

User Guide: AI Instrument™ Plugin

*Have feedback or found a bug? Let us know at contact@staccato.ai.
If your bug report is confirmed, you'll receive one month of the plugin free.*

QUICK START: See Section [6. Prompting](#), for example prompts you can use with Staccato.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Start from Scratch	2
1.2 Start with MIDI	2
2. System Requirements	3
3. Installation	3
3.1 Standalone Installation (Recommended)	3
3.2 VST3 / AU Plugin Installation	5
3.3 Opening the AI Instrument in Your DAW	5
3.4 Uninstallation	6
4. Getting Started	7
4.1 Using Virtual Instruments with the AI Instrument	7
5. Features Overview	10
5.1 Create	10
5.2 Rewrites & Accompaniments	11
5.3 History	13
5.4 Record	14
Play Instruments in the Plugin	14
Record What's In Your DAW	15
5.5 DAW Sound Design Tips	16
6. Prompting	17
6.1 General Tips	17
6.2 Create	17
Prompt Examples	17
7. Frequently Asked Questions	19
8. Troubleshooting	21
9. Contact & Support	21

1. Introduction

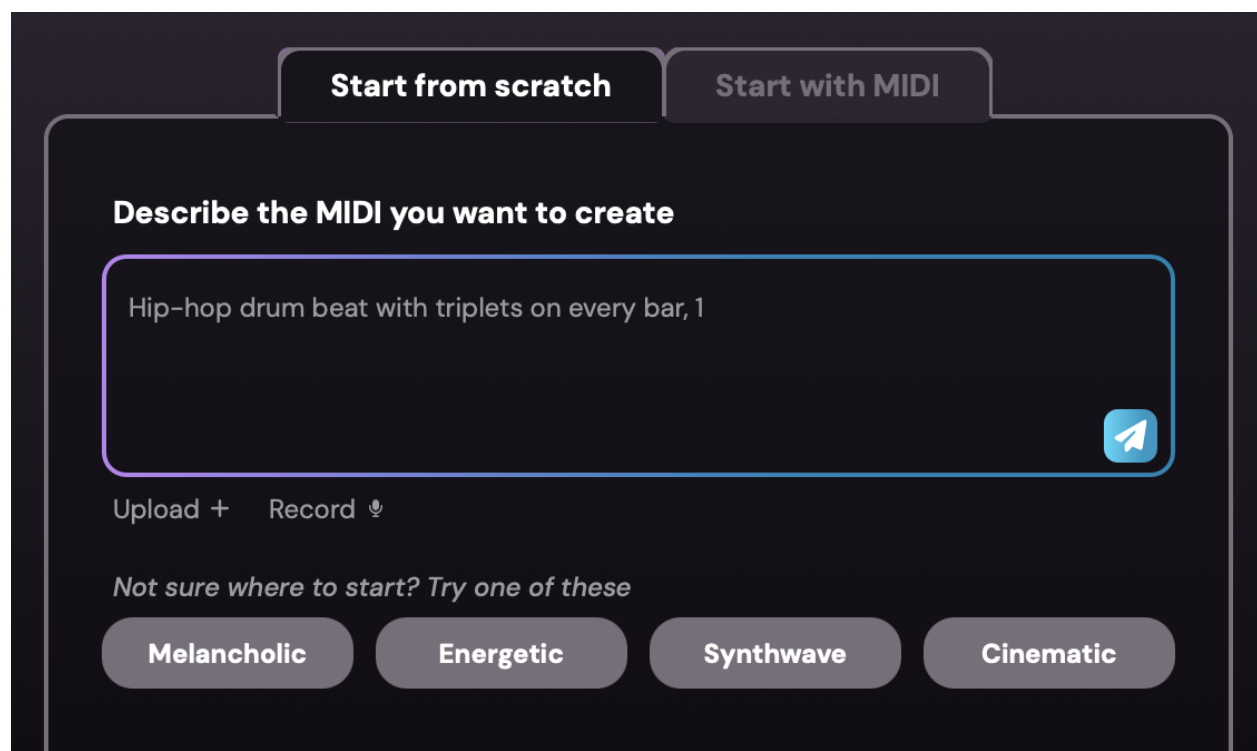
Welcome to the **AI Instrument**, the MIDI co-writer designed to support music producers and composers with originality, creativity, and precision.

Beat writer's block and enhance your composition process like never before. Simply enter text prompts or let the **AI Instrument** listen to your existing MIDI to create original stems, extend your ideas, or modify parts, all ready to drag into your DAW.

The AI Instrument doesn't just generate music -- it talks with you about it too. Brainstorm ideas, then start generating MIDI files from that same conversation without missing a beat. And if you have any questions about working with the plugin, just ask -- it's got you covered, right there in the same chat.

1.1 Start from Scratch

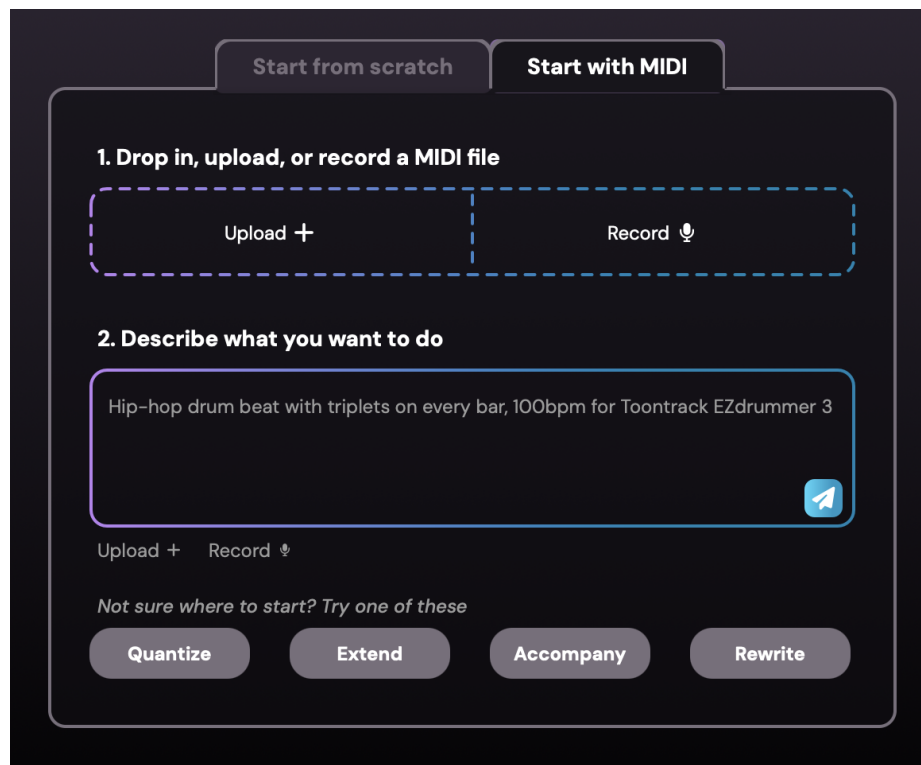
When you first open the plugin and log in, you'll see two tabs at the top. "Start from scratch" lets you type a text prompt to generate MIDI right away. Not sure what to write? Hit one of the buttons below the text box for some prompt inspiration.



1.2 Start with MIDI

If you already have a MIDI file, head to the "Start with MIDI" tab. From there, drag your file into Staccato, or click "Upload" or "Record." Then enter a prompt describing what you want Staccato

to do with it -- rewrite it in a different style, add an accompaniment, whatever you're going for. And just like the Start from Scratch tab, if you're not sure where to start, the buttons below the text box will give you some ideas.



The screenshot shows a dark-themed user interface for an AI music generation tool. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Start from scratch' and 'Start with MIDI', with the latter being the active tab. Below the tabs, the interface is divided into two main sections. The first section, titled '1. Drop in, upload, or record a MIDI file', contains two buttons: 'Upload +' and 'Record' with a microphone icon. The second section, titled '2. Describe what you want to do', features a large text input box containing the prompt 'Hip-hop drum beat with triplets on every bar, 100bpm for Toontrack EZdrummer 3'. To the right of the text box is a blue arrow icon. Below the text box are two smaller buttons: 'Upload +' and 'Record' with a microphone icon. At the bottom of the interface, there is a prompt 'Not sure where to start? Try one of these' followed by four buttons: 'Quantize', 'Extend', 'Accompany', and 'Rewrite'.

2. System Requirements

- macOS 10.15 or later / Windows 10 or later
- 4GB RAM (8GB recommended)
- 50mb of hard drive space
- Internet connection required for AI prompt processing
- Standalone (recommended), VST3, or AU host

3. Installation

3.1 Standalone Installation (*Recommended*)

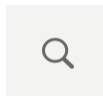
We recommend using the standalone version for the best performance and simplest setup. It's easier to manage overall, since you don't have to keep track of which project tracks the **AI Instrument** is loaded on. And because it supports multitrack use, it's more flexible when it isn't tied to a specific track.

Steps:

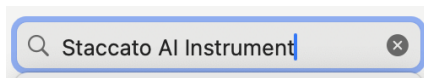
1. Visit the [Staccato AI Instrument download page](#).
2. Choose the installer for your operating system
3. Run the installer and follow the prompts
4. On Mac:
 - a. Click the Finder icon in the bottom-left corner of your screen (in the Dock)



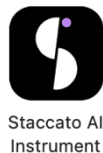
- b. Click the magnifying glass in the top right corner



- c. Type "Staccato AI Instrument" into the search bar



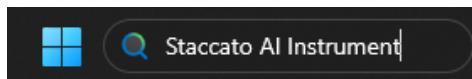
- d. Double-click "Staccato AI Instrument" to open



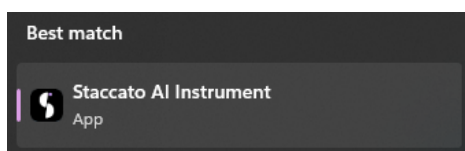
5. On Windows:
 - a. Click the Start menu (Windows icon in the bottom-left corner of your screen)



- b. Type "Staccato AI Instrument" into the search bar



- c. Click “Staccato AI Instrument” in the search results to open



3.2 VST3 / AU Plugin Installation

If you prefer using the **AI Instrument** as a plugin:

1. Visit the [Staccato AI Instrument download page](#).
2. Choose the installer for your operating system
3. Run the installer and choose your plugin folder
 - If left unchanged, VST3/AU files will automatically install into your default plugin directory:
 1. Windows: C:/Program Files/Common Files/VST3
 2. MacOS: /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components
4. Restart your DAW and scan for new plugins
5. Load the **AI Instrument** on a MIDI track
6. See Section 3.3 for installation instructions specific to each DAW

3.3 Opening the AI Instrument in Your DAW

Ableton Live

[Watch the Ableton Setup Tutorial on YouTube](#)

1. Open Options > Preferences > Plug-Ins
2. In “Plug-in Sources” set “Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders to ON
3. Enable "Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders" and click “Rescan Plug-Ins”
4. Close Options, select your desired track, and in the browser, open Plug-Ins > VST3 (or AU) > Staccato > **AI Instrument**
5. Load the **AI Instrument** into the MIDI track or in Audio Effects below

Logic Pro

[Watch the Logic Pro Setup Tutorial on YouTube](#)

1. The **AI Instrument** installs as an AU plugin

2. Open Logic Pro > Settings > Plug-In Manager
3. Ensure “Use” is enabled for “AI Instrument” and press “Done”
4. To load the plugin, select the desired track to load the **AI Instrument** into
5. Open Audio FX > Audio Units > Staccato > AI Instrument > Stereo

Reaper

[Watch the Reaper Setup Tutorial on YouTube](#)

1. Ensure the VST3 file is installed within Reaper’s VST plug-in path, then go to Options > Preferences > Plug-ins > VST > VST plug-in paths > Re-scan
2. Select the desired track to load the **AI Instrument** into and select FX
3. Open Developers > Staccato > AI Instrument

Cubase

[Watch the Cubase Setup Tutorial on YouTube](#)

1. Open Studio > VST Plug-In Manager > Rescan. Make sure the folder containing the .vst3 file is listed in “VST Plug-In Path Settings”
2. Select the desired track to load the **AI Instrument** into
3. Open Inserts > Staccato > Other > AI Instrument

FL Studio

1. Open Options > Manage plugins > Find installed plugins. Make sure the folder containing the .vst3 file is listed in “Plugin search paths”
2. Star (or “F”) the **AI Instrument** and open the Mixer
3. Select the desired insert to load the **AI Instrument** into
4. Open Slot > FX > AI Instrument

Studio One

1. Open **Studio One** > Options (*Preferences on macOS*)
2. Go to **Locations > VST Plug-Ins**
3. Enable “Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders”
4. Click “**Scan**” (or restart Studio One to rescan)
5. Close Options, open the **Browser (F5)**
6. Go to **Instruments > VST3** (or Effects > VST3)

7. Navigate to Staccato > **AI Instrument**
8. Drag the plugin onto a MIDI track (instrument) or into Audio Inserts (effect)

Pro Tools

- The **AI Instrument** is not currently available in AAX format for Pro Tools
- Use the standalone version

3.4 Uninstallation

Windows: Run “uninstall.exe,” which is in the folder C:\Program Files\Staccato

Mac: Drag the “Staccato AI Instrument” application from your Application folder to your trash

4. Getting Started

4.1 Using Virtual Instruments with the AI Instrument

[Watch the Connecting Analog/Digital Instruments tutorial on YouTube](#)

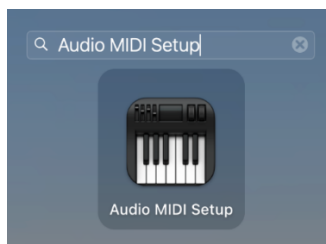
The **AI Instrument** is designed to fit seamlessly into your workflow, allowing you to hear your music exactly how you envision it: by routing its output to your preferred virtual instruments.



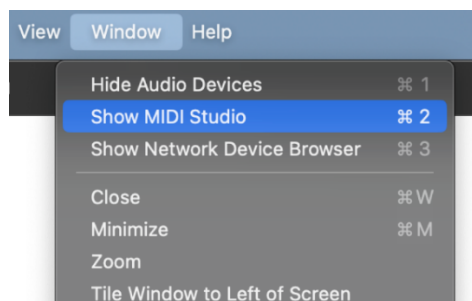
The channels in the generated tracks won’t automatically match your DAW’s instrument tracks, which can often default to channel 1. The **AI Instrument** assigns channels incrementally, beginning with 1, except for drum tracks, which are automatically assigned to channel 10. Consult your DAW’s user manual for more information on setting channels per track.

On Mac:

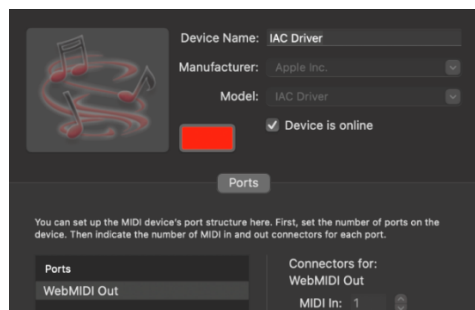
1. Go to Application > Audio MIDI Setup



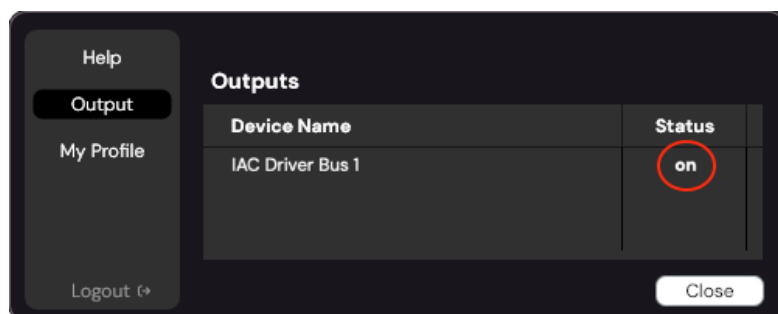
2. In the menu bar, select Window > Show MIDI Studio



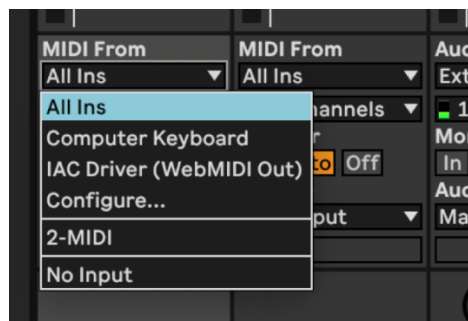
3. Double-click IAC icon, then select **Devices is Online**



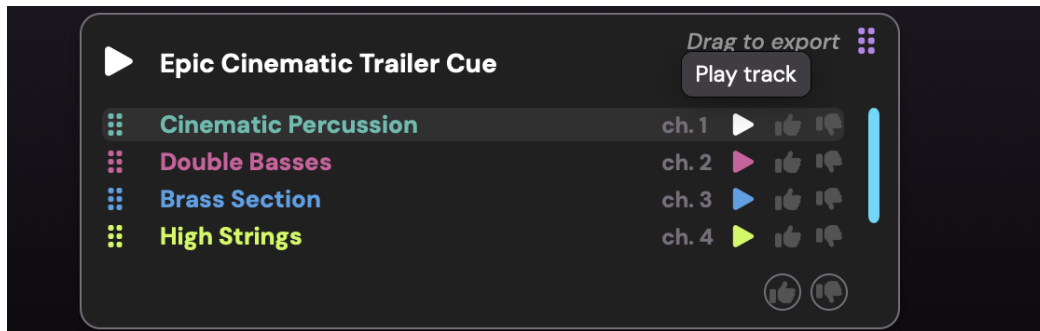
4. Open the Output menu by clicking the gear in the top right corner of the **AI Instrument**.
5. Enable **IAC Driver** (click Status on):



6. Select "IAC Driver" in your DAW or virtual instrument as the MIDI input

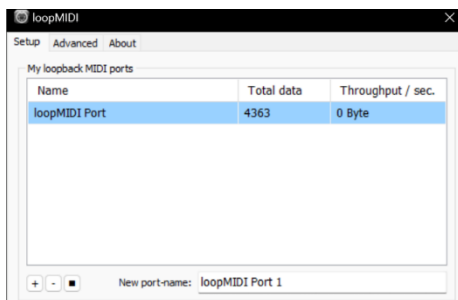


7. In the **AI Instrument**, press the play button on your generated MIDI to hear it through your virtual instrument

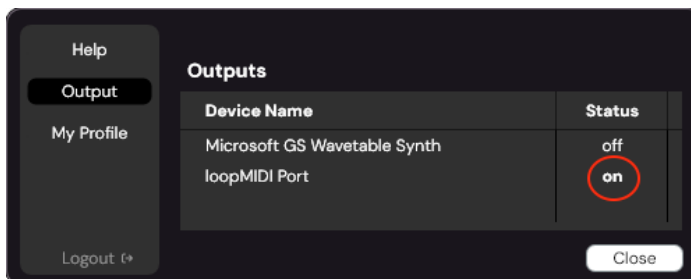


On Windows:

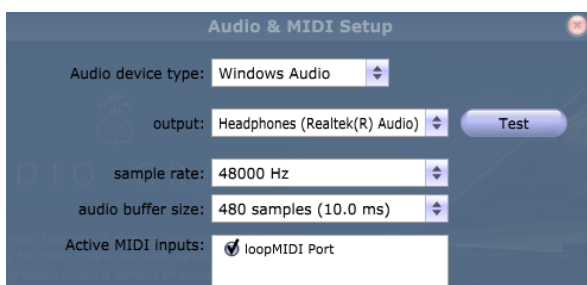
1. Install loopMIDI ([Get it here](#))
2. Run loopMIDI and create a new port with “Add Port”



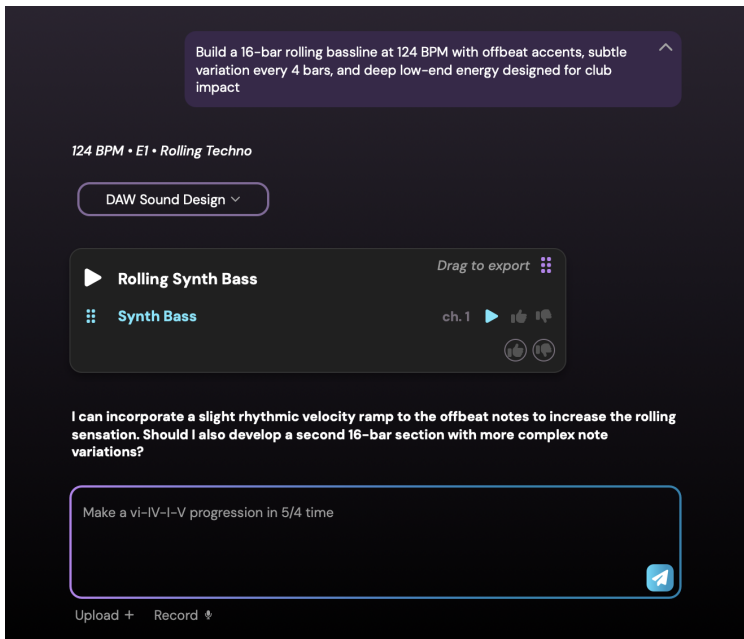
3. Open the Output menu by clicking the gear in the top right corner of the **AI Instrument**
4. Enable loopMIDI Port (click Status on):



5. Select “loopMIDI Port” in your DAW or virtual instrument as the MIDI input



6. In the **AI Instrument**, press the play button on your generated MIDI to hear it through your virtual instrument

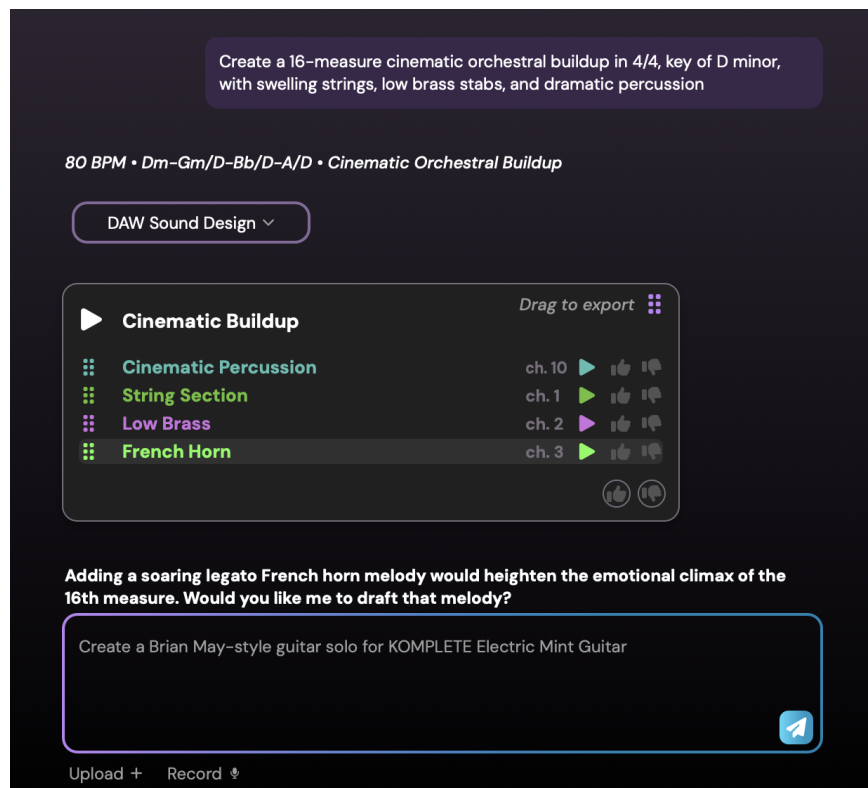


5. Features Overview

5.1 Create

[Watch the Create Tutorial on YouTube](#)

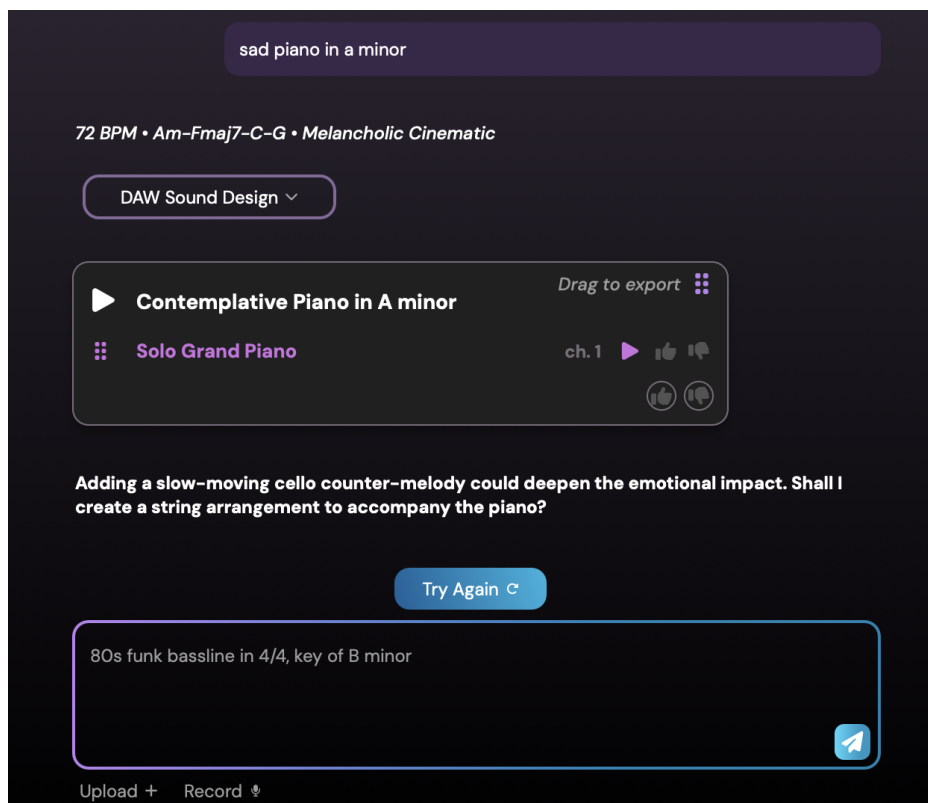
Turn any text prompt into unique MIDI stems, sections, melodies, beats, chord progressions, and more.



1. Type a phrase like “Create a sad piano melody in B minor” or a longer prompt like “Make a dark cinematic string section building tension, inspired by film composers like Hans Zimmer or Trent Reznor”
2. The **AI Instrument** will create one generation.
3. See Sections 6.1 and 6.2 for prompting tips and suggestions

Example Use Cases:

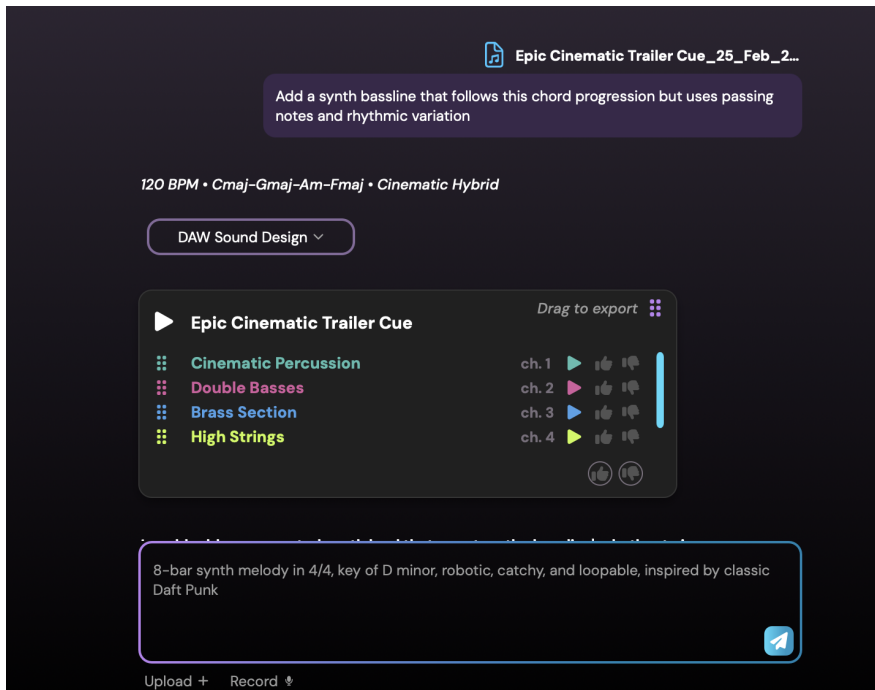
- Perfect for starting a new track when you’re facing writer’s block or have a rough idea but need help getting started
- Useful for quickly generating MIDI ideas in specific genres or styles
- Generate ideas for styles you may be less familiar with – extend your musical vocabulary



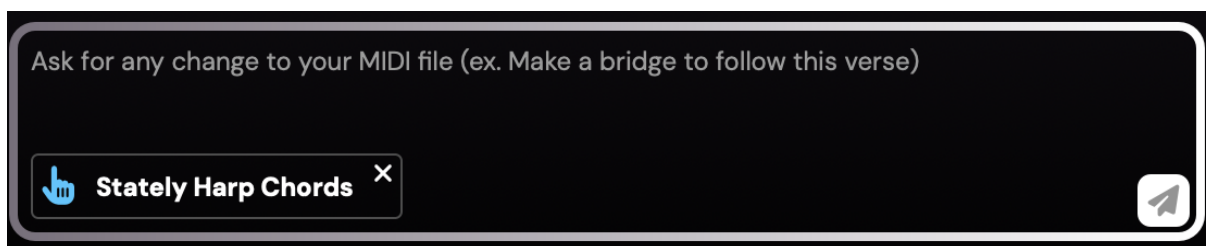
5.2 Rewrites & Accompaniments

[Watch the Rewrite/Accompany Tutorial on YouTube](#)

Use text prompts to request changes or accompaniments to any MIDI file.



1. Creating modifications or accompaniments is simple. You can request a revision in the chat for any MIDI that's already been generated, or bring in new material using the "Upload +" button or by dragging a file into the plugin.
2. You can also target specific generated MIDI when making a request -- click the six-dot icon on any generated placecard to select an entire stem or an individual track. From there, your instructions will apply directly to that material, whether you're making edits, creating a variation, or generating an accompaniment.
3. When a MIDI file is ready to be rewritten, it will appear in the bottom left corner of the chat box:



4. Ask for any changes or accompaniments: "Make it more syncopated" or "Turn this piano into a guitar solo" or "Create drums that match the groove and energy of this melody".
5. Create works like a chat, similar to ChatGPT. After it generates a MIDI file from your initial text prompt, you can keep giving it instructions to further refine the result.

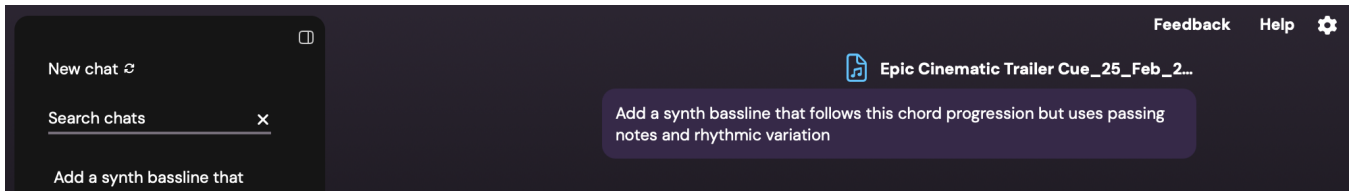
Example Use Cases:

- Helpful for creating bridges or transitions based on existing MIDI tracks
- Ideal for stylistic transformations (e.g., changing genre or instrumentation)

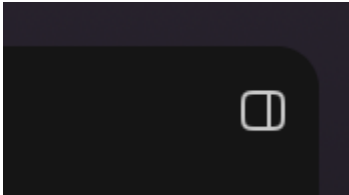
- Great for refining parts without manually editing notes

5.3 History

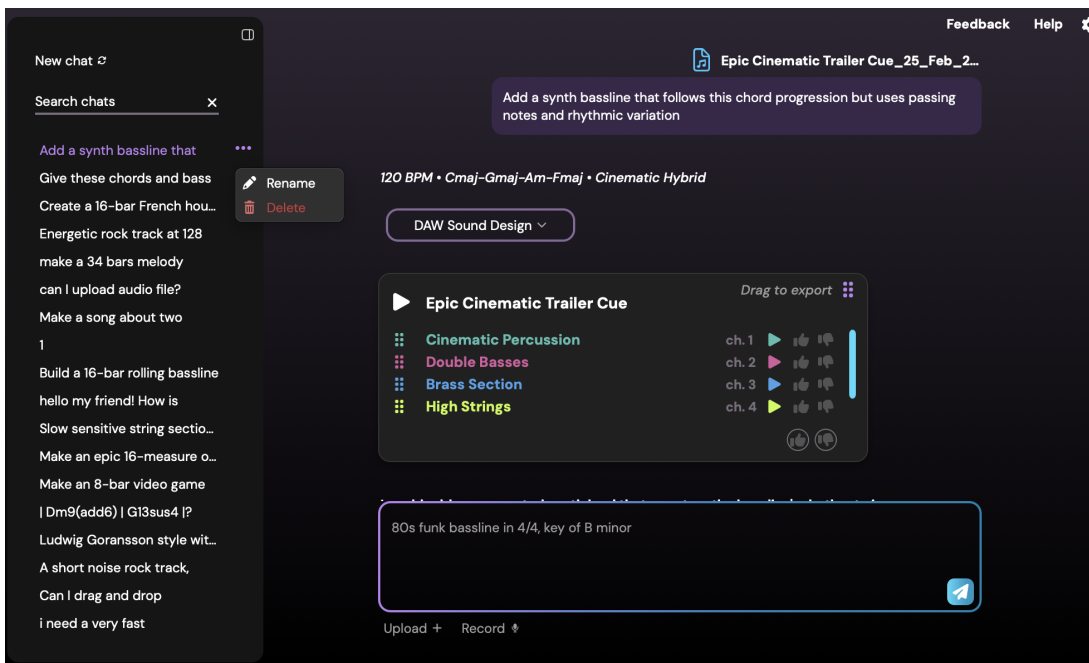
History is a feature of the **Staccato AI Instrument** that contains all previous conversations and files created by the user. It works in the same way as ChatGPT's history, allowing you to return to even your very first chat, review past conversations, and re-download MIDI files at any time.



The *History* panel automatically appears on the left and can be hidden by pressing the button shown below.



You can also rename any chat to help keep things organized. To do this, move your cursor over the chat to highlight it. Click the **three dots** that appear, then select **Rename**. Refer to the image below.



Example Use Cases:

- Helpful for returning to previously created or extended MIDI files
- Keeps all chats, making it easy to revisit sound design tips and discussions
- Extremely useful when working across two machines—it automatically functions as a cloud, allowing you to download MIDI files or transfer them easily through chat

5.4 Record

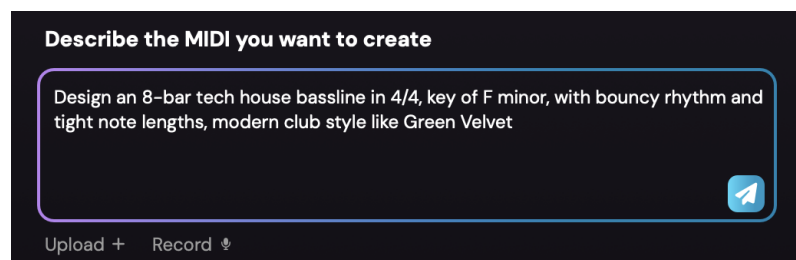
The **Listen** feature lets you record directly into the AI Instrument plugin. You can do this in one of two ways:

- 1) By playing your MIDI instrument in real time inside the plugin, or
- 2) By recording what's in your DAW

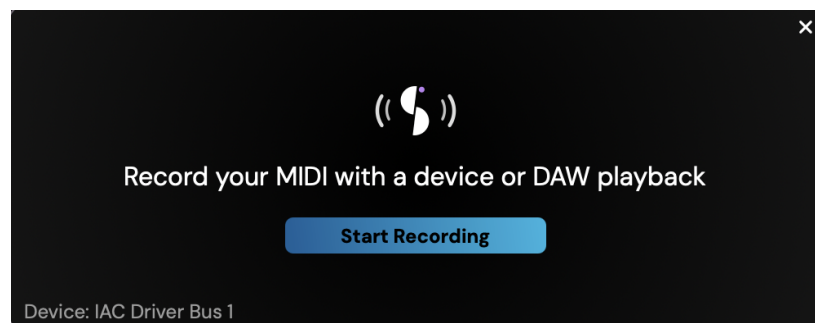
Play Instruments in the Plugin

Before using the **Record** feature, verify that your MIDI instrument is properly connected to the AI Instrument. Refer to the '**Getting Started**' section of this manual, above.

To begin, press the **Record** button under the text input box:

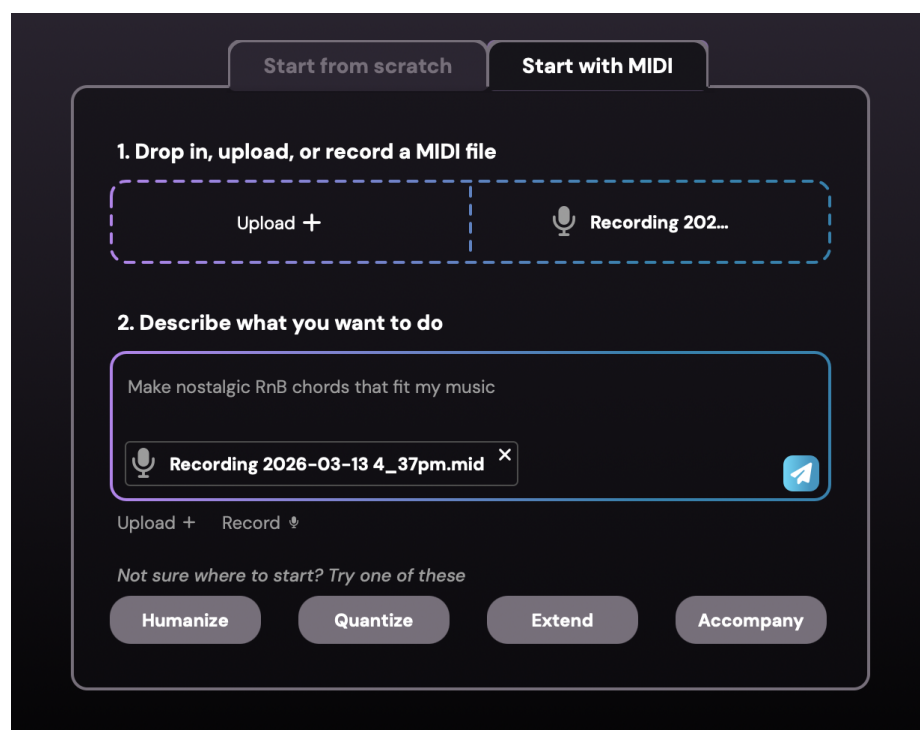


A new window will appear, as shown in the screenshot below.



Press **Start Recording** and start playing your instrument.

After you're finished playing, press **Stop** and the recording will be automatically uploaded to the chat window (see image below). Then tell the AI Instrument what to do with the material (rewrite, make an accompaniment, etc.), just as you would when adding a MIDI file.



Note: You can also use the VST plugin on a MIDI track if your keyboard is already connected to your DAW.

Record What's In Your DAW

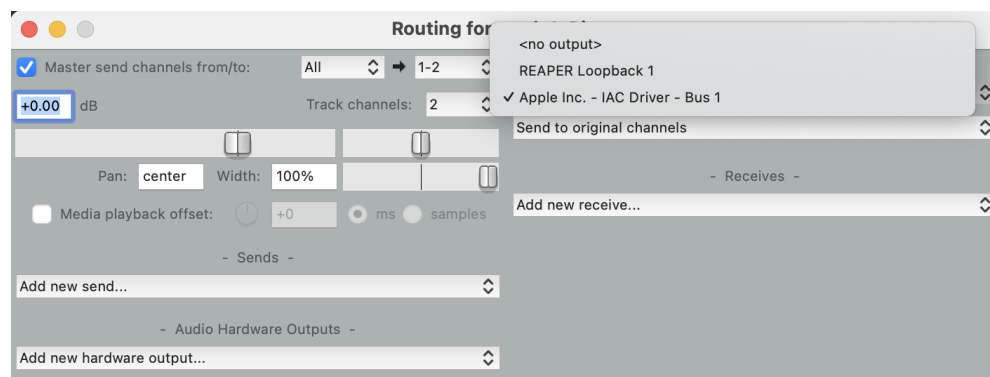
In addition, the **Record** feature can record MIDI from your DAW and, based on that input, rewrite, accompany, or extend it.

The easiest method is to load the VST plugin on your MIDI track, press Listen in the plugin, and then press play in your DAW. The plugin will automatically detect your DAW as the MIDI input. Now you can use it the same way you would when playing a MIDI instrument: open the **Record** feature and enable Listen, and it will monitor your DAW.

We strongly recommend using the Listen feature this way, as it will always listen to the same channel, even while you are performing inside your DAW.

To use this feature in the standalone plugin, open your DAW and enable **IAC Driver Bus** (on macOS) or **LoopMIDI** (on Windows) as the MIDI output. Refer to the '**Getting Started**' section of this manual for further instructions. You can then use it as a send or as the direct MIDI output of your MIDI track. The exact steps will vary by DAW.

Here is a screenshot showing how it looks in Reaper.

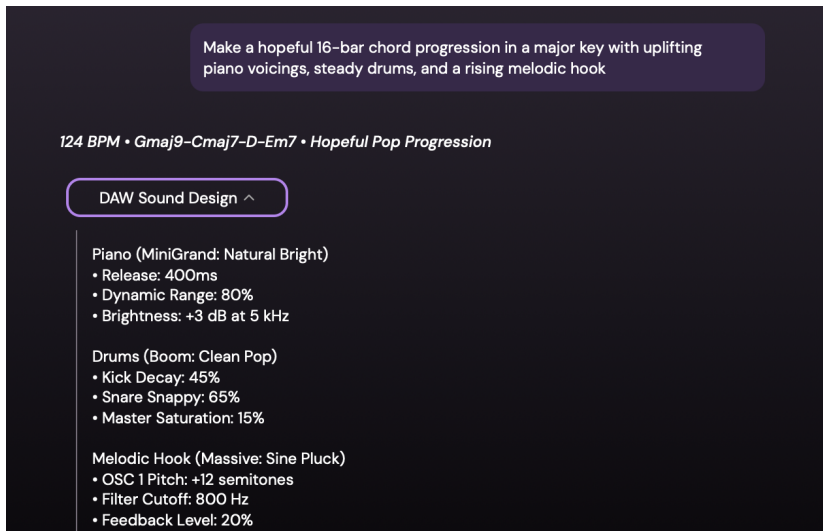


Example Use Cases:

- Ideal for skilled performers who are comfortable recording directly in the plugin
- Useful as a quick idea sketcher: play a melody and ask the plugin to add harmony or a countermelody
- Can also be used as a mistake fixer or for chord progression improvement suggestions, without needing to record MIDI in your DAW and then drag it into the plugin

5.5 DAW Sound Design Tips

The AI Instrument also gives you built-in sound design guidance for your generated MIDI. It even **reads your VST folder automatically**, so its suggestions are matched to the instruments you actually have. Once you create a part, the plugin automatically generates tailored tips you can view via the dropdown at the top of the interface -- covering synthesis approaches, articulations, effects, and processing techniques that fit the musical context.



You may choose to follow these tips, ignore them, or request additional clarification. You can also ask the AI to produce more specific sound design advice that matches a particular timbre or style you have in mind. The AI Instrument supports open-ended music-related queries, allowing it to function as an interactive assistant within your DAW environment.

6. Prompting

6.1 General Tips

- [Check out our 5 Tips to Create Your Best Music with the AI Instrument on YouTube.](#)
- With **Create**, you can be as vague or as specific as you like, from a broad mood or genre, right down to instrumentation, note range, and rhythmic feel.
- The more specific your prompt, the more tailored the result will be.



The **AI Instrument** is designed to generate building blocks for your songs like stems, sections, and loops. Please note that more complex requests may take longer to generate. We encourage you to experiment with different prompts. See Sections 6.2 and 6.4 of this guide for a great starting point!

- If the output doesn't match what you had in mind, you can always pass the generated MIDI back into **Create** by clicking the track(s) to continue to make precise adjustments. Or you can pass the generated MIDI into **Extend** via the extend button under the generation to increase its length.
- Avoid abbreviations in text prompts (e.g., use "B Major" instead of "B Maj" or "Bm").

- Please note that Staccato generates MIDI, not audio. As a result, prompts related to sound design (e.g., attack, slides) may not directly reflect in the MIDI output. However, including sound design details in your prompts can help Staccato generate MIDI that pairs well with specific sounds (e.g., generating longer notes for instruments with slow attack).
-

6.2 Create

Prompt Examples

- "Make a hip hop hi-hat pattern with triplets, inspired by Metro Boomin"
- "Create drums with LABS Drums that match the groove and energy of this melody"
- "Melancholy piano melody in B minor"
- "Make a bridge section based on the MIDI file I supplied with a big build-up section"
- "Make it sound more like house"
- "Driving rock drum beat with fills for EZDrummer 2 Modern kit"
- "Put the tracks in this MIDI file in this order: drums, bass, guitar"
- "Funky slap bass groove"
- "Add syncopation to the rhythm"
- "Jazz trio groove in 3/4"
- "Make this Waves Piano & Keys melody sound more human by loosening the timing and changing up the velocities"
- "Minimal techno kick and bass combo, using the Battery 4 Dance One Kit"
- "Make a dark, fast-paced bassline for Ample Bass P II Lite"
- "A dark cinematic string section building tension, inspired by film composers like Hans Zimmer or Trent Reznor"
- "Add triplets to every bar to accompany the melody"
- "Make a dreamy loop with four flowing chords and a simple, catchy melody. Stay mostly in a major tonality but add occasional color tones or modal shifts."
- "Simplify the chord progression"
- "Pop-punk drum beat in the style of Blink-182, fast-paced with punchy snare hits and lots of energy"
- "Make the drums tighter and more fitting for electronic music"
- "Write a slow ballad with extended chords on Addictive Keys Model One Stage Piano. Use a walking bass and gentle drum patterns to support the chords."
- "Add variation to the hi-hats"

- “Create a chaotic, exciting drop, with an off-kilter lead melody using a Vital Sawtooth synth”
 - "Add harmonies to this melody"
 - "Create a groove with syncopated 16th-note rhythms and tight chord stabs. Use smooth voice leading and rhythmic variation to keep it interesting.”
 - "Add a bassline that follows the chord progression but uses passing notes and rhythmic variation”
 - “Create an uplifting chiptune melody and bass combo, reminiscent of 8-bit console video game music”
 - "Add a lead melody that fits with the existing rhythm section"
 - “Make a pleasant, bouncy guitar solo, inspired by Brian May from Queen”
 - “Make an indie pop verse, with soft acoustic guitar strums beneath a main piano melody”
-

7. Frequently Asked Questions

Is the MIDI I get unique to me?

Yes. Each MIDI file is generated from scratch using your prompt, so your output is unique.

Very simple requests (e.g., generic four-chord loops) can land on similar material, but your instrument choices and sound-design decisions still make each track yours.

Will I own the MIDI that I generate with the AI Instrument?

Absolutely, it's yours!

Is the generated MIDI royalty-free?

Everything you generate is royalty-free and yours to use commercially or personally. Our models are trained only on data that respects artists' copyrights, and guardrails prevent outputs that are too close to existing works.

How do I use my generated MIDI in my DAW?

MIDI files can be simply dragged-and-dropped from a placecard or track title: [Check out our tutorial on exporting MIDI from the **AI Instrument** plugin on YouTube.](#)

Can I reference artists in my prompts?

You can indeed reference artists in your prompts. The **AI Instrument** applies the methods and styles of artists without recreating or copying the existing work of others.

Is the **AI Instrument trained on other artists' work?**

No. Our models are trained only on data that respects artists' copyrights, and we've integrated guardrails to prevent outputs that are too close to existing works. The **AI Instrument** learns the underlying principles of artists' styles without directly copying, allowing it to collaborate like a real co-writer.

If you're still curious, read about our commitment to ethical AI on our [About Us page](#).

Am I limited in the number of prompts I can use? Do I need to buy prompt credits?

No credits are required. You get unlimited generations with your purchase.

Can I request multiple instruments in one prompt?

Yes, the **AI Instrument** supports multi-instrument, multi-track generation.

Can the **AI Instrument generate full songs?**

The **AI Instrument** is designed to help you create musical ideas like stems, melodies, bridges, and loops, rather than full songs. You drive the overall arrangement; the more detail you add to a prompt, the more complete the result.

For guidance on writing effective prompts, see Section 6 above.

Does the **AI Instrument edit what's in my DAW?**

No, it is separate from your DAW. You simply drag and drop MIDI between the **AI Instrument** and your DAW.

Do I need an internet connection?

Yes, prompts are processed in the cloud.

Does the AI Instrument output audio?

The **AI Instrument** generates MIDI, not audio, which you can route to any virtual instrument or sampler.

Does the AI Instrument learn from my input or improve over time?

The current model does not adapt to individual users. The **AI Instrument** is trained to respond accurately to detailed, musical prompts.

Which languages does the AI Instrument support?

You can type prompts in any language! The plugin interface is currently in English, and we're actively working on translating them to additional languages.

Which DAWs and notation software does the AI Instrument support?

The **AI Instrument** works with any DAW or notation software that supports VST3 or AU. There's also a standalone version for drag-and-drop workflows (compatible with Ableton, Logic, FL Studio, Pro Tools, Cubase, Reaper, Dorico, MuseScore, and more).

You can also route MIDI internally using IAC on Mac or third-party tools like LoopMIDI on Windows.

Note: Pro Tools is not supported by Staccato AI Instrument™

What are the system requirements?

Refer to “System Requirements” section near the beginning of this document.

8. Troubleshooting

Plugin not showing up in DAW: Make sure the plugin path is correctly added in your DAW settings. Refer to sections 3.3 and 3.4 for step-by-step instructions to find your plugin directory and load the VST into your specific DAW.

No sound: Ensure the **AI Instrument** is on a MIDI track routed to an instrument.

Error message when using .VST3 version: "Something went wrong. Please check connection and try again": Check that your device has a stable internet connection; otherwise, the **AI Instrument** will time out and display this error message. Make sure your DAW is not blocking outgoing connections for your firewall, as this interrupts the plugin from working properly. If the error persists, try adding your VST3 or DAW directory to your firewall's exclusion list.

Firewalls, antivirus software, and VPNs can interfere with Staccato's ability to receive real-time MIDI data. In some cases, Staccato may still load sound design tips or other static content (which uses standard web traffic) but fail to respond to MIDI input, since MIDI streaming and local network communication can be blocked or filtered by security software.

If you experience this issue, **temporarily disabling your firewall/VPN or creating an exception for Staccato** will usually resolve it. For step-by-step guidance, please refer to our YouTube playlist on how to turn off or configure firewalls:

[How To Turn Off VPN Proxy in Windows](#)

[How to Turn Off Firewall or Antivirus on Mac | MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, iMac, Mac Mini](#)

9. Contact & Support

- **Customer support:** support@staccato.ai
- **Feedback:** contact@staccato.ai
- **Discord:** Join our [user community](#) for support, tips, and feedback.