

# Cheatsheet 3: MIDI in Logic

## Setting up MIDI

- MIDI is controlled by either attaching a USB MIDI controller or by Logic's virtual keyboard.
- To access the latter, turn on CAPS LOCK. Note that you'll have to occasionally turn it off to access some of Logic's features.
- You can record MIDI only on Software Instrument tracks:
  - Add a new track by clicking the New Track button (+) at the top of the track list (or press Command-Option-N)
  - Select Software Instrument as the type, making sure the Open Library check box is checked, and click Create.
  - Choose a channel strip setting from the Library.

## Recording MIDI

Simply go to the point you wish to record in the arrange area, and click the record button.

## Quantizing

- Select the region(s) you wish to clean up.
- In the Inspector's Region Parameter box, set the Quantize pull-down menu to the desired quantization note value.
- To automatically quantize any newly-recorded material, click in the background of the Arrange area to deselect all regions, then set the Quantize parameter in the "MIDI Thru" settings to the lowest note value you anticipate playing.

## Overdubbing

- If you record over the top of an existing region, the overdubbed material is recorded as a new region on top of the old one (it doesn't erase the original material).
- Merging regions: Shift-select multiple regions, then press Control - = [equal sign]
- If you set up a cycle and overdub, the regions are automatically merged by default. Use this feature to build up complex parts like drum patterns.

## Take Folders

- In the Transport bar, hold down the Record button and choose “Recording Settings” from the pop-up menu (or press Option-\* [asterisk] on the keypad).
- In the MIDI area, you can choose the take folder option.
- Take folders function the same way with MIDI as they do with audio (except you cannot create quick comps).

## Step Input

- Press esc and select the Pencil tool, then click any Software Instrument track to create an empty region. Resize as needed.
- At the upper left of the Piano Roll Editor, click the “MIDI In” button; this turns on step recording.
- Select duration, dynamics, articulation, etc., then press a note on your MIDI controller or virtual keyboard to record a step.

## Importing a MIDI File

- Simply drag a .mid file from the desktop or a folder into the arrange area.

## Editing a Recorded MIDI Sequence

- Mute tool: select a note, press esc, select the mute tool, click the note.
- Velocity tool: press esc, select the velocity tool, click on a note or click-drag a group of notes, then click-drag on one of the selected notes...up to raise velocity or click-drag down to lower it.
- Quantize tool: press esc, select the quantize tool, click on a note or click-drag a group of notes, then click-hold on one of the selected notes to bring up a quantize value menu.

## Using the Score Editor

- At the bottom of the editing area, click the Score button.
- From note palette to the left, drag notes, rests and other items to the score.
- You may wish to turn off the MIDI Out (green) button so you can work in silence using this method.