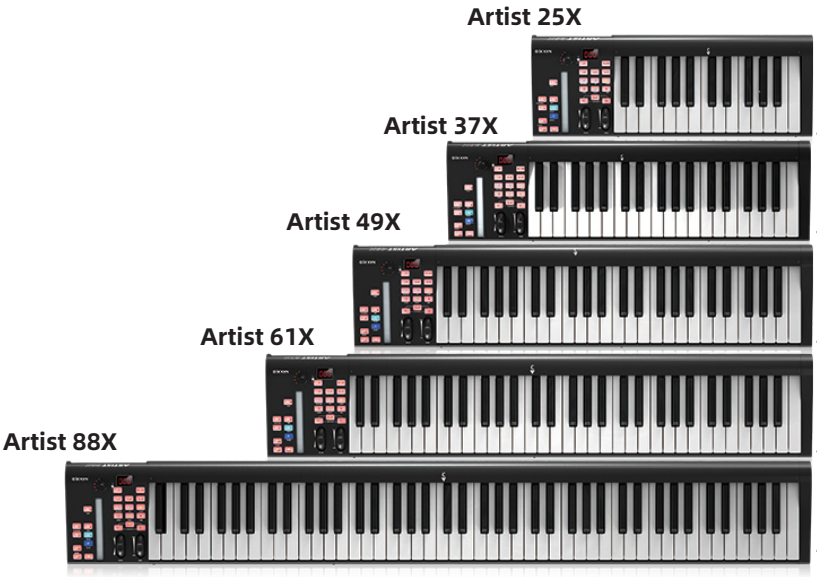
iCON Pro Audio

ARTIST X

25 49 61 37 88

25/37/49/61/88-note velocity-sensitive piano-style keys USB MIDI controller keyboard

The Artist X is a professional-grade USB-C MIDI keyboard built for both studio and stage. With velocity-sensitive keys, a responsive keybed, and a dual-function encoder with LED feedback, it offers precise control and expressive performance. Integrated Mackie Control and HUI protocols ensure smooth operation with all major DAWs. Durable, versatile, and instantly adaptable, the Artist X is your creative powerhouse in a compact form.



User Manual

IMPORTANT NOTE: **The Artist X series are MIDI Controller keyboards, NOT 'Home Keyboards'. They have no inbuilt sounds or speakers.**

Contents

Safety Precautions

Carefully read these Usage and Safety Precautions ***before*** use to ensure proper handling of the product. This document uses symbols to highlight important precautions aimed at preventing harm or damage to users or others due to improper use. Below are the symbols and their meanings:

⚠ WARNING
Indicates actions that may result in severe injury or death

⚠ CAUTION
Indicates actions that may lead to injury or equipment damage.

Other symbols used

⊘ Indicates a prohibited action.

❗ Indicates an action that is mandatory.

⚠ WARNING:

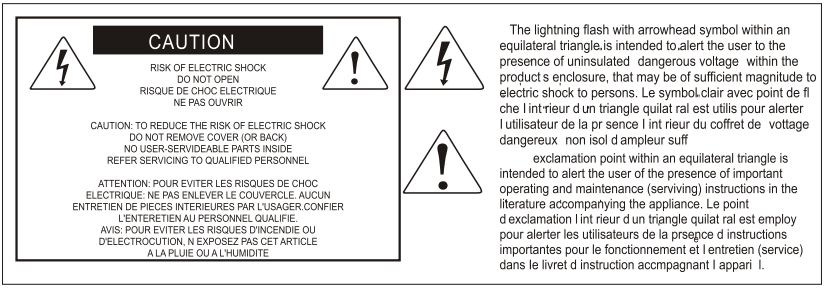
■ **Power** (Refer to the manual for detailed information on applicable power sources).

❗ Always use the specified power supply adapter (specific to the product).

⊘ Never exceed the ratings of outlets and other electrical wiring equipment

❗ Prior to using equipment in a foreign country or region with a different electrical voltage, always consult with your local iCON distributor/retailer that carries iCON Pro Audio products or iCON Pro Audio support. **Always** use the approved, appropriate adapter as specified by iCON Pro Audio.

❗ Carefully study the warning indications regarding the power supply before use.



WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this unit to rain or moisture

Repairs and Alterations

- Do **not** open the case or make a repair to the device yourself. **Always** refer repairs or required alteration to iCON Pro Audio tech support and an authorized iCON Pro Audio service center.

⚠ CAUTION:

How to Handle the Product

- Handle the product carefully to prevent drops, bumps, or applying excessive force to the unit
- Avoid allowing liquids or foreign objects to enter the unit.

Operational environment

- Do not use in extremely high or low temperatures.
- Do not use near heaters, stoves and other heat sources.
- Avoid high humidity or areas prone to water splashes.
- Avoid areas with excessive vibration, dust, or sand.

Connecting cables and devices

- Ensure all equipment is **powered off** before connecting any cables or external devices.
- Disconnect all cables and accessories before moving the device to avoid damage.

Volume

- Avoid prolonged use at high volume levels to protect your hearing.

Precautions for Operational Use

■ Interference

This product is designed to limit electromagnetic emissions and resist external interference. However, placing it near devices that are highly sensitive to interference or emit strong electromagnetic waves may cause disruptions. If interference occurs, increase the distance between this product and the other equipment. Try reorienting the devices, changing frequency/channel (if appropriate).

Electromagnetic interference can affect any electronic device, potentially causing malfunctions, data corruption, or other issues. Exercise caution when using this product in proximity to other electronic devices.

■ Cleaning

To clean the exterior, use a soft, dry cloth. If required, very slightly dampen a suitable cloth.
For rubber or silicone components, gently clean with a damp, lint-free cloth.
Avoid abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents such as alcohol, benzene, or paint thinners.

■ Malfunction

In the event that the device malfunctions or is damaged, immediately turn it off, disconnect the power source, remove batteries, and unplug all cables and connected devices. Contact iCON Pro Audio technical support.

In addition, please....

1. Do not block any ventilation openings or interfere with the proper ventilation of this unit. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Protect the power cord from being walked on or otherwise damaged by items placed on or against them. Particular attention should be given to the plugs, receptacles, and the point where the cord exits the appliance.
3. To avoid the risk of electrical shock, do not touch any exposed wiring while the unit is in operation.
4. Only use attachments/accessories specified by iCON.

Introduction

Firstly, congratulations on your purchase of the ICON Pro Audio Artist X 25/37/49/61/88-note velocity-sensitive piano-style keys USB MIDI controller keyboard. In these pages, you'll find a detailed description of the features of the Artist X and a full list of specifications.

Please register the product on our website at the link below
www. iconproaudio.com/registration

As with most electronic devices, we strongly recommend you retain the original packaging. In the unlikely event that the product is returned for servicing, the original packaging (or reasonable equivalent) is required. With proper care and adequate air circulation, your Artist X unit will operate flawlessly for many years to come.

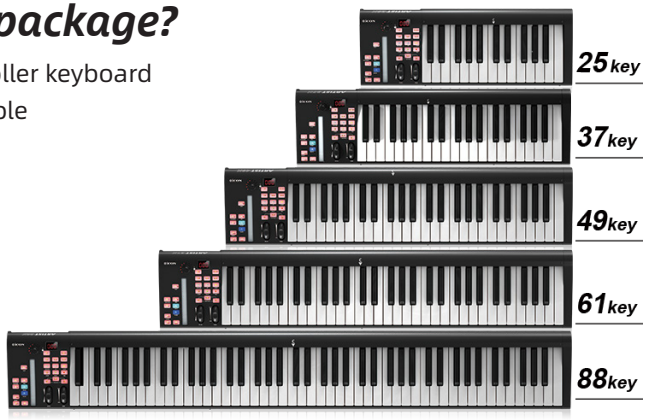
We trust that this product will provide years of excellent service, but in the unlikely event that your product does not perform to the highest standard, every effort will be made to address the issue.

Who is the Artist X for?

The Artist X is designed for musicians, producers, composers, and educators who need a powerful, expressive MIDI keyboard that integrates directly with their DAW. Whether you're controlling virtual instruments, mixing tracks, or automating plug-ins, the Artist X offers hands-on control with velocity-sensitive keys, assignable buttons, and a touch fader. With built-in Mackie Control and HUI support, it's ideal for users who want seamless DAW control alongside dynamic musical input – all in one streamlined device.

What's in the package?

- Artist X MIDI Controller keyboard
- USB-C to USB-C cable



Also included: Free technical support

Register your iCON Pro Audio Product

1. Check the serial number of your device

Please go to **http:// iconproaudio.com/registration** or scan the QR code below.

Input your device's serial number and the other information on the screen. Click "Submit".

A message will pop up showing your device information such as model name and its serial number. Click "Register this device to my account". If you see any other message, please contact our after-sales service team.

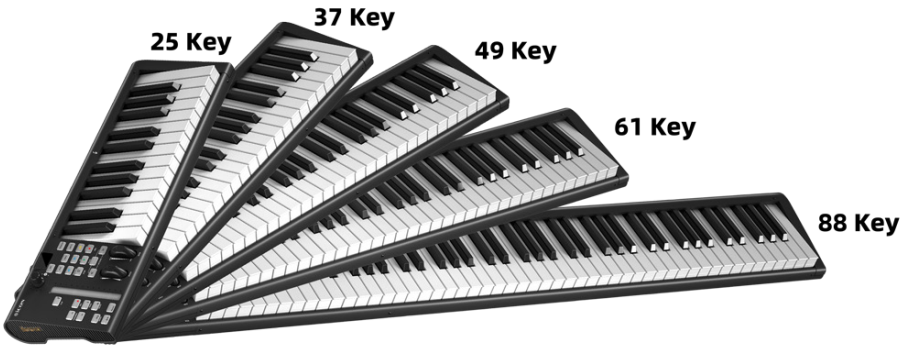
2. Log in to your User Center for existing users or sign up as a new user

Existing user:	Please log into your User Center by inputting your user name and password.
New user:	Please click "Sign Up" and fill in all the information.

3. Download all useful materials

All your registered devices under your account will show on the page. Each product will be listed along with all its available files such as drivers, firmware, user manuals in different languages and bundled software etc. for download.

Overview



The iCON Pro Audio Artist X MIDI Keyboard is a professional-grade controller built to deliver expressive performance and streamlined control for studio, stage, and education environments. Available in 25, 37, 49, 61, and 88-key configurations, the Artist X adapts to any workspace - from mobile setups to full-size rigs. Its velocity-sensitive keybed offers a natural, dynamic feel, striking the perfect balance between piano-like expressiveness and fast, responsive action for electronic production. With adjustable velocity curves available via iCON's iMAP software, players can fine-tune the keyboard's response to match their unique style and technique.

The Artist X's clean, efficient layout puts control exactly where you need it. On the left side of the keyboard, an ergonomic cluster includes a dual-function encoder knob surrounded by a backlit LED ring for precise parameter control and visual feedback. Octave shift and transpose buttons provide quick access to alternate pitch ranges, while the smooth pitch and modulation wheels enable expressive real-time articulation. All controls are positioned for intuitive, single-handed operation - ideal for fast-paced production or live improvisation.

In addition to performance controls, the Artist X features integrated DAW control via Mackie Control and HUI protocols. When connected to a compatible DAW, the transport buttons, rotary encoders, and touch-sensitive ribbon fader allow for direct manipulation of playback, track selection, volume levels, and plugin parameters. The touchpad fader serves as a sleek alternative to a motorised fader, following the currently selected channel in most DAWs. Sliding a finger along its surface enables smooth, accurate volume adjustment without the need for mechanical movement, making it ideal for streamlined mixing workflows.

Built with a metal aluminum chassis, the Artist X is made to withstand the demands of frequent travel, daily studio use, and performance on the go. A Kensington lock port offers added security in public or educational settings.

Connectivity is modern and robust. A high-speed USB-C port ensures fast data transmission, reliable bus power, and full class-compliant operation with macOS and Windows systems. The rear panel includes additional professional-grade connections: a traditional 5-pin MIDI Out port for controlling external gear, 1/4 inch (6.35mm) sustain and expression pedal inputs for expanded tactile control, a 5V/2A DC power input for added stability in demanding environments, and a dedicated power switch for quick access.

At the core of the Artist X is an advanced ARM processor, ensuring ultra-low latency, flawless MIDI communication, and rock-solid performance - even during complex, plugin-heavy sessions. Whether you're layering multiple instruments, automating intricate mixes, or recording high-speed sequences, the ARM architecture keeps everything responsive and in sync - eliminating lag and ensuring every note lands exactly as you intended.

To complement its hardware capabilities, the Artist X includes a comprehensive production software bundle to inspire creativity from day one. At the heart of this suite is Native Instruments Hybrid Keys: Creative Key Mutations - a forward-thinking collection of hybrid keyboard instruments that blend beautifully sampled pianos, harpsichords, and organs with modern synthesis and effects. With its extensive presets and streamlined interface, Hybrid Keys makes it easy to shape everything from vintage textures to futuristic soundscapes directly within your DAW.

The software bundle also includes:

Bitwig 8-Track: A cutting-edge DAW for recording, sequencing, and arranging music with a fast, modular workflow.

Harrison Audio Plugins: Featuring the AVA-Live Channel Strip for refined EQ and dynamics, and the Vocal Intensity Processor for detailed vocal enhancement.

Tracktion DAW Essentials: A suite of 10 versatile plugins for EQ, reverb, compression, and more.

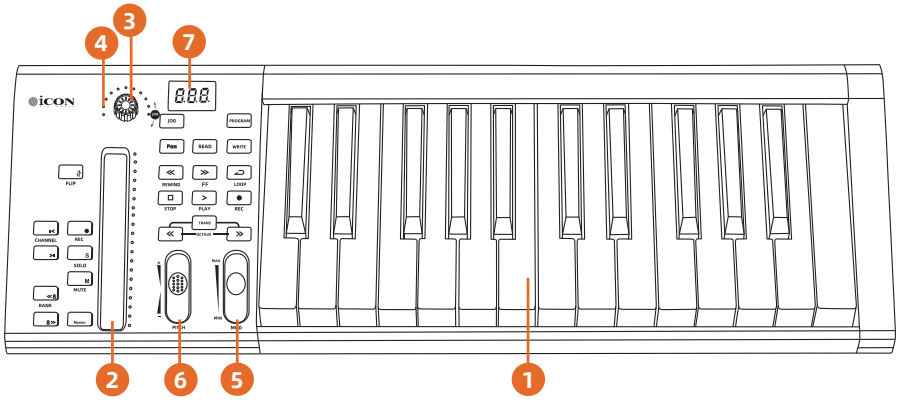
KiloHearts Essentials & Snap Heap: Over 30 modular effects and a drag-and-drop environment for building custom chains and sound design tools.

Dotec Audio Plugins: Including DeeComp and DeeEQ, delivering clean, transparent mastering and dynamic shaping tools.

Features

- 25, 37, 49, 61, 88 - note velocity-sensitive piano style keys
- Transpose/Octave up and down buttons
- Dual function encoder knob
- 11-segment LED surrounding the encoder to indicate the rotating position (volume/pan)
- Modulation and pitch wheels
- Customizable velocity curves
- MIDI out connector
- Expression and Sustain pedal inputs
- Reversible polarity for sustain pedal connector
- Ergonomic Slim Profile and Left-Side Control Cluster
- High-Speed USB-C & ARM Chip Stability
- Ability to MIDI map physical controls with iMAP software or MIDI Learn mode
- Easy firmware upgrade
- Durable Metal Chassis & Kensington Lock
- Class-Compliant Plug-and-Play Operation (Windows 7-11 and macOS - no drivers required.)
- Future-Ready Firmware Upgrades (Easily update features and compatibility via USB and iMAP software)
- DAW control capability
- Pre-assigned buttons
- Touchpad fader
- LED Display

Top panel



1. **25/37/49/61/88-note key switches**
   25/37/49/61/88-note velocity-sensitive piano-action key switches.

2. **LED illumiated touch fader to control DAW's Channel/ Master faders**
   This LED illuminated touch fader can be used to adjust parameters for different channels.
   Use the Track or Bank shift buttons to switch between channel groups.
   Press the Master button to assign the fader to control parameters for the master channel.

3. **Dual function encoder**
   The dual-function encoder works as both a rotary control and a push-button.
   Pressing the encoder changes its mode of operation.
   Rotating it adjusts a parameter - such as pan, send level, or plugin settings - depending on the assigned function.

   Functions may vary depending on the DAW and can be customized via the iMAP software.

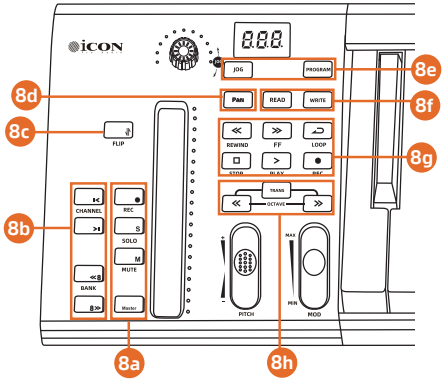
4. **Encoder LED**
   The 11-LEDs surrounding the encoder light up to indicate the relative position of the rotation without having to look at your computer.

5. **Mod wheel**
   Rotate to adjust the modulation effect. Referred to as the 'Mod' or 'Modulation' wheel.

6. **Pitch wheel**
   Rotate to adjust the pitch bend. It returns to default, '0' when released.

7. **Display**
   3 character LCD display.

Top panel cont.



8. Buttons

The following section covers all the buttons on the Artist X - follow on the diagram left to right.

8A/ Control buttons

Recording channel control buttons

REC button - Toggles the record-arm state for the selected channel. When activated, the button lights up red to indicate the channel is armed for recording.

SOLO button - Enables or disables solo mode for the selected channel. When active, the button lights up green, muting all other channels unless their SOLO buttons are also engaged. Multiple channels can be soloed simultaneously.

MUTE button - Toggles mute on the selected channel. The button lights blue when the channel is muted.

Master button - Assigns the touch fader to control the DAW's master output fader.

8B - Track and Bank buttons

Track < - Moves all faders (except the master) one channel to the left.
Track > - Moves all faders (except the master) one channel to the right.
Bank < - Shifts all faders (except the master) eight channels to the left.
Bank > - Shifts all faders (except the master) eight channels to the right.

8C/ Flip button

The Flip button swaps the functions of the fader and rotary encoder. By default, the fader typically controls channel volume, while the encoder is assigned to parameters such as pan. Pressing Flip exchanges these assignments.

8D/ PAN button

Pressing the Pan button assigns the rotary encoders to control the pan position of each track. This allows you to adjust the stereo placement of audio signals across the sound field directly from the controller. In most DAWs, Pan mode will follow track selection and update encoder assignments automatically.

8E/ Other control buttons

Jog button - Activate to use the encoder as a jog wheel.

Pressing the encoder may activate a secondary function (e.g., 'scrub'), depending on your DAW.

Program button - Use in combination with the encoder to change the sound bank or program on your connected software or hardware instrument. This function is especially effective with General MIDI (GM) sound modules and synths that support standard program change messages (MIDI 0–127).

For software instruments, effectiveness may vary depending on how the VST or plugin is configured to respond to program change messages. In such cases, adjusting the patch or preset directly within the software may offer more reliable results.

When connected to external GM-compatible hardware, the Program button on the Artist X sends standard program change messages that should update the selected patch or sound bank, provided the device supports this protocol. Some non-GM devices may require manual configuration or may not respond to these messages due to specific implementation differences.

Press twice so that the button is flashing to select a MIDI channel 1-16.

8F/ Automation buttons

READ button - Activates automation read mode for the currently selected channel. When enabled, the DAW will follow and play back any existing automation data for that track.

WRITE button - Activates automation write mode for the currently selected channel. When enabled, any changes you make to parameters (e.g. volume, pan, plugin settings).

8G/ Transport buttons

PLAY button - Starts playback in the DAW.

STOP button - Stops playback.

REC button - Starts recording in the DAW (used after arming tracks with the separate channel REC button - to the left of the fader).

REWIND button - Rewinds the cursor in project timeline.

FAST FORWARD button - Fast-forwards the cursor through the project timeline.

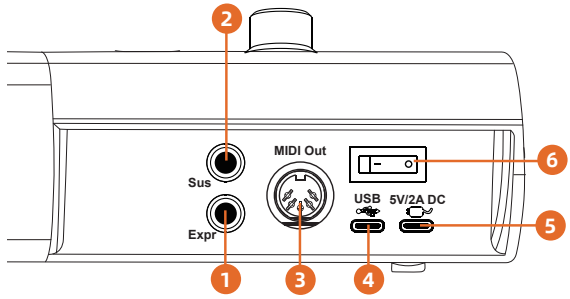
LOOP button - Toggles loop playback on or off, enabling repeated playback of the section between your DAW's left and right locators.

8H/ Octave & Transpose buttons

Octave Up / Down Buttons (<< / >>)
Shift the pitch range of the keyboard up or down in one-octave steps. This allows you to access notes beyond the physical key range.

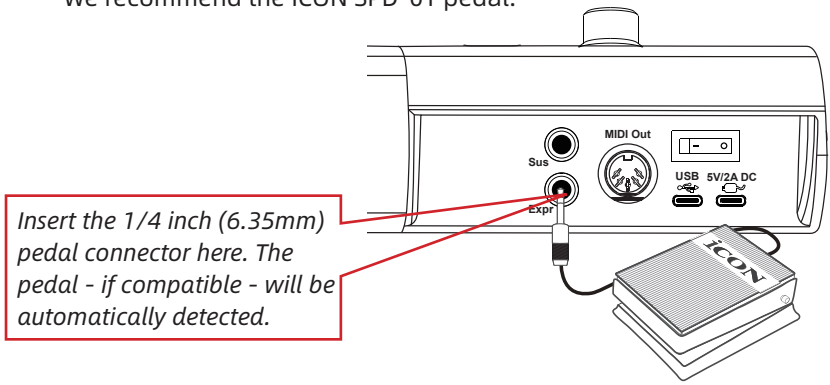
Transpose Button
Press the Transpose (Trans) button and then '<<' or '>>' to shift the pitch of the keyboard by individual semitones rather than full octaves. This is helpful for adjusting key signatures or aligning to instruments tuned differently.
For example, pressing the Transpose button and '>>' will result in a 'C' note becoming a 'C#' note as it has been transposed one semitone (half-step) up.

Rear panel layout



1. **Expression Pedal Input**
   A standard expression pedal can be connected via this 1/4 inch (6.35mm) input.

2. **Sustain Pedal Input**
   This 1/4 inch (6.35mm) jack can be used to connect a momentary footswitch, which will behave like a piano's sustain pedal when connected. We recommend the ICON SPD-01 pedal.



Tip: *You may reverse the sustain pedal connector polarity with the iMap provided.*

3. **MIDI Out Port**
   Use the MIDI Out terminal to connect an external synthesizer or sound module.

4. **USB connector (Type-C)**
   Connect this port with the provided USB cable (Type-C) to your Mac or PC.

5. **Power supply connector**
   Connector for optional power supply. The Artist X is USB powered. However, you may connect a 5V/2A DC power supply if your computer cannot deliver sufficient power or when using the Artist X without a computer.

6. **Power switch**
   Power switch for your Artist X.

Getting Started

There are three steps to get up and running with your Artist X keyboard;

1. Download the iMAP from the iCON website

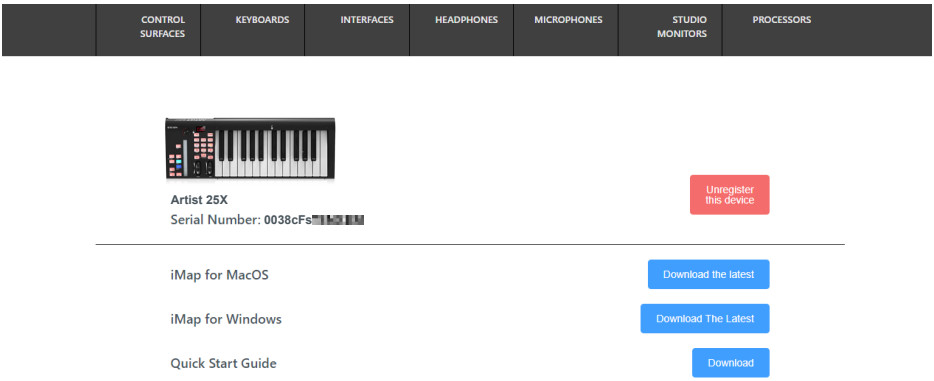
2. Install the iMAP and run it.

3. Connect your the PC/MAC and DAW

If you follow the instructions carefully, the process is straightforward.

Getting Started Pt. 1: Download the iMap

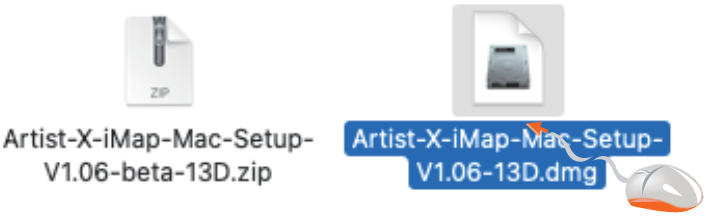
Download the iMAP file from your User Center at www.iconproaudio.com. It will also be available on the product page at the same address.



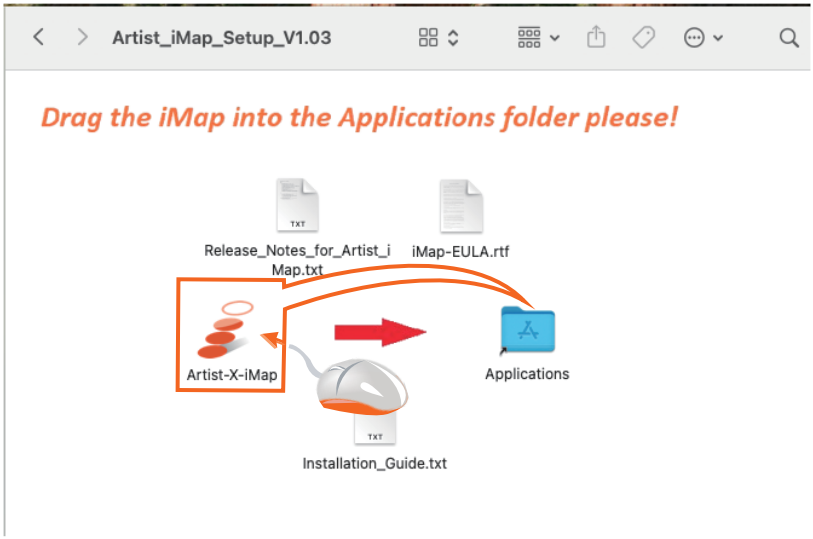
Getting Started Pt. 2a: Install the iMap (Mac)

Please follow these step-by-step procedures to install your iMAPTM software.

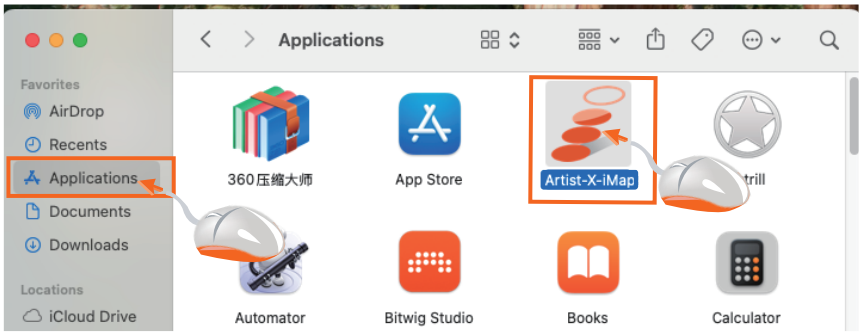
1. Turn on your Mac
2. Download the Mac installation file from your user Center at www.iconproaudio.com. This file can also be located on the Artist X product page.
3. After you've downloaded and unzipped the file, please click on the .dmg file to start the installation process.



4. Following installation - drag the Artist X iMAP icon into the Applications folder.

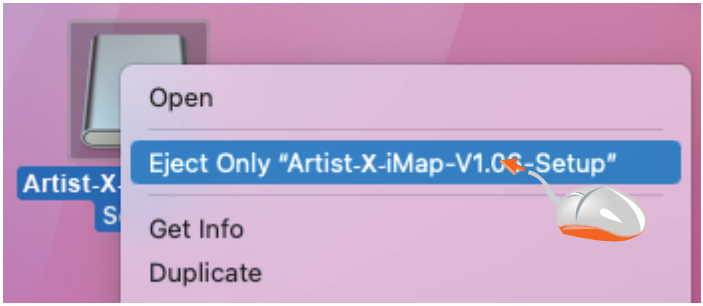


5. Check the Artist X iMAP has appeared in your Applications folder. Click to open the app.



6. Open the Artist X iMAP. Select the correct Artist X version from the drop-down menu.

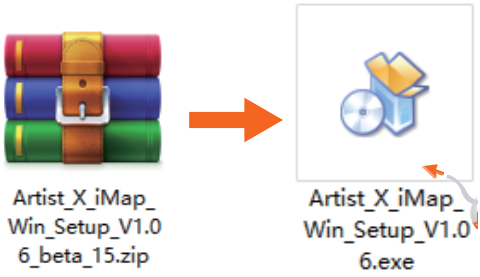
7. After installation, right-click the installer disk icon on your desktop and select “Eject” to close it.



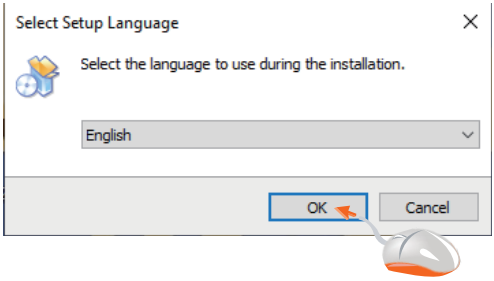
Getting Started Pt. 2b: Install the iMap (Windows)

Please follow the following step-by-step procedures to install your iMAPTM software.

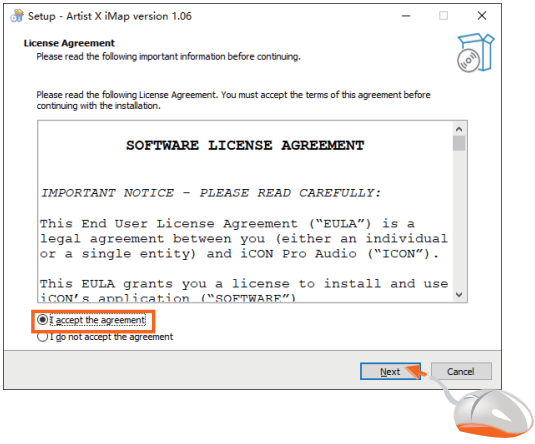
1. Turn on your PC
2. Download the Windows installation file from your user page at www.iconproaudio.com. This file can also be located on the Artist X product page.
3. After you've downloaded and unzipped the file, begin the installation process.



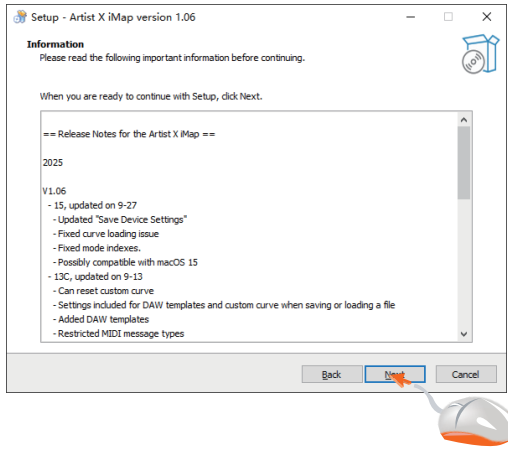
4. Choose your language.



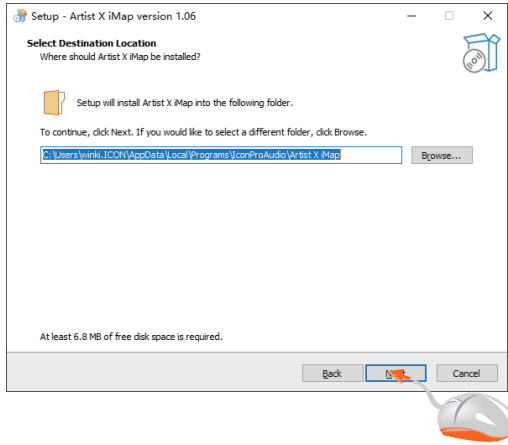
5. Read the software license agreement. Click 'Next' if you accept the agreement.



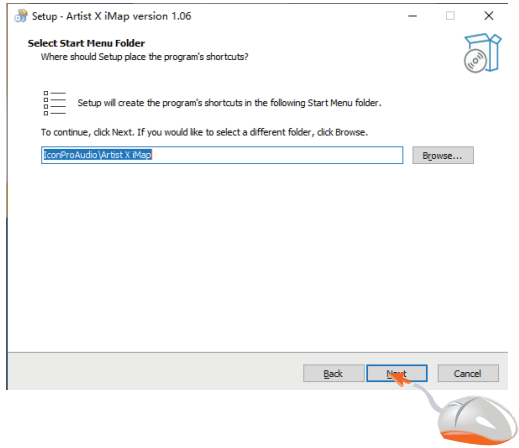
6. Read the release notes and click 'Next'.



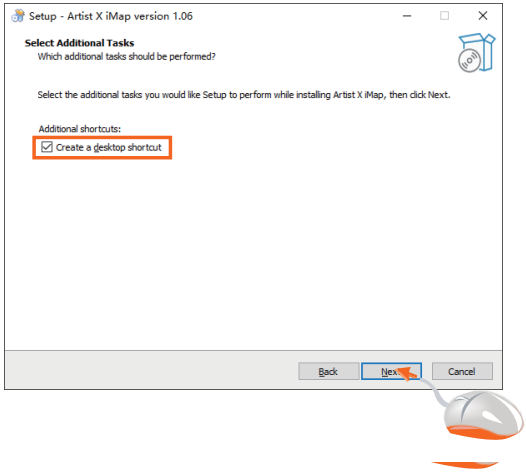
7. Choose your preferred install location for iMAP™ or use the default location and click “Next”.



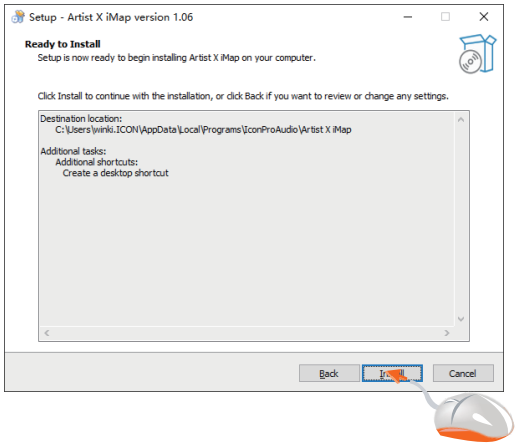
8. Choose a Start Menu folder for the program shortcuts or use the default. Click ‘Next’ to continue.



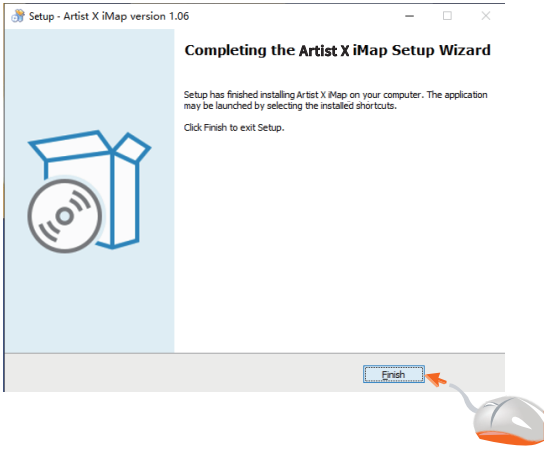
9. Create an iMAP™ shortcut on your desktop - or untick/ uncheck the box if you do not wish to do this. Click 'Next'.



10. Click 'Install' to install the iMAP™. The iMAP™ installation will begin. Wait for it to finish - do not stop the process.



11. When the installation is complete, click 'Finish'.



Getting Started Pt. 3: Connect PC/Mac + DAW

Before we begin...

The first MIDI Port will look like this;

Port 1:

iCON Artist [vers]X VX.XX

This is the 'musical keyboard' part of the device (and associated controls). This is the part that will automatically connect to the PC/Mac (step 1).

The second port will look like this;

Port 2:

MIDIIN2 (iCON Artist [vers]X V X.X)
and
MIDIOUT2 (iCON Artist [vers]X VX.XX)

This is the part of the device that should be assigned to Mackie Control (or HUI for Pro Tools) in your DAW settings.

Once you plug in your Artist X to the computer, you will see these connections and it is advisable to be fully aware of their purpose before proceeding.

Port 3:

Note: ***The 3rd port is used for communication between the keyboard and the iMAP. This can be ignored as this works in the 'background'.***

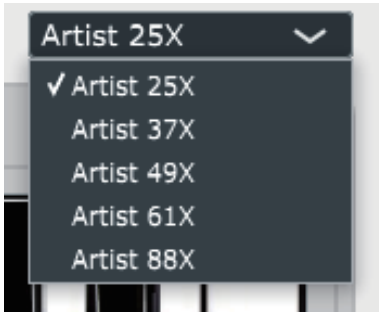
1. Connect the Artist X to your Mac/PC via the USB port

   Choose a USB port on your Mac/PC and insert the USB-C cable connector. Connect the USB-C cable to the Artist X. Your Mac/PC should automatically "see" the new hardware and notify you that it is ready to use.

2. Check the Artist X is recognised in your DAW

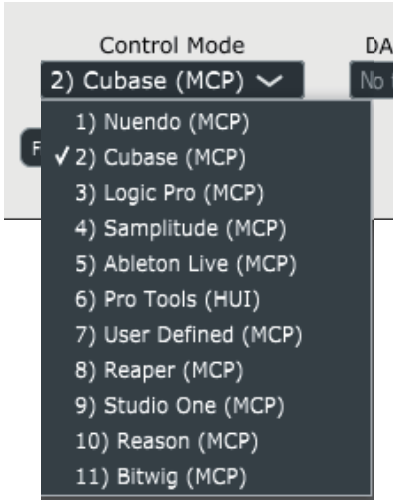
   Open your DAW or music software and ensure the iCON Artist X controller is selected as an available MIDI input device. The Artist X can be identified as iCON Artist [vers*]X. You will be able to play virtual instruments immediately by connecting this to them via your DAW or standalone virtual instrument, but the DAW Controller section - identified as MIDIIN2 (iCONArtist [vers*] X) and MIDIOUT2 (iCONArtist [vers*] X)-requires additional steps.

3. Select your keyboard
   Launch the iMAP. Select the correct Artist X version in the drop-down menu.



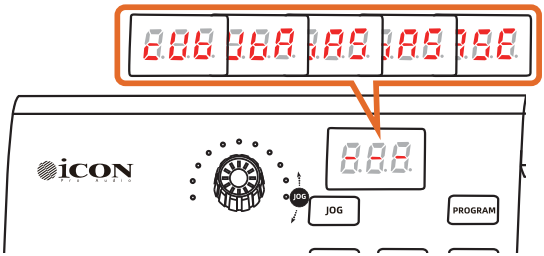
4. Select and upload the DAW mode to the Artist X

   Open the Artist X iMAP and select the DAW mode you wish to use from the list of 10 supported DAWs. Obviously, this will need to correlate with the DAW you wish to use the Artist X with. Let's ignore User Defined mode for now, (this is a more complex area explored later on in the manual).



   Once you've selected a DAW mode in iMAP, the Artist X will immediately operate with the chosen DAW. To ensure this setting is saved to the keyboard, click the 'Save Device Settings' button in iMAP. This writes the configuration to the Artist X, which will retain it until you manually reset the DAW mode. For best results, turn the keyboard off and back on after saving. A scrolling red LED message will appear on the display, confirming the stored DAW mode.

* "vers" refers to which version of the Artist X you are using i.e. 25X, 37X etc.

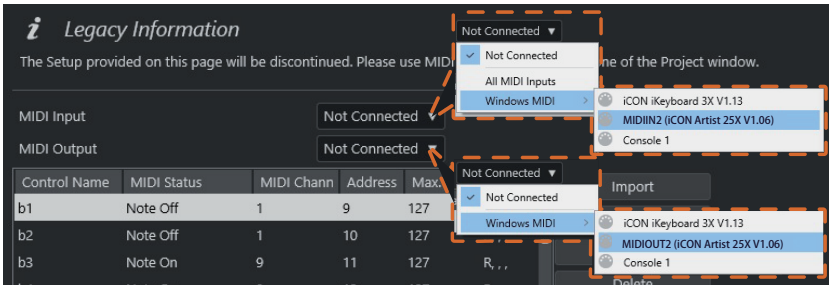


The greeting message, scrolling through the words 'Cubase' when turning on the Artist X.

5. Configure your DAW for the Artist X

Open your DAW and connect the Artist X to enable DAW Control. The port which connects as a DAW Controller is labelled MIDIIN2 (iCON Artist [vers*] X) - select Mackie Control (or HUI if using Pro Tools) in your DAW's settings and select MIDIIN2 (iCON Artist X) for both MIDI In and MIDI Out. This should be a straightforward process.

Using Cubase as an example, in the diagram below you can see the user has a choice of adding two instances (INPUT and OUTPUT) of the Artist X keyboard in the Mackie Control section.

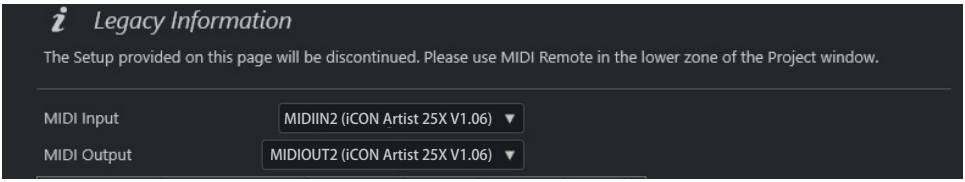


The user must select MIDIIN2 and MIDIOUT2 for both Mackie Control ports.

Reminder:

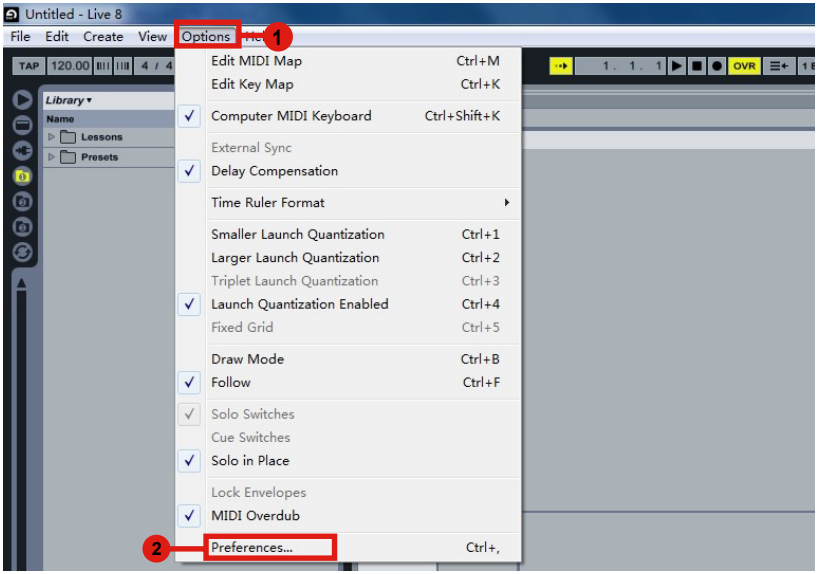
iCON Artist [vers]X = musical keyboard
MIDIIN2/MIDIOUT2 (iCON Artist [vers]X) = DAW Controller

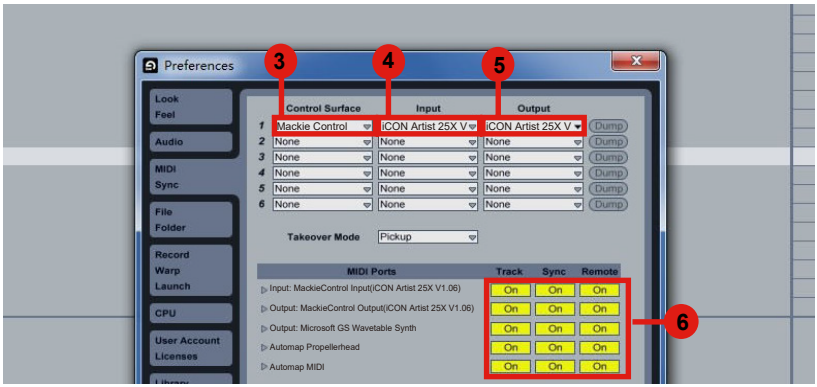
A correct DAW connection via Mackie Control would look like this:
Please refer to the setup diagrams starting on the next page.



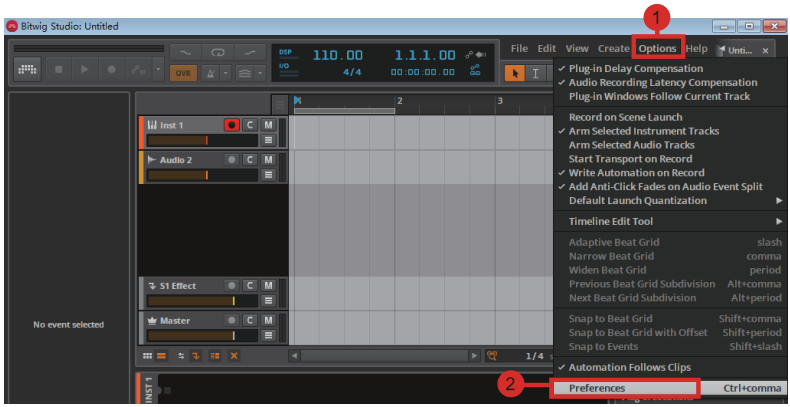
DAW Connectivity Diagrams

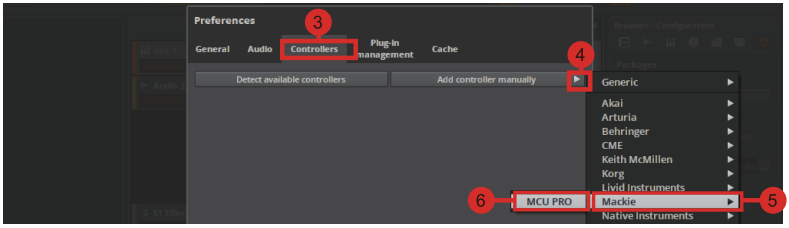
Ableton Live

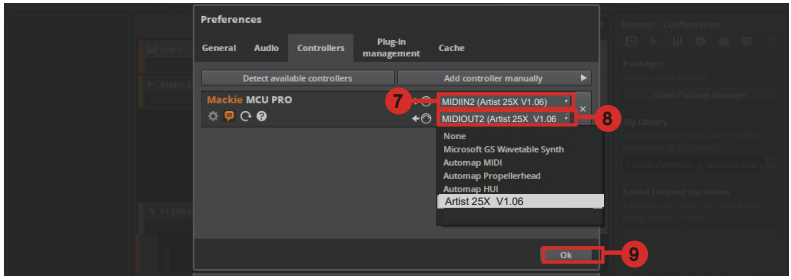




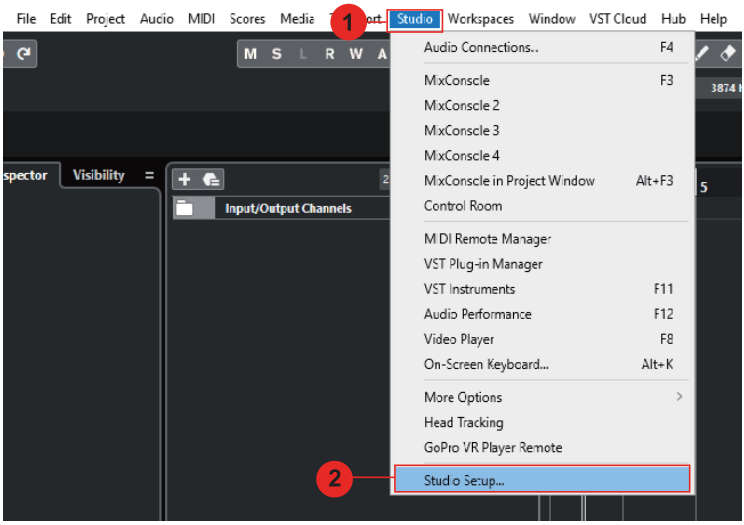
Bitwig

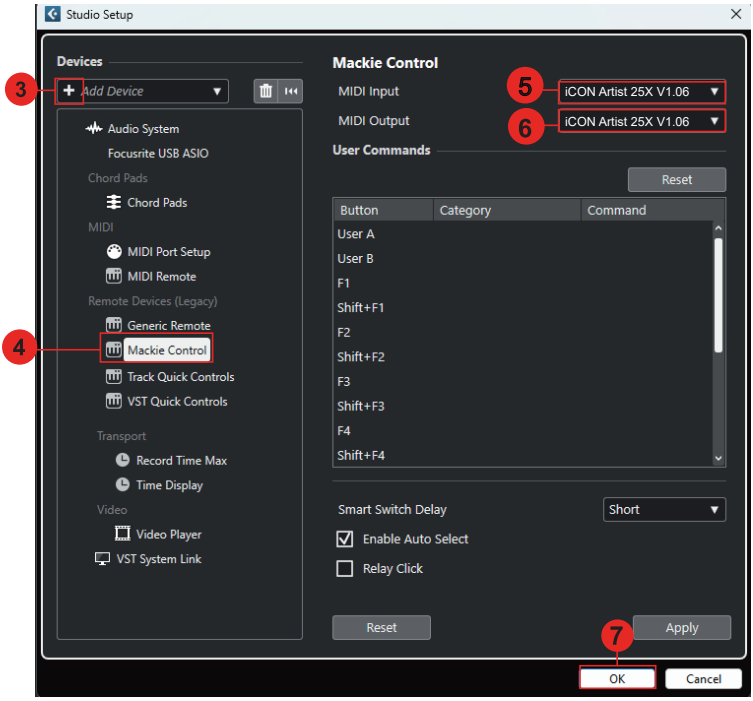

Bitwig Studio: Untitled
File Edit View Create Options Help
Plug-in Delay Compensation
Audio Recording Latency Compensation
Plug-in Windows Follow Current Track
Record on Scene Launch
Arm Selected Instrument Tracks
Arm Selected Audio Tracks
Start Transport on Record
Write Automation on Record
Add Anti-Click Fades on Audio Event Split
Default Launch Quantization
Timeline Edit Tool
Adaptive Beat Grid slash
Narrow Beat Grid comma
Widen Beat Grid period
Previous Beat Grid Subdivision Alt+comma
Next Beat Grid Subdivision Alt+period
Snap to Beat Grid Shift+comma
Snap to Beat Grid with Offset Shift+period
Snap to Events Shift+slash
Automation Follows Clips
Preferences Ctrl+comma
No event selected
1
2


Preferences
General Audio Controllers Plug-in management Cache
Detect available controllers
Add controller manually
Generic
Akai
Arturia
Behringer
CME
Keith McMillen
Korg
Livid Instruments
Mackie
Native Instruments
MCU PRO
3
4
5
6

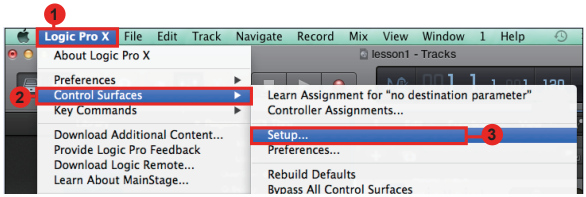

Preferences
General Audio Controllers Plug-in management Cache
Detect available controllers
Add controller manually
Mackie MCU PRO
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06
None
Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth
Automap MIDI
Automap Propellerhead
Automap HUI
Artist 25X V1.06
Ok
7
8
9

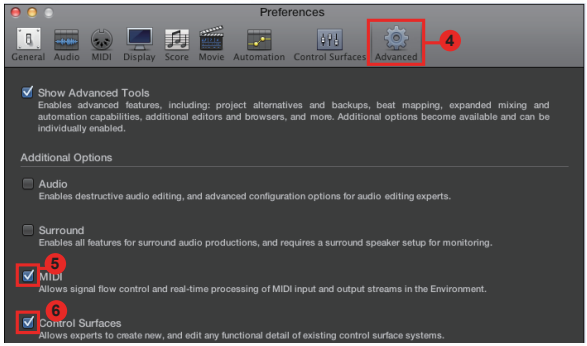
Cubase

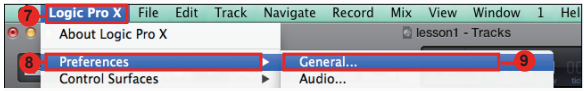

File Edit Project Audio MIDI Scores Media Studio Workspaces Window VST Cloud Hub Help
1
Audio Connections.. F4
MixConsole F3
MixConsole 2
MixConsole 3
MixConsole 4
MixConsole in Project Window Alt+F3
Control Room
MIDI Remote Manager
VST Plug-in Manager
VST Instruments F11
Audio Performance F12
Video Player F8
On-Screen Keyboard... Alt+K
More Options
Head Tracking
GoPro VR Player Remote
2
Studio Setup...
Visibility
Input/Output Channels

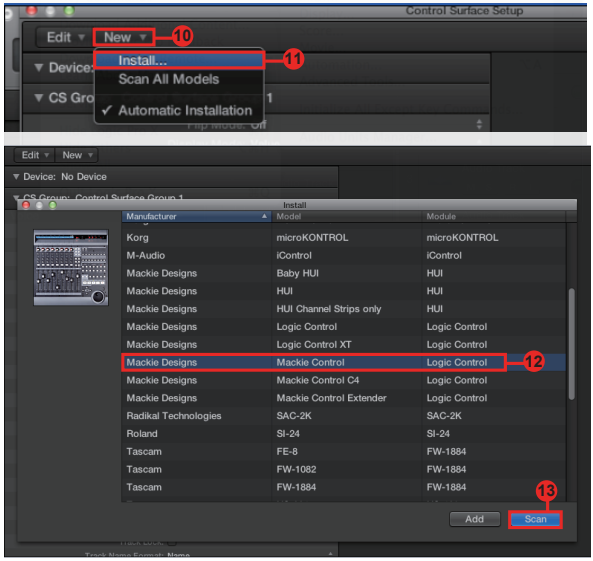

Studio Setup
Devices
3
Add Device
Audio System
Focusrite USB ASIO
Chord Pads
Chord Pads
MIDI
MIDI Port Setup
MIDI Remote
Remote Devices (Legacy)
Generic Remote
4
Mackie Control
Track Quick Controls
VST Quick Controls
Transport
Record Time Max
Time Display
Video
Video Player
VST System Link
Mackie Control
MIDI Input
5
iCON Artist 25X V1.06
MIDI Output
6
iCON Artist 25X V1.06
User Commands
Reset
Button
Category
Command
User A
User B
F1
Shift+F1
F2
Shift+F2
F3
Shift+F3
F4
Shift+F4
Smart Switch Delay
Short
Enable Auto Select
Relay Click
Reset
7
Apply
OK
Cancel

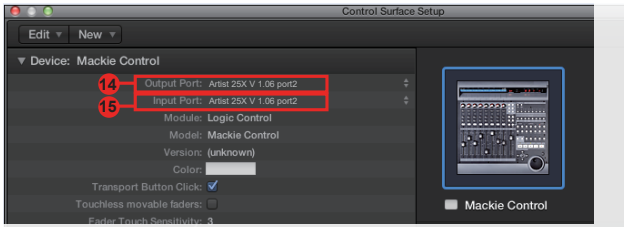
Logic Pro


1
Logic Pro X
File
Edit
Track
Navigate
Record
Mix
View
Window
1
Help
About Logic Pro X
lesson1 - Tracks
Preferences
2
Control Surfaces
Key Commands
Download Additional Content...
Provide Logic Pro Feedback
Download Logic Remote...
Learn About MainStage...
Learn Assignment for "no destination parameter"
Controller Assignments...
Setup...
3
Preferences...
Rebuild Defaults
Bypass All Control Surfaces

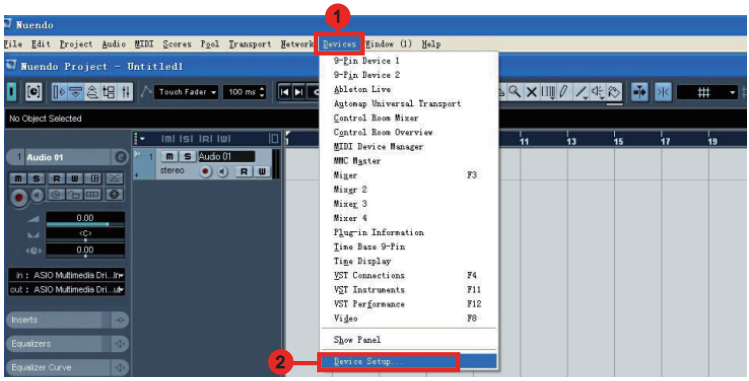

Preferences
General
Audio
MIDI
Display
Score
Movie
Automation
Control Surfaces
Advanced
4
Show Advanced Tools
Enables advanced features, including: project alternatives and backups, beat mapping, expanded mixing and automation capabilities, additional editors and browsers, and more. Additional options become available and can be individually enabled.
Additional Options
Audio
Enables destructive audio editing, and advanced configuration options for audio editing experts.
Surround
Enables all features for surround audio productions, and requires a surround speaker setup for monitoring.
5
MIDI
Allows signal flow control and real-time processing of MIDI input and output streams in the Environment.
6
Control Surfaces
Allows experts to create new, and edit any functional detail of existing control surface systems.

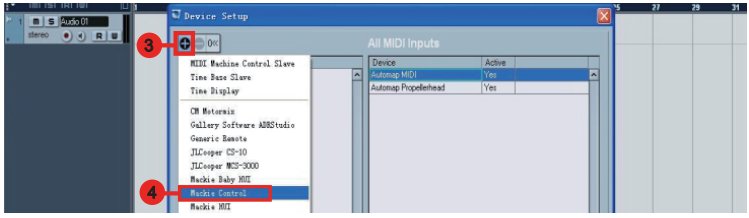

7
Logic Pro X
File
Edit
Track
Navigate
Record
Mix
View
Window
1
About Logic Pro X
lesson1 - Tracks
8
Preferences
Control Surfaces
General...
9
Audio...

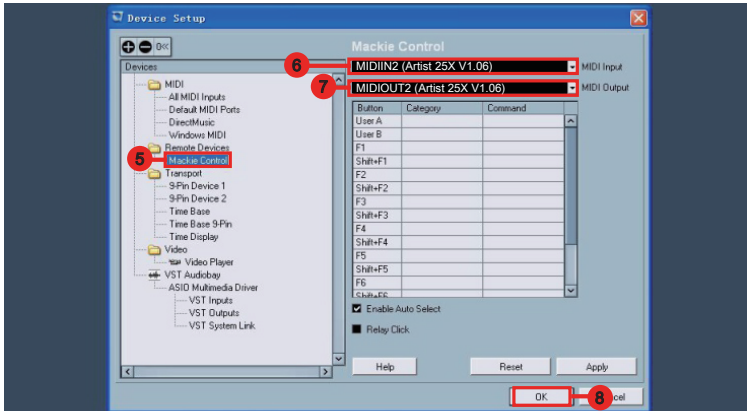

Control Surface Setup
Edit
New
10
Install...
11
Scan All Models
Automatic Installation
Device: No Device
Install
Manufacturer
Model
Module
Korg
microKONTROL
microKONTROL
M-Audio
iControl
iControl
Mackie Designs
Baby HUI
HUI
Mackie Designs
HUI
HUI
Mackie Designs
HUI Channel Strips only
HUI
Mackie Designs
Logic Control
Logic Control
Mackie Designs
Logic Control XT
Logic Control
Mackie Designs
Mackie Control
Logic Control
12
Mackie Designs
Mackie Control C4
Logic Control
Mackie Designs
Mackie Control Extender
Logic Control
Radikal Technologies
SAC-2K
SAC-2K
Roland
SI-24
SI-24
Tascam
FE-8
FW-1884
Tascam
FW-1082
FW-1884
Tascam
FW-1884
FW-1884
13
Add
Scan


Control Surface Setup
Edit
New
Device: Mackie Control
14
Output Port: Artist 25X V 1.06 port2
15
Input Port: Artist 25X V 1.06 port2
Module: Logic Control
Model: Mackie Control
Version: (unknown)
Color:
Transport Button Click:
Touchless movable faders:
Fader Touch Sensitivity: 3
Mackie Control

Nuendo

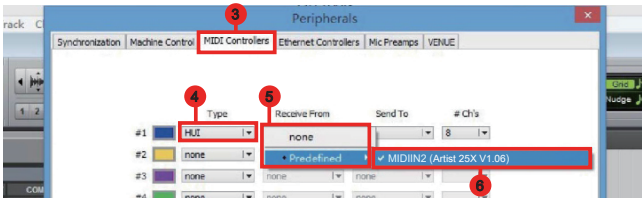

1
Devices
Device Setup...
2

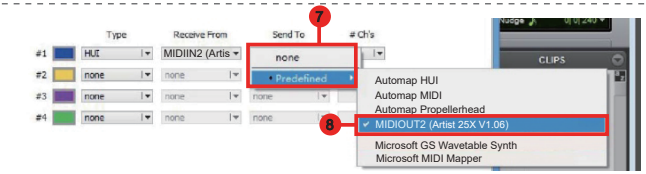

Device Setup
3
All MIDI Inputs
4
Mackie Control


Device Setup
Mackie Control
6
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
MIDI Input
7
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
MIDI Output
5
Mackie Control
Enable Auto Select
Relay Click
Help
Reset
Apply
OK
8

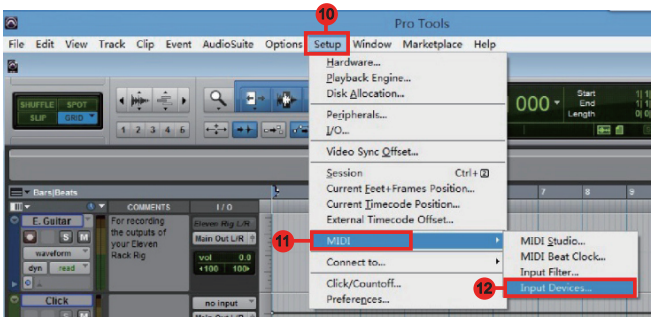
Pro Tools


1
Pro Tools
File Edit View Track Clip Event AudioSuite Options Setup Window Marketplace Help
Hardware...
Playback Engine...
Disk Allocation...
2
Peripherals...
I/O...


3
Peripherals
Synchronization Machine Control MIDI Controllers Ethernet Controllers Mic Preamps VENUE
4
Type
5
Receive From
Send To
Ch's
#1 HUI
none
Predefined
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
6


7
Type
Receive From
Send To
Ch's
#1 HUI
MIDIIN2 (Artis
none
Predefined
Automap HUI
Automap MIDI
Automap Propellerhead
8
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth
Microsoft MIDI Mapper

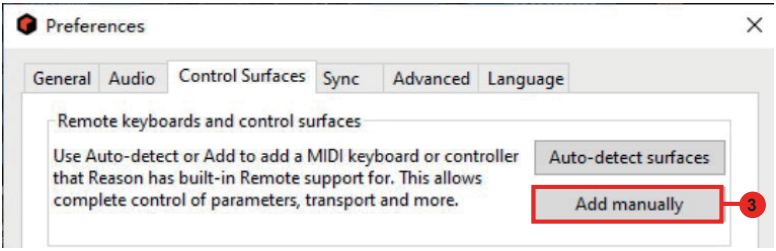

Peripherals
Synchronization Machine Control MIDI Controllers Ethernet Controllers Mic Preamps VENUE
Type
Receive From
Send To
Ch's
#1 HUI
MIDIIN2 (Artis
MIDIOUT2 (Ar
8
9
#2 none

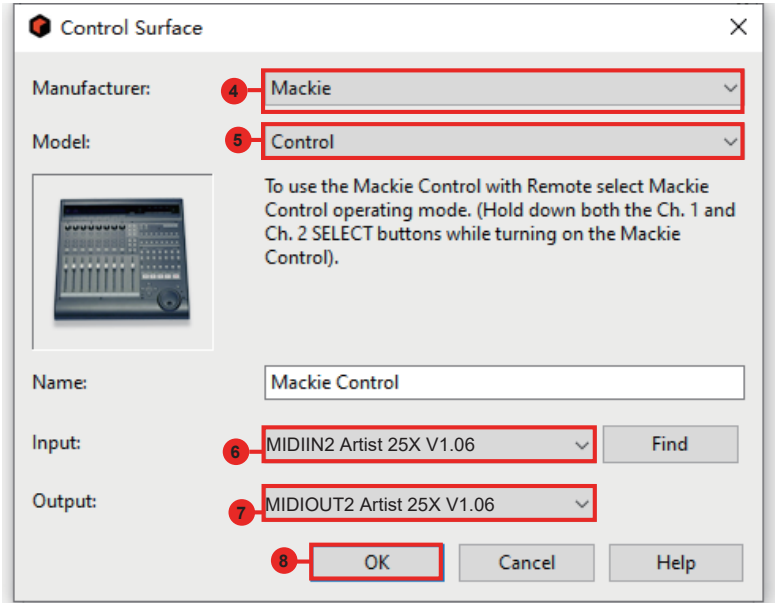

10
Pro Tools
File Edit View Track Clip Event AudioSuite Options Setup Window Marketplace Help
Hardware...
Playback Engine...
Disk Allocation...
Peripherals...
I/O...
Video Sync Offset...
Session Ctrl+
Current Feet+Frames Position...
Current Timecode Position...
External Timecode Offset...
11
MIDI
Connect to...
Click/Countoff...
Preferences...
MIDI Studio...
MIDI Beat Clock...
Input Filter...
12
Input Devices...


Edit: Guitar Tracking
MIDI Input Enable
Automap HUI
Automap MIDI
Artist 25X V1.06
13
Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
Cancel
OK
14

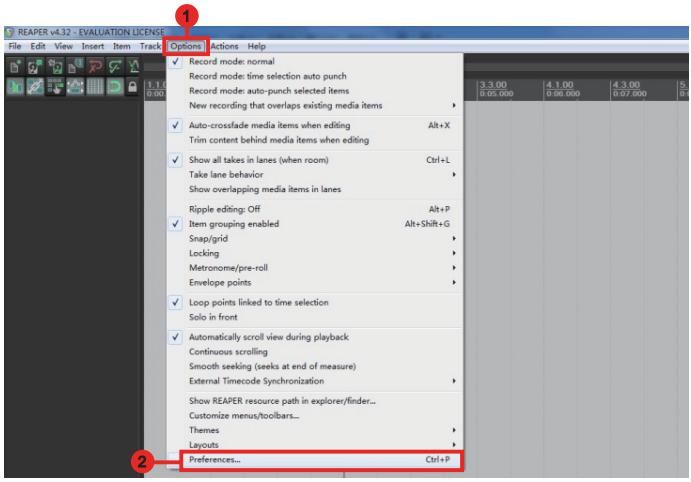
Reason

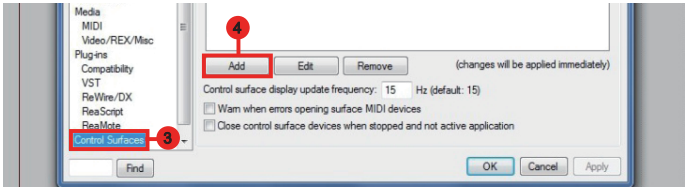

Document 1*
File
Edit
1
Options
Window
Help
Undo Delete Devices and Tracks Ctrl+Z
Redo Ctrl+Y
Cut Ctrl+X
Copy Ctrl+C
Paste Ctrl+V
Clear
Select All Ctrl+A
Duplicate Ctrl+D
Preferences...
2
THE ECHO
Warm Echo
MODE
DELAY
FEEDBACK
COLOR
MODULATION

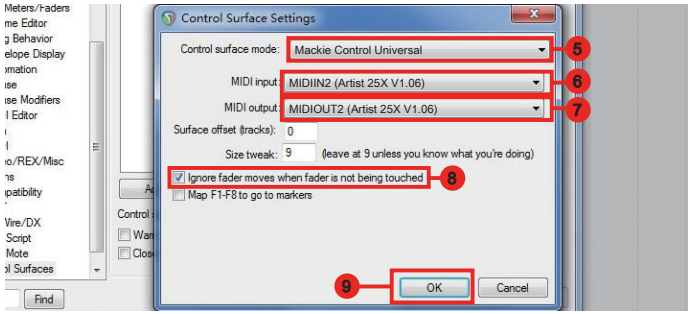

Preferences
General
Audio
Control Surfaces
Sync
Advanced
Language
Remote keyboards and control surfaces
Use Auto-detect or Add to add a MIDI keyboard or controller that Reason has built-in Remote support for. This allows complete control of parameters, transport and more.
Auto-detect surfaces
Add manually
3


Control Surface
Manufacturer:
4
Mackie
Model:
5
Control
To use the Mackie Control with Remote select Mackie Control operating mode. (Hold down both the Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 SELECT buttons while turning on the Mackie Control).
Name:
Mackie Control
Input:
6
MIDIIN2 Artist 25X V1.06
Find
Output:
7
MIDIOUT2 Artist 25X V1.06
8
OK
Cancel
Help

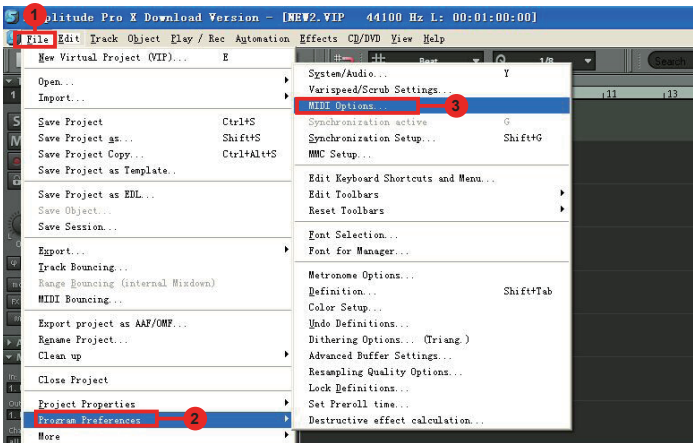
Reaper

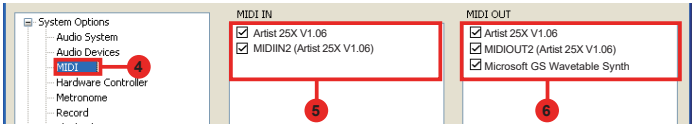

1
Options
2
Preferences...
Ctrl+P

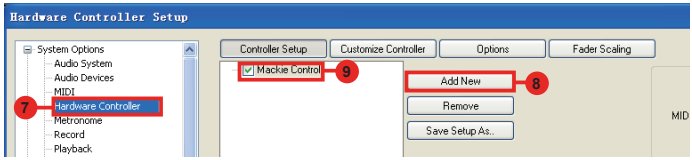

Media
MIDI
Video/REX/Misc
Plug-ins
Compatibility
VST
ReWire/DX
ReaScript
ReaMote
Control Surfaces
3
4
Add
Edit
Remove
(changes will be applied immediately)
Control surface display update frequency: 15 Hz (default: 15)
Warn when errors opening surface MIDI devices
Close control surface devices when stopped and not active application
Find
OK
Cancel
Apply

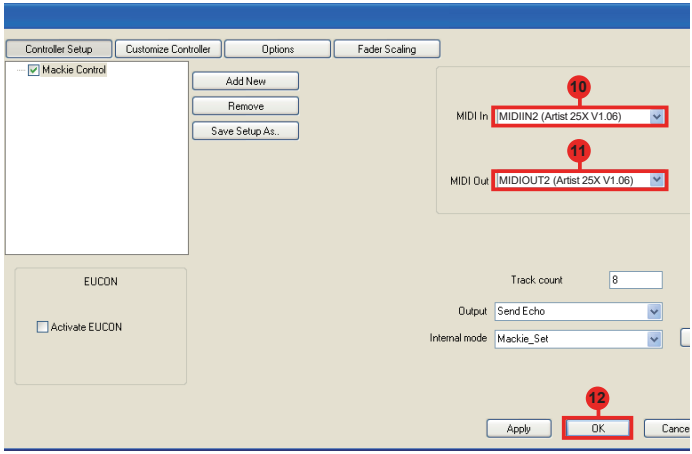

Control Surface Settings
Control surface mode:
Mackie Control Universal
5
MIDI input:
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
6
MIDI output:
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
7
Surface offset (tracks): 0
Size tweak: 9
(leave at 9 unless you know what you're doing)
Ignore fader moves when fader is not being touched
8
Map F1-F8 to go to markers
9
OK
Cancel
Find

Samplitude

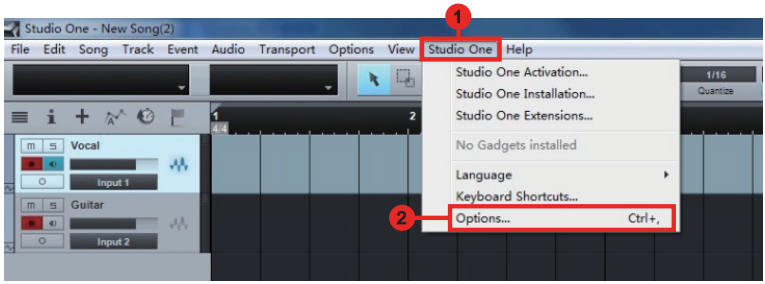

1
File
Edit
Track
Object
Play / Rec
Automation
Effects
CD/DVD
View
Help
New Virtual Project (VIP)...
Open...
Import...
Save Project
Save Project as...
Save Project Copy...
Save Project as Template...
Save Project as EDL...
Save Object...
Save Session...
Export...
Track Bouncing...
Range Bouncing (internal Mixdown)
MIDI Bouncing...
Export project as AAF/OMF...
Rename Project...
Clean up
Close Project
Project Properties
Program Preferences
More
2
System/Audio...
Varispeed/Scrub Settings...
MIDI Options...
3
Synchronization active
Synchronization Setup...
MMC Setup...
Edit Keyboard Shortcuts and Menu...
Edit Toolbars
Reset Toolbars
Font Selection...
Font for Manager...
Metronome Options...
Definition...
Color Setup...
Undo Definitions...
Dithering Options...
Advanced Buffer Settings...
Resampling Quality Options...
Lock Definitions...
Set Preroll time...
Destructive effect calculation...

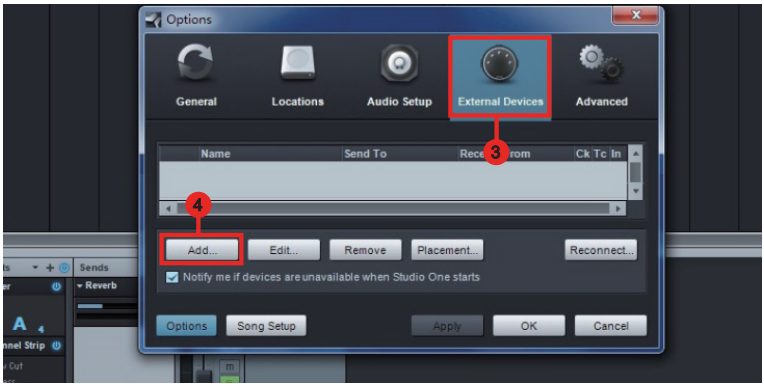

System Options
Audio System
Audio Devices
MIDI
4
Hardware Controller
Metronome
Record
MIDI IN
Artist 25X V1.06
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
5
MIDI OUT
Artist 25X V1.06
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth
6

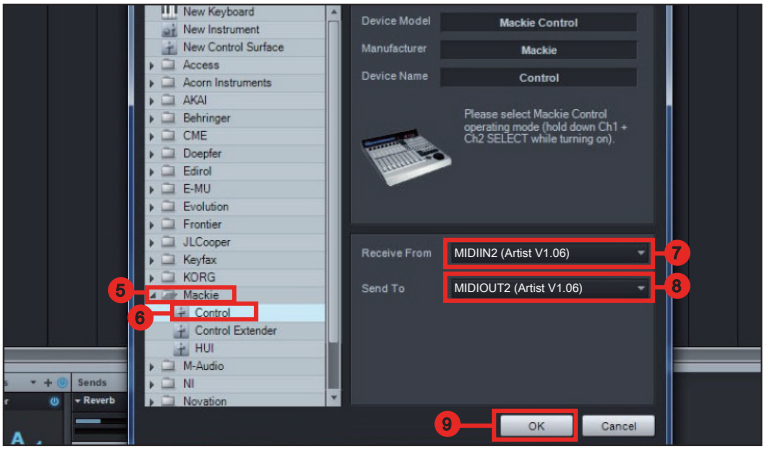

Hardware Controller Setup
System Options
Audio System
Audio Devices
MIDI
7
Hardware Controller
Metronome
Record
Playback
Controller Setup
Customize Controller
Options
Fader Scaling
Mackie Control
9
Add New
8
Remove
Save Setup As..


Controller Setup
Customize Controller
Options
Fader Scaling
Mackie Control
Add New
Remove
Save Setup As..
10
MIDI In
MIDIIN2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
11
MIDI Out
MIDIOUT2 (Artist 25X V1.06)
EUCON
Activate EUCON
Track count
8
Output
Send Echo
Internal mode
Mackie_Set
12
Apply
OK
Cance

Studio One


Studio One - New Song(2)
File Edit Song Track Event Audio Transport Options View Studio One Help
Studio One Activation...
Studio One Installation...
Studio One Extensions...
No Gadgets installed
Language
Keyboard Shortcuts...
Options... Ctrl+,
Vocal
Input 1
Guitar
Input 2
1
2


Options
General
Locations
Audio Setup
External Devices
Advanced
Name
Send To
Ck Tc In
3
4
Add...
Edit...
Remove
Placement...
Reconnect...
Notify me if devices are unavailable when Studio One starts
Options
Song Setup
Apply
OK
Cancel


New Keyboard
New Instrument
New Control Surface
Access
Acorn Instruments
AKAI
Behringer
CME
Doepfer
Edirol
E-MU
Evolution
Frontier
JLCooper
Keyfax
KORG
Mackie
Control
Control Extender
HUI
M-Audio
NI
Novation
Device Model
Mackie Control
Manufacturer
Mackie
Device Name
Control
Please select Mackie Control operating mode (hold down Ch1 + Ch2 SELECT while turning on).
Receive From
MIDIIN2 (Artist V1.06)
Send To
MIDIOUT2 (Artist V1.06)
5
6
7
8
9
OK
Cancel

In EveryDay Use

Now you've downloaded and installed the iMAP and connected your DAW: When using your Artist X with a DAW, it's best to power on the keyboard before launching the DAW. This ensures the DAW can detect the device properly during startup.

If you're using the iMAP software, we recommend closing any DAWs first, as the Artist X can only communicate with one application at a time. In most cases, the order in which you launch the iMAP and power on the keyboard won't matter. However, on some PCs, starting iMAP before turning on the keyboard may cause the software to appear disconnected. If this happens, simply reload the iMAP after the keyboard is connected.

Using your Artist X as a DAW Controller

Note: While the Artist X sends standardised MIDI messages using Mackie Control or HUI protocols, the way these messages are interpreted can vary between DAWs.

For example, pressing the encoder might control monitor level in one DAW (such as Cubase), but do nothing in another or perform a different task, such as resetting the PAN position to 'center'.

Similarly, scrub mode may be fully supported in one DAW, but ignored in other environments.

These variations are not due to the Artist X, but rather how each DAW chooses to implement and respond to standard control surface messages.

Transport Controls

- **Play / Stop / Rec** – Standard playback and recording functions.
- **Rewind / Fast Forward** – Jump back or forward in the timeline.
- **Loop** – Toggles loop playback on and off.

Track & Bank Navigation

- **Track < / >** – Move the focus left or right by one track.
- **Bank < / >** – Jump in groups of 8 tracks.
- **Master** – Assigns the fader to control the Master Output.

⚠ **Note:** In some DAWs, bank changes may not update the selected track on screen or send visual feedback.

User Defined Mode does NOT allow for the re-programming of button lights, LEDs or the display. Functionality of these elements may be limited or nil if using User Defined mode.

For all usual DAW operational practices - choose the relevant DAW mode.

Fader & Encoder

- **Touch Fader** – Adjusts the volume of the currently focused track.
- **Pan Button** – Enables Pan Mode. The encoder will control stereo pan for the selected channel.
- **Encoder (Rotate)** – Adjusts the pan position (in Pan Mode).
- **Encoder (Press)** – Controls the **Monitor** function in some DAWs (e.g., Cubase). In others, it may perform a different function such as returning PAN settings to the center position.

⚠ **Note:** The **encoder press** function varies between DAWs. For example, in Cubase it enables the Monitor function, but in others it may be unassigned or control a different function. There is no functionality while pressing the encoder in Jog mode. See the table below;

DAW	Default	Jog Mode
Nuendo/Cubase	Monitor function	------
Logic Pro	Return PAN to center	------
Samplitude	Not installed	------
Ableton Live	Return PAN to center	------
Pro Tools	------	------
Reaper	Return PAN to center	------
Studio One	Return PAN to center	------
Reason	Not installed	------
Bitwig	Return PAN to center	------

- **Flip Button** – Swaps the roles of the fader and encoder, allowing flexible control of pan, volume, or plug-in parameters.

Jog Control

- **Jog Button** – Activates Jog Mode. The encoder becomes a jog wheel for scrolling through the timeline.

Automation & Channel Functions

- **Read / Write** – Toggle automation read and write modes for the selected track.
- **Rec / Solo / Mute** – Arm, solo, or mute the current track.

⚠ **Note:** Automation status and track state feedback (e.g., lights staying on) may depend on DAW support for Mackie Control feedback messages. Some DAWs will not illuminate buttons even when the function is active.

Using the Program Button (Optional)

The **Program** button, when used with the encoder, sends **Program Change** messages – typically used to switch patches in General MIDI sound modules or supported software instruments.

⚠ **Note:** Most modern DAWs and virtual instruments ignore Program Change messages by default. To use this feature, ensure your instrument or sound module supports and listens for Program Change messages.

Pressing the program button twice so that it is flashing allows you to select MIDI channels 1-16.

Mod & Pitch Wheels

- **Mod Wheel** – Sends **MIDI CC 1** by default. Commonly used to control vibrato, filter cutoff, or modulation effects in synths and virtual instruments. Assignable in most DAWs and plugins.
- **Pitch Wheel** – Sends **Pitch Bend** messages, allowing for expressive pitch changes (e.g., bends and glides). Most software instruments respond to pitch bend by default.

⚠ **Note:** Pitch bend response depends on both the DAW and the instrument. Some synths restrict range or ignore pitch data unless explicitly enabled.

Sustain & Expression Pedals

- Sustain Pedal (Jack Input) – Sends MIDI CC 64, which is used to sustain notes. Works automatically with most piano and synth plugins.
- Expression Pedal (Jack Input) – Sends MIDI CC 11 by default. Allows for dynamic control over volume, filter depth, or other assignable parameters in supported plugins.

⚠ **Note:** Pedal functionality depends on your pedal type (e.g., momentary vs. continuous) and the correct polarity. Check your DAW or plugin settings if response is unexpected.

Transpose << / >> Keys

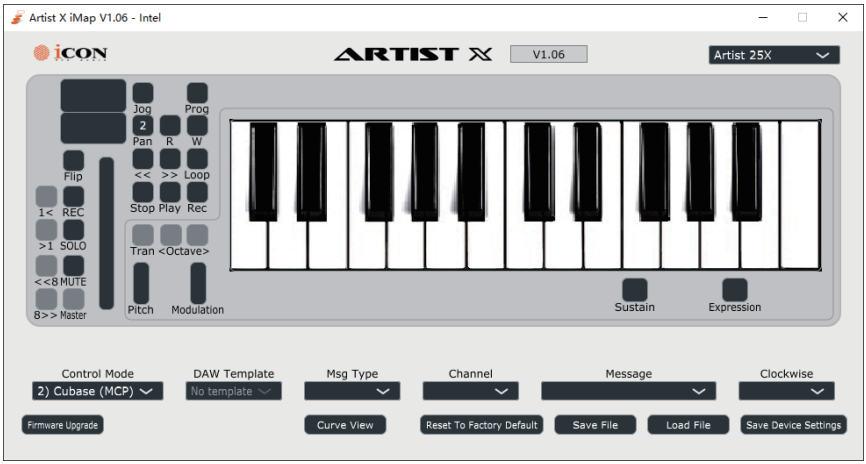
- **Octave << / >> Buttons** – Shift the playable pitch range of the keyboard **up or down in full octaves**. This lets you access notes beyond the physical range of your specific Artist X model (e.g., from deep bass to high leads).
- **Transpose Function** – Press the **Transpose button**, then tap **<<** or **>>** to shift the pitch by **semitones** instead of full octaves. This is useful when adapting to different keys or tuning standards. For example, pressing Transpose + **>>** will raise every note by one semitone (one step) – so pressing a C key will now send a C#.

⚠ **Note:** Transpose affects all outgoing MIDI note data, which may impact mapped drum triggers or scale-sensitive plugins.

Troubleshooting Tips

- Always power on your keyboard before launching your DAW.
- If DAW control seems unresponsive, verify that MIDIIN2/MIDIOUT2 is assigned as the control surface.
- Try restarting both the DAW and the Artist X after saving your iMAP settings.

Using the iMAP™



In this section we will cover how to use the iMAP software and why you might choose various options.

This section includes detailed instructions and practical examples of how to use the Artist X with the iMAP.

MIDI is an exhaustive subject and while as much ground as possible is covered here regarding it, it is beyond the scope of this manual to provide a completely full exploration of all possible MIDI implementations i.e. what MIDI is capable of communicating via a device like the Artist X and how it may connect with other devices, for example.

There is a lot of information on MIDI on the internet and, should you wish to combine the use of the Artist X with external synthesizers etc., manufacturer documentation should be referred to.

Most users will only need the iMAP to assign their DAW mode. If you wish to explore advanced MIDI customisation, the iMAP gives you full access to assignments, velocity curves, and more.

It's important to remember that this section refers to the iMAP software, not the Artist X hardware. In order to make that very clear - a blue 'iMAP' marker has been added to each page that discusses the iMAP software.

For the majority of users, selecting a DAW mode and connecting the Artist X is all that's needed – no additional setup is required. For users that wish to dive deeper into the world of MIDI, read on.

Assigning MIDI functions

You can use the iMAP™ to easily assign the MIDI functions of your Artist X.

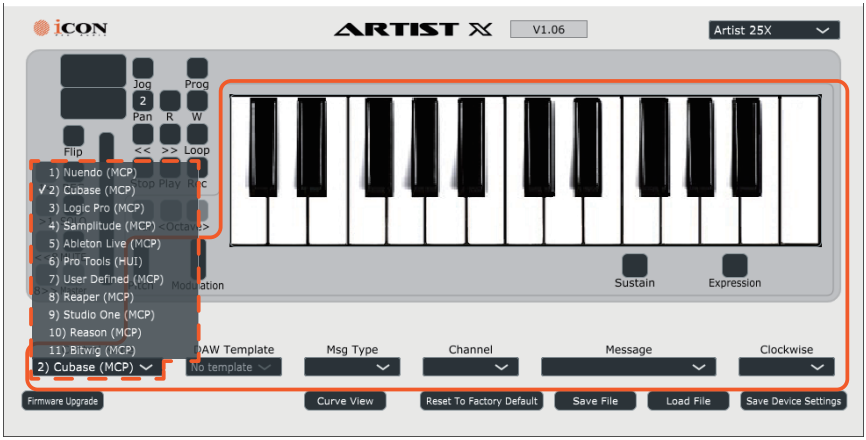
Note: *If your Artist X is not connected to your Mac/PC, the message "Disconnected" will appear in the top left corner of the iMAP GUI (Graphical User Interface). Please connect Artist X to your Mac/PC with the USB cable provided.*

iMAP™ Artist X software panel

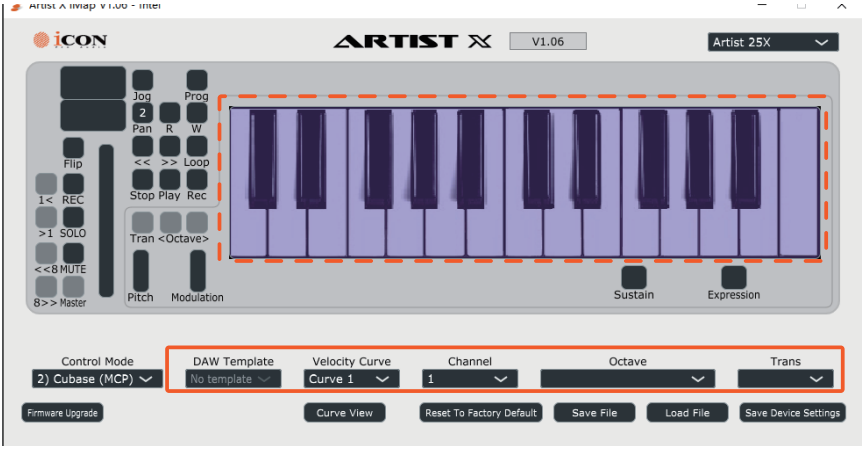
It might be helpful to think of the iMAP software as being divided into four main sections (see below and the following pages for diagrams and detailed descriptions):

A) The Assignments Section - This includes two key modes:

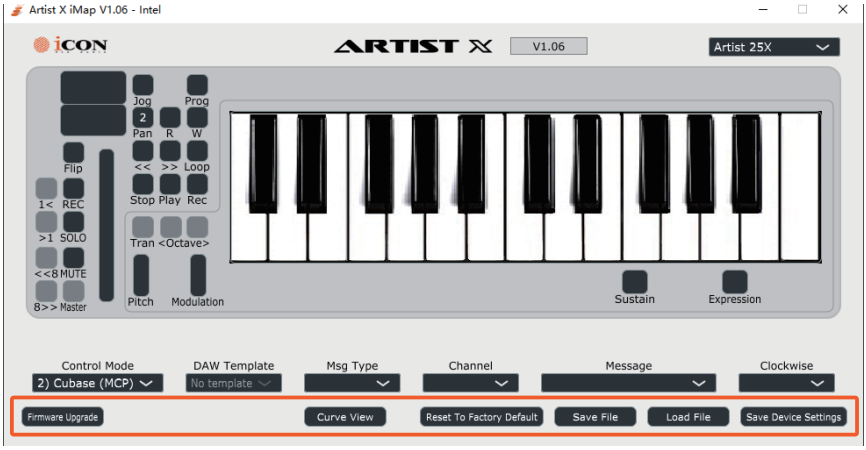
A1: Assignments: ***Default Mode***: These are the standard settings that load automatically when iMAP is launched and include the ability to remap some physical controls to CC values of your choice.



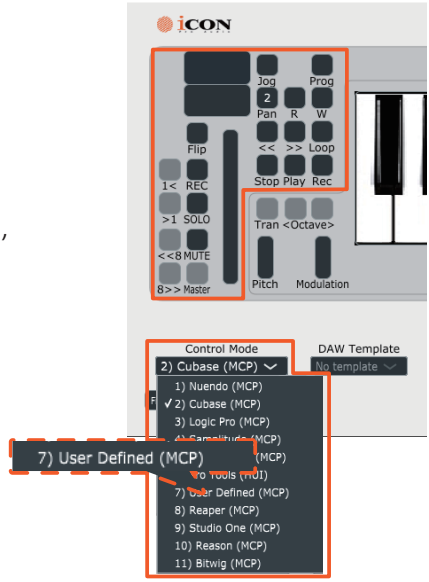
A2: Assignments: ***Musical Keyboard Settings Mode***: This mode allows you to adjust how the musical keyboard responds – for example, by changing the velocity curve or selecting the active octave. To access this mode, click on the musical keyboard area within iMAP. It will become highlighted in purple, and you'll notice that the cluster of drop-down menus beneath it will change to reflect musical keyboard-specific options.



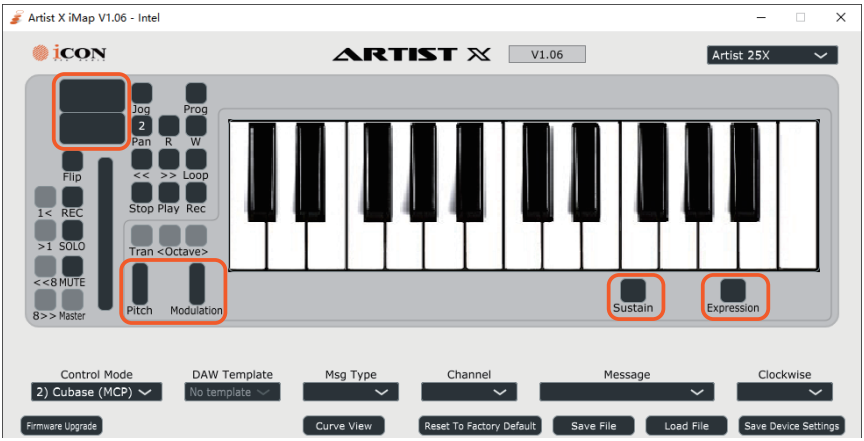
B) The General Settings Section – This can be thought of as the 'administrative' area of the software. Here, you can load and save files, send your selected settings to the physical keyboard and enter firmware upgrade mode.



C) The DAW Controller - These are the operational controls for one of the ten supported DAWs. You can think of these as being like a mini mixing console within your DAW - with transport controls, a fader, a rotary encoder for PAN and jog functions and navigational buttons. You can select 1 of 10 supported DAWs from the 'Control Mode' drop-down menu, (or 'User Defined Mode').



D) Other controls - wheels, pedals and rotary encoder

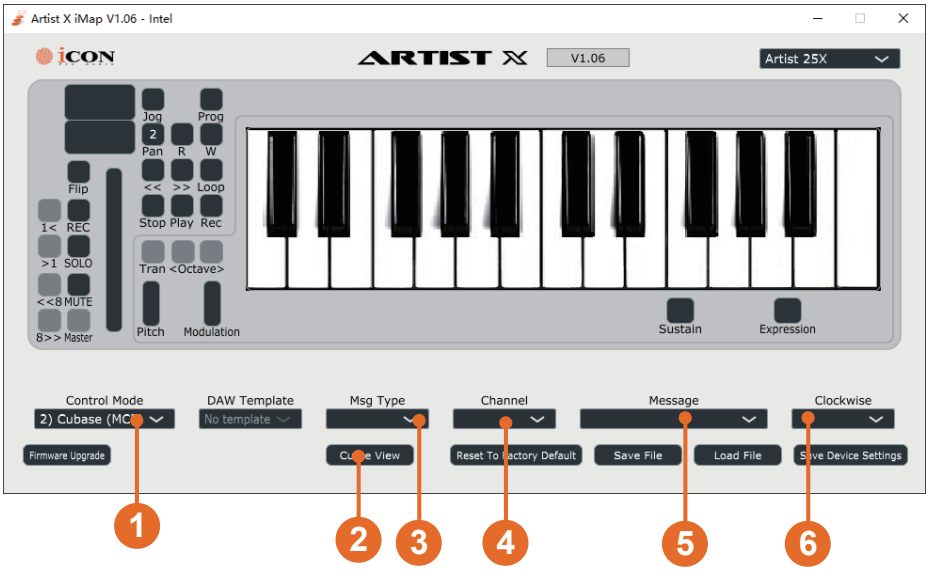


A1 - Assignments: Default Mode

Assignable elements include the key switches, velocity curve, modulation/pitch bend jog wheels, Sustain & Expression pedals, Transpose & Octave buttons, (click to select - the selected control will be highlighted in purple). Some elements are not user assignable (shown in light grey). Assignable elements can be configured using the drop-down menus shown below.

Drop-Down Menu Cluster (1-5)

This cluster of 5 drop-down menus changes depending on which mode you are in. The diagram illustr ates 'Keyboard Assignment' or 'default' mode.



1. Control Mode

Here, you can select one of ten supported DAWs. It is essential to do this to effectively work within your DAW with the DAW control section of the Artist X. Advanced users may also select User Defined mode.

2. Curve View

Launches a box showing the velocity curve currently in use, (see page 68 for further information).

3. Msg Type

Shows the MIDI message type a particular element of the keyboard is communicating. This will be CC (Control Change), Note (a musical note which can be assigned as an on/off MIDI message - ideal for drums and as a sample trigger), Pitchbend or Program (intended for changing 'patches' or 'voices' in General MIDI instruments). This drop-down menu changes to display velocity curves when Musical Keyboard Settings mode is selected (by clicking the keyboard graphic in the iMAP).

4. Channel

Assign a MIDI channel from 1-16 here. The chosen MIDI channel will be applied to the selected feature.

5. Messages

The Artist X's assignable parameters follow standard MIDI Control Change (CC) values, which range from 0 to 127 and are displayed in the drop-down 'Message' menu. Note that not all CC values are musically meaningful or compatible with every control type. For example, assigning a continuous parameter like volume to an on/off control (such as a button) may cause the volume to jump between minimum and maximum values.

When 'Note' is selected in the Msg Type drop-down menu, musical notes are shown in the Message drop down-menu (e.g., A#, B), along with their octave position – with Middle C identified as C4. When 'Program' is selected, values from 0 to 127 become available for selection - suitable for selecting sounds in a General Midi type instrument. Pitch Bend does not use fixed values, so selectable options should be greyed out when this message type is chosen.

6. Clockwise/Sustain

Clockwise

This drop-down box presents differently depending on if a pedal button or not is clicked. If sustain or Expression are clicked the drop-down menu title will present as 'Sustain'.

It's default state is 'Clockwise'. This is functional only in User defined mode, however.

If the user has selected 'User Defined' from the Control Mode drop down menu and selects the top portion of the rotary encoder section (which represents the left-right movement of the rotary encoder - the bottom section representing the 'push button' element). Selecting anti-clockwise reverses the encoder's default behavior, so values increase when turned left instead of right.

Sustain

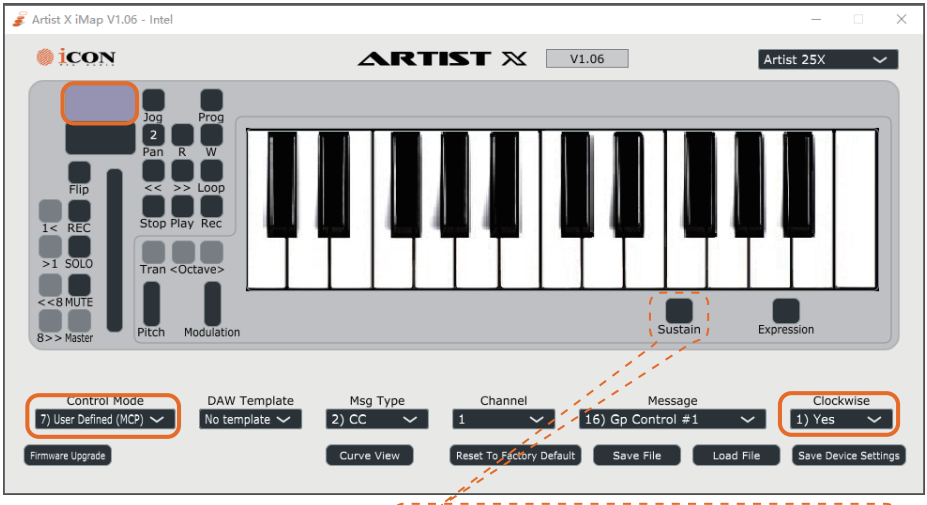
If a momentary pedal such as the iCON SPD-01 is connected via the 'sustain' port of the Artist X keyboard, it can be used as a 'sustain' pedal such as you'd find on a piano.

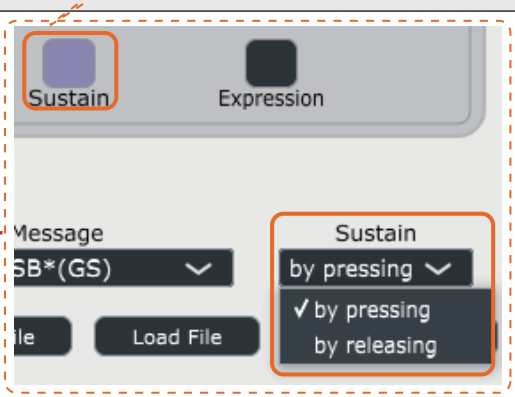
Click the 'Sustain' button on the iMAP to change the drop-down menu from 'Clockwise' to 'Sustain'. This relates to the optional Sustain pedal which you may configure via the iMAP.

There are two possible ways of using the sustain pedal:

'by pressing' - Pedal press activates sustain
'by releasing' - Pedal release activates sustain (reversed polarity)'

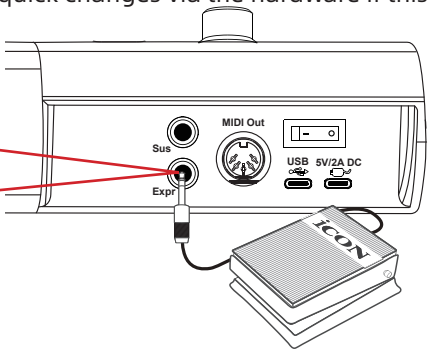
You can switch between these two modes when the Sustain button is activated (highlighted in purple).





https://img.pddpic.com/mms-material-img/2025-07-07/700a684c-dd66-4598-98e2-bc975572c7f3.jpeg?imageView2/2/w/1300/q/80/format/webp

'By Pressing' is the default mode and is the standard manner in which sustain is applied on a piano. Should you wish to reverse this, select 'By releasing' - this is sometimes known as 'reversing the polarity'. It's worth noting that some pedals feature 'polarity switches' on the underside of the device (a) - and it may be preferable to make quick changes via the hardware if this feature is available.



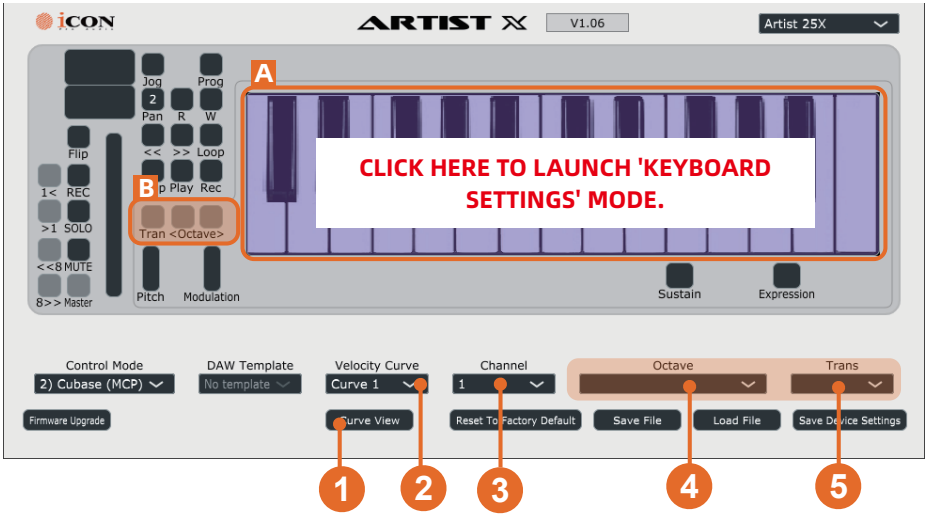
Selecting 'By Releasing' reverses the polarity of the 1/4 inch (6.35mm) pedal input, producing the same result as using a pedal with a polarity reverse switch. The effect is identical either way.

A2 - Assignments: Musical Keyboard Settings Mode

This mode adjusts the response of the Artist X's musical keyboard. To enter this mode, click the musical keyboard on the iMAP, so that it is highlighted in purple.

Drop Down Menu Cluster (1-5)

This cluster of 5 drop down menus changes in Keyboard Settings Mode;



A: Clicking this portion of the iMAP launches 'Musical Keyboard Settings' mode. You can use the newly adjusted values in the drop down menu cluster to choose velocity curves, create your own custom velocity curve and also transpose your keyboard by octaves and semi-tones (half-steps).

You can also choose which MIDI channel the keyboard itself uses (via MIDI Port 1).

B: **Transpose and Octave buttons** are greyed out as they have no function within the iMAP, (the physical equivalent on the keyboard itself are of course, operational). Transpose and Octave changes can be actioned in the iMAP via the **drop down menu cluster (4 and 5)**.

1. Curve View

In 'Musical Keyboard Settings' mode, this button launches a box showing the velocity curve selected in the adjacent drop-down menu ('Velocity Curve').

If 'Custom Curve' is selected in the 'Velocity Curve' drop-down menu, select the nodes with your mouse to move them to edit your custom curve.

Press 'Reset to Custom Curve' to reset the custom curve to factory settings.

Press OK to close the Curve View box. See page 68 for further information.

2. Velocity Curve

Once 'Musical Keyboard Settings' mode is launched (by clicking the keyboard so that it is highlighted in a purple color), this drop-down menu changes from 'Msg Type' to 'Velocity Curve'.

A velocity curve is how the force (or speed) with which you press the keys is translated into MIDI velocity values, which usually control how loud or intense a note sounds.

There are 7 velocity curves to choose from and you can also edit the 'custom curve' to your own specification, using the 5 adjustable nodes.

You can see a graphical representation of each curve by clicking 'Curve View' (as pictured in the previous pages). Select 'Custom Curve' from the drop-down menu to edit the custom curve. Simply drag the 5 nodes to adjust the custom curve, (the purple circles). Changes are immediate and will be reflected in the behavior of your keyboard. To save the settings, click 'Save Device Settings' to the keyboard. To save your iMAP file, select 'Save File'. See pages 68-75 for futher information.

3. Channel

Select a MIDI channel between 1 and 16. This channel will be used by the musical keyboard section of the Artist X controller to send MIDI data.

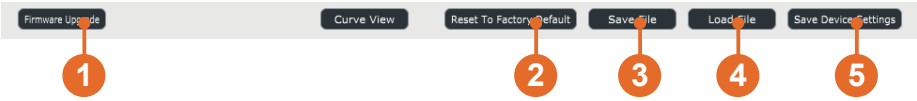
4. Octave

Use this drop-down menu to shift the entire keyboard range up or down in full octaves, allowing you to access notes beyond the physical key range. Select the values in the drop-down menu to shift all keys by ±12 semitones. For example, if your keyboard is set to C3 and you select '+1', it will now output C4. The octave shift remains in effect until changed or reset and is reflected in any connected DAW or MIDI-compatible instrument. You can also make these changes via the keyboard.

5. Trans (Transpose)

Raise or lower the pitches (by less than an octave) played on your keyboard. This function allows you to change the key you're playing in. For example, if you are in the key of C, selecting '+4' will shift the keyboard output up by +4 semitones. Pressing C will now send an E note. This change affects all MIDI note outputs and remains active until reset or changed, with results visible in your DAW or MIDI setup. You can also make these changes via the keyboard.

B - General Settings



1. Firmware Upgrade

Click this button to enter into the firmware upgrade window for Artist X. Please refer to Page 78 for the firmware upgrade procedure.

2. Reset to Factory Default

Click this button to reset the iMAP to its factory default state. If you'd like to reset your keyboard to its factory default state too, press this button and press the 'Save Device Settings' button in order to upload the default state to the keyboard.

3. Save File

Click this button to save your iMAP settings to a file in the location of your choice on your computer. The file extension is '.imap'.

4. Load File

Click this button to load the iMap™ software settings to your Artist X.

Note: You can save multiple imap files and load these into your iMAP as required. For example, if you have MIDI-mapped some functions to your physical controls for live use, you could save this as 'live.imap' and revert to the default setup for studio/recording use.

5. Save Device Settings

Click this button, to send the iMAP settings to the keyboard. A confirmation message will appear once the data has been successfully transmitted. When sending data in this way it is always best to ensure peripheral equipment such as audio interfaces, other musical keyboard and devices are disconnected/turned off. This helps ensure a clear and uninterrupted data pathway for the computer.

Note: Settings are sent to the keyboard instantly from the iMAP once a change has been made.
The button 'Save Device Settings' is used to permanently save these settings (i.e. they will be retained after the keyboard is switched off and on again).


Artist X iMap V1.06 - Intel <>
iCON
ARTIST X
V1.06
Artist 25X
Jog
Prog
2
Pan
R
W
Flip
<<
>>
Loop
1<
REC
Stop
Play
Rec
>1
SOLO
Tran
<Octave>
<<8
MUTE
8>>
Master
Pitch
Modulation
Save device settings OK!
OK
Sustain
Expression
Control Mode
7) User Defined (MCP)
DAW Template
No template
Msg Type
2) CC
Channel
1
Message
0) Bank MSB*(GS)
Sustain
by pressing
Firmware Upgrade
Curve View
Reset To Factory Default
Save File
Load File
Save Device Settings

iMap™

C - The DAW Controller section

DAW Mode

DAW mode is when the iMAP is set to a specific DAW in the Control Mode drop-down menu i.e. Cubase or Ableton and **not** User Defined.

The Artist X immediately detects which DAW mode you are in, (you must click 'Save Device Settings' if you wish to save this setting).

When the Artist X is set to DAW Mode, many of the hardware controls (such as transport buttons, fader, and encoder) are mapped automatically for common DAW functions using standard protocols like Mackie Control Protocol (MCP). These assignments are pre-configured and not editable in iMAP.

Although most DAW functions are fixed, the iMAP allows you to monitor which MIDI messages each button or control is sending in real time, (via the greyed out information viewable in the Messages drop-down menu window).

DAW mode allows the user to make changes to various controls e.g., the pedals, the modulation jog wheel, but not faders, transport or encoder functions.

The user must select 'User Defined' mode in order to assign buttons and other controls.

Some DAWs may not respond to all DAW Mode controls in exactly the same way. This is due to variations in how different DAWs implement Mackie Control or HUI.

User Defined Mode

User Defined mode is exactly as the name suggests - the user can assign MIDI messages of their own choosing to available controls. In this mode, DAW controls are released and may be re-mapped according to the user's specifications.

Please note; pre-existing MIDI messages will be over-written and cannot be recalled. Therefore, saving your settings to the computer (via 'Save File') will be important if working on remapping your device.

It should be noted that unless the user is experienced in using MIDI and has a very good understanding of MIDI messages in their DAW and generally, User Defined mode is probably best avoided.

The advice is that even experienced users should not use User Defined mode to extensively re-map their device and use it for specific tasks only, as required.

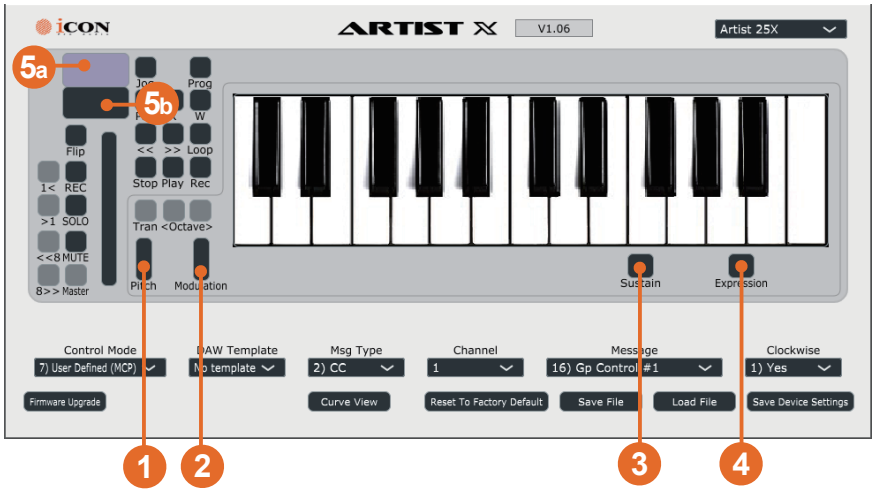
Most users will have no requirement for User Defined mode.

Note: The User Defined function in iMAP will be updated in the near future to include a DAW-specific drop-down menu. After selecting 'User Defined', users will be able to choose their preferred DAW, allowing them to build custom mappings based on that DAW's default layout.

In User Defined mode, most control elements become available to remap. Users can choose from Note, CC, Program or Pitch Bend values when remapping elements of the device.

Please note the musical keyboard - single keys or otherwise - cannot be remapped.

D - Other Controls (wheels, pedals and rotary encoder)



1. Pitch

The pitch wheel is a spring-loaded controller, located to the left of the keyboard. It allows the performer to bend the pitch of a note up or down in real time, simulating the expressive inflections used on instruments like guitars or violins. By default, it does not use a standard MIDI CC value - instead, it sends dedicated Pitch Bend messages, which have higher resolution than standard CC messages. This makes pitch bends smoother and more detailed than other MIDI controls. Most DAWs and virtual instruments respond immediately to pitch wheel movement, making it an essential control for expressive playing. Click to highlight and change the value, should you wish to, using the drop-down menu cluster.

2. Modulation

The modulation wheel is commonly used to add vibrato, tremolo, filter sweeps, or other time-based effects to a performance. It sends MIDI CC1 data and is often mapped by default in synthesizers and sample libraries. Unlike the pitch wheel, the modulation wheel usually stays in position, allowing sustained modulation over time. Its function can vary depending on the instrument in use - for example, it might increase the depth of a vibrato effect or open a filter cutoff. Reassigning the modulation wheel to another CC value is possible, but CC1 is widely expected and supported across many virtual instruments, (click 'Mod' so it is highlighted in purple and assign a CC value via the drop down 'Message' menu should you wish to do this).

3. Sustain

When an optional momentary pedal such as the iCON SPD-01 is connected to the dedicated Sustain pedal input on the keyboard, it replicates the function of a piano's sustain pedal. When pressed, it sends MIDI CC64 data, which tells the connected instrument to sustain notes even after

the keys are released. While it is possible to reassign the sustain pedal to a different CC function - by clicking the 'Sustain' button with your mouse and assigning a different MIDI message via the drop down-menu - doing so would remove this essential piano-like behaviour. Conversely, you may wish to investigate CC values such as CC66, which mimics the behavior of the Sostenuto pedal (the middle piano pedal). This sustains only the notes that are already being held down when the pedal is pressed - any notes played after the pedal is pressed behave normally and are not sustained. You may reverse the polarity of the pedal's connector by assigning 'By releasing' in the Sustain drop-down menu when 'Sustain' is highlighted in purple (click with your mouse). Alternatively, you may operate the switch on the underside of your pedal, if present.

4. Expression

The expression pedal is similar to a volume pedal but offers more nuanced, real-time control over dynamics and intensity. It sends MIDI CC11 data and is often used in orchestral and cinematic scoring to shape the emotional contour of a performance, allowing for smooth swells and fades. Many virtual instruments respond to CC11 for dynamic control, particularly those with layered velocity or modulation-based articulations. Assigning an expression pedal to other CC values is possible but may reduce compatibility with libraries that rely on standard CC11 mapping.

Combining the use of Expression (CC11) and Modulation (CC1) is common for virtual orchestral instruments - the use of an optional pedal for 'Expression' *and* the use of the modulation wheel when recording, playing or automating in your DAW could be a very powerful combination indeed. Click the 'Expression' button (so that it is highlighted in purple) and assign a MIDI message via the drop-down menu should you wish to change your pedal's behavior.

5. Rotary Encoder

While the rotary encoder appears as one solid piece on the hardware, it appears as if it is divided into two sections on the iMAP. This is for clarity, so that it is possible to remap the two separate elements of the feature; **a)** left to right rotary control and **b)** a push button control - each can be remapped as required. A defaults to PAN and B defaults to MONITOR or another function within your DAW such as re-centering the PAN knob to 'C' (center). In User Defined mode only, it's direction of travel can be reversed using the Clockwise drop-down menu, (in default mode).

The rotary encoder also acts as a jog wheel within the DAW. Press the Jog button to launch this feature. Use the push button to instigate the 'scrub' function whilst in Jog mode, (please note, this feature is DAW dependent).

CC's, Note, Program and Pitchbend Values: An Overview

CC (Control Changes)

A Control Change (CC) message is used to adjust settings or controls in real-time - like moving a knob, slider, or pedal.

CC's may be used for changing volume, pan, or modulation or controlling sustain, expression, filter cutoff, reverb amount, etc.

In addition, you may also automate plugin parameters in your DAW and map hardware controls to virtual instruments or effects (using MIDI Learn - see your DAW documentation).

Note
A Note message tells your DAW or instrument to play a specific musical note. When you press a button that is programmed with a note value, it sends a 'Note On' message.

This tells your software or instrument to start playing a note or sound.

When you release that button it sends a 'Note Off' message.
This tells the sound to stop playing.

This note could be used to trigger a sample in a virtual instrument. There is an example of how this can be done in the More On MIDI: Note, Program and Pitchbend section, (on page 63).

Program
In MIDI, a Program Change message tells an instrument or plugin to switch to a different sound or preset.

'Program' can be used to change the instrument sound (e.g. from piano to organ), or select a patch or preset on a hardware synth or sound module that the keyboard is connected to via MIDI (see the hardware literature for instructions on connectivity). It can be effectively used on General MIDI synths. Some virtual instruments do not recognise the 'program' function.

In the iMAP, a specific button or feature (i.e. the Mod jog pedal) can be MIDI-mapped to a program number (0-127) *if* the instrument (hardware or software) recognizes the 'program' feature.

Pitch Bend
Pitch Bend is used to add expression to a performance. It can mimic string bends or vocal slides and smoothly shifts pitch without jumping to a new note.

Upward increases pitch (e.g. 'bending up' a semitone or whole tone).

Downward lowers pitch.

On a synth, pushing the pitch wheel up might bend a note from C to D.

Pulling it down might drop it from C to A#.

Note:
The actual pitch range depends on the instrument or plugin.

More on MIDI

You can change some controls on the Artist X to MIDI X values of your own specification, namely CC, Note, Program and Pitch Bend values. Some of these values are not appropriate for certain control types. However, you may find that some suit your purpose.

By default, the buttons, wheels and pedal controls (pedals are not included) on the Artist X send specific CC values which follow the industry standard. **Most users will not require any change and work very happily with the Artist X for many years to come with no changes to the default settings of the hardware's buttons, wheels, and optional pedals.**

However, if you do wish to change values to tailor your hardware to the way you use your software, this is possible.

For example, if you regularly control filter cutoff, assigning a wheel to CC74 (commonly used for brightness) might make sense. However, programming this will result in the original pre-mapped value being removed until you actively re-establish it.

However, there *are* risks to reassigning MIDI values without a clear plan. Some values just aren't suitable for certain control types. For instance, assigning a button to CC7 (volume) can result in extreme behaviour - jumping from full volume to silence - because buttons send on/off messages, whereas volume is typically a continuous range. Reassigning MIDI values also increases the chances of confusion, especially if you forget your new mappings or try to collaborate with others who expect standard behaviour.

There can also be conflicts with DAWs. Many DAWs use specific MIDI values for automation, transport control, or plugin manipulation. Overlapping those with your keyboard's CC assignments can cause strange behaviour, like a knob controlling both a plugin parameter and the main volume. If you reassign standard controls like modulation or sustain (CC1 or CC64 resprectively), some instruments may no longer respond correctly.

To make the most of reassignment, it's best to document your changes clearly, and stick to standard assignments unless there's a strong reason not to. Testing your setup with your most-used plugins or DAWs can also help catch issues early.

Remapping MIDI CC's can be a smart and empowering move that helps you feel more in control of your setup. It allows for customization, efficiency, and greater creative expression. But like any powerful tool, it needs to be used with care and it is our strong advice that, unless you know what you're doing, (i.e. you consider yourself an advanced user) - it's probably best to stick to the Artist X's default values.

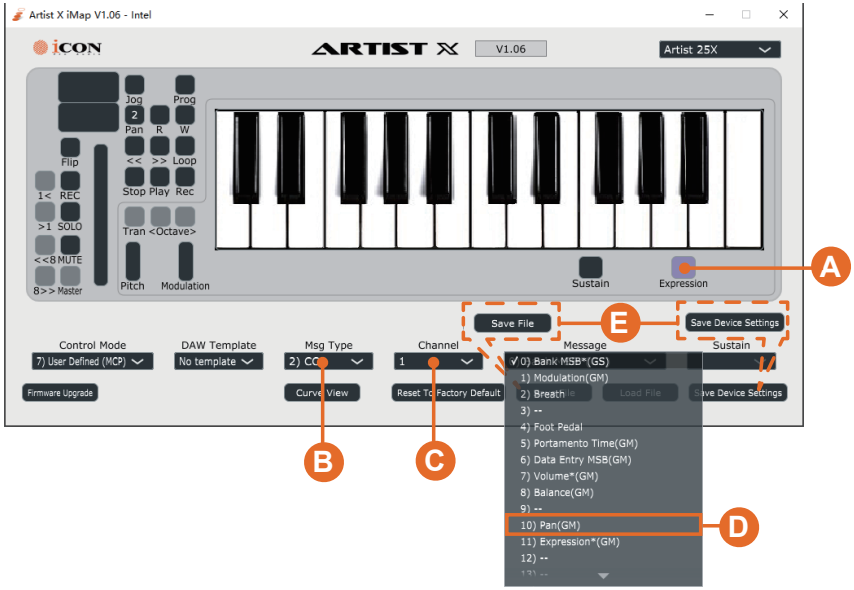
Remapping CC Values

If you wish to map CC values to the available controls on the Artist X, please see below.

Note: CC values + the MIDI channel can be changed for;

a. Rotary encoder's left/right and push function
b. Modulation wheel
c. Pitch wheel (MIDI channel only)
d. Sustain and Expression pedals

Example:



Steps:

A: Choose the parameter you wish to program. In this case, the user has chosen their expression pedal control. They wish to change how they use the pedal from conveying the CC value of 'Expression' (CC11) to Pan (CC10).

B: Choose CC from the Msg type drop-down menu.

C: Choose the MIDI channel you wish the pedal to work on. In this case, the user is choosing MIDI channel 1.

D: Choose a MIDI message. In this case, the user has chosen to change the default value of CC11 (Expression) to Pan (CC10).

E. Save your settings and/or send your values to the keyboard. You can use these options to save your iMAP file so it can be easily retrieved on your computer. You can also send your chosen settings to the keyboard. Upon completion of this process, the keyboard will save your settings permanently, so when you turn your keyboard off and back on again, the settings will be retained.

Assigning CC Values - some useful CC's

These values follow the universal MIDI CC standard. Additional options can be viewed within the iMAP software. CC values marked with '--' in the iMAP drop-down menu are undefined in the general MIDI (GM) standard. In some cases these values might control a specific function in a virtual instrument - depending on *if* that specific CC value is set up within the instrument. Alternatively, you may assign a '_ _' CC value to a physical control on your keyboard, and link it to a parameter with your DAW - see your DAW documentation for details on how to do this, (Because each DAW functions differently, there is no single standardized method for this process.).

Numerous online resources provide complete lists of all 128 MIDI CC values (0-127). The table below offers a selection of some of the most commonly used and widely supported CC assignments.

CC Number	Control Name	Explanation
0	Bank Select MSB (GS)	Used to switch between different banks of sounds in multibank-capable synths.
1	Modulation (GM)	Typically mapped to a mod wheel; controls vibrato or similar modulation.
2	Breath	Simulates breath control; used in wind/breath controller input devices.
4	Foot Pedal	General purpose foot controller (e.g., volume or effect level).
5	Portamento Time (GM)	Adjusts glide time between notes when portamento is active.
7	Volume (GM)	Controls overall channel volume.
8	Balance (GM)	Adjusts left/right balance of the channel.
10	Pan (GM)	Sets stereo pan position.
11	Expression (GM)	A secondary volume control for dynamic expression (e.g., swells).
64	Hold Pedal #1 (GM)	Sustain pedal on/off.
65	Portamento (GS)	Turns portamento on/off.
66	Sostenuto (GS)	Sostenuto pedal function.
67	Soft Pedal (GS)	Soft pedal (una corda) control.
68	Legato Pedal	Enables legato playing style; usage depends on instrument.
69	Hold Pedal #2	Alternate hold pedal; usage varies by synth.
74	Brightness (Filter cut off)	Controls tone brightness, often mapped to a low-pass filter cutoff
91	Reverb Level (GS)	Controls amount of reverb effect.
92	Tremolo Depth	Controls depth of tremolo effect.
93	Chorus Level (GS)	Controls amount of chorus effect.
94	Celeste Depth	Controls celeste effect depth (detuning).
95	Phaser Depth	Controls depth of phaser effect.
126	Mono Mode On	Sets device to monophonic mode (1 note at a time).
127	Poly Mode On	Sets device to polyphonic mode.

Assigning CC Values - an example

Lets assign CC91 (Reverb Level - GS) to the rotary encoder as an example.

Background: CC91 is part of the GS (General Standard) MIDI specification - Roland's extension of General MIDI (GM). It's commonly used to control reverb depth on compatible instruments or plugins.

Important: CC91 is a MIDI message, not a sound effect. Turning a knob assigned to CC91 tells the instrument or plugin, 'increase or decrease reverb' *if that device has reverb and is set up to respond.*

In this example, we'll assume you're using a virtual instrument with an internal reverb control.

Step-by-step:
Open the iMAP and locate the top section of the rotary encoder where left-to-right action is shown. Choose User Defined mode.

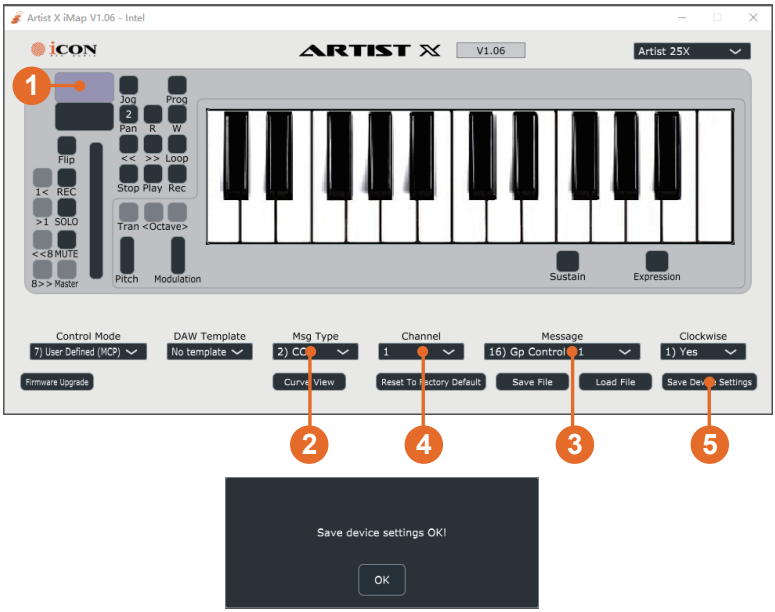
1. Click the rotary control to highlight it in purple.

2. In the 'Msg Type' drop down menu, choose 'CC'.

3. Set the CC Number to 91 (Reverb Level - GS) in the Message drop-down menu.

4. Set the MIDI Channel as needed (e.g., Channel 1).

5. Click 'Save Device Settings' to send the changes to your Artist X keyboard. A confirmation message will appear.



6. In your DAW or instrument plugin, use MIDI Learn to link CC91 to the reverb parameter on the plugin's interface (see your DAW or software documentation).

Why MIDI Learn?
Even though your knob now sends CC91, most modern virtual instruments and plugins don't automatically respond to that message.

MIDI Learn listens for the CC91 message and binds it to a visual parameter - such as the plugin's 'Reverb Level' knob - so when you turn the encoder, it updates both sound and GUI in real time.

Summary:
CC91 (Reverb Level) will be sent by the Artist X keyboard when you turn the assigned knob.

MIDI Learn connects that message to the correct control in your plugin or DAW.

The result: turning the knob changes the amount of reverb you hear and moves the plugin's GUI knob – giving you expressive, real-time control.

***Note:** Implementing MIDI Learn is DAW specific - please refer to your DAW/virtual instrument manual. You can read more about MIDI Learn on page 77.*

Please also note that applying MIDI Learn alone may be sufficient for your needs - particularly if you intend to control just a few key parameters such as volume, or reverb.

However, many users choose to combine pre-assigned CC values (e.g. CC91 for Reverb Level) with MIDI Learn to achieve greater flexibility.

The reason for this is that assigning a specific CC value such as CC91, provides the control (i.e. a knob) with a consistent identity. This is especially beneficial in preset-based hardware configurations or DAWs that expect particular CC assignments. However, most modern plugins do not respond automatically to incoming CC messages. This is where MIDI Learn becomes useful: it listens for any incoming MIDI CC message and allows you to manually bind it to a desired software parameter (such as a plugin's reverb knob), regardless of the CC's standard designation.

By assigning the knob to CC91 and then applying MIDI Learn, you:

- Ensure the controller consistently transmits a known, fixed CC message

- Enable your plugin or DAW to interpret and map that message to any chosen parameter

This dual approach offers the best of both worlds: **predictability** through a fixed CC assignment and **adaptability** through the manual mapping capabilities of MIDI Learn.

More on MIDI: Note, Program & Pitchbend

You can map controls other than CC values within the iMAP i.e. Note, Pitchbend and Program. This is done in the same way as remapping CC values.

Note

When you set a control in the iMAP to the 'Note' message type, you're telling it to send a MIDI Note On/Off message - like pressing a key on a keyboard or triggering a pad on a drum machine. To illustrate the difference - CC values are most often used to control variable values within a range - like volume, (although these controls can still be used in the same way as Note i.e. on/off).

A note will play a sound by triggering a specific note number (like C3, D#2, etc.).

This can be used for;

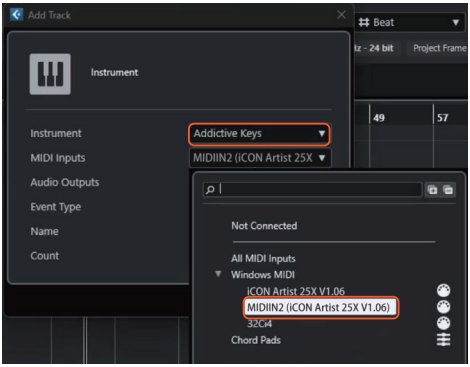
- Pads on drum controllers (e.g., triggering kick, snare, hi-hat).

- Buttons programmed to launch clips or trigger samples in DAWs like Ableton Live or Cubase.

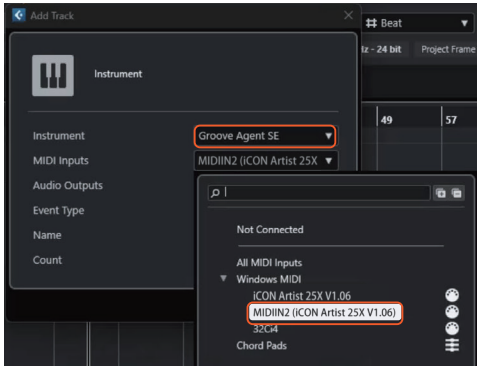
An Example of How You Might Use Note Messages in the iMAP:
Let's say you're a a singer who performs live with a keyboard (playing a piano virtual instrument). You tell occasional jokes in between your songs and you need the sound of a crash cymbal to be heard at the end of each joke's punchline.

You can add your virtual piano instrument to your DAW as usual, and route this to the 1st MIDI port i.e. iCON Artist [Vers]X (*not* MIDI2 (iCON Artist [vers]X whihc is the DAW controller). You should be able to trigger the piano sounds as normal as you are controlling the virtual instrument with the piano section of the keyboard (which should also give you control of pitch, modulation and pedals - unless you overwrite Sustain of Expression).

Now, add a drum program to your 2nd channel which you will route to MIDI2IN (iCON Artist [vers]X). Ascertain which note the crash cymbal is, in the drum program i.e. C#2. Let's use Cubase as an example.



add a virtual piano instrument (MIDI port 1)

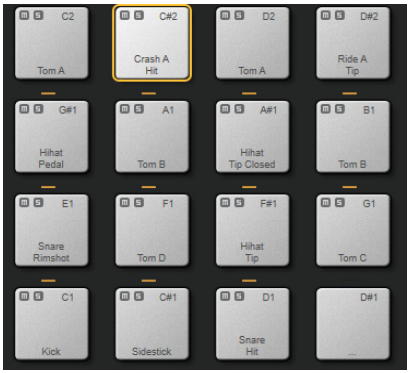


add a drum instrument (MIDI port 2)

(because you want to use a button in the DAW controller section (we will use 'STOP' in the example) to trigger a drum sample - DAW controls are controlled via MIDI port 2)

Select 'User Defined' in the iMAP. Choose a button you wish to MIDI map the crash cymbal to. Since you will not be using the buttons as a DAW controller in your performance - it is *very* important to realize that once you MIDI map functions to controls, the original function is overwritten. For this example, lets use the STOP button.

Now, it's time to find out what note the crash cymbal in the drum program is mapped to.



Here, we can see the crash cymbal in the drum program is mapped to C#2.

Now, we can open the iMap and map the STOP button the the Crash Cymbal sample (i.e. C#2).

1. Select 'User Defined'.
2. Select STOP (so that it highlighted in a purple coior).
3. Select 'Note' from the Message Type drop-down menu
4. Select a channel (Channel 10 is often used for drums)
5. Select the correct note i.e. C#(2)
6. Send the settings to the device by selecting 'Save Device Settings'
7. Wait for confirmation (i.e. you should receive a pop up box saying 'Save Device Settings OK).

Optional next step: Save your file for easy recall at a later date.

Pushing the STOP button should now trigger the crash cymbal sound.

If it doesn't - check the DAW instruments are routed correctly.

Also, it is a *very* good idea to download and install a free MIDI monitor program. These are programs that detect which MIDI messsages are being sent by a device. You may need to close your DAW and the iMAP for this program to work, (as the keyboard can only 'see' one piece of software at a time). Once the program is up and running, press 'STOP' on the Artist X to check the assignment you sent is correct. In which case, the iMAP and Artist X have done their job and the issue is likely to lie with the configuration of your DAW, (please check your DAW documentation).

This is just one example of how and why Note values may be assigned.

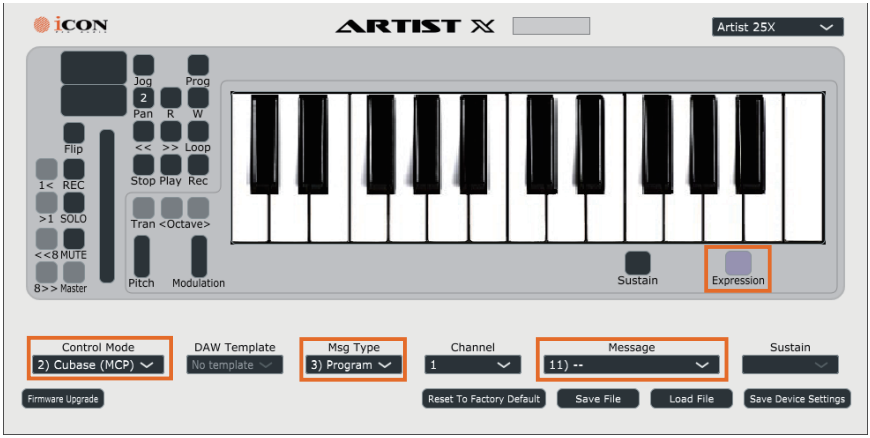
Program

The Program button, used together with the rotary encoder on the keyboard can switch between different 'programs' or 'voices' in general MIDI instruments, hardware synthesizers and to a lesser extent, virtual instruments (as explained in the 'Program' section for the physical keyboard on page 13 and page 56).

In the iMAP you can choose a specific program voice to map to a physical button or control. In some cases, for example a user may wish to remap the Expression pedal control to a specific voice/synth patch using their pedal.

This can be achieved by highlighting the Expression button on the iMAP and reassigning it, selecting 'Program' in the 'Msg Type' drop-down menu, and the number relating to the voice/patch 0-127 in the 'Message' srop-down menu.

This can be achieved in the chosen DAW mode i.e. there is no requirement to select User Defined mode.



If using a General MIDI hardware synthesizer, in this example the pedal would trigger a Vibraphone sample (see the following page for General MIDI voices 0-127). Note: Remapping does not include memory of the previous program, so toggling between sounds is not possible.

Pitch Bend

You may wish to allocate a pitch bend function to a pedal or the Modulation jog wheel. This can be achieved by selecting the control element, 'Pitch Bend' in the Message Type drop-down menu and clicking 'Save Device Setting'. This may be of limited use as the facility is already available via the Pitch wheel.

General MIDI sounds

The Artist X does not generate sounds on its own. It is designed as a MIDI keyboard and DAW controller for use with programs like Cubase or ProTools. You can, however, use it to contol hardware synths, virtual instruments and General MIDI hardware synths. Whilst the ability to change voices 'on the fly' using the Program button is limited for vitual instruments, it should be highly effective with GM synths, (depending on the connectivity and compability of the hardware). The following is the standard General MIDI (GM) sound set (program numbers 0–127), which is included on all GM-compatible instruments/modules.

0 Acoustic Grand Piano
1 Bright Acoustic Piano
2 Electric Grand Piano
3 Honky-Tonk Piano
4 Electric Piano 1
5 Electric Piano 2
6 Harpsichord
7 Clavinet
8 Celesta
9 Glockenspiel
10 Music Box
11 Vibraphone
12 Marimba
13 Xylophone
14 Tubular Bells
15 Dulcimer
16 Drawbar Organ
17 Percussive Organ
18 Rock Organ
19 Church Organ
20 Reed Organ
21 Accordion
22 Harmonica
23 Tango Accordion
24 Acoustic Guitar (nylon)
25 Acoustic Guitar (steel)
26 Electric Guitar (jazz)
27 Electric Guitar (clean)
28 Electric Guitar (muted)
29 Overdriven Guitar
30 Distortion Guitar
31 Guitar Harmonics
32 Acoustic Bass
33 Electric Bass (finger)
34 Electric Bass (pick)
35 Fretless Bass
36 Slap Bass 1
37 Slap Bass 2
38 Synth Bass 1
39 Synth Bass 2
40 Violin
41 Viola
42 Cello
43 Contrabass
44 Tremolo Strings
45 Pizzicato Strings
46 Orchestral Harp
47 Timpani
48 String Ensemble 1
49 String Ensemble 2
50 Synth Strings 1
51 Synth Strings 2
52 Choir Aahs
53 Voice Oohs
54 Synth Choir
55 Orchestral Hit
56 Trumpet
57 Trombone
58 Tuba
59 Muted Trumpet
60 French Horn
61 Brass Section
62 Synth Brass 1
63 Synth Brass 2
64 Soprano Sax
65 Alto Sax
66 Tenor Sax
67 Baritone Sax
68 Oboe
69 English Horn
70 Bassoon
71 Clarinet
72 Piccolo
73 Flute
74 Recorder
75 Pan Flute
76 Blown Bottle
77 Shakuhachi
78 Whistle
79 Ocarina
80 Lead 1 (square)
81 Lead 2 (sawtooth)
82 Lead 3 (calliope)
83 Lead 4 (chiffer)
84 Lead 5 (charang)
85 Lead 6 (voice)
86 Lead 7 (fifths)
87 Lead 8 (bass + lead)
88 Pad 1 (new age)
89 Pad 2 (warm)
90 Pad 3 (polysynth)
91 Pad 4 (choir)
92 Pad 5 (bowed)
93 Pad 6 (metallic)
94 Pad 7 (halo)
95 Pad 8 (sweep)
96 FX 1 (rain)
97 FX 2 (soundtrack)
98 FX 3 (crystal)
99 FX 4 (atmosphere)
100 FX 5 (brightness)
101 FX 6 (goblins)
102 FX 7 (echoes)
103 FX 8 (sci-fi)
104 Sitar
105 Banjo
106 Shamisen
107 Koto
108 Kalimba
109 Bagpipe
110 Fiddle
111 Shanai
112 Tinkle Bell
113 Agogo
114 Steel Drums
115 Woodblock
116 Taiko Drum
117 Melodic Tom
118 Synth Drum
119 Reverse Cymbal
120 Guitar Fret Noise
121 Breath Noise
122 Seashore
123 Bird Tweet
124 Telephone Ring
125 Helicopter
126 Applause
127 Gunshot

Velocity Curve View

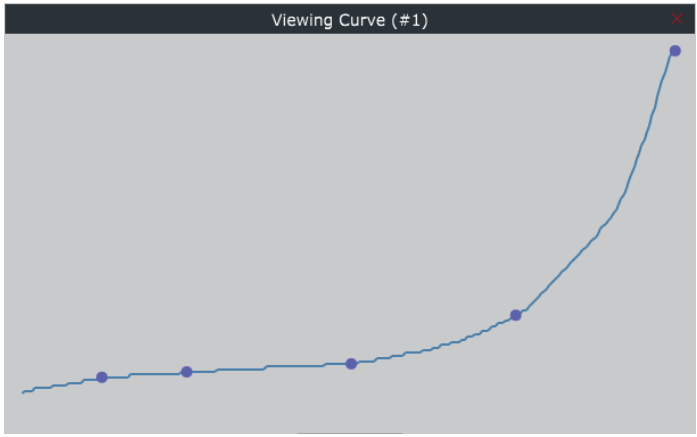
Velocity curves control how the force or speed of your key press is translated into MIDI velocity. This usually affects how loud or intense a note sounds. By assigning a different velocity curve, you can tailor the keyboard's response to your playing style or musical context. For example, a soft curve makes it easier to play delicate passages with subtle dynamics, while a steeper curve delivers punchier sounds with less effort. This is especially useful if you're playing expressive instruments like pianos or strings, triggering aggressive synths or drums, or adapting the feel of the keys to suit your finger strength or technique. The custom curves also allow you to fine-tune the keyboard's response for maximum control and comfort. Its default state is similar to Curve 1, which can be adapted to your needs.

Curve View shows all 8 curves;

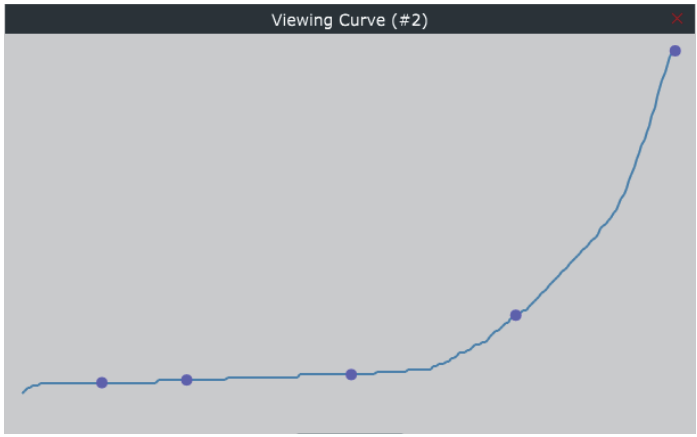
1. Click the musical keyboard on the iMAP so it is highlighted in purple

2. Select a curve in the Velocity Curve drop-down menu

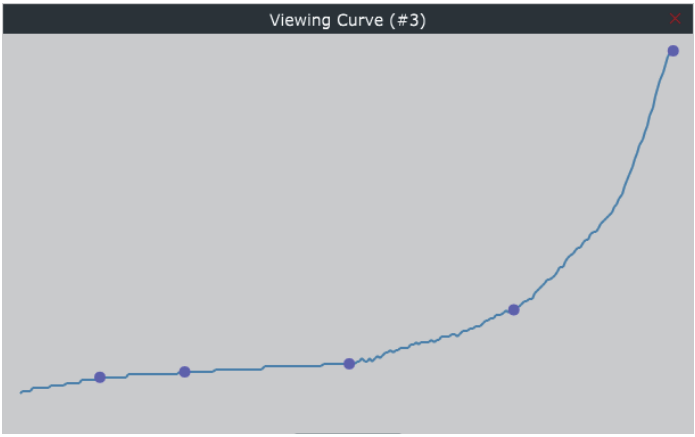
3. Click 'Curve View'



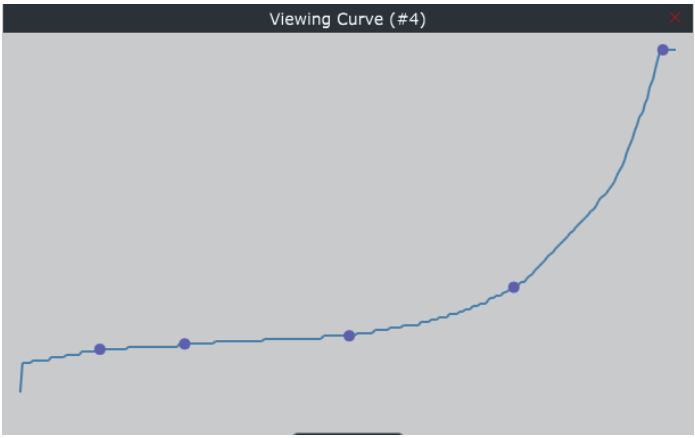
Curve 1



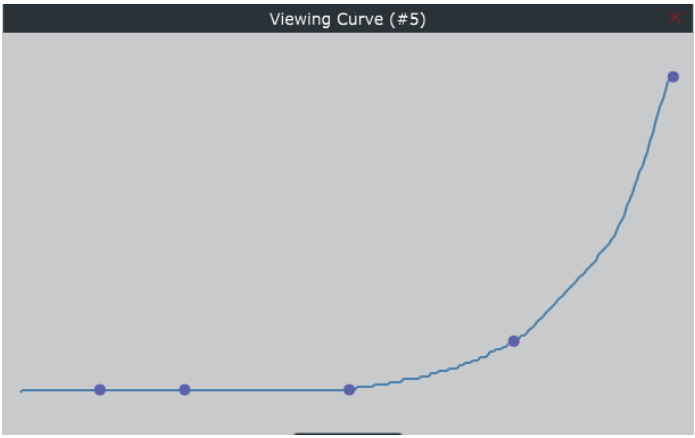
Curve 2



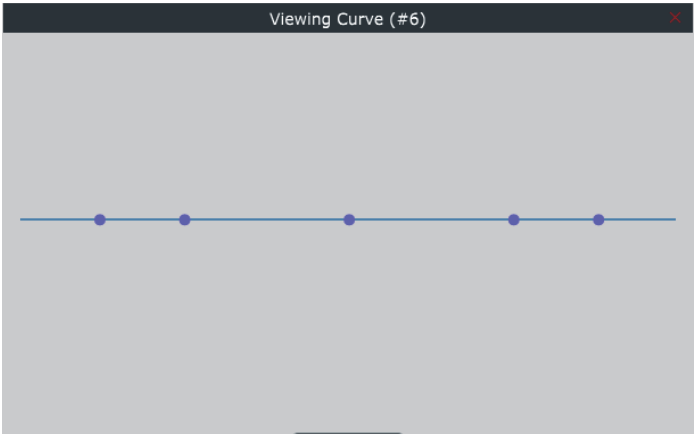
Curve 3



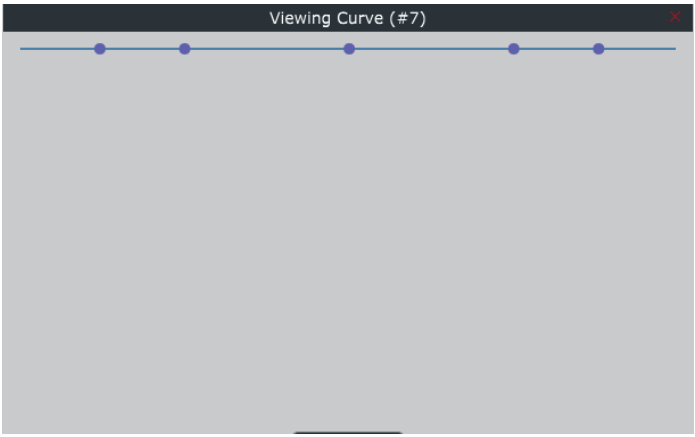
Curve 4



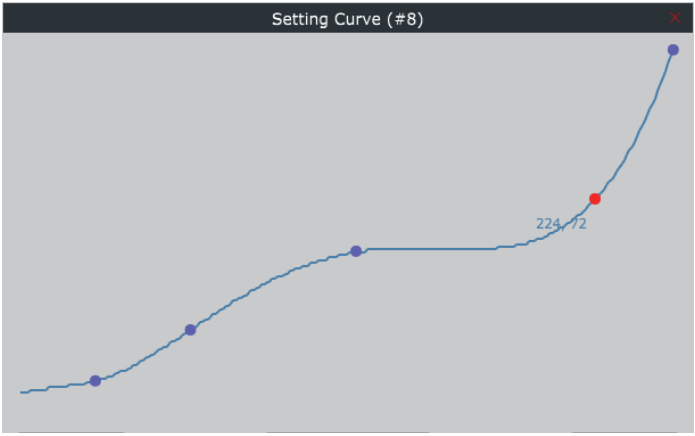
Curve 5



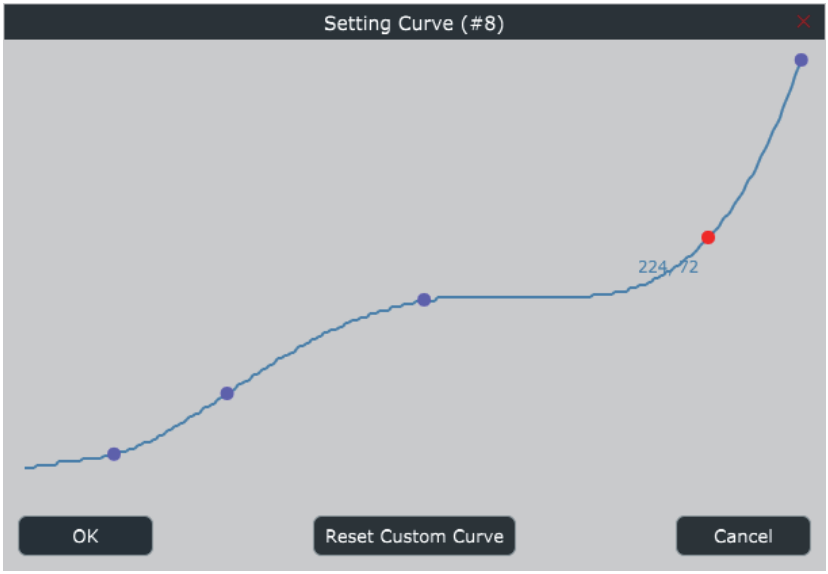
Curve 6



Curve 7



Custom Curve (default state)

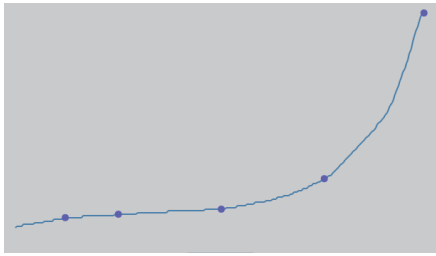


All Curve View boxes have an 'OK' button. Press this to exit 'Curve View'.

The custom curve has a second button - Reset Custom Curve. Press this to reset the custom curve to its default state.

Velocity Curve Descriptions

Curve 1
Type: Soft/Expressive

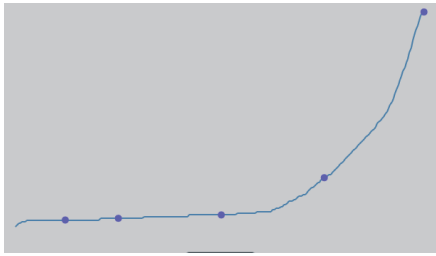


Description: This curve gives very low velocity output for light key presses, and only reaches higher velocities with much greater pressure.

Result: Great for expressive playing where you want fine control over soft dynamics (e.g., delicate piano passages, or ambient textures).

Drawback: May feel unresponsive or "too quiet" for users with a light touch unless deliberately chosen for that purpose.

Curve 2
Type: Moderately Soft

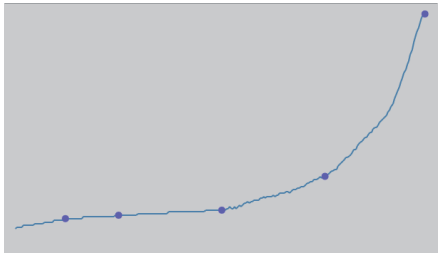


Description: Curve 2 starts off gently, with subtle response to soft key presses, but ramps up a bit earlier and more gradually than Curve 1. It still requires more force to reach full velocity, but it's less extreme.

Result: Ideal for players who want to avoid loud notes when playing softly, but still need access to full dynamic range with moderate effort.

Drawback: May still feel a bit subdued or “muted” to players used to a linear or piano-like feel.

Curve 3
Type: Moderately Soft / Expressive

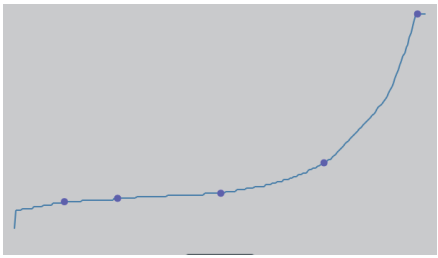


Description: Curve 3 features a gradual build-up with a slightly flatter slope in the lower range, then increases more smoothly toward full velocity. It offers a good balance between subtle dynamics and playability.

Result: Well-suited for players who use soft-to-medium pressure and want more headroom before hitting maximum velocity. Works nicely for expressive string libraries or nuanced synth patches.

Drawback: May not be punchy enough for those needing immediate high velocities (e.g., for drums or percussive synths), requiring more pressure to reach full intensity.

Curve 4
Type: Soft to Moderate Curve

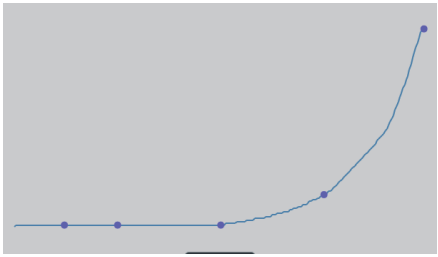


Description: Curve 4 has a slightly elevated start compared to Curves 1-3, meaning low velocities are still reduced, but not as dramatically. The curve rises more steadily before sharply increasing at the top end.

Result: Suitable for players who want dynamic softness with just a bit more initial punch than ultra-soft curves. Good for expressive keyboard work, pads, or cinematic scoring where you still want access to loud dynamics.

Drawback: Might still require a bit of force to reach the highest velocity range, and fast players could find the response too subdued without deliberate pressure.

Curve 5
Type: Very Soft

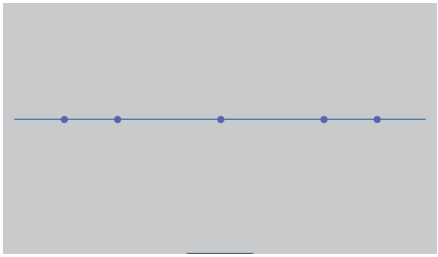


Description: Curve 5 begins with an almost completely flat response – minimal or no velocity output from light key presses, followed by a sharp rise very late in the curve.

Result: Ideal for precise low-volume control and avoiding accidental loud notes, especially in layered or ambient sound design. Could also be used for creating contrast between very quiet and very loud dynamics.

Drawback: Can feel unresponsive or laggy for general playing. May frustrate users expecting immediate output unless they're specifically going for soft expression or minimalism.

Curve 6
Type: Constant / Flat



Description: This curve outputs a single fixed velocity value no matter how hard or soft you press the keys. The horizontal line suggests every note is played at the same intensity - likely around a mid-range value (e.g., velocity 64).

Result: Perfect for situations where you want consistent output - such as triggering drum samples at uniform strength, or when recording parts that need later editing without velocity variation.

Drawback: Completely removes dynamic expression. Not suitable for piano, orchestral instruments, or any part requiring nuance or soft-loud control.

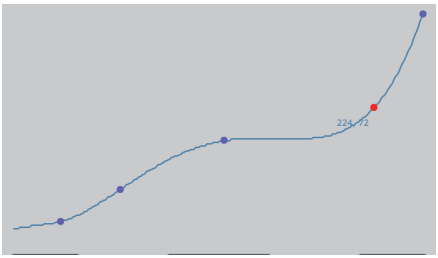
Curve 7
Type: Constant High Output

Description: Like Curve 6, this is a fixed velocity setting - but the horizontal line sits at the very top of the scale, meaning every key press outputs the maximum MIDI velocity (127).

Result: Ideal for consistent full-intensity performance, such as when triggering loud drum hits, stabs, or aggressive synths that rely on full velocity for their tone. Also useful in live performance when dynamics aren't needed.

Drawback: Completely eliminates dynamic control - every note is at full blast. Unsuitable for piano-style performance or nuanced playing.

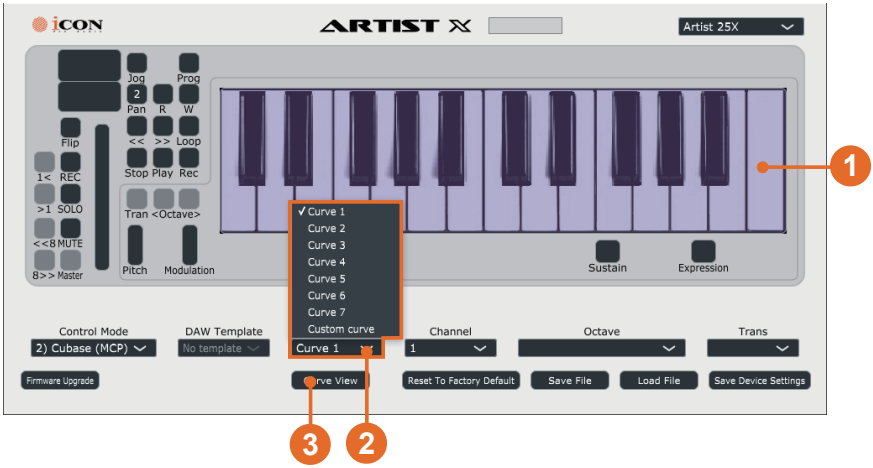
Curve 8
Almost identical to Curve 1, except this curve can be customized. See the following page.



Velocity Curve Quick Reference Chart

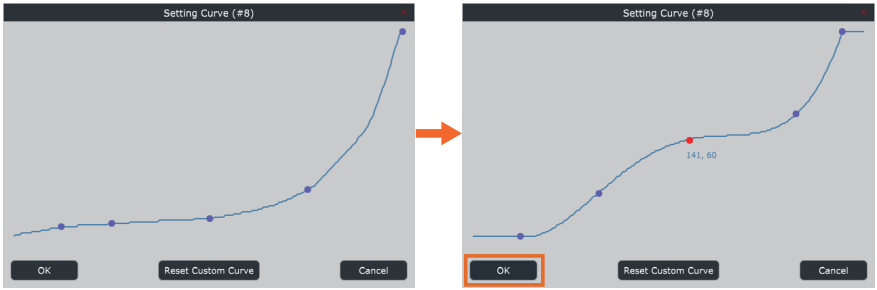
Curve	*Type/Feel*	*Best for*	*Drawback*
1	Very soft, expressive	Ambient, delicate passages	May feel too quiet/unresponsive
2	Soft/Moderate	Smooth dynamics with more headroom	Still a bit muted
3	Balanced soft	Subtle synth/string control	Not punchy enough for drums
4	Mild curve	General-purpose playing	Slightly reduced top-end power
5	Very soft, late rise	Quiet textures, ambient layering	Can feel unresponsive
6	Flat (fixed value)	Consistent MIDI trigger (e.g. drum samples)	No dynamics at all
7	Maxed (always 127)	Full-force synth stabs or live performance	No expression at all
8	Custom	Anything - user defined	User must configure manually

How to Create Custom Velocity Curves



1. Click the keyboard section of the iMAP so that it is highlighted in a purple colour.

2. Select curve 1-7 for pre-mapped curves (Curve 1 is the default curve). This will be immediately mapped to the keyboard. Images of curves can be found by clicking 'Curve View' (3).
or
Select 'Custom Curve' (curve 8) to create your own custom velocity curve. Click 'Curve View' (3) to see the curve. Drag and drop the nodes (purple circles that turn red when in being manipulated) to create your own, personal custom velocity curve. Save your settings if required.



Other Uses - Controlling Synthesizers & MIDI Learn

The Artist X series keyboards are primarily designed for use with a computer and a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), such as Cubase, Logic Pro, or Pro Tools. When connected via USB, the keyboard communicates MIDI data to the DAW, allowing you to perform and record using virtual instruments and plugins.

Standalone Instruments

In addition to full DAW integration, the Artist X series can also be used with standalone virtual instruments - software instruments that operate independently of a DAW. Many orchestral libraries, piano emulators, and synthesizers offer both a plugin version (for use inside your DAW) and a standalone version, which can be launched directly from your desktop. This makes it easy to use your Artist X keyboard for quick playing or practice without loading an entire DAW session. In order to connect to a standalone instrument on your computer, you will usually need to check the settings (often indicated by a cog symbol) to ensure the active MIDI input is the Artist X keyboard.

General MIDI modules

You also have the option of using the Artist X with General MIDI (GM) sound modules. These are software or hardware-based synths that follow the GM standard of 128 preset instrument sounds (numbered 0–127), covering everything from pianos to drums to orchestral textures. While the sound quality of GM synths can vary widely between products, they are useful for sketching ideas or triggering basic instrument sounds without needing third-party libraries. In the case of hardware modules, please refer to the manufacturer's documentation for details on how to connect your Artist X keyboard via a MIDI connection. It's worth noting that hardware modules such as these rarely have internal speakers so you may still need to connect to your PC (this may be a requirement of the device anyway). Alternatively, it may be the case that you can attach external speakers to the module.

Hardware Synths

For users interested in hardware-based sound generation, you can connect your Artist X keyboard to a dedicated MIDI hardware synthesizer. This requires a physical connection via MIDI. Once connected, the Artist X keyboard will transmit MIDI notes and control data directly to the synth, which then generates the audio. Please refer to your synth manufacturer's manual.

MIDI Learn

If you wish to assign your Artist X's physical controls - such as the rotary knob and buttons, pedal (available separately) and wheels to parameters in a virtual instrument or plugin (for example, filter cutoff, volume, or reverb amount), many plugins support MIDI Learn functionality. For some DAWs, this typically involves right-clicking a control within the plugin's Graphical User Interface (GUI) and selecting a "Learn MIDI CC" option. You then move the desired control on the Artist X keyboard, and the plugin will automatically map that hardware control to the selected parameter. Other DAWs allow the user to MIDI map plugins and virtual instruments via alternative means - please refer to your DAW manual for details.

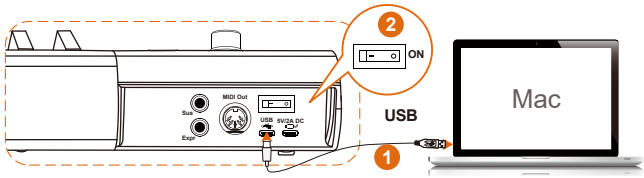
Controlling plugins and virtual instruments allows for expressive real-time control and customisation during both live performance and studio sessions and is worth investigating if this is something you feel may benefit your workflow.

Despite these advantages, you may experience some limitations, however. Some plugins are not compatible and some GUI controls for some plugins may not be functional. The control 'action' i.e. the 'smoothness' or 'intuitiveness' of the physical action of operating the control may not match your expectation.

However, if you repeatedly use plugins such as LA2A or 1176 style compressor plugins, (which have a limited number of controls), the simplicity of their GUI's often lend themselves to use by physical controllers.

Firmware Upgrade

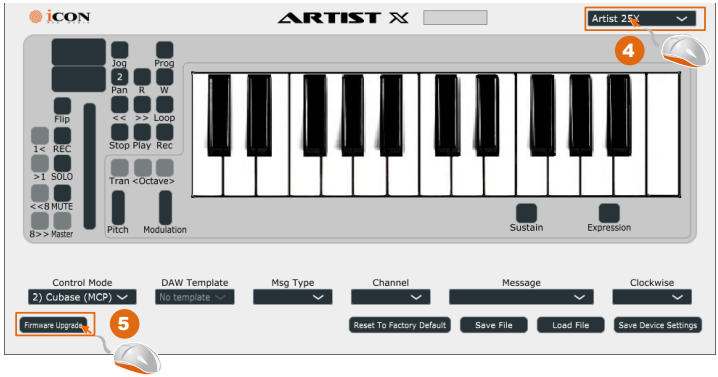
Artist X firmware upload procedure



1. Connect your device to your computer.

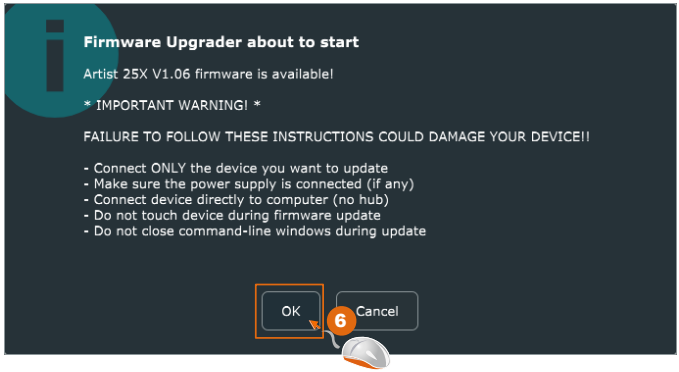
2. Turn the Artist X on.

3. Ensure the Artist X iMAP is downloaded and installed.

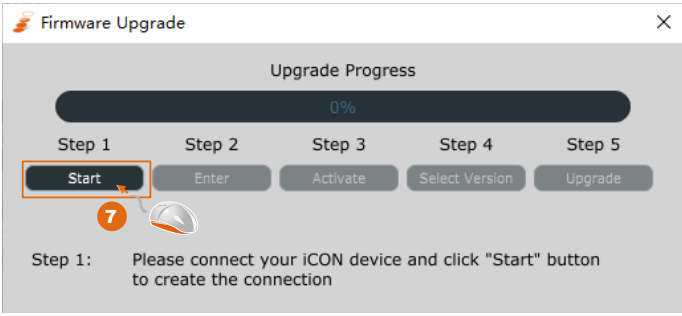


4. Ensure the correct device is selected from the dropdown menu.

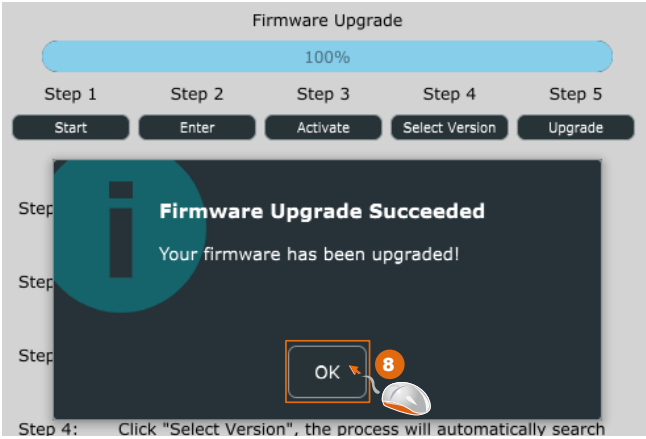
5. Click 'Firmware Upgrade'



6. Read and ensure you understand all warnings before proceeding. Click 'OK'.



7. Press 'Start'.

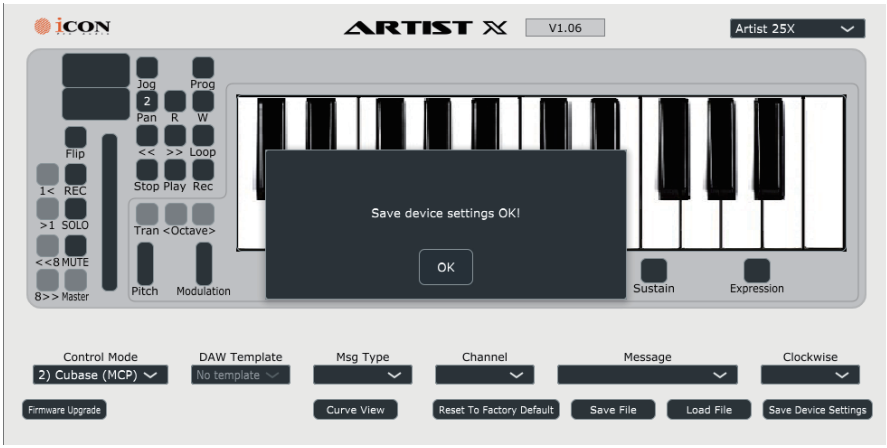


8. Sit back, relax and wait until the process completes. Click 'OK' to finish.

Restore Factory Default Settings

iMAP: To restore your Artist X iMAP settings to factory default settings, click 'Reset to Factory Default'. There is no pop up message to confirm the operation is successful, although you will notice the keyboard resetting to factory default.

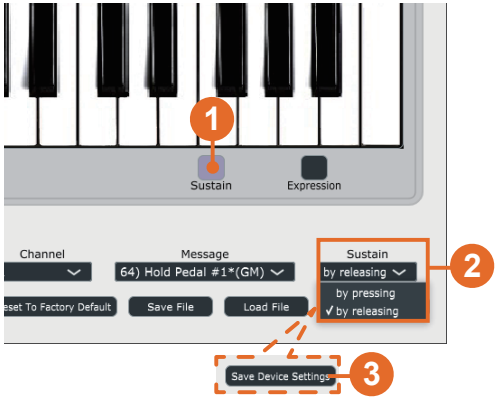
Artist X: To restore your Artist X keyboard settings to factory default, ensure your keyboard is connected, click 'Reset to Factory Default' and then 'Save Device Settings'. Once the operation is complete, you will receive this message:



At a Glance - Reverse Sustain Pedal Connector Polarity

Reversing the polarity of a sustain pedal means applying sustain (i.e. elongating the notes) by releasing the pedal rather than pressing down.

The polarity of some sustain pedals can be reversed on the hardware. Usually, this is via a switch on the underside of the pedal. However, if this is not present and should you require your pedal to behave in this manner, please ensure your sustain pedal is connected to your keyboard with the iMAP open, then press 'Sustain', then select 'By Releasing' from the drop-down menu in the iMAP, then 'Save Device Settings' to send the data to your keyboard. This reverses the polarity of the connector.



At a Glance:

1. ***Select 'Sustain'***
2. ***Select 'By releasing'***
3. ***Save your settings***

Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Artist X is not detected by your computer	USB connection may be loose or power is insufficient	Ensure the USB cable is firmly connected at both ends. Try using a different USB port or cable. Alternatively, connect an optional power supply.
Keys or controls are not sending MIDI data	Your DAW or software is not receiving MIDI input	Make sure the Artist X is selected as a MIDI input device in your software. Check/change the MIDI channel settings and routing.
The iMAP does not detect the Artist X	The device was powered on after the iMAP was opened	Close the iMAP, ensure the Artist X is connected, then reopen the software.
MIDI assignments are not working as expected	Incorrect CC number or MIDI channel selected in the iMAP	Open the iMAP and verify the correct control assignments. Check that the desired MIDI message and channel match your target software. Upload the changes to the keyboard.
Firmware update fails or the unit becomes unresponsive	Update was interrupted or firmware mode was entered incorrectly	Reconnect the USB cable and relaunch the iMAP. Re-enter firmware upgrade mode and retry the process.
No sound when playing keys	No instrument is loaded, or the output is not routed	The Artist X Series does not produce sound directly. Ensure a virtual instrument is loaded and set to receive MIDI from the Artist X.
Sustain or expression pedal does not respond	Pedal not inserted fully, wrong polarity, or connected after power-on	Insert the pedal before turning on the device. Check if the pedal function is mapped correctly in your DAW or iMAP.

Problem not solved? Send our Tech Support team a ticket. They're always happy to help. They live for it. See the 'Services' page.

Appendix A: HUI mode function table

Controller	Function
Encoder	Adjust channel Pan parameter
Encoder with "Jog" button activated	Rotate: Scrolling the play-line forward & backward Enter: Add marker
TouchPad Fader	Adjust channel/Master volume
Button "Master"	Activate to use the touchpad fader as Master fader
Button "M"	Mute track
Button "S"	Solo track
Button "  " 1-8	Record track
Button "Channel <"	Shift one channel up
Button "Channel >"	Shift one channel down
Button "8 <<"	Shift eight channel up
Button "8 >>"	Shift eight channel down
Button "  "	Activate the stop function
Button "  "	Activate the play function
Button "  "	Activate the record function
Button "<<"	Activate the rewind function
Button ">>"	Activate the fast forward function
Button "  "	Activate the loop function
Button "Flip"	Swap the parameter settings of the faders and the rotary encoder knobs
Button "  "	Activate the read function of the DAW
Button "  "	Activate the write function of the DAW
Button "Program"	Activate to select different sound patches on your DAW

Appendix B: Mackie Control function table

Controller	Function
Encoder	Adjust channel Pan parameter
Encoder with "Jog" button activated	Rotate: Scrolling the play-line forward & backward
TouchPad Fader	Adjust channel/Master volume
Button "Master"	Activate to use the touchpad fader as Master fader
Button "M"	Mute track
Button "S"	Solo track
Button "  " 1-8	Record track
Button "Channel <"	Shift one channel up
Button "Channel >"	Shift one channel down
Button "8 <<"	Shift eight channel up
Button "8 >>"	Shift eight channel down
Button "  "	Activate the stop function
Button "  "	Activate the play function
Button "  "	Activate the record function
Button "<<"	Activate the rewind function
Button ">>"	Activate the fast forward function
Button "  "	Activate the loop function
Button "Flip"	Swap the parameter settings of the faders and the rotary encoder knobs
Button "  "	Activate the read function of the DAW
Button "  "	Activate the write function of the DAW
Button "Program"	Activate to select different sound patches on your DAW

Specifications

Connector:

USB	USB connector (standard type)
Sustain & Expression	2x1/4" TS connectors
MIDI I/O	5-pin Din connector

Power supply	5V/2A DC
Current consumption	100mA or less

Weight:

Artist 25X	1.72kg	3.78(lb)
Artist 37X	2.25kg	4.97(lb)
Artist 49X	2.8kg	6.17(lb)
Artist 61X	3.37kg	7.43(lb)
Artist 88X	4.61kg	10.17(lb)

Dimensions:

Artist 25X	521(L)*189(W)*72(H)mm
	20.51 (L)×7.44 (W)×2.83 (H) "
Artist 37X	682(L)*189(W)*72(H)mm
	26.85 (L)×7.44 (W)×2.83 (H) "
Artist 49X	843(L)*189(W)*72(H)mm
	33.2 (L)×7.44 (W)×2.83 (H)"
Artist 61X	1004(L)*189(W)*72(H)mm
	39.53 (L)×7.44 (W)×2.83 (H)"
Artist 88X	1372(L)*189(W)*72(H)mm
	54.02 (L)×7.44 (W)×2.83 (H) "

Services

If your Artist X keyboard need servicing, follow these instructions.

Check our online Help Center at **http://support.iconproaudio.com,** for information, knowledge, and downloads such as:
1. FAQ
2. Download
3. Product Registration
4. Video Tutorials

Very often you will find solutions on these pages. If you don't find a solution, create a support ticket at our online Help Center at the link below, and our technical support team will assist you as soon as we can.
Navigate to **https://support.iconproaudio.com** and then sign in to submit a ticket.
Once you have submitted an inquiry ticket, our support team will assist you to resolve the problem with your ICON Pro Audio device as soon as possible.

To send defective products for service:

1. Ensure the problem is not related to operation error or external system devices.
2. Pack the unit in its original packaging including end card and box. This is very important. If you have lost the packaging, please make sure you have packed the unit properly. ICON is not responsible for any damage that occurs due to non-factory packing.
3. Ship to the ICON tech support center or the local return authorization. See our service centers and distributor service points at the link below:

If you are located in the **United States** please visit our help centre - **https://support.iconproaudio.com** and submit a ticket to the technical support team.

If you are located in **Europe**, please email the support team and wait for a response before sending the product to:

Sound Service GmbH
European Headquarters
Moriz-Seeler-Straße3 D-12489 Berlin
Telephone: +49 (0)30 707 130-0
Fax: +49 (0)30 707 130-189
E-Mail: service@sound-service.eu

If you are located in **Hong Kong** please email the support team and wait for a response before sending the product to:

ASIA OFFICE:
Unit F, 15/F., Fu Cheung Centre,
No. 5-7 Wong Chuk Yueng Street,
Fotan,
Sha Tin, N.T., Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2398 2286
Fax: (852) 2789 3947
Email: info.asia@icon-global.com

For additional update information please visit our website at: **www.iconproaudio.com**

天猫官方旗舰店

天猫店iconproaudio旗舰店

抖音号

抖音iCON艾肯

哔哩哔哩

B站iCONProAudio

微信公众号

微信号iCON-PRO

官方售后QQ

4006311312.114.qq.com

中国地区用户

Twitter

www.twitter.com/iconproaudio

Instagram

www.instagram.com/iconproaudio

Facebook

www.facebook.com/iconproaudio

Youtube

www.youtube.com/iconproaudio

Website

www.iconproaudio.com

Support

support.iconproaudio.com

Dashboard

iconproaudio.com/dashboard/

www.iconproaudio.com