MidiBro Setup Guide for Bitwig Studio

📋 Overview

MidiBro connects to Bitwig Studio using the **simplest method possible** - just add the MidiBroConnectorPlugin before your instrument in the same track's device chain. Bitwig's flexible architecture handles MIDI routing automatically.

☑ Prerequisites

- MidiBro installed and registered
- MidiBroConnectorPlugin VST3 installed

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

- Bitwig Studio 4 or newer (Bitwig 5 recommended)

🔧 Setup Steps

▸ Step 1: Create an Instrument Track

- Open Bitwig Studio and create or open a project
- Create a new **Instrument Track** (right-click in track area -> Add Instrument Track)
- The track appears with an empty device chain

▸ Step 2: Add MidiBro Connector Plugin

- Open the **Device Panel** (press D or click the device area at bottom)
- Click the **+** button or drag from the browser
- Navigate to: **Plug-ins** -> **VST3** -> find **"MidiBro Connector Plugin"**
- Add it to the track's device chain
- The plugin window opens showing connection status

▸ Step 3: Add Your Instrument

- Click **+** again in the device chain (to the RIGHT of MidiBro plugin)
- Add your synth (Diva, Polymer, Phase-4, Serum, etc.)
- The device chain should show: **MidiBro Connector -> Your Synth**

▸ Step 4: Launch MidiBro and Enable Plugin Mode

- Open **MidiBro** standalone application
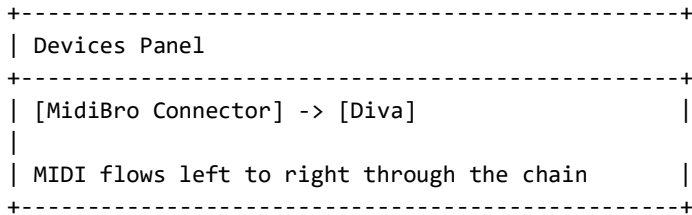- In the right panel, locate the **Audio Output** section

- Click **"Plugin in DAW"** to enable plugin mode

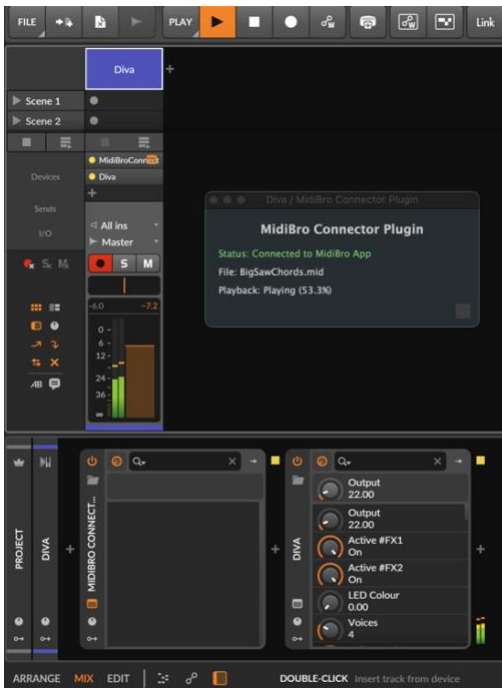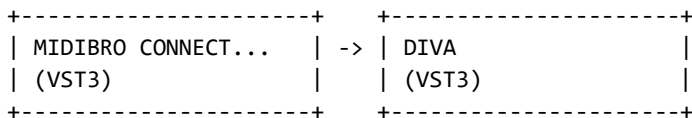### ▸ Step 5: Verify Connection

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

📊 Visual Diagram

```
Track: Diva
+--------------------------------------------------+
| Devices Panel                                    |
+--------------------------------------------------+
| [MidiBro Connector] -> [Diva]                    |
|                                                  |
| MIDI flows left to right through the chain       |
+--------------------------------------------------+

Device Chain (bottom panel):
+---------------------+     +---------------------+
| MIDIBRO CONNECT...  | -> | DIVA                 |
| (VST3)              |     | (VST3)               |
+---------------------+     +---------------------+
```


💡 Why This Works

Bitwig's device chain processes MIDI and audio from left to right:

- MidiBro Connector Plugin receives MIDI from the MidiBro app

- MIDI automatically flows to the next device in the chain
- Your synth receives and plays the MIDI
- Audio continues through any effects after the synth

No special routing required - just correct device order!

▶ Test Playback

- Select a MIDI file in MidiBro's file browser
- Click **Play** in MidiBro
- MIDI flows through the device chain to your synth
- Audio plays from Bitwig

⤬ Signal Flow

```
MidiBro App (select file + play)
        | IPC
        v
MidiBro Connector Plugin (first in chain)
        | MIDI (automatic)
        v
Your Synth - Diva, Serum, etc. (second in chain)
        | Audio
        v
Track Output -> Master
```

🔍 Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Plugin not found	Settings -> Plug-ins -> Locations -> Rescan
No sound	Ensure MidiBro plugin is BEFORE (left of) the synth
No sound	Check track is not muted
"Disconnected" status	Ensure plugin is loaded before enabling Plugin mode in MidiBro
MIDI not reaching synth	Check device order in chain (MidiBro must be first)

🎹 Using Note FX

Bitwig has native Note FX that can be combined with MidiBro:

```
Device Chain:
[MidiBro] -> [Arpeggiator] -> [Diva]
```

The arpeggiator will process MidiBro's MIDI before it reaches the synth.

🔄 Enabling DAW Sync (Optional)

For synchronized playback with Bitwig's transport:

- Toggle **"Sync to DAW"** ON in MidiBro's right panel
- Start **Bitwig transport first**
- Then click Play in MidiBro
- Playback will quantize to beat or bar boundaries

🎹 FX Chains and Containers

You can save the MidiBro + Synth combination as a preset:

- Select both devices in the chain
- Right-click -> **Save Preset**
- Reload anytime from your preset library

💡 Tips

- Device order matters - MidiBro must be before (left of) the synth
- You can add audio effects after the synth in the same chain
- Use Bitwig's **Instrument Layer** to trigger multiple synths from one MidiBro plugin
- Drag-and-drop MIDI files from MidiBro directly into Bitwig's arrangement

🌐 Support

Contact: ivo@midibro.de

🗄 References

- [Bitwig Studio Manual - Device Chain](https://www.bitwig.com/userguide/)