Ableton Link Integration Guidelines

Ableton Link

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What is Ableton Link?

Ableton Link is a **new technology** developed by Ableton that **synchronises musical beat, tempo**, and **phase** across multiple applications running on multiple devices. Applications on devices connected to a **local network** discover each other automatically and **form a musical session** in which each participant can **perform independently**: anyone can start or stop while still staying on the beat and in tempo. Anyone can change the tempo, the **others will follow**. Anyone can **join** or **leave** without disrupting the session.

Ableton Link compensates for network latencies and **requires next to no setup**. Live will support Link as will several iOS music apps that integrate the Ableton Link SDK.

Recognisable & Coherent

Ableton Link should be recognisable and behave predictably across devices.

Lightweight

Musicians can focus on music making. They are not distracted by the UI/UX.
The visible UI is reduced to the absolute necessary to minimise distractions.

Reliable & Clear

Users judge how well something works by how it looks and feels. An implementation that works well is worth a lot less if the experience and UI give the user a different impression.

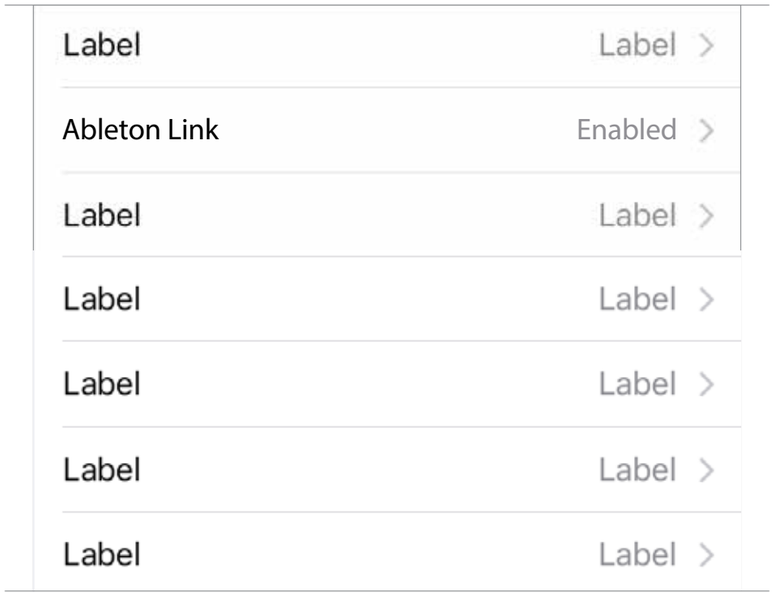
Add Ableton Link to your application

These **guidelines** are for iOS developers who wish to **integrate** the Ableton Link SDK into their music apps. While Ableton Link will exist within multiple third-party apps, it is important that a **consistent identity** and tone of voice is maintained. These guidelines should be followed carefully when implementing Ableton Link.

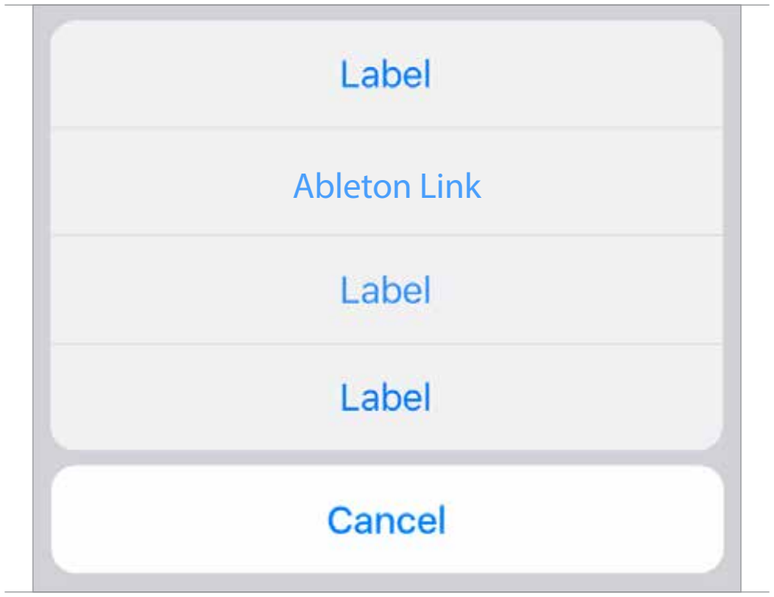
All assets relating to the Ableton Link identity will be **provided by Ableton**. All buttons, copy and labels should align with this document, and developers are **not to create, edit or modify** any brand elements relating to Ableton Link.

The information in these guidelines is **subject to change**. Please refer to **github.com/AbletonAppDev/LinkKit** for updates, support and further information.

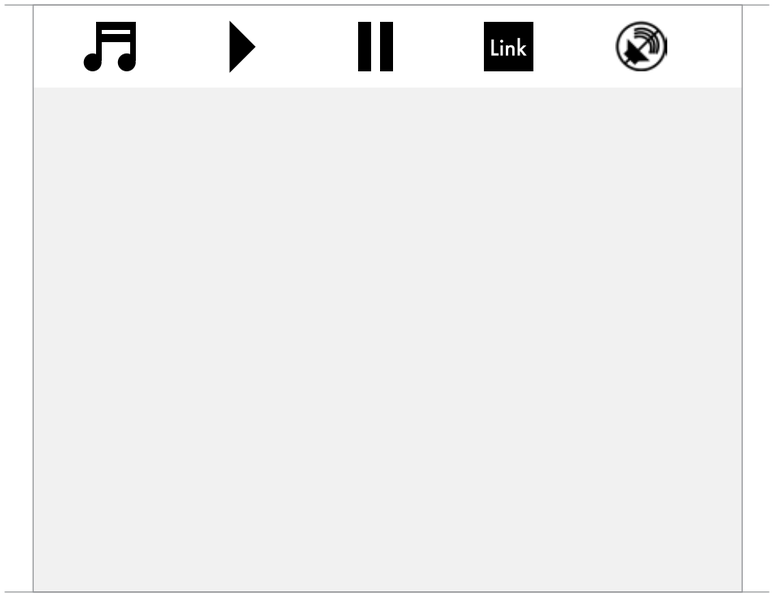
There are three different ways to access the Ableton Link preference pane. You should implement the best option for your UI structure. In any case, enabling Ableton Link would ideally require **no more than three taps**.



(1) Text label in cell list



(2) Text label in action sheet



(3) Button

The most common way to access Ableton Link is within an existing settings list. These lists generally consist of three elements:

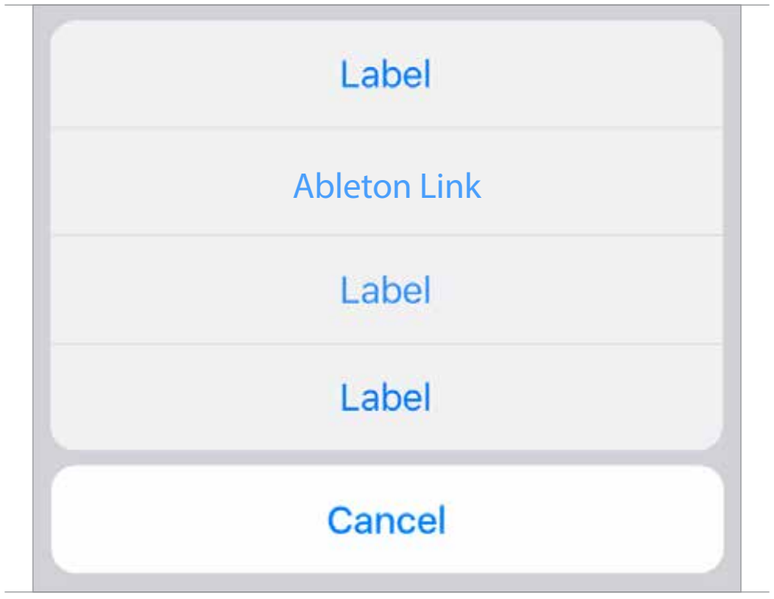
(1) Section Header
If a section header is required, the label should help categorise what Ableton Link actually does. It is important to note that not all setting lists have a section header, in which case no header is also acceptable.

(2) Label
The name Ableton Link must always be used in full when displayed in text. Typeset Ableton Link as two words using an uppercase A and uppercase L followed by lowercase letters. Ableton Link can be set in all uppercase only when conforming to an established UI type style.

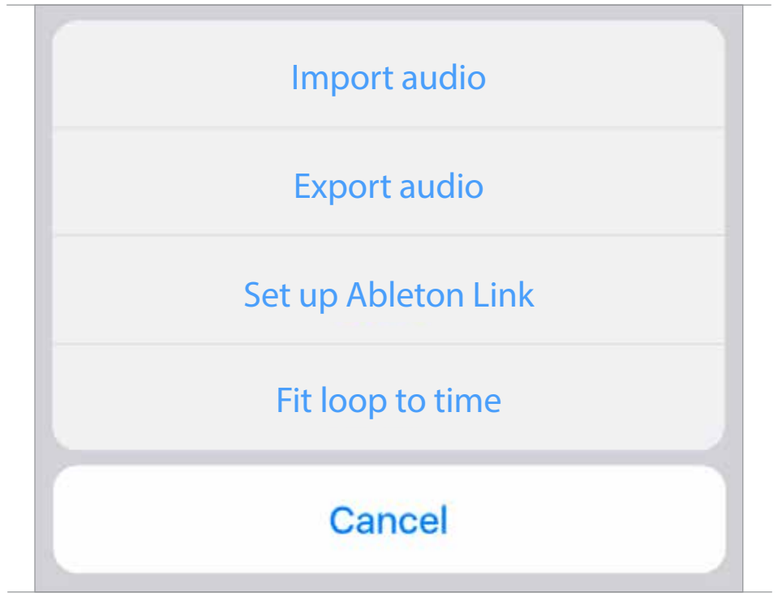
(3) State
The state of Ableton Link should always be displayed within the settings list. This language should always be consistent, clearly stating whether Ableton Link is **Enabled** or **Disabled**.

The same text rules for Ableton Link apply in action sheet lists.

An exception for this is when all other text labels use verbs as a prefix. In this scenario **Set up Ableton Link** can be used to fit consistently within established app action sheet lists.



(1) Text label in action sheet



(2) Text label in action sheet (with verbs)

When an Ableton Link text label is not possible, the Ableton Link button can be applied. It is not a logo and should not be treated as such.

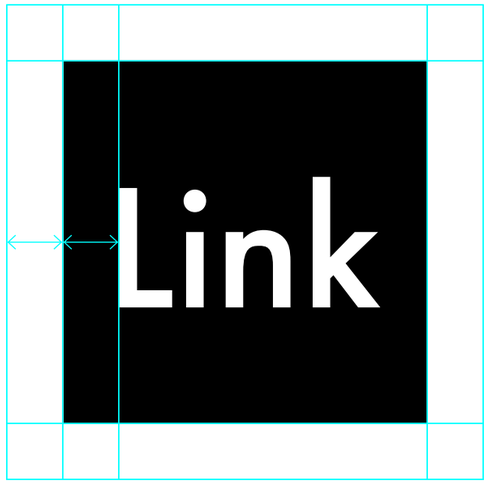
When possible, the button should indicate the state of Ableton Link. For example if other buttons change color when they are enabled, Ableton Link should align with the behaviour of the existing interface.

(1) Clear Space

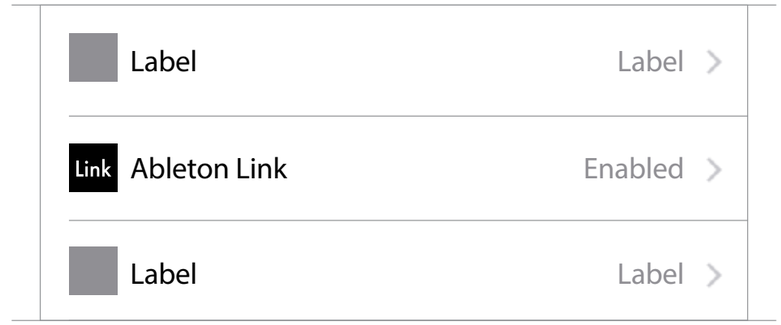
The minimum clear space is the same distance between the L and left edge of the square. Always have more clear space than the minimum if it is available.

(2) Minimum Size

The minimum size of the Ableton Link button is 28 x 28pt. An example of where this minimum size would be used is in a cell list with corresponding icons.



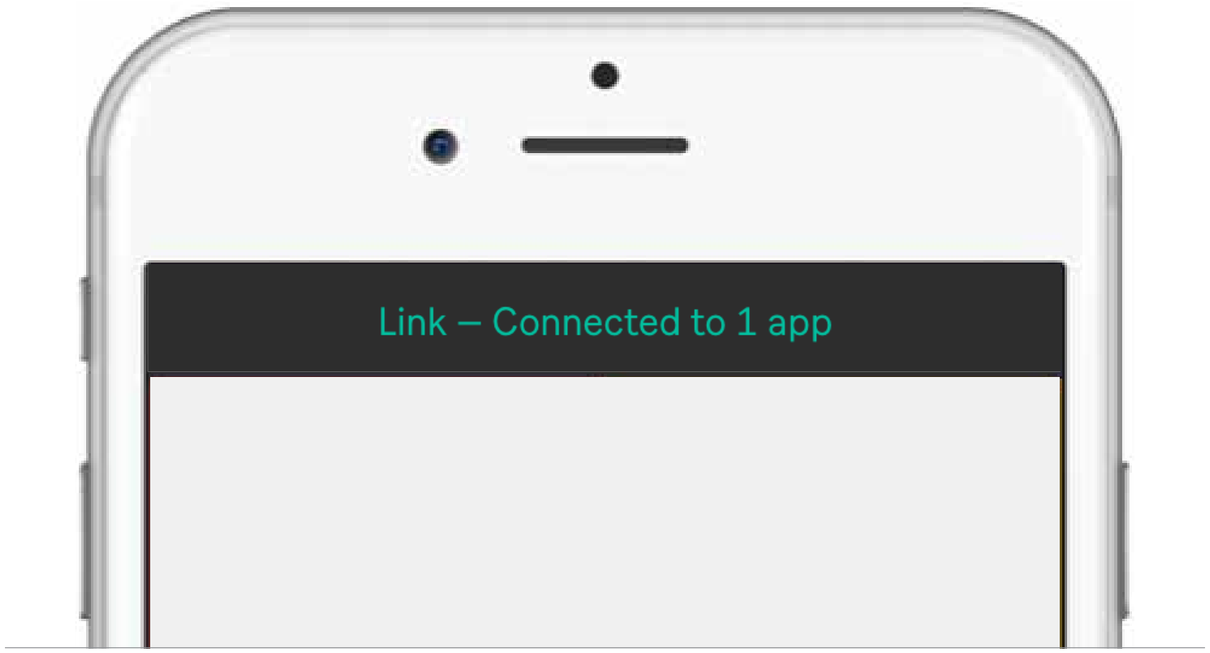
(1) Clear space



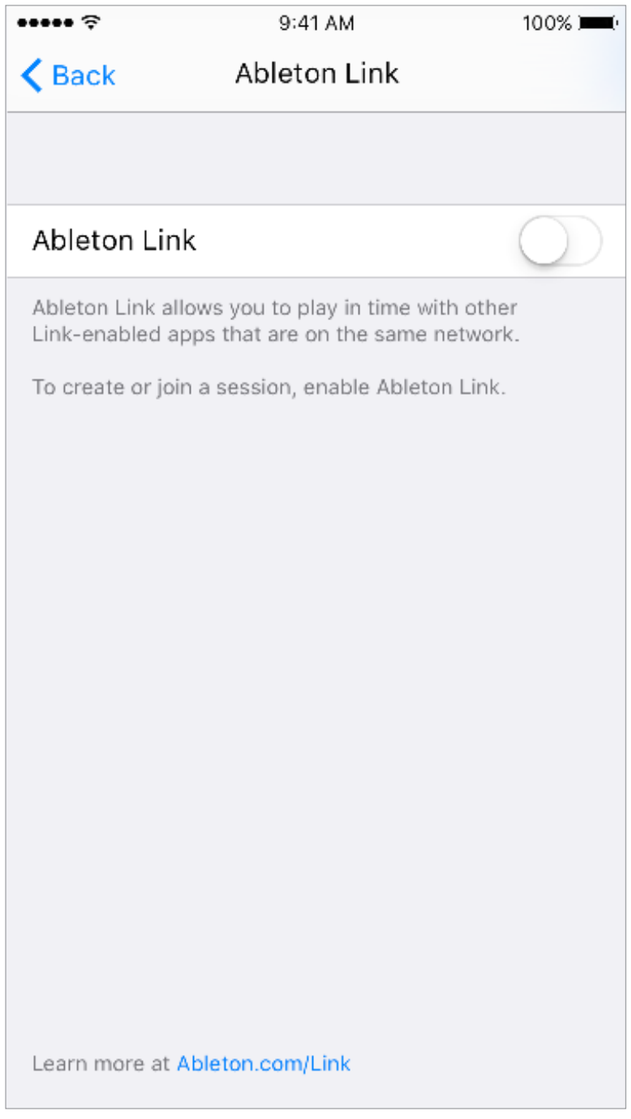
(2) Minimum size — cell list with icon

In-app notifications are supplied by Ableton and use the Ableton typeface.

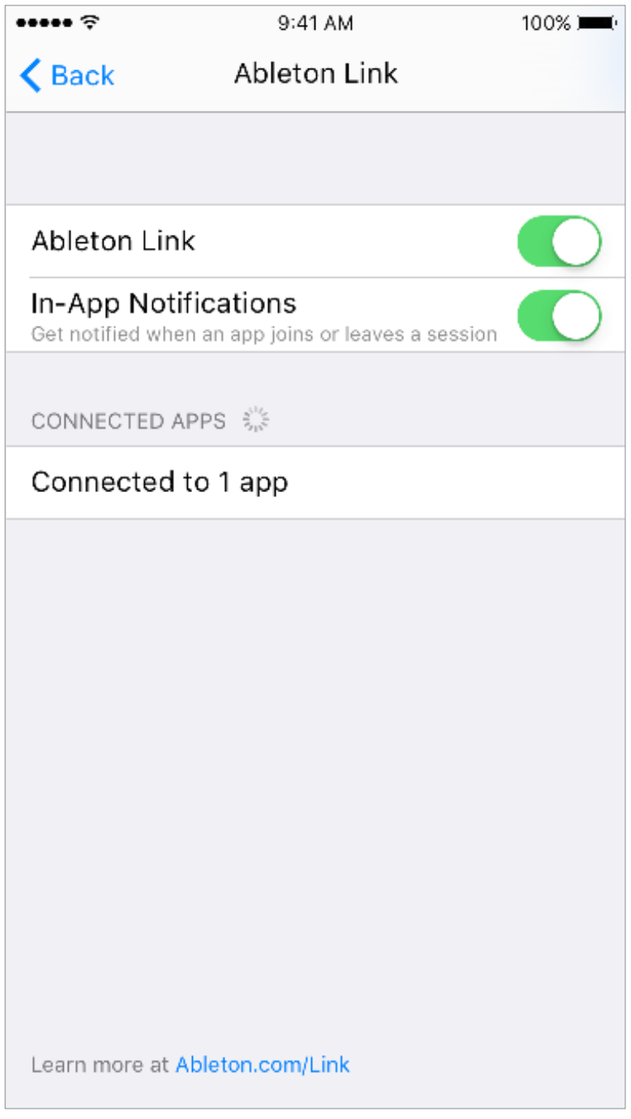
In-app notifications tell the user that someone has joined or left a session. **In-app notifications are mandatory** to ensure a consistent experience across devices but can be disabled by the user in the preferences.



The **preference pane** is where users can enable and disable Ableton Link and in-app notifications. It is supplied by Ableton and **should not be edited or modified** in any way. This includes all visual elements, text labels and copy writing.



(1) Ableton Link **disabled**



(2) Ableton Link **enabled**

Promoting Ableton Link

When promoting Ableton Link you will use messaging to describe what the technology does and how it adds to your application. It is important that the name remains consistent across communications when talking about the brand.

When using the name Ableton Link in headlines or copy, always typeset Ableton Link as **two words** with an uppercase A and uppercase L followed by lowercase letters (1). Never make Ableton Link one word (2) or typeset in capital letters (3).

Never use the Ableton Link badge to represent the name Ableton in text (4). The same applies to the Ableton Link button, which should also never appear in text (5).

New version 2.5.19 now
with Ableton Link integration.

(1) **Correct usage**

New version 2.5.19 now
with AbletonLink integration.

(2) **Incorrect usage:** do not make one word

New version 2.5.19 now
with ABLETON LINK integration.

(3) **Incorrect usage:** do not use all capitals

New version 2.5.19 now
with Link integration.

(4) **Incorrect usage:** do not use Ableton Link badge in text

New version 2.5.19 now
with Ableton Link integration.

(5) **Incorrect usage:** do not use Ableton Link button in text

You can use the suggested messaging on the right to promote Ableton Link in app promotions, or you can develop your own copy related to your app. Always follow the guidelines for using the name when talking about Ableton Link.

Ableton Link description—short version:
Ableton Link is a new technology that synchronises beat, phase and tempo of Ableton Live and Link-enabled iOS apps over a wireless network.

Ableton Link description—long version:
Ableton Link is a new technology that synchronises beat, phase and tempo of Ableton Live and Link-enabled iOS apps over a wireless network. It lets you play devices together with the freedom of a live band. Anyone can start and stop their part while others keep playing, and anyone can adjust the tempo and the rest will follow. You can use Link to play with several copies of Ableton Live, with Live and iOS apps, or with iOS apps together – even without Live in your setup.

Ableton Link boilerplate:

About Ableton and Link

Based in Berlin and run by its founders, Ableton makes Live and Push. With these products, a community of users create and perform music. Now Ableton aims to improve musicians' experience beyond Live and Push, with Link.

Link technology is lightweight and reliable – it's designed to stay out of your way, enabling free-flowing collaboration. Link is also made to help musicians connect with others – with Ableton Live and beyond it – so the framework to develop it is available free of charge. For more information, head to Ableton.com/link.

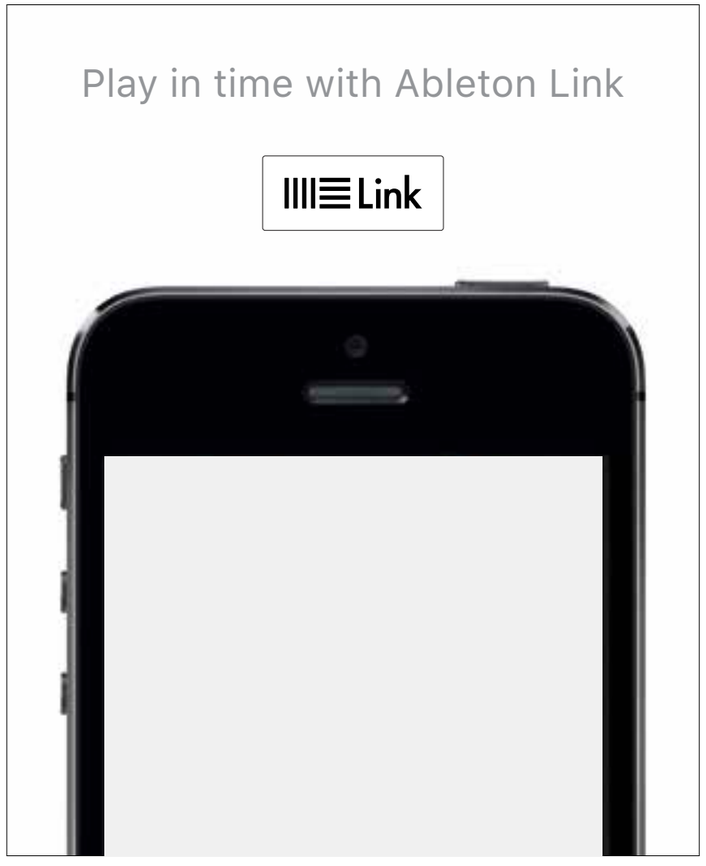
Ableton Link badge

The Ableton Link badge can be used to promote the technology being integrated into your app. The badge can feature on **banners, product tours, app store screenshots, websites and more**.

There is a **white** and **black** badge available and you should use the color which **best matches** your app communication designs.

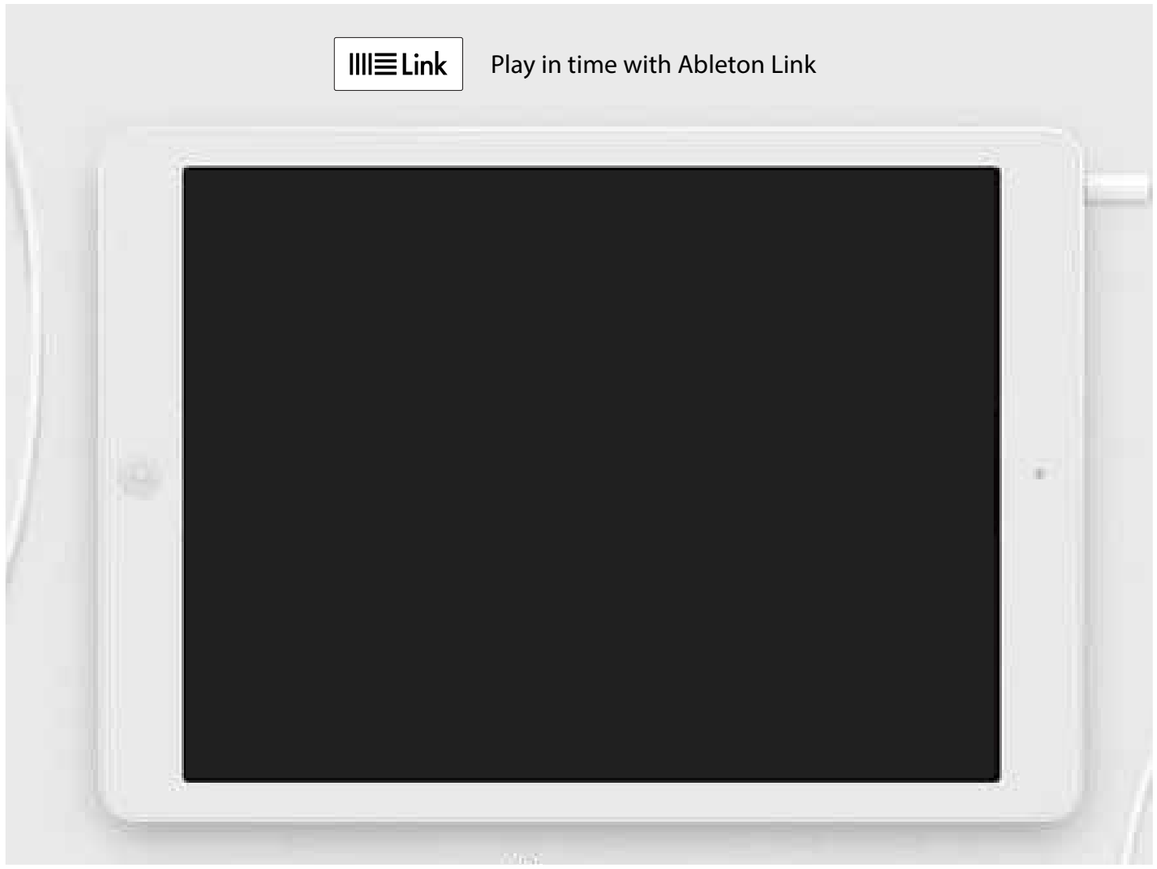
(1) White Ableton Link badge

(2) Black Ableton Link badge



(3) **Correct usage:** Use the white badge for white and light colored backgrounds

(4) **Correct usage:** Use the black badge for black or dark colored backgrounds



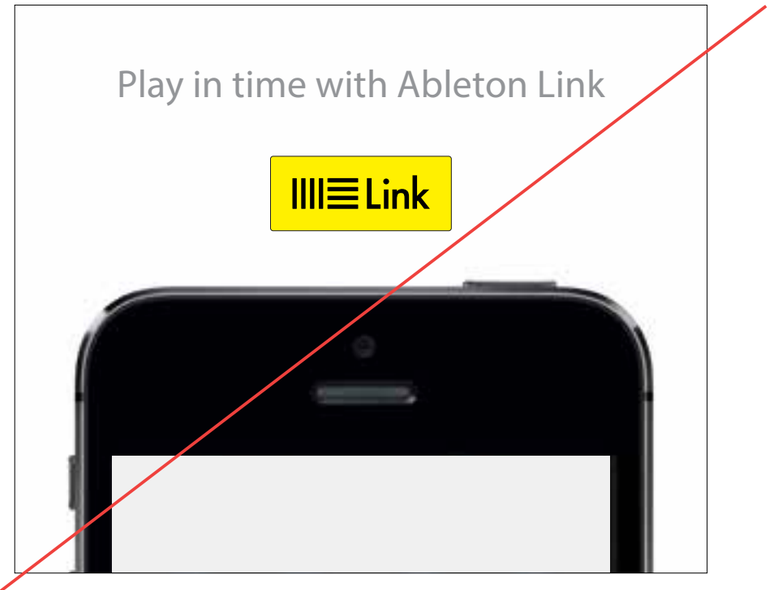
(4) **Correct usage:** Use the white badge for white and light colored backgrounds

(5) **Correct usage:** Use the black badge for black or dark colored backgrounds

Using the Ableton Link badge

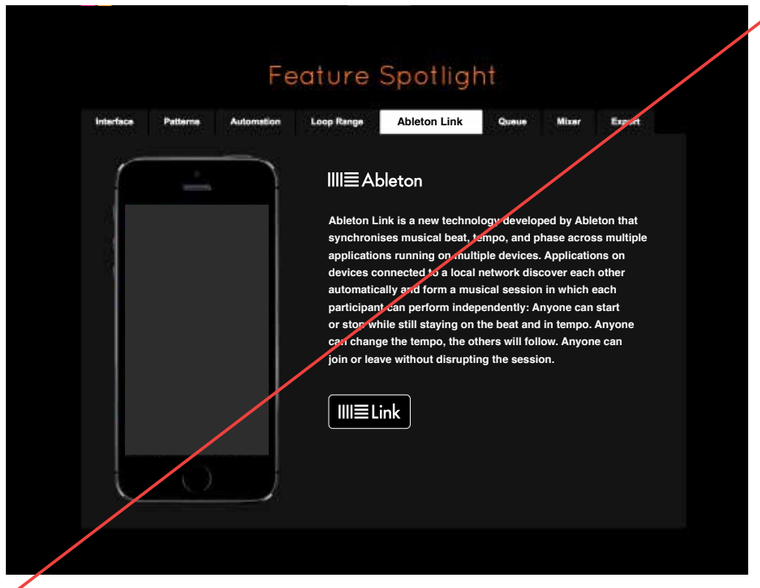
The Ableton Link badge should not be edited or modified in any way (1). It should never used to represent the name Ableton Link in text (2) and should always appear alone, not with or next to the full Ableton logo (3).

The badge has a stroke outline that should always be present in both white and black options (4).

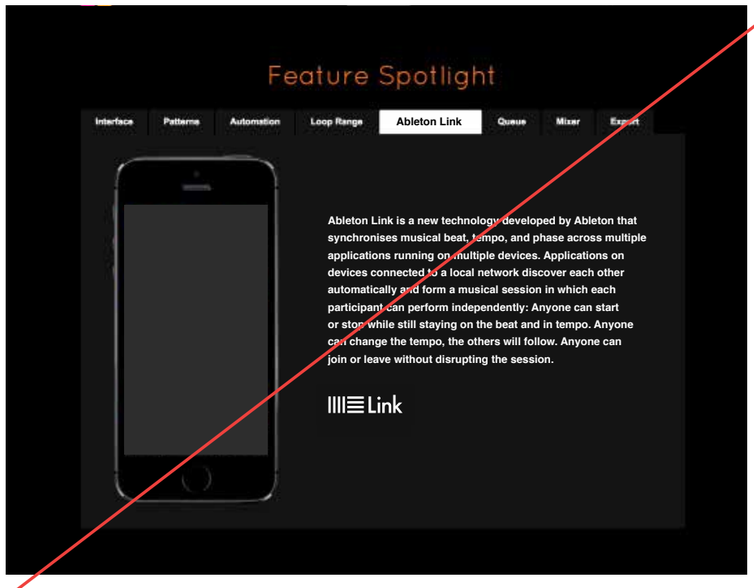


(1) **Incorrect usage:** Do not edit or modify the badge

(2) **Incorrect usage:** Do not use the badge to represent text



(3) **Incorrect usage:** Do not use with or near the Ableton logo



(4) **Incorrect usage:** The keyline should always be present

Ableton.com