

Visual Browser



I often find myself knowing what I want to load into my project but I can't remember it's name, and I end up loading plugin after plugin...

So I created the VisualBrowser

The Visual Browser is a MaxForLive device that makes it easy to find and load Devices, plugins, Track presets, or basically anything that is accessible from Ableton Live's browser.

No more searching through countless plugins to find the one you want.

DISCLAIMER:

- This is a MaxForLive device so you're gonna need either Live suite, or Live standard with MaxForLive.
- Or you can load it as a standalone „app” with the demo version of Max 8.
 - Works with Live 11, and with Live 10.



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INSTALLATION :

- You can **put the device into your Ableton Live user library**, basically anywhere.

Default location of the User Library:

When you install Live for the first time, the User Library is created at this location:

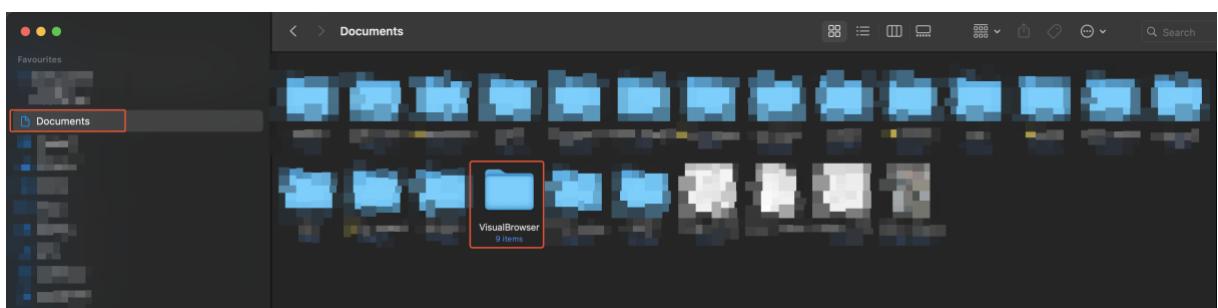
WINDOWS: \USERS\[USERNAME]\DOCUMENTS\ABLETON\USER LIBRARY

MAC: MACINTOSH

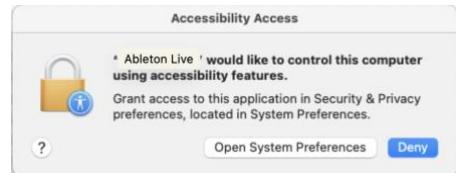
HD/USERS/[USERNAME]/MUSIC/ABLETON/USER LIBRARY

Please note that Live has to analyse your user library after you put your devices in there... It could take a while. For the time being, you can just drag and drop these devices on your track from your user library. until Live analyses your folders.

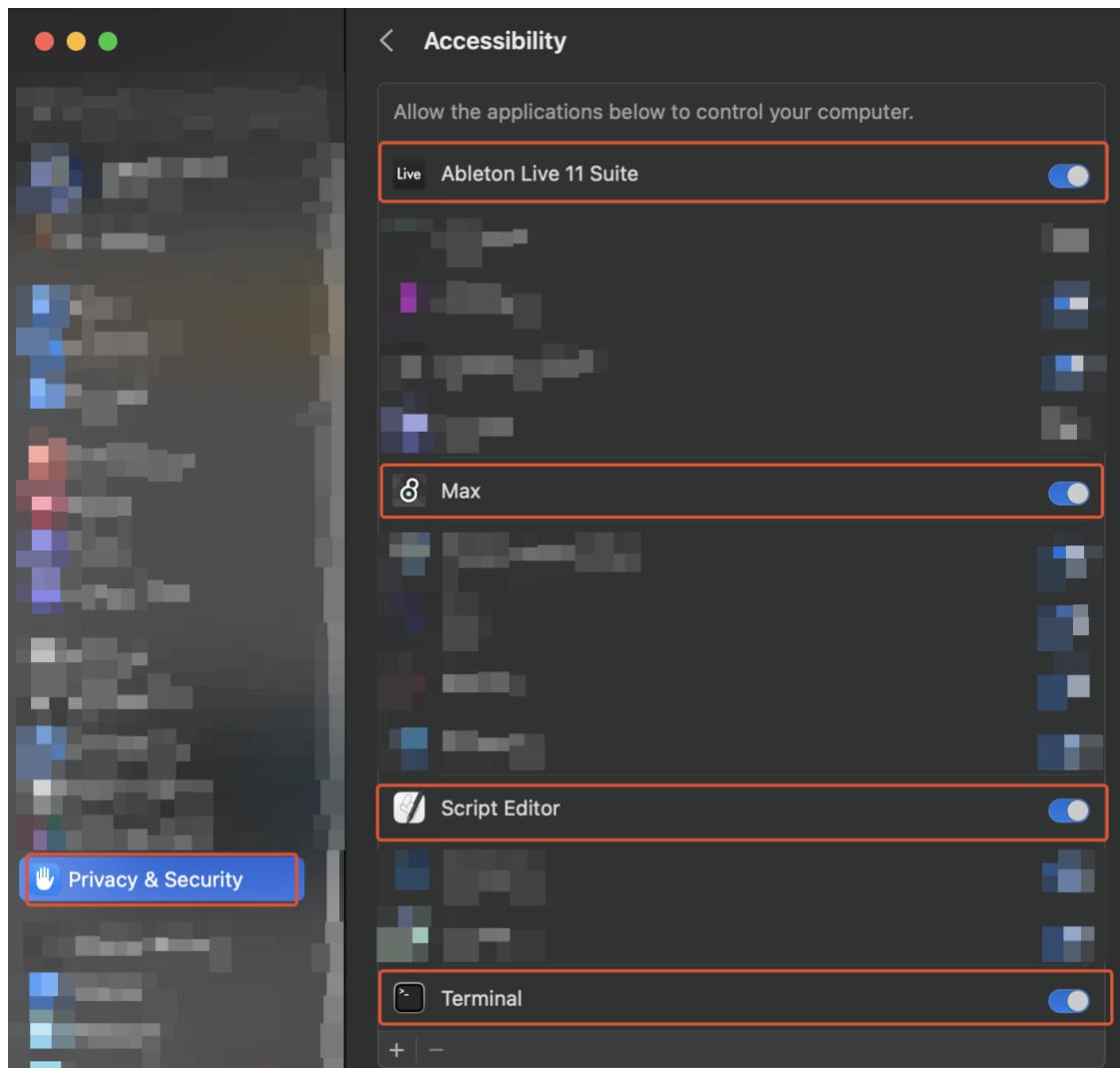
- **Put the „VisualBrowser” folder into the Documents directory like this :**
/Documents/VisualBrowser



If you're on mac: When you first load a device into your project with VisualBrowser, you should get a prompt like this :



If you don't get this prompt make sure that you enable all these apps in System Preferences / Security&Privacy/ Accessibility:



On Windows you're good to go without doing anything! 😊

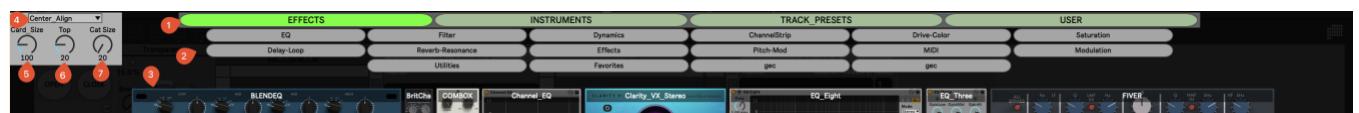
USAGE:

MAIN CONTROLS



1. Put the device into your master track (or basically anywhere in your project)
2. Key or MIDI map the „OPEN” and the „CLOSE” button.
3. Search through the categories, and click on the desired device’s card to load it into your project.

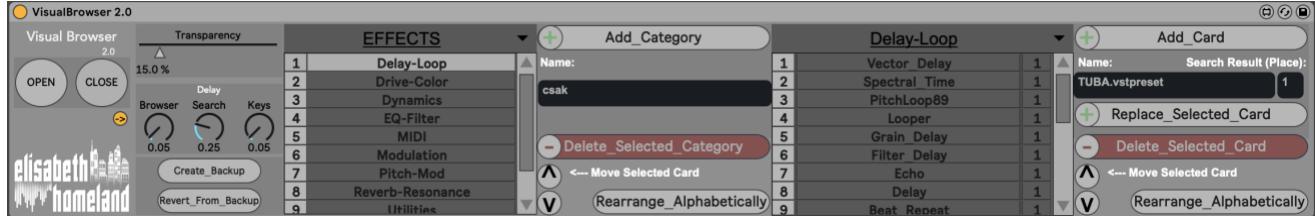
CONTROLS INSIDE THE VISUALBROWSER MAIN WINDOW:



1. At the top you can Select your MainCategories. It'll reveal all of its SubCategories under it.
2. If you press any of the SubCategories, it'll load all of the Cards inside it.
3. If you press any of the cards it'll load the desired Device into your project to the currently selected track.
4. You can choose between three modes the cards are displayed: they can be:
 - Left Aligned
 - Centered on your monitor
 - Distributed horizontally
5. You can change the size of the cards with this dial.
6. You can define where the whole window's top starts.
7. You can define the size of the Category buttons

USING THE EDITOR:

Press the → button to open up the advanced settings.



IMPORTANT: Everything you do in this editor is instantaneous and permanent.

If you rearrange something, it stays that way, if you delete something, it's deleted!
So always Create backup before you start to edit!!

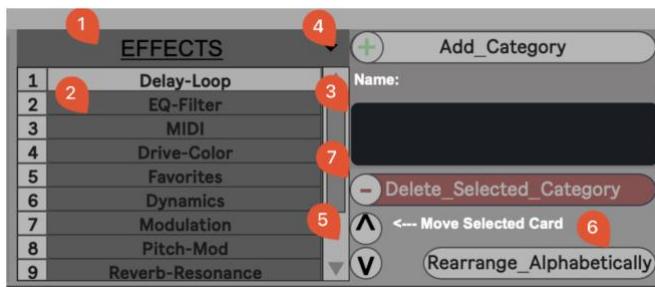


When you Press the „Create_Backup” button it'll create a copy of your current VisualBrowser folder into your Documents directory called:
VisualBrowser_Backup.

If you already have a Backup it'll overwrite it.

When you press the „Revert_From_Backup” button it'll copy everything from your Backup folder, and overwrite your main VisualBrowser folder with it.
(If you don't have a backup folder nothing happens.)

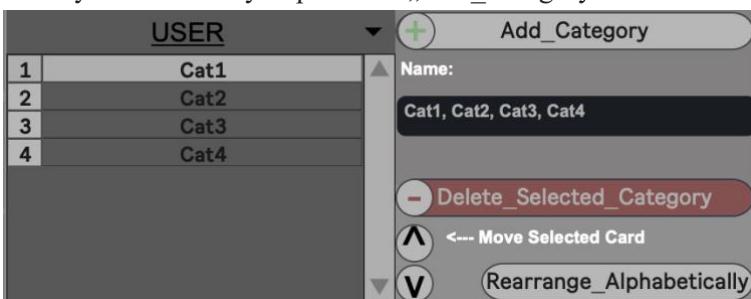
ADDING SUBCATEGORIES:



1. You can select the MainCategory you'd like to edit.
2. Here you see SubCategories of the selected MainCategory.
3. Type in the name of the new category you want to add.

You can also add multiple SubCategories at once if you separate multiple words with a comma and a space.

They'll be individually added when you press the „Add_Category” button.



4. Now if you press the „Add_Category” button it'll add the SubCategory (or Categories) to the list, and create a Folder, and a VB file at the selected MainCategory's path (VisualBrowser/USER in this case) with the same name.

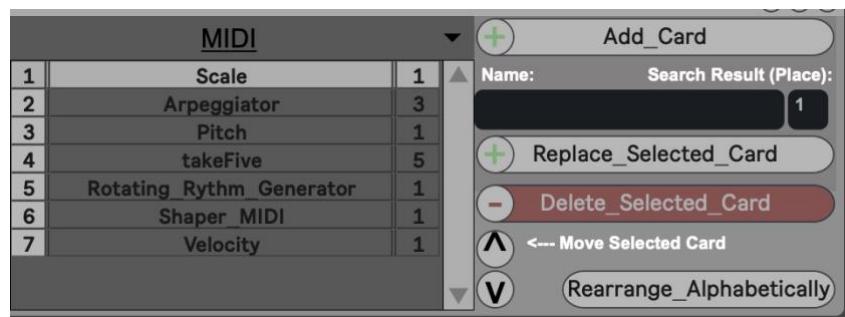


5. With the „up” and „down” buttons you'll be able to move up or down the selected SubCategory to rearrange their order. (The SubCategories will show up in the main Window in this order.)
6. Also you can Rearrange everything Alphabetically with the „Rearrange_Alphabetically” button.
7. you can also delete the selected Subcategory with the „Delete_Selected_Category” button.

IMPORTANT:

This button will delete the selected SubCategory, and its VB file, and also Its folder too. Of course there's a prompt before you delete to prevent accidental presses, but take care!

ADDING CARDS:



The second part is almost the same.

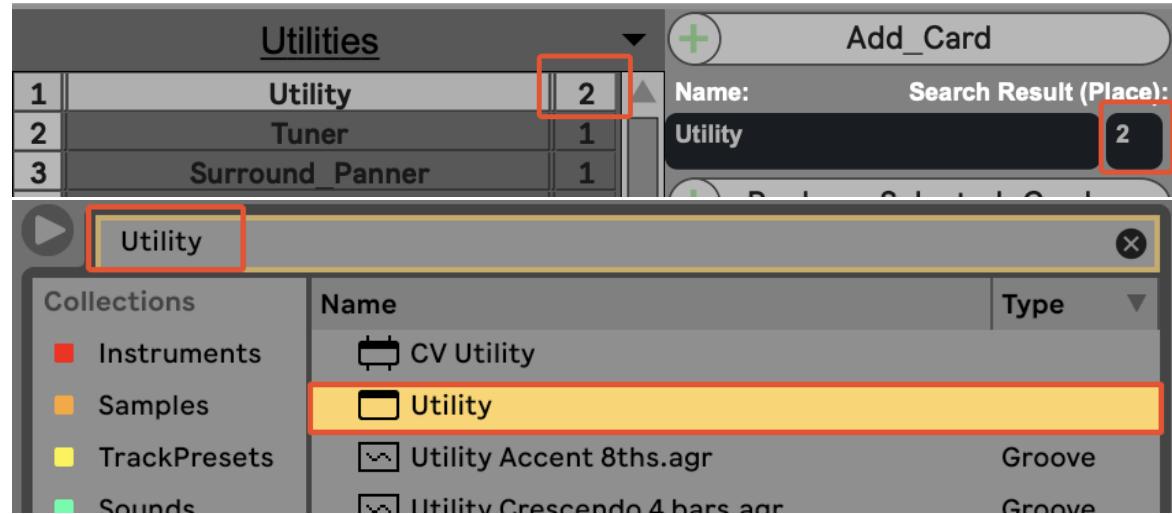
You can select the SubCategories on the top, and then put Card's into them.

Pro tip: if you want to load something into your project that contains multiple words when you name it use underscore instead of space, like this Drum_Bus, Valhalla_VintageVerb,

A few differences:

When you add a card you can also set their „place” too.

This will tell the Visual Browser Which Search Result you want to load from the browser.



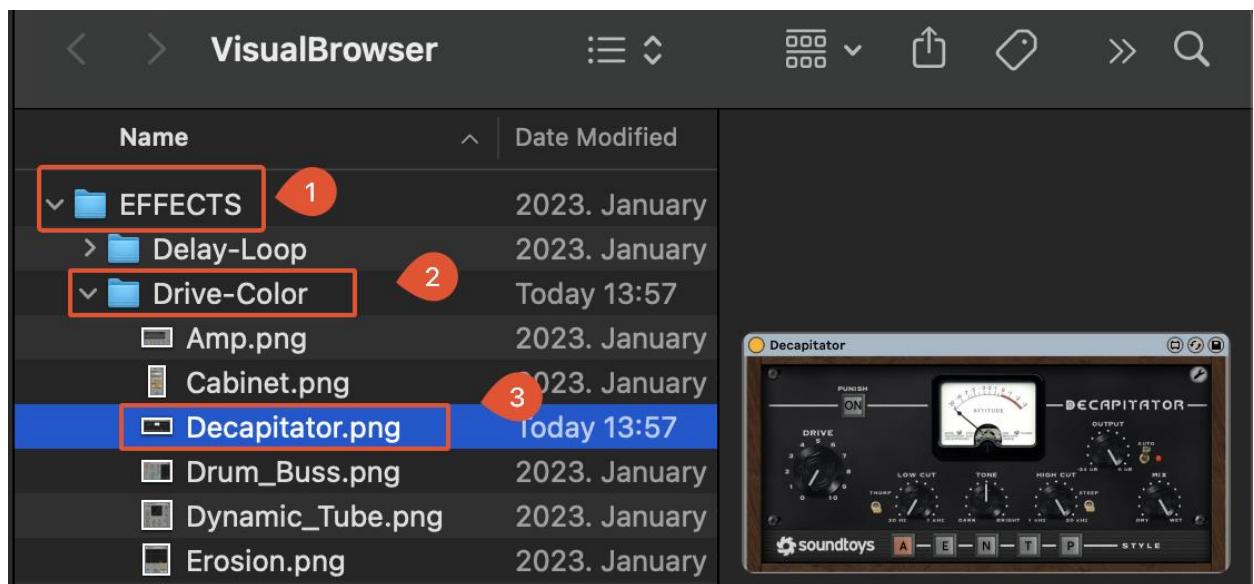
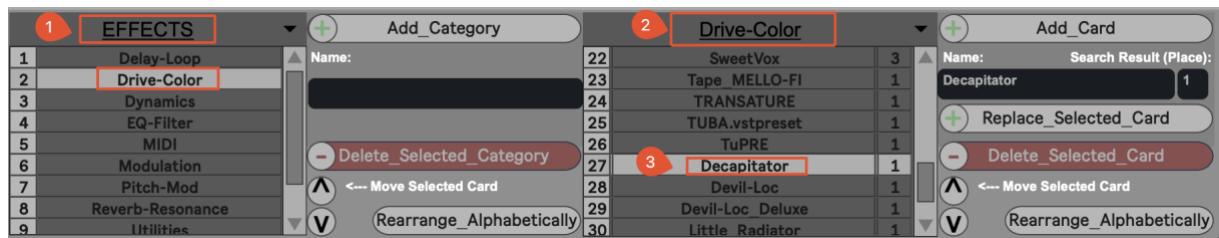
you can also replace the selected card, with the „Replace_Selected_Card” button.

ADDING PICTURES TO CARDS:

Every SubCategory has its own Folder, and VB file with the corresponding name. The cards it should load are stored in the VB file, and the pictures for those cards are in the Folder in PNG format.

So if you want to add a picture to let's say „Decapitator”

Create a screenshot of the plugin, and place it inside the corresponding folder with a same name as the Card, like this :



OTHER CONTROLS IN ADVANCED MODE:

1, DELAY:

the VisualBrowser works like that:

If you click on any Card,

1. it'll focus on Ableton Live's main window,
2. then press the shortcut to open the browser
3. write the name of the card into the browser's search field,
4. it'll press the down button as many times as you specified in the //PLACE attribute
5. and finally it'll load it into your project, then close your Browser.

between each step there needs to be a bit of a delay, But how much is necessary depends on your computer's processing power.

I predefined a relatively long delay time for each step to make sure it works out of the box for most people.

However you can fine tune it for your hardware in the advanced menu:



The **Browser** dial sets the delay after step 2. (it'll wait for the Browser to appear)

The **Search** dial sets the delay after step 3. (it'll wait for the result to appear)

The **Keys** dial sets the delay after step 4.

The dial's value is in seconds. (200ms, 200ms, 100ms)

For me setting the browser and the key's to 0.01 and the search to 0.4 works just fine. play around with it. ☺

2, TRANSPARENCY:



With this slider you can set the VisualBrowser's main window transparency from 0 to 100%

3, WINDOWS AHK MODE:

AHK

If you're using Windows with certain languages like Korean, there's a chance that the device will not work properly when you try to load the devices in your project.
In that case you can enable AHK mode.

If you're using this option the device will load the devices into your project using AutoHotkey, instead of a PowerShell script .

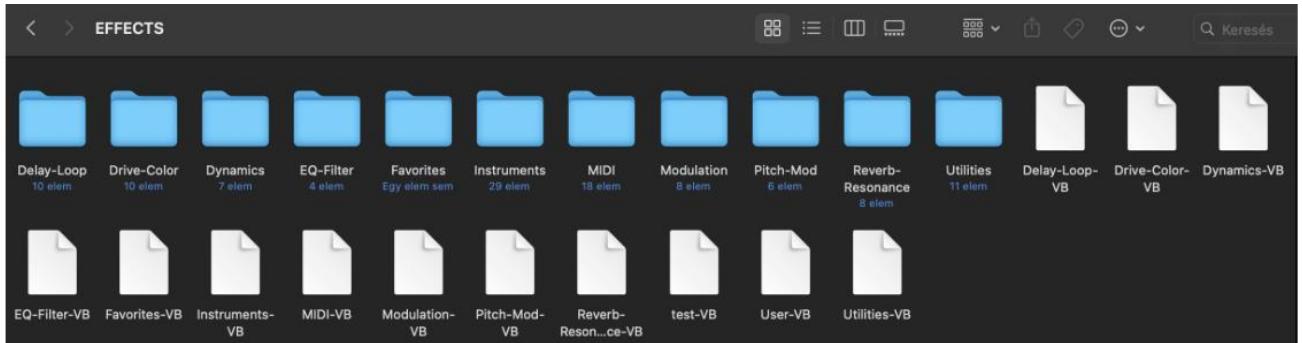
It's important that if you want to use this mode, you need to install AutoHotkey first.
(Version 1. not Version 2 or later.

PORTING YOUR EXISTING SETUP FROM VERSION 1 TO VERSION 2:

If you've already used and customized version 1, you'll need to modify your existing folder structure a bit.

Important!: Please create a backup of your VisualBrowser folder before you do anything!!!

1. Take your existing VisualBrowser (v1) folder, and put everything from it into the new VisualBrowser/EFFECTS (v2) folder.
2. for version one every folder had a 01, 02, 03 pre-tag, simply delete these. like this :
01Favorites ---> Favorites
Now your folder should look like this :



3. open up your VB files and delete every line that's still EMPTY. They're should look like this :

```

1, //NAME: E0_Eight //PLACE: 1;
2, //NAME: EQ_Three //PLACE: 1;
3, //NAME: Channel_EQ //PLACE: 1;
4, //NAME: Auto_Filter //PLACE: 1;

```

4. And finally move your Instruments folder, and the Instruments-VB file into VisualBrowser/Instruments.

Name	Old	Name	New
> 01Favorites	> EFFECTS		
> 02Utilities	> Delay-Loop		
> 03Reverb-Resonance	> Drive-Color		
> 04Pitch-Mod	> Dynamics		
> 05Modulation	> EQ-Filter		
> 06EQ-Filter	> Favorites		
> 07Dynamics	> MIDI		
> 08Drive-Color	> Modulation		
> 09Delay-Loop	> Pitch-Mod		
> 10MIDI	> Reverb-Resonance		
> 11Instruments	> Utilities		
> 12User	Delay-Loop-VB		
Delay-Loop-VB	Drive-Color-VB		
Drive-Color-VB	Dynamics-VB		
Dynamics-VB	EQ-Filter-VB		
EQ-Filter-VB	Favorites-VB		
Favorites-VB	Instruments-VB		
Instruments-VB	MIDI-VB		
MIDI-VB	Modulation-VB		
Modulation-VB	Pitch-Mod-VB		
No_Pic.png	Reverb-Resonance-VB		
Pitch-Mod-VB	User-VB		
Reverb-Resonance-VB	Utilities-VB		
User-VB	INSTRUMENTS		
Utilities-VB	Instruments		
	Instruments-VB		
	TRACK_PRESETS		
	USER		
	EFFECTS-MVB		
	INSTRUMENTS-MVB		
	No_Pic.png		
	TRACK_PRESETS-MVB		
	USER-MVB		

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or difficulties with the device feel free to write me at :

elisabethhomeland@gmail.com

Or you can find me in Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ElisabethHom>

Have Fun! ☺

