



Pro Tools | GrooveCell

Plug-in Guide

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Guide Part Number 9329-66352-00 REV B 06/22

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Introducing Pro Tools | GrooveCell

Pro Tools | GrooveCell™ is a versatile, programmable, stereo AAX Native Virtual Instrument plug-in for Pro Tools®. GrooveCell supports 16-bit, 24-bit, and 32-bit floating point audio resolution at sample rates up to 192 kHz.



Pro Tools | GrooveCell plug-in

Pro Tools | GrooveCell Features

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides the following key features:

- 16 independent, customizable, velocity sensitive drum pads with:
 - Up to 3 sample layers each
 - Individual Volume, Pan, and Pitch controls
 - Individual sends to Delay and Reverb effects
 - Individual effects including: High and Low-pass filters, Amplitude and Pitch Envelopes, Drive and Dynamics
 - Up to 15 separate stereo bus outputs in addition to the stereo Main Output
- Built-in 32-step, 16-track sequencer:
 - Import/export sequences
 - Randomize
 - Individual velocity, pitch, pan, and probability settings per step, per pad
 - Swing
- Global effects including: EQ, Distortion, and Compression
- Export audio, samples, and sequences by drag and drop from GrooveCell to the Pro Tools Timeline or Clips list.

Working with Plug-ins in Pro Tools

See the *Pro Tools Reference Guide* (Help > Pro Tools Reference Guide) or Pro Tools online Help (Help > Pro Tools Help) for general information on working with plug-ins in Pro Tools, including:

- Inserting plug-ins on tracks
- Clip indicators
- Plug-in Window controls
- Adjusting plug-in controls
- Automating plug-ins
- Using side-chain inputs
- Working with Instrument Plug-ins
- Using Plug-in Presets
- Using Track Presets

System Requirements and Compatibility Information

Avid can only assure compatibility and provide support for hardware and software it has tested and approved.

For complete system requirements and a list of qualified computers, operating systems, hard drives, and third-party devices, visit: www.avid.com/compatibility

Conventions Used in This Guide

Pro Tools documentation uses the following conventions to indicate menu choices, keyboard commands, and mouse commands:

Convention	Action
File > Save	Choose Save from the File menu
Control+N	Hold down the Control key and press the N key
Control-click	Hold down the Control key and click the mouse button
Right-click	Click with the right mouse button

The names of Commands, Options, and Settings that appear on-screen are in a different font.

The following symbols are used to highlight important information:

 *User Tips are helpful hints for getting the most from your Pro Tools system.*

 *Important Notices include information that could affect your Pro Tools project data or the performance of your Pro Tools system.*

 *Shortcuts show you useful keyboard or mouse shortcuts.*

 *Cross References point to related sections in this guide and other Avid documentation.*

How to Use this PDF Guide

This PDF provides the following useful features:

- The Bookmarks on the left serve as a continuously visible table of contents. Click on a subject heading to jump to that page.
- Click a + symbol to expand that heading to show subheadings. Click the – symbol to collapse a subheading.
- The Table of Contents provides active links to their pages. Select the hand cursor, allow it to hover over the heading until it turns into a finger. Then click to locate to that subject and page.
- All cross references in [blue](#) are active links. Click to follow the reference.
- Select Find from the Edit menu to search for a subject.
- When viewing this PDF on an iPad, it is recommended that you open the file using iBooks to take advantage of active links within the document. When viewing the PDF in Safari, touch the screen, then touch Open in “iBooks”.

Resources

The Avid website (www.avid.com) is your best online source for information to help you get the most out of your Avid system.

Account Activation and Product Registration

Activate your product to access downloads in your Avid account (or quickly create an account if you do not have one). Register your purchase online, download software, updates, documentation, and other resources.

www.avid.com/account

Support and Downloads

Contact Avid Customer Success (technical support), download software updates and the latest online manuals, browse the Compatibility documents for system requirements, search the online Knowledge Base or join the worldwide Avid user community on the User Conference.

www.avid.com/support

Training and Education

Study on your own using courses available online, find out how you can learn in a classroom setting at an Avid-certified training center, or view video tutorials and webinars.

www.avid.com/education

Videos and Tutorials

Visit the Avid YouTube channel to find playlists and videos that show how to use and learn Pro Tools.

[Avid YouTube Channel](#) (all playlists and videos)

[Pro Tools Tech Tips](#) (playlist)

[Pro Tools Quick Tips](#) (playlist for the *Pro Tools Quick Reference Guide*, available from the Dashboard)

Products and Developers

Learn about Avid products, download demo software, or learn about our Development Partners and their plug-ins, applications, and hardware.

www.avid.com/products

Installing and Authorizing Pro Tools | GrooveCell

Installers for additional plug-ins purchased from the Avid store (shop.avid.com) can be downloaded from your online Avid account. These plug-ins are authorized using an iLok license that can be saved to an iLok USB key, iLok Cloud, or on your computer.

Installing Plug-ins Bundled with Pro Tools Subscriptions

If you are a new Pro Tools software subscriber, start by downloading and installing the Avid Link app. Avid Link lets you manage all of your Avid products and licenses. For more information, refer to the Avid Link documentation online.



In the Avid Link preferences, enable the Install Apps Silently option to have all plug-ins to which you are entitled installed automatically. You will be prompted to enter the administrator username and password for your computer. Additionally, all silently installed applications (such as Pro Tools) and plug-ins will be automatically authorized with your iLok Cloud account. If you want to move any of these authorizations to a physical iLok or to your local computer, do so using the iLok License Manager application.

Installing Plug-ins from your Avid Master Account

To install the Pro Tools | GrooveCell plug-in:

- 1 Log in to your Avid Master Account online (my.avid.com).
- 2 Download the appropriate installer for your operating system (Mac or Windows) from your Avid Master Account. After downloading, make sure the installer is uncompressed (.pkg or .exe).
- 3 Locate and double-click the plug-in installer.
- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

Installing Plug-Ins from the Avid Marketplace

All plug-ins purchased from the Avid Marketplace through Pro Tools are installed silently and—following activation—are available for use without having to restart Pro Tools.

To install a plug-in from the Avid Marketplace:

- 1 Launch Pro Tools.
- 2 Either choose Marketplace > Plug-Ins or select Avid Marketplace from any plug-in insert in your Pro Tools session.
- 3 Find the plug-in you want in the Avid Marketplace and follow the on-screen instructions.



You can also access the Avid Marketplace online at shop.avid.com.

About iLok

The plug-ins documented in this guide can be authorized using an iLok USB or USB-C key from PACE Anti-Piracy. Plug-ins may also be authorized to iLok Cloud or to your computer using the iLok License Manager application.



iLok USB-C key (4th generation)



iLok USB key (3rd generation)

An iLok can hold hundreds of authorizations for all of your iLok-enabled software. After a software license is placed on an iLok, you can use the iLok to authorize that software on any computer.

An iLok USB key is not supplied with plug-ins or software options. You can use the iLok included with certain Pro Tools systems, or purchase one separately.

 For more information, visit the iLok website (www.ilok.com).

Authorizing Avid Audio Plug-Ins

When you purchase a boxed version of an Avid Audio plug-in, you receive an activation code on an activation card. If you purchase a plug-in through the Avid Marketplace, the license is deposited directly to your iLok account and you can skip the following procedure (see [Installing Plug-Ins from the Avid Marketplace](#)).



If you open a session that uses plug-ins that are not installed and authorized on your system, you are prompted to purchase those missing plug-ins though the Avid Marketplace if available.

To authorize Avid Audio plug-ins:

- 1 If you don't already have an iLok account, visit www.ilok.com to sign up for an account.
- 2 Visit avid.com/redemption and log into your Avid account. If you do not already have an Avid account, click "Create Your Account").
- 3 Enter your activation code and your iLok.com User ID.
- 4 Follow the on-screen instructions to deposit your license into your iLok.com account.
- 5 Once the activation process is complete, the download links for your Avid audio plug-in will be available in the My Products section of your Avid account.
- 6 Download and install the plug-in that you purchased.
- 7 If you are authorizing a plug-in using an iLok, make sure your iLok is connected to an available USB port on your computer.
- 8 Launch Pro Tools and follow the on-screen instructions to transfer the plug-in license to your iLok, iLok Cloud, or your computer and authorize the plug-in.

Removing Plug-Ins

If you need to remove a plug-in from your Pro Tools system, follow the instructions below for your computer platform.

Removing Plug-Ins on Mac

To remove a plug-in:

- 1 Locate and open the Plug-Ins folder on your Startup drive (Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins).
- 2 Do one of the following:
 - Drag the plug-in to the Plug-Ins (Unused) folder.
 - Drag the plug-in to the Trash and empty the Trash.

Removing Plug-Ins on Windows

To remove a plug-in:

- 1 Choose Start > Control Panel.
- 2 Click Programs and Features.
- 3 Select the plug-in from the list of installed applications.
- 4 Click Uninstall.
- 5 Follow the on-screen instructions to remove the plug-in.

Pro Tools | GrooveCell Controls

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides three separate pages of controls:

- The Pads page lets you play, import samples, and configure the settings for individual pads.
- The Sequencer page lets you setup the built-in sequencer.
- The FX page lets you configure global effects, and bus reverb and delay settings.

Common Controls

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides a set of common controls at the top of the plug-in window.



Pro Tools | GrooveCell plug-in

Page Select Buttons

Click the Pads, Sequencer, or FX button to view the corresponding page.

The Sequencer button includes a Power icon on its left. Click it to enable or disable the Sequencer—it must be enabled for the Sequencer to play back. When enabled, it lights green.

The Lock icon to the right of each Page button lets you write protect the corresponding page when switching between plug-in presets. This is especially useful for keeping a sequence or a kit from being overwritten when recalling presets. For example, you might want to keep the current Pads and FX settings while loading different sequences from presets. When a Page Lock is enabled it lights green and the icon appears “locked.” When disabled, it is not lit and the icon appears “unlocked.”

Play Button

Click the Play button to start and stop Sequencer playback. Sequencer playback always clocks to the session tempo. The Play button is MIDI assignable.

Multi-out Button

Click the Multi-out button to enable or disable multi-out pad assignments (Individual outputs). The button dims when disabled. When disabled, any pads assigned to Individual outputs are automatically routed to the Main Output.

+ Send FX Button

Click the + Send FX button to enable or disable all pad effects sends (Reverb and Delay). The button dims when disabled. When disabled, all individual pad Sends to Reverb and Delay effects are muted.

Volume Slider

Adjust the Volume slider to set the Main Output gain for GrooveCell. The Volume slider has no affect on any of the Individual Outputs.

Export Button

Click the Export button to export audio or MIDI. For complete information, see [Export](#).

Pads Page

The Pads page provides 16 individual drum pads in the left pane (Pads pane) of the page and three tabs of settings for each pad in the right pane (Pad Settings pane).

Click any pad to play it and select it for editing. The settings shown in the right pane are specific to the selected pad. For example, select Pad 1 and change the Pan setting to 100 (full right), then select Pad 2 and notice that the Pan setting is 0 (unless you change it). Select Pad 1 again and you will see that Pan is set to 100. Option-click any setting to revert to its default.

Click the tabs (1, 2, 3) along the right of the Pad Settings pane to view any of the three pages of Pad Settings. Click any pad to select it and then adjust the settings for that pad on the three pages of Pad Settings as desired.



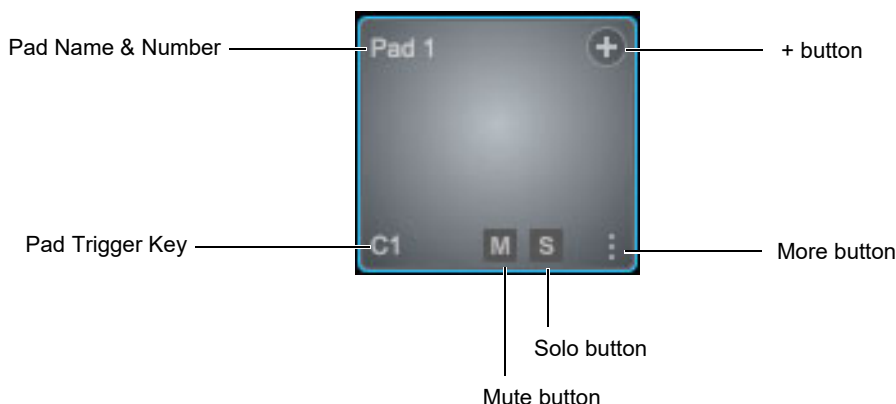
Pads page

Pads Pane

Each pad in the Pads pane provides individual controls for sample import (+), Mute (M), and Solo (S). There are also controls to clear samples and settings, and to change the Trigger Key on each individual pad. Each Pad name reflects the file name of the imported sample (or the first sample file name when importing more than one sample to a pad).

 *It is important to note that imported samples remain wherever they are on your system and are played back from their directory location. You can use a common directory location for all files you want to use with GrooveCell to help avoid missing samples and to facilitate transfer of presets and samples between different Pro Tools systems.*

Pad Options



Pad controls and information

Pad Name and Number

Displays the name of the loaded sample and the pad number. If more than one sample has been loaded to the pad, the file name of the first loaded sample is shown.

Pad Trigger Key

Displays the note name of the specified trigger key for the pad. For example, if the Trigger Key for the pad is MIDI note number 36, "C1" is displayed. You can also click on the displayed Pad Trigger Key and drag up or down to change it.

+

Click the + button to open a dialog that lets you navigate to and select one or more audio file for import. For complete information about importing samples to pads, see [Loading Custom Samples](#).

Mute

Select or deselect the Mute (M) button to mute or unmute the pad.

Solo

Select or deselect the Solo (S) button to solo or unsolo the pad.

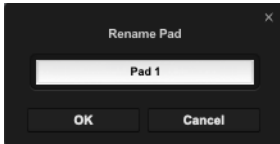
... More Options



More pad options

In the lower right corner of each pad the ... icon lets you access the following options:

Rename Pad Lets you rename the pad.



Rename Pad

Clear Samples Clears all samples loaded to the pad.

Clear Settings Resets all settings for the pad to their defaults.

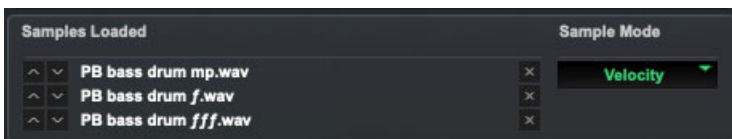
Clear All Clears all samples and reset all settings for the pad.

Samples Loaded

The Samples Loaded section lets you manage any custom samples loaded for the selected pad. This section is available in all tabs.

Use the Up and Down icons to the left of the sample name to move it up or down in the list. When loading multiple samples to a pad, the first selected file appears at the top of the list with the next selected files following in order below. In **Velocity** mode, samples are triggered from top to bottom by velocities from low to high. In **Round Robin** mode, samples are triggered one after the other in order from top to bottom.

The names for missing samples are displayed in red.



Pads page, Samples Loaded section with custom samples listed

To remove a loaded sample:

- Click the X icon to the right of the sample name.

Sample Mode

You can change how samples play back for the selected pad by selecting a different **Sample Mode** from the pop-up menu:

Velocity Load 2 or 3 files for individual playback by velocity range. When two files are loaded in a pad, velocities 1–63 trigger the first loaded sample, and velocities 64–127 trigger the second sample. When three files are loaded, velocities 1–42 trigger the first sample, 43–84 the second, and 85–127 triggers the third.

Layer Load up to 3 files to a single pad. All samples play back together when the pad is triggered.

Round Robin Load up to 3 files to a single pad. Each trigger cycles through the samples in order.

Waveform Display

The Waveform display shows the waveform of the sample for the selected pad. A graphic representation of the AHDSR Volume envelope is superimposed on the Waveform display (see [AHDSR Vol](#)). The Waveform display is visible on all tabs.



Pads page: Waveform display

Pad Settings Page 1

If not already shown, click Tab 1 to the right of the Pad Settings pane to show the first page of pad settings. Click to select the pad whose settings you want to change, and then adjust the settings as desired. The following settings can be adjusted independently for each pad.



Pads page: Tab 1 settings

General

The General pad controls are MIDI assignable.

Volume

Adjust the Volume control for the selected pad from $-\text{INF}$ to +6.0 dB.

Pan

Adjust the Pan control for the selected pad from left to right in the stereo field from -100 (full left) to 0 (center) to 100 (full right).

Pitch

Adjust the Pitch control in semitones and cents to transpose the selected pad from -36.000 semitones (down 3 octaves) to 36.000 (up 3 octaves).

Sample

Start

Adjust to start playback of the sample for the selected pad later in the file (in samples).

End

Adjust to end playback of the sample for the selected pad earlier in the file (in samples).

One Shot Mode

When enabled, One Shot Mode ensures that the entire sample is played when the pad is triggered by a MIDI Note On message (or a mouse click). When this option is disabled, the sample plays when triggered by a MIDI Note On message (or a mouse click), but then stops playback with the corresponding MIDI Note Off (or mouse release). So, for example, if you trigger the sample with a quarter note, but the full duration of the sample lasts for a half note (at the current tempo), only the first half of the sample is played.

Output

Select the stereo output for the selected pad: the Main Output or any Individual Output (Indiv. Out 2–16). The Main Output plays through the track output on which the plug-in is inserted. Individual outputs need to be routed to other track inputs to be heard. Assigning individual pads to separate outputs lets you record, process, and mix each of those pads independently.

For example, you might want to assign Pad 1 (kick) to one individual output (Indiv. Out 2) and Pad 2 (snare) to another individual output (Indiv. Out 3), and then separately assign each of those plug-in outputs to the inputs of corresponding audio tracks for independent recording, processing, and mixing (or use Auxiliary Input tracks for just processing and mixing).

The Master effects on the FX page only process audio of pads assigned to the Main Output, and are not applied to any pads routed to Individual Outputs. The same is true for pads sending to the Delay and Reverb effects.



When Multi-out is disabled, any pads assigned to Individual outputs are automatically routed to the Main Output (but pad output settings are maintained for when Multi-out is re-enabled). This can be useful for hearing all pads regardless of their output assignments.

Filter

The Filter controls are MIDI assignable.

High Pass

Adjust the High Pass filter for the selected pad from 20.00 to 25.000.0 Hz.

Low Pass

Adjust the Low Pass filter for the selected pad from 20.00 to 25.000.0 Hz.

Sends

The Sends controls are MIDI assignable.



Click the + Send FX button to enable or disable all effects sends (Reverb and Delay). The button dims when disabled. When disabled, all individual pad Sends to Reverb and Delay effects are muted.

Delay

Adjust the Delay effect send from the selected pad from –INF to +6.0 dB. The Delay effect settings are on the FX page.

Reverb

Adjust the Reverb effect send from the selected pad from –INF to +6.0 dB. The Reverb effect settings are on the FX page.

Pad Settings Page 2

If not already shown, click Tab 2 to the right of the Pad Settings pane to show the second page of pad settings. Click to select the pad whose settings you want to change, and then adjust the settings as desired. The following settings can be adjusted independently for each pad.



Pads page: Tab 2 settings

Mode

Drum Mode lets you set individual pads to emulate the sound of various vintage drum machines.

Drum Mode

Off No effect.

Old Sampler Simulates the sound of an old sampler with both a low bit depth and low sample rate.

Drum Machine 1200 Pushes the sound towards the character of a famous vintage drum machine.

Super Console Emulates the sound of a famous 16-bit console from the 90s that was well regarded because of its sound chip.

Bad Converters Gives the sound a slightly rougher edge so that it reminds you of something that was not sampled with the best equipment.

Hollow Sounding Adds a special sonic character to the sound by combining formant shifting and boosting a specific frequency range.

AHDSR Vol

The AHDSR Vol settings let you apply an amplitude envelope to the selected pad. A graphic representation of the envelope is shown superimposed over the Waveform display. The AHDSR Volume controls are MIDI assignable.



AHDSR Volume graph in the Waveform display

Attack

Adjust the Attack setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Hold

Adjust the Hold setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Decay

Adjust the Decay setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Sustain

Adjust the Sustain setting from $-\infty$ to 0.0 dB.

Release

Adjust the Release setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Pitch Envelope

The Pitch Envelope settings let you apply pitch variation over time to the selected pad. The Pitch Envelope controls are MIDI assignable.

Intensity

Adjust the Intensity settings from 0.00 to 100.00% to determine how much the AHDSR settings affect the pitch of selected pad.

Attack

Adjust the Attack setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Hold

Adjust the Hold setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Decay

Adjust the Decay setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Sustain

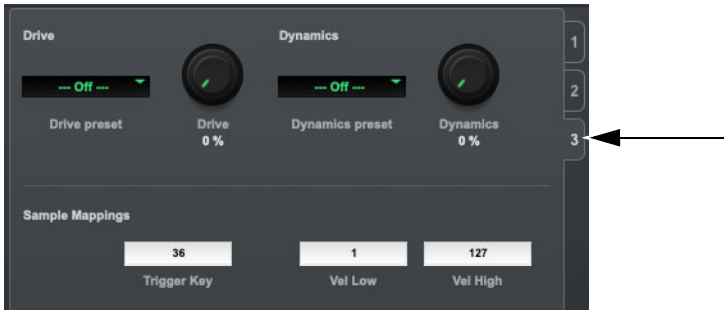
Adjust the Sustain setting from $-\infty$ to 0.0 dB.

Release

Adjust the Release setting from 0.0 ms to 16.00 seconds.

Pad Settings Page 3

If not already shown, click Tab 3 to the right of the Pad Settings pane to show the third page of pad settings. Click to select the pad whose settings you want to change, and then adjust the settings as desired. The following settings can be adjusted independently for each pad.



Pads page: Tab 3 settings

Drive

Drive Preset

Off No effect.

Saturation Adds some weight and volume to the sound without distorting it too much.

Distortion Adds some aggressiveness, especially with higher drive settings.

Burning Gear Very aggressive distortion. Really destroys the signal at high drive settings.

Analogue Warmth Even softer than the Saturation setting, this preset is designed to add a little bit of warmth and flavor to your sounds.

Gritty Adds dirt and distortion, but without destroying the punch too much. Great for beefing up kick drums and snares

Drive

Adjust the Drive amount from 0 to 100% to specify how much of the effect is applied to the selected pad. The Drive control is MIDI assignable.

Dynamics

Dynamics Preset

Off No effect.

Punch Enhances the attack of the signal by combining compression and transient shaping.

Slammer Especially useful for drum loops to give them that special compressed character.

Fattening Strong compression with a short attack but long release to squeeze the signal.

Extreme Transients The stronger version of the “Punch” preset. Really features the transients at high settings and adds high clicks to the sound.

Attack Softener Useful if a sound is too punchy or aggressive, and you want to lower the attack portion of the signal.

Hard Limiting Not a brickwall limiter, but hard limiting to add a very compressed character to your sound.

Dynamics

Adjust the Dynamics amount from 0 to 100% to specify how much of the effect is applied to the selected pad. The Dynamics control is MIDI assignable.

Sample Mappings

Trigger Key

This setting lets you specify the Trigger Key (MIDI note number) for playing (triggering) the selected pad.

Vel Low

This setting lets you specify the minimum velocity required to play the selected pad (MIDI note velocity). Any MIDI velocities received below this value will not trigger playback.

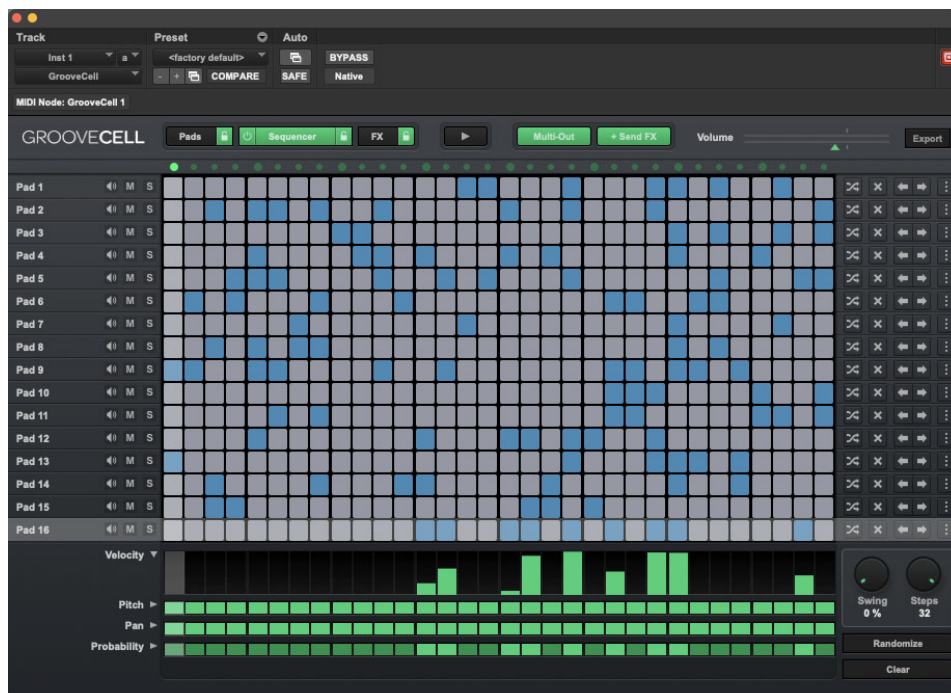
Vel High

This setting lets you specify the maximum velocity required to play the selected pad (MIDI note velocity). Any MIDI velocities received above this value will not trigger playback.

Sequencer Page

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides a built-in 16 track, 32 step sequencer that automatically synchronizes with the Pro Tools Tempo and Meter tracks, and BPM setting.

Each pad has its own track in the sequencer, and each track has its own settings for Velocity, Pitch, Pan, and Probability with each step. Additionally, each track has its own settings for the number of Steps, Swing, Nudge, Pattern Presets, Rate, and Playback style.



Sequencer page

Global Sequencer Controls

Play Button

Click the Play button to start or stop playback of the sequence. The sequencer always clocks to the Pro Tools session tempo whether the transport is running or not.

Step LEDs

The LEDs at the top of the sequencer light from left to right at the rate of the pulse to indicate the triggering of each step.

Randomize

Click the Randomize button to generate random sequence patterns for all tracks.

Clear

Click the Clear button to clear the sequences on all tracks.

Swing

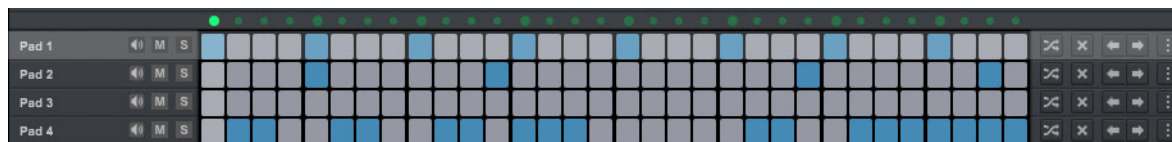
Adjust the Swing control from 0 to 100% for the amount of “swing” you want applied to the whole sequence. The global Swing control adds further “swing” to any tracks with individual swing applied. The Swing control is MIDI assignable.

Steps

Adjust the Steps control from 1 to 32 for the number of steps you want before the entire sequence repeats. Individual tracks can be assigned a certain number of steps independently so that they each repeat according to their own cycle.

Track Controls

The Sequencer provides 16 tracks, one for each pad, arranged in rows from top to bottom. You can use up to 32 steps on any track. Each track provides audition, mute (M), and solo (S) controls on the left, and additional track controls on the right.



Pad 1, 2, and 4 tracks with step patterns, Pad 3 track empty

To enable (or disable) any step:

- Click the step (square) to enable it (highlighted) or disable it (unhighlighted).



Steps and track controls

In addition to steps, each track provides the following controls:

Track Name Pad 1 through Pad 16 top to bottom.

Audition Click the Audition button to trigger the Pad for that track.

Mute Click the Mute (M) button to mute the track.

Solo Click the Solo (S) button to solo the track.

Random Click the Random button to randomize the step pattern for the track.

Clear Click the Clear button to clear all steps for the track.

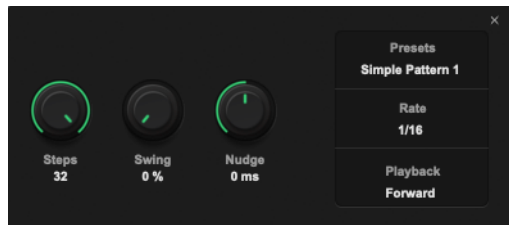
Move 1 Step Left Click the Step Left button to move the entire pattern on the track one step left.

Move 1 Step Right Click the Step Right button to move the entire pattern on the track one step right.

... **More** Click the ... More icon to open Playback controls for the track. For more information, see [Track Playback Controls](#).

Track Playback Controls

Each track has additional playback controls that are accessible from the track's ... More icon.



Track Playback controls

Steps Lets you adjust the number of steps for the track from 1 to 32.

Swing Adjust to apply swing to the playback of the track from 0% (no swing) up to 100% (full swing feel).

Nudge Lets you adjust the timing of the attack of steps in the track from -50% (earlier) to +50% (later).

Presets Lets you select from 3 basic preset patterns for the track. Simple Pattern 1 selects every 4th step. Simple Pattern 2 selects every 8th step. Simple Pattern 3 selects every step.

Rate Lets you select the rhythmic value for steps in the track (each track can have different rhythmic values): 1/4, 1/8 D (dotted), 1/4 T (triplet), 1/8, 1/16 D, 1/8 T, 1/16, 1/32 D, 1/16 T, 1/32. 1/16 is selected by default.

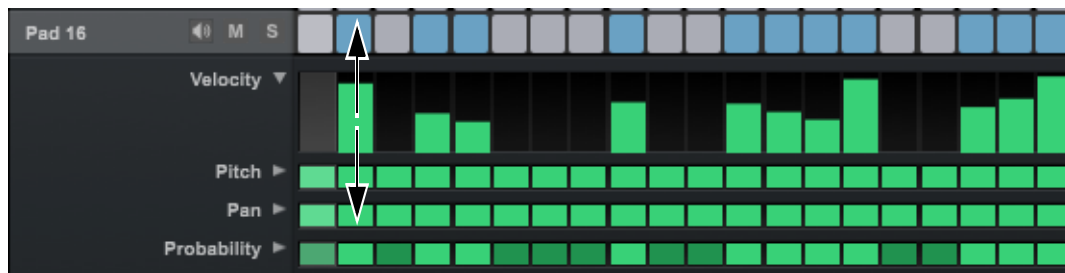
Playback Lets you select the playback order of steps in the track: **Forward**—plays steps in order from left to right, **Backward**—plays steps in order from right to left, **Ping Pong**—plays steps in alternating order first step, last step, second step, second to last step, and so on.

Control Lanes

Velocity, Pitch, Pan, and Probability control lanes for the selected track are shown at the bottom of the sequencer. Only one control lane can be expanded for editing at a time.

To adjust the Velocity, Pitch, Pan, and Probability settings for active steps on a track:

- 1 Select the track you want to edit (such as Pad 16).
- 2 If necessary, click the reveal triangle to expand the lane you want.
- 3 For any active step, click and drag the bar control up or down.



Velocity lane, adjusting velocity for the first active step in track Pad 16

FX Page

The FX page provides controls for the Master effects applied to the Main Output, and Reverb and Delay effects controls applied to the effects sends from individual drum pads that are also assigned to the Main Output.



FX page

Master

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides EQ, Distortion, and Compression effects on the Main Output of the plug-in. You can enable or disable an effect with the checkbox in the upper right corner of each effect section. All Master effects controls are MIDI assignable.

 *The Master effects on the FX page only process audio of pads assigned to the Main Output, and are not applied to any pads routed to Individual Outputs. The same is true for pads sending to the Delay and Reverb effects.*



FX page: Master effects settings

Equalizer

Frequency 1

Adjust Frequency 1 of the EQ from 40.00 to 16,000.0 Hz.

Gain 1

Attenuate or boost the gain of Frequency 1 from -20 to 20 dB.

Frequency 2

Adjust Frequency 2 of the EQ from 40.00 to 16,000.0 Hz.

Gain 2

Attenuate or boost the gain of Frequency 1 from -20 to 20 dB.

Distortion

Drive

Adjust the Drive setting for the distortion from 0 to 60 dB.

Mix

Adjust the Mix setting for the distortion from 0 to 100%.

Compressor

Threshold

Adjust the Threshold setting for the compressor from -60 to 0 dB.

Ratio

Adjust the Ratio setting for the compressor from 1.00 to 20.00.

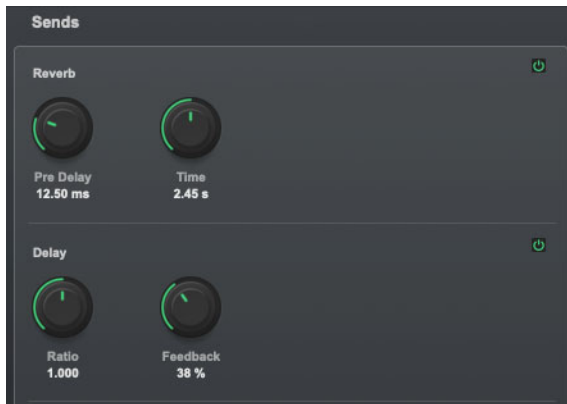
Output

Adjust the Output setting for the compressor (make up gain) from 0.0 to 20.0 dB.

Sends

Pro Tools | GrooveCell provides Reverb and Delay effects for processing the effects sends from individual drum pads. You can enable or disable an effect with the checkbox in the upper right corner of each effect section. All **Sends** effects controls are MIDI assignable.

💡 Click the + Send FX button to enable or disable all effects sends (Reverb and Delay). The button dims when disabled. When disabled, all individual pad Sends to Reverb and Delay effects are muted.



FX page: Sends effects settings

Reverb

The following settings apply to the Reverb Sends from individual pads.

Pre Delay

Adjust the reverb Pre Delay from 0.00 to 200.00 ms.

Time

Adjust the reverb Time from 0.10 to 60.00 seconds.

Delay

The following settings apply to the Delay Sends from individual pads.

Ratio

Adjust the delay Ratio from 0.000 to 4.000. The Delay time is always synchronized to the session tempo.

Feedback

Adjust the amount of delay Feedback from 0 to 100%.

Plug-in Presets and GrooveCell

Pro Tools | GrooveCell uses Pro Tools Plug-in Presets to save and recall Pads samples and settings, Sequences, and Effects. However, GrooveCell is unique in that you can write-protect any page of the plug-in so that its current state is not overwritten when opening a preset. This lets you mix and match saved kits and sequences as you see fit.

Saving Presets

When saving a GrooveCell preset, all settings are saved with the preset including custom sample directory paths, pad settings, the current sequence, and all effects settings.

To save GrooveCell settings as a preset:

- 1 Configure GrooveCell as desired.
- 2 Do one of the following:
 - From the plug-in Preset menu, choose **Save Settings As**, type a name for the preset and click **Save** to save a new preset.
 - From the plug-in Preset menu, choose **Save** to save changes to the current preset.

Opening Presets

GrooveCell plug-in presets include any links to custom samples and all settings for each page of the plug-in: Pads, Sequencer, and FX. When changing presets, the current settings on each page will be overwritten. However, you may, for example, want to use presets to store and recall different sequences while maintaining the current kit. GrooveCell lets you lock or unlock each page for just this reason.

Locked/Unlocked Pages

GrooveCell lets you lock, or “write-protect” each page individually (Pads, Sequencer, and FX). This can be useful for using different saved sequences with the same kit where you write protect the Pads and FX pages while opening different presets with different sequences; or for trying different kits with the same sequence where you write protect the Sequence page while opening different presets to change kits setup with the Pads and FX pages.

To write protect a page in GrooveCell and open a preset:

- 1 For each page you want write protected, click the Lock icon to the right of the Page button so that it appears locked and unlit.



Pads and FX pages locked (write protected) and Sequencer page unlocked

- 2 Do one of the following:
 - Select the preset you want from the Librarian menu.
 - Choose **Import Settings** from the Preset menu, navigate to and select the plug-in preset file (.tfx) you want, and click **Open**.
- 3 All settings for unlocked pages are overwritten by the preset, but the settings for locked pages are remain unchanged.

Moving Presets and Samples Between Systems

You can move GrooveCell presets and samples between different systems, but you will need to pay attention to file management. If any of your presets use custom samples, be sure to export them for use with the presets you want to use on another system. This may also be necessary for any tracks using GrooveCell in a shared project (online collaboration). For information on exporting samples, see [Export](#).

Import

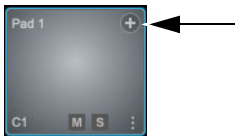
GrooveCell lets you import individual samples to Pads for playback. You can load up to 3 samples per pad.

Loading Custom Samples

You can load your own samples from anywhere on your system to individual Pads in GrooveCell. GrooveCell links to the directory location of each imported sample rather than actually importing the file to the plug-in or to the session. Each pad can load up to 3 samples for playback when the pad is triggered, and you can choose from 3 different playback modes (which can be set when you load samples and which can be changed after samples are loaded).

To load samples to pads:

- 1 Click the + button in the upper right corner of the pad to which you want to load samples.



Click + to load samples

- 2 In the resulting dialog, navigate to the audio files you want to load.
- 3 Select one or more audio files to load as follows:
 - Select a single file to load for the selected pad.
 - Select up to 3 files to load for the selected pad, which will play back according to the selected Sample Mode.
 - Select up to 16 files to load spread across consecutive pads in order, starting with the selected pad.
- 4 Click Open.
- 5 If you selected multiple files, choose the desired option for sample mapping.



Multiple samples mapping options

Spread Load up to 16 selected files across pads in order starting with the selected pad (1 sample per pad).

Velocity Load 2 or 3 files for individual playback by velocity range. With 2 files, trigger the first sample by velocities from 1–63 and the second sample by velocities 64–127. With 3 files, trigger the first sample by velocities from 1–42, the second by velocities 43–84, and the third by velocities 85–127.

Layer Load up to 3 files to a single pad. All samples play back together when the pad is triggered.

Round Robin Load up to 3 files to a single pad. Each trigger cycles through the samples in order.

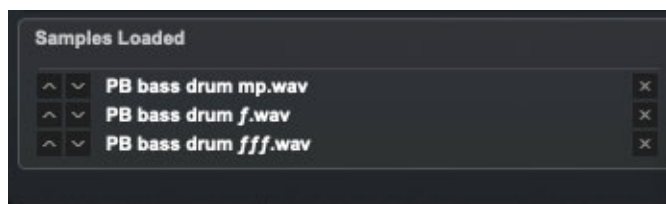
The selected files are loaded accordingly.



Multiple samples loaded for selected pad (Pad 1)

Managing Loaded Samples

Once you have loaded samples to a pad, you can reorder them, individually unload them, and change the Sample Mode for playback. In the Samples Loaded list, the first selected file is loaded first and appears on top. The playback of samples in the list is from top to bottom, which is low to high in Velocity mode or in order, one after the other, when triggered in Round Robin mode.



Pads page, Samples Loaded section

To move a loaded sample up or down in the Samples Loaded list:

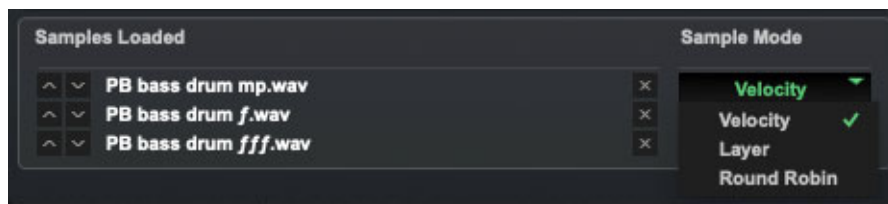
- Click the Up icon or the Down icon for the sample.

To unload a sample:

- Click the X icon for the sample.

To change the Sample Mode for the selected pad:

- 1 Click to select the pad you want to edit.
- 2 Select the desired Sample Mode from the pop-up menu: Velocity, Layer, or Round Robin.



Pads page, Samples Loaded section, selecting Sample Mode

Clearing Samples

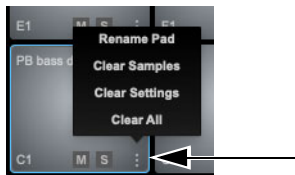
You can unload individual samples or clear all loaded samples for a pad.

To unload a sample:

- 1 Click to select the pad you want to edit.
- 2 Click the X icon for the sample.

To clear all loaded samples for a pad:

- 1 Click the ... icon for the More menu on a pad.



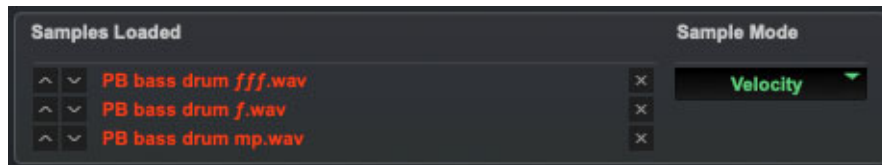
Pad More menu

- 2 Choose Clear Samples.

All loaded samples are cleared for that pad.

Missing Samples

When you load samples to pads in GrooveCell, GrooveCell links to their directory location on your system and plays them back from that location rather than importing them into the plug-in or into your Pro Tools session. If you move or delete any of those files they will go missing for GrooveCell and cannot be played back. The names of missing samples are displayed in red in the Samples Loaded list for the selected pad. You will need to either manually re-load the missing samples or move (or copy) the missing files back to their original directory location.



Pads page, Samples Loaded section, missing samples in red



Use a common directory (such as home/Documents/Pro Tools/Sound Libraries/GrooveCell/) for GrooveCell samples to facilitate session, shared project, and GrooveCell preset interchange between different Pro Tools systems. You can export all Pads samples to a specific directory and include them with GrooveCell presets when moving kits between systems.

Export

GrooveCell lets you drag and drop to export MIDI or audio from the plug-in to your Pro Tools session or to the desktop (macOS Finder or Windows Explorer). For MIDI, you can export the entire programmed MIDI sequence as a single multichannel MIDI file or export each track from the sequencer as individual MIDI files. For audio, you can export the audio performance by the sequencer as a single audio file or the samples from each pad as separate audio files.

To export MIDI or audio from GrooveCell:

- 1 Click Export.



Export pop-up

- 2 In the resulting pop-up, click one of the following:

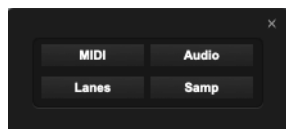
Export MIDI Exports all MIDI from the sequencer.

Export Audio Exports the sequence as a WAV file that you can drop and drop to a stereo audio track in Pro Tools or to the desktop

Export Lanes Exports the information from the sequencer lanes info, as .MID files (into Pro Tools or desktop, via drag and drop)

Export Samples Exports the samples from the pads to 16 separate .WAV files (drag and drop to Pro Tools or desktop)

The button you clicked updates to read MIDI, Audio, Lanes, or Samples accordingly.



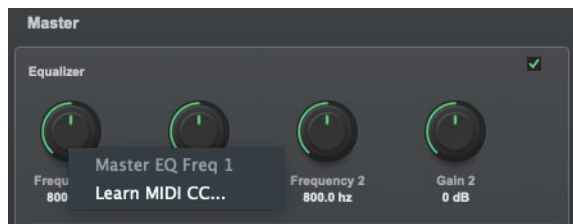
- 3 Click MIDI, Audio, Lanes, or Samples as appropriate (a small, teal rectangle appears indicating content to be exported), and drag and drop to the Pro Tools Timeline (audio, Instrument, or MIDI track), Tracks List, or Clips List, or to the desktop (macOS Finder or Windows Explorer).

Assigning MIDI CC

Pro Tools | GrooveCell lets you assign MIDI CC to control certain individual Pad settings and global FX settings.

To assign MIDI CC to a compatible control in GrooveCell:

- 1 Insert GrooveCell on an Instrument track.
- 2 Assign an external MIDI device to the MIDI Input on the Instrument track.
- 3 Record enable the Instrument track on which GrooveCell is inserted.
- 4 Right-click on the control you want in GrooveCell and choose **Learn MIDI CC**. The name of the control in GrooveCell is indicated in the pop-up menu (for example, “Master EQ Freq 1”).



Learn MIDI CC for Master EQ Frequency 1 in GrooveCell

- 5 Move the continuous controller on your external MIDI device (such as a knob, slider, or foot pedal) that you want to assign to the control in GrooveCell.

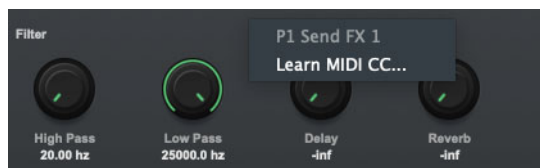
 You can also assign MIDI CC control from the Instrument track on which GrooveCell is inserted or from another MIDI track assigned to control GrooveCell in Pro Tools.

Now when you right-click on the control in GrooveCell, the assigned MIDI CC is indicated under the name of the control in the pop-up menu (for example, MIDI CC 1).



MIDI CC 1 assigned to control Master EQ Freq 1 in GrooveCell

When assigning MIDI CC to Pad Setting controls, select the pad and then right-click on the setting you want. The selected pad is indicated in the pop-up menu as P*n* (for example, “P1” for pad 1 or “P16” for pad 16) followed by the name of the setting (for example, “Send FX 1”). The MIDI CC assignment is made only for the setting of the indicated pad.



Learn MIDI CC for Pad 1 Send FX 1 (left); Learn MIDI CC for Pad 16 Send FX 1 (right)

To assign a new MIDI CC to an already assigned control in GrooveCell:

- 1 Right-click on the assigned control in GrooveCell that you want to change.
- 2 Choose Assign New CC.
- 3 Move a different continuous controller on your external MIDI device.

To remove MIDI CC assignment from an assigned control in GrooveCell:

- 1 Right-click on the assigned control in GrooveCell that you want to unassign.
- 2 Choose Remove Assignment.



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