MidiBro Setup Guide for Ableton Live

📋 Overview

MidiBro connects to Ableton Live through the **MidiBroConnectorPlugin** using a **two-track routing** approach. The plugin sits on one track and routes MIDI to your instrument on a second track.

Note: Ableton Live does not support third-party MIDI effects in the same track as an instrument (unlike Logic's MIDI FX), so this routing method is required.

✅ Prerequisites

- MidiBro installed and registered
- MidiBroConnectorPlugin VST3 installed

  - Windows: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\`
  - Mac: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/`

- Ableton Live 10 or newer (Live 11/12 recommended)

🔧 Setup Steps

▶ Step 1: Create the Plugin Track

- Open Ableton Live and create or open a Set
- Create a new **MIDI Track** (Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + T)
- In the browser, navigate to **Plug-ins** -> **VST3**
- Find and drag **"MidiBro Connector Plugin"** onto the track
- Rename the track to "MidiBro Plugin" (Ctrl/Cmd + R)

▶ Step 2: Create the Synth Track

- Create a **second MIDI Track**
- Load your preferred instrument (Operator, Wavetable, Serum, etc.)
- Rename it to match your synth (e.g., "FM Piano")

▶ Step 3: Route MIDI Between Tracks

- Select the **synth track** (Track 2)
- In the track's **I/O Section** (View -> In/Out if hidden):

  - Set **"MIDI From"** dropdown to: **"MidiBro Plugin"** (Track 1)   - Set the channel dropdown below to: **"MidiBro Connec..."** (the plugin)

- Set **Monitor** to: **"In"** (or "Auto" if you also want to play via MIDI keyboard)

▶ Step 4: Launch MidiBro and Enable Plugin Mode

- Open **MidiBro** standalone application
- In the right panel, locate the **Audio Output** section
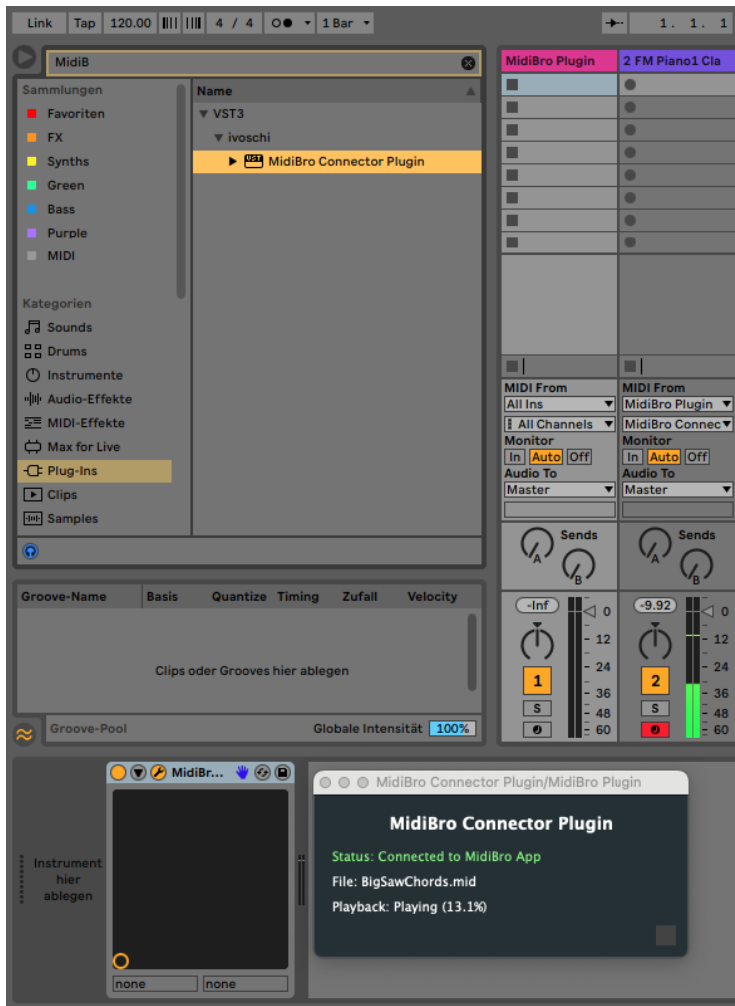- Click **"Plugin in DAW"** to enable plugin mode

▶ Step 5: Verify Connection

- **MidiBro status bar** shows: "Plugin: 1 connected"
- **Plugin window** shows: "Status: Connected to MidiBro App"

📊 Visual Diagram

```
Session View:
+------------------+------------------+
| MidiBro Plugin   | FM Piano         |
| (Track 1)        | (Track 2)        |
+------------------+------------------+
| [MidiBro         | [Operator]       |
|  Connector Plugin]|                 |
+------------------+------------------+
| MIDI From: All Ins| MIDI From:      |
|                  | -> MidiBro Plugin |
|                  | -> MidiBro Connec |
+------------------+------------------+
| Monitor: Auto    | Monitor: In      | <- Important!
+------------------+------------------+
| Audio To: Master | Audio To: Master |
+------------------+------------------+
```

▶ Test Playback

- Select a MIDI file in MidiBro's file browser
- Click **Play** in MidiBro
- MIDI flows: Track 1 (plugin) -> Track 2 (synth) -> Audio
- You should hear the synth playing

⤨ Signal Flow

```
MidiBro App (select file + play)
        | IPC
        v
Track 1: MidiBro Connector Plugin
        | MIDI routing (MIDI From)
        v
Track 2: Your Synth (Operator, Serum, etc.)
        |
```

```
        v
Audio Output (Master)
```

⚠ Important Settings

Setting	Track 1 (Plugin)	Track 2 (Synth)
MIDI From	All Ins (or your MIDI keyboard)	MidiBro Plugin
Channel	All Channels	MidiBro Connec...
Monitor	Auto	**In**
Audio To	Master	Master

🔍 Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Plugin not in browser	Preferences -> Plug-Ins -> Rescan
Plugin not in browser	Check "Use VST3 Plug-In Custom Folder" path
No sound from synth	Set Monitor to "In" on the synth track
No sound from synth	Verify "MIDI From" is set to the plugin track
"Disconnected" status	Ensure plugin is loaded before enabling Plugin mode in MidiBro
MIDI keyboard not working	Set synth track Monitor to "Auto" instead of "In"

🔄 Enabling DAW Sync (Optional)

For synchronized playback with Ableton's transport:

- Toggle **"Sync to DAW"** ON in MidiBro's right panel
- Start **Ableton transport first**
- Then click Play in MidiBro

⏺ Recording MIDI from MidiBro

To record the MIDI output to a clip:

- Arm the **synth track** for recording (click the Arm button)
- Start recording in Ableton
- Play in MidiBro
- The MIDI is captured in a new clip on the synth track

⤬ Multiple Synths from One Plugin

You can route one MidiBro plugin to multiple synths:

- Create additional synth tracks
- Set each synth track's "MIDI From" to the MidiBro Plugin track
- All synths will receive the same MIDI (layering)

💡 Tips

- The "In" monitor setting means the track always listens for MIDI input
- Use "Auto" if you also want to play the synth with a MIDI keyboard when not using MidiBro
- You can use Ableton's Instrument Rack for layering multiple sounds on Track 2
- Drag-and-drop MIDI files from MidiBro directly into Ableton's arrangement

🌐 Support

Contact: ivo@midibro.de

📚 References

- [Ableton Help - Accessing MIDI Output of VST Plug-in](https://help.ableton.com/hc/en-us/articles/209070189-Accessing-the-MIDI-output-of-a-VST-plug-in)
- [Ableton Manual - Routing and I/O](https://www.ableton.com/en/manual/routing-and-i-o/)