Melobase Mobile 1.8 User Guide

MELDORA INC.

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1. Overview

Melobase is a creativity tool for musicians. It provides a complete solution for recording your improvisation sessions on the keyboard and for discovering new musical ideas by listening to and organizing your musical sequences.

2. Player and Studio Views

The application is divided in two main views: the player and studio views. The player view is shown when the iPhone or iPod touch is held vertically, and the studio view is shown when the device is held horizontally. From the player view, it is possible to organize your sequences. From the studio view, you will have the ability to record your sequences and set various studio settings.

3. Folders

In order to access the list of folders, tap the Folders button from the list of sequences. When a folder is selected from the list, the sequences inside these folders will be presented as shown here:
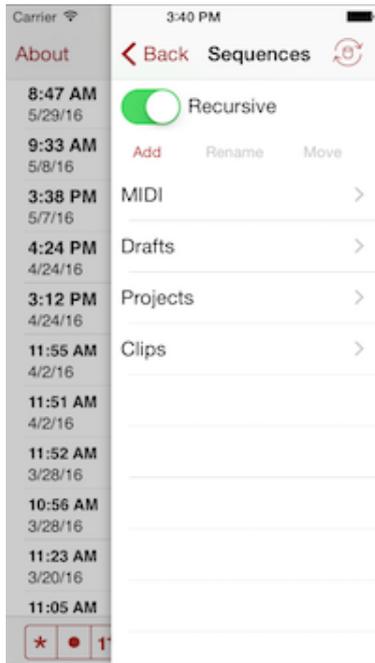
It is possible to view in a single list not only the current folder but also all the subfolders by selecting the option Recursive.

In order to add a new subfolder, tap on the Add button and enter the desired name.

In order to rename the current folder, tap on Rename and enter the desired name. Note that the default Sequences and Trash folders cannot be renamed.

In order to move a folder to another one, tap on the Move button. A view presenting the list of possible folders will then appear. From this list, select the destination folder and tap OK. It is possible to move the folder to the Trash with this operation or any other parent folder.

When recording a new sequence, the destination folder is the currently selected one. It is therefore necessary to select a folder in order to access the studio view.

In order to move a sequence to a folder, press the following button when playing the sequence:
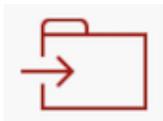
A view presenting the list of possible folders will then appear. From this list, select the destination folder and tap OK. It is possible to move the sequence to the Trash with this operation or any other parent folder.

4. Channel Selection

16 channels are available. Each channel is represented by a module with its own specific color. The drum kit is available on channel 10 as shown here:

In order to select a channel, tap on the channel number shown the top-left of the module. The list of channels will then appear. Select the desired channel from this list.

5. Record

One important feature of Melobase is that everything is recorded after the the metronome has learned a new tempo using a tap-tempo technique. The recording session will automatically stop after four (4) seconds of inactivity.

In order to quickly capture your musical ideas while keeping a correct timing for eventual MIDI export, an advanced tap-tempo solution is provided with the following two buttons:

In order to provide the tempo, perform the following:

- Press the right button to indicate the first major beat;

- Press the left button one or multiple times to indicate the other beats of a single measure;

- Press again the right button to stop the learning session and consequently start automatically the recording session.

6. Organizer

Special care has been taken in order to ease-up the organization of your sequences. The features related to this need are the following:

- Hierarchy of folders including Trash and Sequences folders;

- A rating value up to five (5) stars for each sequence;

- A filter for viewing only the sequences with a minimum rating;

- The ability to promote or demote all played sequences by adding or removing one star;
- The ability to set as played all your sequences;
- The ability to perform a cleanup by deleting all sequences inside the Trash folder.

The promotion or demotion is done by using the following button:

Only played sequences will be affected by the operation. If a sequence with no star is to be demoted, the rating will become negative. In this case, a trash can is shown on the right of these sequences instead of a rating value. You may want to promote back in order to remove this state.

The cleanup is done using the following button:

If the operation is confirmed, all sequences in the Trash will be deleted in a single operation.

7. MIDI Input

The preferred way for connecting a MIDI keyboard is to use a MIDI interface. This way, the latency will be kept to a minimum. When a MIDI keyboard is connected, you will have access to the split and transpose features as shown here:
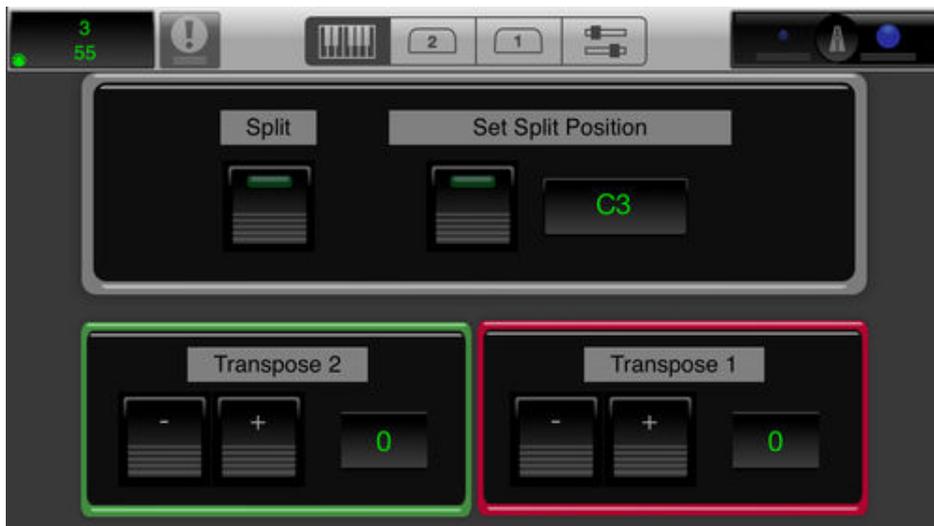
If you do not have a MIDI interface, it is possible to use your MIDI keyboard connected to your host computer as input to Melobase using a Wi-Fi connection. A typical setup is illustrated here:
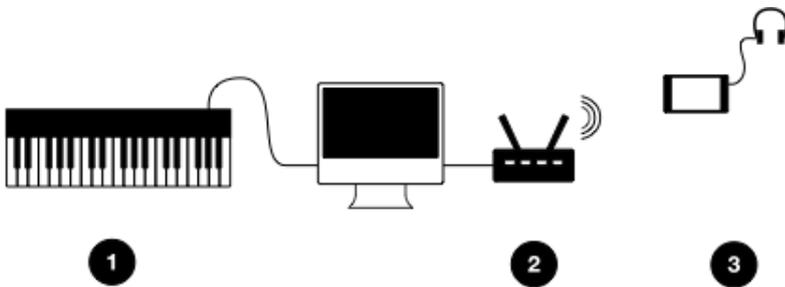
- The MIDI keyboard is connected to the host computer;

- The host computer is connected to the Wi-Fi router;

- The iPhone or iPod touch running Melobase is connected to the Wi-Fi router.

7.1. Connection Procedure

On the host computer, you need to redirect the MIDI events over the network using the "Audio MIDI Setup". Under Mac OS X, the application is available here: "Applications/Utilities/Audio MIDI Setup".

- First, make sure that your iPhone or iPod touch is connected to your Wi-Fi router;

- Start Melobase on your iPhone or iPod touch;

- Turn on your MIDI keyboard;

- Start the Audio MIDI Setup application;

- Make sure that the MIDI window is displayed;

- Double-click on the "Network" icon (1) as shown here:

- Under "Directory", select your iPhone or iPod touch (2) and click on "Connect" (3) as shown here:
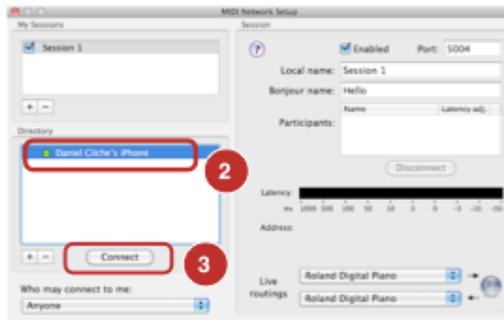
- On your iPhone or iPod touch in the studio view, the MIDI icon should appear to indicate a Wi-Fi connection as shown here:

- Play on your MIDI keyboard. Your performance will be recorded automatically.

8. MIDI Panic Button

The transmission of MIDI events over Wi-Fi induce latency and is not as robust as a physical connection. For example, you may lose important packets such as note off events. For this reason, Melobase offers a MIDI panic button that will turn off all the notes currently being played. The button is available here:

If the recording session is not stopped after four seconds, press this button in order to release all the stuck notes.

9. MIDI Routing

The MIDI routing is the following:
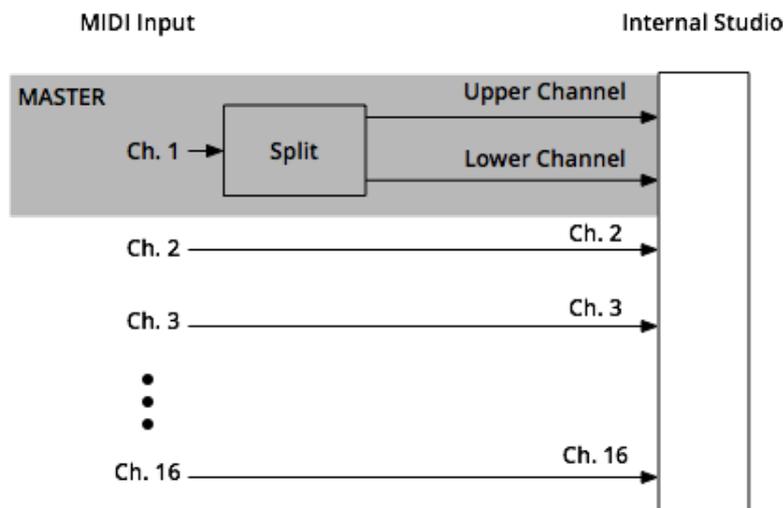
The first channel at the MIDI input is dedicated for the master keyboard which can be split. The channel is based on the currently selected channel for the upper or the lower zone. The lower zone is only available when the keyboard split feature is enabled.

The channels 2 to 16 are not redirected.

10. Export

In order to export a sequence as a standard MIDI file or audio (AIFF format), tap on the following button available from the player view:

A MIDI file can be shared as an Email or using the iTunes file sharing service. However, due to the size of audio files being too large, the exported audio files can be only be retrieved using the iTunes file sharing service.

11. Synchronization

The mobile version of Melobase provides the ability to synchronize your folders and their content with the desktop version of Melobase. It is therefore possible to have the desktop version of Melobase for recording your sequences, and the mobile device for listening to and organizing your sequences. The setup is illustrated here:
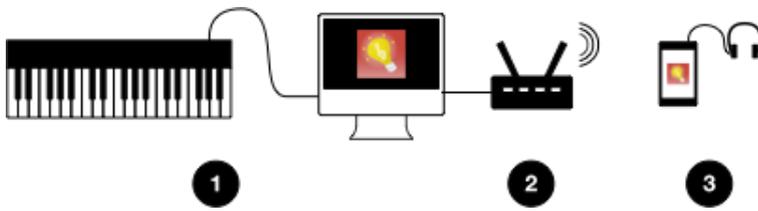
In order to synchronize the sequences with another device, make sure that the device containing the sequences to synchronize from (1) is turned on, connected to your local Wi-Fi station and is running Melobase.

On the device on which you want to synchronize your sequences (2 and 3), make sure that the device is connected to your local Wi-Fi station and then press the following button available in the folders pane:

A list of currently available servers running Melobase will then appear. Select the desired server in order to initiate the synchronization of the database content.

It is also possible to synchronize the database content between two mobile devices running the same Melobase application using the procedure described above.

After emptying the Trash, the permanently deleted sequences will no longer be tracked by the synchronization process. Therefore, in order to prevent deleted sequences from being restored during the synchronization, it is suggested to perform a synchronization **before** emptying the Trash on each device.

12. MIDI Implementation

Table 12.1: Channel Events

Type	Status (HEX)	Second (HEX)	Third (HEX)	Notes
Note ON	1001 nnnn (9n)	0kkk kkkk (kk)	0vvv vvvv (vv)	n: channel, k: pitch, v: velocity
Note OFF	1000 nnnn (8n)	0kkk kkkk (kk)	0xxx xxxx (xx)	n: channel, k: pitch, x: not interpreted
Pitch Bend	1110 nnnn (En)	0lll llll (ll)	0mmm mmmm (mm)	n: channel, l: LSB value, m: MSB value
Program Change	1100 nnnn (Cn)	0ppp pppp (pp)	None	n: channel, p: program

Table 12.2: Controller Events

Type	Status (HEX)	Second (HEX)	Third (HEX)	Notes
Damper Pedal	1011 nnnn (Bn)	0100 0000 (40)	0vvv vvvv (vv)	n: channel, v: value
Modulation Wheel	1011 nnnn (Bn)	0000 0001 (01)	0vvv vvvv (vv)	n: channel, v: value

Volume	1011 nnnn (Bn)	0000 0111 (07)	0vvv vvvv (vv)	n: channel, v: value
Pan	1011 nnnn (Bn)	0000 1010 (0A)	0vvv vvvv (vv)	n: channel, v: value