

Click-It Master User Guide



Introduction

Click-It Master is a VST metronome plug-in that supports user-definable click patterns. It reads click patterns from a control file as well as information about where to find .wav files containing the click audio.

Three levels of click are supported: downbeat, primary click and secondary click. Patterns dictate how these are distributed for a given time signature. A fourth level is actually available which is silence for a click position.

Usage

This plug-in is intended for use inside a DAW. To use, create an audio track (preferably mono) and insert the Click-It Master VST. Nothing else should be on the track. If more than one channel is present, the click audio will play on only the first channel.

The user interface is trivial. The main control that has four positions: Reset, Off, Record, Record/Play. The only one that needs explanation is Reset. When switching to Reset, the plug-in reinitializes itself from the control file and otherwise goes into the Off state.

When starting or resetting, a “success” message will appear in the small text field at the bottom of the user interface. If a problem is encountered, the “success” message will not be there. In this case, click on the text field to bring up the log file, which hopefully will reveal the problem (most likely a missing file or an invalid control file record format).

Files and File Locations

The location of relevant data is in the Click-It Master home directory, which is:

```
[user-document-directory]\SoundBytes Magazine\Click-It Master
```

Use forward-slashes if on a Mac. If you don’t know where [user-document-folder] is, use Windows Explorer or Mac File Finder and click on Documents. You should now be there.

The home directory is where the control file is expected to reside. The default control file name is CIM.cntl. Alternate control files may be created. To use a file other than the default, enter the file name in the Cntl File Name text box above the main knob and then do a Reset. The control file name is the full file name, e.g. “MyCIMFile.txt” (without the quotes). Do not include file path information.

Two supplied directories in the home directory contain audio click data. These directories are 44100 and 48000. Each of these contains three .wav files: DownbeatClick.wav, PrimaryClick.wav and SecondaryClick.wav. The directory names denote the samples-per-second of the audio data.

User-supplied click audio is possible. To use it, create a directory under the Click-It Master home directory and include the three files containing the desired audio clicks. The files must have the exact names specified in the preceding paragraph. That directory then must be named in the control file.

The Control File

Separators in the control file can be any whitespace (any combination of spaces and tabs). Otherwise, the data should begin immediately on each line.

The control file is best explained via an example:

```
debug 0 0 99999999
audio 44100
4/4 8 !---+---
5/4 5 !--+
2/4 6 !--+
7/8 7 !-+-+---
```

In the above example, the first line is for enabling debug information. Just ignore it if present.

The second line is used to specify the subdirectory name where the audio click data resides. If this definition is absent, the default subdirectory name of 44100 will be used.

The remaining lines define time signatures and associated click patterns. Each definition contains: the time signature, the number of clicks per measure, and the click pattern. The characters in the click pattern mean:

- “!” = downbeat
- “+” = primary beat
- “-” = secondary beat

Any other character denotes silence for that click position. The first beat in the pattern must be a downbeat (in other words, every pattern must begin with a bang ☺). Otherwise, any pattern string is allowed (including additional downbeats). Excess characters will be ignored.

The first token is the time signature. The “denominator” must be 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 or 32. The second token is the number of clicks per measure. Note that the 4/4 definition line has clicks happening every 8th note. Note also that the 2/4 definition line has clicks happening as triplets.

The third token on the line is the click pattern.

If a time signature is absent in the control file, a default pattern will be used with a click on every note value of the time signature “denominator”. The first click will be a downbeat and remaining clicks will be secondary clicks.

If multiple definitions of the same time signature are present, the last one will be the one used.

Audio Click Data

User supplied audio click .wav files should be mono. If more than one channel of data is present, only the first will be used. The files should be created appropriate to the DAW project samples-per-second setting. A maximum of 20,000 samples per click will be used. If the audio data is longer, any samples beyond the limit will be ignored. For projects using 44,100 samples per second, 20,000 samples would be far too long to be an effective metronome sound, so there's no reason to overdo it.