



USING THE akai MPC WITH **PRO TOOLS**

Learn How To Use Pro Tools With An Akai MPC
Written By Andy Avgousti (MPC-Tutor)

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Introduction

This book has been written as a guide for Akai MPC owners who wish to utilise Pro Tools when creating beats. Throughout this book I assume that you are already familiar with the general usage of the MPC, so have a basic grasp of the main sequencer functions, like sequence recording, STEP EDIT, and adjusting MAIN page parameters like track program assignments etc. This book is not intended as a complete beginners guide to using the MPC itself (we already have those at <http://www.mpc-samples.com/section.php/8/0/>).

Similarly, this book is not intended to be a complete guide to using Pro Tools - that would require much longer book! We've just concentrated only on the issues you need to learn to successfully use Pro Tools as a sound module and for the MPC as well as using it to record MPC MIDI and audio performances, keeping it clear and jargon-free to help explain all the core principles and techniques.

We advise that you first locate the folder containing the MPC format project files for your particular MPC model and transfer these sounds to your MPC's disc (CF card, zip, hard drive etc). This means you can quickly load up the relevant MPC files when working through each tutorial. If you need help transferring files, please consult the file transfer FAQ on our site here:

<http://www.mpc-samples.com/transfer.php>

Enjoy the book, and happy beat making!

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005 Transferring MPC MIDI Sequences to Pro Tools

In chapter 4, we 'tracked' out our MPC drum performances into audio tracks within Pro Tools. These performances used sounds assigned to MPC programs, and MPC-specific event data recorded to the MPC sequencer, but ended as pure audio within Pro Tools.

To completely remove the MPC from the equation and instead continue mixing down our entire beat only within Pro Tools, we also need to transfer the MIDI event data we've recorded on tracks 4, 5 and 6 in sequence 2 of our MPC 'Protools' project – these are the tracks that trigger the Pro Tools instrument sounds, as set up in chapter 2 of this book.

So, rather than have the MIDI data played within your MPC, we'll simply shift that MIDI data directly to the relevant instrument track in Pro Tools; remember, a Pro Tools instrument track is just a MIDI track that output via an instrument plug in.

In Pro Tools, load up the 'MIDI Tracking.ptf' session file from the 'Pro Tools Session Files' folder; this is an 80 BPM session which contains three Pro Tools instrument tracks; bass, piano, and fx, and an audio track containing the drums we tracked over to Pro Tools as pure audio in chapter 4.

In your MPC, load up the 'PROTOOLS' project, and select sequence 2 – this sequence has bass, piano and fx MIDI tracks already recorded on tracks 4, 5 and 6, with drums provided on tracks 1-3 using an MPC drum sample program (PT-KIT.pgm).

MIDI Import

So how do we transfer this MIDI data directly to Pro Tools? Well it's actually quite easy. Pro Tools will let you import MIDI data from any sequencer as long as it is in standard MIDI file format, and luckily, all MPCs give you the option to save individual sequences in standard MIDI file format.

What is standard MIDI file format? Well, it's an MPC sequence file with all the MPC – specific stuff stripped out. So, no q-link events, no filter/attack/tuning/decay events, no program or effect bank changes etc. Instead, you have just standard MIDI events, such as note value, velocity, duration, etc.

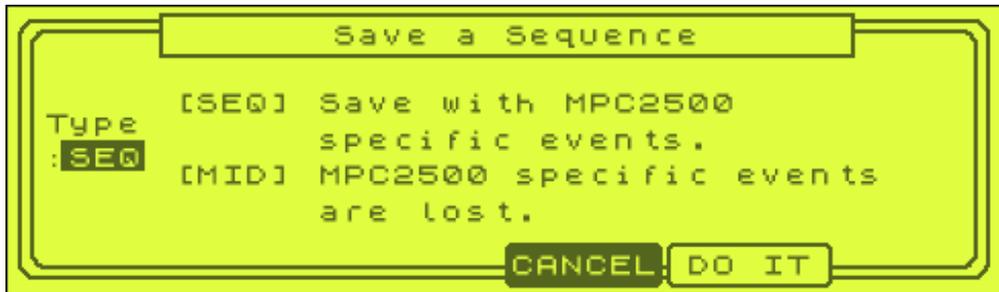
For this part of the tutorial, we'll create a standard MIDI file of sequence 2 of our 'protools' project – so load up that project and select sequence 2. Depending on your MPC, now do the following:

MPC1000/2500 (Akai OS)

Go to SAVE (MODE and pad 3) and under 'type' select 'SAVE A SEQUENCE'. Under 'Item' select '02-PT-FINAL'. Under 'To:', save to the folder you currently have all your tutorial files for this book.



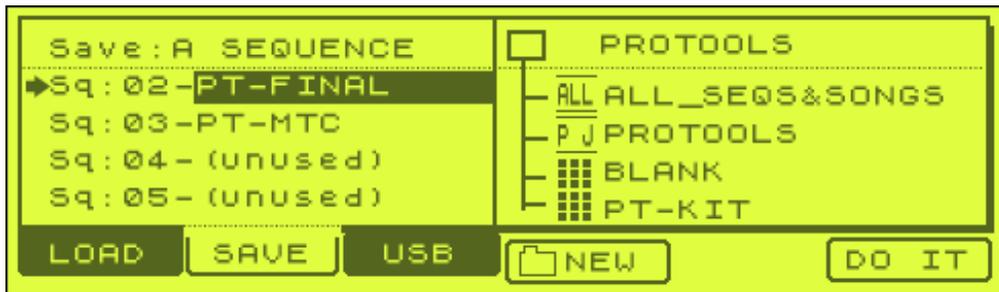
Hit DO IT (F6) to bring up the 'Save A Sequence' screen:



Use your jog wheel to change SEQ to MID. This will save your sequence as a standard MIDI file. Hit DO IT (F5).

JJ OS

Go to SAVE (MODE and pad 3) and in the top left of the screen, select 'Save: A SEQUENCE'. From the list, select 'Sq:02-PT-FINAL'.



Hit DO IT (F6) to bring up the 'Save A Sequence' screen:



Use your jog wheel to change SEQ to MID. This will save your sequence as a standard MIDI file. Hit DO IT (F5).

MPC500

Go to SAVE (MODE and pad 3). Change 'Save' to 'Sequence', and 'Item' to '02-PT-FINAL'.



```
Save: Sequence
Item: 02-PT-FINAL
```

Press DO IT to show the 'save a sequence screen':

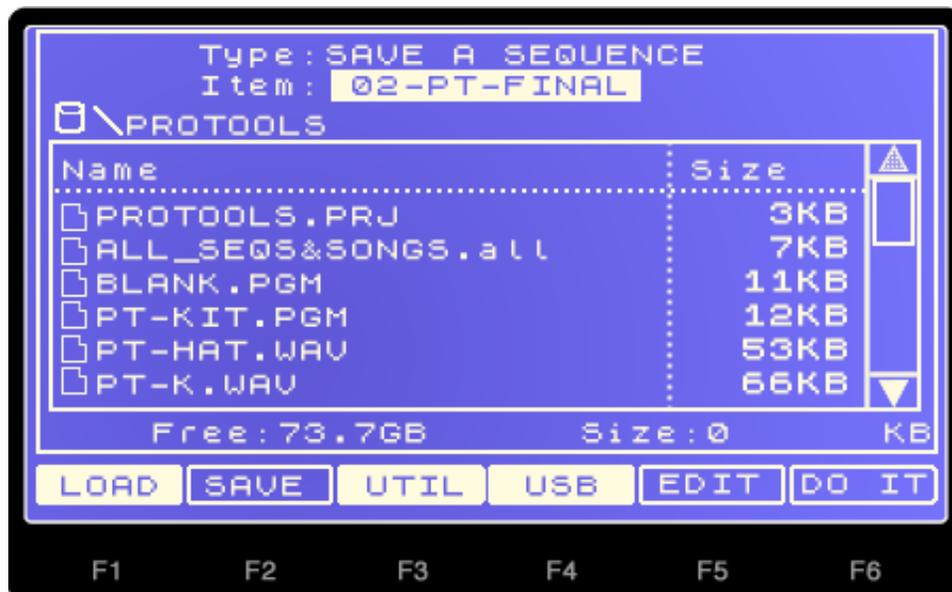


```
Save type
Mid-SMF form-1
```

Select the save type as 'Mid', giving you a standard MIDI file. Press DO IT.

MPC5000

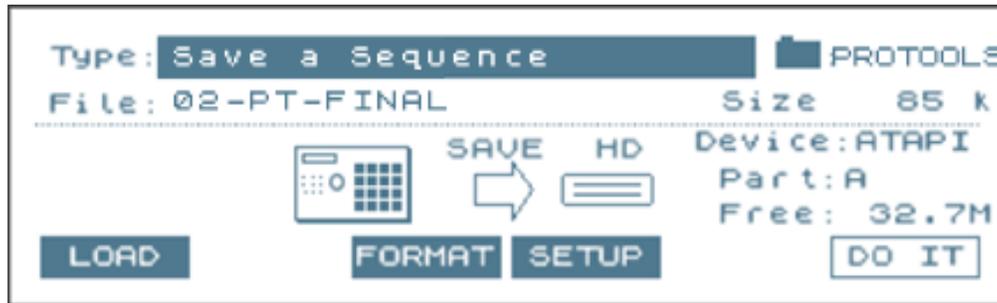
The MPC5000 only saves in standard MIDI file format. Go to DISK (MODE and pad 3), select SAVE (F2) and choose a location to save the file. Under 'Type', select 'SAVE A SEQUENCE' and under 'Item' select '02-PT-FINAL'.



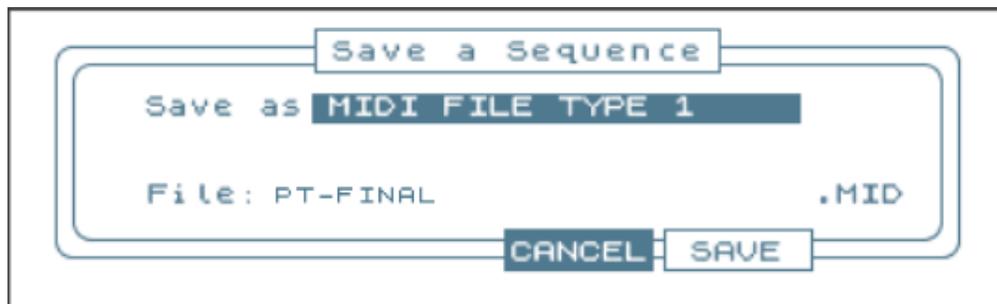
Hit DO IT and your MIDI file is saved.

MPC2000/XL

The MPC2000/XL saves all its files in standard MIDI format by default. Go to SAVE (SHIFT and ENTER) and under 'Type' select 'Save a Sequence', under 'File' select '02-PT-FINAL'.



Hit DO IT (F6) to bring up the 'Save A Sequence' screen:



Choose 'MIDI FILE TYPE 1' and hit SAVE (F5).

You'll now have a single MIDI file containing all the tracks from your MPC sequence. To import this file into Pro Tools, simply go to 'File > Import > MIDI'

MPC3000/60

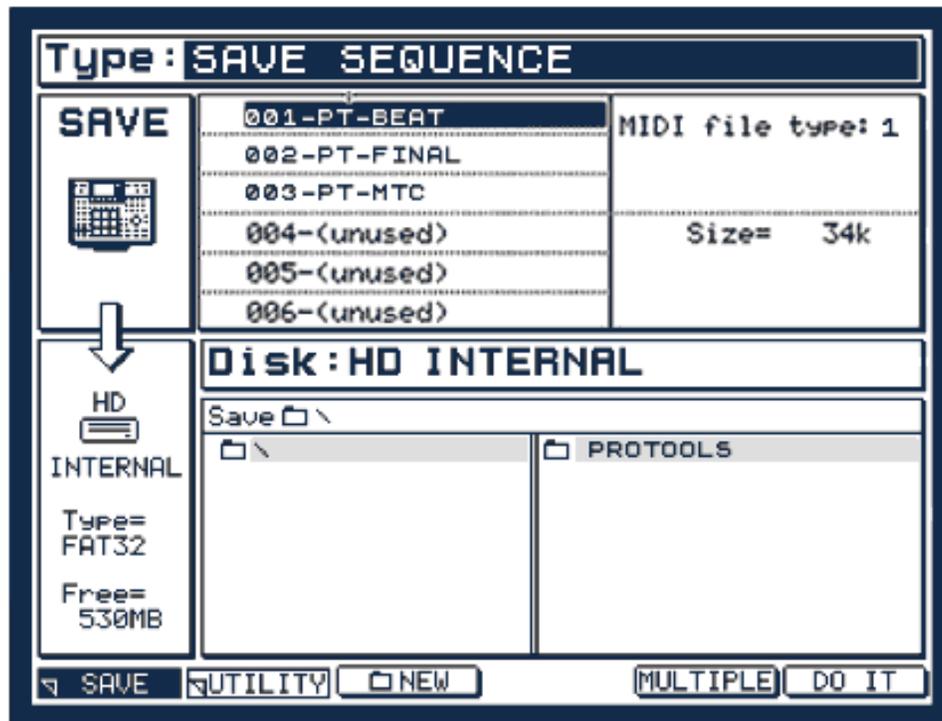
Press the DISK key, then 1 ('A Sequence').



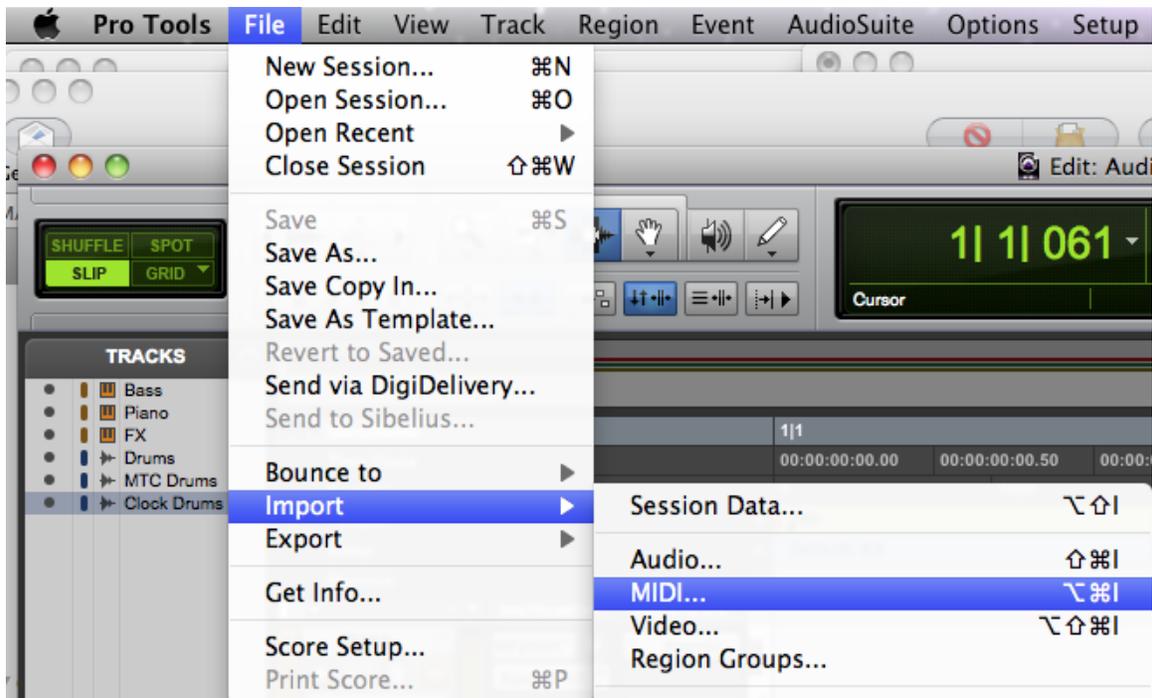
Choose 'MIDI FILE TYPE 1' and hit <Do it>.

MPC4000

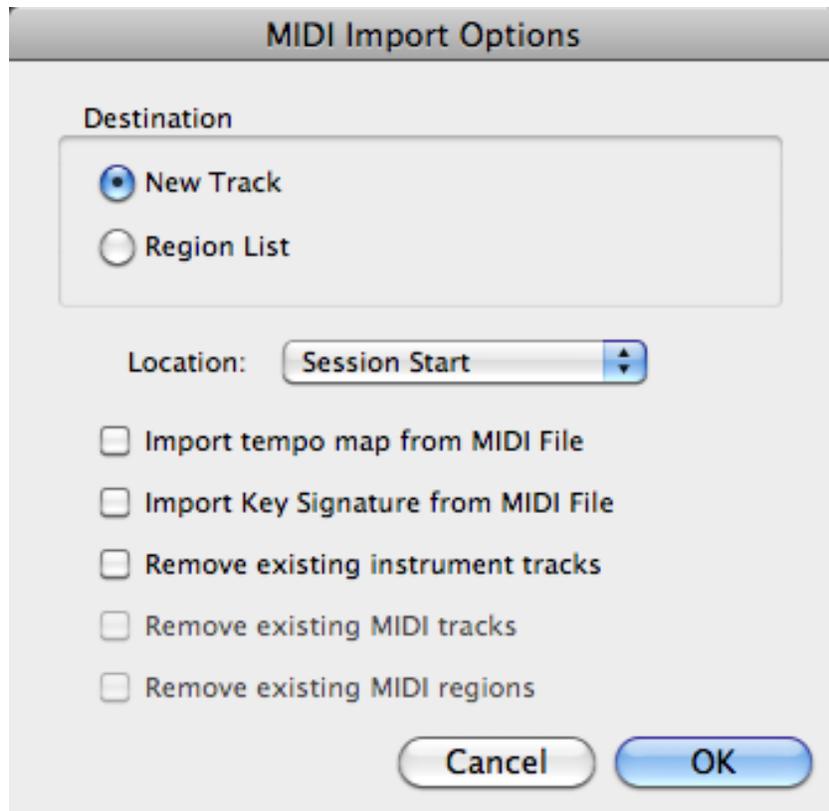
Go to [SAVE] > SAVE SEQUENCE. From the 'Sequence List', select sequence 2 (PT-FINAL) and MIDI File Type: 1. Hit DO IT.



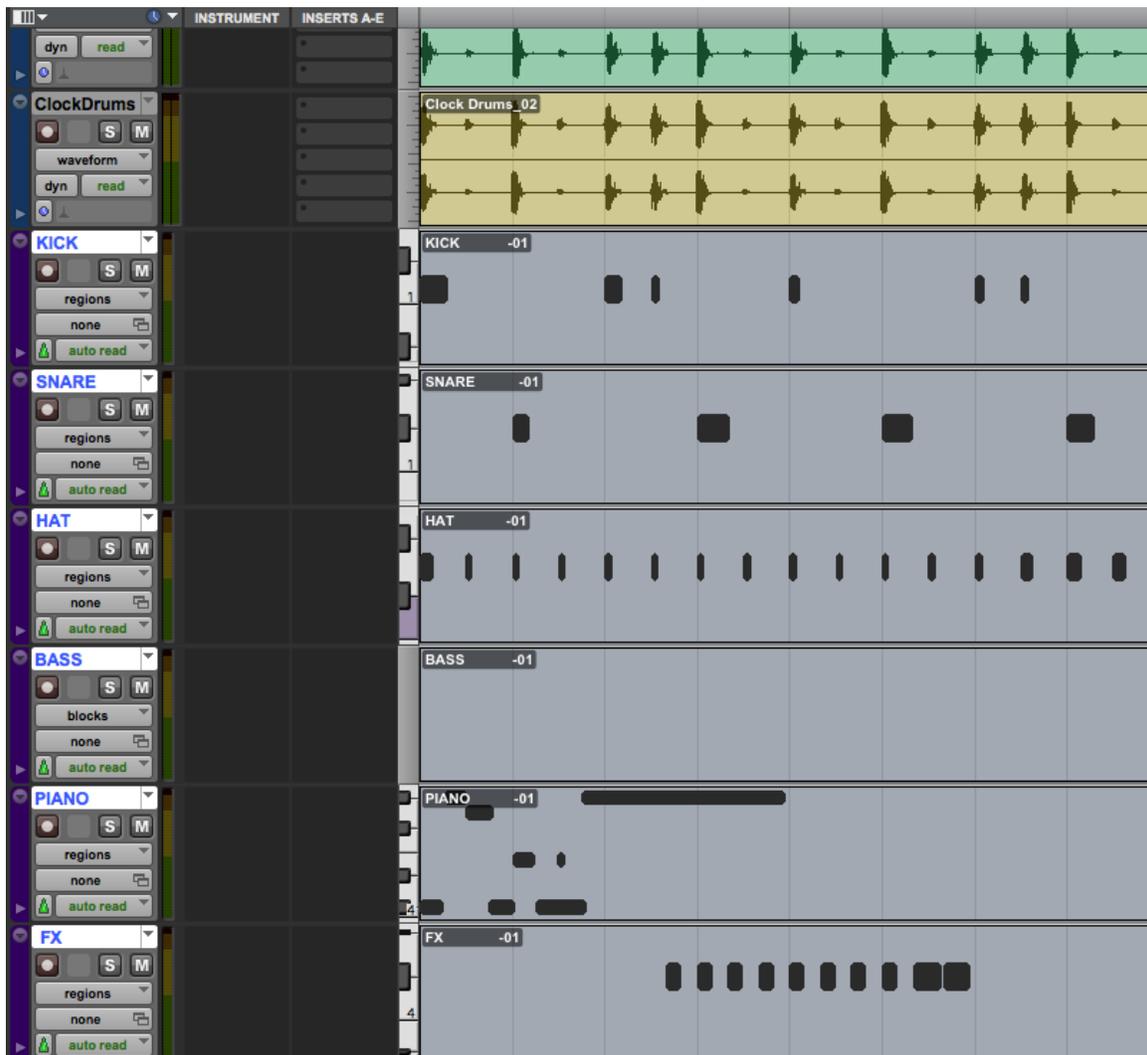
You'll now have a single MIDI file containing all the tracks from your MPC sequence. To import this file into Pro Tools, simply go to 'File > Import > MIDI'



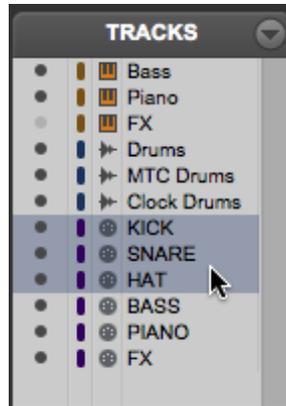
Now select the MIDI file you created (or use my version from the session folder 'PT-FINAL.MID').



Leave the default settings as shown in the screenshot above, and hit OK. You should see the following:



Pro Tools has now inserted all the used tracks from your MPC sequence and placed them each as unique tracks in your Pro Tools session. We don't need the drum tracks, so go to the 'Track' block and 'shift-click' the kick, snare and hat tracks so only they are selected.

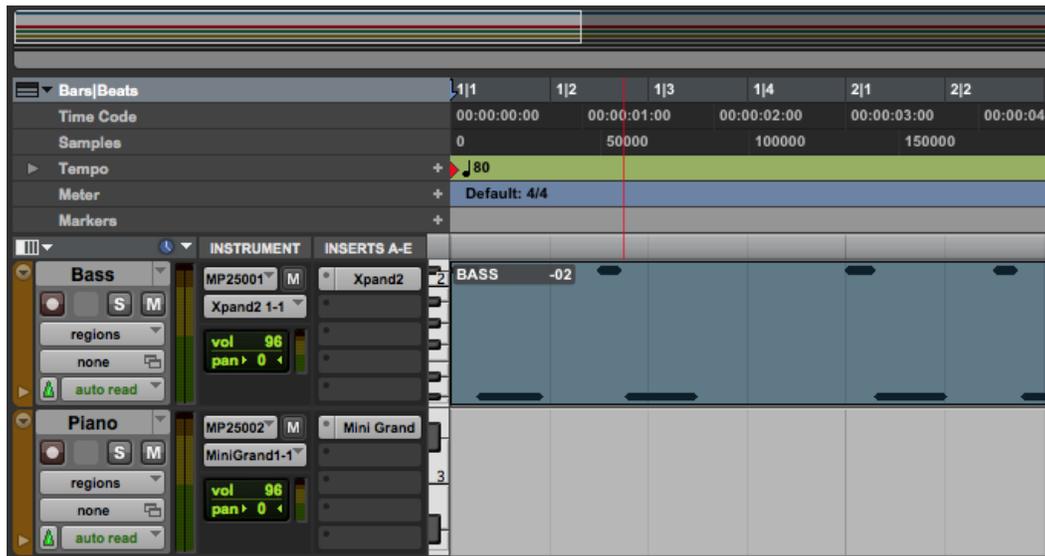


Right click on that selection and select 'Delete' to remove them from the session. What we want now is for the MIDI events on this newly imported 'Bass' track to play the double bass on our original 'Bass' track. There are a few ways we can do this, here's two possibilities:

1) Copy and paste method

We can just copy and paste the imported events into our existing instrument track. Go to the 'selector' tool and double click in the track view for the imported 'Bass' track, so all the imported events are selected. Hit CMD & C (or CTRL & C on a PC) so those events are copied.

Now click in the original 'bass' instrument track, press the 'Return to Zero' transport button, and paste those events into your instrument track.



Press 'play' in Pro Tools and you should hear your bass play back via your instrument track. You can now delete the imported bass track.

2) Reassigning the MIDI track output

Instead of copying the imported events, we can keep the imported track and re-route its output via the existing bass instrument track. Go to 'Window > Mix' and select the 'MIDI Output Selector' for the imported bass track.



Click and select the same output we assigned to the original instrument track, which was the Xpand2 1 plug in, via MIDI channel 1:



Press PLAY and your bass should play back.

Obviously method one is the 'cleanest' as it uses just a single instrument track. With the second method, you have two tracks to maintain, although in older versions of Pro Tools (before instrument tracks were introduced), it was common to have MIDI on one track routed via an instrument plug in an aux track (and it's still used, for example, to route several MIDI tracks through the same instrument). So it's up to you which method you prefer. Whichever method you choose, repeat for all three imported tracks.

That's the end of this free preview of the '**Using the Akai MPC With Pro Tools**' – you can purchase the full book at MPC-Tutor.com:

<http://www.mpc-tutor.com/product/using-the-akai-mpc-with-pro-tools/>