High Definition Media Interfaces
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Extraction

USER MANUAL · MAX FOR LIVE AUDIO EFFECT

Turn an audio clip into editable MIDI notes, then check, correct and print them as MIDI clips.



Pictures in this manual are computer-made drawings of the device, not screenshots from Live. Your Live theme, zoom and controller change how it looks. HDMI is not affiliated with the companies named in this manual. Their names are used only to say what works with the device. Support: support@hidef.tools

User manual for Extraction, a Max for Live audio effect for Ableton Live.

Extraction turns audio into editable MIDI notes. You pick an audio clip, Extraction listens to it and finds the notes, and you check and correct them before you print them as MIDI clips. Extraction is free and is never sold.

Make notes

1. Put Extraction on a track. Select an audio clip in Session or Arrangement view.
2. Press CAPTURE. It stays lit while Extraction analyses the clip. Press it again to cancel. No setup or extra download is needed.
3. Open CANVAS. Choose SIMPLE for one piano roll that holds every captured note. Choose ADVANCED to review Bass line, Chords, Melody and Arps separately. In either layout you can edit or reassign notes and compare the result with the original. Switching layouts keeps every note and edit. The face's Transcription Preview fills when notes are found.
4. Choose the MIDI destination, then press PRINT.



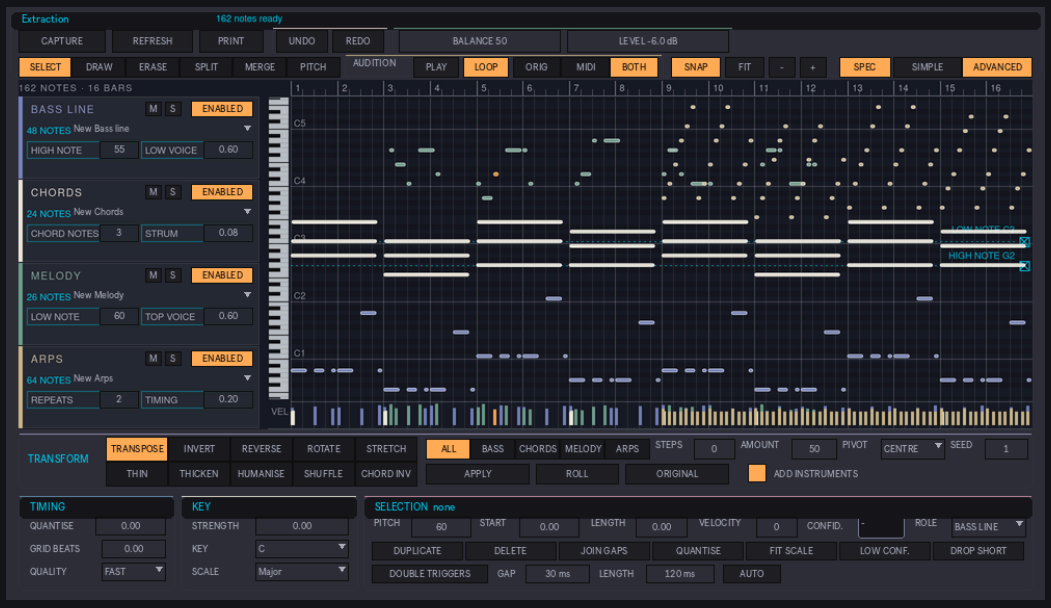
Extraction's face.

SIMPLE or ADVANCED

Choose SIMPLE when you want one piano roll to edit as a single part. Choose ADVANCED when you want separate parts on separate tracks. The same notes appear in both layouts.

The split settings are inactive in SIMPLE. Switch to ADVANCED to change them. The selected note's ROLE menu works in both layouts.

SIMPLE writes one clip on one track. ADVANCED writes one clip for each enabled lane that has notes.



The Canvas, with the layout set to ADVANCED. The notes shown are sample data.

Instruments

ADD INSTRUMENTS is on by default. With Live 12.3 or later, new tracks get an instrument.

TRACK	INSTRUMENT IT TRIES
Bass	Operator, then Drift
Melody	Meld, then Drift
Chords, Arps and Simple	Drift

The instruments you get depend on your Live edition and what you have installed. Untick ADD INSTRUMENTS to make MIDI tracks without instruments. Existing tracks keep their instruments. Before Live 12.3, add instruments yourself. The status line explains the limit.

Settings that change what Extraction hears

SETTING	WHAT IT DOES
NOTE	Sets how readily a sound becomes a note. Higher keeps quieter and less certain notes.
SPLIT	Sets how readily one sound is cut into several notes. Lower joins a held or repeated sound into one longer note. Higher cuts at every attack.
MIN NOTE	The shortest note Extraction keeps.
QUANTISE	Moves note starts towards a grid.
KEY SNAP	Moves pitches towards the chosen scale.

If a held note comes back as a run of short notes, turn SPLIT down or raise MIN NOTE. You can also use JOIN GAPS and DOUBLE TRIG on the TIDY page after CAPTURE (JOIN GAPS and DOUBLE TRIGGERS in the Canvas).

Extraction estimates notes from audio. Listen, and correct the notes before you use them in a finished piece.

Reading the panels

The face bars show each value as an Accent fill on a dark or light background. Their names and numbers change colour as the fill reaches them. Drag from either the name or the number.

The Canvas groups have thin header lines in different colours. Small menu arrows have circular outlines.

SPEC starts off. Switch it on for a quiet heat view under the grid and notes. Extraction does not save the SPEC choice with the Set.

Select uses Live's pointer alone. Draw, Erase, Split, Merge and Pitch show a small round badge beside the pointer.

Clips that Extraction cannot read directly

The samples that come with Ableton's Packs are stored in a compressed form that only Live can play. For these, CAPTURE listens instead. Extraction plays the clip once through Live, records what reaches it and analyses that.

The status line shows "Listening" with the bar count. It takes as long as the clip. Afterwards the transport goes back to where it was. If you capture the same clip again with different settings, Extraction reuses the recording, so it is instant.

Extraction hears the clip through the devices placed before it on the track. Turn those off first if you want the clip alone.

Limits on source files

- A clip cut from a longer recording still needs the whole source file to be read.
- Extraction refuses sources over ten minutes or 256 MB. Consolidate the clip to make a shorter source file.
- Extraction refuses an unwarped looping clip. Turn Warp on or Loop off.
- Arrangement MIDI clips need Live 12.1.10 or later.

Audio formats

Extraction reads WAV, AIFF, MP3 and AIFC files directly, with PCM, float, unsigned 8-bit, G.711 or Apple IMA4 audio. macOS can convert some other formats, including FLAC, Ogg and MP4.

If Extraction cannot read an AIFF, AIFC or WAV file, the face names the codec or format code. Convert the clip to WAV.

Requirements

Use Ableton Live with Max for Live.

FEATURE	NEEDS
Arrangement MIDI printing	Live 12.1.10 or later
Automatic instruments	Live 12.3 or later
Automatic sample loading into the Extracted Kit	Live 12.4 or later

MIDI printing and automatic instrument creation are separate features.

Credits and notices

Extraction uses Basic Pitch (Spotify), TensorFlow.js (Google) and minimp3 (lieff). Its note workflow draws on NeuralNote (Damien Ronssin and Tibor Vass). No NeuralNote native engine code is included.

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