

Getting started with Monoleap

What is monoleap?

Monoleap is a midi controller app for the iPad designed for playing monophonic instruments (bass / lead synths, sampled wind / string instruments etc.). We wanted to design an instrument that you can just grab with both hands and play without having to look at the device. An instrument that allows you to play anything you like and change the sound and articulation of your instrument as you play by just moving your hands intuitively with the music.

Setting Up

Monoleap does not produce any sound by itself, it is a MIDI controller. Therefore in order to use it you must have either a synth / sampler app installed on your iPad or a computer (PC or Mac) running a software instrument.

Using iPad only

To get started quickly, we recommend using monoleap together with an iPad software instrument. One such instrument that's free and easy to use is IK Multimedia's [Sampletank Free](#). The rest of this tutorial will assume that you'll be using this instrument so it's a good way to get started and learn what you can do with monoleap. Later you'll be able to easily do the same with any instrument you choose.

- Install Sampletank free from the App Store
- Enable background audio (so that the app can produce sound when in background) by going to the MENU (top right corner) → Settings → Scroll down to the 'Background Audio' option and turn it on.
- Select a patch - as a start we recommend selecting the 'Alto Sax' patch from the 'Woodwinds' menu as shown in the picture.




Using a Mac / PC

The easiest and recommended way to transmit MIDI from the iPad to a computer is to use [Music IO](#). It is an application for both your iPad and your PC / Mac that allows you to transmit MIDI over the standard iPad USB cable.

If you have a Mac, you can also transmit midi wirelessly over WIFI by following the instructions [here](#).

How to play

Once monoleap is connected to a sound source you are ready to start playing. Open the Monoleap app and you will get to the initial settings screen. This screen lets you define the various midi controller assignments as well as other settings. We'll explore this screen later in this guide, but for now we are interested in learning how to play so we will skip this screen and go directly to the instrument.

Press the 'play' button  to go directly to the instrument screen.

Holding the device

The picture on the right below shows how to hold your iPad when playing the monoleap. The picture is upside down so it reflects the way you would look at your device from above when holding it that way.

Note that the screen is facing away from you. As you learn to master the fingerings you will find that over time you will not need to look at your screen while playing.

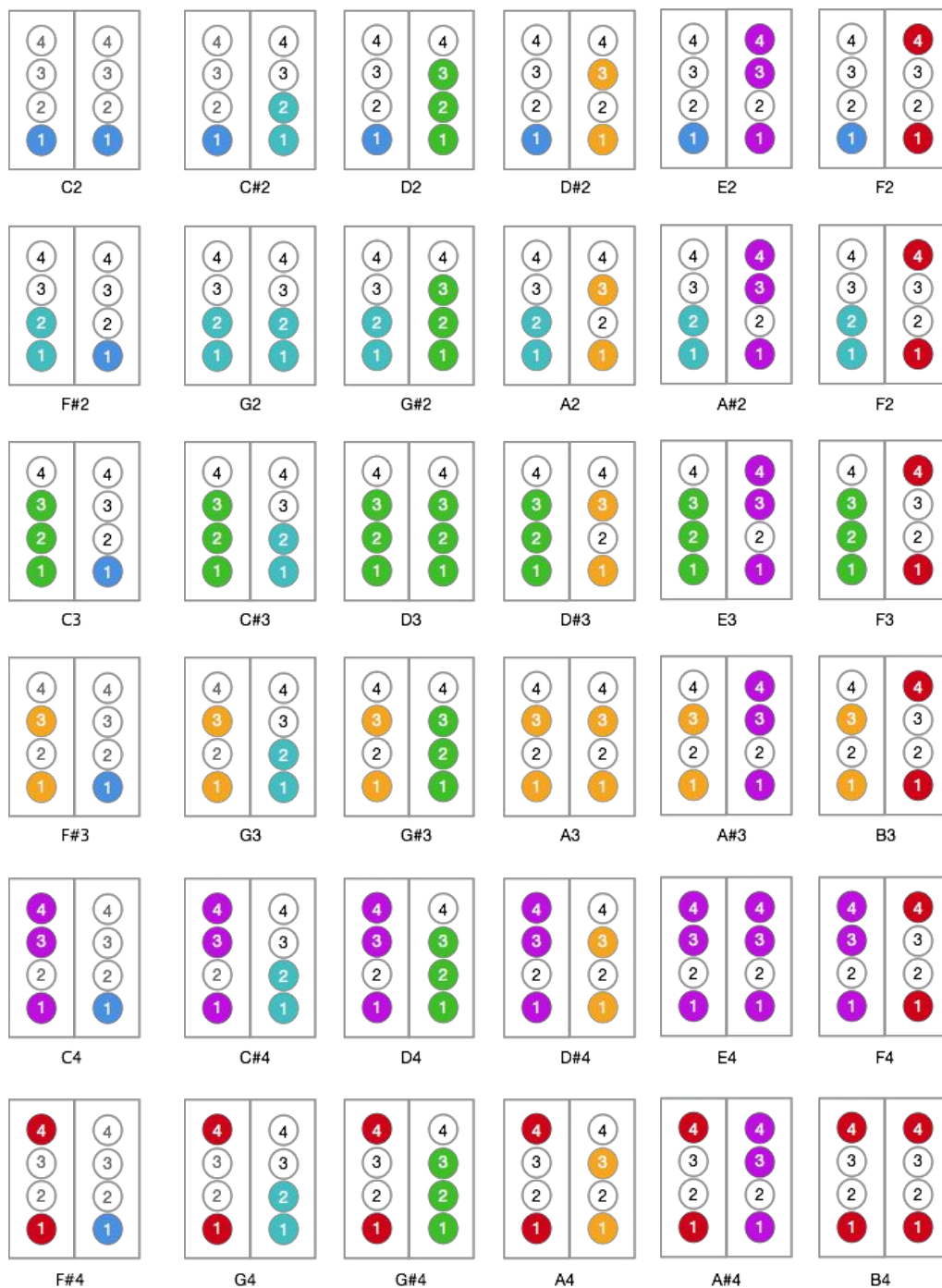
Monoleap will send a midi signal only when a pattern is fingered by **both** hands. A pattern is a combination of several fingers. The note played is determined by the combination of the patterns played by both hands, regardless of where (vertically or horizontally) you play the patterns. The horizontal and vertical positions of both hands can be mapped to midi CC values and control volume, filter cutoff or any other sampler / synth parameter you choose.

Fingering Patterns



MONOLEAP

The following chart provides the fingerings required to play the three octaves supported by the app chromatically



Setting up Midi Control

An instrument with no dynamic changes in expression and articulation can not really express emotion properly. Monoleap lets you map up to four midi CC values to the horizontal and vertical position of your hands as you play.

Go back to the 'settings' screen by pressing the



button (the button appears when your hands are not playing any pattern).


The screen is divided to four parts, letting you define the CC values to be sent to the instrument when moving your hands horizontally and vertically on the iPad screen.

Enable the 'Controller Change' switch in the 'Right hand Vertical' section. By default it will send midi CC 74 (filter cutoff) to the instrument. Go back to the 'play' screen by pressing the play button below.

Start playing the monoleap and as you play move your right hand up and down. Notice that the sound becomes bright as you move your hand down (as the LP filter defined on the instrument opens up).

The CC value (0 → 127) is determined by the position of your first (top most) finger on the screen)

You can define similar controller values for the vertical and horizontal directions in both hands by enabling the controller change switch and selecting the value using the slider and the '+' and '-' buttons (for precision selection).

Many instruments have a 'midi learn' option that waits for a midi control value from a controller to learn the mapping. You can use the 'transmit'  buttons to transmit the MIDI message you choose.

