



PADPIMPS PRESENTS

THE UNDERGROUND CRATES

FREE EDITION USER GUIDE

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The Underground Crates: Introduction

- ‘**The Underground Crates**’ expansion features a sublime blend of boom bap, instrumental hip hop, downbeat and lofi, with kits, sequences and dusty sampled instruments inspired by legendary producers such as Dilla, Pete Rock, DJ Krush, DJ Shadow and Madlib.
- The free demo expansion features **2 hip hop themes** and **2 sampled instruments** from the full expansion.
- The full expansion contains 25 themes and 18 sampled instruments, all recorded with a retro, dusty flavour, including crunchy drums, vinyl-style melodic one shots, **acoustic piano, Rhodes and Wurlitzer, sub basses, acoustic double bass, custom electric pianos and leads.**
- You can buy the full version here:
<https://www.mpc-samples.com/product.php/315/the-underground-crates/>

What's Inside?

'The Underground Crates – Free Edition' contains **2 hip hop themes** and **2 sampled instruments**. Each theme consists of a 16 pad kit (in DRUM format) and a matching 4 bar sequence made from the sounds in the kit. Kits generally contain the following sounds:

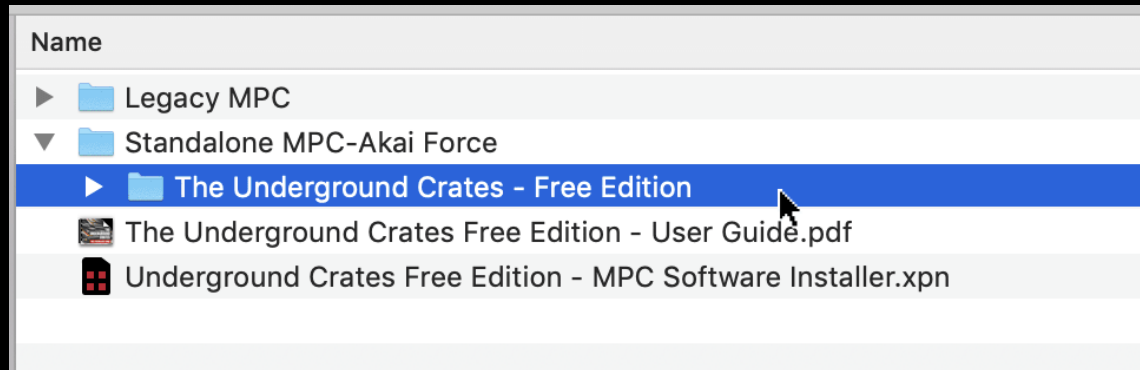
- **Drums:** two kicks, two snares, closed & open hat, crash, ride
- **Percussion:** clap, snap, shaker and tambourine
- **Melodic One Shots:** Bass tone, lead tone and two chord/hit sounds.

Sequences are provided in SQX and MIDI Pattern format. All kits use the same layout which means you can easily substitute different kits with any sequence.

Each sampled 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 on your pads or an attached keyboard.

Install: Standalone MPC & Akai Force

From the downloaded files, enter the '**Standalone MPC-Akai Force**' folder and inside you'll see a sub folder '**The Underground Crates – Free Edition**' – this is the folder we're going to transfer to your standalone MPC or Force.



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

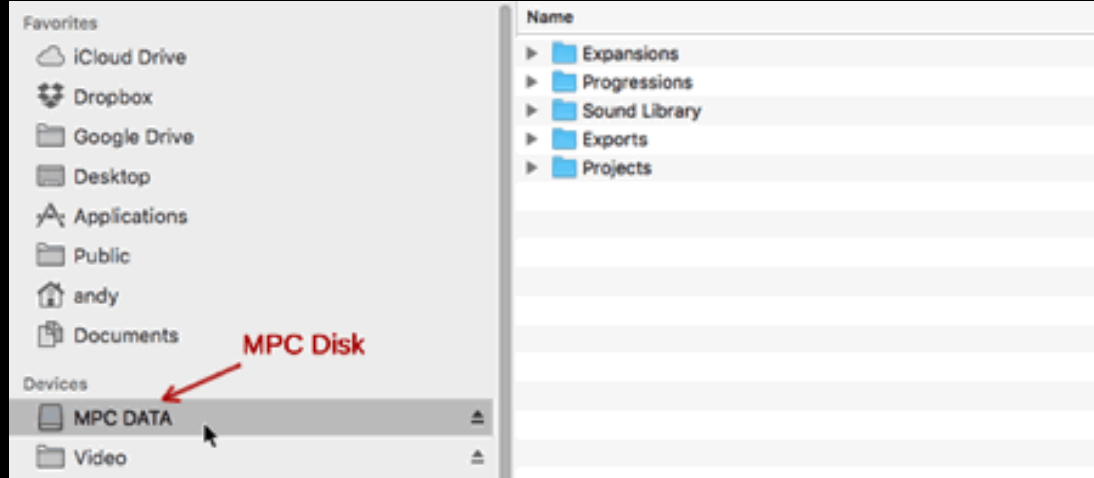
The first step is to mount this 'MPC disk' in your computer. If you use an SD card or USB disk, just eject the disk from your MPC/Force and physically insert it into your computer's SD card reader or USB port.

Alternatively (except the MPC One), 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).

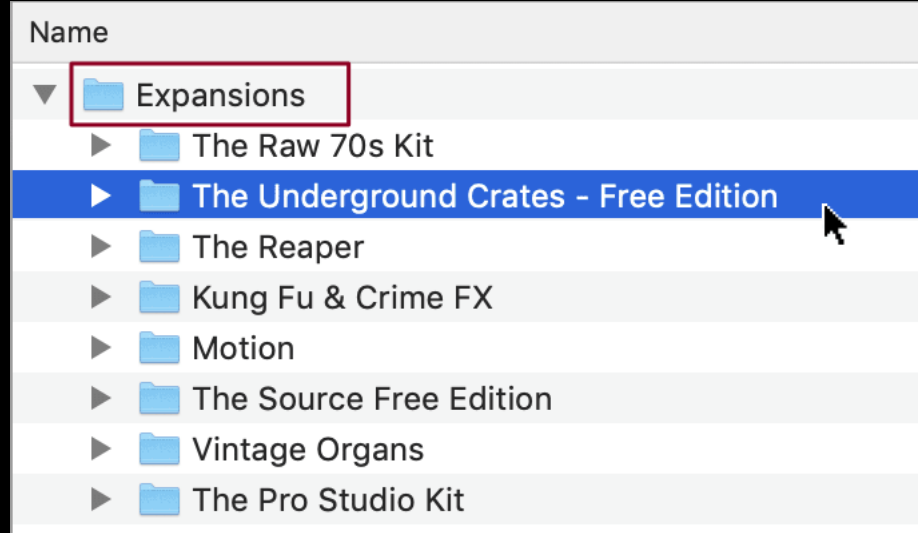


Now select **CONTROLLER MODE** ('COMPUTER MODE' in the Force).

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:



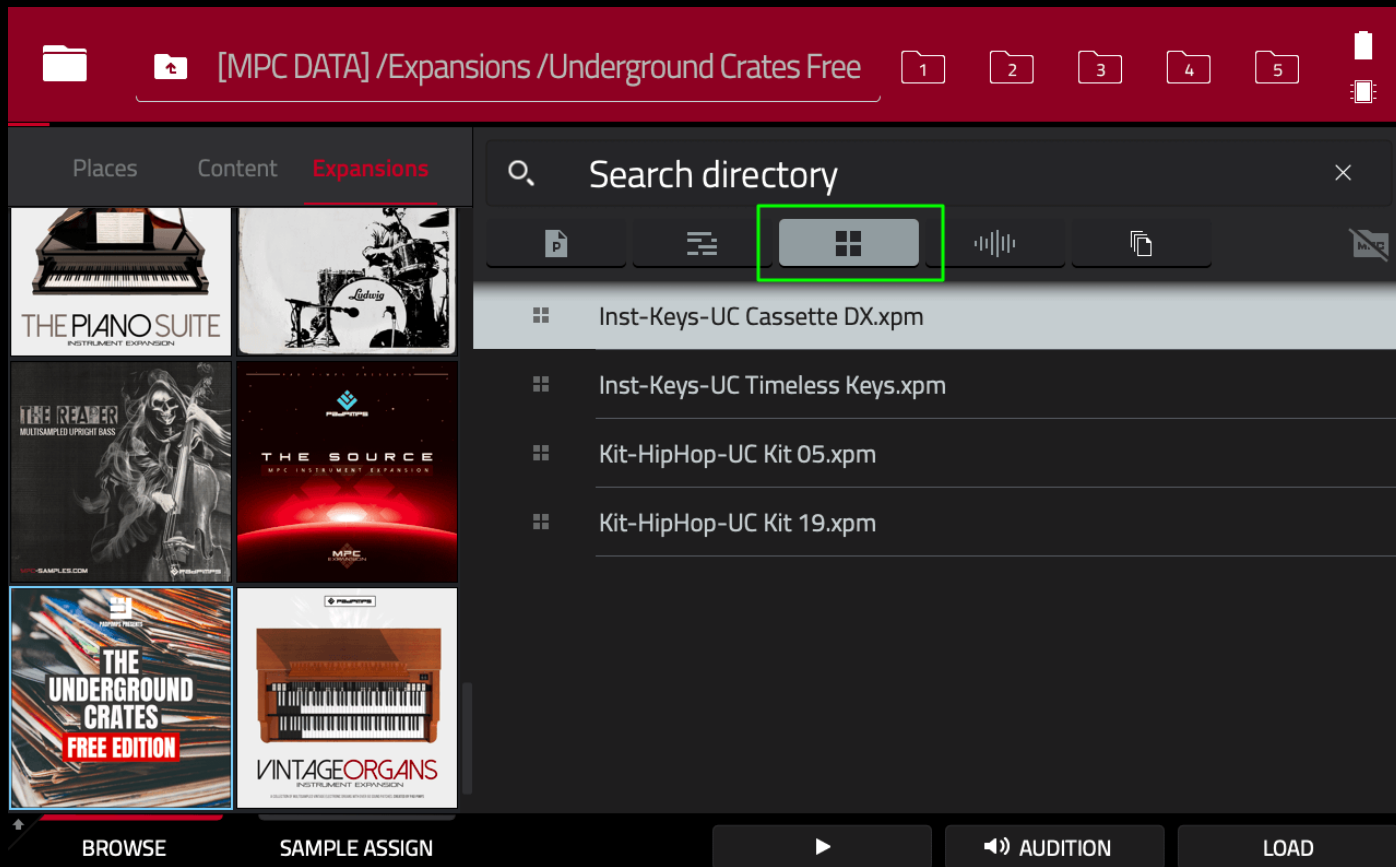
If it doesn't already exist, create a folder called '**Expansions**' in the root of your disk. Now copy the '**Underground Crates – Free Edition**' standalone expansion folder *inside* this 'Expansions' folder.



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.

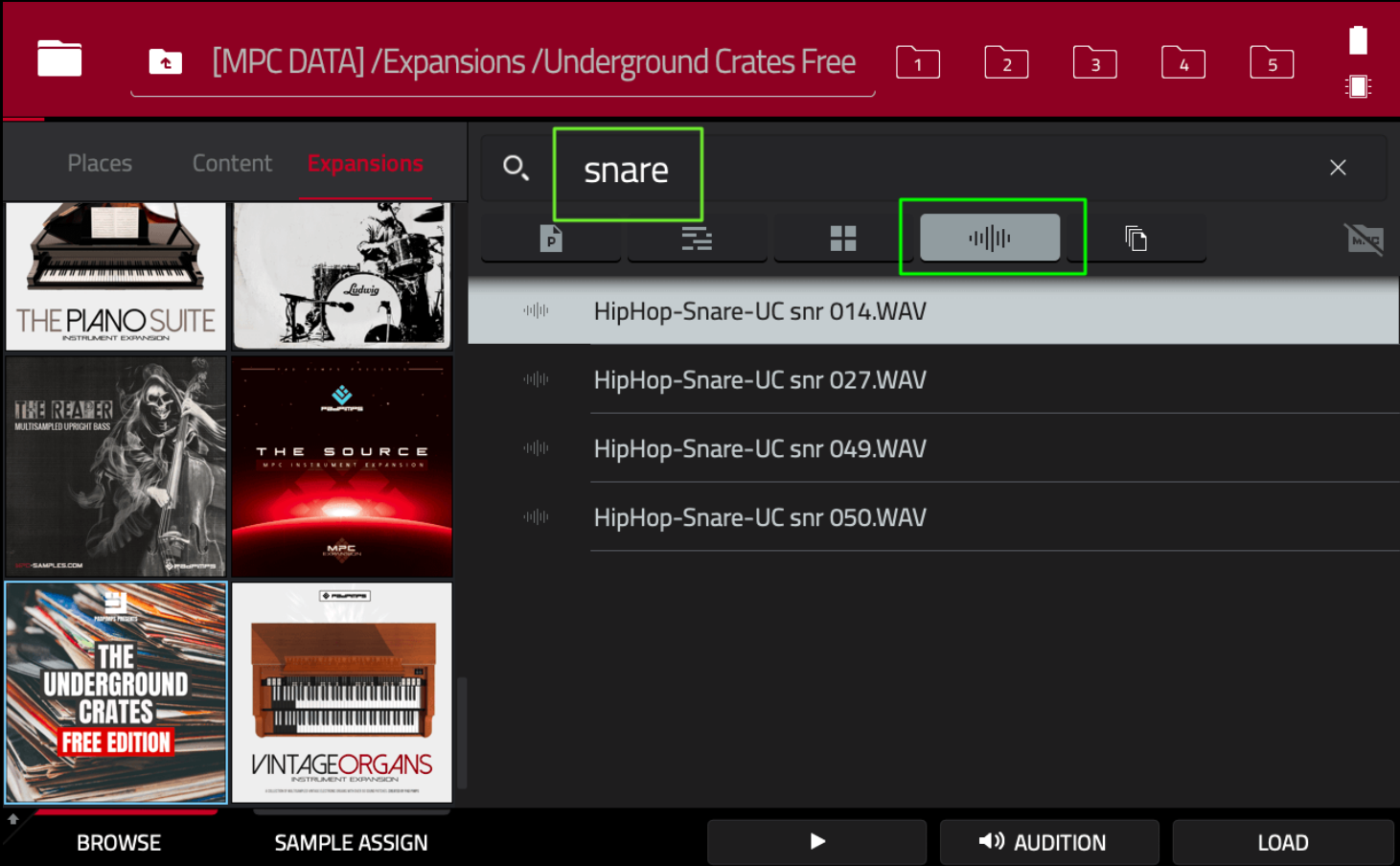
Alternatively, if you used USB transfer then go back to **MENU** and select the computer icon to return to standalone mode - *don't forget to eject/unmount the MPC from your computer first, this avoids any potential data loss.*

Now go to **MENU > BROWSER > Expansions** and tap on the 'Underground Crates – Free Edition' thumbnail to view the expansion. Select the **PROGRAM** filter to view all the available programs:

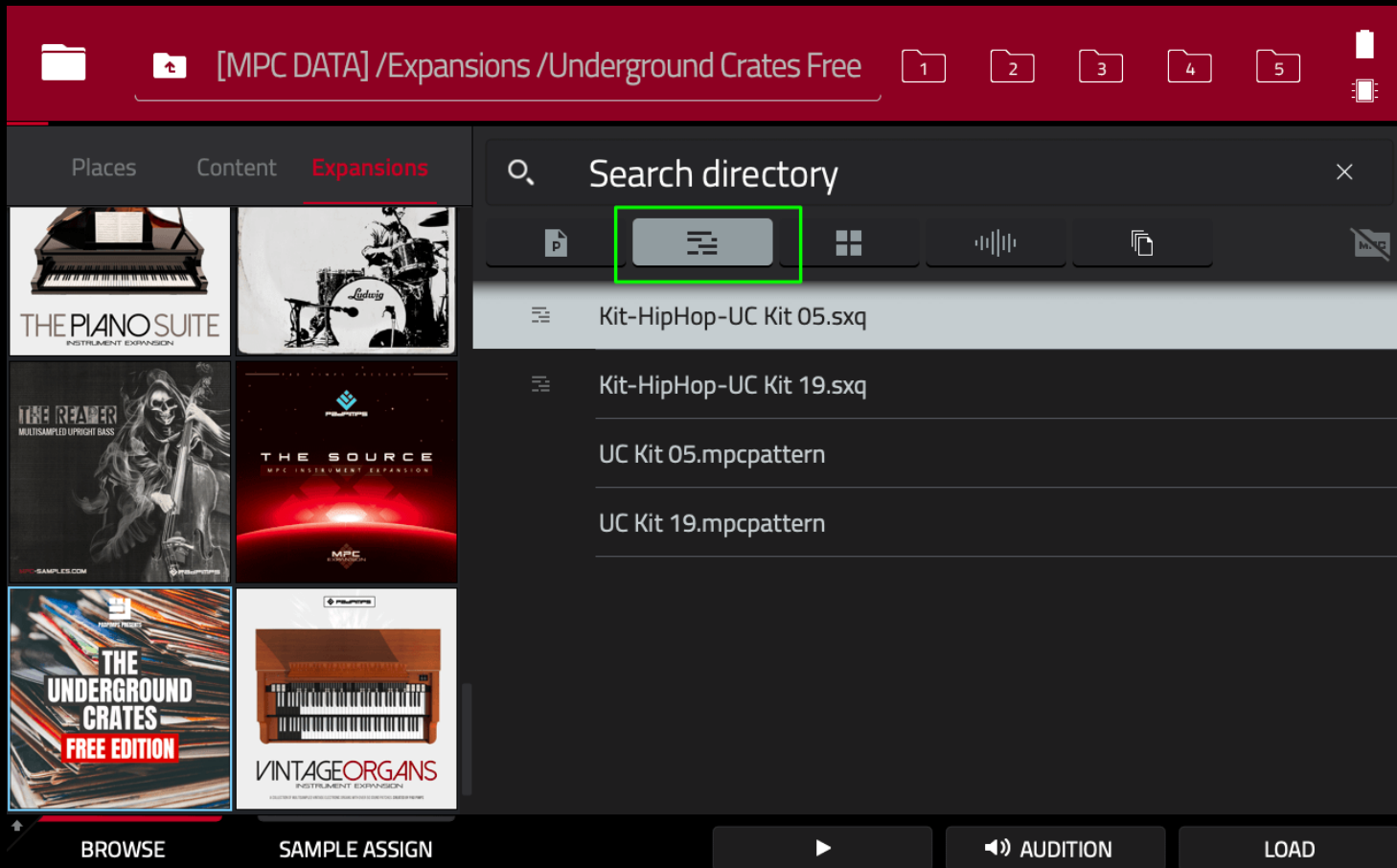


Single tap/click a program to hear a program preview (requires 'AUDITION > AUTO').
Double tap to load the program directly into your project (or single tap and hit the **LOAD** button).

To load individual sounds, select the 'Samples filter; use the search option to drill down to a specific type of sound, for example, 'snare':



Select the 'MIDI' icon to display MIDI sequences and patterns – these are 4 bar 'theme' sequences made for each kit.



Double tap an **SQX** file to load the entire theme to a new sequence in your project (all MIDI data is recorded to track 1).

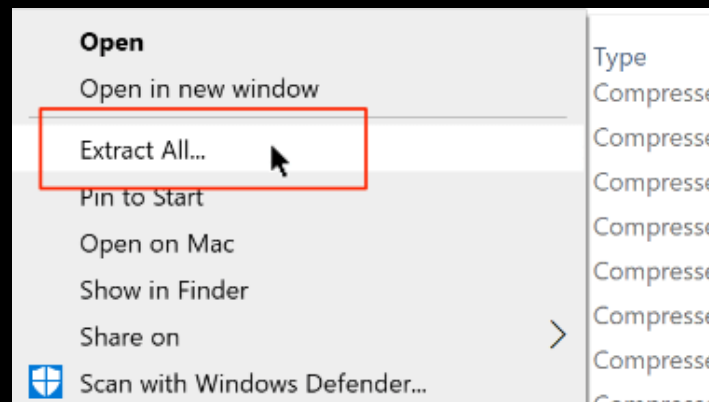
Double tap an **mpcpattern** file to load the theme as a pattern to the next available track in the current sequence. You can experiment by assigning different kits to each sequence (all kits are laid out identically, so it's easy to mix and match).

Install: MPC Software/MPC Beats App

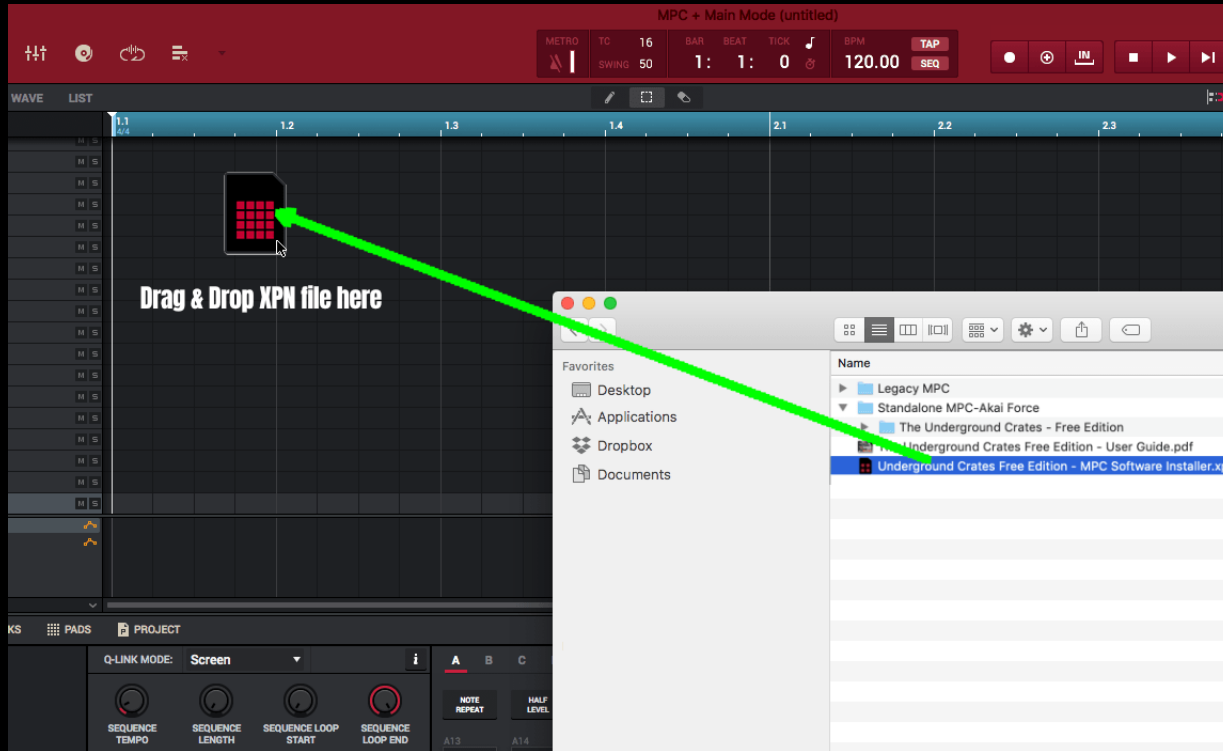
Download the product files from MPC-Samples.com and extract the zip archive; we recommend using your computer's default zip application.

Mac Users: Simply double click the zip file to automatically extract the contents of the zip file to a folder at the same location on your disk

Windows Users: Right click the zip file, select '**Extract All**' and choose a location for extraction. **IMPORTANT:** do not double click the zip as this just opens it as a virtual 'Compressed Folder' and the MPC Software is unable to install an XPN from here.



From the extracted folder, locate the ‘**Underground Crates – Free Edition MPC Software Installer.XPN**’ file and drag & drop it directly into the MPC Software/MPC Beats UI from your computer’s File Explorer/Finder:



*Please note that an XPN file **cannot** be installed from the MPC Browser, nor can it be installed by double clicking, it **must** be dragged into the software UI.*

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 **'The Underground Crates – Free Edition'** thumbnail to view:

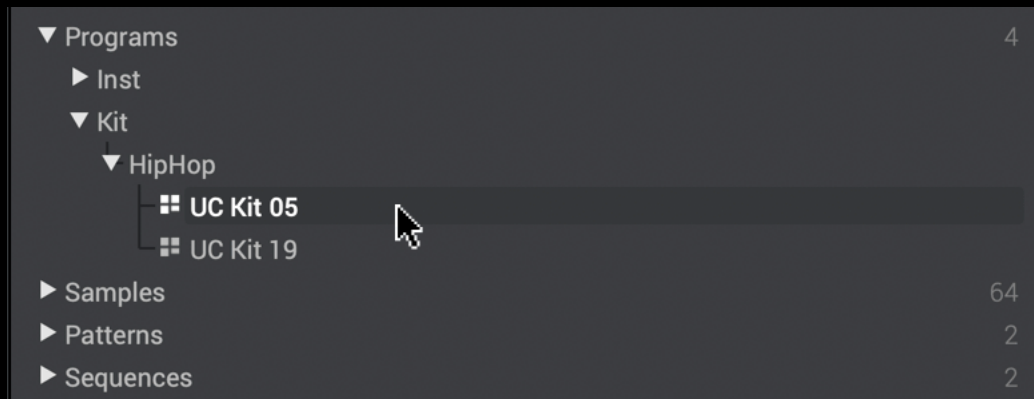


The Underground Crates - Free Edition
Pad Pimps



▶ Programs	4
▶ Samples	64
▶ Patterns	2
▶ Sequences	2

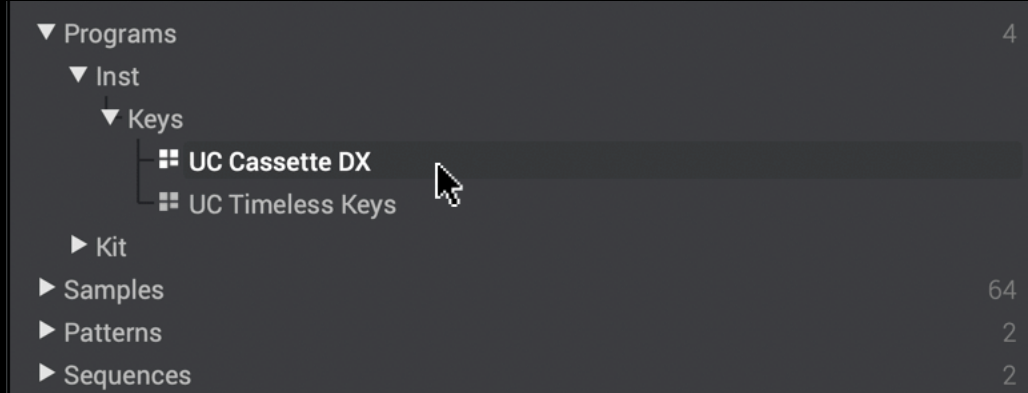
Expand the 'Programs > Kit' group to reveal all kits:



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



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.

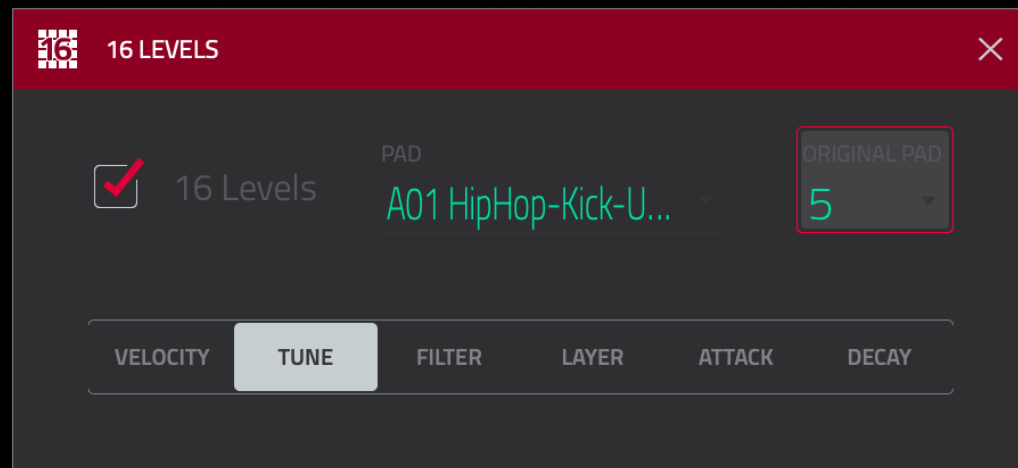
Playing Kits & Instruments with MPC Pads

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 bass tone on pad **A13** is set to 'note on' and can be combined with 16 LEVELS to create custom bass lines. Hit pad **A13**, press the **16 LEVEL** button, select **TUNE** and set the **ORIGINAL PAD** to your preferred setting (I often set this to 5).



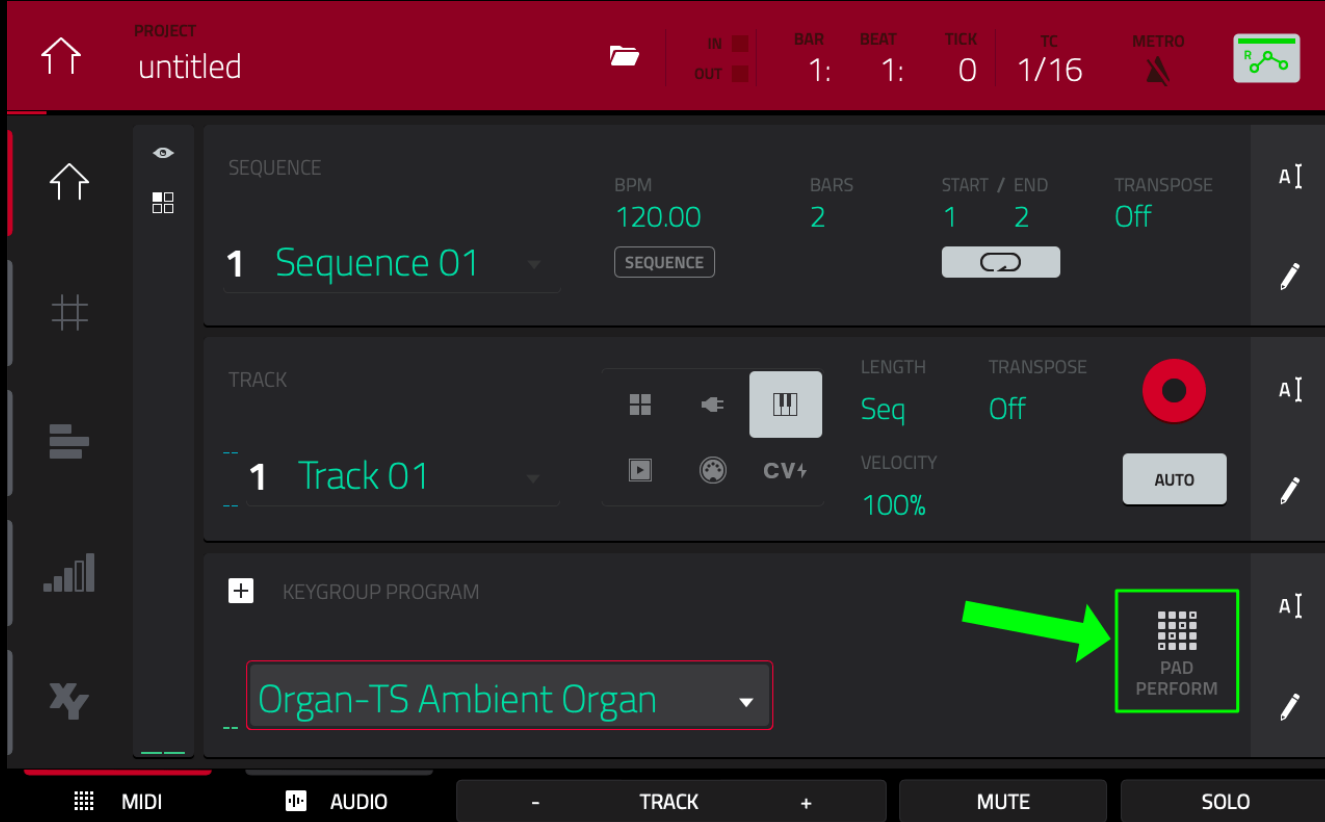
Hit **CLOSE** and you'll now find the MPC has mapped your bass tone chromatically across all 16 pads. You can now use the pads to record a bass line to your sequence; when you are finished, remember to press the 16 LEVEL button again to exit 16 level mode.

*In the Akai Force (firmware 3.0.5 or greater) you can access 16 LEVEL mode by pressing **NOTE** until the 16 LEVEL option appears on screen. Hit **SHIFT** and **Note/Config** to configure 16 Levels.*

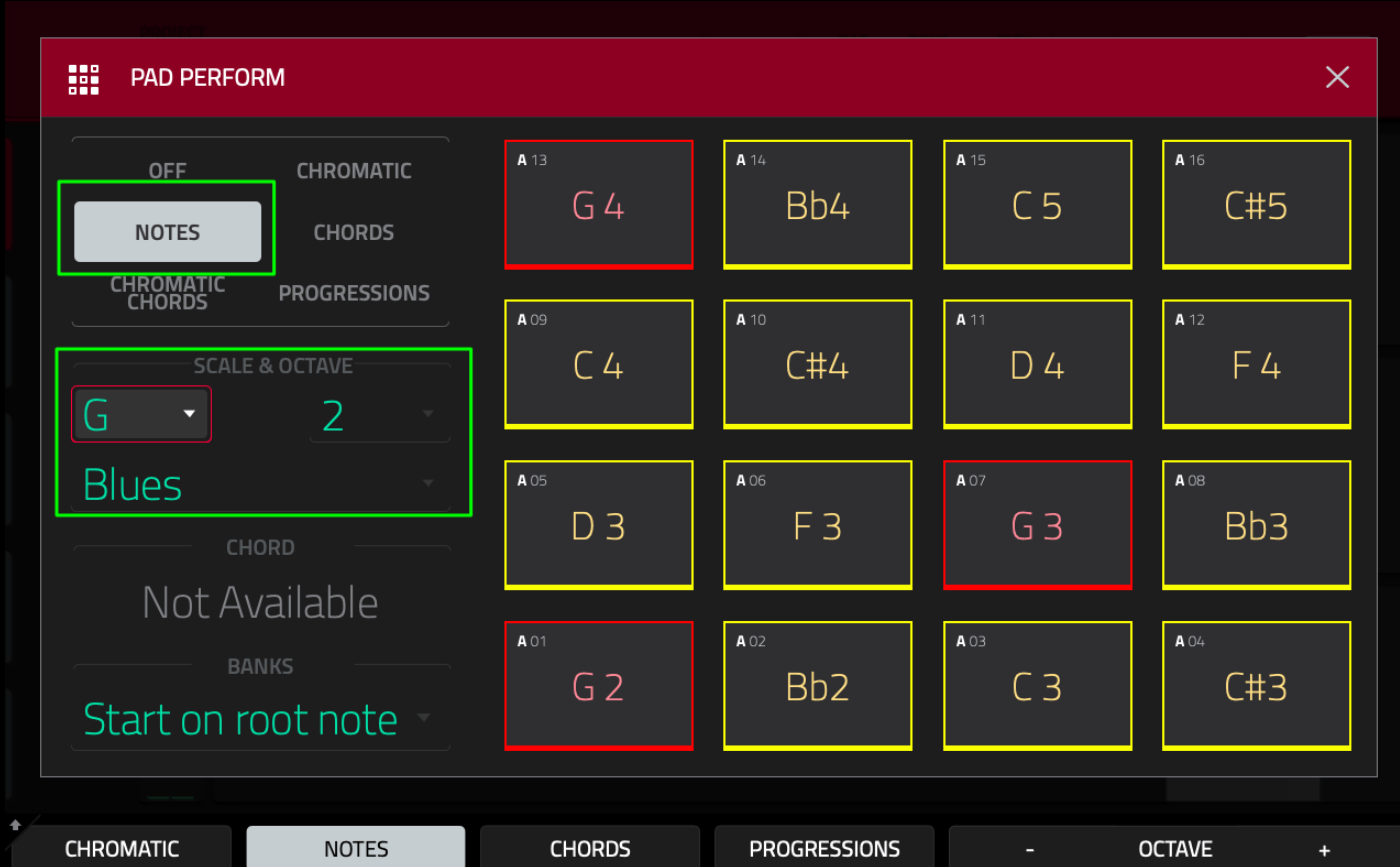
You can also use 16 LEVEL on any other melodic one shot on the top row of your kit.

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.

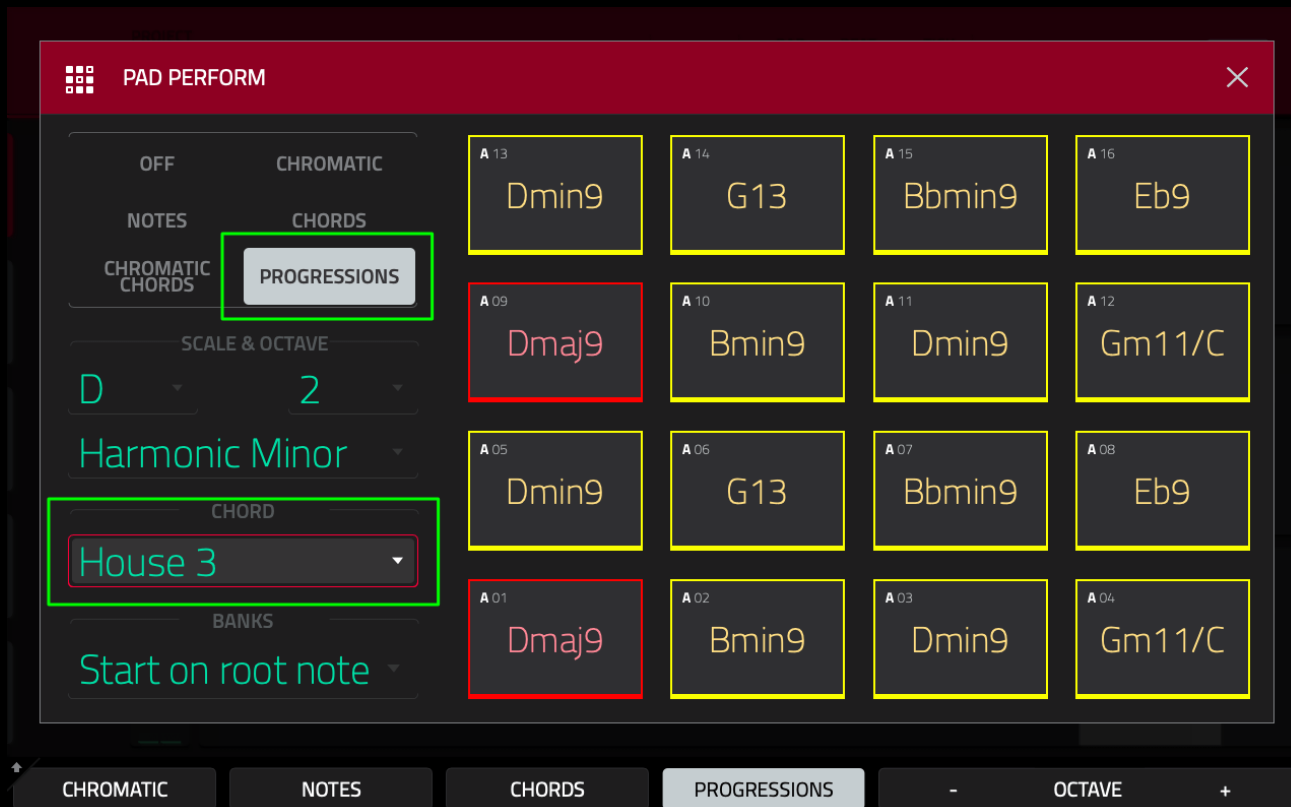
All instruments are fully compatible with **Pad Perform Mode** ('Notes Mode' in the Akai Force) which can configure your pads to only play back notes from specified scales, or can be used to trigger entire chords from each pad. With your instrument assigned to a track, go to **Pad Perform Mode** by hitting the **PAD PERFORM** icon on the 'PROGRAM' row in MAIN.



Select **NOTES** & under '**SCALE & OCTAVE**' select your preferred scale, octave & musical key.



The 16 pads on your MPC will now only play back the notes in this specific scale. Red pads indicate the 'root' note in the scale. You can also play a complete chord on a single pad by selecting the **CHORDS** or **PROGRESSIONS** options.



Important: When you have finished with PAD PERFORM mode, remember to turn it off otherwise your pads will remain locked to the selected scale pattern.

Playing with a MIDI Controller/Keyboard

Sample instruments and kits can be played using an attached MIDI controller or keyboard. For **standalone MPCs/Force** you can connect a USB keyboard via your MPC's USB port, a Bluetooth keyboard via **Preferences > Bluetooth**, or connect a keyboard via the 5 pin MIDI ports.

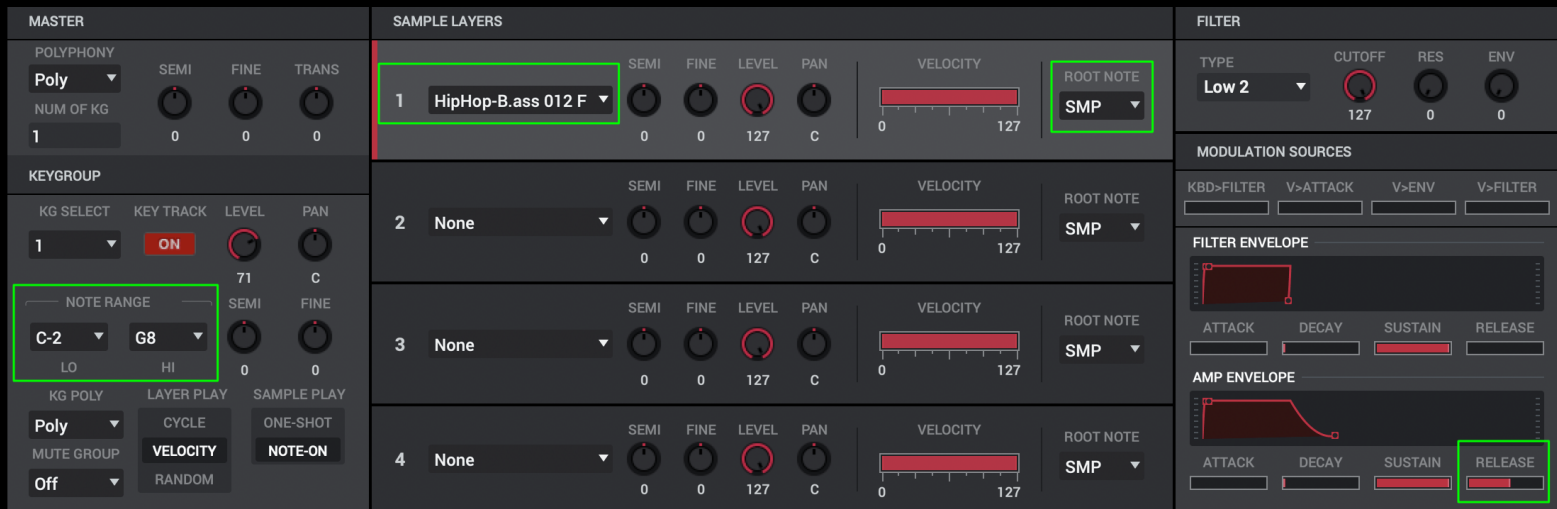
For **MPC Software and MPC Beats**, you can connect a USB MIDI keyboard or MIDI controller to a USB port on your computer and configure the keyboard as the active MIDI control device in '**Preferences > MIDI**'.

If you have an older MIDI keyboard (with no USB option) you can connect it to your computer via a USB-to-MIDI interface. MPC Renaissance & MPC Studio users can also use the MIDI IN ports on their MPC hardware.

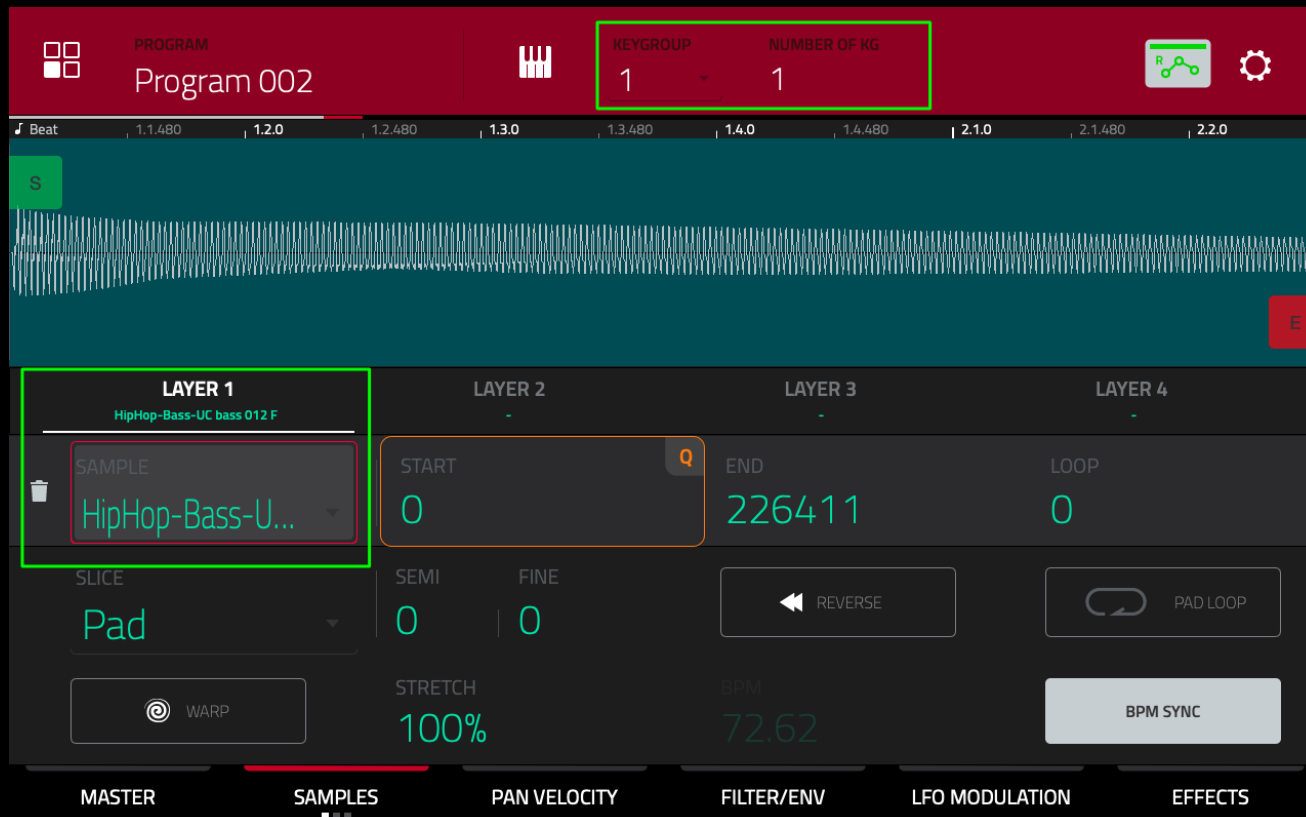
Sample instruments are in most cases configured to cover the full 128 note range of the keygroup program (C-2 to G8) although a typical 'usable' range will be around C-1 to C6 depending on the instrument type.

Kits are configured across the range C1 (36) to Eb1 (51).

You can also map any of the provided melodic one shots chromatically across your keyboard – simply create a new blank **keygroup program**, go to **Program Edit** and assign the melodic one shot to **layer 1** of the default keygroup.



In standalone, you can do this in the **PROGRAM EDIT > SAMPLES** screen of your new keygroup program:



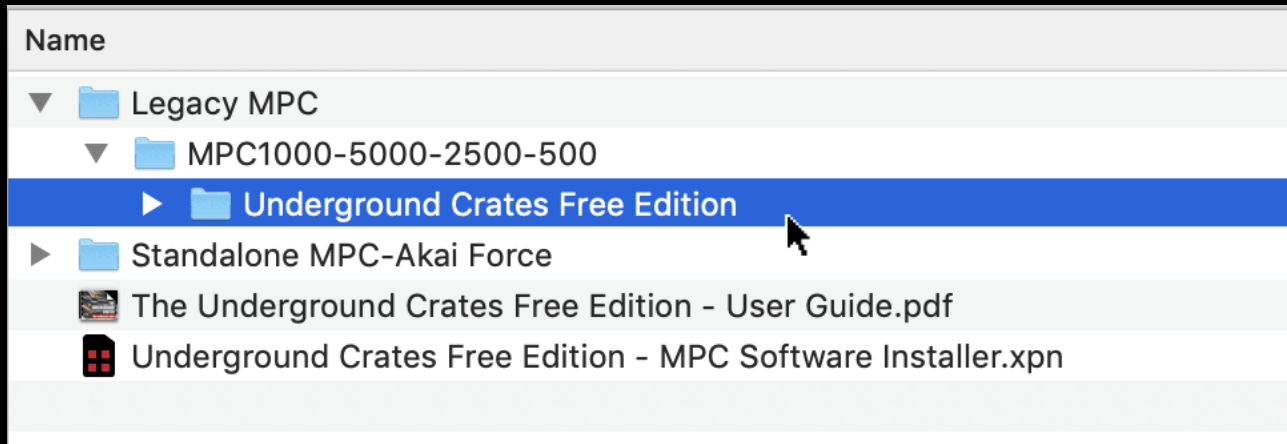
The default settings will automatically map the one shot across the entire 128 note range of the program. Adjust envelope, FX, LFO and filters to taste!

To convert a note to a keygroup in the **Akai Force**, select the pad relating to the melodic note you wish to convert, enter **TRACK EDIT** and hit the **keyboard+** icon:



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 – Free Edition**' 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/>