

STACCÀTO

User Guide: Staccato Plugin

[Prefer to watch a video to get started?](#) Check out our video tutorial:

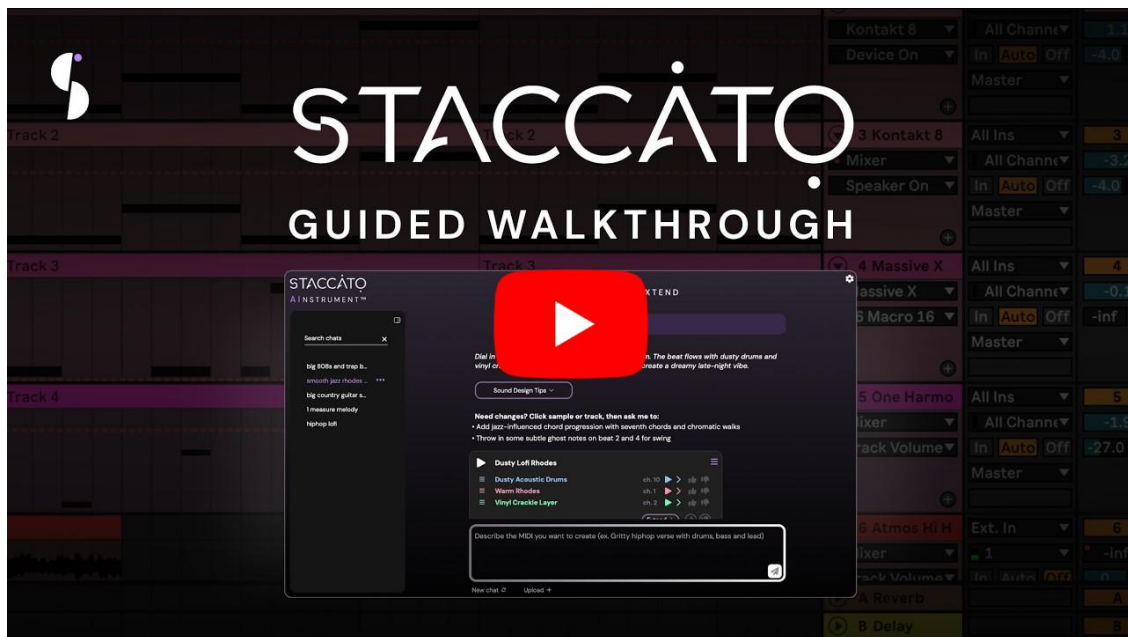


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1. Introduction

Welcome to **Staccato**, 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 **Staccato** listen to your existing MIDI to create original stems, extend your ideas, or modify parts, all ready to drag into your DAW.

Staccato 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.

2. System Requirements

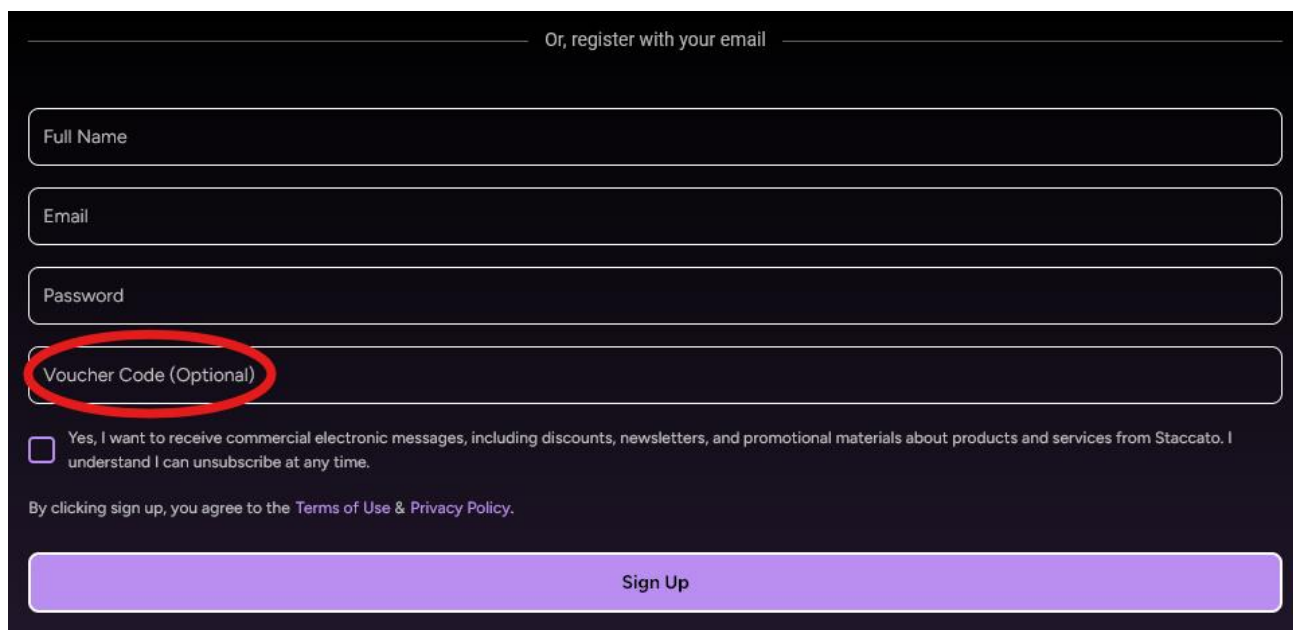
- macOS 10.15 or later / Windows 10 or later
 - 4GB RAM (8GB recommended)
 - 50mb of hard drive space
 - Internet connection required for AI prompt processing
 - Standalone (recommended), VST3, AAX, or AU host
-

3. Installation

3.1 How to Redeem a Dealer Code

If you've purchased Staccato through a site like Audio Plugin Deals, Thomann, or Best Service, you can easily activate your license in one of two ways:

1. **On Signup:** Go to <https://staccato.ai/>. Click "Get Started", then "Create Account", and enter your 8-digit code in the "Voucher Code" box. Complete registration, and your purchase will be applied to your account.

A registration form for Staccato.ai. At the top, it says "Or, register with your email". Below this are four input fields: "Full Name", "Email", "Password", and "Voucher Code (Optional)". The "Voucher Code (Optional)" field is highlighted with a red circle. Below the fields is a checkbox with the text "Yes, I want to receive commercial electronic messages, including discounts, newsletters, and promotional materials about products and services from Staccato. I understand I can unsubscribe at any time." Below the checkbox is a line of text: "By clicking sign up, you agree to the Terms of Use & Privacy Policy." At the bottom is a large blue button labeled "Sign Up".

Or, register with your email

Full Name

Email

Password

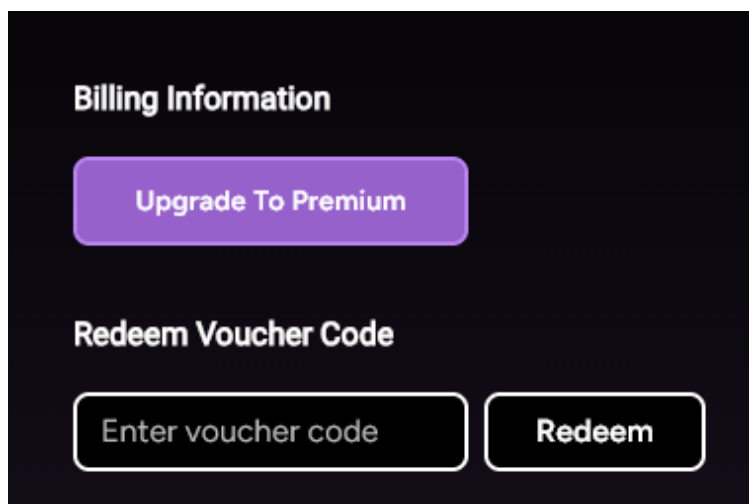
Voucher Code (Optional)

☐ Yes, I want to receive commercial electronic messages, including discounts, newsletters, and promotional materials about products and services from Staccato. I understand I can unsubscribe at any time.

By clicking sign up, you agree to the Terms of Use & Privacy Policy.

Sign Up

2. **On Your Profile:** Go to <https://staccato.ai/>. Click "Get Started", sign up or log in, then click your profile icon in the top-right corner, then under "Profile", select "Billing" and enter your 8-digit code in the "Redeem Voucher Code" box.

A screenshot of the "Billing Information" page on Staccato.ai. It has a dark background. At the top, it says "Billing Information". Below this is a blue button labeled "Upgrade To Premium". Further down, it says "Redeem Voucher Code". Below this text are two input fields: "Enter voucher code" and "Redeem".

Billing Information

Upgrade To Premium

Redeem Voucher Code

Enter voucher code

Redeem

3.2 Standalone Installation (*Recommended*)

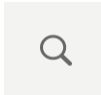
We recommend using the standalone version for the best performance and simplest setup. It's easier to manage overall, since you don't have to keep track of which project tracks Staccato is loaded on. And because Staccato supports multitrack use, it's more flexible when it isn't tied to a specific track.

Steps:

1. Visit the [Staccato 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



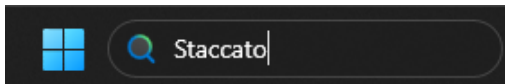
- c. Type "Staccato" into the search bar
 - d. Double-click "Staccato" to open



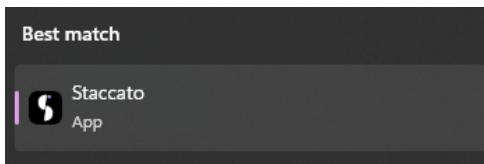
5. On Windows:
 - a. Click the Start menu (Windows icon in the bottom-left corner of your screen)



- b. Type "Staccato" into the search bar



- c. Click "Staccato" in the search results to open



3.3 VST3 / AAX / AU Plugin Installation

If you prefer using Staccato as a plugin:

1. Visit the [Staccato 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 Staccato on a MIDI track
6. See Section 3.3 for installation instructions specific to each DAW

3.4 Opening Staccato 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 > Staccato
5. Load Staccato into the MIDI track or in Audio Effects below

Logic Pro

1. Staccato installs as an AU plugin
2. Open Logic Pro > Settings > Plug-In Manager
3. Ensure “Use” is enabled for “Staccato” and press “Done”
4. To load the plugin, select the desired track to load Staccato into
5. Open Audio FX > Audio Units > Staccato > Staccato > Stereo
- On Logic Pro, Staccato currently appears as an Audio FX plug-in rather than a MIDI FX plug-in. We chose this format to keep the AU compatible with a wider set of hosts, including Ableton Live and Digital Performer, which do not handle Logic-style AU MIDI FX in the same way.

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 Staccato into and select FX
3. Open Developers > Staccato > Staccato

Cubase

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

1. Open Studio > VST Plug-In Manager > Rescan All. Make sure the folder containing the .vst3 file is listed in "VST Plug-In Path Settings"
2. Select the desired track to load Staccato into
3. Open Inserts > 1 – Pre > Other > Staccato

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") Staccato and open the Mixer
3. Select the desired insert to load Staccato into
4. Open Slot > FX > Staccato

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 > Staccato
8. Drag the plugin onto a MIDI track (instrument) or into Audio Inserts (effect)

Pro Tools

1. Make sure the .aax file is in your default directory
 1. Windows: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins
 2. MacOS: /Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins
2. Open Pro Tools and at the top of the screen, click Window > Mix **OR** Edit
3. Select an insert under Inserts A-E of your desired instrument track
4. Open Multi-Mono Plugin > Other > Staccato

3.5 Uninstallation

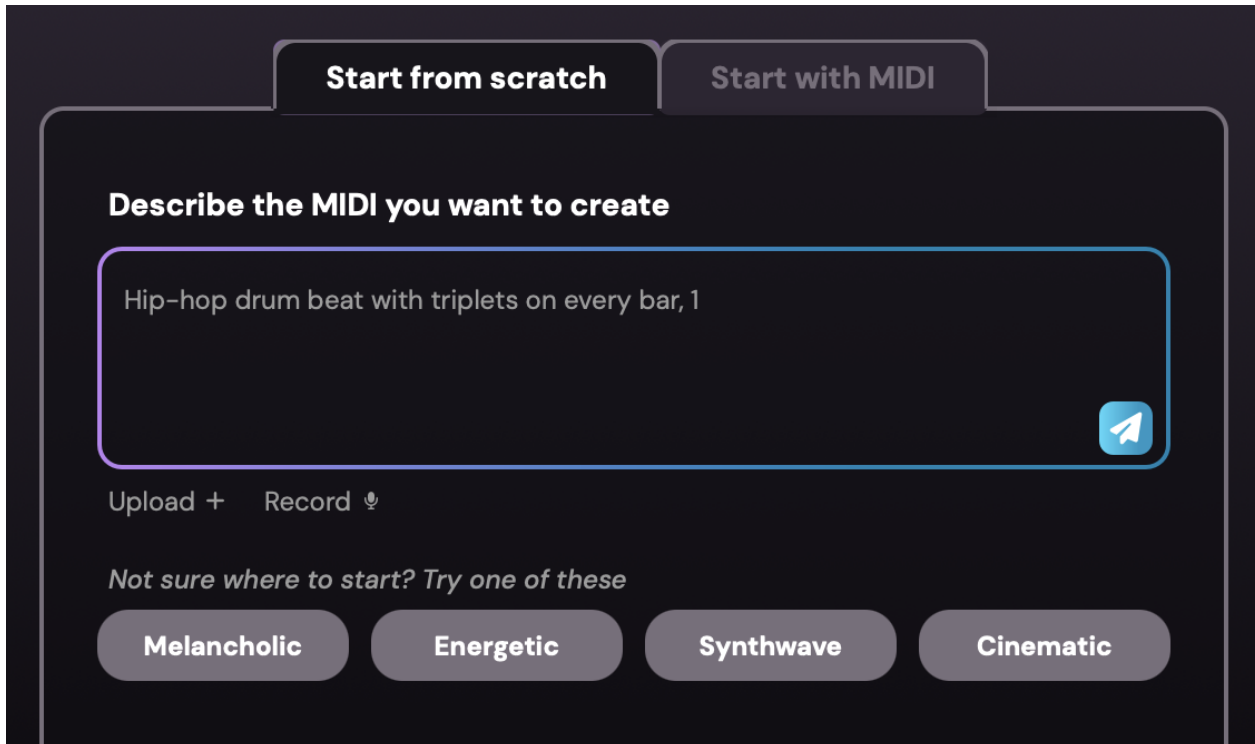
Windows: Run “Uninstall Staccato.exe,” which is in the folder C:\Program Files\Staccato

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

4. Getting Started

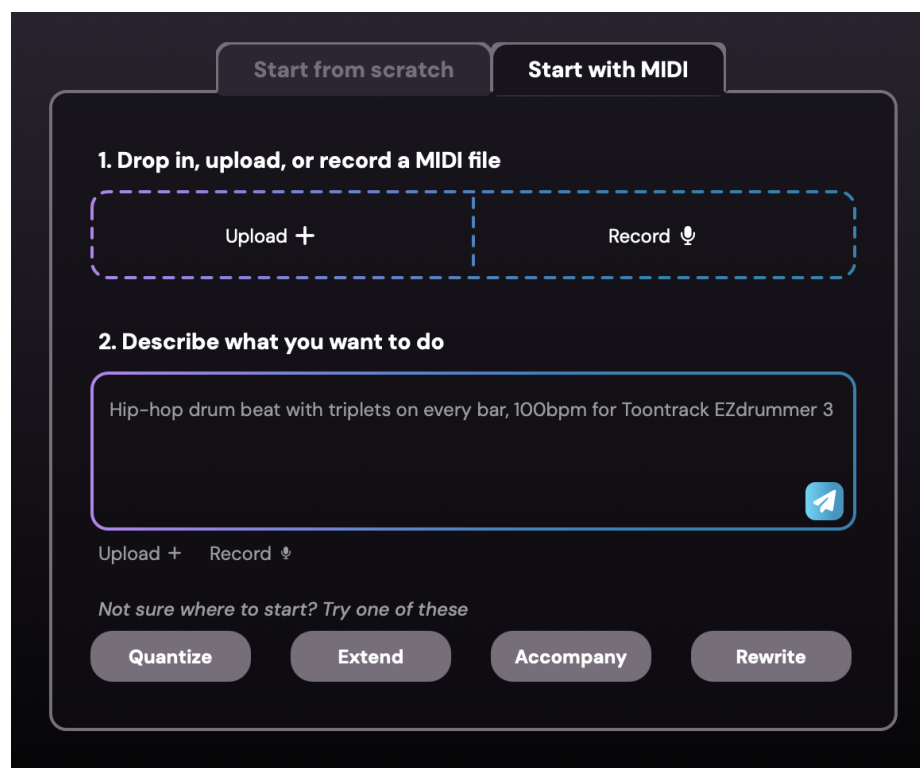
4.1 Start from Scratch

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.



4.2 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.



4.3 Using Virtual Instruments with Staccato

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

Staccato 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. Staccato 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.

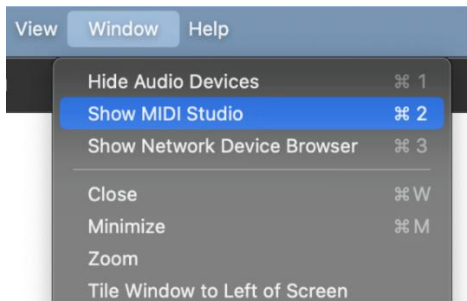
For Fender Studio / Studio One users, navigate to Section 4.4 for specific instructions.

On Mac:

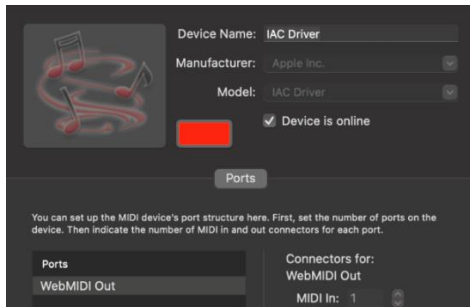
1. Go to Application > Audio MIDI Setup



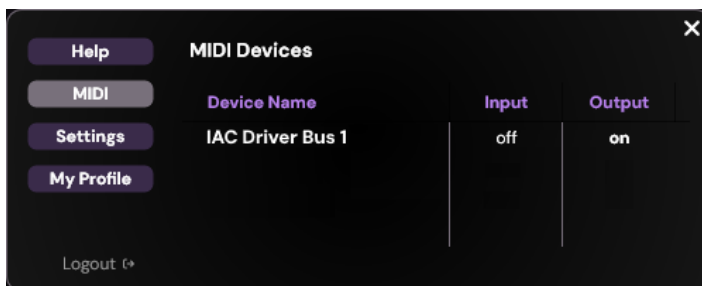
2. In the menu bar, select Window > Show MIDI Studio



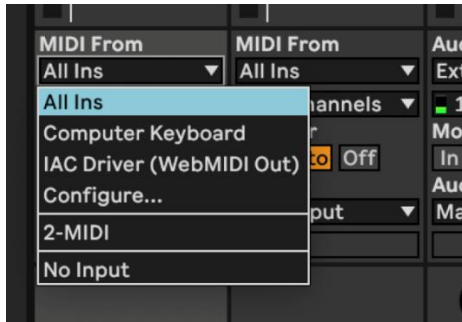
3. Double-click IAC icon, then select Devices is Online



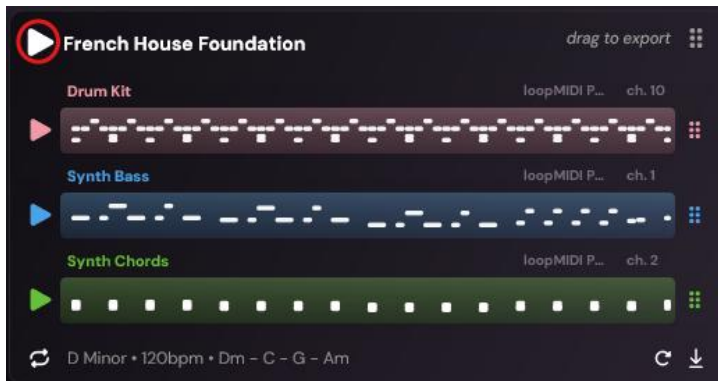
4. Open the Output menu by clicking the gear in the top right corner of Staccato.
5. Enable IAC Driver (click "off" beneath Output):



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



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



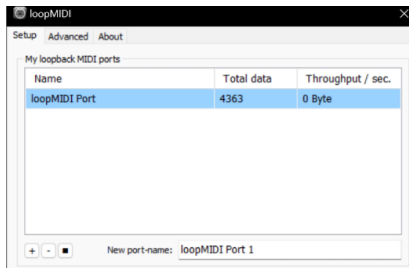
On Windows (Option 1: Staccato Virtual):

1. Install Windows MIDI services ([Get it here](#))
2. Open the Output menu by clicking the gear in the top right corner of Staccato
3. Enable Staccato Virtual (click “off” beneath Output)
4. Select “Staccato Virtual” in your DAW or virtual instrument as the MIDI input
5. In Staccato, press the play button on your generated MIDI to hear it through your virtual instrument

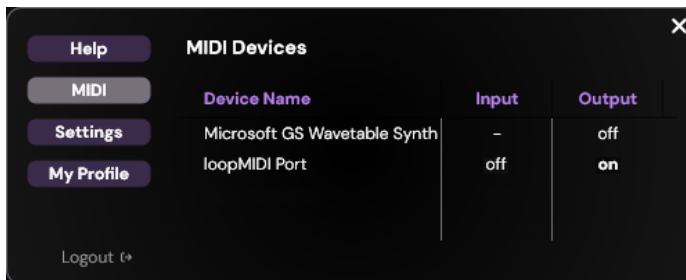
On Windows (Option 2: loopMIDI):

1. Install loopMIDI ([Get it here](#))

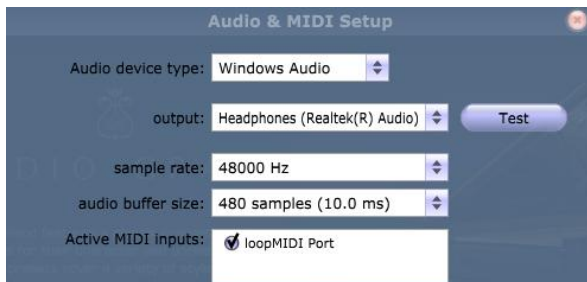
2. Run loopMIDI and create a new port with “Add Port”



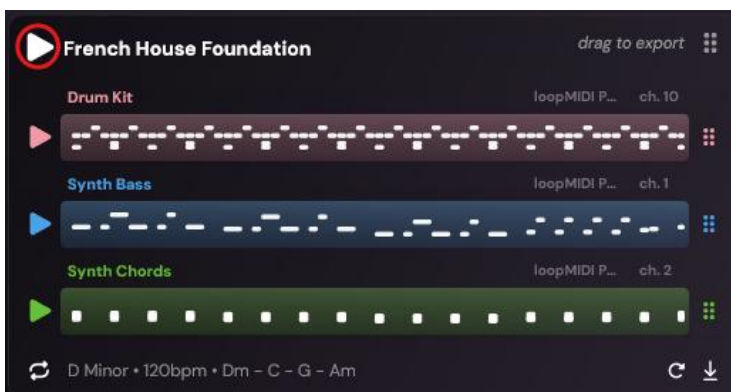
3. Open the Output menu by clicking the gear in the top right corner of Staccato
4. Enable loopMIDI Port (click “off” beneath Output):



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

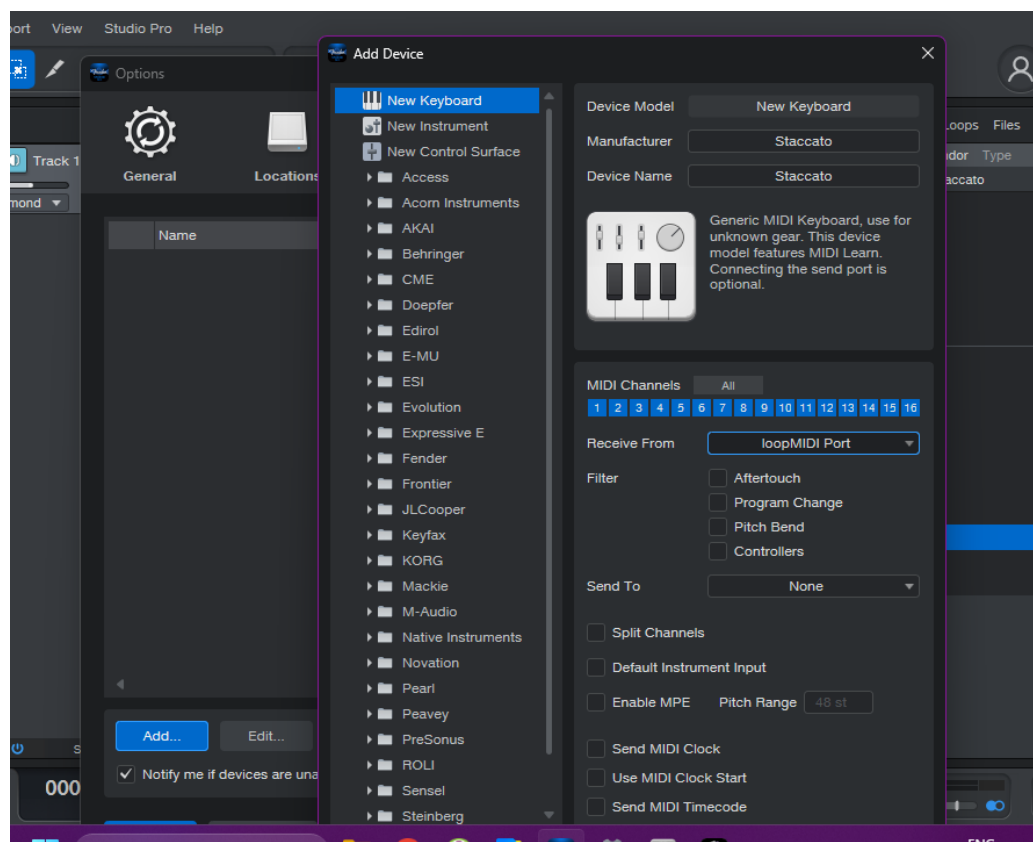


6. In Staccato, press the play button on your generated MIDI to hear it through your virtual instrument



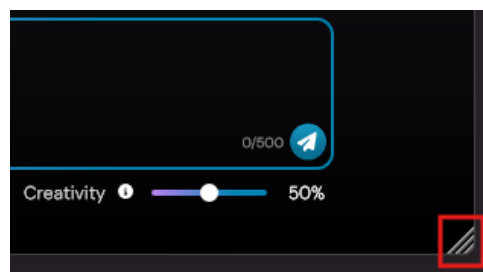
4.4 Using Virtual Instruments with Staccato on Fender Studio/Studio One

1. Open Settings > External Devices > Add New
2. New Keyboard > Call it Staccato
 - Make sure Receive From is set to Staccato Virtual (**Mac**) or loopMIDI (**Windows**)
3. Make sure all Channels are set



4.5 Adjust Interface Size

You can adjust the size of the Staccato interface with the icon in the bottom-right corner.



Simply click-and-drag on the icon to shrink or enlarge the app/plugin.

4.6 Settings

You can access the settings menu by clicking the gear icon in the top-right corner of Staccato.

Help – Find resources to fix common issues, report bugs, and improve your workflow in Staccato.

MIDI – Enable and connect your MIDI devices ([see Section 4.3](#)).

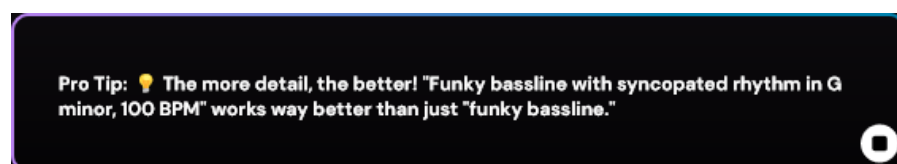
My Profile – View and modify your account information.

Settings – Configure Staccato’s features to your liking.

The following four settings can be toggled on or off in the “Settings” menu under their respective name:

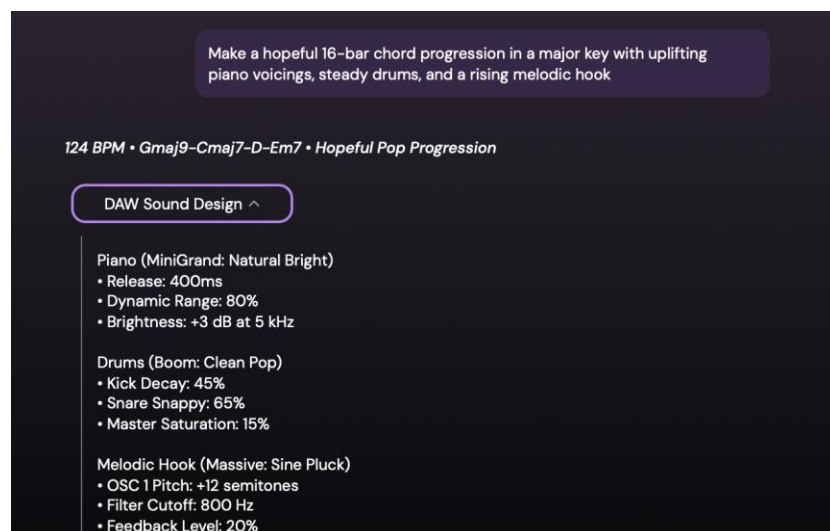
Pro Tips

Staccato offers pro tips to help you tailor your prompts to achieve the best MIDI outputs. These tips appear in the chat box while Staccato is processing a response to your prompt.



DAW Sound Design Tips

Staccato also gives you built-in sound design guidance for your generated MIDI. It even **reads your device’s default 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. Staccato supports open-ended music-related queries, allowing it to function as an interactive assistant within your DAW environment.

CC Events

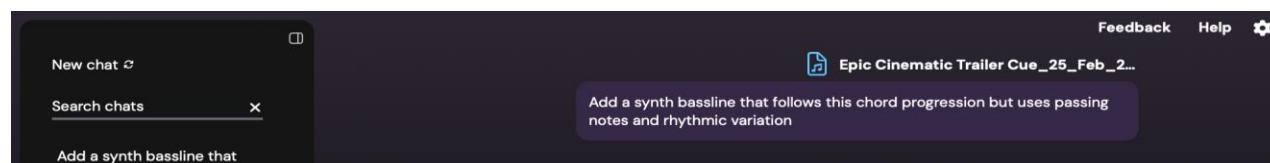
Staccato generates MIDI with CC parameters in mind: slides, velocity, and many other parameters can be requested in your prompt to achieve specific, detailed MIDI outputs. (e.g., "humanize the velocities in this piano section").

Program Changes

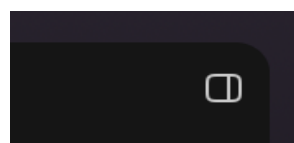
Enabling this setting allows Staccato to select the correct instrument patches in your generated MIDI. This is helpful if you are using a plugin that loads instrument presets based on MIDI channel data.

4.7 History

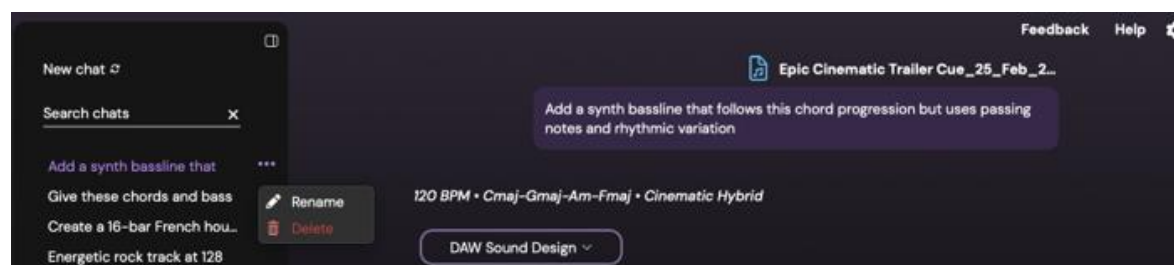
History is a feature in Staccato that contains all previous conversations and files created by the user. It works in the same way as ChatGPT's history, allowing you to return to even your very first chat, review past conversations, and re-download MIDI files at any time.



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.

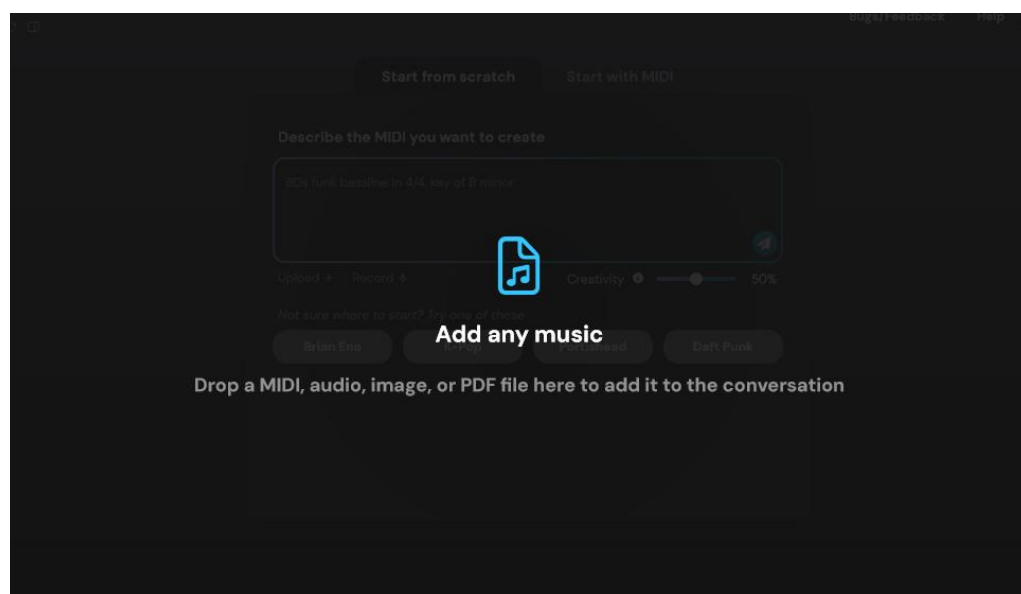


Example Use Cases:

- Helpful for returning to previously created 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

4.8 Importing MIDI, Audio, Sheet Music & Tablature (Tab)

Staccato can recognize and work with various music formats to fit your workflow, including MIDI, PDF ([including PNG/JPG images of sheet music, notation, and guitar tabs](#)), and audio files. Drag-and-drop your file type straight into the chat, type your prompt, and Staccato will generate an output that can be exported as MIDI or tablature.



Audio to MIDI Converter

Staccato includes a built-in audio-to-MIDI converter that listens to your uploaded music and turns it into MIDI accompaniments, transcriptions, or revisions.

Most file types are supported, such as WAV, MP3, AIFF, AIF, FLAC, OGG, M4A, AAC, and OPUS.

For best results, keep these guidelines in mind:

- Upload MP3 or WAV files for the best and most consistent results.
- Keep audio uploads under 30 seconds; that's the current length limit.
- Like with MIDI, work section-by-section with audio (verse, chorus, etc.) for best results.
- Use single-instrument tracks or multi-track mixes with clear separation between instruments. The cleaner the arrangement, the more accurate the transcription.
- The converter works best on melodic instrumental parts, compared to vocals.

Of all the audio-to-MIDI converters we've tested, we're confident this is the best in class.

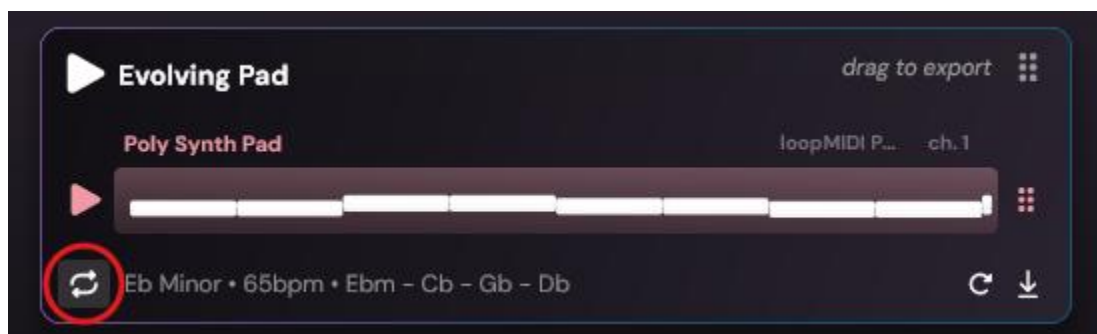
4.9 Exporting MIDI & Tablature (Tab)

You can export your generated MIDI from Staccato as either a MIDI file or a guitar tab (PDF). Simply click on the download button in the bottom-right corner of a generated MIDI, and select your desired format. Alternatively, you can drag-and-drop your generated MIDI straight into your DAW or desktop.



4.10 Loop On/Off Setting

If you'd like your MIDI to play on loop through your virtual instruments, enable the Loop setting in the bottom left corner of a MIDI file's place card.



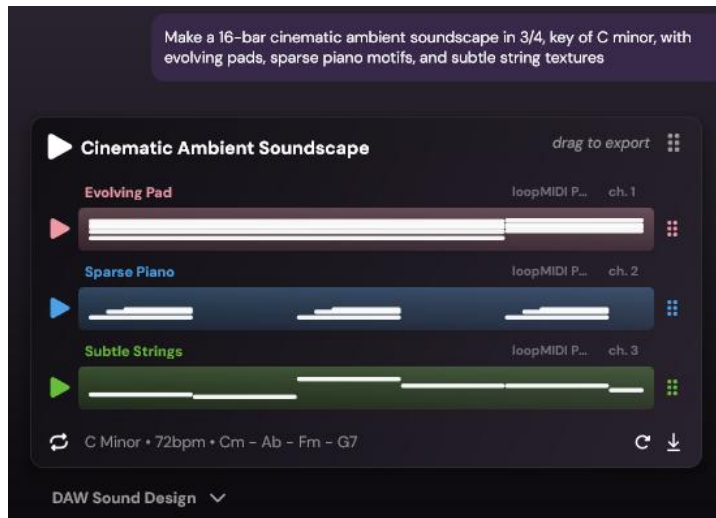
When Loop is on, the arrows will appear orange. The arrows will appear white when it's off.

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 with building tension, fit for an apocalyptic film. Key of Eb Minor, 4/4 time.”
2. Alternatively, use the sample prompt buttons to get started.
3. Staccato will create one generation.
4. See Sections 6.1 and 6.2 for prompting tips and suggestions

Beneath the chat box, you can adjust the “Creativity” slider to control how unexpected your results are: it’s at 50% by default, but you can increase it for more unconventional results or decrease it for more grounded results.



Staccato retains your chat's context (key, BPM, time signature, genre) across prompts, so you don't need to repeat them in later prompts. The context only changes when you give it a MIDI file or prompt that's clearly different from what you've been working on.

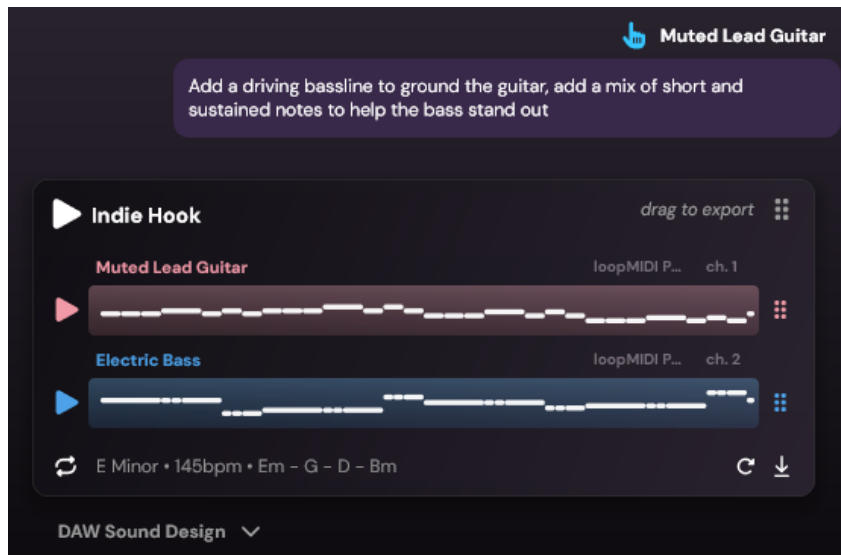
Example Use Cases:

- 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

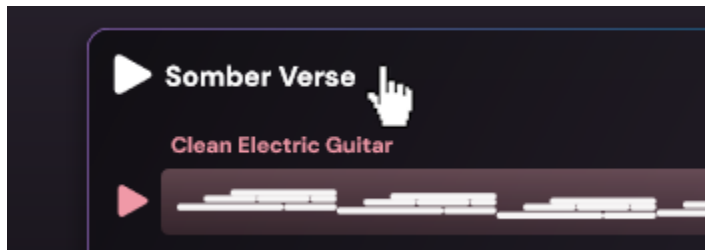
5.2 Rewrites & Accompaniments

[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 top of a place card to load all tracks in a MIDI file into the chat:

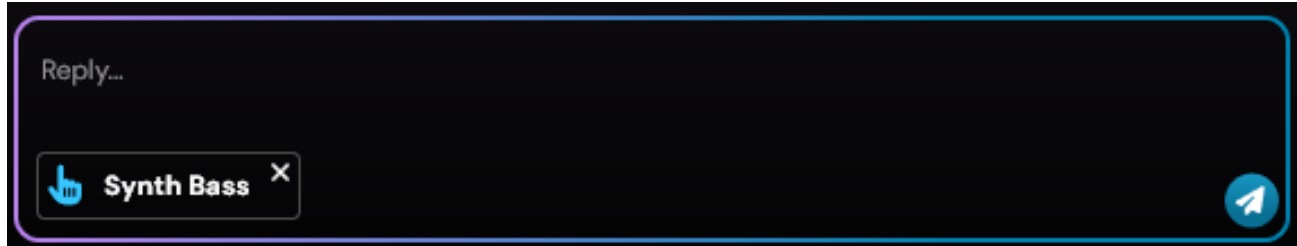


Or click on a specific track to load it into the chat:



From there, your instructions will apply directly to the selected 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:



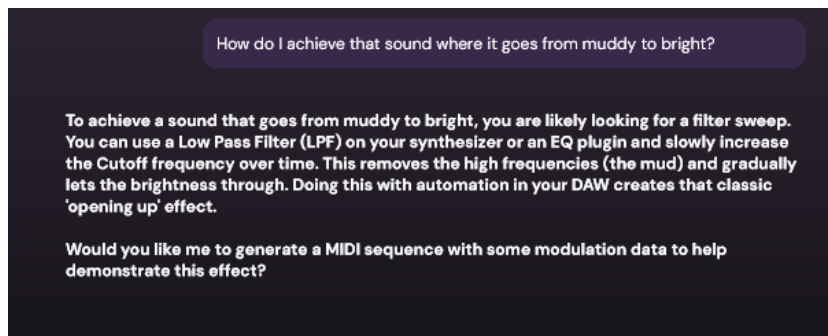
4. Ask for any changes or accompaniments: “Make it more syncopated” or “Turn this piano into a guitar solo” or “Create drums that match the groove and energy of this melody”.
5. Create works like a chat, similar to ChatGPT. After it generates a MIDI file from your initial text prompt, you can keep giving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

Example Use Cases:

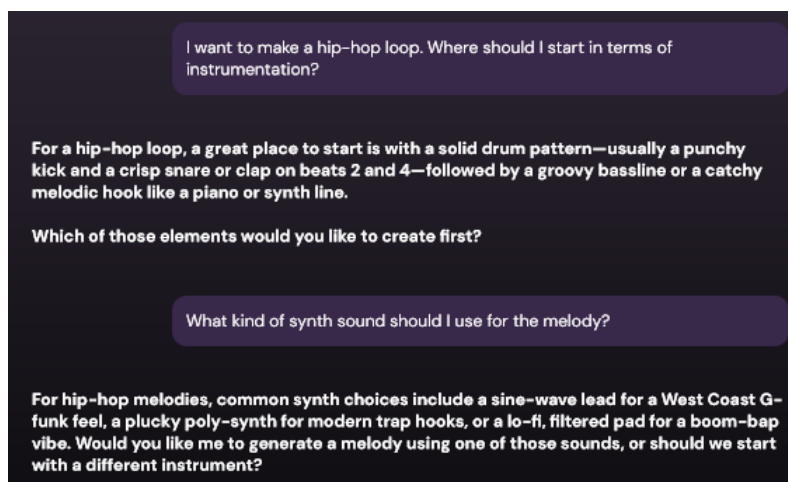
- Helpful for creating bridges or transitions based on existing MIDI tracks
- Ideal for stylistic transformations (e.g., changing genre or instrumentation)
- Great for refining parts without manually editing notes

5.3 Chat with Staccato

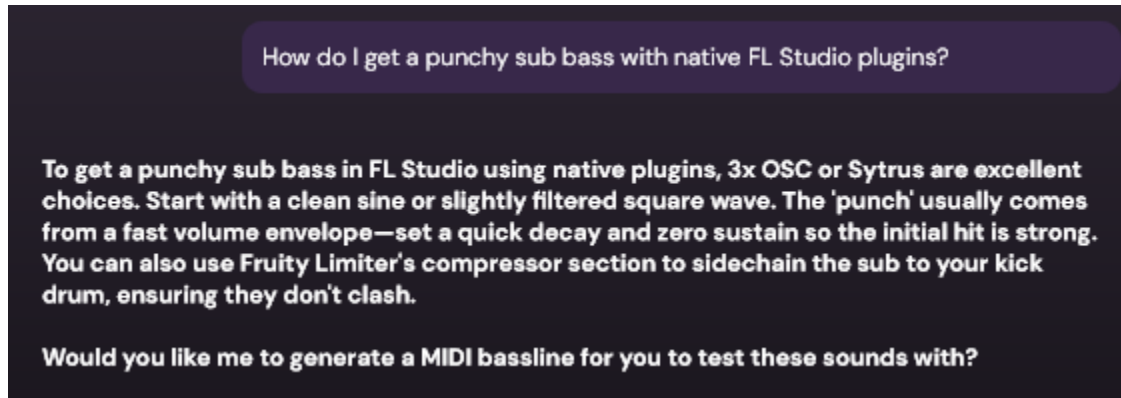
Staccato doesn’t only generate MIDI, but it also offers conversational interactions: ask Staccato any question relating to music production, sound design, or DAW functions:



Try asking Staccato for song ideas if you need inspiration:



You can even get suggestions directly related to your DAW of choice:



5.4 Record

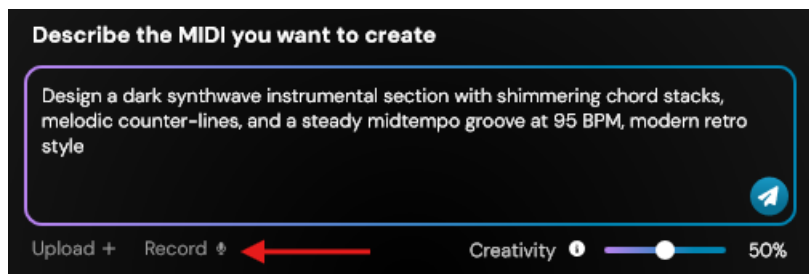
The **Record** feature lets you record directly into the Staccato plugin. You can do this in one of two ways:

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

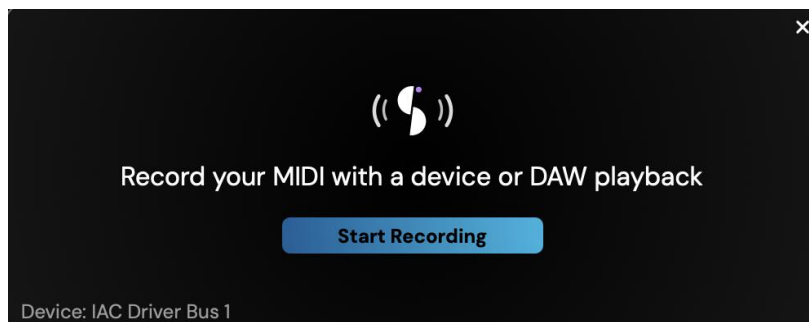
Play Instruments in the Plugin

Before using the **Record** feature, verify that your MIDI instrument is properly connected to Staccato. Refer to [Section 4: Getting Started](#) of this manual for instructions.

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

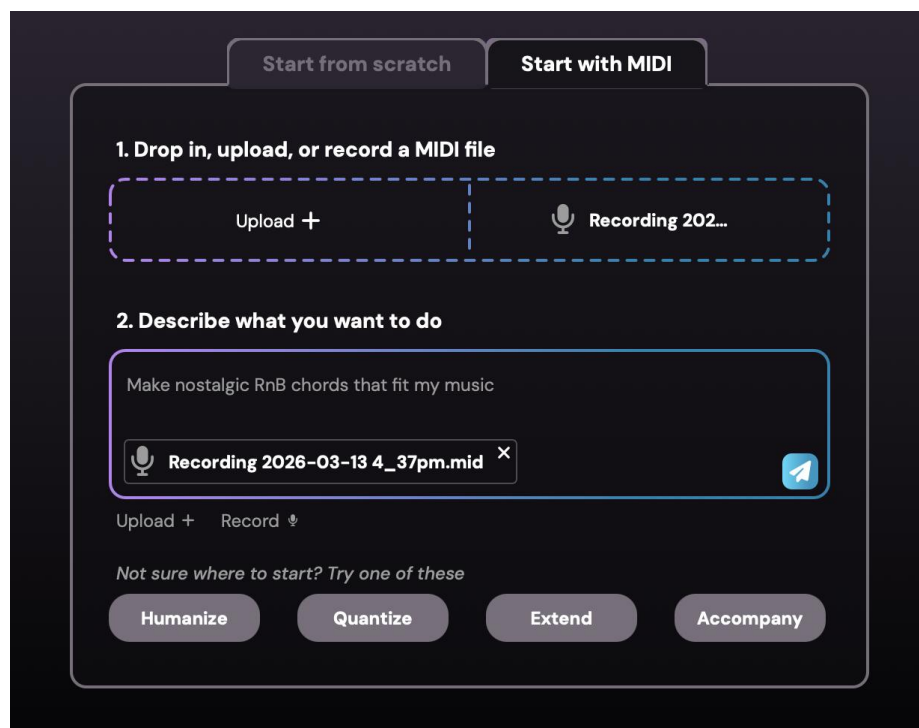


A new window will appear, as shown in the screenshot below.



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 Staccato 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

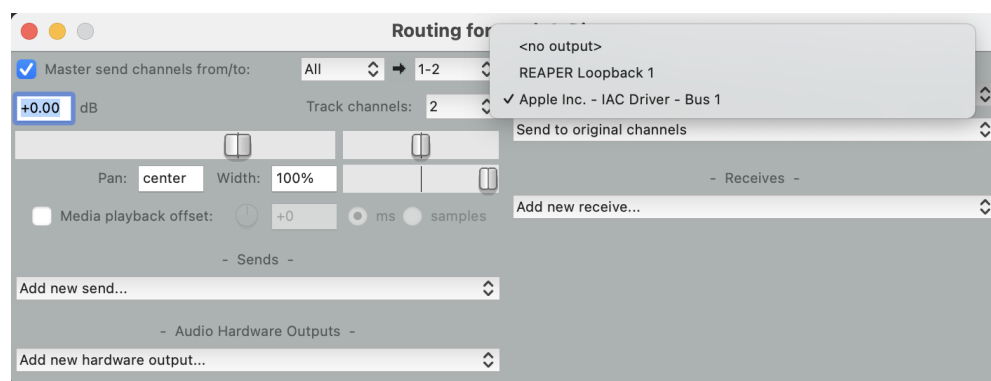
In addition, the **Record** feature can record MIDI from your DAW and, based on that input, rewrite, accompany, or extend it.

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 Limitations

Prompting

- Prompts are limited to 500 characters.
- Staccato requires enough detail to generate MIDI files: if more information is needed, Staccato will ask clarifying questions before generating an output.
- See our [Prompting Guide](#) for all the fundamentals you need to write the perfect prompt.

Generation Length

- Generate up to 32 bars of MIDI per standard Create prompt.

Upload Length

- MIDI file uploads are limited to 32 bars in length, and audio file uploads are limited to 30 seconds in length.
- Since Staccato is intended to work section-by-section, try uploading parts of your song (intro, chorus, verse) one at a time, rather than your entire track.

Upload Content

- Complex multi-track MIDI or messy audio files may produce less accurate results. Try uploading files with clearly distinguished instruments for clearer outputs.
 - Rewrites and accompaniments for 20+ bar MIDI files may produce less detailed outputs. Work section-by-section with Staccato for the most accurate results.
-

6. Prompting

The following section offers the basics to get you started.

If you want better results from every prompt, our [Prompting Guide](#) shows you exactly what to write, with walkthroughs for every situation and ready-to-use prompts across 13 genres.

[View Prompting Guide](#)

6.1 General Tips

- [Check out our 5 Tips to Create Your Best Music with Staccato 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.



Staccato 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 Section 6.2 for a great starting point!

- If the output doesn't match what you had in mind, you can always type a follow-up prompt to request precise adjustments (e.g., "this melody is too simple, add some triplets and variation in the motif").
- 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 Prompt Examples

- "Make a hip hop hi-hat pattern with triplets, inspired by [artist name]"
- "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 in the key of F minor"
 - "A dark cinematic string section building tension, inspired by film composers like [artist name] or [artist name]"
 - "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 [artist name], fast-paced with ghost 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, blending palm mutes and pinch harmonics to build a catchy bridge section, 70s rock-inspired"
 - "Make an indie pop verse, with soft acoustic guitar strums beneath a main piano melody"
-

7. Frequently Asked Questions

What is Staccato?

Staccato is a new VST, AU, AAX plugin & standalone application that listens to your prompts and music to create MIDI stems and loops that fit seamlessly into your track, speeding up your workflow while keeping you in control.

Is the MIDI I generate unique to me?

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

Very simple MIDI generation 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.

Can Staccato generate full songs?

Staccato is designed to help you create musical ideas like stems, melodies, bridges, and loops, rather than full songs. If you don't specify a length, it typically generates 8 bars depending on your ask, but you can also prompt it to generate up to 32 bars, with limit of 16 separate instruments.

Watch [this video](#) to learn how to prompt Staccato to get exactly what you want.

Will I own the MIDI that I generate? Is it royalty-free?

Everything you generate is yours to keep. On our Pro plan, you can use it commercially or personally. On our Basic plan, it's for personal use only.

Either way, our models are trained only on MIDI data [that respects artists' copyrights](#) and guardrails prevent outputs that are too close to existing works.

You can learn more about our pricing [here](#).

Does Staccato output audio samples?

Staccato generates [MIDI](#), not audio, which you can route to any virtual instrument or sampler.

Do I need an internet connection?

Yes, prompts are processed in the cloud.

Which languages does Staccato 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 Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and Notation Software are supported?

We support all major digital audio workstations and notation software that accept VST3, AU, and AAX (Ableton Live, Logic, FL Studio, ProTools, Cubase, Reaper, Bitwig Studio, Dorico, MuseScore, etc.).

We also offer a standalone application that works with any MIDI-capable music software. Use IAC for internal MIDI routing on Mac, or LoopMIDI on Windows.

What makes this better than general AI tools at generating MIDI?

Most AI chatbots weren't built for this. Ask one to generate a MIDI file and you'll probably get something so basic it's not worth using.

Staccato was built specifically for music production. It was trained on music theory, so the ideas are actually musical. Try it side by side and see for yourself. If you're not satisfied, [we'll give you your money back](#).

How do I use my generated MIDI in my DAW?

You can easily drag-and-drop MIDI files from a place card or track title into any DAW.

See Section 4.8 for more detailed instructions, or [check out our tutorial on exporting MIDI from Staccato on YouTube](#).

Can I reference artists in my prompts?

Yes, you can reference artists, genres, and styles of any kind in your prompts. Staccato applies the methods and styles of artists without recreating or copying the existing work of others.

What is Staccato's AI trained on?

Our AI is trained on royalty-free, open-source MIDI datasets as well as original MIDI written by our team and Staccato Artists. We combine these sources with proprietary music-theory algorithms that handle things like voice-leading, rhythmic balance, instrument ranges, humanization, and quantization so the results feel musical and creative.

Staccato's AI is not trained on any copyrighted commercial audio, songs scraped from streaming platforms, or user uploads. Read about our commitment to ethical AI on our [About Us page](#).

How do you handle "in the style of [artist]" requests ethically?

When you ask for something "in the style of" an artist, the AI does not copy that artist's melodies or chords. Instead, it interprets general musical traits that are common across many works, such as tempo ranges, groove patterns, instrumentation, harmony density, articulation, and song form.

Under the hood, the model maps your prompt to a region of musical behaviors learned from our training data and then composes new MIDI that follows those behaviors. The output is original and does not rely on any artist's copyrighted material.

Do you use my MIDI to train your models?

No. MIDI you upload is used only within your session for conditioning and inspiration. We do not use your files, prompts, or outputs to train or fine-tune our models.

If we ever run an optional data-sharing program, it will be opt-in with clear controls.

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, Staccato supports multi-instrument, multi-track generation, with a limit of 16 separate instruments.

Does Staccato edit what's in my DAW?

No, it is separate from your DAW. You simply drag and drop MIDI between Staccato and your DAW.

Does Staccato learn from my input or improve over time?

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

What are the system requirements?

Refer to "System Requirements" in Section 2.

Why is Staccato an Audio FX plugin on Logic?

On Logic Pro, Staccato currently appears as an Audio FX plugin rather than a MIDI FX plugin. We chose this format to keep the AU compatible with a wider set of hosts, including Ableton Live and Digital Performer, which do not handle Logic-style AU MIDI FX in the same way.

What plugin category is Staccato listed in? Why did it change?

You may notice that Staccato appears in a different plugin category than it did previously, or not exactly where you'd expect in your DAW. This is because every DAW handles MIDI-generating plugins differently.

We've chosen the plugin configuration that provides the broadest compatibility across all major DAWs, even if that means its location or workflow may vary between applications.

8. Troubleshooting

8.1 Lost Connection/Can't Load Generations

If you encounter the following errors:

- “An error has occurred on our end.”
- “Something went wrong. Please check connection and try again.”
- Slow generation speeds or MIDI generation failure

Try these troubleshooting steps:

Disabling DAW Sound Design Tips

This issue affects a small number of users, and a fix is currently in progress. Here are the steps:

- Click the gear in the top-right corner of the plugin/app.
- Click Settings
- Click the purple checkbox next to “Show DAW Sound Design” to disable it.

Connection Blockers

- Check that your device has a stable internet connection; otherwise, Staccato will time out and display an error message.
- Turn off any DNS filters.

Firewalls, Antivirus Software, and VPNs

- All of the following software 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.
- Temporarily disable your firewall, or allow Staccato through it. [These videos show how.](#)
- If you have an antivirus on Mac, try disabling it. [See this video to learn how.](#)
- Try turning off your VPN. [This video shows how.](#)

8.2 Can't Login/Browser Won't Load Login/Authenticate

If you encounter the following errors:

- Stuck on “Follow the steps in your browser to continue”
- Internet browser won't open after pressing “Log In”
- Staccato website isn't loading on launch

Try these troubleshooting steps:

Plugin Instances

- Only one instance of Staccato should be running at once under one account. Make sure you're only running one instance of Staccato in your DAW, or alternatively, use the standalone version, which most users prefer as it offers multi-track functionality.

Popup Blockers

- If your browser has a pop-up blocker ([common in Safari](#)), try turning it off.

Firewalls, Antivirus Software, and VPNs

- All of the following software 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.
- Temporarily disable your firewall, or allow Staccato through it. [These videos show how](#).
- If you have an antivirus on Mac, try disabling it. [See this video to learn how](#).
- Try turning off your VPN. [This video shows how](#).

Connection Blockers

- Check that your device has a stable internet connection; otherwise, Staccato will time out and display an error message.
- Turn off any DNS filters.

Browser Cache

- Click the gear in the top right corner of the plugin to log out. Clear your browser history and cache, then reopen the plugin and try logging in again.

DAW & Controllers

- Completely close your DAW, then launch Staccato (standalone) before opening it.
- If you have large VST libraries installed (Kontakt, BBC Orchestra, Serum, etc.), let Staccato fully initialize before loading projects or MIDI controllers.
- Avoid having MIDI devices or controllers actively locked by the DAW before opening Staccato.
- Once Staccato is open and responsive, then launch your DAW.

Default Browser

- Change your device's default browser, then try logging in again.

Device Time Zone

- Try setting the time on your device to "Automatic" in your system settings.

Login Delay

- Click the login button and wait 2 minutes.
- If the browser doesn't launch, click "back" and try again, up to 3 times.

8.3 Other Troubleshooting

Plugin not showing up in DAW

- Make sure the plugin path is correctly added in your DAW settings.
- Refer to sections 3.2 and 3.3 for step-by-step instructions to find your plugin directory and load the VST into your specific DAW.

No sound

- Ensure Staccato is on a MIDI track or mixer channel routed to an instrument. Your DAW likely requires a MIDI connection with Staccato.
- Refer to Section 4.1 for instructions on connecting the instruments in your DAW to Staccato.

Audio file not being transcribed

- This error will display as "I couldn't detect any audio from this audio file."
- If Staccato can't read your audio file, make sure it's exported in a [supported format](#) and ensure the file is uncompressed.

If you've tried all these steps and still encounter errors, reach out to us at support@staccato.ai and include:

- Your DAW.
 - Your device (e.g. MacBook Pro M1).
 - Your operating system.
 - Whether you're using the plugin or the standalone version.
-

9. Contact & Support

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