

SOWER

MIDI step sequencer for REAPER DAW

<http://nizzei8q.bget.ru/sower>



Concepts

Sower is a MIDI editor that looks and works like a step sequencer - but with one difference: it writes musical notes directly into MIDI clips, without use of any intermediate patterns.

The plugin has two modes. “Multi-channel mode” lets you work with a number of rows representing different MIDI pitch lines chosen from different tracks. In “single-track mode”, there are 128 channels for each pitch of the same single track.

Notes are inserted and deleted by clicking on the grid. If there's no item on a track at the point of note insertion, then either a new item is added automatically or the previous one is expanded, depending on current settings.

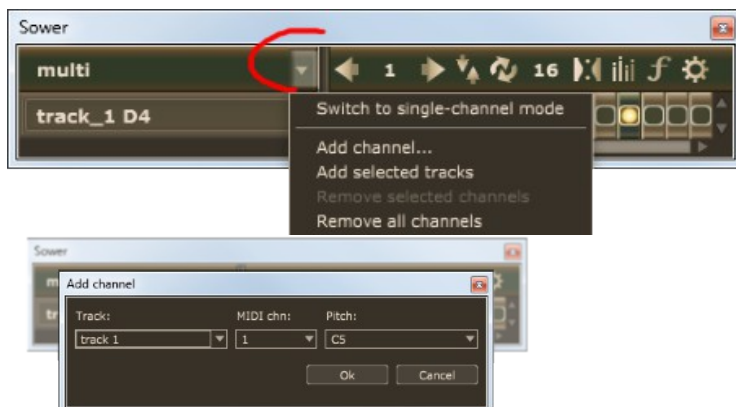
Time resolution of the grid may be changed from 1/4th to 1/128th note. When switching to another musical bar, the resolution may be auto-increased if necessary to show all the bar MIDI notes. You can set the grid to use triplets and set the view to number of bars to 1, 2, or 4. Channels may be selected to copy and paste notes into another location. The pull-out panel with sliders at the bottom serves for adjustment of note parameters.

Launching

Sower appends its run command to the Extensions menu along with a record to the Action list.

Quick start

The first time you start the plugin, it will look like this. Click the main menu button, choose “Add channel” from the menu and set the track and pitch for a new channel in the dialog window.



Repeat to add more channels. Clicking on a channel label opens the channel menu.

If you prefer to see all 128 pitch channels from the same one track, select “Switch to single-track mode” from the main menu, then open the menu again and select “Set channel” to choose a track. Alternatively, click on any channel name in multi-mode and select “Open in single-track mode”.

Click on the grid cells to insert notes, click again to delete. You can also drag mouse to insert/delete several notes at once. Right-click on a cell to set the note properties.

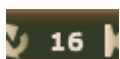
To change the musical bar, either use navigation buttons on the toolbar or scroll the bar number or left- and right-arrow keys on your keyboard. The third toolbar button is to toggle sync playback position to Reaper.



Click a channel selector to select a channel, click again to select all channels. Use the Shift key to add a channel to the selection. To copy and paste selected rows use commands with standard key combinations:



Use the second scroller to adjust the grid time resolution (16 here means 1/16th note):

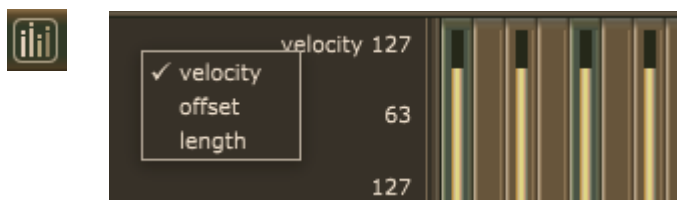


The minimum is 1/4 and the maximum is set in program options (the last button on the toolbar).

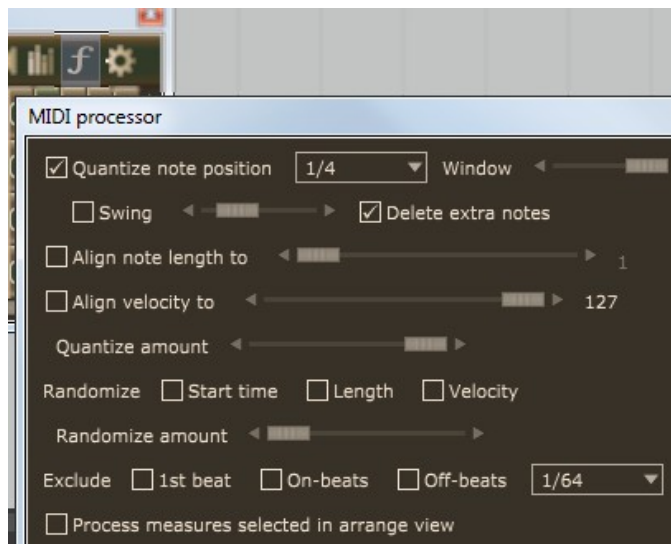
The next button toggles the program behaviour in case when there's no item to insert a MIDI note into. The first choice is stretching the previous MIDI item and the second is inserting a new one:



The next button shows/hides the control panel. Drag sliders to set MIDI note properties. Right-click to switch the parameter:



This button opens MIDI Processor:



MIDI Processor lets you quantize and randomize notes of selected Sower channels. The time range is either the current bar (you can switch to Sower window and choose another bar without leaving the dialog), or within a range of bars that are selected in Arrange view (“Process measures selected in arrange view” option).

“Quantize note position” - select to line up notes to a grid with resolution set in the adjacent control. Note that if the sequencer window is set to use triplets, the quantizer uses triplets. “Window” parameter determines whether to quantize notes that are far from quantization points or not. “Swing” lets you shift every second note forward by given amount. “Delete extra notes” - erase MIDI notes that are between the quantized ones.

Both quantizing and “Align note length/velocity...” functions depend on the “Quantizing strength” slider, which determines how closely source values will be moved to the requested value.

“Exclude”: this option lets you leave alone some notes: the first beat of the measure and notes that are on-beats and off-beats with the resolution specified in the drop-down box.

Processing occurs each time you press the “Apply” button.

The last toolbar button opens program settings:



“Max. resolution”: time resolution limit - if, for example, set to 1/32th note, then the plugin ignores any 1/64th notes - this prevents situations when a 1/32th shifted a bit would be treated as a 1/64th, causing auto-expansion of the grid.

“Default pitch / midi channel” - these values are used as defaults when new channels are added.

“Delete MIDI item after the last note is deleted” - works only if there's no any other events – e.g. controllers – within any take inside that item.

“Allow undo points...” - clear to prevent adding much to the Undo history.

The rest goes without saying. Happy clicking!