

LAUNCHPAD S

GETTING STARTED GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Launchpad S is a unique controller for Ableton Live, designed by Novation and Ableton. This 'Getting Started Guide' will help you set up your Launchpad S and briefly introduce its capabilities. It should be noted that Launchpad S is not restricted to use just within Ableton Live. Launchpad S is now fully integrated with a number of other music making applications.

SOFTWARE SET-UP

Launchpad S is a Class Compliant MIDI device so no driver installation is required. No DVD is included in the box. Ableton Live Lite and other free content is available by registering your product on the Novation website:

- Go to www.novationmusic.com/register
- Follow the on-screen instructions and enter the code on the supplied registration card
- Once registered and signed in, all content and documentation for your Launchpad S will be available on your 'my account' page

HARDWARE SET-UP

Connect your Launchpad S to an available USB port on your Mac or PC using the supplied USB cable. Up to six devices connected simultaneously are supported in Ableton Live (NOTE: using multiple Launchpad S devices may require a powered USB hub, not supplied).



INSTALL ABLETON LIVE

- In your my account page click Download next to Ableton Live Lite.
- Click the relevant download link for Mac or PC to download the Ableton Live Lite installer
- Once the download is complete, run the installer
- The first time you launch Live 9 Lite, an authorization dialog will pop up. Follow the instructions here to authorize Live: <https://www.ableton.com/en/articles/register-lite/>
- When prompted, use the activation code next to Ableton Live Lite in your my account page on novationmusic.com

INSTALL LAUNCHPAD S DEMO SESSION

STEP 1: Download the Launchpad Demo Project from your 'my account' page and double-click the file

STEP 2: Ableton Live will auto-load and you will be asked to save the Live Pack to your local hard drive

STEP 3: Choose 'File>Open Live set...' and navigate to the 'LaunchpadDemo' session on your local drive.

SETTING UP LAUNCHPAD S WITHIN ABLETON LIVE



1. Open Live's Preferences from the Live menu in OS X, or the Options menu in Windows
2. Go to the MIDI/Sync tab and select the port that the Launchpad S is connected to in the 'Input' and 'Output' chooser at the top of window.
3. Next select the Launchpad preset from the 'Control Surface' chooser
4. Under MIDI Ports select both Track 'On' and Remote 'On' options as shown above.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW: ABLETON LIVE



Red frame indicates currently controlled section

THE SESSION MODE

When Launchpad is chosen as an active control surface, a ring appears on the session view to indicate which section is currently controlled by the pad matrix. Pressing a clip launch pad triggers the clip in the corresponding clip slot in Live. Hitting an empty clip slot in a track that is not armed will stop the clip playing in this track. If the track is armed to record, pressing the button records a new clip.

The directional arrows and the session button increase the scope of the eight-by-eight grid by navigating the session view in scenes and tracks. You can also fire horizontal lines of clips (scenes) with the buttons on the right hand side of Launchpad S.

The buttons in the matrix light up in different colours so you know what's going on:

AMBER: this slot contains a clip **GREEN:** this clip is playing **RED:** this clip is recording

SESSION OVERVIEW

The Launchpad's session overview lets you navigate through large Live sets quickly without looking at your computer screen. Hold down the "session" button and the matrix zooms out to reveal an overview of

your session view. In the session overview, each pad represents an eight-by-eight block of clips, giving you a matrix of 64 scenes by 64 tracks. In the session overview, the colour coding is a little different:



AMBER: Indicates the currently selected block of clips, which will be surrounded by the ring in the software.

GREEN: There are clips playing in that block of clips (though that may not be the block of clips selected).

RED: There are no clips playing in that range.

NO COLOUR: There are no tracks or scenes in that range.

USER MODES

User1: This mode can be used to play drum racks in Lives MIDI tracks (if no assignments have been made), or to freely assign the Launchpad S buttons to any MIDI assignable parameter in Live.

User2: This mode can be used as a convenient place to access Max for Live presets (if no learn assignments have been made), or to freely assign to any parameter in Live.

MIXER MODES

MIXER OVERVIEW



Stop, Track activator,
Solo and Track Arm controls

Hitting the “mixer” button provides an overview of the main controls of Live. The top four rows of pads indicate the status of track volume, track pan, as well as sends A and B, for each track. These buttons act as ‘reset’ buttons for tracks in Ableton Live.

The bottom four rows of pads provide direct access to controls for each track including: stop, track activator, solo and track arm. The bottom four buttons on the right provide additional control for each track:

- the “stop” button will stop all clips currently playing (Can be prevented by re-assigning function)
- the “trk on” button will turn all tracks on (un-mute)
- the “solo” button will un-solo all soloed tracks
- the “arm” button will un-arm all armed tracks

THE VOLUME / PAN / SND A / SND B PAGES



When mixer mode is active, press the vol/pan/sndA or sndB buttons to enter the volume, pan or send pages where all eight pads of a column turn into a continuous track "faders" for their respective controls.

LAUNCHPAD S FEATURES TWO POWER MODES

Out of the box it defaults to low-power mode. In full-power mode, the LEDs are far brighter. This mode is recommended if the Launchpad S is being used with a standard desktop/laptop computer and particularly in daylight. The Launchpad S will not work with an iPad if it is in full-power mode unless a separate powered USB hub is used.

To switch power modes follow these steps



Hold down the session, user 1, user 2 and mixer buttons while connecting the USB cable



Then press either of the red lit pads to switch between modes



Press the green pad to exit

USING ABLETON LIVE LITE 9

For detailed instructions on using Ableton Live Lite 9 a full user guide can be accessed in Ableton Live's 'Help' menu.

USING LAUNCHPAD S WITH OTHER MUSIC SOFTWARE

Launchpad S now has tight integration with other music software. Please check the Novation Launchpad S product pages on the website for the list of integrated software and more information.