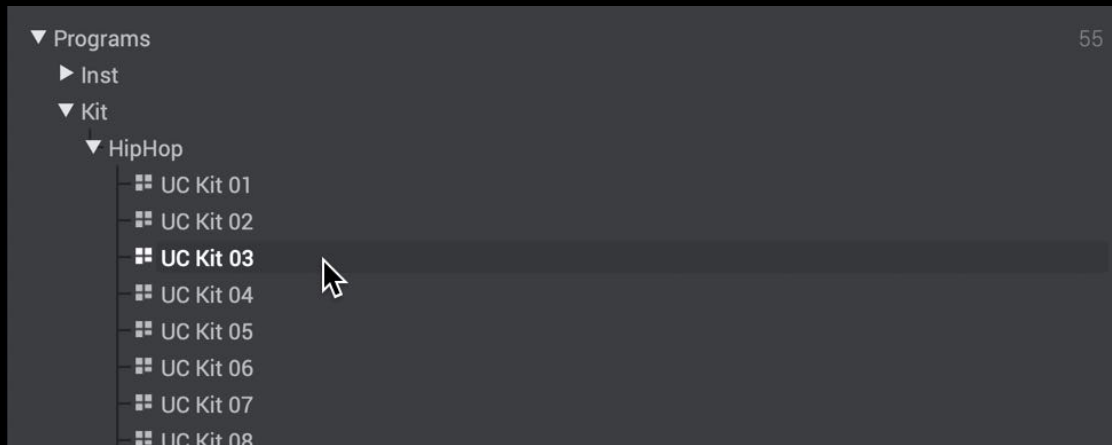
Now release [**SHIFT**] and press [**16 LEVELS**] again to activate it. Your sample is now mapped chromatically across all 16 pads (pad 4 is the original tuning). After recording/playing your 16 LEVELS performance, press [**16 LEVELS**] again to return to standard pad mode.

MPC Software/MPC Beats

After [installation](#), click on the 'Underground Crates Vol 1' ' thumbnail to view:



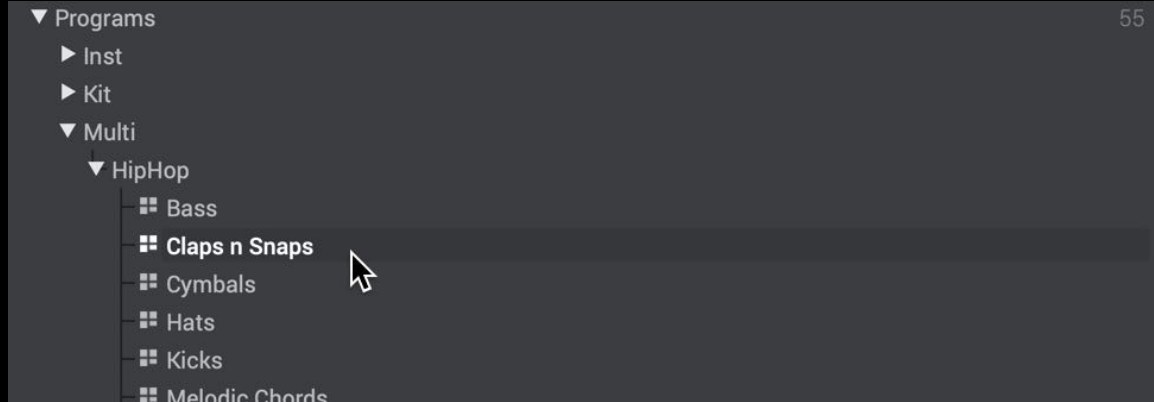
Expand the 'Programs > Kit' group to reveal all 25 kits:



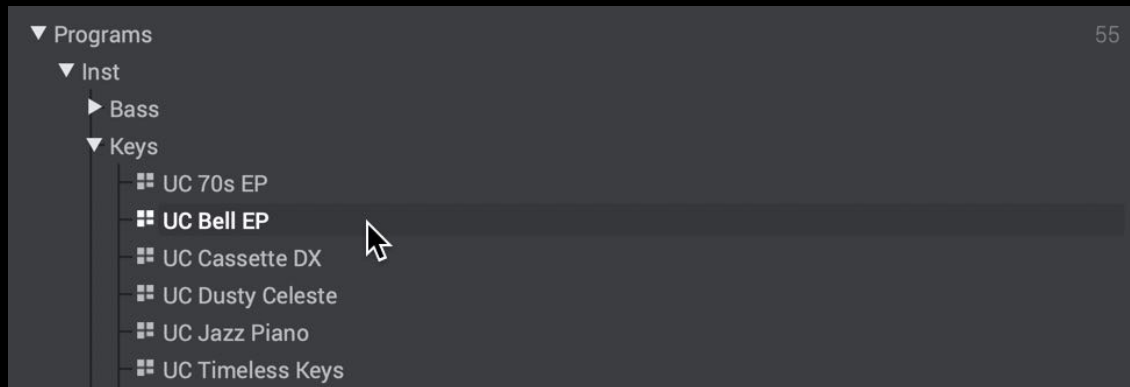
Single click any kit to hear its preview - this requires 'Autoplay' enabled:



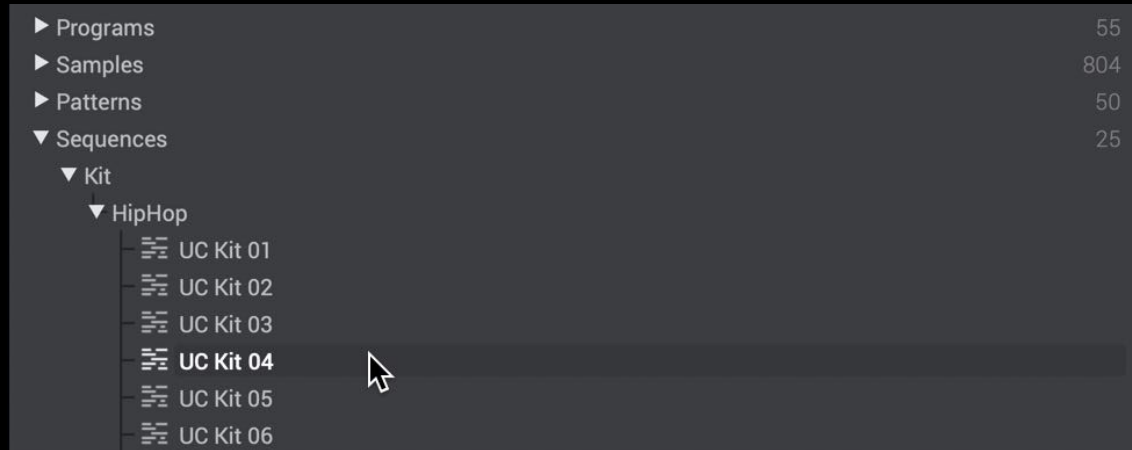
The 'Multis' category contains quick loading 'Preview Programs' that will load a specific type of sound across the pads for quick previewing:



To load a program, simply double click or drag to a 'DRUM' track in your sequence. Select the 'Inst' category to preview and load the provided sample instruments.



These should be loaded to a **'KEYGROUP'** type track. All instruments are fully compatible with 'Pad Perform' mode and the Arpeggiator.
Select the **'Sequences'** category to view the ready-made sequences.

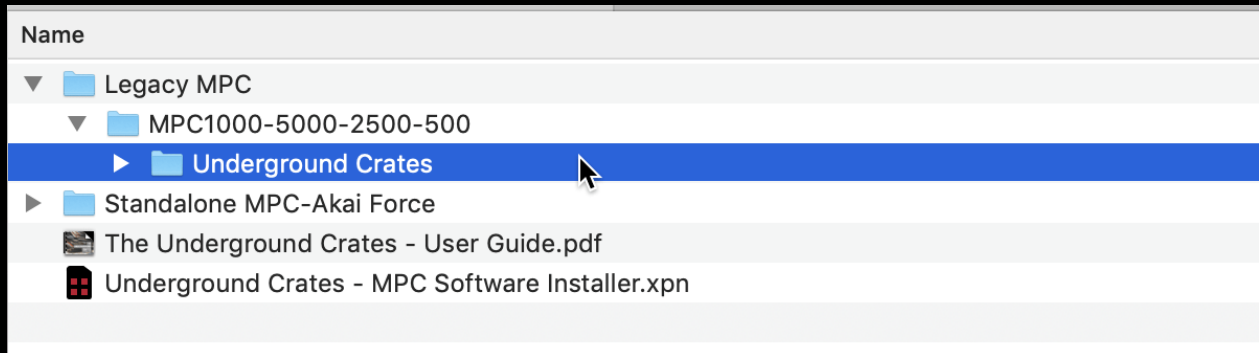


Double click a sequence to load both the sequence and its associated kit into your project. All sequence data is recorded to track 1. As all kits are laid out identically you can experiment by mixing and matching your kits and sequences.

'Patterns' contain the same MIDI note data as the sequences but in MIDI pattern format. Just drag a pattern to an existing sequence and it will load all the MIDI data into the next blank track.

Legacy MPC Information

In the **Legacy MPC** folder we have provided legacy MPC versions of the kits, DRUM program versions of the sample instruments and SEQ files of all theme sequences – we currently support the MPC1000, MPC2500, JJOS, MPC500 and MPC5000.



Just transfer the entire '**Underground Crates**' 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>

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 Underground Crates is part of our growing range of MPC 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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