v.1.0.3



Max for Live device to control Ableton Live remotely

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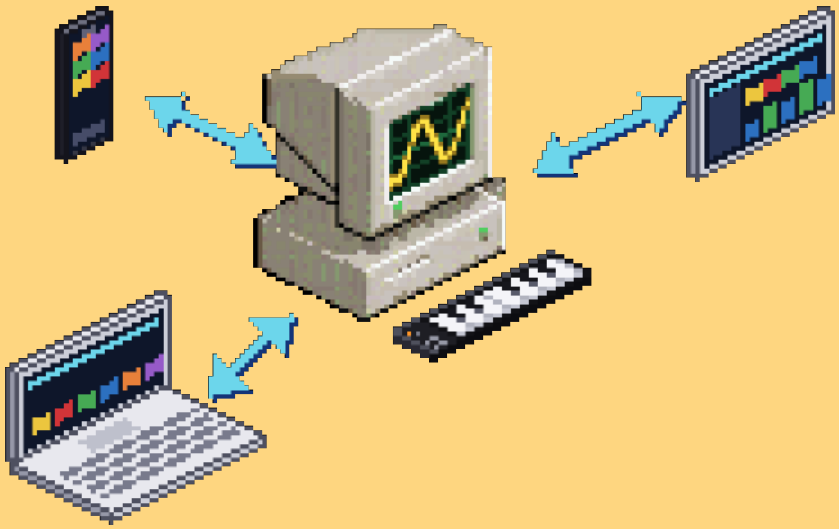
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Concept

Bridge is a Max for Live device that lets you control an **Ableton Live project remotely through a web server running on your local network**. Once the device is loaded, you can control your Live Set from a web page, either on the same computer where Ableton Live is running or on any other device connected to the same network[1]: another **computer**, a **smartphone**, a **tablet**, etc.

Bridge was created to give Ableton Live users fast, intuitive remote control without the need for external applications, MIDI bridges, or custom configuration. Drop the device and connect!



1
Connecting over the internet is also possible, but it is not available out of the box. It requires additional network setup, for example through an overlay network such as Tailscale or ZeroTier.

Overview

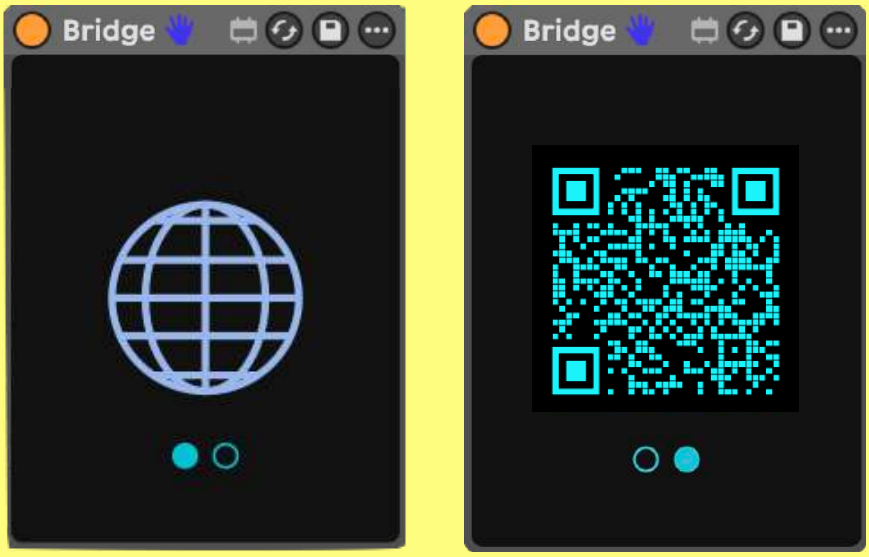
Bridge consists of two parts: the **Max for Live Device** and the **web interface**.

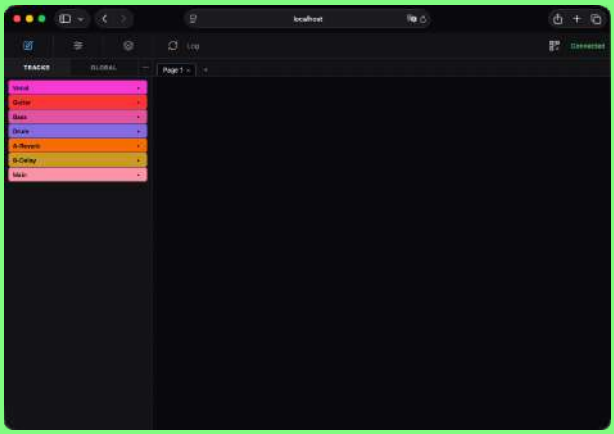
Max for Live Device

The Bridge device is deliberately minimal. In its default view it shows a globe icon. **Click the globe to open the web interface** in your default browser at http://localhost:7900.

To reach the same page from another device on the same network (computer, phone, tablet), replace localhost with the IP address of the machine running Ableton Live, for example http://192.168.1.100:7900.

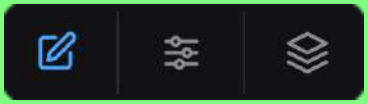
To make this even faster, use the switch below the globe to change the display to a **QR code**. Scan it with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight to the same link.





Web Interface

The Bridge web interface is the control surface for your Live Set. **Whatever you do here is saved within your Ableton Live project.**



It has three main sections, selectable with the three icons at the top left: **Edit**, **Control** and **Scene**.

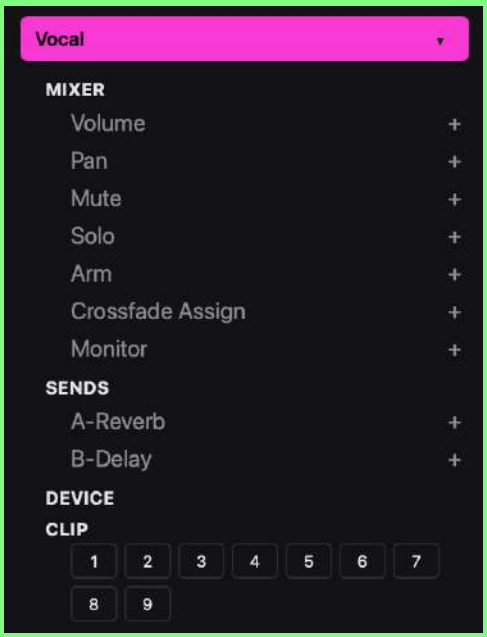


Edit
Edit is where you build your control surface by choosing which parameters to control remotely. It has a **sidebar** panel on the left and a **canvas** on the right.

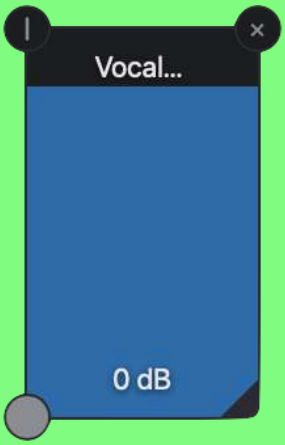


Sidebar
The sidebar has two tabs:

- **Tracks lists the tracks of your Live Set**, each shown with its Ableton color. Open a track to browse its **Mixer** (Volume, Pan, Mute, Solo, etc.), **Sends**, **Devices** (expand a device to see its parameters) and **Clips**. Open the **Main** track to also find **Scenes**, the Ableton scene launchers.
- **Global** contains general Live Set parameters like Play/Stop, Record, Metronome, Overdub, BPM, etc.







To **add a parameter**, click the "+" icon on its row in the sidebar. It appears on the canvas in the first free spot. The sidebar can be hidden with the button "-" at its top right edge, to leave more room for the canvas.

Parameters can be freely moved by dragging and resized from their corner. Hover over a parameter to reveal its edit options (orientation, remove, color, type).
The canvas is a fixed page with no scrolling, and parameters stay inside its edges.

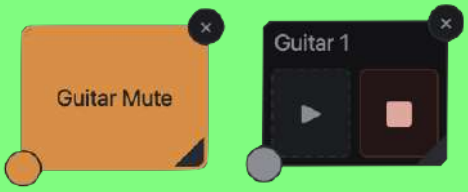
Multiple parameters can be selected using ⇧ + click or by dragging the mouse to create a selection area. Once selected, they can be moved, resized, recolored, or deleted all at once.

An icon in the bottom-right corner allows you to switch between grid snapping and completely free positioning.

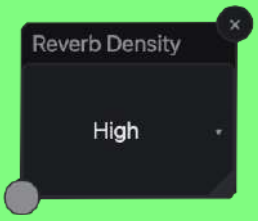
Parameter types

Slider
Used for continuous-value parameters such as volume, pan, frequency, etc.

- Orientation: switch between vertical and horizontal with the small icon at the top-left corner.
- Rename: click the label to edit it.
- Resize: drag the bottom-right corner.
- Precise values: click the number to type a value.
- Color: click the circle at the bottom-left corner to change the color.
- Delete: click the "x" on the top-right corner.



Toggle
Used to control the state of functions such as Mute, Solo, Record, Metronome and Play/Stop. Toggles light up when active.



Menu
Drop-down lists for parameters with a fixed set of options.



Others
Some other parameters have an additional selector in the top-left corner that lets you choose how the parameter is used and displayed: **Toggle**, **Menu** or **Trigger**.



Read-only parameters
Read-only displays show Time Position (mm:ss) and Bars (bar and beat). They update automatically during playback.

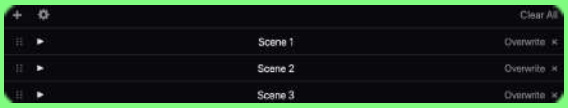


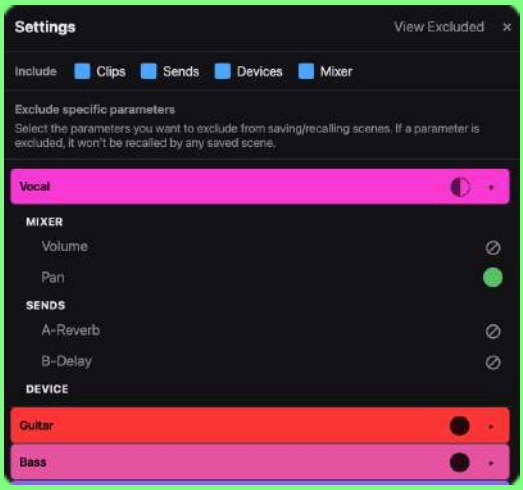
Page
Edit is organized into pages, each with its own parameters and layout, so you can build as many control surfaces as you need. Click **"+"** to add a page. Click a page name to rename it. **Everything you set up is saved with your Live Set**. To delete a page, click the "x" next to its name.



Control
Control is the **performance view**. It shows only your parameters, with the sidebar and editing tools hidden. Use it to control Ableton remotely.







Scene
Scene lets you **save a snapshot**[2] of your Live Set and recall it at any time[3].

- **Save**: click **+** to store the current state of Ableton as a new Scene.
- **Recall**: click ▶ on a Scene to recall it.
- **Reorder**: drag a Scene by its left edge.
- **Rename / Overwrite**: rename a Scene, or overwrite it with the current state.

Use the **settings** icon to choose what to **exclude from Scenes**: Clips, Sends, Devices, Mixer, specific tracks or individual parameters.

View Excluded shows what is currently left out.
A dot next to each track shows its status:

- ● full: everything is included;
- ◐ half: something is excluded;
- ○ empty or crossed, the whole track is excluded.

As a best practice, **exclude everything that does not change between Scenes**. This keeps Scenes smaller and makes saving and recalling faster, especially in large projects.

[2] Not to be confused with the Scenes under the Main track, which launch Ableton's own scene rows.

[3] Saving may take a few seconds on large projects.



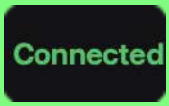
Refresh
Refresh button rescans the Live Set. The web interface does not update automatically, so the icon **blinks when tracks, return tracks, devices or scenes have been added or removed in Live**. Click it to load the changes.



Log
Log opens a panel with error messages and diagnostic information.



QR code
The QR button shows a QR code and the address of the page, for quick connection from another device.



State
Display the connection state of the web interface.

Troubleshooting

The web interface does not open, even on the same computer
If the web interface does not open, another application may be using port 7900. Quit that application, then reload the Bridge device in your Live project.

The web interface cannot be reached from a smartphone or tablet
Make sure the smartphone or tablet **is** connected to the same network as the computer running Ableton Live. If it still does not connect, check that your firewall allows incoming connections for Ableton Live.

Something is missing in the web interface, for example devices are not shown in the Tracks sidebar.
Click **Refresh** in the web interface. If the problem persists, reload the Bridge device in your Ableton Live project, then refresh the web page.

Something does not work as expected
- Check the **Log** in the web interface;
- open the Max Window: right-click the title bar of the Bridge device in Ableton Live and choose **Open Max Window**;
- **report** any errors through Isotonik Studios, including the message text, your operating system and Ableton Live version.

Ableton Live feels slower while Bridge is loaded
Deactivate the Bridge device in your Live project when you are not using the remote control. While it is deactivated, the web interface is not reachable.

Ableton crashes when the device is opened, or the device looks wrong (Windows, macOS)
Make sure Ableton Live is using the latest version of Max (Max 9 required). Follow the instructions here to update to the latest version:
https://help.ableton.com/hc/en-us/articles/209070309

Minimum System Requirements

Bridge requires Max 9. If you are using an older version of Ableton Live, make sure to use the latest version of Max, as explained here:
https://help.ableton.com/hc/en-us/articles/209070309

Ableton Live minimum system requirements
https://help.ableton.com/hc/en-us/articles/115001663530-Live-Minimum-System-Requirements