

PRACQ

GETTING

STARTED

MANUAL

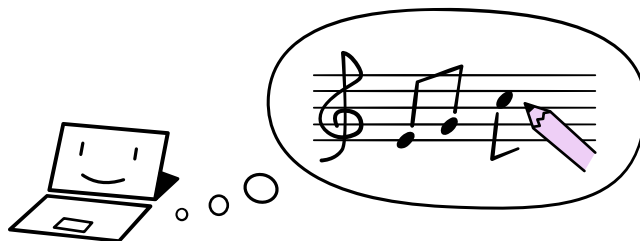
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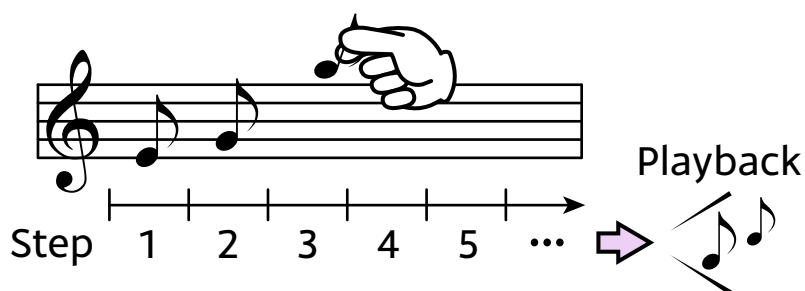
1. Introduction

Thank you for having interest in PRACQ. This is a melodic step sequencer application designed for melody sketch. It is available for free on Windows and Mac.



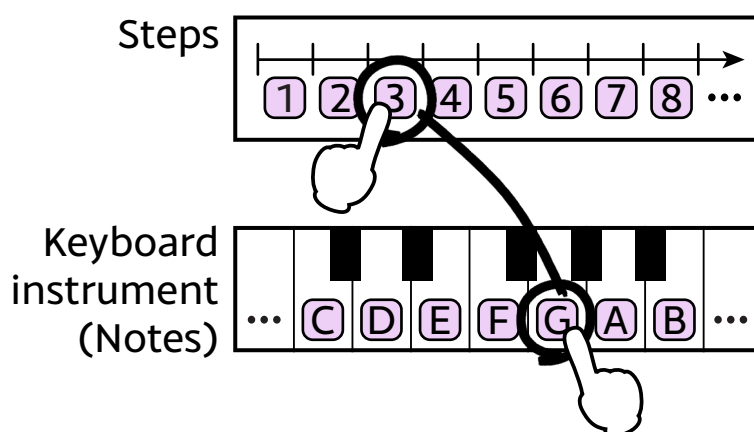
What is a melodic step sequencer?

A series of “Steps” is provided and you can put notes into them step by step. After that, these notes will be played back sequentially.



Interface

The interface of this application consists of the steps and the keyboard instrument. These two parts are separated and you can link each step to notes.



■ NOTE: So called “Piano roll” like interface is not available in this application.

Controller

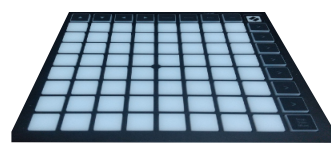
Basically, the following hardware devices are used to operate this application.



Computer Keyboard



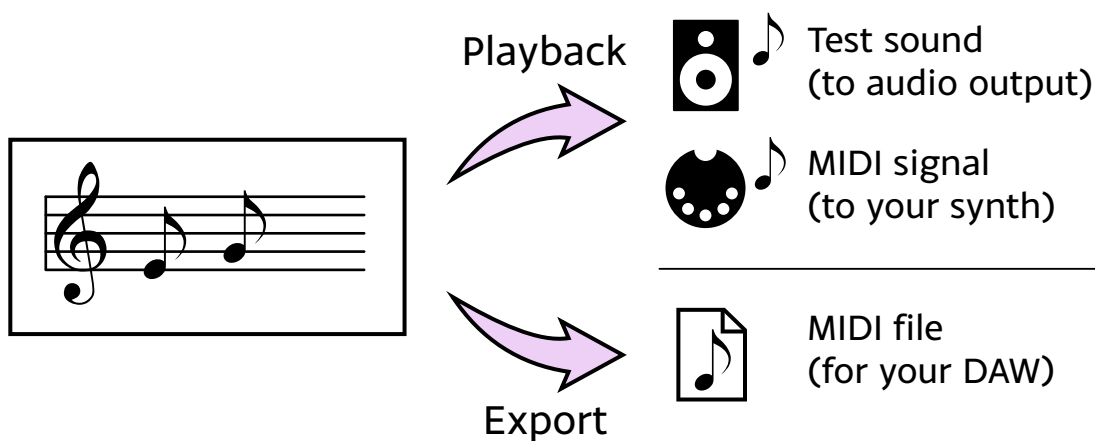
MIDI Keyboard



Grid MIDI Controller
(like the Novation Launchpad)

Output

The melody you sketched will be played back or exported.



2. The First Tutorial

Let me introduce the basics of PRACQ through the tutorial below. Using a computer keyboard as a controller, no particular device is required.

Download and run the application

First download a PRACQ application file available at www.pracq.com.

Windows

Extract the downloaded zip file and double-click the executable file "Pracq.exe" to run it. (No need to install it.)

NOTE: If SmartScreen pop-up appears when you try to run this program, click "More info" and then click "Run anyway."

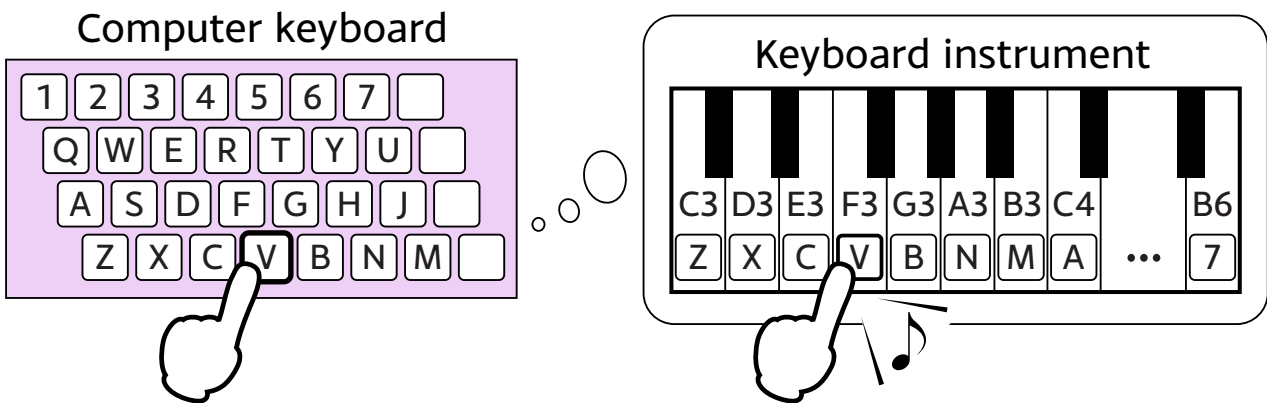
Mac

Double-click the downloaded file "Pracq.app" to run it.

NOTE: This application is not notarized by Apple. If security warning pop-up appears when you try to run this program, press the Control key, then click the app icon, then choose "Open" from the shortcut menu.

Playing the keyboard

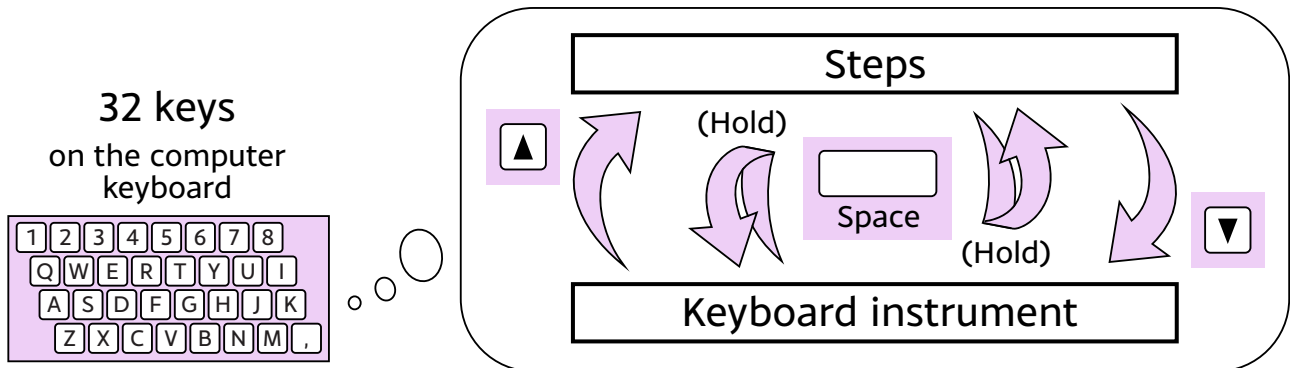
Type the following keys on the computer keyboard. The corresponding note will be sound from the default audio device on your computer.



NOTE: In order to use the computer keyboard, the window of this application must be active. If not, click it once to make it active.

Where are the steps?

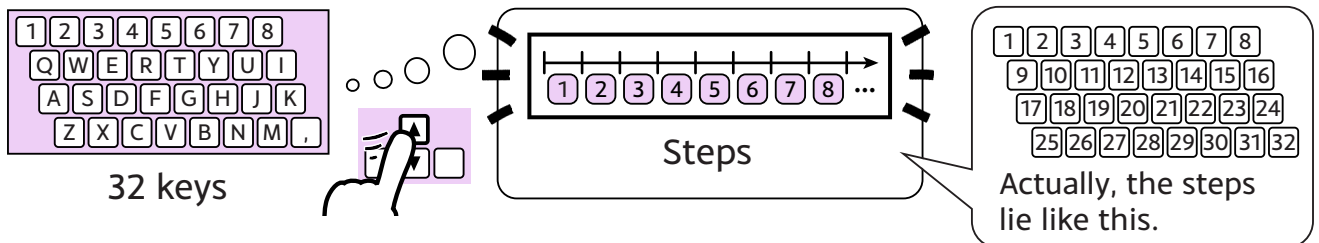
As mentioned above, the 32 keys on the computer keyboard work as the keyboard instrument at first. However, you can switch between the keyboard instrument and the steps with the up/down key. In addition, while the space key is held, it is temporarily switched to the other side.



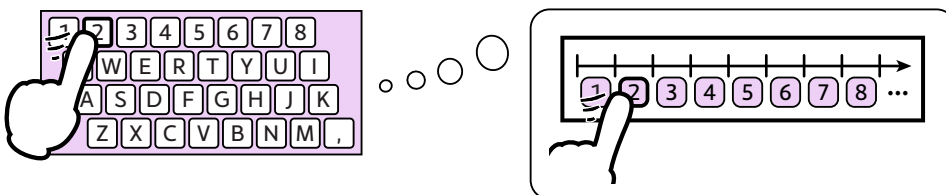
Step recording

Select a step and a note together to link them. To do this with the computer keyboard, proceed as follows.

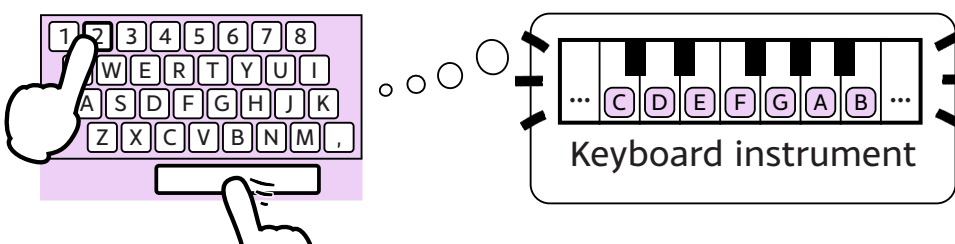
1. Switch the 32 keys to the steps with the up key.



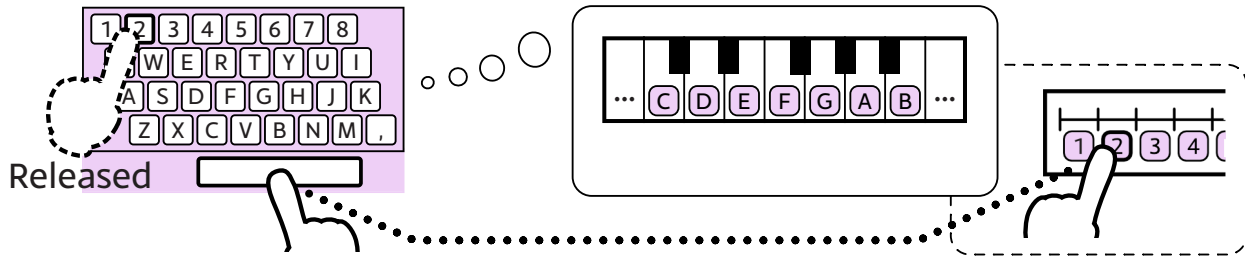
2. Press any key in the steps and keep it held down.



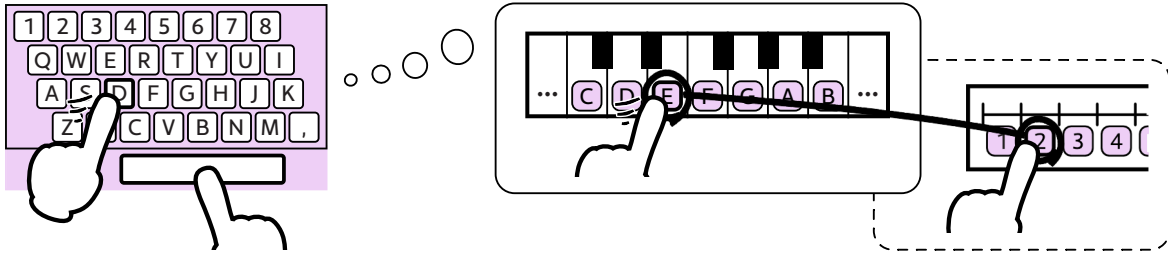
3. Press and hold down the space key to switch the 32 keys to the keyboard instrument.



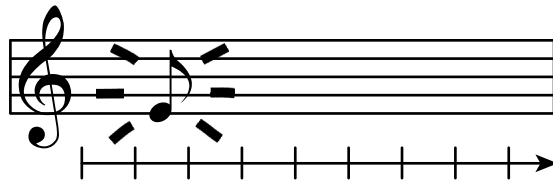
4. Besides, the space key takes over the status of the key that is held down at the moment, so you can release the key you hold down now.



5. Press any key in the keyboard instrument, then release both keys.



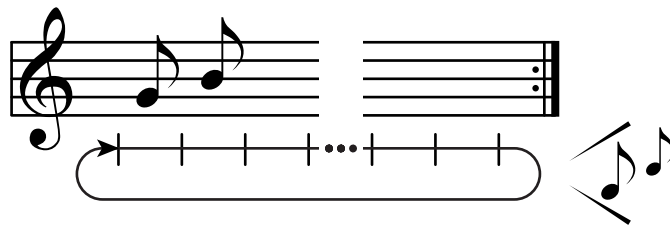
Sequence data has been updated.



6. To clear note(s) in the step, hold down the step then double-tap the period key.

Playback

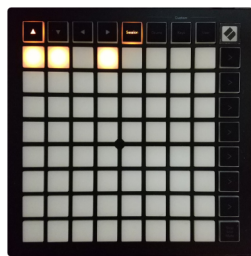
Press the return (enter) key to start playback of sequence data. Playback is repeated until you press the return key again to stop it.



3. Controller Screen

This application is originally made for grid MIDI controllers like the Novation Launchpad. That's why it has a screen that imitates the Novation Launchpad called "Controller Screen."

Novation Launchpad



Controller Screen

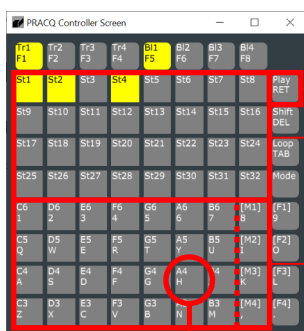
NOTE: Unlike a computer keyboard, Controller Screen (Novation Launchpad) allows you to use all the functions of PRACQ. When you try to use a function that is not accessible with a computer keyboard, use with Controller Screen.

Anyway, what is the Novation Launchpad?

Novation Launchpad is a MIDI controller that has a grid of illuminated pads (buttons). It is often used to control a music-making application like the Ableton Live. PRACQ is too small simple but tries to utilize the Novation Launchpad in a different way than the Ableton Live.

Make good use of it!

Press the CONTROLLER SCREEN OPEN button on the main window. Unlike a computer keyboard, Controller Screen shows the status of the sequencer through colors of pads.



Pad function
Computer keyboard assignment

Play

■ : Sequence data is played back.

Steps

■ : This step contains note(s).

■ : This step is pressed or selected.

■ : This step is played back. (Playback cursor)

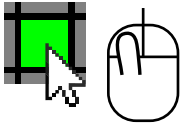
Keyboard instrument

■ : A currently pressed step contains this note.

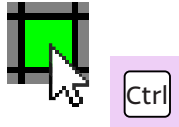
■ : This note is pressed.

■ : This note is played back.

Of course, you can press pads on Controller Screen. To do this:



Click it with the left mouse button.



Hover the mouse cursor over it, then press the Ctrl or Alt key. (Mac: Command or Option key)



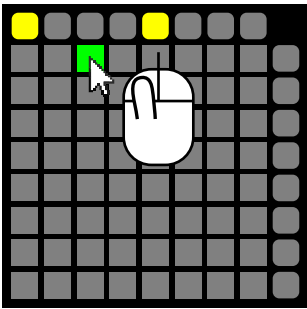
Tap it on a Windows touch panel device.

TIP: You can press three pads at the same time by using the left mouse button, the Ctrl and Alt keys.

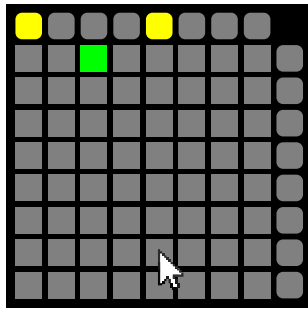
Tutorial with Controller Screen

Step recording

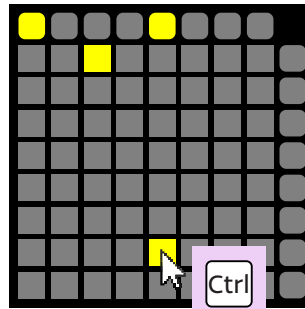
1. Click and hold it down.



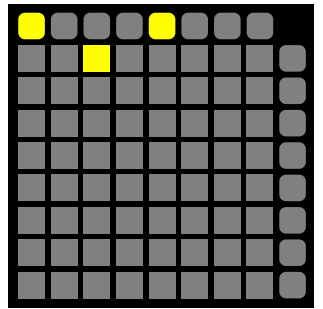
2. Move the mouse cursor.



3. Press the Ctrl (Command) key.

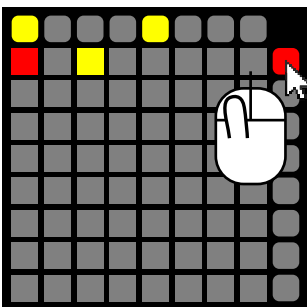


4. Release both.

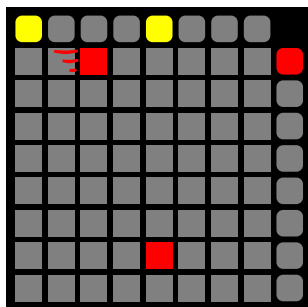


Playback

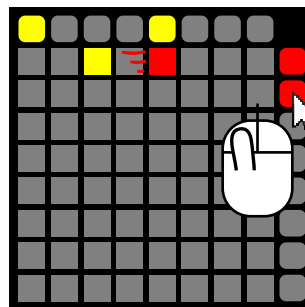
1. Click it.



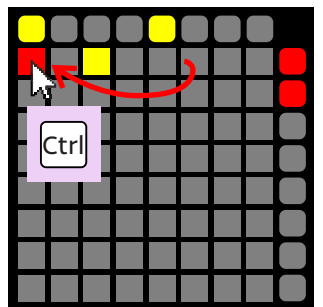
2. A playback cursor moves forward.



3. Click and hold it down.



4. You can move a playback cursor.



Thank you for reading the manual through to the end. That's all for now but PRACQ has many more features. Proceed to REFERENCE MANUAL to get detailed information. See you!