

MB

Operation Manual

Version 2.0.6 - 19/09/2021



FCC Compliance Statement

CAUTION: The manufacturer is not responsible for any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance. Such modifications could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

ISED Compliance Statement

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe [B] est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.
CAN ICES-3 (B)/NMB-3(B)

Credits and Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Thank you for exploring the M8. This ambitious little music maker is the end result of a MIDI tracker project that was started in 2013. Inspired by controlling external synthesizers with Little Sound DJ to bring simplicity and efficiency to modern music making. In 2019 it was expanded with a more powerful processor, realizing the project could do more than MIDI alone.

Originally the plan was to have basic sample playback, MIDI, and a version of one of my chiptune inspired software synthesizers (Oki-Computer, Digitech, Blittersynth). However the concept was pushed further over the last 2 years to include original effects algorithms (reverb, delay, chorus, and compressor/limiter), a port of Mutable Instruments “Macro” synth, a unique 4-op FM synthesizer, song rendering, and sample recording/editing.

The M8 has transformed from a simple concept to a powerhouse of sound in a portable form factor. It has been quite the journey and I hope you find it inspirational and useful for your creative endeavors.

Cheers,
Timothy Lamb - Trash80

Operation Manual Conventions

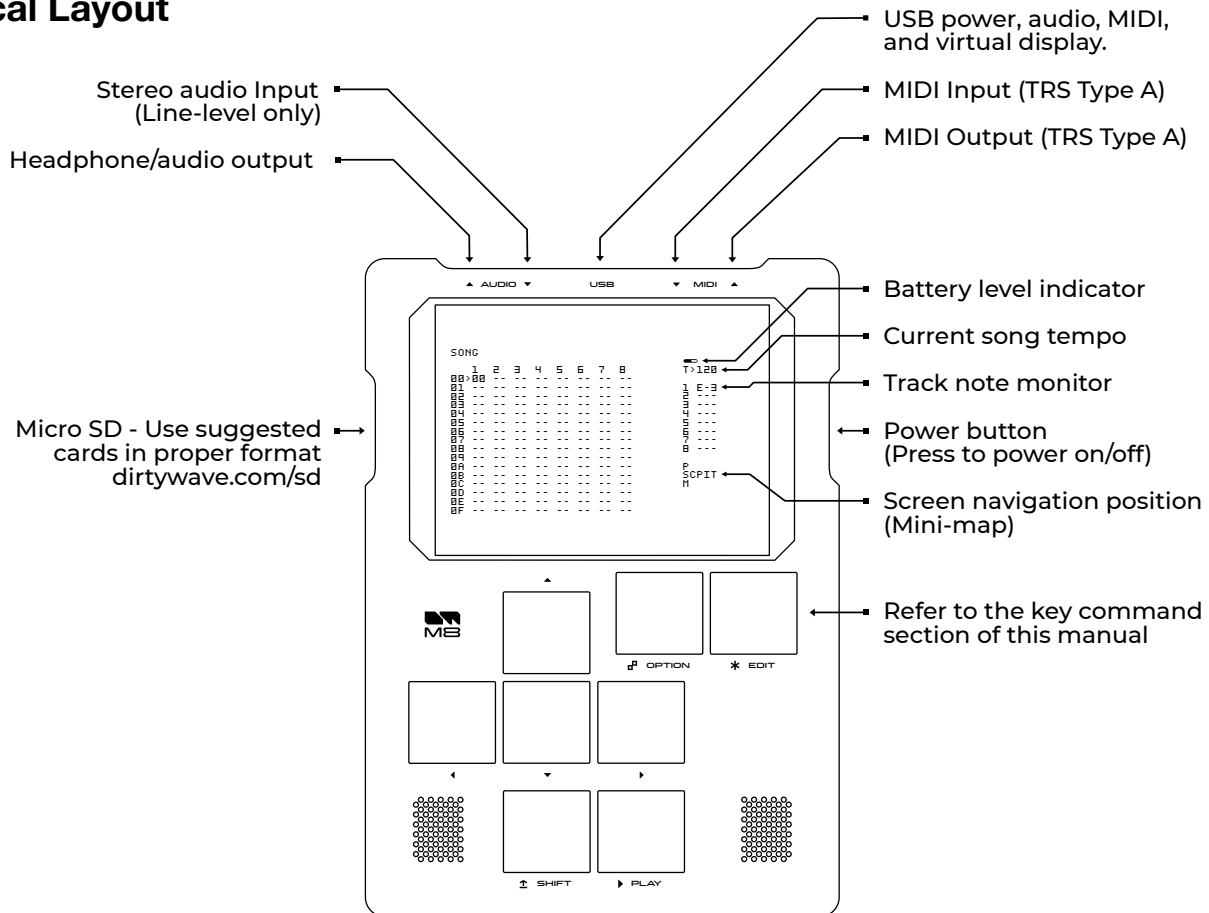
The following format is used for describing key combinations:

Examples

- **[OPTION]+[EDIT]** Hold down the option key and press edit.
- **[OPTION, then EDIT]** Press and release the option key, then press and release the edit key.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]** While holding down the shift key, press and release the option key, then press and release the edit key.
- **[SHIFT]+[UP or DOWN]** While holding down the shift key, press and release either the up or down direction keys.
- **[DIRECTION]** Use any of the 4 directional keys: left, right, up, or down.

Overview

Physical Layout



Powering Up

The power button is located on the right side of the unit. Press the button for 1 second to turn on, 2 seconds to turn off. The button is slightly recessed by design to prohibit unintentional power cycles when stored.

Note: If a software crash occurs or unit is non-responsive, you can power down the unit by depressing the button for 7 seconds. The unit can be powered back on to continue normal operation. Please report crashes to support@dirtywave.com.

Charging

Charge the unit with the included Micro USB cable and an adequate USB power source (500mA - Standard USB). Battery level and charging indicator status can be found at the top right of the display. The M8 is charging when the battery icon is animating. You can operate the M8 while it is charging, however please allow the M8 to fully charge for the first time before using it without external power.

Audio Output and Volume Control

The audio output connector is suitable for both general output and headphone use. When an output is connected the built-in speakers will stop functioning. You can adjust the output and speaker volume by navigating to the Project view **[SHIFT]+[UP]**, highlight the “OUTPUT VOL” setting, and adjust with **[EDIT]+[DIRECTION]**. Please note that levels above “F0” will be quite loud when using small headphones/earbuds/IEMs and as such for your hearing protection “F0” is the maximum volume recalled when the M8 powers up- regardless of what it was previously set to.

The microSD Card

The M8 uses a microSD card to store data including songs, samples, instruments and themes. When samples are played, they are streamed directly from the SD card. They are not read from memory. Therefore the random access read speed of the SD card is critical to the proper operation of the M8. Most cards are optimized for working with a single file sequentially and can have performance issues with playback of multiple samples at the same time. A complete list of tested cards with the M8 is available here: <https://dirtywave.com/sd>.

Please be careful inserting the card. The slot in your unit might be slightly bigger than the card reader. Misaligned insertion may result in the card being stuck in the enclosure. See the [troubleshooting section](#) for more information.

Cards used with the M8 must be formatted using the SD Association SD Memory Card Formatter tool: <https://www.sdcard.org/downloads/formatter>. This will ensure the card’s format is optimized for reading data quickly.

The SD card that ships with the M8 has been tested to have a high enough read speed to handle most workloads. However, even the included card does have limits. If song playback is halted with a “CPU TOO BUSY” message, this is most likely the cause. To limit this issue there are multiple steps you can take:

- Convert stereo samples to mono where stereo is not necessary - e.g. Kick drums
- Convert 24-bit samples to 16-bit or 8-bit where volume detail is not critical
- Avoid playing samples an octave or higher above their recorded frequency (each octave doubles the amount of data that needs to be read each second)

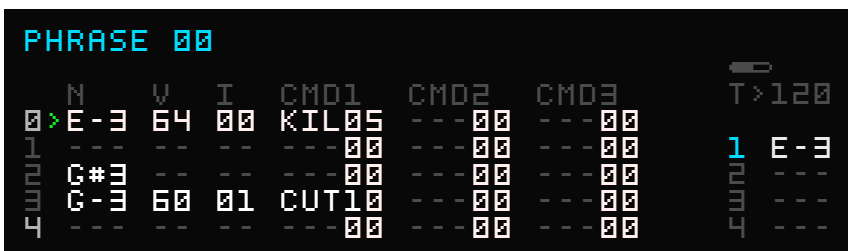
Converting to mono or dropping the bit rate or sample rate can be done in the sample editor view. More information can be found in the [Sample Editor](#) section of this manual.

Getting Started

Introduction

The M8 is an 8 track sequencer and synthesizer. Each track can play one single note at a time using any one of up to 128 instruments in the song. Every instrument can be configured to be a synthesizer, a sample, or to control external equipment using MIDI.

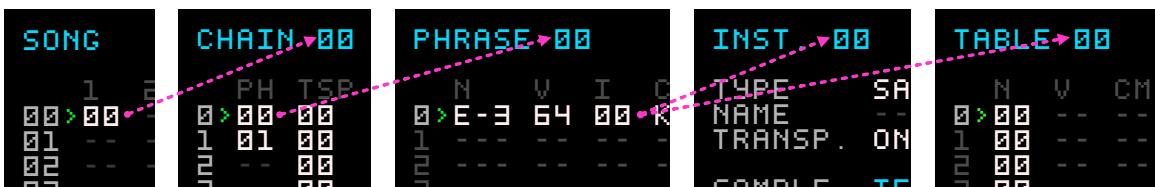
The sequencer used in the M8 is known as a “music tracker” commonly found in classic composition software dating as far back as the late 1980s. Unlike typical DAWs and step sequencers, musical notes and events are arranged from top to bottom and the tracks are arranged from left to right. At first glance it might look complicated, but it is really quite elegant. The advantage of using this layout is that any instrument changes or commands entered appear more intrinsically tied to the note they reside next to.



On a traditional music tracker a song is constructed by arranging patterns together where a pattern consists of tracks grouped together for a predefined number of steps. What makes the M8 different is each track has its own independent play position, and the pattern is broken up even further into what are called chains and phrases. Typically songs are composed of a list of chains per track, where each chain contains a list of phrases. This structure avoids repetitive copying and pasting, as well as allows for easily duplicating, cloning, and transposing sections of a melody or progression.

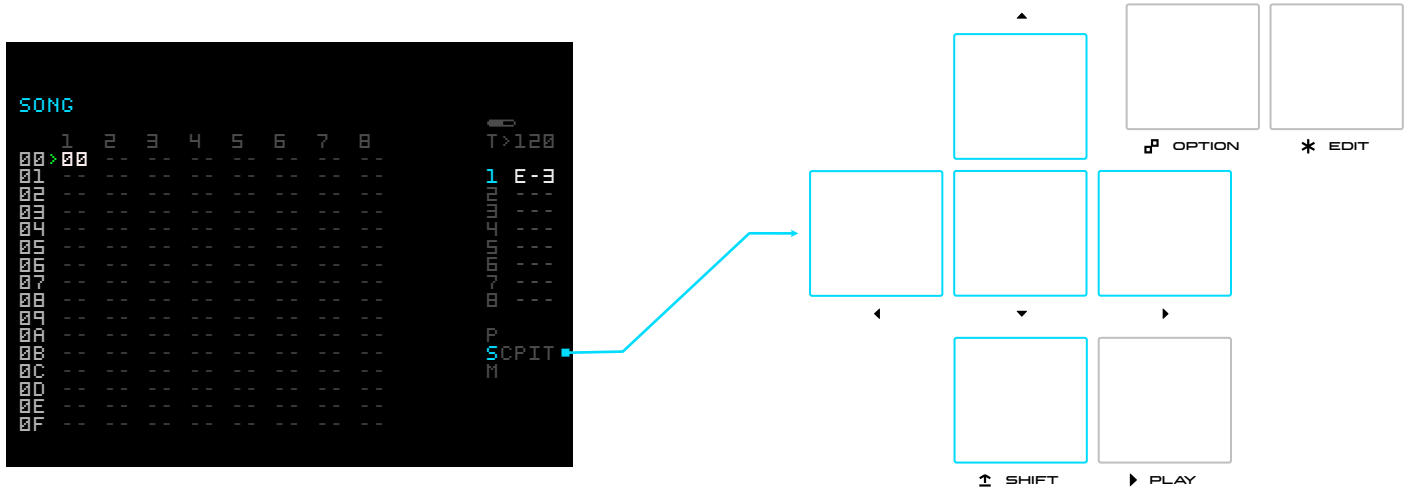
Song Structure

Songs are comprised of 8 functionally identical tracks that play through a list of chains vertically. Chains are groups of phrases, and phrases contain the notes, velocities, instrument assignments, and command effects.



Navigation

The M8's user interface is divided into "Views" which can be navigated by holding **[SHIFT]** and using the **[DIRECTION]** keys. There is a helpful mini-map located on the bottom right of the display. Do not worry about the functionality of each of these views; we'll dive into them later.



*EDIT/UP/DOWN ON COMMAND NAME TO VIEW HELP/SELECT SCREEN

Global Key Shortcuts

There are quite a few key combinations / shortcuts but for the most part they are shared across all views on the M8. A printed card was included with the M8 which has a complete list of shortcuts on the reverse side for convenience. Refer to the section on [Key Shortcuts](#) in the appendix. Below is a list of common key commands you should familiarize yourself with:

- **[DIRECTION]** Move the cursor on the screen.
- **[SHIFT] + [DIRECTION]** Navigate between Views
- **[EDIT]** Start editing a value; also functions as a “YES” or “ENTER”
- **[OPTION]** Varies depending on context; also functions as a “NO” or “EXIT”
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Sets a highlighted parameter to the default value, or acts as a “cut” operation on song, chain, phrase, and table “grid” views.
- **[SHIFT]** by itself has no function.
- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops the song from the current cursor position on the song view, or plays the current Chain, Phrase, or Instrument when in those views.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Plays all tracks from the current song cursor position regardless of current view (song, chain, phrase, etc).

Common Editing Shortcuts

Quite a few of the views in the M8 use a grid layout. In these views there are common functions such as editing values, cut/copy/paste, and selection mode. It is important to familiarize yourself with the key shortcuts as this makes editing both fast and fun.

- **[EDIT]** On an empty cell (“--”): inserts a new value with a default value of the last edited or deleted value.
- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value in large steps. On a command column: shows the Effect Help/Selection view.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value by small steps.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** On any view with a grid (song, chain, phrase, table, etc): enter selection mode.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copies the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** On any view with a grid: paste the copied contents from selection mode.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected value. On selection mode: cuts the selection into the copy buffer.

Hexadecimal

The M8 uses a number system called hexadecimal where numbers 0-15 are represented as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, and F. For example, “40” in hexadecimal is 64 in decimal (Refer to the [hexadecimal table](#) in the appendix). This is useful for quite a few reasons:

- Screen real estate: 0 to 255 in decimal is 00 to FF in hexadecimal. With 3 command FX columns, it would be cumbersome to fit 3-digit decimal values on the screen. Furthermore, when a value range includes negative and positive numbers (see Absolute and Relative in the appendix), this can add up to 4 characters in length: -128 to +127.
- Parameters and FX commands that represent counts of 16 where the first digit will represent a phrase. Ex: “24” translates to the second phrase on row two.
- FX commands where the left and right digits control different aspects of the command. Ex: “ARP37” - Plays an arpeggio where the first interval is +3 semitones, and the second is +7 semitones while presenting a larger range.

Where guidance is needed, help text is presented at the bottom of the screen that displays the decimal equivalent and/or useful messages while editing values.

Firmware Updates

Updating the firmware is performed via a USB connection to a computer. To perform the update without issue it is critical that the connection is not hindered by other USB devices on the same hub. Therefore it is highly recommended to use a dedicated USB connection without a hub if possible. You can find the latest firmware, changelog, and instructions at <https://github.com/Dirtywave/M8Firmware>.

If the firmware fails or the M8 is non-responsive after an update please refer to the section on [troubleshooting](#).

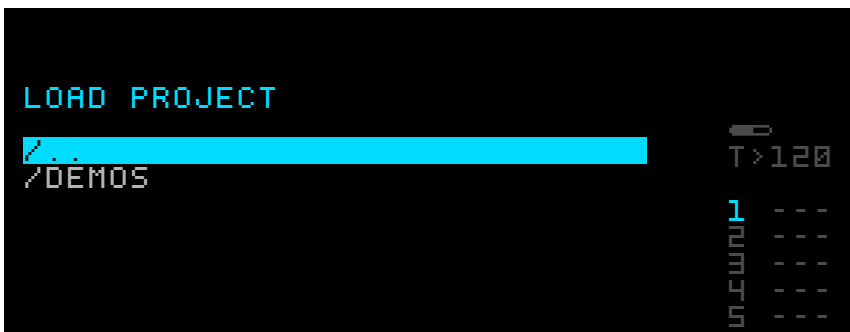
Additional Help and Resources

Links and additional resources are available at <https://dirtywave.com/support>.

Loading a Demo Song

The best way to explore the M8 for the first time is to check out some of the demos included on the SD card. By default the M8 shipped with “DEMO1” already loaded. You can press **[PLAY]** in the song view and navigate around the views to get comfortable with the layout and watch what is happening during playback.

Let’s familiarize ourselves with the project view and the file browser. Navigate to the Project which is located above the Song view. If you’re not already in the song view, hold **[SHIFT]** and keep pressing **[LEFT]** until you see “SONG” in the title area of the display, then navigate up using **[SHIFT]+[UP]**. Move the cursor down to highlight “LOAD” and press **[EDIT]**.



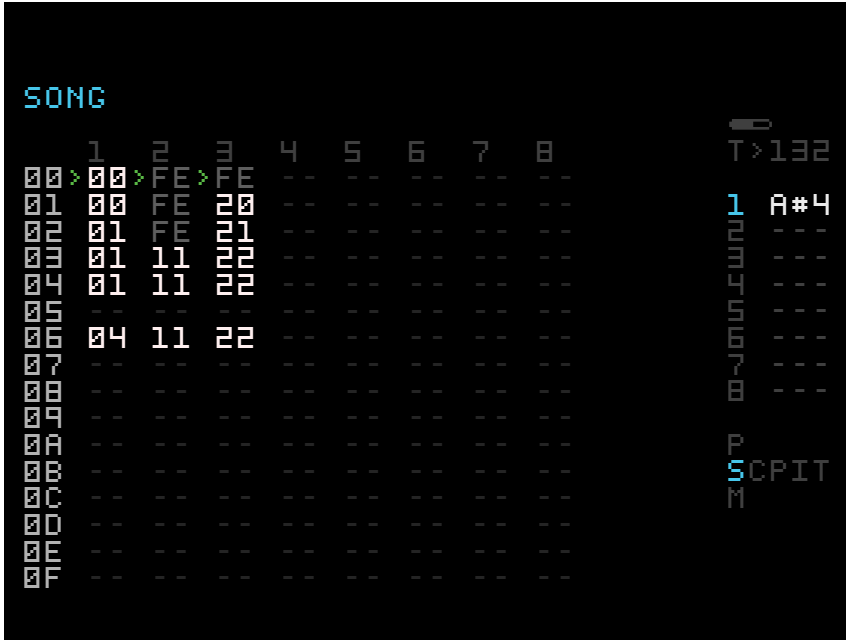
This is the file browser. By default when loading a song the browser is opened to “/Songs” on the SD card. Any entry that starts with a “/” is a directory, and pressing **[EDIT]** on a directory will display its contents. Pressing **[EDIT]** on the “/..” entry will take you back to the previous directory. Furthermore there are a few handy shortcuts that can be used in this view:

- **[LEFT]** will navigate to the top of the list.
- **[RIGHT]** will navigate to the bottom of the list.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** will skip over 8 entries in the list.
- **[PLAY]** will preview a sample or instrument when browsing for them.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** will sort a directory by name if it is unsorted.
- **[OPTION]** will exit the file browser.
- **[OPTION]+[EDIT]** to delete a file.

Highlight “/DEMOS” by pressing **[DOWN]** and press **[EDIT]**. Choose a song to load and press **[EDIT]** to load it. If a song was already playing when you entered the Load Project view, the new song will load and start playing back after the playing song reaches the end of a chain. This is called Queued Song Loading and it is useful for switching songs in a live setting.

Views

Song View



The song view is where you create the structure of your song. It is comprised of 8 tracks from left to right, with a list of chains for each track to play through vertically. When the song is playing, each track's song position will increment vertically through the list of chains until it reaches an empty column ("--"), at which point the given track will loop back to the beginning of its list of chains.

Since each chain can contain 1 to 16 phrases it is possible to have different play lengths for each track, causing individual track play positions to be misaligned. If you do not wish to have this behavior it is recommended to design your chains to all have the same number of phrases.

To maintain a track's play position with other tracks while it remains silent, create a chain that contains empty phrases. It is common to use either chain "00" or "FE" for this purpose. Note that chains which contain no notes are grayed out on the song screen for readability.

The song can contain up to 256 rows of chains. You may find it useful to use unused rows below the base song structure, "isolating" to experiment or create new arrangements without breaking the existing song (see row "06" in the graphic above).

Live Mode

Live mode allows playing, cueing, or stopping each track independently and from anywhere in the song structure. Press **[SHIFT]+[LEFT]** from the song view to enter or exit live mode playback.

When a track is cued for playback via **[PLAY]** the sequencer will wait for the currently playing chain to finish before activating the newly cued chain by default. You can change this behavior on the Project View under “LIVE QUANTIZE”.

Song View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Move/scroll the cursor 16 rows up or down.

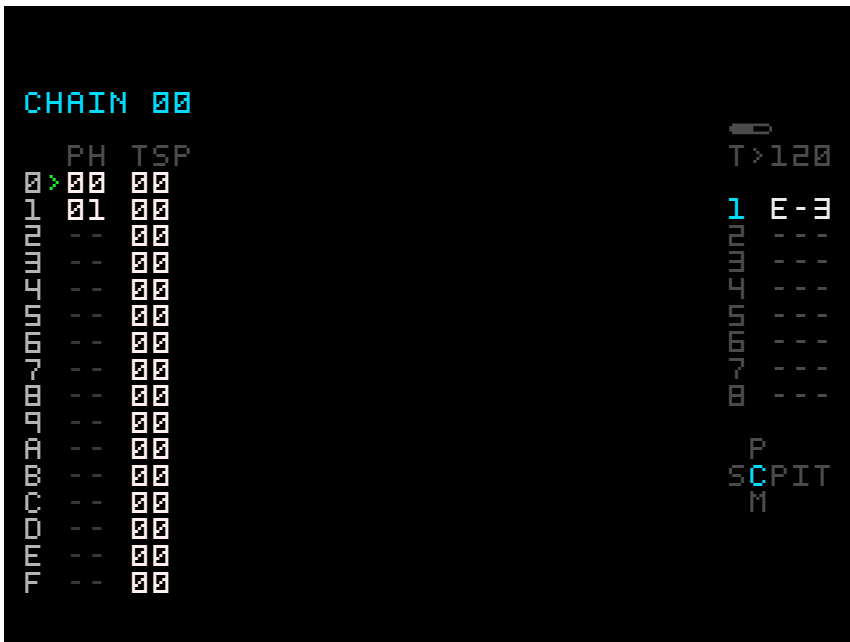
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Plays/stops all tracks.
- **[LEFT]+[PLAY]** Cue the selected song row for playback.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Solo all tracks to the left or right side of the cursor’s position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]** On an empty column (“--”): inserts a chain with a default value of the last edited or deleted chain.
- **[EDIT]+[DIRECTION]** Edits the chain number on the cursor’s position.
- **[EDIT]+[EDIT]** (double tap) Will insert a new unused empty chain.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected chain. In selection mode, cuts the selection into the copy buffer.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Enters selection mode for moving, copying, or cutting chains.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copies the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Pastes the copy buffer that was copied in selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]** Copies the contents of the selected chain into a new chain number. (I.e. “clone”).
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then double tap EDIT]** Copies the contents of the selected chain and the contents of all phrases inside the chain into a new chain and phrases. (I.e. “deep clone”).

Chain View



A chain is a playlist of phrases. This allows easy construction of a musical idea that extends past a single measure without having to copy and paste repetitive sections. You can use up to 16 rows of phrases per chain, allowing up to 256 steps.

In the chain view, the left column “PH” is the phrase number to play, and the right column “TSP” is an optional note transpose in semitones. To insert a new phrase, press **[EDIT]** on an empty column (“--”). The inserted value will be the last edited phrase. To create a new empty phrase on a given row, double tap the **[EDIT]** key. Duplicating a phrase to a new empty number is also possible by highlighting the desired phrase number and pressing **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]**.

Playback behavior is determined by the first empty phrase column that the sequencer encounters in the chain. An empty phrase (“--”) is considered the end of the chain and the song will continue on to the next chain in the song view.

Chain View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Navigate to previous or next chain in the song.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Navigate to previous or next track.

Playing

- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops playing chain at cursor position.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Continue song at cursor position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]** On an empty row (“--”): insert a phrase with a default value of the last edited or deleted phrase.
- **[EDIT]+[DIRECTION]** Edits the phrase number on the cursor’s position.
- **[EDIT]+[EDIT]** (double tap) Will insert a new unused empty phrase.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected phrase. In selection mode, cuts the selection into the copy buffer.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Enters selection mode for moving, copying, or cutting a block of phrases.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copies the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Pastes the copy buffer that was copied in selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]** Copies the contents of the selected phrase into a new number. (I.e. “clone”).

Phrase View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Navigate to previous or next phrase in the chain.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Navigate to previous or next track.

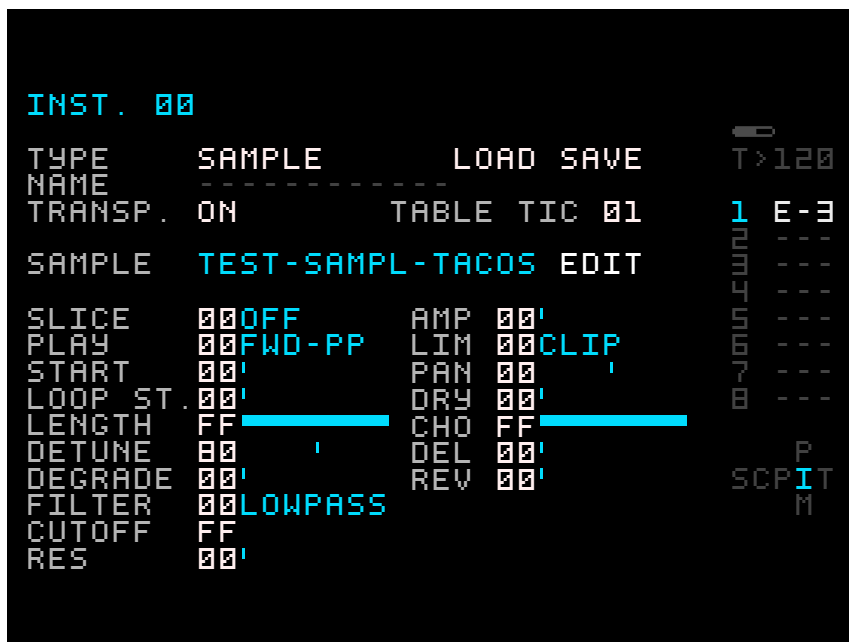
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops playing phrase.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Continue song at chain position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]** On an empty cell: insert a new value with a default value of the last edited or deleted value.
- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by large steps. On a command column: show the Effect Help/Selection view.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[EDIT]** (double tap) On the instrument column: set the selected instrument value to a new unused instrument. On a command value column where the command is the table or groove command (TBL or GRV): set the value to a new unused table.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected value. In selection mode: cuts the selection into the copy buffer.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Enters selection mode for moving, copying, or cutting a block of phrase data.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copies the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Pastes the copy buffer that was copied in selection mode. In selection mode: with a series of rows and a single column highlighted: interpolate the selected range.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]** On the instrument column or on a command value column where the command is the table or groove command (TBL or GRV): copy the contents of the selected data into a new number. (I.e. "clone").

Instrument View



Use the instrument view to load, save, or edit the main settings for the sounds used in the song. There are 128 instruments available per song that each contain settings, 2 envelopes, 2 LFOs, and a [table](#).

The M8 has 5 instrument types to choose from. Change the “TYPE” parameter to select one of the types currently available: [Wavsynth](#), [Macrosynth](#), [Sampler](#), [FM Synth](#), and [MIDI Out](#). The default type is set to “NONE” which helps both you and the M8 know when a instrument slot is being used. Use “LOAD” or “SAVE” to load or save an instrument preset from the SD card.

General Instrument Settings

- **TYPE** - Set the instrument type as described above.
- **LOAD / SAVE** - Load or save a instrument preset to the SD card.
- **NAME** - helps keep your song organized when browsing through instruments, saving an instrument, or exported when “bundling” your song.
- **TRANSP.** - Enable or disable note transposition from a chain transpose column or the project view transpose setting. This is useful for selectively disabling transposition on instruments that are used for percussive or effect elements.
- **TABLE TIC** - Set the default speed at which the instrument’s table increments through each step. The default is “01” or one tick per table step. “02” will be two ticks per step and so forth. “00” will hold and step through the table each time the instrument is triggered successively. “FF” sets the rate to 400 Hz. This setting can be overwritten by the TIC command effect in the phrase or table.

Instrument View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Navigate to previous or next instrument.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Navigate +/- 16 instruments.
- **[SHIFT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Will navigate to the phrase or table view respectively (from both the Instrument view or Instrument Envelopes view) and set the default FX command value to the instrument parameter that is highlighted.

Playing

- **[PLAY]** Start/stops playing phrase.
- **[EDIT]+[PLAY]** Preview instrument.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Continue song at chain position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edit the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by large steps.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edit the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Set the selected value to the default setting.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Copy current instrument.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Paste instrument or undo a paste operation.
- **[EDIT+TOUCHSCREEN]** Edit selected value with the position of a finger on any value with a visual slider.
- **[OPTION+TOUCHSCREEN]** Assign the touchscreen axis to the selected parameter on any value with a visual slider. See the section on the [MIDI Mappings view](#).

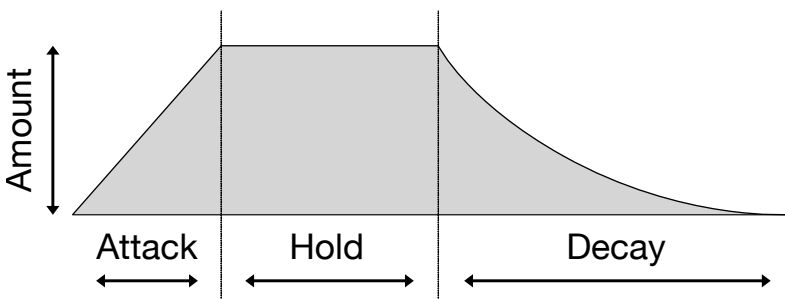
Instrument Envelope View

```
INST. 00
TYPE NAME          SAMPLE          LOAD SAVE          T>120
TRANSP. ON        TABLE TIC 01      1 E-3
ENV1 TO 01 VOLUME  LFO 00 OFF
AMOUNT 00'         AMT 00'
ATTACK 00'         OSC 00 TRI
HOLD   FF         TRG 00 FREE
DECAY  00'         FRQ 00'
ENV2 TO 02 CUTOFF  LFO 00 OFF
AMOUNT 00'         AMT 00'
ATTACK 00'         OSC 00 TRI
HOLD   FF         TRG 00 FREE
DECAY  00'         FRQ 00'
E
SCPIT
M
```

This view is accessible above the instrument view (**[SHIFT]+[UP]**). The envelopes and LFOs alter instrument parameters over time. The view is divided up so that the two envelopes are on the left, and two LFOs on the right.

Envelopes

Each envelope has a destination, amount, and 3 “stages” - Attack, Hold, and Decay (AHD)

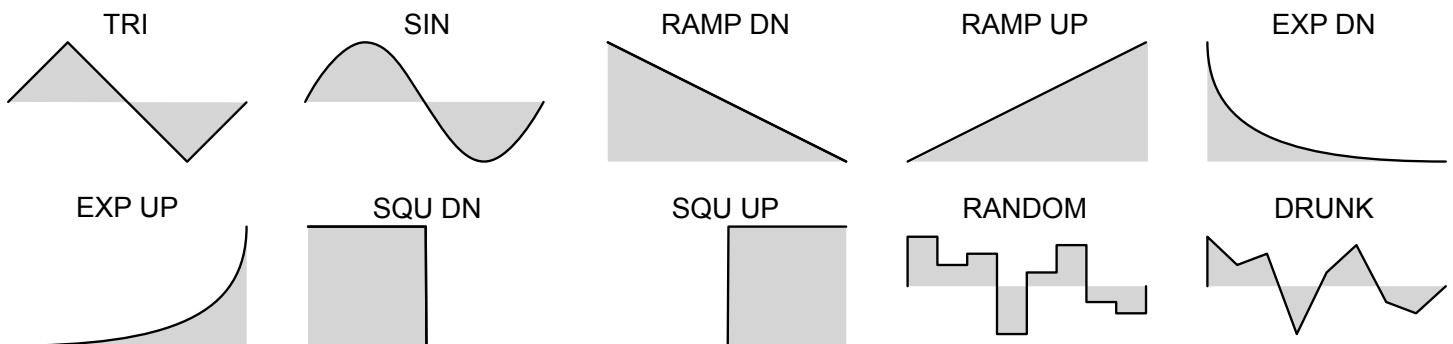


“ENV TO” assigns an instrument parameter to the envelope, with “AMOUNT” setting the maximum amount the envelope controls. “ATTACK” is the time it takes for the envelope to reach the specified amount, “HOLD” is the time to wait after the attack is completed before proceeding to decay, and “DECAY” is the time it takes to decrease the envelope back to zero. All time-based values are in ticks and thus relative to the current song tempo. Refer to the help text at the bottom of the screen while editing a parameter for assistance.

Instrument Envelope View - LFOs

LFO (Low Frequency Oscillator) modulates an instrument parameter over time. Unlike an envelope, it has a static shape that can be configured to repeat infinitely or trigger once like an envelope.

Each LFO has a destination, amount, oscillator shape selection, trigger behavior, and frequency. The first parameter “LFO” assigns an instrument parameter to the LFO, with “AMT” controlling the amount. “OSC” is the oscillator shape - Triangle, sinusoidal, ramp down, ramp up, exponential down, exponential up, square down, square up, random, and drunk. The initial 10 shapes repeat with an additional “T” added to the end which signifies “Tick rate” where the frequency range runs much faster in ticks.

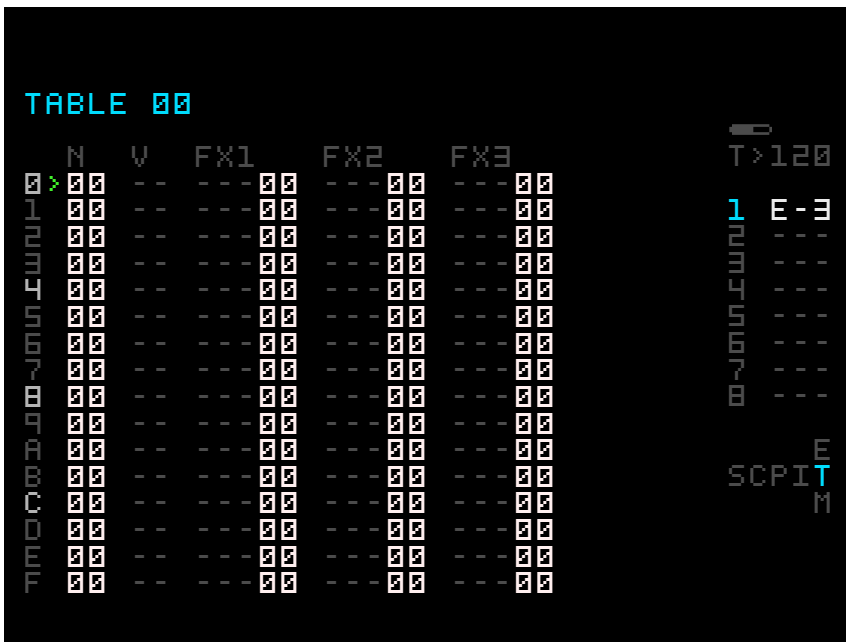


Trigger behavior (“TRG”) configures how the LFO will react when the instrument triggers and when the shape reaches the end of a cycle:

- **FREE** - Loop the shape and not reset on new notes/instrument triggers.
- **RETRIG** - Loop the shape and reset on each new instrument trigger.
- **HOLD** - Hold the last value of the shape instead of repeating from the beginning.
- **ONCE** - Play through the shape once and reset to the start value.

Frequency (“FRQ”) is the rate at which the LFO cycles. The value is represented in steps (16th notes) or in ticks when the OSC is set to one of the tick “T” rate shapes.

Table View



Tables are little sequencers that play alongside instruments. They are an incredibly powerful tool to transform instruments and compositions, from arpeggios and volume slides to multi-stage envelopes and effects. Every instrument has its own dedicated table with an additional 128 tables freely assignable via the table (“TBL”) FX command.

Each table has 16 rows that include a note transpose, volume amount, and 3 FX command columns. Unlike a phrase which runs at the speed of the global tempo and groove, tables run at the user-defined speed that is set by the Table Tic Rate in the Instrument View. By default when the play position reaches the bottom of a table it loops back to the top and continues for as long as the instrument is played.

The left column “N” is the transpose column. Entering a value here will transpose the instrument for the duration of the step. The “V” column is the volume column. These values are multiplied by the “V” in the Phrase View.

The three “FX” columns are identical to the “FX” columns in the phrase screen, however some commands have a different behavior. To see a helpful view for selecting and placing commands use **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** which will launch the [Effects Command Help](#) view.

To shorten a table refer to the [HOP command](#) in the sequencer commands appendix. Each command column can run at different speeds by using the [tick \(“TIC”\) command](#) in an FX column. You can place TIC commands at the end of the table to affect all rows to save space.

Table View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Navigate to previous or next table.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Navigate +/- 16 tables.

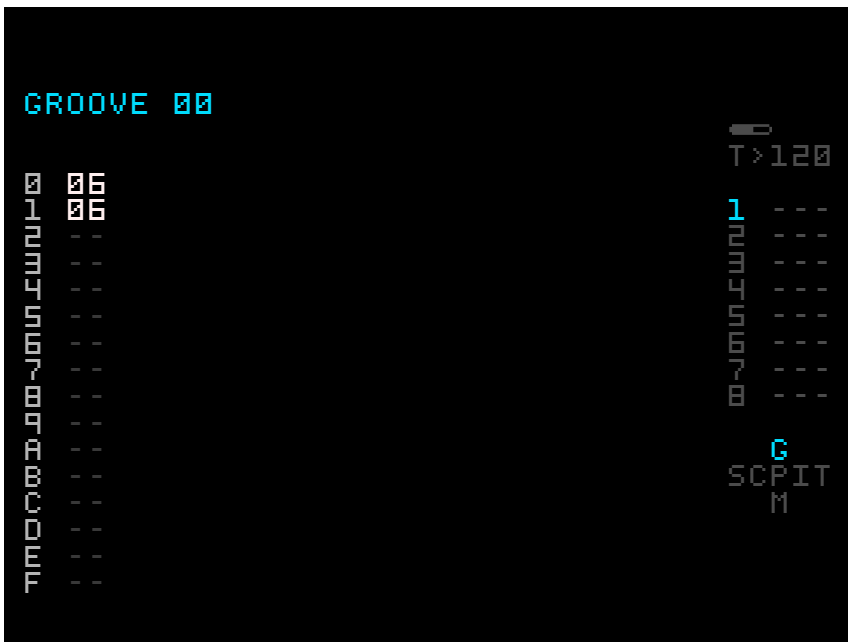
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops playing phrase.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Continue song at chain position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]** On an empty cell: insert a new value with a default value of the last edited or deleted value. In selection mode with a single column highlighted: interpolate the selected range.
- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by large steps. On a command column: show the Effect Help/Selection view.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value on the cursor's position incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected value. In selection mode, cuts the selection into the copy buffer.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Enters selection mode for moving, copying, or cutting a block of table data.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copies the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Pastes the copy buffer that was copied in selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION, then EDIT]** On a command value column where the command is the table or groove command (TBL or GRV): copy the contents of the selected data into a new number. (I.e. "clone").

Groove View



Grooves allow defining the speed of each of the 16 steps in a phrase by altering the number of ticks each step consumes. This allows swing, shuffle, triplets, and faster phrases. See the section on [common grooves](#) in the appendix.

Groove “00” is the default groove for all 8 tracks. Each track can use a different groove independently. Assign a groove to a track by using the [groove \(“GRV”\) FX command](#) in a phrase.

Add swing to a song by navigating to the Groove view that is located above the phrase [\[SHIFT\]+\[UP\]](#). Start the song by pressing [\[SHIFT\]+\[PLAY\]](#) and edit the value in row 0 by using [\[EDIT\]+\[UP or DOWN\]](#). Notice that it alters both rows 0 and 1 at the same time. A common swing setting is 07,05 or 08,04.

The Groove Math(s)

The M8 has a resolution of 24 ticks per quarter note (24PPQ). Since there are 4 sixteenth notes in a quarter note and each row in a phrase represents a sixteenth note in time, there are 6 ticks per row (24PPQ / 4 sixteenth notes = 6 ticks). Therefore by default all grooves have two rows of “06”. If you want to stick with the same count, the total ticks in a phrase should be equal to 96 (16 steps x 6 ticks per step). When editing a groove there is a help message at the bottom of the screen that sums the ticks for your convenience.

The groove will loop to the beginning when an empty row (“--”) is encountered, and a row of “00” will skip the phrase step.

Groove View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Navigate to previous or next groove.
- **[OPTION]+[UP or DOWN]** Navigate +/- 16 grooves.

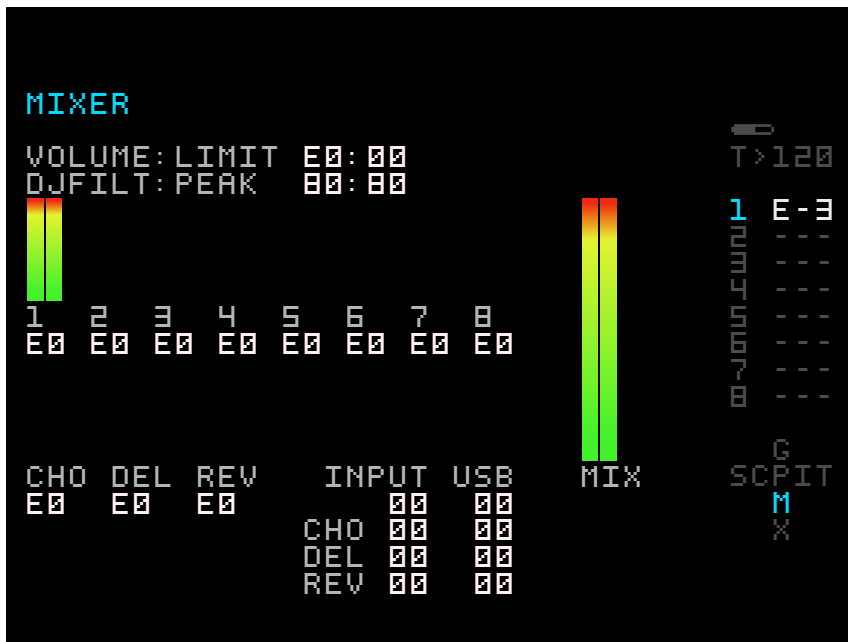
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops playing phrase.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Continue song at chain position.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]** On an empty cell: insert a new value with a default value of the last edited or deleted value.
- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value and the value above or beneath.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value by small increments.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Deletes/cuts the selected value. In selection mode: cut the selection into the copy buffer.
- **[SHIFT]+[OPTION]** Enters selection mode for moving, copying, or cutting a block of table data.
- **[OPTION]** In selection mode: copy the selection and exits selection mode.
- **[SHIFT]+[EDIT]** Pastes the copy buffer that was copied in selection mode.

Mixer View



The mixer allows you to view and adjust the volume of each of the 8 tracks, the 3 send effects (chorus, delay, and reverb, see [Effect Settings View](#)), analog and USB input for monitoring; control the global DJ filter effect; and overall song volume and limiter. When an instrument is triggered on a given track, its volume parameters are applied to the given track's outputs. The track's volume in the mixer also adjusts its effect send levels. The effect volumes of the 3 send effects can be adjusted under "CHO", "DEL", and "REV". The analog and USB inputs can be mixed in for live monitoring as well as routed to the 3 send effects. "INPUT" refers to the analog input and "USB" refers to anything the USB host computer is sending to the M8.

All of the tracks, inputs, and effects are mixed together and routed through the limiter, DJ filter, and finally through the main song volume. Any clipping will appear as a red bar on the graphical meter.

The DJ filter is a mixed low-pass / high-pass filter. When the value is above "80" it sweeps upward removing the bass frequencies. Below 80 it sweeps downward removing high frequencies. This is useful in a live setting when it is mapped to the touchscreen or an external controller, or automated in the song using the "DJF" FX command.

The limiter is engaged when its value is above 00. There is a white line drawn on the "MIX" graphical indicator to show the limiter's compression activity.

Mixer View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.

Playing

- **[PLAY]** Plays/stops all tracks.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Plays/stops all tracks.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Set selected parameter to its default value.
- **[OPTION+TOUCHSCREEN]** Assign the touchscreen axis to the selected parameter. See [MIDI Mappings view](#).
- **[OPTION+MIDI CC]** Assign a MIDI CC to the selected parameter. See [MIDI Mappings view](#).

Effect Settings View

```
CHORUS SETTINGS
MOD DEPTH      40
MOD FREQ.     80
WIDTH         FF
REVERB SEND   00

DELAY SETTINGS
FILTER HP:LP  40:FF
TIME L:R      30:30
FEEDBACK      80
WIDTH         FF
REVERB SEND   00

REVERB SETTINGS
FILTER HP:LP  10:E0
SIZE          FF
DECAY         C0
MOD DEPTH     10
MOD FREQ      FF
WIDTH         FF

T>120
1 E-3
---
---
---
---
---
---
G
SCPIT
M
X
```

The effect settings view is accessible under the mixer view **[SHIFT]+[DOWN]**.

The M8 has 3 send effects that are utilized by the instrument settings “CHO”, “DEL” “REV”, as well as on audio and USB input configured in the mixer view.

Chorus

Stereo width effect with subtle modulation. Created by using a stereo delay buffer while smoothly modulating the read position between the left and right channels.

Not recommended for bass heavy sounds.

- **MOD DEPTH** - The amount of modulation that occurs in the stereo signal.
- **MOD FREQ** - The speed of the modulation.
- **WIDTH** - Stereo width. “00” is mono, “FF” is stereo.
- **REVERB SEND** - Adjusts the amount to send to the reverb effect.

Delay

Ping-pong delay where the incoming audio bounces between left and right channels.

- **FILTER HP:LP** - high-pass and low-pass filter removing undesired frequencies.
- **TIME L:R** - Delay time for left and right channels. First digit is in beats, second digit is in fractions of a beat. Ex: “40” is 4 beats long.
- **FEEDBACK** - Adjusts the amount that the signal is fed back into itself.
- **WIDTH** - Stereo width. “00” is mono, “FF” is stereo.
- **REVERB SEND** - Adjusts the amount to send to the reverb effect.

Reverb

Simple reverb with subtle modulation similar to the chorus. Particular attention has been given to this model to prevent metallic / ringing feedback.

- **FILTER HP:LP** - high-pass and low-pass filter removing undesired frequencies.
- **SIZE** - The size of the room.
- **DECAY** - Amount to decay the signal over time.
- **MOD DEPTH** - The amount of modulation that occurs in the stereo signal.
- **MOD FREQ** - The speed of the modulation.
- **WIDTH** - Stereo width. "00" is mono, "FF" is stereo.

Effect Settings View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.

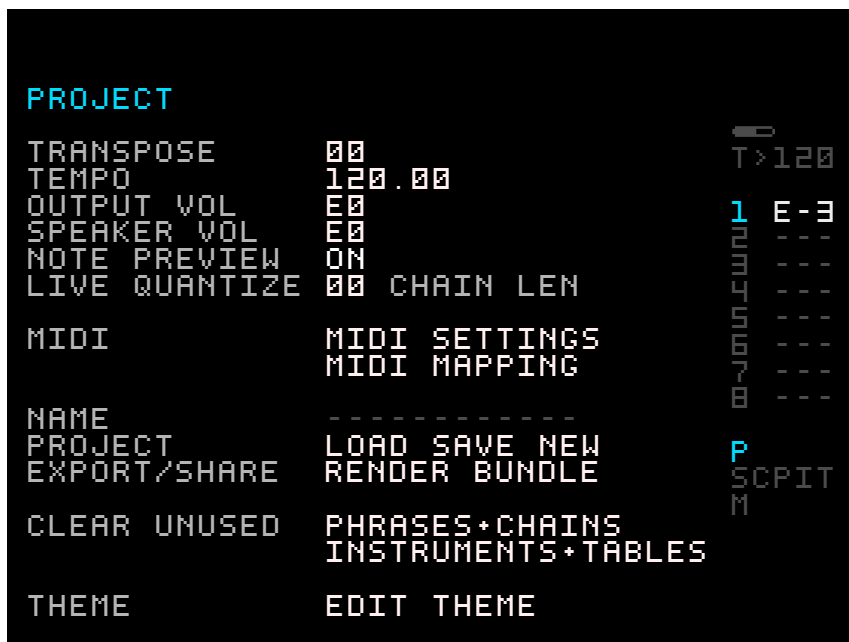
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Starts/stops all tracks.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Starts/stops all tracks.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Set selected parameter to its default value.

Project View



The project view contains settings relevant to the song as a whole. Saving, loading, and exporting can be found here as well as display color and brightness settings.

- **TRANPOSE** - Globally transpose the song in semitones. The transposition only affects instruments that have “TRANSP.” enabled. The transposition occurs when the edit key is released, which is useful for live performance.
- **TEMPO** - Set the song tempo in beats per minute (BPM).
- **OUTPUT VOL** - Main output volume control.
- **SPEAKER VOL** - Built-in speakers volume control.
- **NOTE PREVIEW** - Enable note preview when editing notes in phrase view.
- **LIVE QUANTIZE** - Set the cue-waiting behavior when playing a chain in live mode.
- **MIDI SETTINGS** - See the section on [MIDI Settings View](#).
- **MIDI MAPPINGS** - See the section on [MIDI Mappings View](#).
- **NAME** - Enter a name for the current song for saving.
- **LOAD, SAVE, NEW** - Load, save, or create a new song.
- **RENDER** - See the section on [Render View](#).
- **BUNDLE** - See the next page on [Bundles](#).
- **CLEAR UNUSED** - Frees/clears unused chains, phrases, instruments and tables not used in the song.
- **THEME** - See the section on [Theme View](#).

About Project Files

Project files contain all song data including chains, phrases, instruments, as well as MIDI mappings and settings configurations. Output volume, speaker volume, and theme colors are stored internally on the M8. Samples are not stored in the project file. Moving or deleting samples will result in samples failing to load with the song.

Bundles

Since samples are not stored inside the project file, you may want to share your work or archive a song before moving samples around on the SD card. Bundling a song handles this. It creates a sub-folder in the “/Bundles” directory that contains the project file, samples, and instruments.

Project View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.

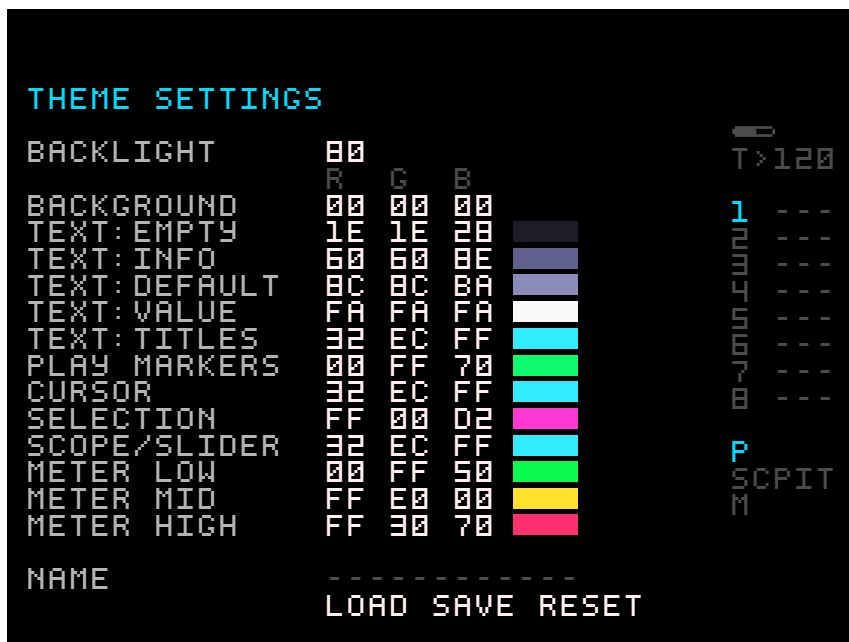
Playing

- **[PLAY]** Plays/stops all tracks.
- **[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Plays/stops all tracks.
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]** Mute current track (release option first to hold the mute).
- **[OPTION]+[PLAY]** Solo current track (release option first to hold the solo).
- **[OPTION]+[SHIFT]+[PLAY]** Clears all mute and solos.

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Set selected parameter to its default value.

Theme View



The theme view is accessible from the [project view](#). Adjust brightness and interface colors, load presets, and save preset themes for sharing.

Brightness affects battery life as it physically changes the brightness of the backlight LEDs on the display. The recommended default setting is 80 which is still bright in modest settings while still remaining usable.

Adjust the colors of each property in real time to understand what each value controls. The values are in RGB for convenience however the display uses colors in 16-bit (565) and thus not a true 24-bit display, so minor adjustments may not produce any change.

The M8 firmware has a handful of default themes which are also located on the SD card. Try out a few by selecting “LOAD” at the bottom of the screen.

Theme View Shortcuts

Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor
- **[OPTION]** Exits view

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Set selected parameter to its default value.

MIDI Settings View

```
MIDI SETTINGS
RECEIVE SYNC      OFF
RECEIVE TRANSPORT ON
SEND SYNC         OFF
SEND TRANSPORT    ON
REC. NOTE CHAN    09
REC. VELOCITY     OFF
REC. DELAY/KILL   OFF
CONTROL MAP CHAN  10
SONG ROW CUE CHAN 11

TRACK MIDI INPUT
CHAN.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8
INST#  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
PG CHANGE ON      LEGATO MODE ON

SAVE DEFAULTS    LOAD DEFAULTS
```

The MIDI settings view is accessible from the [project view](#). Edit the MIDI settings for sync input and output, transport control (play, stop, continue), MIDI note recording options, and MIDI channel assignments. All parameters in this page are stored within the song. Save or load the default configuration used when creating a new song.

MIDI Settings

- **RECEIVE SYNC** - Enable the song to be synced from an external MIDI clock.
- **RECEIVE TRANSPORT** - Enable song start/stop controlled from MIDI transport messages. “PATTERN” will start the song where you last played the song from. “SONG” will respond to “MIDI song position pointer” messages.
- **SEND SYNC** - Enable sending MIDI clock messages.
- **SEND TRANSPORT** - Enable sending song start and stop messages. “PATTERN” will only send the start and stop messages where as “SONG” will also send a song position pointer message.
- **RECORD NOTE CHANNEL** - MIDI channel for recording incoming MIDI notes. See next section under [Recording MIDI Notes](#).
- **RECORD VELOCITY** - Enables recording note velocity when recording MIDI notes.
- **RECORD DELAY/KILL** - Record delay (“DEL”) and kill/note off (“KIL”) FX commands when recording incoming MIDI notes into a phrase.
- **CONTROL MAP CHANNEL** - MIDI channel for incoming MIDI CCs for [MIDI Mapping](#). Refer to MIDI Mappings View.
- **SONG ROW CUE CHANNEL** - MIDI channel for incoming MIDI notes for cueing song rows.

Recording MIDI Notes

Inserting and recording MIDI notes from an external controller can be accomplished by selecting the correct “REC. NOTE CHAN” channel for your controller and highlighting a note column in the phrase view. While the song is playing, notes will be inserted based on the time they were played. Notes and instruments can be previewed when the cursor is outside the note column.

Track MIDI Input

The M8 can act like a sound module, where each of the 8 tracks can be independently controlled by an external sequencer or controller. Changing the instrument can be accomplished by sending a MIDI program change message from the external controller or selecting the instrument number in the MIDI Settings view under the appropriate track number.

- **CHAN** - MIDI channel selection for the given track.
- **INST#** - Instrument number to be used for the given track.
- **PG CHANGE** - Enable instrument selection via MIDI Program change messages.
- **LEGATO MODE** - Enable legato mode, overlapping notes will not cause the instrument to retrigger.

MIDI Settings View Shortcuts

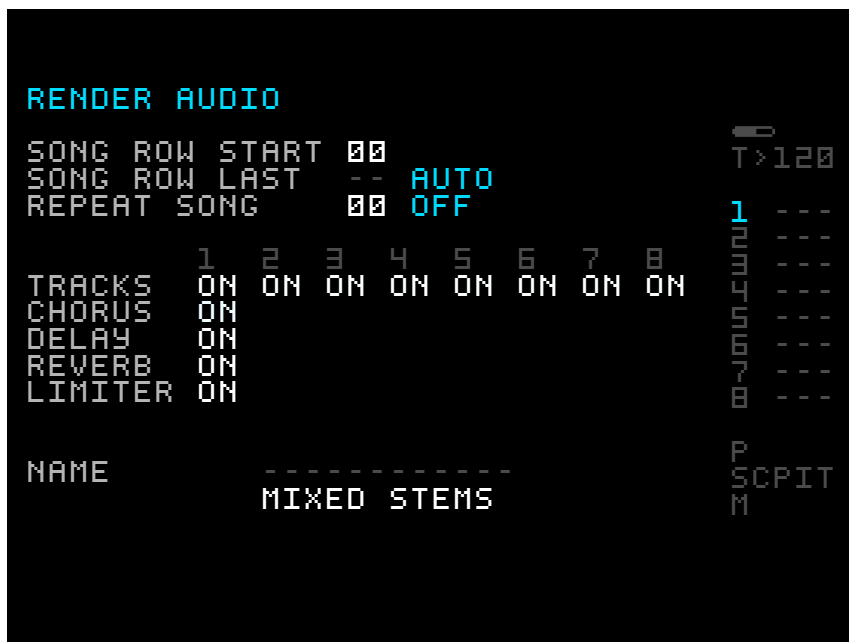
Navigating

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor.
- **[OPTION]** Exits view.

Editing

- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps.
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Delete a mapping.

Render View



The render view is accessible from the [project view](#). Rendering allows you to export sections, tracks (“STEMS”), or the entire song (“MIXED”) as a 16-bit 44.1kHz stereo wav file located in “/Renders”.

- **SONG ROW START** - The first song row to start rendering from.
- **SONG ROW LAST** - The last song row that will be rendered.
- **REPEAT SONG** - Repeat the song a given number of times.
- **TRACKS** - Selectively choose which tracks to render.
- **CHORUS** - Enable the chorus send effect in the render.
- **DELAY** - Enable the delay send effect in the render.
- **REVERB** - Enable the reverb send effect in the render.
- **LIMITER** - Enable the limiter effect in the render.
- **NAME** - Choose a name for the rendering.
- **MIXED STEMS** - “MIXED” creates one wav file with all tracks mixed together whereas “STEMS” creates a file for each enabled track that has chains within the selected range.

MIDI Settings View Shortcuts

- **[DIRECTION]** Move cursor
- **[OPTION]** Exits view
- **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** Edits the selected value incrementing by large steps
- **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** Edits the selected value incrementing by small steps.
- **[EDIT]+[OPTION]** Delete a mapping.

Effect Command Help View

```
EFFECT COMMAND SELECT/HELP
ARPEGGIO: PLAYS FAST TICK-RATE ARP.
1ST DIGIT: 2ND NOTE.
2ND DIGIT: 3RD NOTE.

SEQUENCER COMMANDS
ARP CHA DEL GRV HOP KIL RAN RET REP
NTH PSL PVB PVX SED TBL THO TIC TPO

MIXER/FX COMMANDS
VMV XCM XCF XCW XCR XDT XDF XDW XDR
XRS XRD XRM XRF XRW XRZ VCH VDE VRE
VT1 VT2 VT3 VT4 VT5 VT6 VT7 VT8 DJF

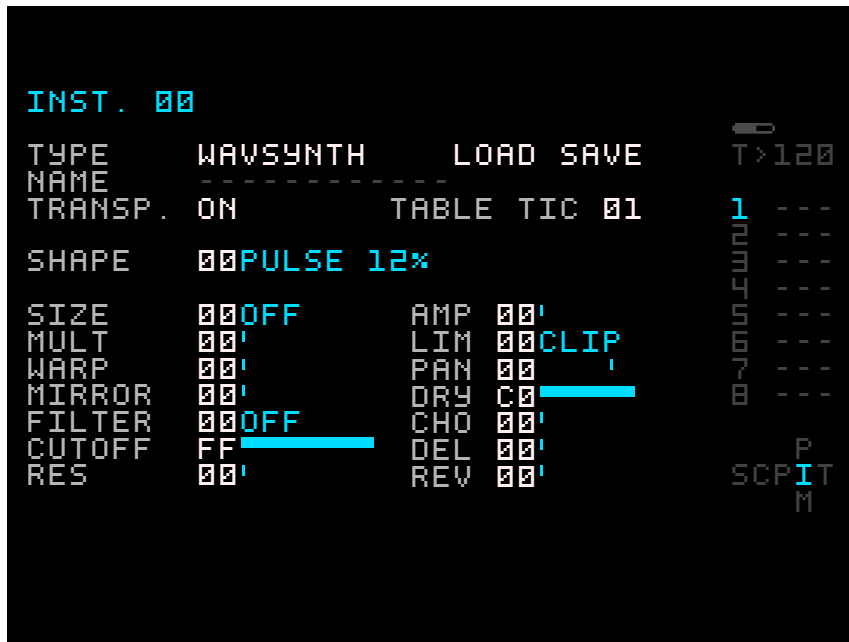
CURRENT INSTRUMENT COMMANDS
VOL PIT FIN PLY STA LOP LEN DEG FLT
CUT RES AMP LIM PAN DRY SCH SDL SRV
EV1 AT1 HO1 DE1 ET1 EV2 AT2 HO2 DE2
ET2 LFO LFO LFT
```

The effect command help view can be accessed by holding down **[EDIT]** and pressing **[UP or DOWN]** on any FX command column on the [phrase](#) or [table](#) view.

The view allows you to select an FX command by using any **[DIRECTION]** key. A small description of the highlighted effect is displayed at the top. Insert the selected command by releasing the **[EDIT]** key.

Instruments

Wavsynth



Wavsynth is a wave table synthesizer and noise generator. The wave table is an 8-bit sample buffer that is generated in realtime from one of 9 basic shapes that can be repeated, skewed/biased, mirrored, filtered and overdriven.

Wavsynth Parameters

- **SHAPE** - This selects from several standard shapes:
 - **PULSE 12% TO 75%** - 4 Pulse width options. For pulse width modulation (PWM) set the shape to “PULSE 50%” and adjust the “MIRROR” parameter. Smoothness of the PWM is determined by the “SIZE” parameter.
 - **SAW** - Saw wave.
 - **TRIANGLE** - Triangle wave.
 - **SINE** - Sine wave.
 - **NOISE PITCHED** - Classic LFSR Noise with an in-tune tonal pitch.
 - **NOISE** - Classic LFSR noise.
 - **OVERFLOW** - Waveforms that explore the remnants of what exists when you go off the grid.
- **SIZE** - Horizontal size of the waveform (number of samples).
- **MULT** - Multiplies the waveform by adding more and more repeats of the selected shape. This can sound like a “hard sync” effect.

Wavsynth Parameters (Continued)

- **WARP** - Push the shape to one side of the wave table.
- **MIRROR** - Mirrors the waveform at the specified position, the value range is from 0 to 200%. Note this will do nothing on triangle waveforms since the triangle is a mirror reflection at center.

Multi-mode Filter Parameters

- **FILTER** - Filter type - Lowpass, Highpass, Bandpass, and Bandstop. Note Wavsynth has 4 extra modes which apply the filter into the waveform: “WAV LP” - Lowpass, “WAV HP” - Highpass, “WAV BP” - Bandpass, and “WAV BS” Bandstop.
- **CUTOFF** - Filter cutoff frequency.
- **RES** - Filter resonance amount.

Amplification Parameters

- **AMP** - Amplifies the waveform. Any value higher than the maximum level allowed is handled according to the “LIM” setting.
- **LIM** - Set the limit / clipping behavior of the amplified signal.
 - **CLIP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is clipped.
 - **SIN** - The waveform is fed through a sine function.
 - **FOLD** - Any value higher than the maximum level is folded back into itself.
 - **WRAP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is vertically wrapped.
 - **POST** - The amplification is applied with soft-clipping after the filter stage.

Mixer Parameters

- **DRY** - Dry volume sent to the mixer channel.
- **CHO** - Chorus send effect volume.
- **DEL** - Delay send effect volume.
- **REV** - Reverb send effect volume.

Macrosynth

```
INST. 00
TYPE      MACROSYN      LOAD SAVE  T>120
NAME      -----
TRANSP.   ON           TABLE TIC 01  1 ---
SHAPE     00CSAW
TIMBRE    00          AMP  00'
COLOR     00          LIM  00CLIP
DEGRADE   00'        PAN  00'
REDUX     00'        DRY  C0
FILTER    00OFF      CHO  00'
CUTOFF    FF          DEL  00'
RES       00'        REV  00'
                                SCPIT
                                M
```

The Macrosynth contains 44 different models or “SHAPES”. From basic analog to 2-op FM, physical modeling, and percussive sounds. The two parameters “TIMBRE” and “COLOR” control the overall characteristics and change depending on the shape selected. Refer to the [Macrosynth Models](#) section in the appendix for details.

Macrosynth Parameters

- **SHAPE** - Select one of the 44 different engines. Refer to the [Macrosynth Models](#) section in the appendix for details.
- **TIMBRE** - First parameter of the Macrosynth shape.
- **COLOR** - Second parameter of the Macrosynth shape.
- **DEGRADE** - Sample rate reduction effect.
- **REDUX** - Bit rate reduction effect.

Multi-mode Filter Parameters

- **FILTER** - Filter type - Lowpass, Highpass, Bandpass, and Bandstop.
- **CUTOFF** - Filter cutoff frequency.
- **RES** - Filter resonance amount.

Amplification Parameters

- **AMP** - Amplifies the waveform. Any value higher than the maximum level allowed is handled according to the “LIM” setting.

Amplification Parameters (Continued)

- **LIM** - Set the limit / clipping behavior of the amplified signal.
 - **CLIP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is clipped.
 - **SIN** - The waveform is fed through a sine function.
 - **FOLD** - Any value higher than the maximum level is folded back into itself.
 - **WRAP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is vertically wrapped.
 - **POST** - The amplification is applied with soft-clipping after the filter stage.

Mixer Parameters

- **DRY** - Dry volume sent to the mixer channel.
- **CHO** - Chorus send effect volume.
- **DEL** - Delay send effect volume.
- **REV** - Reverb send effect volume.

Sampler

```
INST. 00
TYPE      SAMPLER      LOAD SAVE  T>120
NAME      -----
TRANSP.   ON          TABLE TIC 01    1 ---
SAMPLE    TEST-SAMPL-TACOS EDIT
SLICE     00OFF       AMP 00'
PLAY      00FWD-PP   LIM 00CLIP
START     00'
LOOP ST   00'
LENGTH   FF
DETUNE   00'
DEGRADE  00'
FILTER   00LOWPASS
CUTOFF   FF
RES      00'
AMP      00'
LIM      00CLIP
PAN      00'
DRY      00
CHO      00'
DEL      00'
REV      00'
SCP      I T
M
```

Sampler is a sample player, editor and recorder. Only 1 or 2 channel (stereo) PCM 8, 16, or 24-bit “.wav” files are supported. When a sample is not present, to the right of “SAMPLE” press **[EDIT]** on “LOAD” to browse for a sample to load, or “REC.” to record a new sample. See the next section on the [Sample Editor](#) for sampling and editing files.

Samples are streamed from SD. To prevent issues with playback there is an upper-pitch limitation enforced based on bit-depth and mono/stereo samples. You can reduce this limitation by either converting to mono, dropping the bit depth, or downsampling via the [Sample Editor](#).

Sampler Parameters

- **SLICE** - “slices” the sample into equal length sections and maps each slice starting from the lowest octave (C-1). Ex: “02” would map C-1 to the first half of the sample and C#1 to the second.
- **PLAY** - Sets the play direction and loop mode.
 - **FWD** - Forward playback with no loop.
 - **REV** - Reverse playback with no loop.
 - **FWDLOOP** - Looping forward playback.
 - **REVLOOP** - Looping reverse playback.
 - **FWD PP** - Ping-pong looping forward - Plays forward and reverse back and forth.
 - **REV PP** - Ping-pong looping reverse - Plays reverse and forward back and forth.
 - **OSC** - Oscillator forward mode - “Oscillator” modes ignore start position and do not start from the beginning when retriggered.

Sampler Parameters (Continued)

- **OSC REV** - Oscillator reverse mode.
- **OSC PP** - Oscillator ping-pong mode.
- **START** - Sample start position. This parameter is ignored when in “OSC” play modes.
- **LOOP ST.** - Loop start position. When in a looping play mode, sample will loop back to this position after it reaches the end.
- **LEN** - Sample length.
- **DETUNE** - Detune sample with “80” being the center frequency. First digit increments semitones, second increments 1/16 semitone.
- **DEGRADE** - Sample rate reduction effect. Any value above “00” disables sample interpolation.

Multi-mode Filter Parameters

- **FILTER** - Filter type - Lowpass, Highpass, Bandpass, and Bandstop.
- **CUTOFF** - Filter cutoff frequency.
- **RES** - Filter resonance amount.

Amplification Parameters

- **AMP** - Amplifies the waveform. Any value higher than the maximum level allowed is handled according to the “LIM” setting.
- **LIM** - Set the limit / clipping behavior of the amplified signal.
 - **CLIP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is clipped.
 - **SIN** - The waveform is fed through a sine function.
 - **FOLD** - Any value higher than the maximum level is folded back into itself.
 - **WRAP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is vertically wrapped.
 - **POST** - The amplification is applied with soft-clipping after the filter stage.

Mixer Parameters

- **DRY** - Dry volume sent to the mixer channel.
- **CHO** - Chorus send effect volume.
- **DEL** - Delay send effect volume.
- **REV** - Reverb send effect volume.

Sample Editor



The sample editor can be accessed in the Instrument View by selecting “SAMPLER” as the instrument type and pressing **[EDIT]** on “REC.” (or “EDIT” if there is a sample loaded). Exit the sample editor view by pressing **[OPTION]**.

Recording Audio

Recording can be performed by pressing **[EDIT]** on one of the 3 recording modes: “START”, “ARM”, or “SONG ROW”. Once you have finished recording you can process the sample and give it a name. Save the sample before exiting this view.

- **START** - Starts recording audio immediately. Adjust the volume with the value below.
- **ARM** - Starts recording when the input volume reaches above the given threshold.
- **SONG ROW** - Will start playing the song (without any samples) at the song row position indicated below. This is useful for recording external music gear that is being controlled from a [MIDI Out Instrument](#).

Sample Editor Actions

- **SELECT** - Selects a start and end range using the two values provided. Using **[EDIT]+[UP or DOWN]** in large increments with **[EDIT]+[LEFT or RIGHT]** displaying a zoomed in view for small increments.

Sample Editor Actions (Continued)

- **PROCESS** - With the selected range: **TRIM** the waveform or **NORMALIZE** to adjust overall volume to its maximum without clipping.
- **CONVERT** - **MONO** mixes stereo sample to a single channel, **16BIT / 8BIT** reduces the bit rate, **DOWNSAMPLE** halves the current sample rate of the sample.
- **NAME** - Give the sample a name before saving.
- **SAVE / OVERWRITE** - Save or overwrite the current sample.

FM Synth

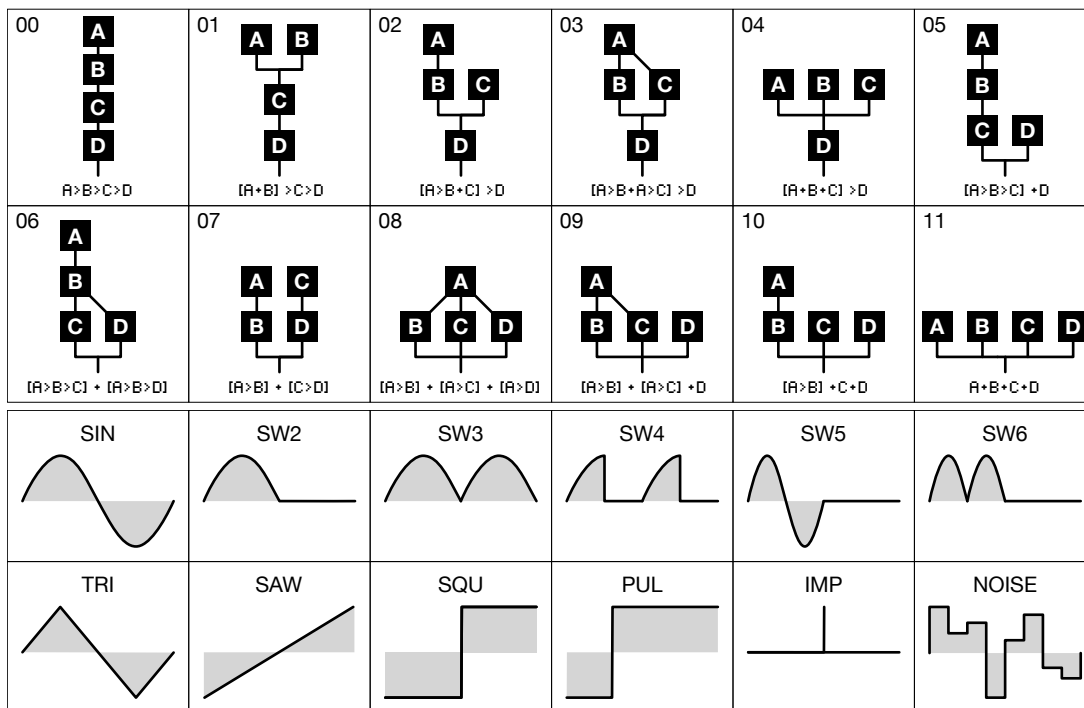
```
INST. 00
TYPE      FMSYNTH      LOAD SAVE      T>120
NAME
TRANSP.   ON           TABLE TIC 01      1 ---
ALGO      00A>B>C>D
          A SIN B SIN C SIN D SIN
RATIO     01.00 02.00 01.01 01.00
LEV/FB    00/00 00/00 00/00 00/00
MOD       1>LEV        2>PIT
MOD1      FF          AMP 00'
MOD2      00'         LIM 00CLIP
MOD3      00'         PAN 00
MOD4      00'         DRY 00
FILTER    00LOWPASS  CHO 00'
CUT       FF          DEL 00'
RES       00'         REV 00'
```

FM Synth is a uniquely simple four operator 12 algorithm FM (frequency modulation) synthesizer. Each of the four operators can have one of 12 base shapes with ratio, level, feedback, and two modulation slots for assigning one of the four modulation macros to control the parameters.

FM Synth Parameters

- **ALGO** - Select one of 12 algorithm (oscillator routing) configurations. Use the last algorithm to use “additive mode”- 4 oscillator subtractive synth. See the algorithm diagram on the next page.
- **A / B / C / D** - The operator letter with optional shape. See the shapes diagram on the next page.
- **RATIO** - Frequency ratio relative to the currently playing note. Ex: “2.00” will play an octave up, “0.50” will play an octave lower.
- **LEV/FB** - Volume and Feedback for each operator.
- **MOD** - Two modulation slots that assign MOD[1 to 4] to control a destination on the given operator.
 - **LEV** - Controls the level from “00” to the currently set level.
 - **RAT** - Adds 0.00 to +16.00 to the current ratio.
 - **PIT** - Adds to the note pitch in semitones for the current operator.
 - **FBK** - Controls the feedback from “00” to the currently set feedback.
- **MOD[1-4]** - The modulation source values that are freely assigned to the operators via the “MOD” slots described above.

FM Synth Algorithms and Shapes



Multi-mode Filter Parameters

- **FILTER** - Filter type - Lowpass, Highpass, Bandpass, and Bandstop.
- **CUTOFF** - Filter cutoff frequency.
- **RES** - Filter resonance amount.

Amplification Parameters

- **AMP** - Amplifies the waveform. Any value higher than the maximum level allowed is handled according to the “LIM” setting.
- **LIM** - Set the limit / clipping behavior of the amplified signal.
 - **CLIP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is clipped.
 - **SIN** - The waveform is fed through a sine function.
 - **FOLD** - Any value higher than the maximum level is folded back into itself.
 - **WRAP** - Any value higher than the maximum level is vertically wrapped.
 - **POST** - The amplification is applied with soft-clipping after the filter stage.

Mixer Parameters

- **DRY** - Dry volume sent to the mixer channel.
- **CHO** - Chorus send effect volume.
- **DEL** - Delay send effect volume.
- **REV** - Reverb send effect volume.

MIDI Out

```
INST. 00
TYPE      MIDI OUT      LOAD SAVE  T>120
NAME      -----
TRANSP. ON          TABLE TIC 01  1 ---
PORT      00MIDI+USB
CHANNEL   001
BANK:PG   ---
CCA CC:VAL 001:00'
CCB CC:VAL ---
CCC CC:VAL ---
CCD CC:VAL ---
CCE CC:VAL ---
CCF CC:VAL ---
CCG CC:VAL ---
CCH CC:VAL ---
CCI CC:VAL ---
CCJ CC:VAL ---
```

Control external devices with the MIDI Out instrument either by USB MIDI or the built-in TRS (type A) MIDI output.

MIDI Out Parameters

- **PORT** - Set the MIDI Output port: MIDI and USB, MIDI only, or USB only.
- **CHANNEL** - MIDI Channel selection 1 to 16.
- **BANK:PG** - Optional MIDI Bank select and Program change. Program change messages can also be sent as an FX command.
- **CC[A-J] CC:VAL** - Up to 10 custom MIDI CC numbers with optional default values can be assigned per MIDI instrument. If a default value is present, it will be sent with the note on command after program change messages.

USB Features

USB Audio & MIDI

The M8 is USB audio and MIDI compliant. Audio input and output is 16-bit 2 channel stereo only. It can work with any host computer including iOS and Android devices as long as the power provided via USB is sufficient (500mA USB standard).

USB Audio into the M8 can be monitored in the [Mixer view](#) by adjusting the volumes under “USB”. It can also be recorded and saved in the [Sample Editor view](#).

USB MIDI behaves the same way as the physical TRS MIDI connections allowing sync, remote control, and sequencing. See [MIDI Settings](#) and the [MIDI OUT Instrument](#) views.

Remote Host Display

It is possible to stream the M8 display directly to a remote host computer via USB for screen capturing and editing with the comfort of a large display. Please see the full list of suggested host programs at <https://dirtywave.com/support>.

Appendix

Troubleshooting

The M8 will not turn on

Plug into a standard USB charger or host computer using the cable provided. Ensure the plug is capable of providing sufficient power. If the unit is still non-responsive contact support@dirtywave.com.

The M8 is non-responsive after updating the firmware

Make sure to not use a USB hub when flashing the M8 firmware. Some hubs under certain conditions cannot reliably transfer the firmware without issue.

1. Gently insert a SIM card removal tool (or bent paper-clip, etc) into the center hole located on the bottom of the M8 about an inch below the serial number. You should feel a click as the reset button located inside actuates.
2. Press the power button for 2 seconds to ensure unit is powered on and hold down the reset button for approximately 15 seconds.
3. Remove the tool and a dim red light should appear though the USB port and audio jacks. After another 10 seconds the red light will turn off. The M8 is now ready for you to retry the firmware update process.

USB Audio and MIDI is not working

Use the micro USB cable provided with the M8 or try another cable. Some cables do not support USB data.

The M8 is not charging or it shuts off when plugged into a host computer

Ensure the USB port provides enough power. The M8 requires USB standard 5V 500mA.

The microSD card is stuck

If the SD card is stuck you may attempt to free the card using a pair of tweezers or loosen the two screws on the left side of the case using a #2 metric hex tool.

Samples are not listed when attempting to load a sample

Ensure that you are in the Sample Load view and not the Instrument Preset view. See the instructions on the [Sampler section](#).

Samples “failed to load”

Check that the following are true:

- Sample is 8,16, or 24 bit and is mono or stereo.
- Sample is “PCM” or “PCM Raw”. Compressed samples do not work.
- The entire path length of the sample is under 128 characters.

The microSD card is not working

If the card you are using is the factory card that came with the M8, try reinserting it. If it still does not work contact support@dirtywave.com. If you are using your own card make sure it is formatted as described in the [section about SD cards](#).

“CPU TOO BUSY” message

The cause of this message is almost certainly caused by the SD card being overworked. Please refer to the [section about SD cards](#).

The start-up sound is annoying

You can edit the start-up sound by opening the “STARTUP” song file in /System. Deleting or moving the file skips the intro entirely.

Key Shortcuts

-  **UP or DOWN or LEFT or RIGHT**
Move cursor position.
-  **SHIFT + [UP or DOWN or LEFT or RIGHT]**
Screen navigation.
-  **EDIT + [LEFT or RIGHT]**
Edit value - Fine.
-  **EDIT + [UP or DOWN]**
Edit value - Coarse. On command column - displays command help / selection screen.
-  **EDIT + OPTION**
Clears or cuts value to default setting. On file browser - delete selected file prompt.
-  **EDIT (double-tap)**
Increments chain, phrase, or instrument to next available empty slot.
-  **EDIT + [Touchscreen LEFT/RIGHT]**
On instrument screen edit currently selected parameter.
-  **PLAY**
On song screen - play song at cursor position. On chain and phrase - play chain or phrase.
On instrument and sample file browser - preview selected file.
-  **LEFT + PLAY**
While playing song on the song screen, cues selected row for playback.
-  **SHIFT + PLAY**
Play song from current song position.
-  **SHIFT + OPTION**
Toggles selection mode. On Instrument screen - copies current instrument. On file browser - sort current directory.
-  **SHIFT + [OPTION, then EDIT]**
Clones a chain, phrase, or instrument to a new slot.
-  **SHIFT + [OPTION, then double tap EDIT]**
On song screen - clones a chain and all phrases within the chain to new slots.
-  **OPTION**
While in selection mode - copy the current selection. (see **SHIFT + OPTION**)
-  **SHIFT + EDIT**
Paste copy buffer. While in selection mode on phrase and table - interpolate values in selection.
-  **OPTION + SHIFT**
Mute current track. (Release option button first to hold mute)
-  **OPTION + PLAY**
Solo current track. (Release option button first to hold solo)
-  **OPTION + SHIFT + PLAY**
Clear all mutes and solos
-  **OPTION + [LEFT or RIGHT]**
On song screen - solo all tracks to the left or right of cursor. On chain and phrase - jump to the track left or right of selected track. On instrument, table, and groove - increment current view by +/- 1.
-  **OPTION + [UP or DOWN]**
On song screen - Jump 16 rows up or down. On Chain and phrase - navigate to previous or next phrase or chain in song.
-  **OPTION + [Touchscreen LEFT/RIGHT or Touchscreen UP/DOWN]**
On instrument or mixer screen - Maps touchscreen axis to selected parameter. Refer to the "MIDI MAPPING" configuration accessible via project screen.
-  **OPTION + [MIDI Input CC]**
On instrument or mixer screen - Maps MIDI input to selected parameter. Refer to the "MIDI MAPPING" configuration accessible via project screen.

Relative and Absolute FX Commands

Relative commands relate to the current value of an instrument parameter. For example, if your instrument parameter is “10”, and you use an FX command value of “10”, that parameter’s value becomes “20”. If you use the same FX command with a value of “10” again, that parameter’s value will now be “30”.

Relative commands stay relative until a note is triggered either with a RET command or with an instrument number present in the “I” column. At which point all parameters are reset to the instrument’s assigned values.

Relative FX commands between “01” to “7F” will add to the value, while values between “FF” to “80” will subtract. Ex: If the instrument parameter has a value of “10”, and an FX command for that parameter is set to “FF”, the parameter will now be “09”.

The point of relative values is to be able to finely adjust the current value a given parameter is currently set to, whatever that may be. It allows for smoother, less step-wise results.

If the FX command is absolute, then assigning a value of “10” will set that parameter value to “10” no matter its value in instrument settings.

Sequencer FX Commands

ARP XY (Arpeggio)

Produces a rapid 3 note arpeggio. The currently playing note is the base note with X representing the first note interval in semitones, and Y as the second. Ex: “ARP37” on note C-4 plays C-4, D#4 (+3), and G-4 (+7).

CHA XY (Chance)

In a phrase: Individually set the probability to the left (X) or right (Y) side of the command. The value range is from 0 (never) to F (always). Ex: “CHA1F” will give the note a ~10% chance of triggering, and all other FX commands 100%.

In a table: Set the probability for everything to the left that “CHA” is on from 00 (never) to FF (always).

DEL XX (Delay)

Delays the entire row the command is on by a given number of ticks (XX). “DEL” in table has no effect.

Sequencer FX Commands (Continued)

GRV XX (Groove)

Sets the [groove number](#) (XX) for the current track. “GRV” is held until a new groove command is triggered.

HOP XY

In phrase: Jumps the play position to row Y on the next phrase in the song.
In table: Jumps the play position to row Y for X number of times.

KIL XX (Kill Note)

Stops the currently playing instrument after a given number of ticks (XX).

RAN XY (Random)

Randomizes the previously active FX command in a phrase/table. Independently control the range’s left (X) and right (Y) values from 0 (no randomness) to F (full range).

RET XY (Retrig)

Retrigger the current row with volume ramping at a given number of ticks. If Y is not zero, Y sets the number of ticks to retrigger while X changes the volume. An X value of 0 to 7 decreases and 8 to F increases the volume on each retrigger. If Y is zero, RET is in single retrigger mode where X sets the number of ticks to wait.

REP XX (Repeat)

Repeat the last FX command, incrementing by a given amount per step (XX). REP will continue to be active until a new command stops it. It does not need to be present on every successive row. On new instrument triggers, the value will maintain it’s position and continue to repeat. This is tremendously useful for automation where you may want to have the parameter ramp up or down slowly through a number of phrases. Ex: “CUT00” (filter cutoff) followed by a “REP04” on the next row will increment the cutoff parameter by 4 every row/step. To stop “REP” either put a new command or “REP00” in the FX column.

NTH XY (Nth trigger)

NTH is a conditional trigger based on loop count. Skips either everything to the left (X) or right (Y) side of the FX command in phrase, or everything to the left (XX) in table. Skipping is determined by the value and how many times the phrase or table has looped. Refer to the help text at the bottom of the screen when editing the value.

PSL XX (Pitch Slide)

Enables portamento for the currently playing instrument. The value (XX) is in ticks.

Sequencer FX Commands (Continued)

PVB XY (Vibrato)

Apply vibrato to the currently playing instrument. Speed is set by X, and depth by Y.

PVX XY (Extreme Vibrato)

Same as PVB (Vibrato) above with a high and more extreme depth and rate.

SED XX (Random Seed)

Set the random seed (XX) for the current track. This will reset all random values to a specific state.

TBL XX (Table)

Set the table number (XX) for the current instrument.

THO XX (Table Hop)

Hop/jump to a specific table position (OX). This command is identical to HOP when used inside a table.

TIC XX (Table Tick)

Set the table tick rate for the current instrument. In a table this allows each FX command column to run at independent rates. You can also place this command on the last table row. Refer to the section on [Table View](#) for information on the tick value.

TPO XX (Tempo)

Set the song tempo in BPM. Refer to the help text at the bottom of the screen to translate the hex value to decimal.

Mixer & Effects Commands

VMV XX (Main Volume)

Set the main song volume. Changes the value located in the Mixer view.

XCM XX (Send Effect: Chorus Mod Depth)

Set the chorus mod depth. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XCF XX (Send Effect: Chorus Mod Frequency)

Sets the chorus mod frequency. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XCW XX (Send Effect: Chorus Stereo Width)

Sets the chorus stereo width. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XCR XX (Send Effect: Chorus to Reverb Mix)

Sets the chorus reverb send amount. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XDT XY (Send Effect: Delay Time)

Sets the left (X) and right (Y) delay times in large increments. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XDF XX (Send Effect: Delay Feedback)

Sets the delay feedback amount. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XDW XX (Send Effect: Delay Stereo Width)

Sets the delay stereo width. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XDR XX (Send Effect: Delay to Reverb Mix)

Sets the delay reverb send amount. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRS XX (Send Effect: Reverb Room Size)

Sets the reverb room size. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRD XX (Send Effect: Reverb Decay)

Sets the reverb decay. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRM XX (Send Effect: Reverb Mod Depth)

Sets the reverb mod depth. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRF XX (Send Effect: Reverb Mod Frequency)

Sets the reverb mod frequency. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRW XX (Send Effect: Reverb Stereo Width)

Sets the reverb stereo width. Changes the value located in the Send Effects settings view.

XRZ XX (Send Effect: Reverb Freeze)

Freezes the reverb. Freeze is enabled with a value greater than “00”, otherwise it is disabled.

VCH XX (Chorus Volume)

Sets the chorus volume. Changes the value located in the Mixer view.

VDE XX (Delay Volume)

Sets the delay volume. Changes the value located in the Mixer view.

VRE XX (Reverb Volume)

Sets the reverb volume. Changes the value located in the Mixer view.

VT[1-8] XX (Track [1-8] Volume)

Sets the track volume. Changes the value located in the Mixer view.

DJF XX (DJ Filter Frequency)

Sets the DJ Filter cutoff. “80” is disabled. Lower than 80 is a lowpass filter. Above 80 is a highpass filter.

Instrument FX Commands

Almost all parameters for a given instrument type have an FX command associated to it. Check the [FX command help view](#) with the desired instrument in use to see the full list. Note that highlighting an instrument parameter in the instrument view and navigating back to the phrase or table will set the default FX command to the selected parameter.

Below is a list of common FX commands for instruments.

VOL XX (Volume)

Offset the instrument volume.

PIT XX (Pitch)

Offset the note pitch in semitones.

FIN XX (Fine tune)

Offset the note pitch from -1 to +1 semitones.

EA[1-2] XX (Envelope Amount)

Offset the Envelope amount.

AT[1-2] XX (Envelope Attack)

Offset the Envelope attack time.

HO[1-2] XX (Envelope Hold)

Offset the Envelope hold time.

DE[1-2] XX (Envelope Decay)

Offset the Envelope decay time.

ET[1-2] XX (Envelope Retrigger)

Retrigger the Envelope. Any value (XX) greater than “00” will retrigger the envelope.

LA[1-2] XX (LFO Trigger)

Offset the LFO amount.

LF[1-2] XX (LFO Frequency)

Offset the LFO frequency.

LT[1-2] XX (LFO Retrigger)

Retrigger the LFO. The value (XX) sets the desired phase offset (start position) of the LFO.

Macrosynth Models

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CSAW

This model is inspired by a quirk/defect of the Yamaha CS80 sawtooth wave shape, consisting of a fixed-width “notch” after the raising edge. The width of the notch can be controlled by **TIMBRE**; and its depth and polarity can be controlled by **COLOR** - producing phasing effects.

MORPH

This model produces the classic waveform trajectory from triangle to sawtooth to square to pulse found in synthesizers such as the RSF Kobol or the Moog Voyager. **TIMBRE** sweeps through the waveforms. **COLOR** morphs from several tonal characters by increasingly removing the high-frequencies with a 1-pole filter, and recreating them with a waveshaper.

SAW SQUARE

This model blends a sawtooth wave with dephasing control, with a square wave with PWM. **TIMBRE** controls the dephasing amount or pulse width, and **COLOR** morphs the waveshape from sawtooth to square.

SINE TRIANGLE

This model is built with sine and triangle oscillators sent into a wavefolder. **TIMBRE** controls the wavefolder strength, and **COLOR** controls the balance between the sine and triangle signals sent to it.

BUZZ

This digital synthesis algorithm generates a smooth sequence of waveforms, transitioning from a sine wave to a Dirac comb, as controlled by **TIMBRE**. The intermediary steps are reminiscent of a single formant. Two such waveshapes are blended together, with the detuning amount controlled by **COLOR**.

SQUARE SUB / SAW SUB

A single square or saw wave oscillator with width modulation controlled by **TIMBRE** and a sub oscillator that can be -1 or -2 octaves below the primary oscillator controlled by **COLOR**.

SQUARE SYNC / SAW SYNC

Two oscillator hard-sync with both oscillators emitting square or saw waves. Note pitch controls the main frequency, with **TIMBRE** controlling the synced frequency. The mix is controlled by **COLOR**.

TRIPLE (SAW, SQUARE, TRIANGLE, and SIN)

Three sawtooth (or square, triangle, sine) oscillators which can be individually tuned. **COLOR** and **TIMBRE** control the relative frequency of the second and third oscillator with respect to the main oscillator. These two controls are quantized to “snap” on musical intervals like octaves or fifths.

TRIPLE RING

Three sine wave oscillators are ring-modulated together, and colored by a waveshaper. The main oscillator frequency controls the frequency of the first sine wave, and **TIMBRE** and **COLOR** control the relative frequency of the second and third sine waves.

SAW SWARM

This model simulates a swarm of 7 sawtooth waves. **TIMBRE** controls their detuning, and **COLOR** applies a high-pass filter to the resulting sound.

SAW COMB

This model generates a sawtooth waveform, and sends it into a comb filter (tuned delay line). The frequency of the delay line tracks the frequency of the sawtooth oscillator, with a transposition controlled by the **TIMBRE** knob. **COLOR** selects the feedback amount and polarity: at 80 no feedback is applied. From 80 to FF, positive feedback is increasingly applied. From 80 to 00, negative feedback is progressively applied.

TOY

This model traverses a space of timbres typical of (circuit-bent) electronic musical toys. **TIMBRE** simulates an alteration of the toy’s clock rate, while **COLOR** creates glitches or short-circuits on a converter or memory chip’s data lines.

DIGITAL FILTER (LP, PK, BP, and HP)

This family of models directly synthesizes in the time-domain the response of a low-pass, peaking, band-pass or high-pass filter excited by classic analog waveforms. Rather than synthesizing the waveform and filtering it (which is what a VA synthesizer would do), this approach directly aims at building the filtered waveshape from scratch. This technique has been used in the Casio CZ or the Roland D series, but is extended here to cover different filter types and waveshapes. **TIMBRE** controls the cutoff frequency of the filter. **COLOR** continuously modifies the waveshape, from saw to square to triangle.

VOSIM

This model uses a combination of 3 oscillators arranged in a clever ring-modulation/hardsync patch to emulate formant synthesis - a technique named VOSIM and described by Kaegi and Tempelaars. **COLOR** and **TIMBRE** control the relative frequencies of the two formants.

VOWEL, VOWEL FOF

Both models synthesize vowel sounds. VOWL is a faithful recreation of early computer speech synthesis programs. VFOF uses a simplified version of Rodet's FOF synthesis technique. Both have the same control layout: **TIMBRE** controls the vowel, morphing between a, e, i, o, u. **COLOR** shifts the formants in frequency. Main oscillator frequency and **COLOR** can be used altogether to simulate age and gender transformations.

HARMONICS

This model uses additive synthesis, by summing 12 sine harmonics. **COLOR** modifies the distribution of the amplitudes of each harmonics, around a central frequency set by **TIMBRE**.

FM, FEEDBACK FM, CHAOTIC FEEDBACK FM

Three flavors of 2-operator phase-modulation synthesis. **TIMBRE** controls the modulation amount. **COLOR** controls the relative frequency interval between modulator and carrier. FM is a well-behaved implementation. FEEDBACK FM uses feedback from the carrier to itself to produce harsher tones. CHAOTIC FEEDBACK FM uses two feedback paths, from carrier to modulator and carrier to itself to achieve droning, unstable tones.

PLUCKED

Raw plucked string synthesis. **TIMBRE** controls the damping, **COLOR** the plucking position.

BOWED

Bowed string modeling. **TIMBRE** controls the friction level, **COLOR** the bowing position. A trigger or gate signal is required. Note that this model does not include a body filter - which would be necessary to simulate an actual string instrument.

BLOWN

Reed instrument model. **TIMBRE** controls the air pressure, **COLOR** the geometry of the instrument. Note that this model does not include a filter - which would have been necessary to simulate an actual instrument.

STRUCK BELL

This model established by Risset uses additive synthesis to recreate the tone of a bell. **TIMBRE** controls the damping of the sound; and **COLOR** the inharmonicity of the sound.

STRUCK DRUM

This variant of the BELL model uses different parameters (partials frequencies and amplitudes) to generate a sound reminiscent of a metallic drum. **TIMBRE** controls the damping and **COLOR** the brightness.

KICK

This model is a simulation of the TR-808 bass drum circuit. **TIMBRE** controls the decay time, while **COLOR** controls the brightness (“tone”) of the sound. The main oscillator frequency controls the tuning of the bridged-T filter.

CYMBAL

Raw material for cymbal sound synthesis, as inspired by the TR-808 circuits. **COLOR** controls the balance between a droning sum of square waves and noise. **TIMBRE** controls the cutoff of a band-pass filter applied on the resulting signal.

SNARE

This model is a simulation of the TR-808 snare drum circuit. **TIMBRE** controls the balance between the two modes of the resonator (“tone”), and **COLOR** controls the amount of noise (“snappy”).

WAVETABLES

Wavetables is a classic implementation of wavetable synthesis. **TIMBRE** sweeps the wavetable, and **COLOR** selects one of the 20 wavetables to play with. The waveforms are interpolated when traveling through a wavetable, but not when switching from one table to another.

WAVE MAP

Wave Map is a two-dimensional implementation of wavetable synthesis. 256 waveforms have been laid out in a 16x16 grid, so that adjacent waveforms are similar sounding. The **TIMBRE** parameter scans the table in the X direction, and the **COLOR** parameter scans the table in the Y direction, with smooth interpolation across the two directions.

WAV LINE

Wav Line allows one dimensional scanning through the entirety of Braids' wavetables. **TIMBRE** moves through the waves, while **COLOR** selects the interpolation method. When **COLOR** is set to 00, no interpolation is applied. When **COLOR** is at 40, interpolation is applied between samples, but not between waves. When **COLOR** is at 80, interpolation is always applied. When **COLOR** goes past 80, interpolation is applied between waves, but the resolution of the playback resolution is decreased.

WAV PARAPHONIC

This mode is a 4-voice variant of WAV LINE. **TIMBRE** morphs through a small selection of 16 waves. **COLOR** selects the harmonic structures between the 4 voices - from a predefined set of chords. When **COLOR** is set to 00, all voices are playing the same note with a variable amount of detuning, creating a thick chorus effect.

FILTERED NOISE

This model filters white noise with a state-variable filter. The main oscillator frequency controls the cutoff frequency of the filter. **TIMBRE** controls the resonance of the filter. **COLOR** performs a crossfade between the low-pass and high-pass outputs of the filter.

TWIN PEAKS NOISE

This "Twin Peaks" model generates white noise and process it with two band-pass filters (resonators). **TIMBRE** controls the Q factor of the filters, and **COLOR** changes their spacing. The frequency of both filters track the main frequency.

CLOCKED NOISE

This model generates random samples at a given rate, determined by the main pitch control. **TIMBRE** controls the periodicity of the generator (up to a 2 samples cycle), and **COLOR** its quantization level (from 2 distinct values to 32 distinct values).

GRANULAR CLOUD / PARTICLE NOISE

These granular synthesis models create natural textures by mixing short grains of windowed sine waves (CLOUD) or short decaying "pings" (PARTICLE). The frequency of the grains is controlled by the main frequency control, but is randomized by an amount proportional to the **COLOR** control. **TIMBRE** controls the density and overlap of the grains.

Common Groove Examples

Here are a few Groove examples to get an idea of the possibilities:

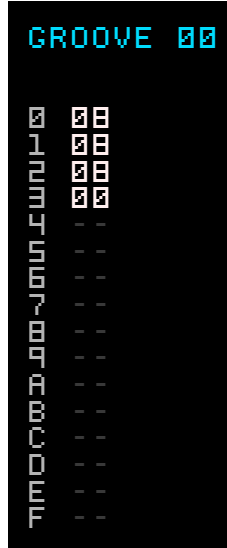
Swing 1



Swing 2



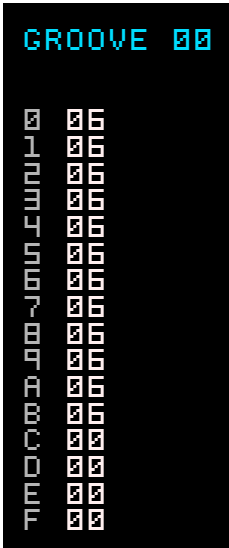
Triplets



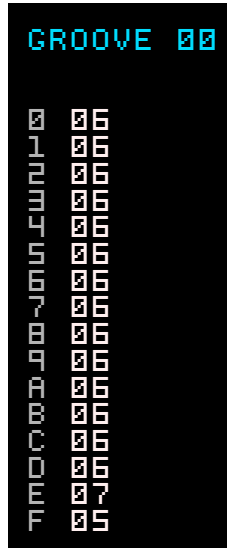
2x Speed



3/4 Time



Swing Last Step



Hexadecimal Table

Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex
0	-	00	16	-	10	32	-	20	48	-	30	64	-	40	80	-	50	96	-	60	112	-	70
1	-	01	17	-	11	33	-	21	49	-	31	65	-	41	81	-	51	97	-	61	113	-	71
2	-	02	18	-	12	34	-	22	50	-	32	66	-	42	82	-	52	98	-	62	114	-	72
3	-	03	19	-	13	35	-	23	51	-	33	67	-	43	83	-	53	99	-	63	115	-	73
4	-	04	20	-	14	36	-	24	52	-	34	68	-	44	84	-	54	100	-	64	116	-	74
5	-	05	21	-	15	37	-	25	53	-	35	69	-	45	85	-	55	101	-	65	117	-	75
6	-	06	22	-	16	38	-	26	54	-	36	70	-	46	86	-	56	102	-	66	118	-	76
7	-	07	23	-	17	39	-	27	55	-	37	71	-	47	87	-	57	103	-	67	119	-	77
8	-	08	24	-	18	40	-	28	56	-	38	72	-	48	88	-	58	104	-	68	120	-	78
9	-	09	25	-	19	41	-	29	57	-	39	73	-	49	89	-	59	105	-	69	121	-	79
10	-	0A	26	-	1A	42	-	2A	58	-	3A	74	-	4A	90	-	5A	106	-	6A	122	-	7A
11	-	0B	27	-	1B	43	-	2B	59	-	3B	75	-	4B	91	-	5B	107	-	6B	123	-	7B
12	-	0C	28	-	1C	44	-	2C	60	-	3C	76	-	4C	92	-	5C	108	-	6C	124	-	7C
13	-	0D	29	-	1D	45	-	2D	61	-	3D	77	-	4D	93	-	5D	109	-	6D	125	-	7D
14	-	0E	30	-	1E	46	-	2E	62	-	3E	78	-	4E	94	-	5E	110	-	6E	126	-	7E
15	-	0F	31	-	1F	47	-	2F	63	-	3F	79	-	4F	95	-	5F	111	-	6F	127	-	7F

Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex	Abs	Rel	Hex
128	-128	80	144	-112	90	160	-96	A0	176	-80	B0	192	-64	C0	208	-48	D0	224	-32	E0	240	-16	F0
129	-127	81	145	-111	91	161	-95	A1	177	-79	B1	193	-63	C1	209	-47	D1	225	-31	E1	241	-15	F1
130	-126	82	146	-110	92	162	-94	A2	178	-78	B2	194	-62	C2	210	-46	D2	226	-30	E2	242	-14	F2
131	-125	83	147	-109	93	163	-93	A3	179	-77	B3	195	-61	C3	211	-45	D3	227	-29	E3	243	-13	F3
132	-124	84	148	-108	94	164	-92	A4	180	-76	B4	196	-60	C4	212	-44	D4	228	-28	E4	244	-12	F4
133	-123	85	149	-107	95	165	-91	A5	181	-75	B5	197	-59	C5	213	-43	D5	229	-27	E5	245	-11	F5
134	-122	86	150	-106	96	166	-90	A6	182	-74	B6	198	-58	C6	214	-42	D6	230	-26	E6	246	-10	F6
135	-121	87	151	-105	97	167	-89	A7	183	-73	B7	199	-57	C7	215	-41	D7	231	-25	E7	247	-9	F7
136	-120	88	152	-104	98	168	-88	A8	184	-72	B8	200	-56	C8	216	-40	D8	232	-24	E8	248	-8	F8
137	-119	89	153	-103	99	169	-87	A9	185	-71	B9	201	-55	C9	217	-39	D9	233	-23	E9	249	-7	F9
138	-118	8A	154	-102	9A	170	-86	AA	186	-70	BA	202	-54	CA	218	-38	DA	234	-22	EA	250	-6	FA
139	-117	8B	155	-101	9B	171	-85	AB	187	-69	BB	203	-53	CB	219	-37	DB	235	-21	EB	251	-5	FB
140	-116	8C	156	-100	9C	172	-84	AC	188	-68	BC	204	-52	CC	220	-36	DC	236	-20	EC	252	-4	FC
141	-115	8D	157	-99	9D	173	-83	AD	189	-67	BD	205	-51	CD	221	-35	DD	237	-19	ED	253	-3	FD
142	-114	8E	158	-98	9E	174	-82	AE	190	-66	BE	206	-50	CE	222	-34	DE	238	-18	EE	254	-2	FE
143	-113	8F	159	-97	9F	175	-81	AF	191	-65	BF	207	-49	CF	223	-33	DF	239	-17	EF	255	-1	FF

Specifications

Sequencer

- 8 Monophonic Tracks/Voices
- 255 Patterns/Phrases & chains
- 128 Instruments per song
- 256 Instrument Tables

Instruments and Effects

- Wavsynth engine for classic console & computer chip emulation.
- Macrosynth engine - Over 40 synthesis types based on Mutable Instruments Braids
- Sample Playback engine - 8/16-bit mono or stereo wav files. Streamed from SD - No memory/length limitation.
- FM Synth engine - Unique 4-op 12-algorithm FM synthesis with feedback per op.
- MIDI Output engine with 10 user defined CCs per instrument.
- Global reverb, chorus, delay, multi-mode filter, and a master bus limiter.
- Sample recording of any reasonable length.

Hardware

- 3.5mm TRS MIDI (Type A) input and output.
- Stereo audio input (effects routed) and headphone/main output.
- USB MIDI and Audio Class 1 compliant.
- SDHC microSD slot for storage. FAT32 / exFAT compatible.
- 1200mAh USB rechargeable battery with up to 4 hours of use.
- High quality 2.8" IPS display with capacitive touch.
- Dimensions: 96 x 133 mm.
- Weight: 218 grams.