



Golden Era Drums 2 Ableton Edition: User Manual



Introduction

Welcome to the **Golden Era Drums 2 Ableton Edition**, a unique drum sample pack designed to unlock the authentic sound of **boom bap hip hop**. This manual will guide you through the installation process and help you understand how to use the Ableton Drum Rack to its full potential.

Installation Guide

The installation guide can be found here: <https://www.notion.so/Golden-Era-Drums-2-Ableton-Live-Pack-Installation-Guide-1926f0e92b958048a965e195e1968ef4?pvs=4>

Requirements

Ableton Live 11.3.22 or higher

Understanding the Ableton Rack

The **Ableton Drum Rack** is divided into three main sections:

- **The Presets Area** – A collection of pre-designed drum kits.
- **The Macro Knobs** – 16 macro knobs that allow for individual sound selection and volume control.
- **The Random Button** – A one-click function that generates completely new drum kit combinations.

Selecting Individual Sounds

The first six macro knobs allow you to select individual drum sounds within the rack. These knobs are labeled as:

- **Kick Selector**
- **Snare Selector**
- **Closed Hi-Hat Selector**
- **Open Hi-Hat Selector**
- **Hi-Hat Loop Selector**
- **Drum Fill Selector**

Simply turn the knob to cycle through different sound variations for each category.

Mixing Drums in the Rack

Knobs **9 through 14** control the **volume** of the individual drum sounds. These knobs are labeled as:

- **Kick Volume**
- **Snare Volume**
- **Closed Hi-Hat Volume**
- **Open Hi-Hat Volume**
- **Hi-Hat Loop Volume**
- **Drum Fill Volume**

Adjust these knobs to **balance the levels of each drum element** within your mix.

Using the Special Macro Knobs

Macro knobs **7, 8, 15, and 16** serve special functions:

- **Macro Knob 7 (Hi-Hat Doubler)** – Controls a doubling effect on the **closed hi-hat**.
 - When set to **zero**, the hi-hat plays normally.
 - When set above **64**, the hi-hat is doubled, creating an echoed effect.
 - The **doubling effect syncs automatically** to your project's tempo.
 - Best used with **8th-note hi-hat patterns**.



The Hi-hat Doubler works best when using an 8th-note high hat pattern. But experiment!

- **Macro Knob 8 (Hi-Hat Nudge Delay)** – Adjusts the **timing** of the **closed hi-hat**, shifting it back in time for a natural "lazy" feel.
- Commonly used in **boom bap production** to add groove and bounce.
- **Macro Knob 15 (Velocity)** – Controls **velocity sensitivity** across the entire kit.

- **Zero:** Maximum dynamic range.
- **127:** Every sound triggers at **full velocity**, regardless of how soft you hit the pad.
- **Macro Knob 16 (Drive)** – Adds **saturation and distortion** to the overall drum kit.
 - The more you turn it up, the more **grit and punch** is applied.

Generating Random Drum Kits

Clicking on the random button, located in the drum rack's title bar, allows you to generate random drum combinations.

To map this button to a MIDI CC or a keyboard key for easy access, follow these steps:

1. For MIDI CC Mapping:

- Enter MIDI map mode in Ableton by clicking on the 'MIDI' button in the top right corner, or by using the shortcut (Ctrl+M or Cmd+M).
- Click on the random button in the drum rack.
- Press the key on your MIDI controller that you want to assign to the random button. The mapping will appear in the MIDI Mappings Browser on the left side of the screen.
- Exit MIDI map mode by clicking the 'MIDI' button again or using the shortcut.

2. For Keyboard Key Mapping:

- Enter Key map mode in Ableton by clicking on the 'Key' button in the top right corner, or by using the shortcut (Ctrl+K or Cmd+K).
- Click on the random button in the drum rack.
- Press the key on your keyboard that you want to assign to the random button. The mapping will appear in the Key Mappings Browser on the left side of the screen.

- Exit Key map mode by clicking the 'Key' button again or using the shortcut.

Now, each time you press the assigned key or MIDI CC, the drums in the kit will be randomized into a completely random kit, resulting in endless new drum kits and combinations.

Saving Your Own Custom Presets and Modifying Existing Presets

The presets section contains pre-made drum kit presets. You can select a preset by clicking on the play button symbol located after the preset name.

To save your own drum kits as presets:

1. Dial in your desired drum kit using the macro knobs.
2. Press the 'New' button at the top of the preset variations section of the drum rack. Make sure the variation section is shown by pressing the 'Variations' button. The current kit and its state will be saved as a new user preset.

To modify an existing preset with a new one:

1. Select the preset you want to overwrite.
2. Dial in your new drum kit.
3. Press the icon to the left of the preset name. The icon looks like a camera with a "+" in it.

Preserving Your Custom Presets and Changes

To ensure all of your user presets and modifications to any existing presets are saved and available each time you load the drum rack, it's crucial to resave the Golden Era Drums2 drum rack itself.

Here's how you can do it:

Step 1: Resave the Drum Rack

After you've made your changes, click the disk icon located at the top right of the drum rack title bar. This action will resave the entire Golden Era Drums drum rack, including all your modifications. If the Golden Era Drums drum rack is already saved in your library, Ableton Live will ask if you want to overwrite the existing file. Confirm by clicking 'Yes'.

By following these steps each time you create or modify a preset, your custom presets and modifications will become a permanent part of the Golden Era Drums 2 drum rack. This ensures that every time you load the drum rack from your browser, your personalized settings will be right there, ready for your next beat-making session. Happy beat making!

Conclusion

We encourage you to **experiment** with **Golden Era Drums 2 Ableton Edition** and craft your own unique drum kits. The **intuitive design of the drum rack**, paired with high-quality boom bap drum samples, provides **endless creative possibilities**.

If you need assistance, feel free to reach out:

 [**info@soundoracle.net**](mailto:info@soundoracle.net)

Enjoy making beats with **Golden Era Drums 2!** 🎵🔥