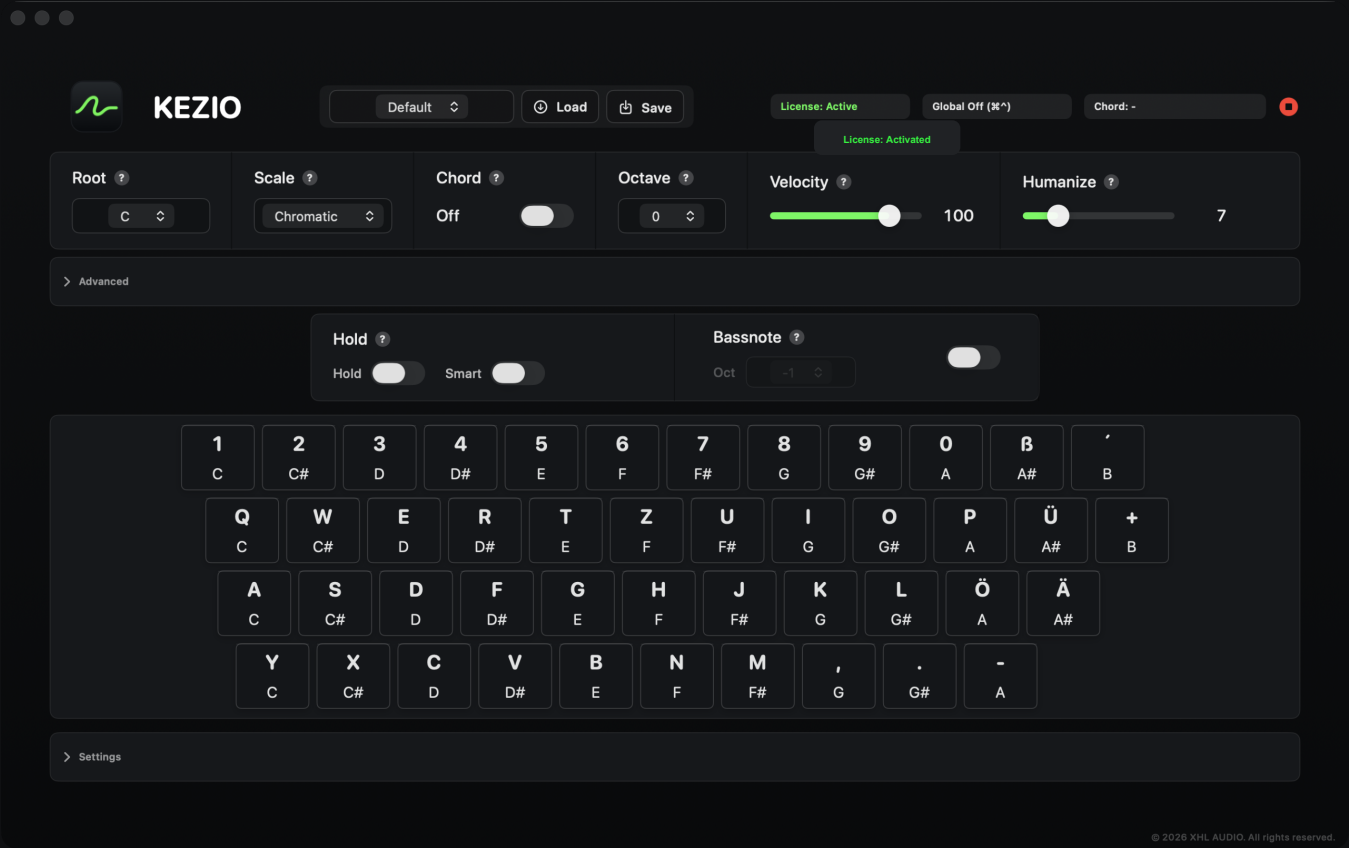


KEZIO User Manual

macOS Edition

Version 1.2.0 - September 2026



Current KEZIO workspace on macOS. Advanced and Settings can be expanded when needed.

14-day trial

MIDI 1.0

Shareable .kfp presets

Turn your computer keyboard into a playable MIDI controller for your DAW.

Install and make your first sound

1. Open the downloaded KEZIO disk image.
2. Drag KEZIO into the Applications folder, then open it from Applications.
3. Click the license status at the top. Start the 14-day trial or enter the purchase email and license key.
4. In Settings, leave MIDI Output on KEZIO Out (virtual) for the quickest setup.
5. In your DAW, enable KEZIO Out as a MIDI input and create a software-instrument track.

1. KEZIO	2. KEZIO Out	3. DAW input	4. Instrument	5. Play / record
Your Mac keyboard becomes a MIDI controller.	The built-in virtual MIDI output.	Enable KEZIO Out in the DAW.	Load a synth, piano or sampler.	Monitor the track and start playing.

Good to know

KEZIO sends MIDI data, not audio. The actual sound comes from the instrument loaded on your DAW track.

What KEZIO adds to your setup

- Play single notes, scale-correct notes or automatic chords from the computer keyboard.
- Shape performances with Velocity, Humanize, Hold, Smart Hold, Bassnote and Strum.
- See the trigger key and every generated note directly on the on-screen keyboard.
- Save complete performance setups as portable .kfp preset files.

First sound checklist

Check	What should be true
KEZIO	The license shows Trial or Activated, and the red Panic button is visible.
Output	Settings shows KEZIO Out (virtual), or an IAC bus when using the fallback.
DAW	KEZIO Out is enabled as a MIDI input.
Track	A software instrument is loaded and the track is record-armed or monitored.
Test	Click a key in KEZIO or press one mapped computer key.

If the KEZIO MIDI connection is missing

1. Open Audio MIDI Setup, then choose Window > Show MIDI Studio.
2. Double-click IAC Driver, turn on Device is online, and create a bus.
3. Select that bus in KEZIO and enable the same bus in the DAW.

System requirement

macOS 13 or newer, Apple silicon (M1 or newer), and a DAW or instrument that accepts MIDI input.

Controls and live performance

Hover over any question-mark button in KEZIO for a short explanation. This table gives the complete overview.

Control	What it does
Root	Sets the musical starting note used by the selected scale.
Scale	Keeps generated notes inside the selected scale. Chromatic leaves every semitone available.
Chord	Turns automatic chord generation on or off for each played key.
Octave	Moves the complete performance up or down in octave steps.
Velocity	Sets how hard MIDI notes are played. Higher values often sound louder or brighter.
Humanize	Adds small velocity differences so repeated notes feel less mechanical.
Hold	Keeps released notes sounding until their trigger is pressed again or Panic is used.
Smart Hold	Holds one chord as a group and replaces it cleanly when the next chord is played.
Bassnote	Adds the root below a note or chord. Choose minus one or minus two octaves.
Panic	Immediately sends note-off messages for every active note. Use it whenever a note is stuck.

Fast slider editing

Command-double-click any slider to restore its original value. Double-click the number beside Velocity, Humanize or Strum, type a value, then press Return.

Chord Complexity

Turn Chord on, then move the slider from simple to rich. KEZIO changes both chord type and voicing instead of only stacking more nearby notes.

Stage	Result
Triad	Root, third and fifth.
1st inv.	Moves the root above the other chord tones for a smoother, lighter shape.
Tenth	Plays the root and the third one octave higher as a wide two-note voicing.
Seventh	Adds the scale-based seventh and opens the notes across a wider range.
Ninth	Adds a ninth color while spacing or omitting tones when that sounds clearer.
Eleventh	Adds an eleventh color and uses a wider, less crowded voicing.

Max Notes

Off keeps every generated chord tone. Choose 1 to 16 when a synth has limited polyphony. Bassnote counts toward the total so the output never exceeds the selected limit.

Strum

At 0 ms, notes start together. Positive values play low to high. Negative values play high to low. The on-screen keys light in the same order.

Live keyboard display

The key you physically press is highlighted as the trigger. Generated chord notes use the performance highlight and follow Strum timing, so the screen matches what is sent as MIDI.

How KEZIO chooses notes

Setting	Effect on the result
Chromatic + Chord off	Each mapped key plays its own semitone without scale correction or added chord tones.
Scale selected	Mapped keys are reorganized so the performance follows the selected root and scale.
Chord on	Each trigger builds a scale-based chord whose shape follows Chord Complexity.
Chord display	The top-right status analyses the actual notes sounding and names simple or extended chords when possible.

Playing beyond the KEZIO window

Global Play

Global Play keeps the Mac keyboard connected to KEZIO while another app is active. The first time it is enabled, allow KEZIO in System Settings > Privacy & Security > Accessibility. Click the hotkey field and press a key or a combination using Command, Option, Control or Shift.

Typing safely

Turn Global Play off before writing messages or naming presets. The same hotkey turns it back on when you want to perform.

Hold, Smart Hold and Bassnote

Mode	Use it when...	Release behavior
Hold	You want notes to remain until the same trigger is pressed again.	Panic always clears every held note.
Smart Hold	You want one complete chord to sustain until the next chord arrives.	The previous chord is released before the replacement is held.
Bassnote	You want an automatic root below a note or chord.	It follows normal release, Hold or Smart Hold together with the performance.

Presets

- Choose a preset from the top menu. KEZIO remembers the last selected preset.
- Save stores a named .kfp preset in Documents > KEZIO Presets.
- Load opens any compatible .kfp file, including one received from another KEZIO user.
- A preset stores musical and performance controls. App settings such as Autostart remain separate.

License

- The 14-day trial begins on first use. It does not restart after expiry or after a licensed device is deactivated.
- Activate with the email used for purchase and the license key from XHL AUDIO.
- KEZIO validates activated licenses online and allows a limited offline period between checks.
- When the license is expired, unlicensed or deactivated, KEZIO stops sending MIDI until it is activated again.

Window and startup

Autostart launches KEZIO at login and keeps its window out of the way for that login launch. Opening it later from Applications shows the normal window.

Action	Result
Command-Q	Closes KEZIO and sends Panic first.
Command-H	Hides KEZIO without stopping it.
Global hotkey	Turns Global Play on or off from any app.
Mouse input	Click the on-screen keys to play without the computer keyboard.

Keyboard layouts

Choose the layout that matches the keys printed on the physical keyboard. QWERTZ follows German positions, including Z/Y, ß, the acute-accent key, Ü, Ö and Ä. QWERTY uses the corresponding English keyboard positions. The on-screen rows show only keys that can play notes.

DAW setup

Use KEZIO Out as the input wherever the DAW lets you choose MIDI sources. If that port is not listed, use an IAC bus and choose the same bus in KEZIO and the DAW.

Logic Pro / GarageBand

1. Make sure KEZIO Out is available as a MIDI input.
2. Create a Software Instrument track and load an instrument.
3. Select the track. Logic and GarageBand normally listen to enabled MIDI inputs automatically.
4. Play KEZIO and confirm that the track meter reacts.

FL Studio

1. Open Options > MIDI Settings.
2. Under Input, select KEZIO Out and click Enable.
3. Open a Channel Rack instrument or plugin and keep it selected.
4. Play KEZIO. Choose a free controller port only when a plugin specifically needs one.

Ableton Live

1. Open Settings / Preferences > Link, Tempo & MIDI.
2. Turn Track on for the KEZIO Out input.
3. Create a MIDI track, load an instrument and choose All Ins or the KEZIO input.
4. Arm the track or set Monitor to In.

Studio One

1. Open Options / Preferences > External Devices.
2. Add New Keyboard and set Receive From to KEZIO Out.
3. Create an Instrument track, load a plugin and select the KEZIO keyboard as input.
4. Enable monitoring or recording on the track.

Cubase / Nuendo

1. Open Studio > Studio Setup > MIDI Port Setup.
2. Confirm that KEZIO Out is active and included in All MIDI Inputs, or choose it directly.
3. Create an Instrument track and load an instrument.
4. Record-enable or monitor the track, then play KEZIO.

Pro Tools

1. Open Setup > MIDI > Input Devices and enable KEZIO Out.
2. Create an Instrument track and insert a virtual instrument.
3. Select the KEZIO input or All, then record-arm the track.
4. Check Options > MIDI Thru if incoming notes do not reach the instrument.

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1. Open Preferences > Audio > MIDI Devices.
2. Right-click KEZIO Out and choose Enable input.
3. Create a track, load a virtual instrument and choose the KEZIO MIDI input.
4. Record-arm the track and turn monitoring on.

Bitwig Studio

1. Open Settings > Controllers and add a Generic MIDI Keyboard.
2. Choose KEZIO Out as the input.
3. Create an Instrument track, load a device and select the controller as input.
4. Arm or monitor the track, then play KEZIO.

The universal rule

KEZIO must send to one MIDI connection, the DAW must listen to the matching input, and the instrument track must be monitored or record-armed.

DAW words in plain English

Term	Meaning
MIDI input	The connection from which the DAW receives notes and controller data.
Instrument track	A track that turns incoming MIDI notes into sound through a plugin.
Monitor	Lets you hear incoming notes immediately, before recording.
Record-arm	Prepares the track to record and often enables live input at the same time.
Plugin	The piano, synth, sampler or other virtual instrument that creates the sound.

Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
KEZIO Out is missing in the DAW	Restart KEZIO, then reopen the DAW's MIDI settings. If needed, create an IAC bus and use it on both sides.
Global Play does not react	Open System Settings > Privacy & Security > Accessibility and allow the installed copy of KEZIO from Applications.
Accessibility asks again after an update	Install the new build in the same Applications location and keep the same signed bundle. Remove stale duplicate entries only if macOS still points to an older copy.
I see MIDI activity but hear no sound	Load a software instrument and turn on monitoring or record-arm the track. KEZIO sends MIDI, not audio.
A note keeps sounding	Press the red Panic button. Closing KEZIO also sends Panic before the app exits.
The wrong computer key is mapped	Open Settings and choose QWERTZ (German) or QWERTY to match the physical keyboard.
Global Play types into other apps	Use the Global Play hotkey to turn it off before typing, then turn it on again for performance.
My license will not activate	Check the internet connection, purchase email and complete key. Paste into the fields and try again.
A preset will not load	Use a KEZIO .kfp file. Files from unknown or edited sources may not contain valid preset data.

System requirements

Item	Requirement
Operating system	macOS 13 or newer
Processor	Apple silicon (M1 or newer)
MIDI	Built-in KEZIO Out virtual MIDI source; IAC Driver optional
Internet	Required for initial activation and periodic license validation

Updating KEZIO

1. Close KEZIO so Panic can release every active note.
2. Install the new version in the same normal application location.
3. Open KEZIO and confirm the license, MIDI output, last preset and Global Play hotkey.
4. Test one note and one Panic before opening an important project.

Support

Email: business@chrisxhl.de

Downloads and updates:
xhlaudio.shop/kezio/download

When contacting support, include your operating system, KEZIO version, DAW name and the exact error message.

Official references

Apple Audio MIDI Setup:
support.apple.com/guide/audio-midi-setup

Apple IAC Driver:
support.apple.com/guide/audio-midi-setup/ams1013/mac

DAW menus can move between versions. If a label differs, look for MIDI Inputs, MIDI Devices, External Devices or Track Monitoring.

Before a live session

Open KEZIO, confirm the license and MIDI output, test one note, then test Panic. This small check prevents almost every avoidable setup problem.

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