

MIDI Choir 2.0 User Manual

by Martin Vicanek



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System Requirements

MIDI Choir is available in two variants: as a VST plugin, and as a stand-alone executable. You will need an audio interface and optionally a MIDI interface to communicate with the application.

MIDI Choir will run on Windows platforms supporting both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows versions. Mac users may use them via Windows emulation software such as Windows under BootCamp or Virtual PC. The plugin version requires a host application with a 32 bit VST compatible plugin interface, such as Reaper, Bidule, and many more.

Currently there is no 64 bit support, nor support for native Mac, Linux, or any other non- Windows platform.

Download and Installation

MIDI Choir is available as a software download from the URL below:

<http://vicanek.de/audioprocessing/downloads/MIDIchoir20.zip>

Installation is only a matter of extracting the files to the right place on your hard disk. No other changes such as Registry entries will be made to your system.

Operation

MIDI Choir can be used for live performances as well as for studio work. Typically, although not necessarily, you would use the VST plugin in a DAW for studio work and the executable for live performance.

Selecting Audio and MIDI interfaces

The executable provides menus to select the appropriate MIDI in and Audio interfaces.

For the plugin version, this is taken care of by the DAW and is usually configured once for all.

Audio and MIDI Routing

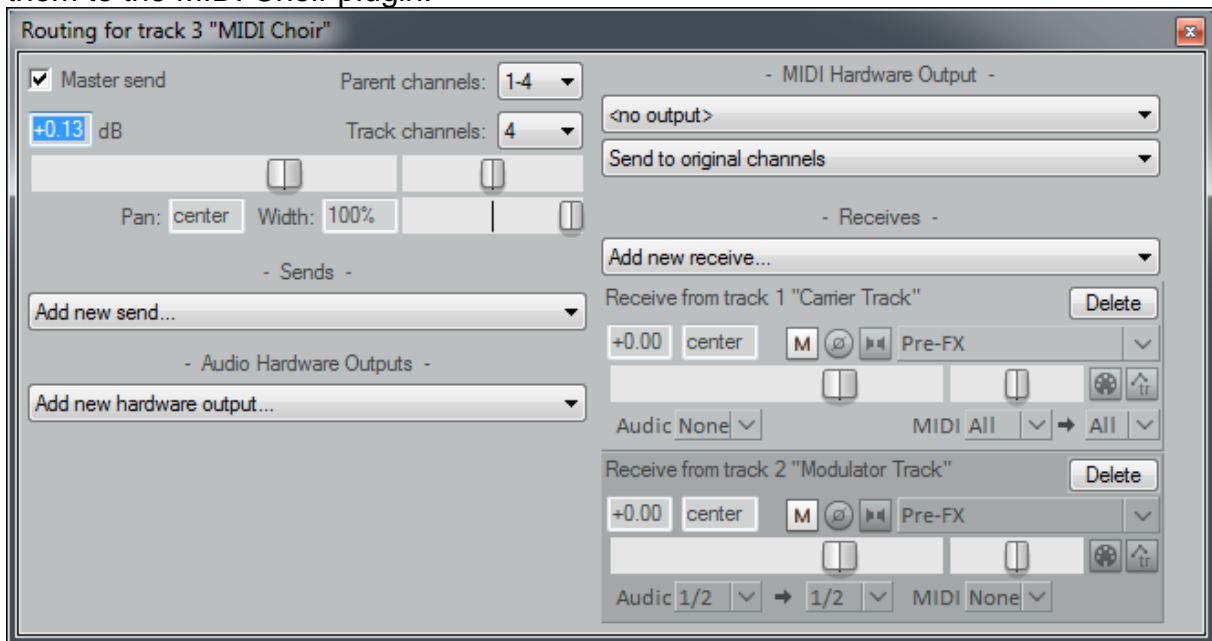
To use the plugin in a DAW, you need to set up a proper signal routing. For example, in Reaper you would set up three tracks like in the image below.



The carrier track provides the pitch data in MIDI format. In my example, the MIDI data is sent to track 3 labeled “MIDI Choir”:

The modulator track provides a spoken or sung voice. This is routed as audio to channel 1 and/or channel 2 of track 3. If you want to add the track 2 audio content to the mix, you can check the Master Send box and send it to track 3 “pre fader”.

Track 3 contains no data on its own; it receives data from tracks 1 and 2, and passes them to the MIDI Choir plugin:



Things are a bit different if you use the executable instead of the plugin: routing is static for the executable. After you have selected the audio interface, and assuming a stereo audio input on your device, both the left and right input channels go to the modulator.

The red MIDI In LED will indicate incoming MIDI commands. This can be used for troubleshooting.

GUI Controls

Noise Gate

Adjust the Threshold control so that the unit is muted when the incoming audio level is below threshold. The blue LED will go on when audio input is above threshold indicating that the noise gate is open.



Reverb

MIDI Choir features a stereo reverb with four controls: The Room control to adjust the room size, the Damp control for faster decay of high frequencies, the stereo Width control, and the Mix control to adjust the reverb amount.



Readout

The Readout panel displays the value of the control which was last adjusted. To check the value of a particular control setting not currently displayed, simply click on the control without dragging it.



Master Volume

Use the Master Volume control to set the output level. The attached red LED indicator will flash if clipping occurs.



Tuning

MIDI Choir allows you to transpose the MIDI notes received from an external source before applying them. The green LED will go on if the pitch tracker detects a voiced, i.e. single-pitched audio signal. In that case audio will be re-pitched according to the current MIDI note(s). If no MIDI notes are active or if the incoming audio has no single pitch then no re-pitching is applied.



Limiter

MIDI Choir comes with a soft-knee limiter. Use the Limit control to adjust the amount of limiting. The LED indicator will turn green when input level is well below the limit, and will gradually change color to yellow, orange and red to indicate the amount of limiting applied. Note that limiting is different from clipping, so an orange or red limiter LED is not necessarily a concern.

