wacKMK Control Surface

This manual guides you through the set-up and use the included KMK midi remote script for allowing a Korg MicroKontrol to be used a control surface with Ableton Live.

The script is a modified version of the APC40 script, with functions removed or added as appropriate to the physical controls available on the KMK surface. Please consult the Live manual for further details on what each button does.

Setup

1) Download and unzip the file

2) Move the two folders wacKMK_A and wacKMK_B into Ableton's MIDI Remote Scripts folder, located at:

   ```
   Windows:
   C:\Program Files\Ableton\Live 7.0.18\Resources\MIDI Remote Scripts

   Os X:
   Under applications, ctrl+click and show contents of Live.app
   -> Contents\App-Resources\MIDI Remote Scripts
   ```

3) Set-up an internal MIDI bus on your computer

   ```
   Windows:
   Install MidiYoke or your preferred alternative

   Os X:
   Activate a port on the IAC MIDI bus
   (Under Applications -> Utilities -> Audio MIDI setup)
   ```

4) Load Ableton and under midi sync settings add two control surfaces, with MIDI ports set as follows:

   ```
   Windows:
   wacKMK_A    Input      USB Audio Device [2]
               Output     Out To MIDI Yoke:  1

   wacKMK_B    Input      In From MIDI Yoke:  1
               Output     USB Audio Device [2]

   Os X:
   wacKMK_A    Input      microKONTROL (Port 2)
               Output     IAC Driver (IAC Bus 1)

   wacKMK_B    Input      IAC Driver (IAC Bus 1)
               Output     microKONTROL (Port 2)
   ```

Nb1. The Microkontrol provides three input ports and two output ports. The exact names of the ports provided may vary on your system. It is always the second port (for input and output) used by the KMK script.

Nb2. As you are specifying a control surface, no 'track', 'sync' or 'remote' assignments need to be made on any of the MIDI ports used by the KMK scripts.

Please consult the Live manual for additional help with setting up control surfaces.

Technical

The first control surface (wacKMK_A) is used to parse MIDI Sysex messages sent from the Microkontrol when it is in Native Mode. This forwards MIDI Notes/CCs to the second control surface (wacKMK_B) via an internal MIDI bus. It is this control surface that actually 'controls' the Live application

As the Microkontrol is put into 'Native Mode' by the KMK script no additional setup of the hardware is required.

Mappings

Pads
The pads section of the KMK replicates the functionality offered by the eight *Device/Transport* buttons on the APC40, and offers some additional control functionality. The pad LEDs provide visual feedback to show the current state of a given control.

Nb. After initialising the KMK, it may be necessary to press the SHIFT button once to update all pad LEDs to show their true state.
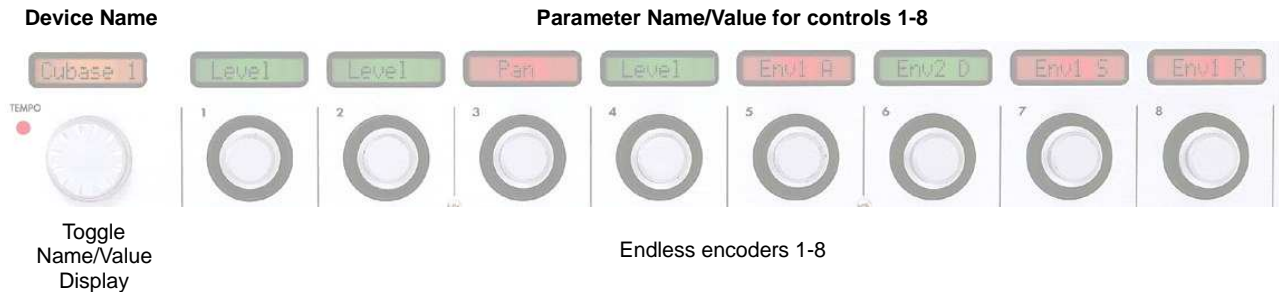
The *Select Track* buttons allow you to move through the tracks in your Live set; they also offer access to return and master tracks. These buttons, combined with the *Select Device* buttons allow you to navigate to any device anywhere in your set - the encoders will automap to the controls of that device, with visual feedback (see *Encoders* section below).

With the *SHIFT* button held, the top eight pads are used to switch between the banks of controls (for the currently selected device) that the encoders affect.

The *Lock Device* button allows the control surface to remain focused on the currently selected device, even if the application focus moves to another device/track within your Live set.

Encoders

The encoders will automap to parameters of the currently selected device to allow instant editing. A bank of eight parameters can be selected and edited at one time, with the pads used to select different banks for devices with more than eight parameters.

Device Name   **Parameter Name/Value for controls 1-8**

Toggle
Name/Value
Display

Endless encoders 1-8

The name of the currently selected device is always displayed in the leftmost LCD. You can select another device on the current track via the pads.

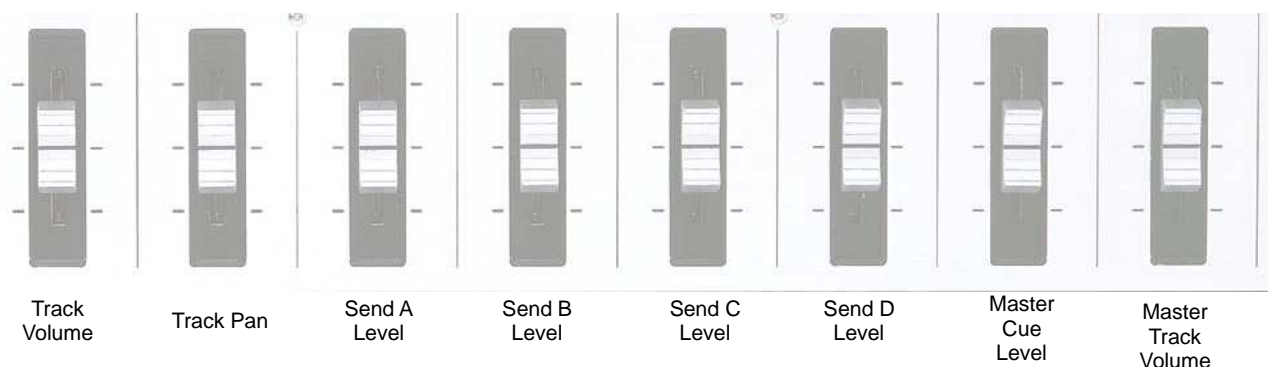The leftmost encoder is used to toggle the display state of the other eight LCDs:
- Rotating it anti-clockwise makes the LCDs display parameter names
- Rotating clockwise switches the LCDs to show current parameter values

The LCDs always remain updated to show the current parameter name/value for the associated encoder.

Nb. After initialising the KMK, the LCDs will remain blank (except for the wacKMK welcome message) until you select a new track or device

Faders

The first six faders are used to control mixer functions for the currently selected track. The last two faders control global parameters that are available at any time.

Track
Volume

Track Pan

Send A
Level

Send B
Level

Send C
Level

Send D
Level

Master
Cue
Level

Master
Track
Volume

Transport Buttons

The six buttons above the Microkontrol's *Octave Shift* buttons are used to control Lives transport. Visual feedback on the button LEDs lets you know the transport's current state.

Keyboard/Joystick

If you enable Track In on the the KMK's third midi input port (i.e. `microKONTROL (Port 3)` under Os X or `USB Audio Device [3]` under windows) in Live's midi sync preferences, the keyboard and joystick can be used to play notes and provide pitch bend functionality respectively.

Please consult the Live manual for additional help with MIDI control of Live.

Disclaimer

This script has only been tested with Live 7.0.18; it uses the 'framework classes' introduced for use with the APC40/Launchpad and other newer control surfaces, so will only work with Live versions 7.0.18 and beyond.

No guarantee is made that the KMK script will continue to work as newer updates of Live 8 become available.

The Live 8 version of the remote script is offered as it corrects a known bug (concerning the spelling of the word 'metronom') in the Live 7 framework classes. Use the version of the script appropriate to your version of Live.

Acknowledgments

This script was written by Will Crossland. Comments/queries to willycwillydo@gmail.com

It is modified from the APC40 script supplied with Ableton Live. Use it at your own risk; it is in no way affiliated with or supported by Ableton AG.

I could not have attempted this without the information and knowledge shared by Hanz Petrov on his blog: http://remotescripts.blogspot.com/