MidiBro Setup Guide for Cakewalk (by BandLab)

📋 Overview

MidiBro connects to Cakewalk through the **MidiBroConnectorPlugin** using a **two-track MIDI routing** approach. The plugin sits on one track and routes MIDI to your instrument on a second track via Cakewalk's internal MIDI routing.

☑️ Prerequisites

- MidiBro installed and registered
- MidiBroConnectorPlugin VST3 installed

  - Windows: *C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3*

- Cakewalk by BandLab (free) or Cakewalk Sonar

🔧 Setup Steps

▶ Step 1: Add MidiBro Connector Plugin

- Open Cakewalk and create or open a project
- Go to **Insert** -> **Soft Synth** -> **MidiBro Connector Plugin**
- In the dialog, check **"Simple Instrument Track"**
- Click **OK** - the plugin loads and a track is created
- Rename the track to "MidiBro" (right-click -> Rename)

▶ Step 2: Enable MIDI Output on the Plugin

- Double-click the plugin in the track's FX bin to open it
- Click the **Options menu** (gear icon or right-click the plugin header)
- Find **MIDI Output** and ensure it's enabled
- Note: This exposes the plugin's MIDI output for routing

▶ Step 3: Add Your Synth

- Go to **Insert** -> **Soft Synth** -> select your synth (Kontakt, Serum, etc.)
- Check **"Simple Instrument Track"**
- Click **OK**
- Rename the track to match your synth (e.g., "Piano")

▸ Step 4: Route MIDI from MidiBro to Synth

- Select the **synth track**
- In the track's **Input** dropdown (I column in Track View):

  - Click and select **"MidiBro Connector Plugin"** as the MIDI source

- Set the track's **Input Echo** to **On** (the speaker icon should be lit)

▸ Step 5: 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 6: Verify Connection

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

📊 Visual Diagram

```
Track View:
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
| MidiBro               | Piano                 |
| (Track 1)             | (Track 2)             |
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
| FX: MidiBro Connector | FX: Kontakt           |
|     Plugin            |                       |
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
| Input: Omni           | Input: MidiBro        |
|                       |        Connector Plugin |
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
| Input Echo: Off       | Input Echo: ON        | <- Important!
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
| Output: Master        | Output: Master        |
+-----------------------+-----------------------+
```

▶ Test Playback

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

⧖ Signal Flow

```
MidiBro App (select file + play)
        | IPC
        v
Track 1: MidiBro Connector Plugin
        | MIDI routing (Input selection)
        v
Track 2: Your Synth (Kontakt, Serum, etc.)
        |
        v
Audio Output (Master)
```

⚠ Important Settings

Setting	Track 1 (Plugin)	Track 2 (Synth)
Input	Omni or None	MidiBro Connector Plugin
Input Echo	Off	**On**
Output	Master	Master

🔍 Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Plugin not found	Edit -> Preferences -> File -> VST Settings -> Scan
No sound from synth	Set Input Echo to ON on the synth track
No sound from synth	Verify Input is set to MidiBro Connector Plugin
"Disconnected" status	Ensure plugin is loaded before enabling Plugin mode in MidiBro
MIDI not reaching synth	Check that plugin's MIDI Output is enabled

🔄 Enabling DAW Sync (Optional)

For synchronized playback with Cakewalk's transport:

- Toggle **"Sync to DAW"** ON in MidiBro's right panel
- Start **Cakewalk 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 (R button)
- Start recording in Cakewalk
- Play in MidiBro
- The MIDI is captured on the synth track

💡 Tips

- Input Echo must be ON for the synth track to hear incoming MIDI
- You can route one MidiBro plugin to multiple synth tracks for layering
- Use Track Folders to organize MidiBro-driven instrument groups
- Drag-and-drop MIDI files from MidiBro directly into Cakewalk's timeline

🌐 Support

Contact: ivo@midibro.de

📇 References

- [Cakewalk Help - Understanding the Routing Process](https://help.cakewalk.com/hc/en-us/articles/41322674774425-Understanding-the-Routing-Process-in-Cakewalk-Sonar)
- [Cakewalk Discuss - Internal MIDI Routing](https://discuss.cakewalk.com/topic/54963-internal-midi-routing-in-cakewalk/)