

Akai Pro MPK mini mk3 | How to Obtain, Download, Install and Setup the Included Software

Your journey to a hit song starts with MPK mini and the Complete Music Production Starter Kit is the roadmap to your destination. Featured software includes MPC Beats, AIR Hybrid, Mini Grand, Velvet, and assorted MPC expansion packs to fuel your creativity. In this guide, we'll walk through downloading, installing, and authorizing your included software to get your studio up and running!

Jan 12, 2022•Knowledge

Akai Pro MPK mini mk3 | How to Obtain, Download, Install and Setup the Included Software



Guide Contents

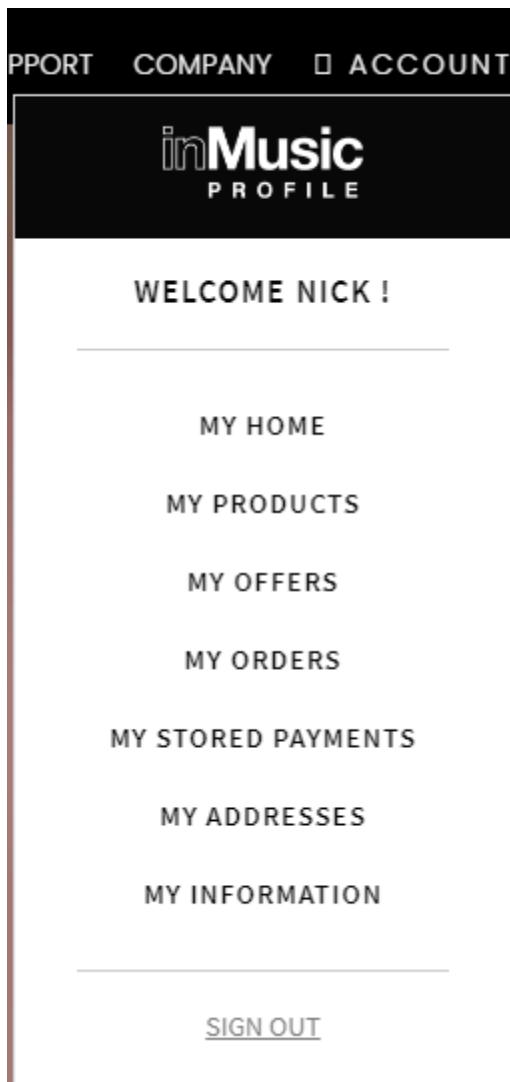
- [Registration](#)
- [Downloading, and Installing the MPK mini Software Manager](#)
- [Installing MPC Beats](#)
- [Installing the AIR Plugins](#)
- [Installing Sample Packs](#)
- [Authorizing Hybrid, Velvet, and Mini Grand in iLok](#)
- [Configuring your MPK mini mk3 in MPC Beats](#)
- [Scanning the AIR Plugins into MPC Beats](#)
- [Loading a Sample Pack to a Drum Program](#)
- [Using Standalone Plugins](#)

- [Further Technical Support](#)

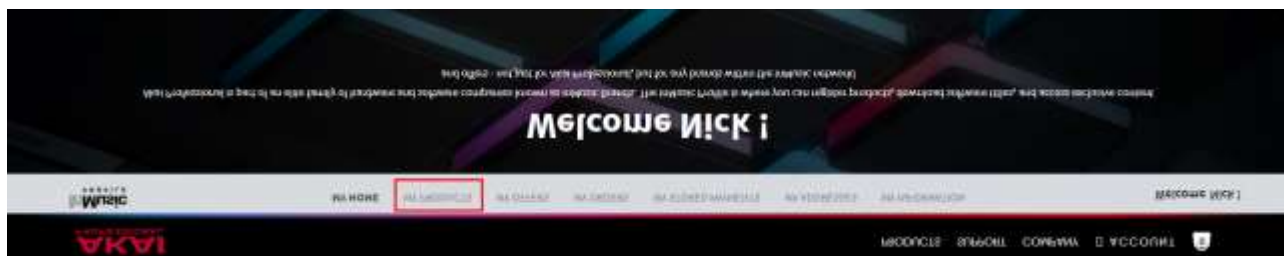
Registration

All included software and Sample Packs are wrapped into one uni-installer that will be made available in your Akai account after registering the MPK mini mk3.

1. Launch your web browser and go to www.akaipro.com.
2. Go to the top right-hand corner of the website and click on **Account**. You will be prompted to a new page to either **Create a New Account** or **Sign In**.
3. If you are a new customer, click on **Create an account** or **Sign In** if you are a previous customer.



5. Along the top bar of your **Account** page you will see a **list of options**. Go to the bottom of this section and select **My Products**.



6. Select **Register New Product**. Enter the MPK mini mk3's serial number in the provided field. Be sure to enter the complete serial number as it appears on the bottom of your product. The serial number is located on a bar code sticker and begins with **(21)**. Select **Check Serial** to confirm your device type. From here, enter your and location of purchase to complete

registration.

Product Registrations

Register new product

Locate the serial number on rear, bottom, or side of your product.
It will be found on a sticker with a barcode, and will begin with (21)

(21) NJ 04031 00200001

(21)

CHECK SERIAL

[BACK TO OVERVIEW](#)

Note: The (21) will already be present when entering your serial number. If you experience difficulty registering your product, clear the cache in your web browser and try again.

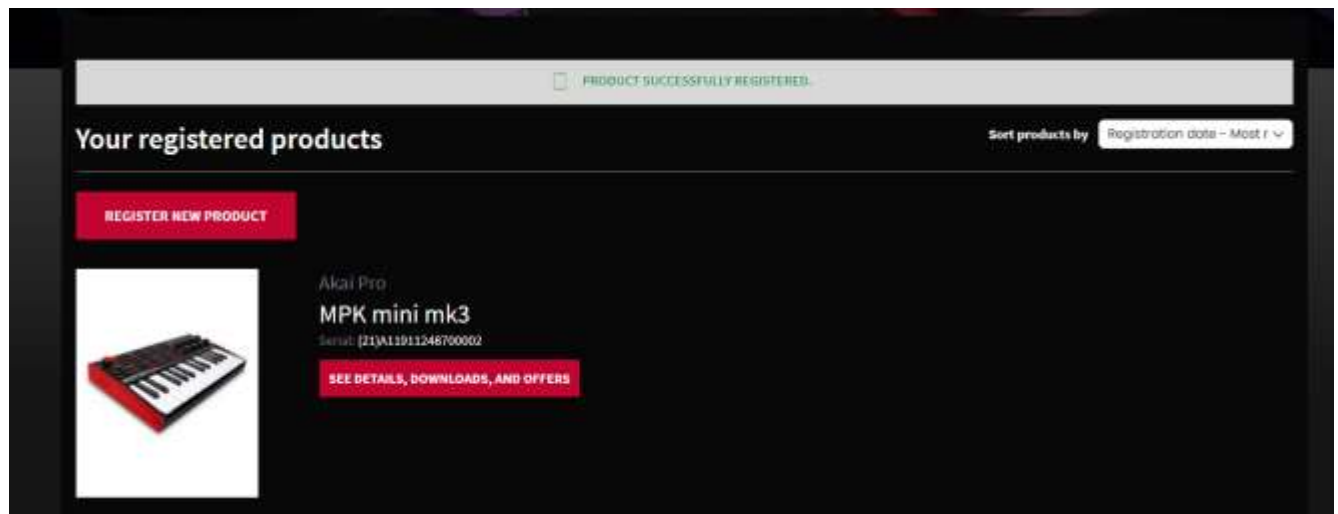
7. You have successfully registered your Akai controller! All of your registered products will show up under **My Products**. Scroll down in your **My Products Page** to see all of your available **Software Downloads**.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

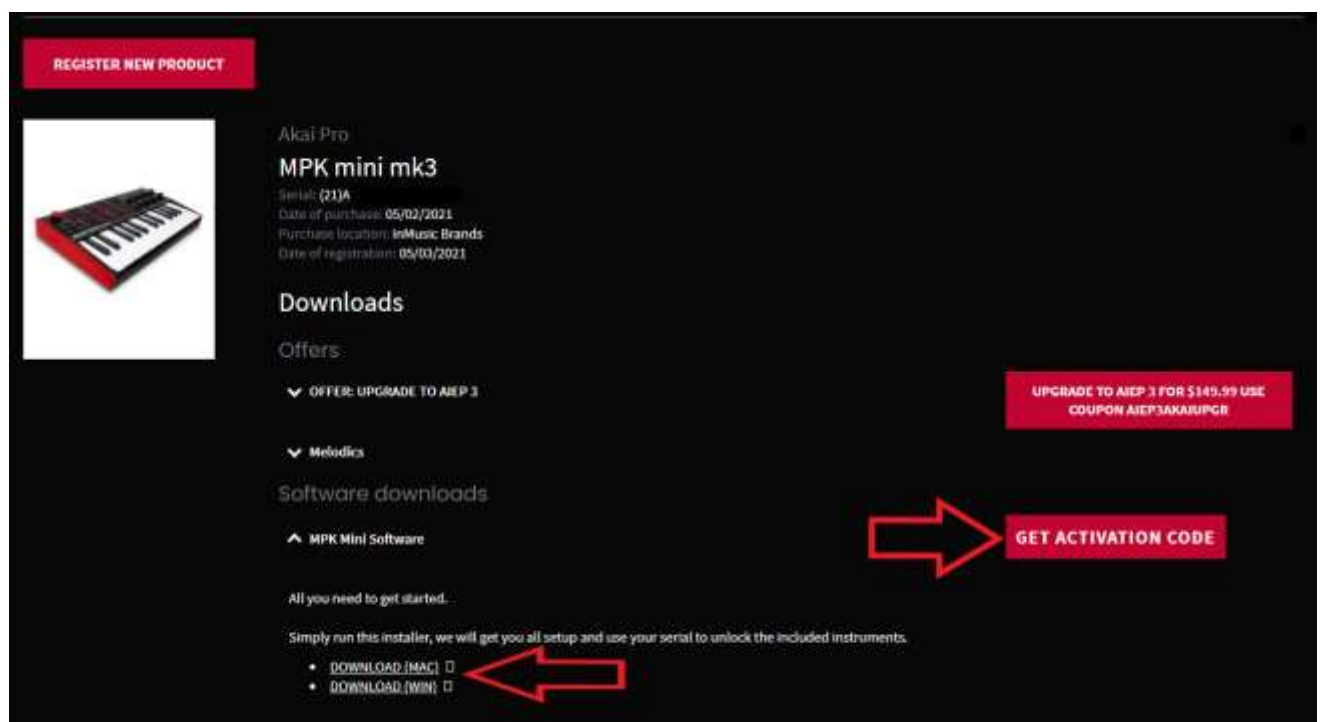
Downloading, and Installing the MPK mini Software Manager

After registering your MPK mini mk3, the **Software Manager** will be made available for download in your Akai account. This program is a **uni-installer** that contains all installers for MPC Beats, the AIR plugins, Sample Packs, and the MPK Editor.

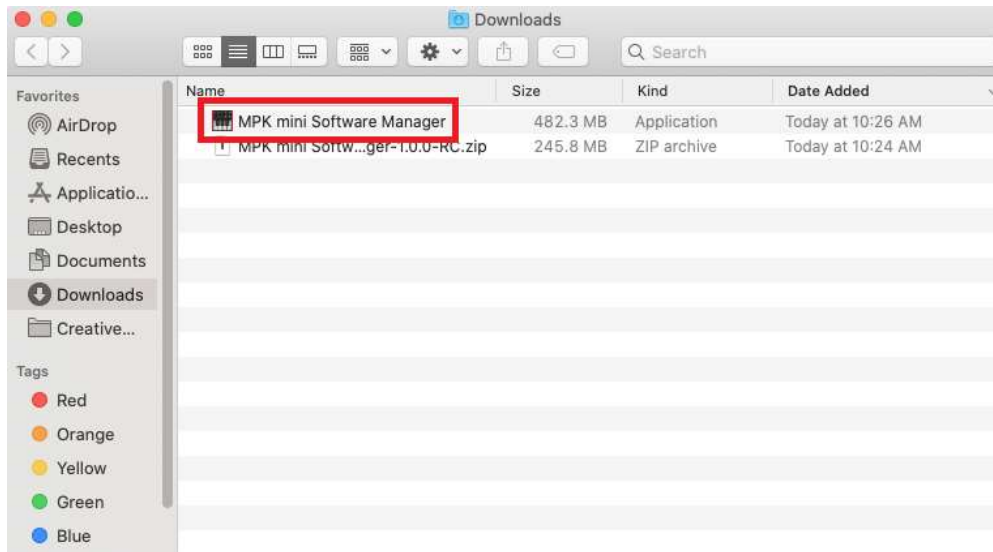
1. Scroll down to your MPK Mini mk3 product listing. Here, select **See Details, Downloads, and Offers**. This will expand your MPK Mini mk3 product listing to include available promotional offerings and the included software downloader.



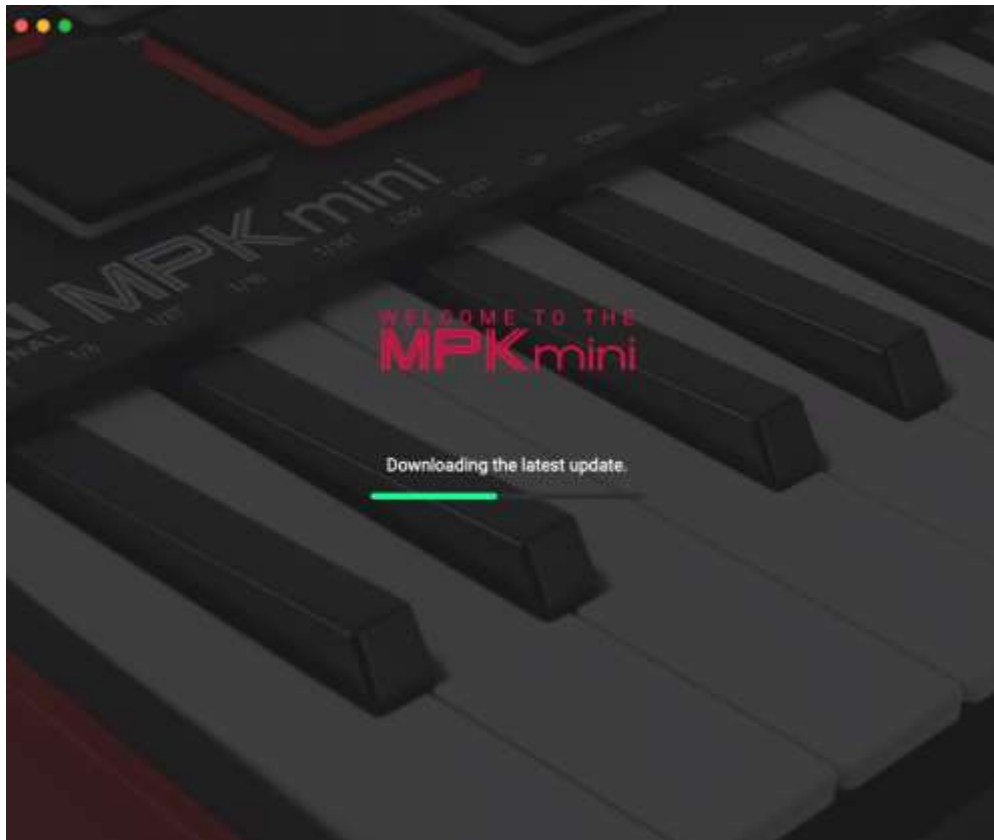
2. Click **Software Download** to expand your available software downloads. Locate and click the **MPK Mini Software** section. Download the installer for your operating system, and click **Get Activation Code** to generate your software serial number.

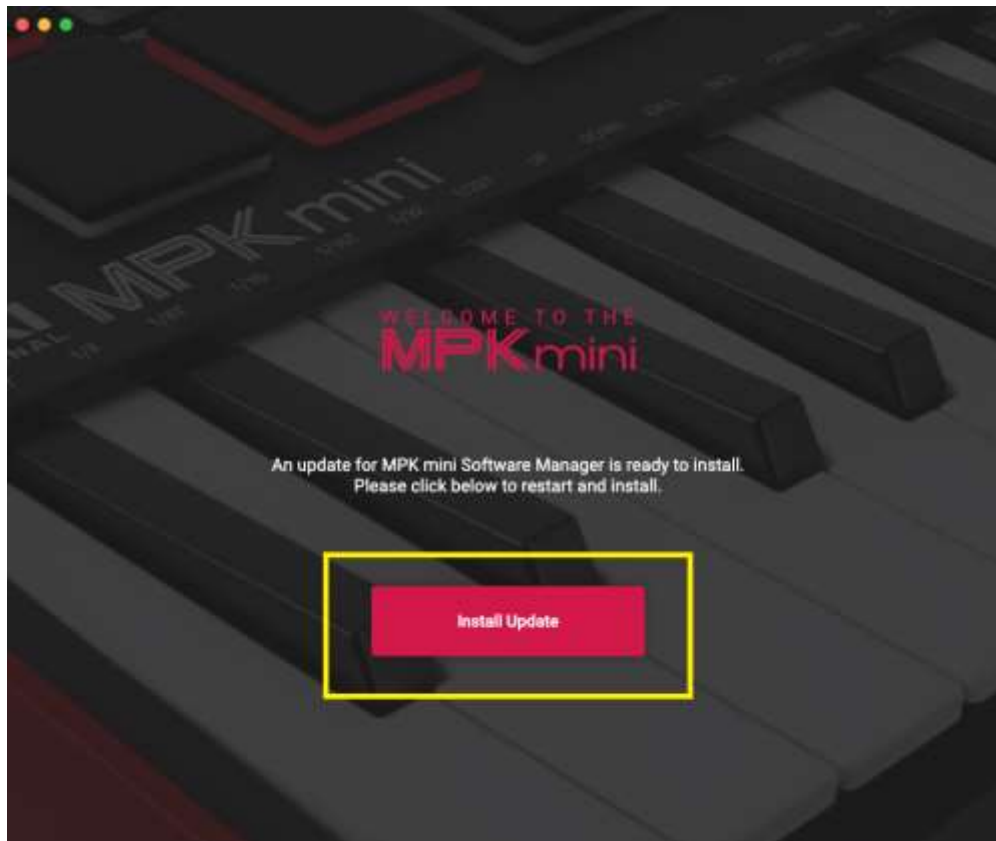


3. After the download completes, double-click on the **MPK mini Software Manager** setup application in your computer's **Download** folder.



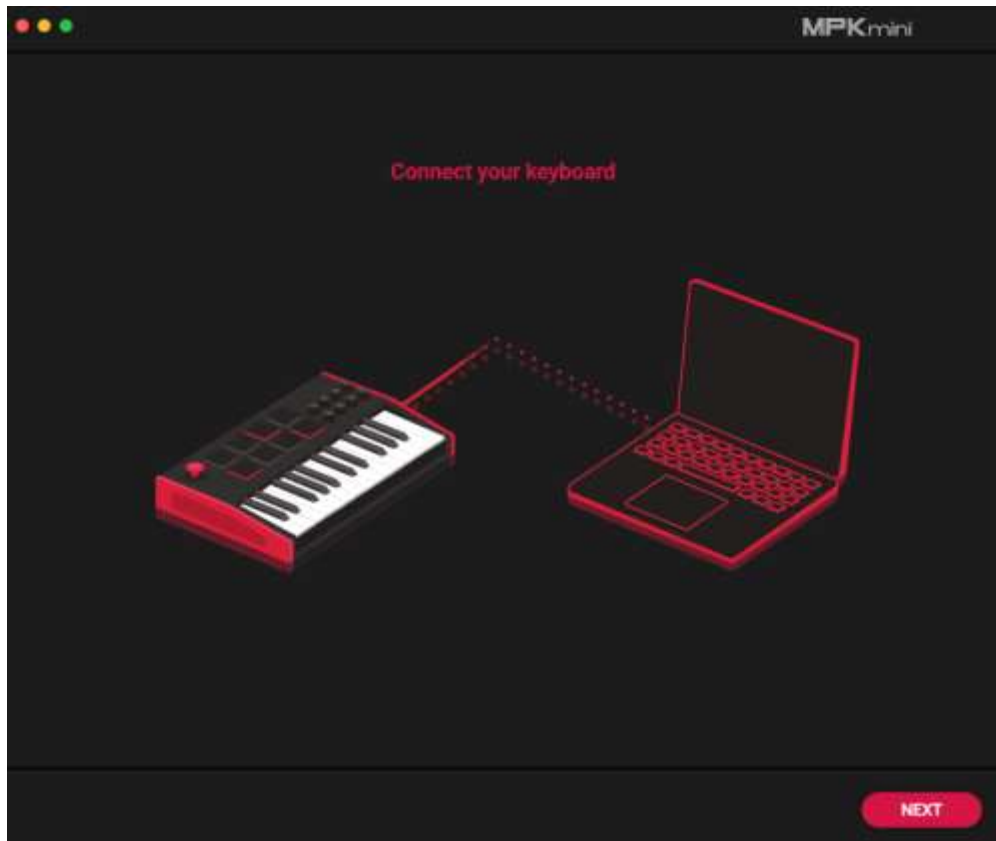
3. The Software Manager will automatically begin to download the latest update. When completed, click **Install Update**.



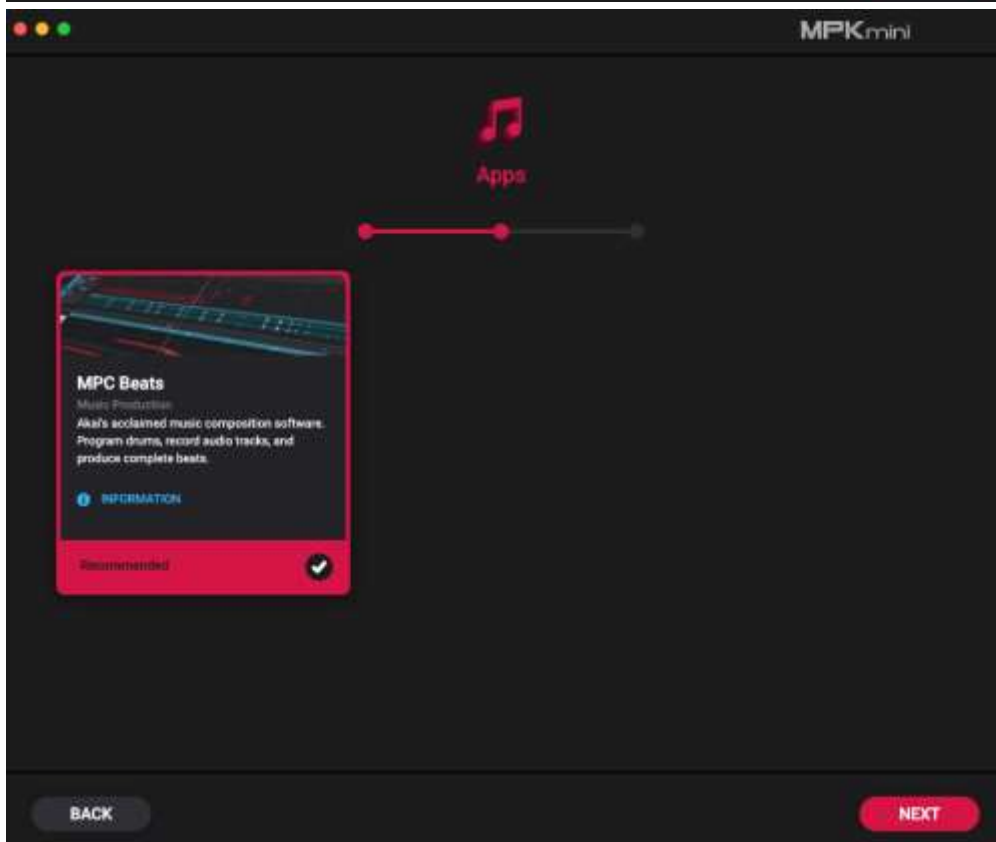
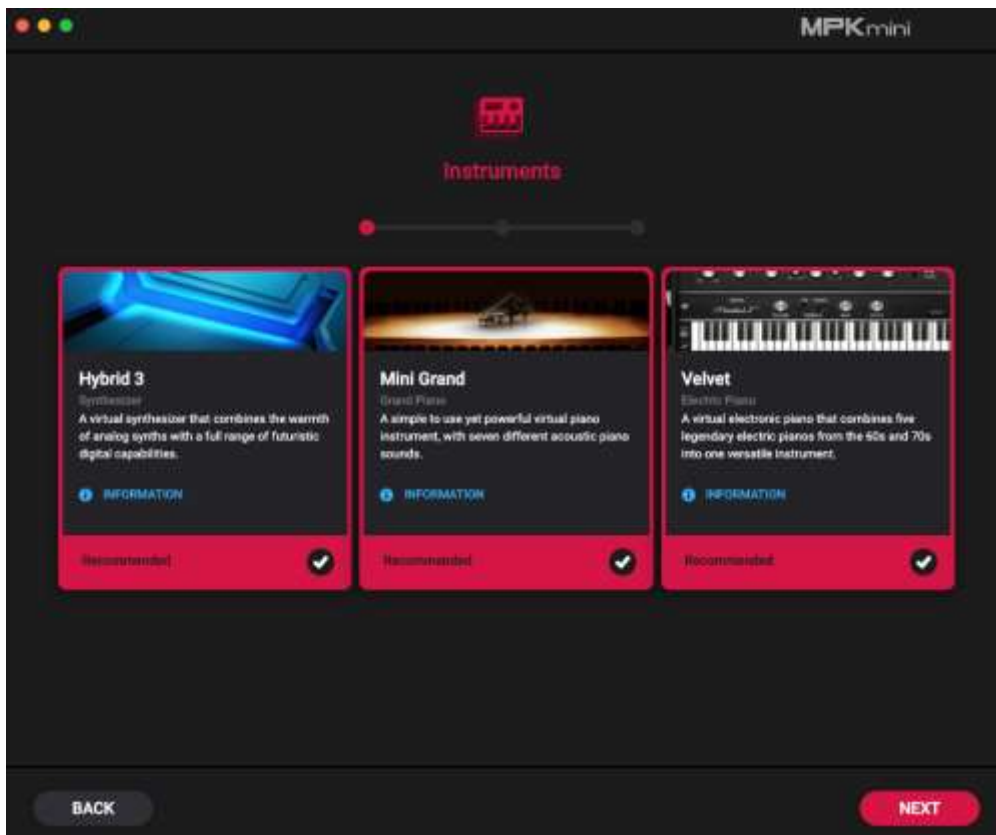


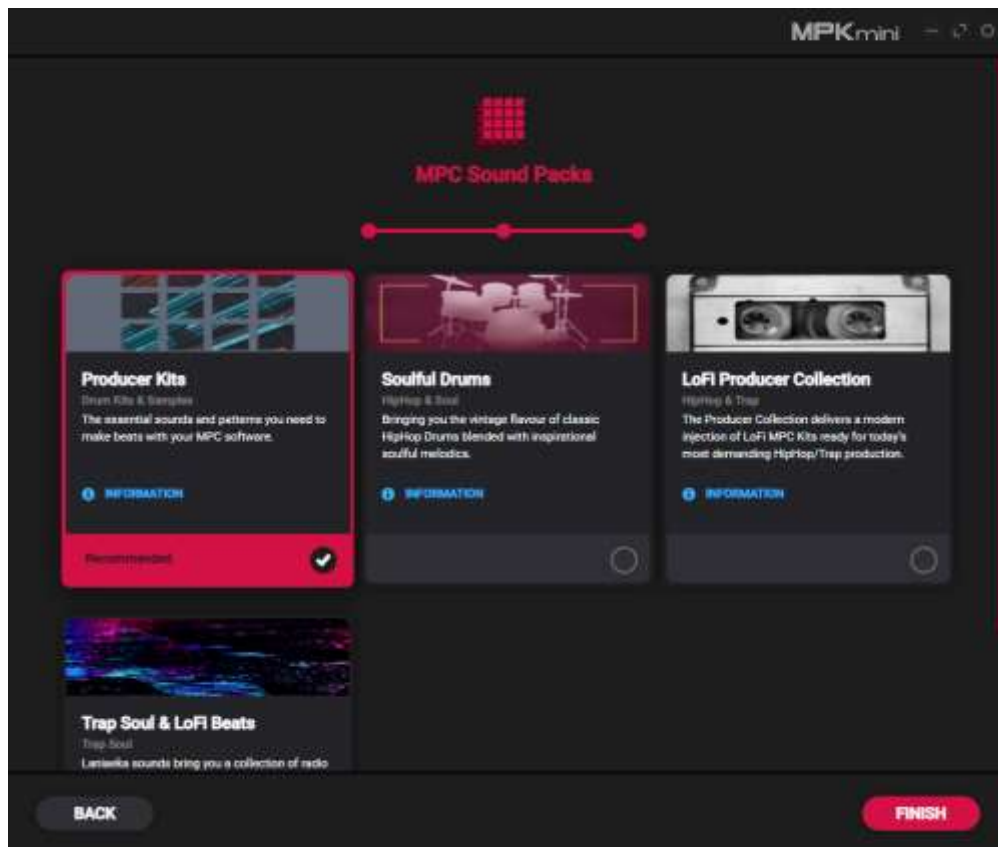
4. After the installer completes, the Software Manager will prompt you to continue. Click **Let's Go!**

5. Connect the MPK mini MK3 to your computer with the included USB cable. Click **Next**.



6. The Software Manager will show you all **Instruments**, **Apps**, and **Sample Packs** that are available for download to your computer. Click the respective icon to load it to the installer queue. Click **Next** after confirming your selections.





Note: If you'd like to know more about specific software, click the **Information** button for features and details!

14. Click **Finish**.

15. The Software Manager will begin to automatically download the selected software and display the installers on one easy-to-access page.


Software

More Info



MPKmini

Welcome to your MPK mini

Get set up and start playing





Instruments

 Hybrid 3 



Get Activation Code



Install

 Mini Grand 

Get Activation Code



Downloading - 4%



 Velvet 

Get Activation Code



Downloading - 8%



Apps

 MPC Beats 



Downloading - 3%



 

MPC Sound Packs



 Producer Kits 



Downloading - 3%



 Soulful Drums 



Downloading - 48%



 LoFi Producer Collection 

Downloading - 21%

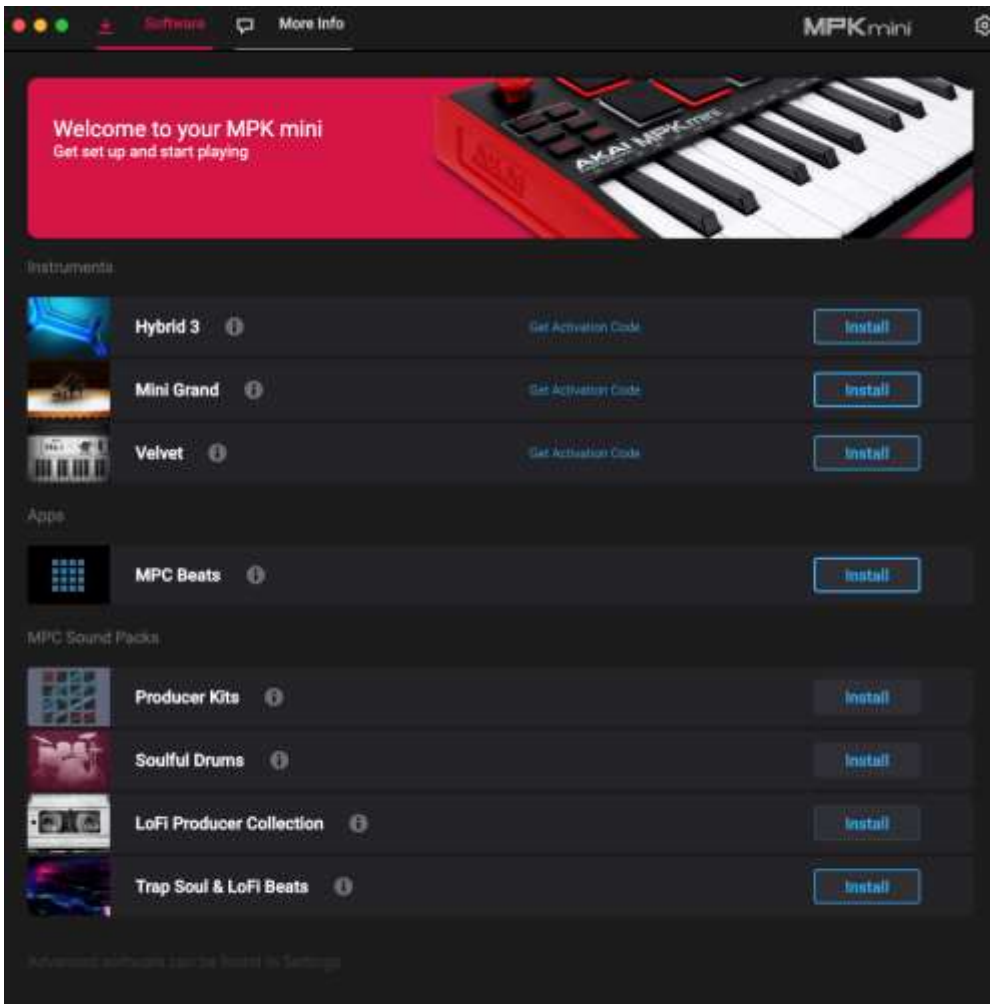
 

 Trap Soul & LoFi Beats 

Downloading - 12%

Additional software can be found in Settings



The **MPK mini Software Manager** will be saved as an application in your computer's **Application** or **Programs** folder. Just open the MPK mini Software Manager to access your software and installers at any time!

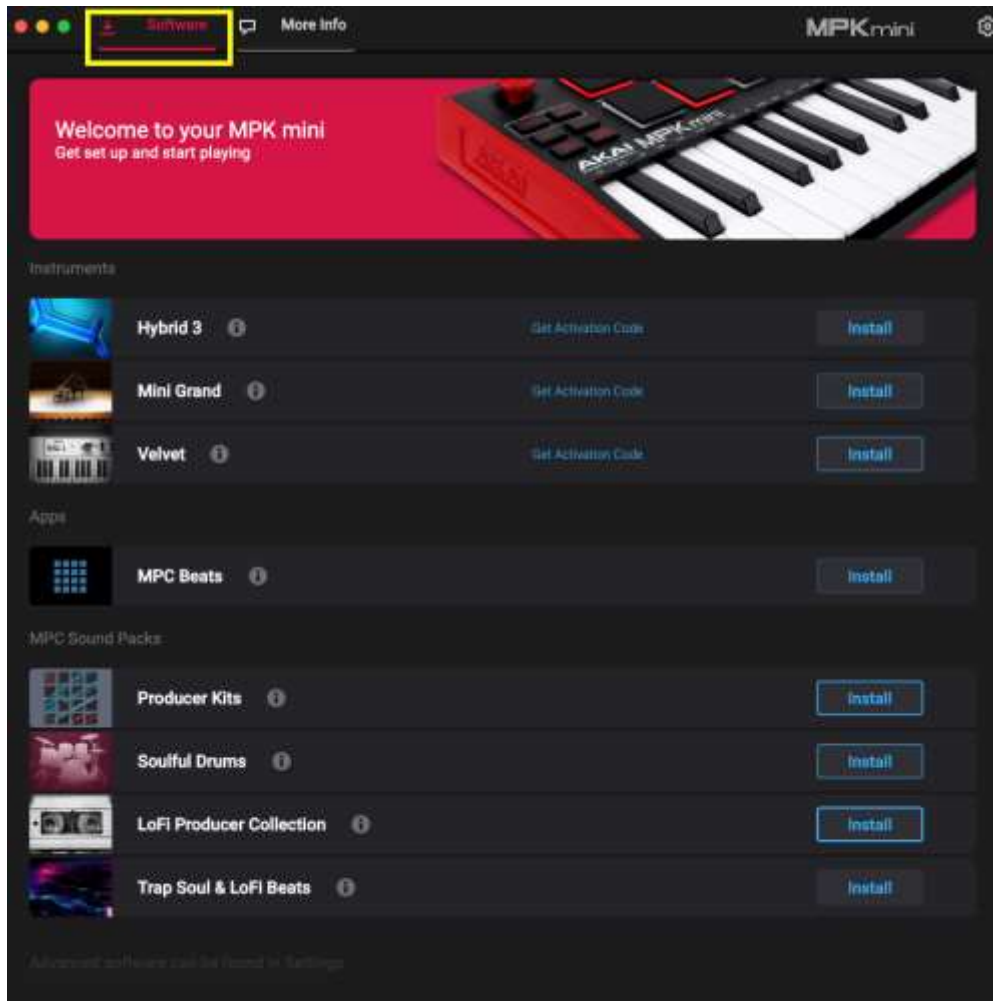
[\[Back to top\]](#)

Installing MPC Beats

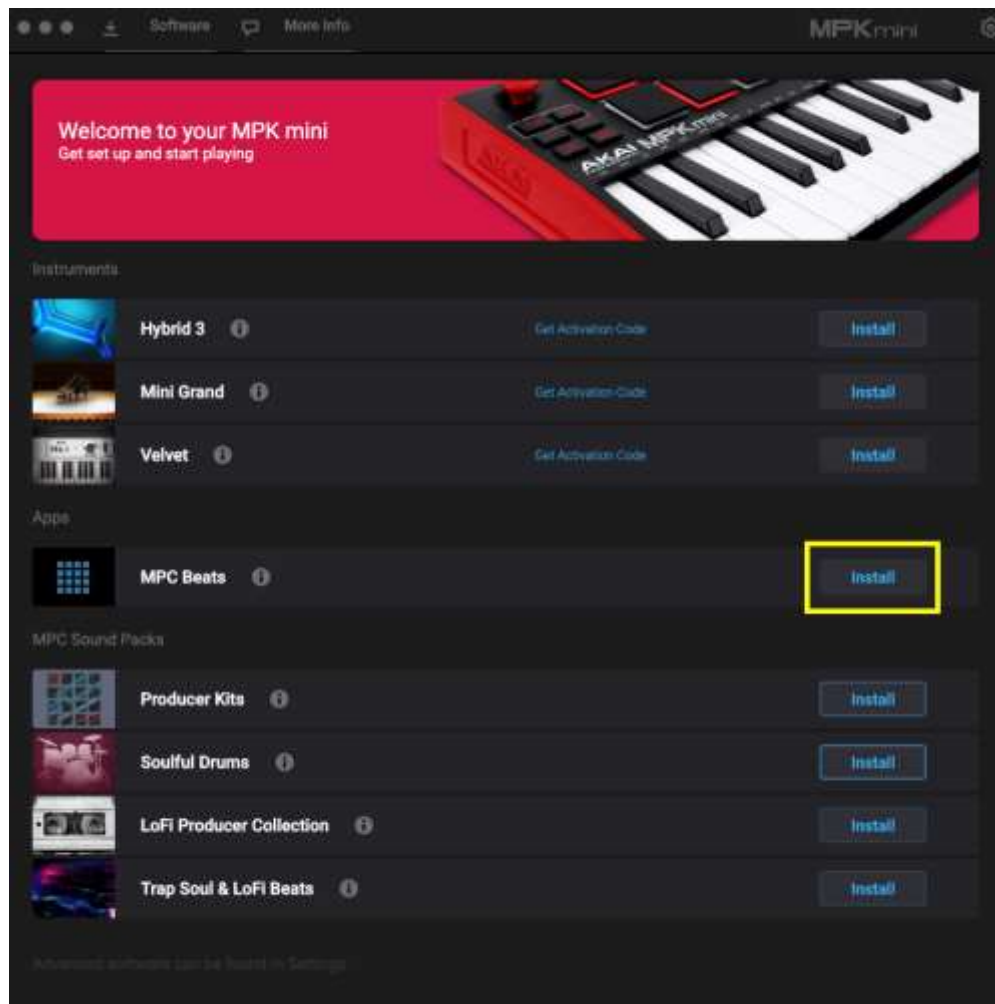
The MPC Beats software is the heart of the MPC workflow. MPC Beats allows you to create dynamic sequences with your AIR plugins and Sample Packs that can be recorded, arranged, and mixed, and into tracks.

The MPC Beats installer is located in the **MPK mini Software Manager** and does not require an authorization code to use. Simply install the software and start making music!

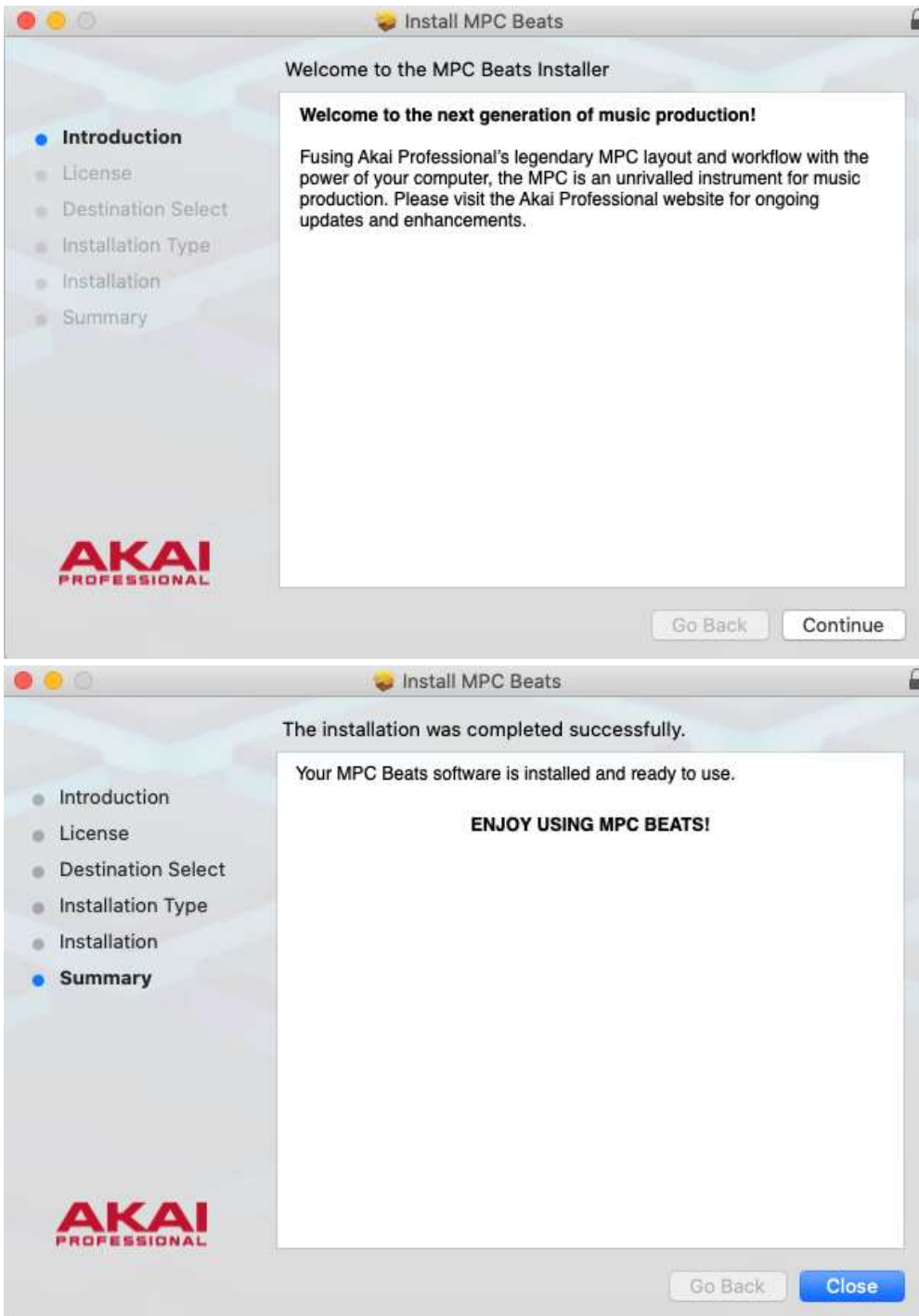
1. Open the **Software Manager** from your **Application** or **Program** folder.
2. Click on the **Software** tab to view all your installers.



3. Find the **MPC Beats** installer under **Apps** and click the **Install** button to the right.



4. The MPC Beats Installer will automatically open. Follow the onscreen prompts to complete the installation

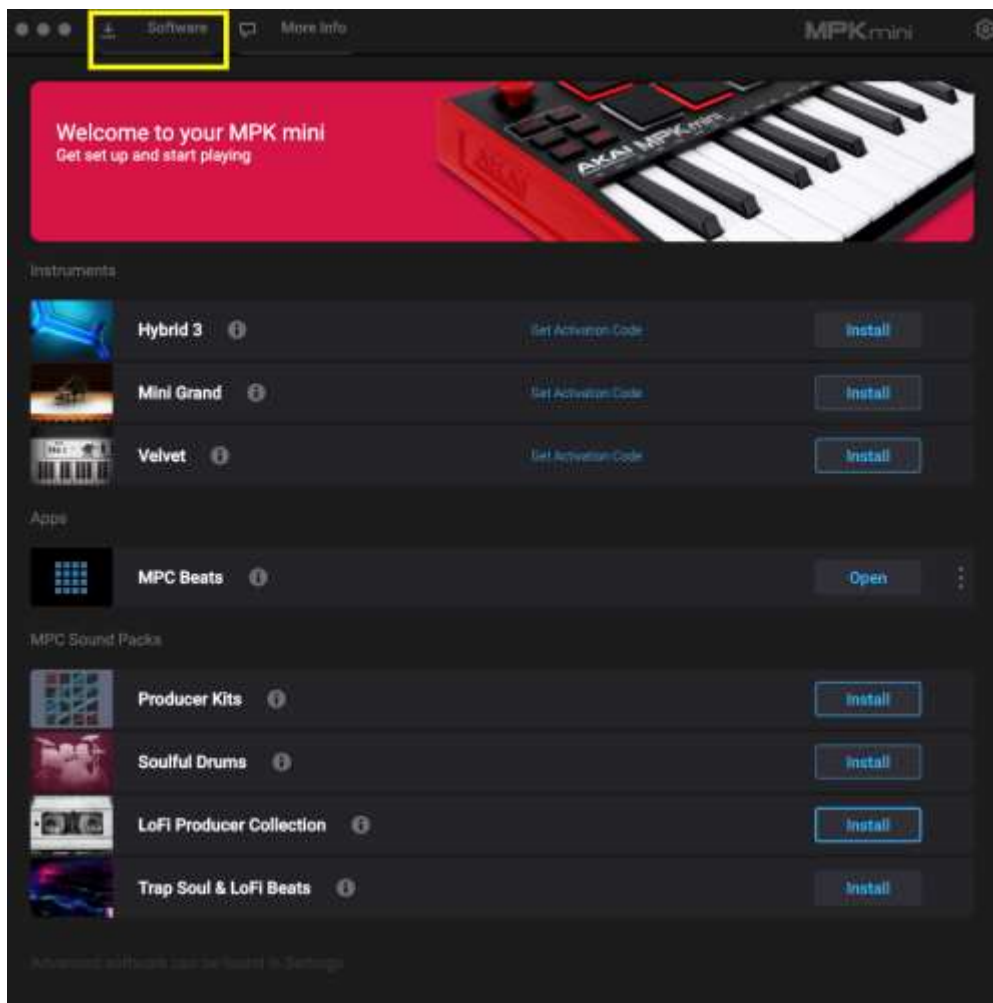


[\[Back to top\]](#)

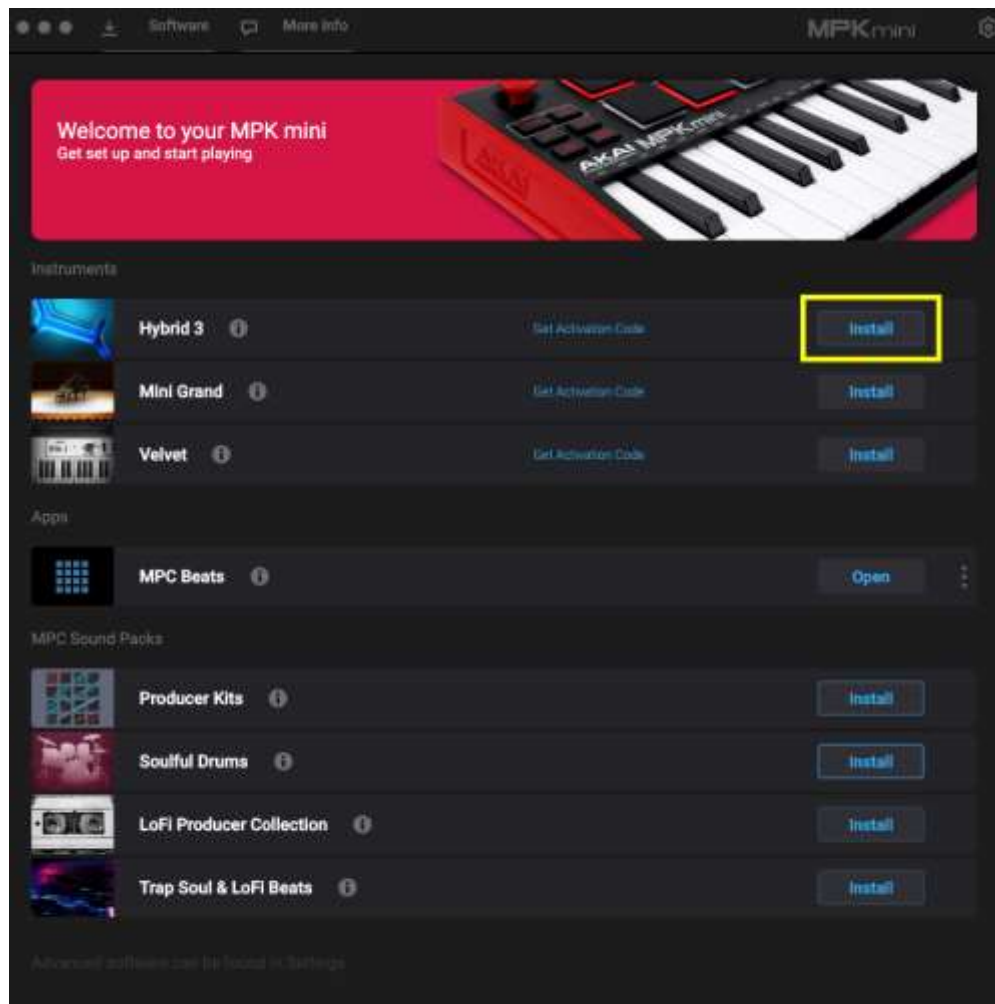
Installing the AIR Plugins

The MPK mini mk3 comes with 3 AIR plugins that can be installed directly from the MPK mini Software Manager. These virtual instruments are a great way to expand your melodic ideas.

1. Open the **Software Manager** from your computer's **Application** or **Program** folder and click on the **Software** tab.



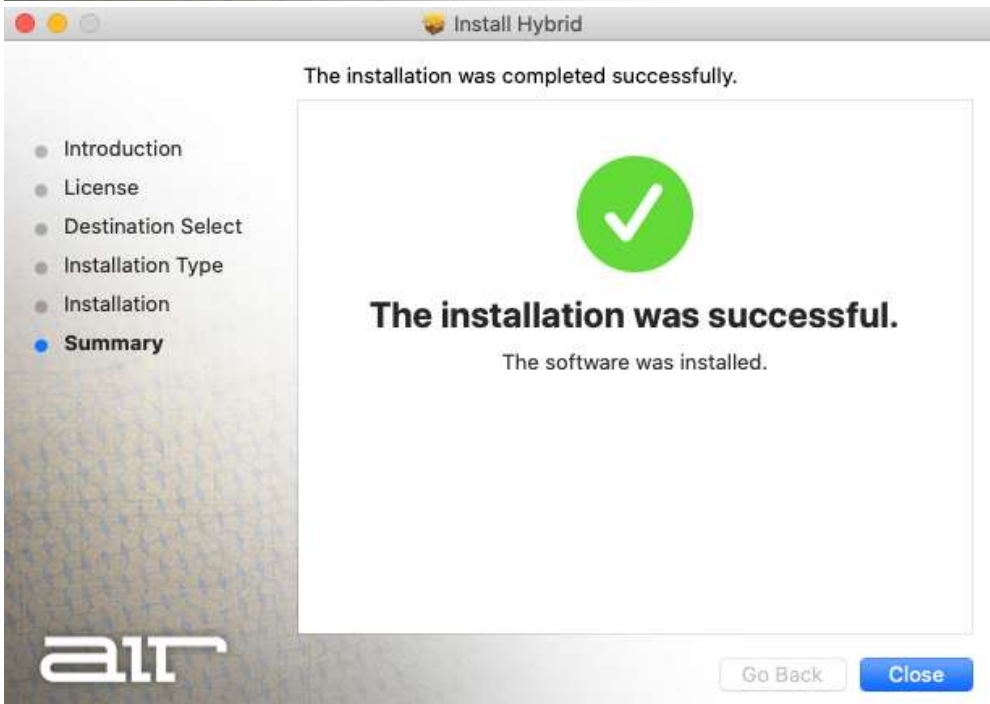
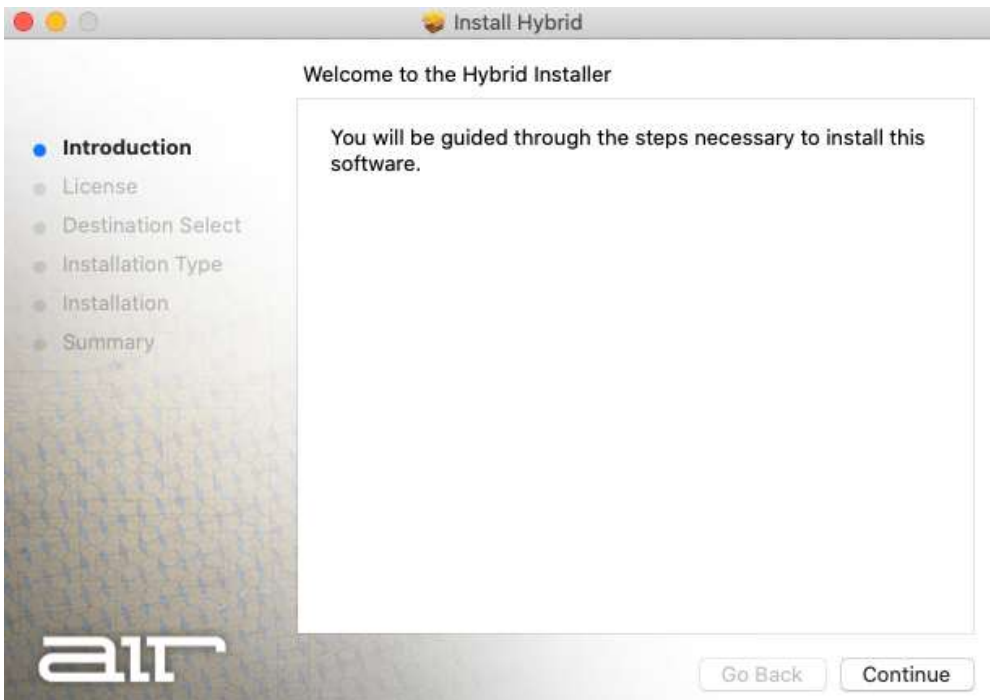
2. Click on the **Install** button to the right.



3. Click **Install Now** in the window that appears.



4. Follow the onscreen prompts to complete the installation.



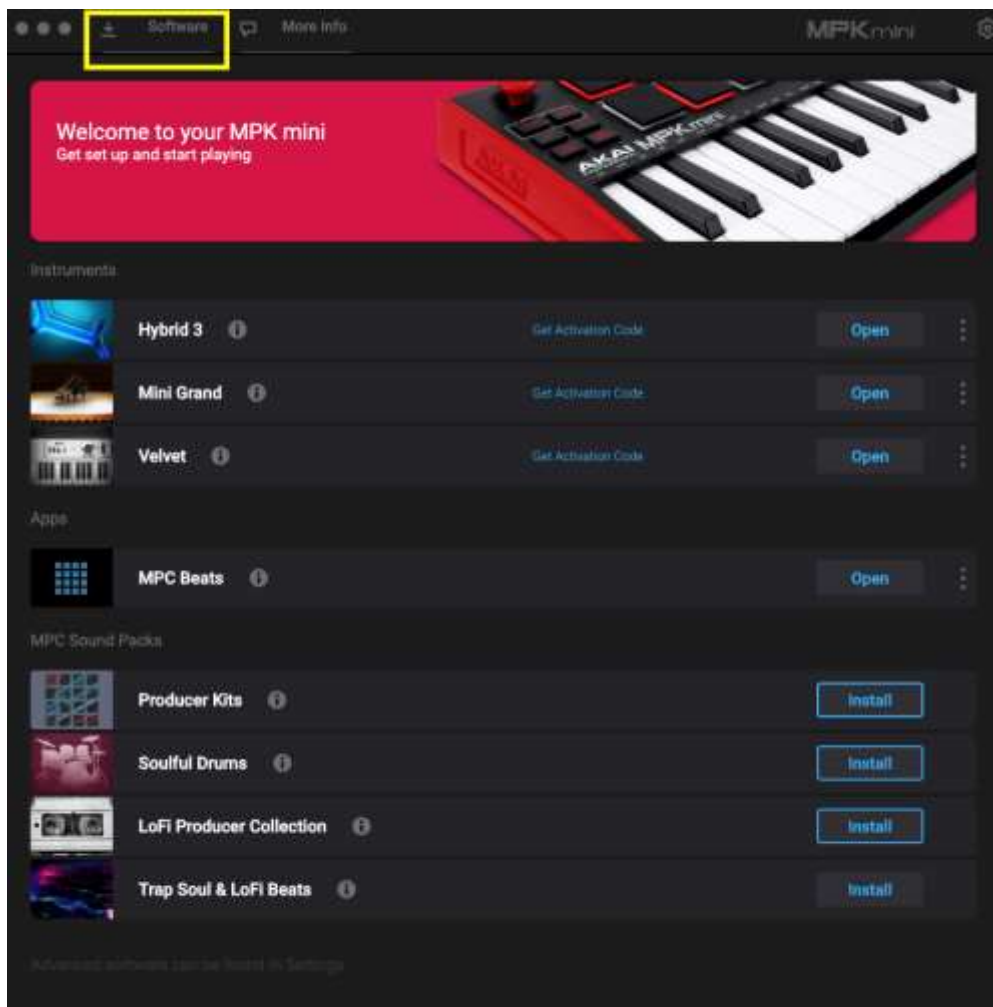
5. Repeat steps 2-4 for the remaining AIR plugins.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

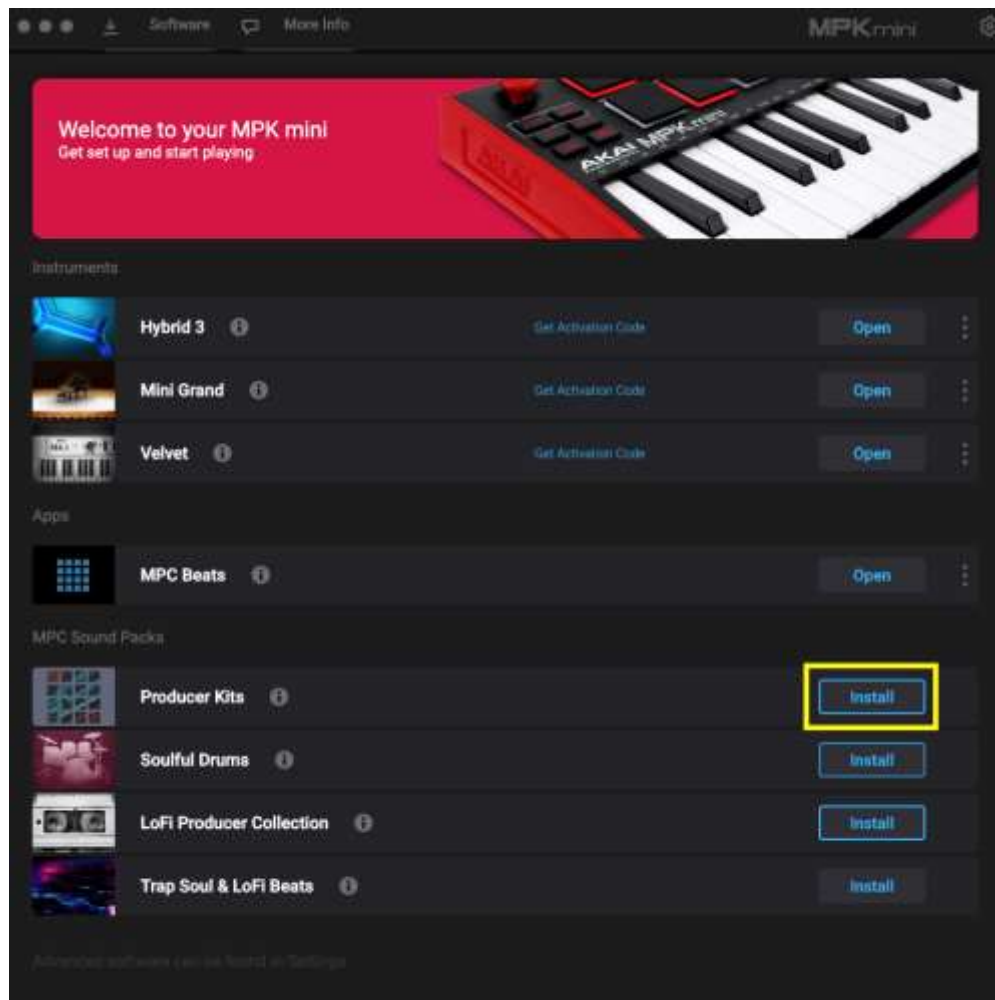
Installing Sample Packs

Sample Packs consist of different sample libraries and premade kits that can be triggered from the MPK mini mk3's pads. To install the included Sample Packs:

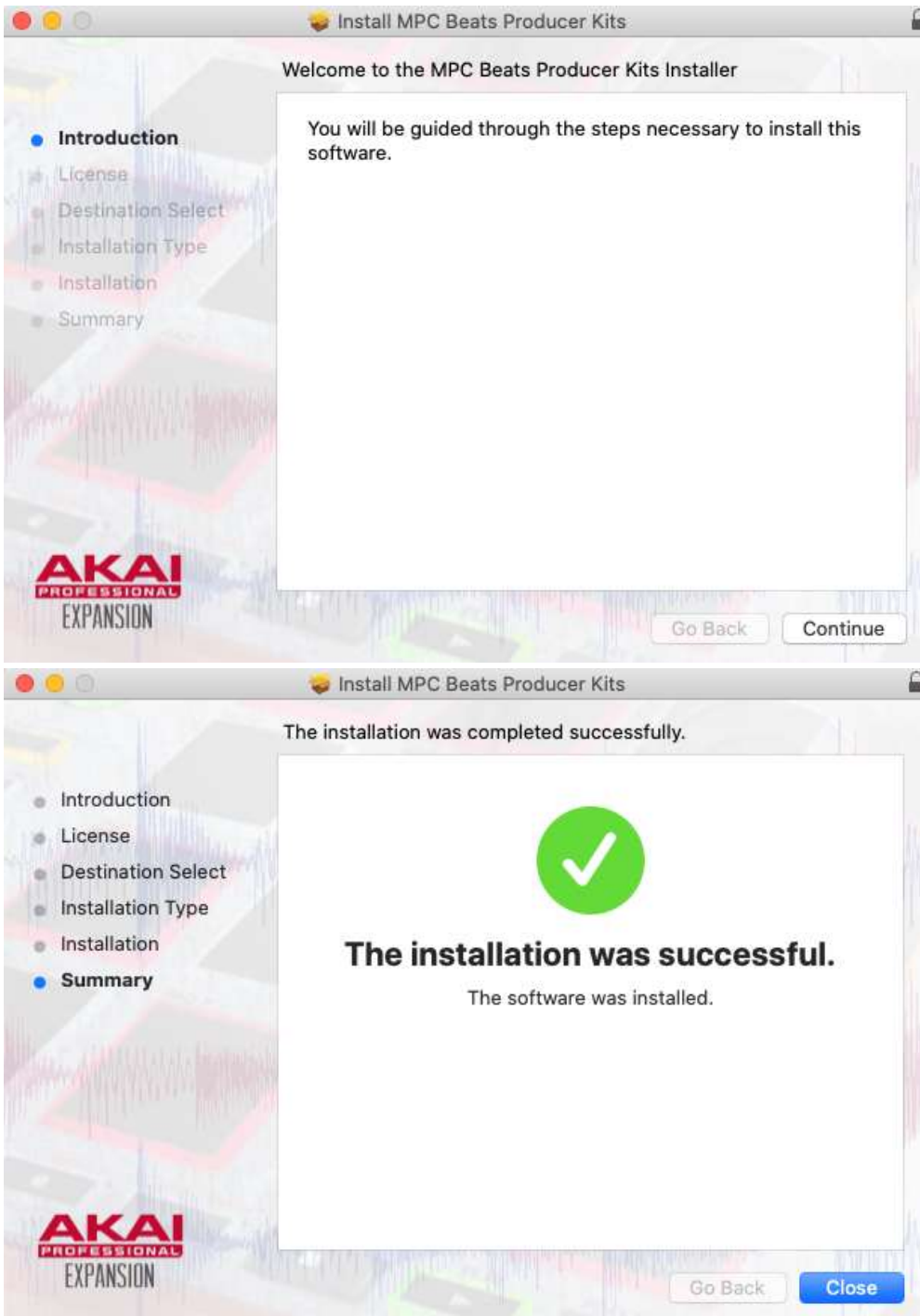
1. Open the **Software Manager** from your computer's **Application** or **Program** folder and click on the **Software** tab.



2. Click on the **Install** button to the right of a Sample Pack.



3. The installer will automatically appear. Follow the onscreen prompts to complete the installation.



4. Repeat steps 2-3 for the remaining Sample Packs.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

Authorizing Hybrid, Velvet, and Mini Grand in iLok

Before scanning and opening the AIR plugins in MPC Beats, we'll need to authorize them in iLok.

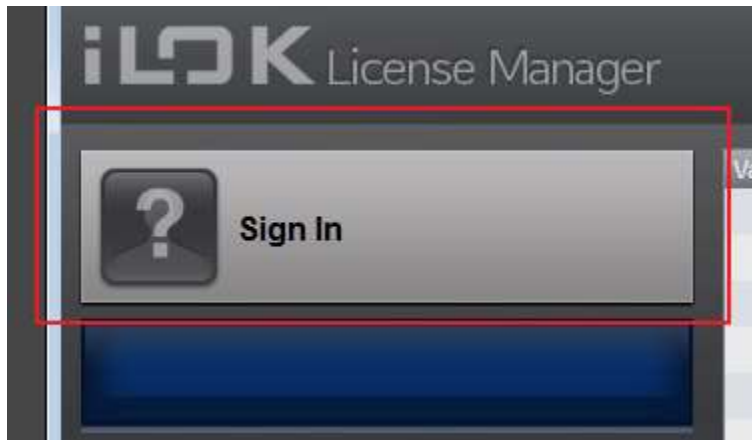
1. If you do not have an Ilok account, make sure to go to ilok.com and click on **Create Free Account**. Fill out all of the necessary fields in the **Free Account Setup** page and select **Create Account**.



2. Once you have created your account, go back to the home page of the website, you will find the **License Support Installers**. Download the appropriate installer for your operating system.

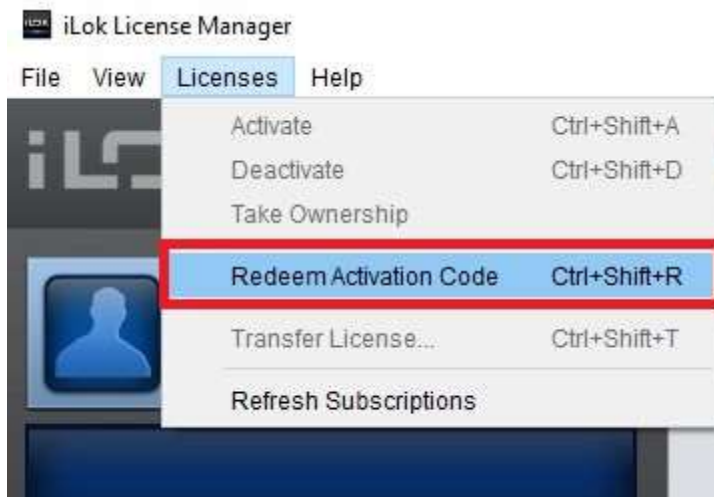


3. After installing the application, find and open the **iLok License Manager** from your **Programs** or **Applications** folder.
4. Click on **Sign-In** in the top left corner. If you have used iLok before with other products and have an account, sign in to your account.

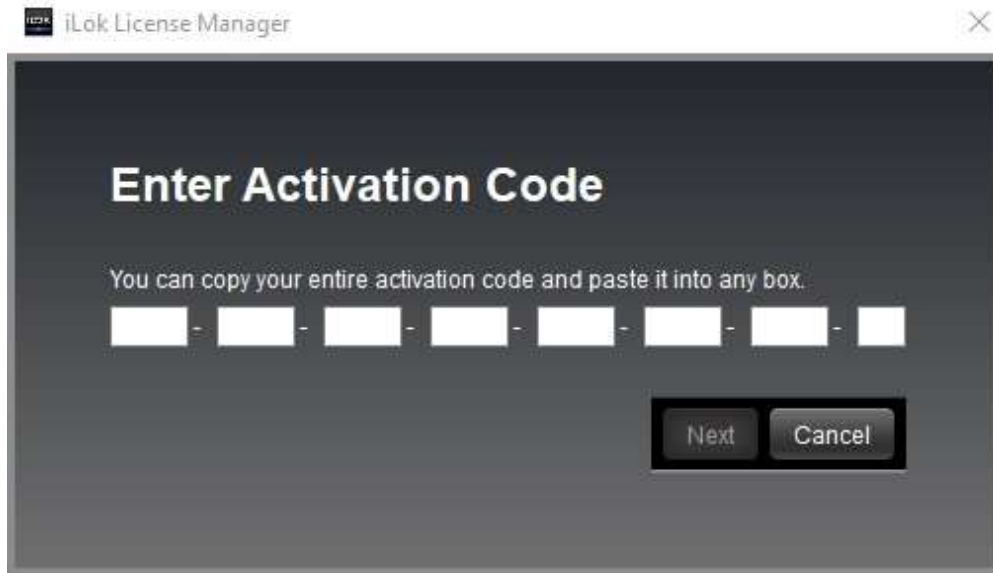


Please note: We recommend using an iLok account. Signing in is not always necessary to utilize an iLok license, but having and using an account to keep track of your licenses is free and provides additional features and options for managing and moving your licenses when necessary. You can see our [Managing Authorization Codes and Licenses](#) guide for more information.

5. Once you are logged in, click on **Licenses** at the top of the window and choose **Redeem Activation Code**.



6. A window will appear with space for you to enter an authorization code.



7. The authorization code for your AIR plugins will be located in your Akai account under the **Software Downloads** section in **My Registered Products**. Sign in to your Akai account at Akaipro.com.

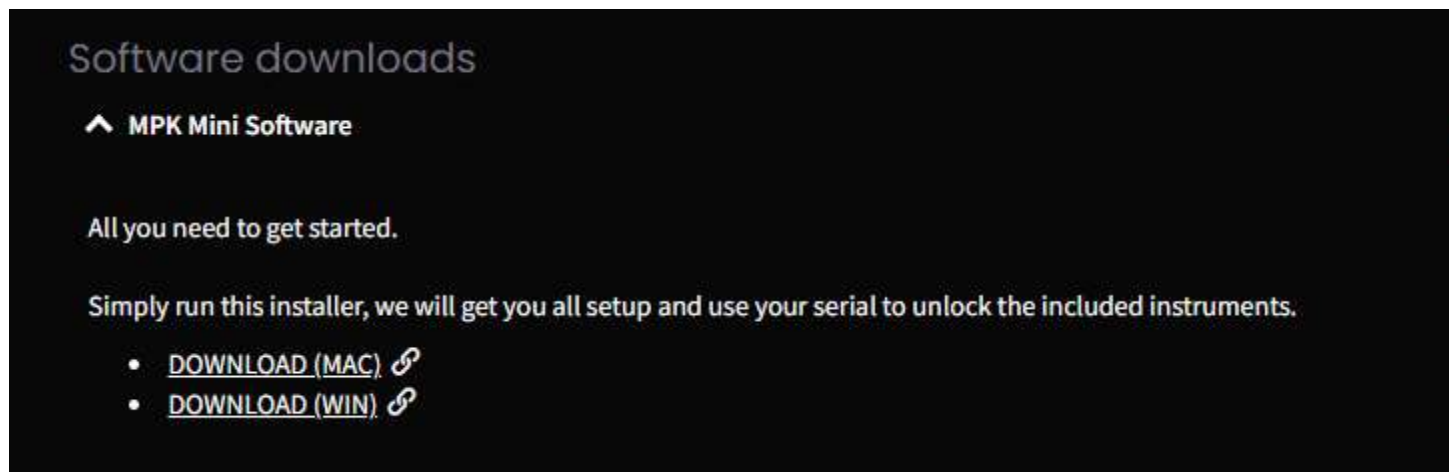
8. Go to the top right-hand corner of the website and click on **Sign In**.



9. Click on **Account** again in the top right-hand corner of the website and you will see a drop-down menu. Select **My Products**.

10. Find your MPK mini in the list and click on **See Details, Downloads, And Offers**.

11. Scroll down to the **Software Downloads** section and locate the **MPK Mini Software** in the list. The license code for all included software will be located to the right of the MPK mini III Software downloads. Click **Get Activation Code** to reveal the code.

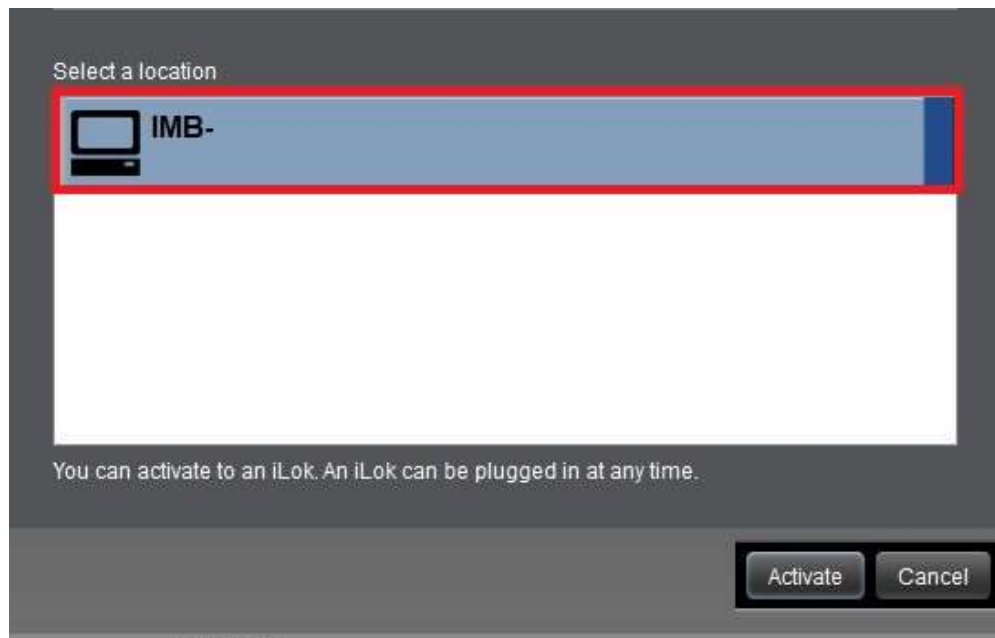


Note: Keep in mind that this code will license Hybrid, Mini Grand, and Velvet so you only need to redeem it **once** in iLok to authorize all of your AIR plugins.

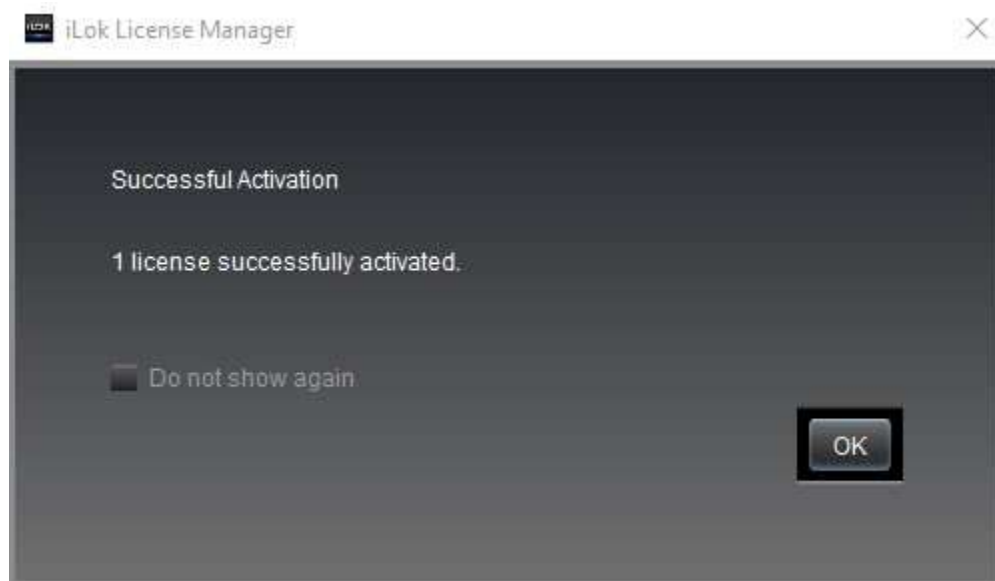
12. Highlight and **copy** the authorization code. Back in iLok, **paste** the code in the left-most box. Click **Next**.



13. You will be prompted to choose a location for your license. You are free to choose an iLok dongle if you have one, but for most users, just **choose your computer** (*this will be the option with the computer icon on the left*) and click **Activate**.



14. You will be asked to confirm this one more time. Click **Activate**.



iLok will notify you when the activation is complete!

[\[Back to top\]](#)

Configuring your MPK mini mk3 in MPC Beats

Now that you have installed the included sound content, let's connect the MPK mini and launch MPC Beats!

1. Open MPC Beats from your computer's **Application** or **Program** folder.



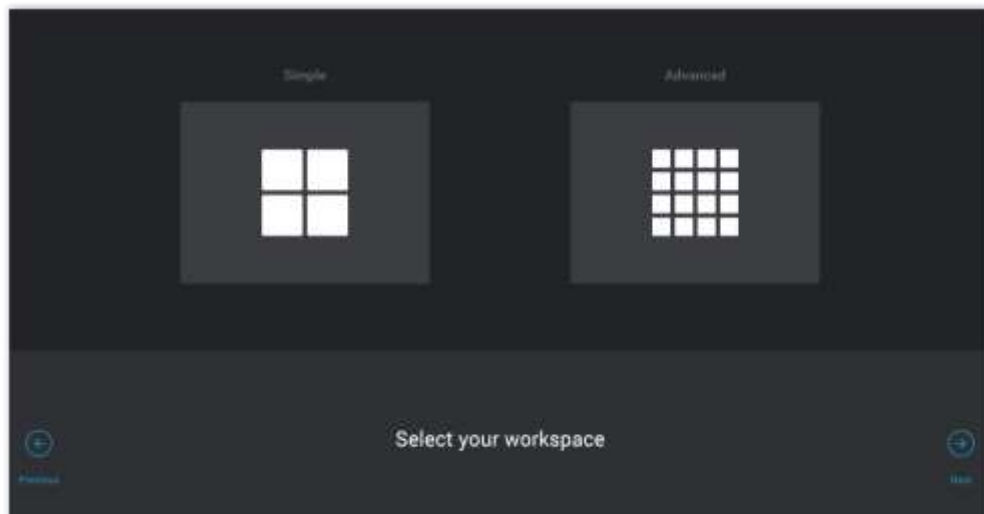
2. MPC Beats will prompt you to connect the MPK. Connect the MPK to your computer with the provided USB cable then click **Next**.



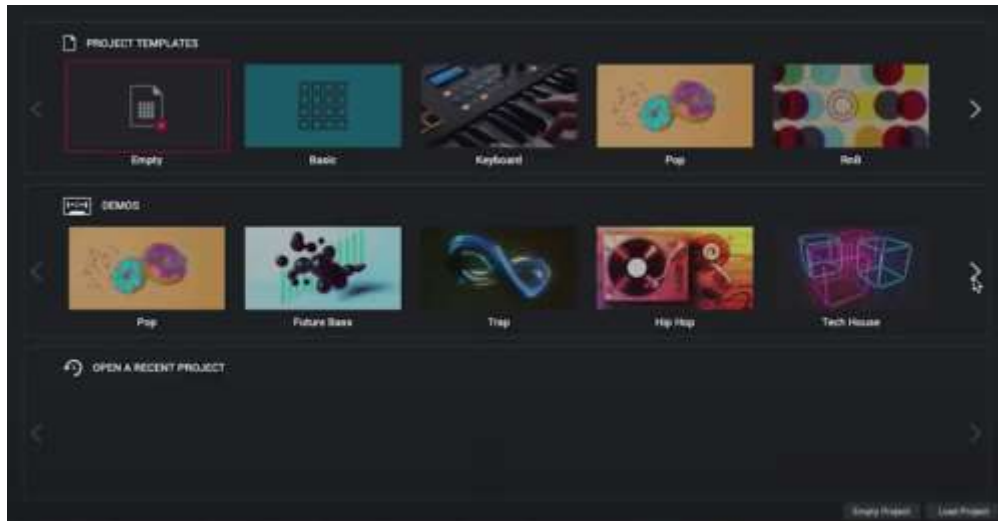
3. MPC Beats will **auto-detect** the controller, and select the MPK mini 3 controller map for the software. This will fully map your keyboard, pads, and controls to MPC Beats. You can also manually select the **Akai MPK mini 3** controller map by clicking on **New MIDI Mapping > Factory > Akai > Akai MPK mini 3**.



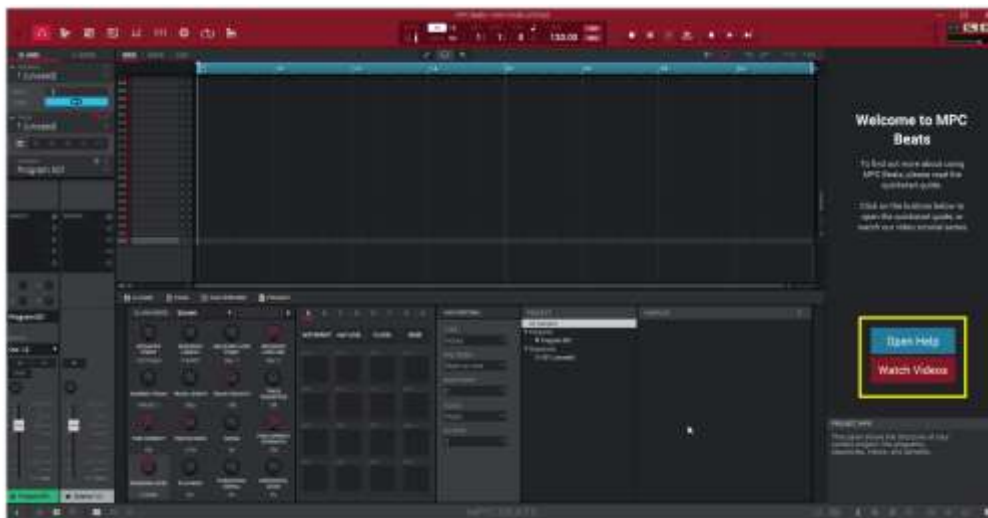
4. Next, MPC Beats will ask you to select your workspace. If you are new to music production, select **Simple**. If you have previous experience with MPC, select **Advanced** and click **Next**.



5. MPC Beats will list a selection of project templates and demos to get you up and running with the software. If you prefer to start with a clean slate click on Empty Project.



6. If you're new to MPC and would like to find out more about its features and functions, click on the **Open Help** or **Watch Videos** buttons at the right!

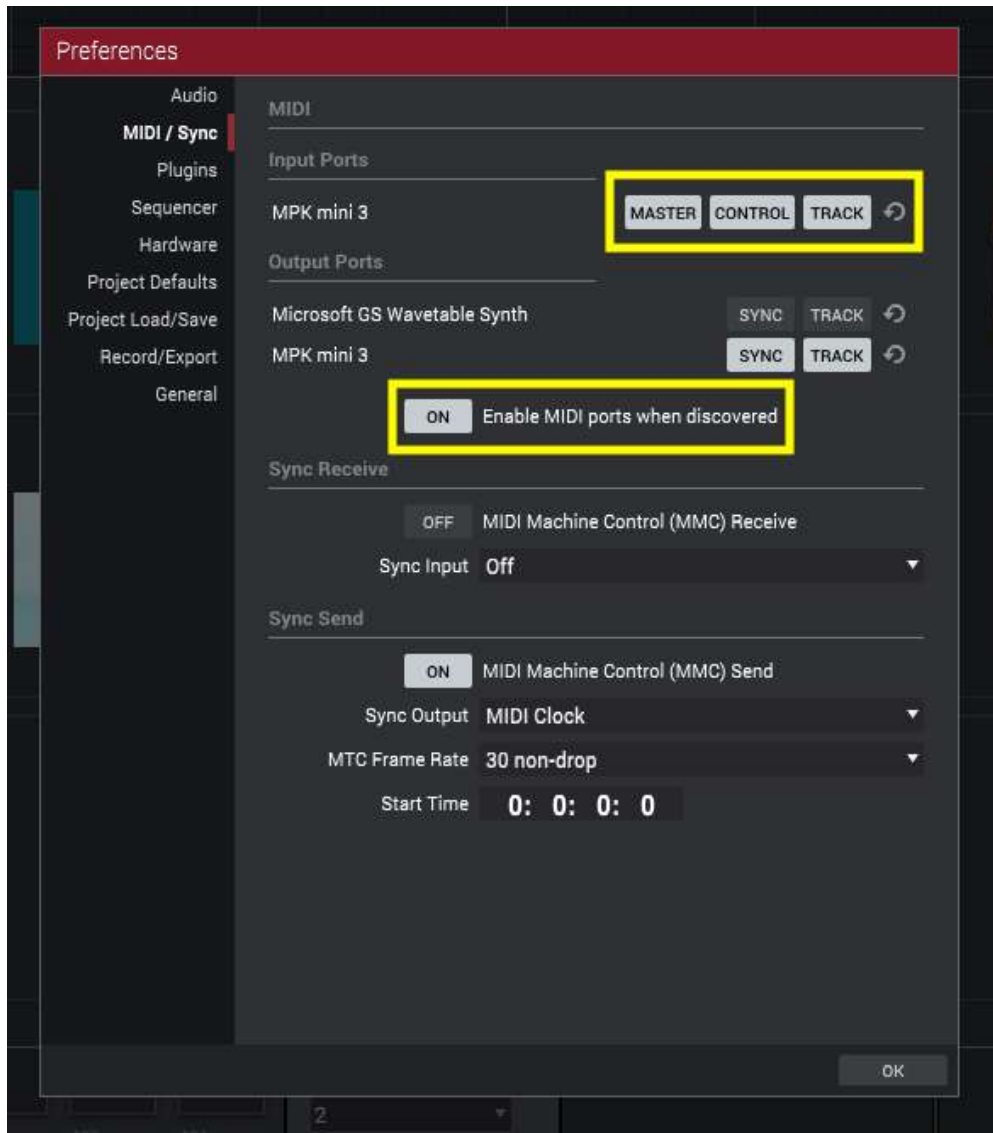


7. Let's open the **MIDI/Sync** Preferences to ensure that the MPK is enabled as an active MIDI input device. Navigate to the **Preferences** menu and click on the **MIDI/Sync** tab.

- **MAC:** Select **MPC Beats > Preferences**
- **PC:** Select **EDIT > Preferences**

8. The **Input Ports** section in **MIDI/Sync Preferences** will display all available MIDI input ports in a list. Devices will automatically appear in the list when connected provided that **Enable**

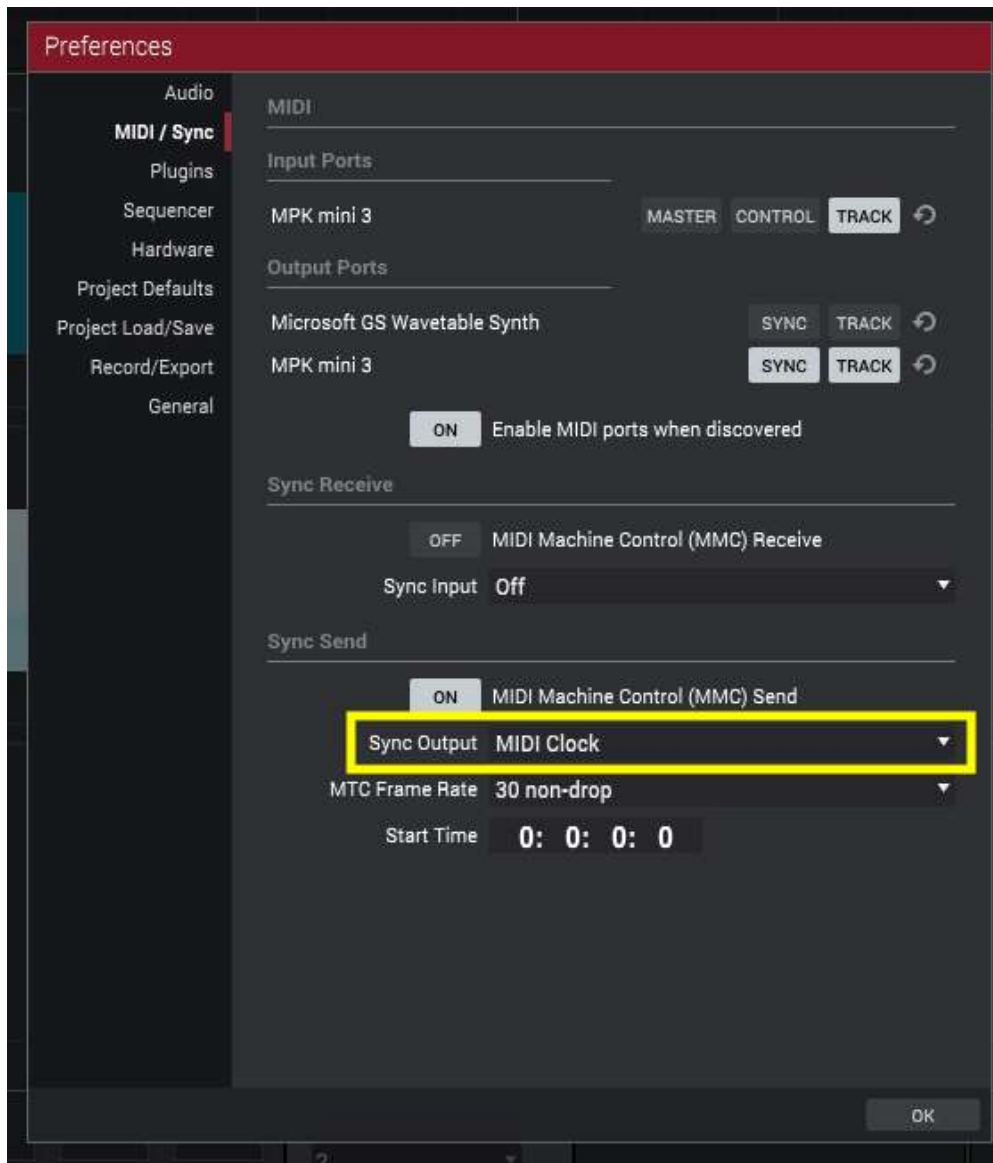
MIDI ports when discovered is set to **ON**.



By default, the MPK's Input Port will be set to **Track**. Let's take a look at the different input modes and how they can be used:

- When **Master** is enabled, MIDI data from this port will always go to the currently selected program in your project. The **MPC Pads** are an example of a device that is always set to Master.
- When **Control** is enabled, MIDI data from this port will be sent to **MIDI Learn**.
- When **Track** is enabled, this MIDI port will appear in the list of available MIDI Inputs that can be selected in your track's **Channel Strip** or in **Track View**.

9. If you plan on using an external clock with the MPK's **Arp** or **Note Repeat** functions, you'll need to enable **Sync Send**. Click on the **Sync Output** field and select **MIDI Clock**.



Now that your hardware is set up, let's take a look at how to access your included sound content!

[\[Back to top\]](#)

Scanning the AIR Plugins into MPC Beats

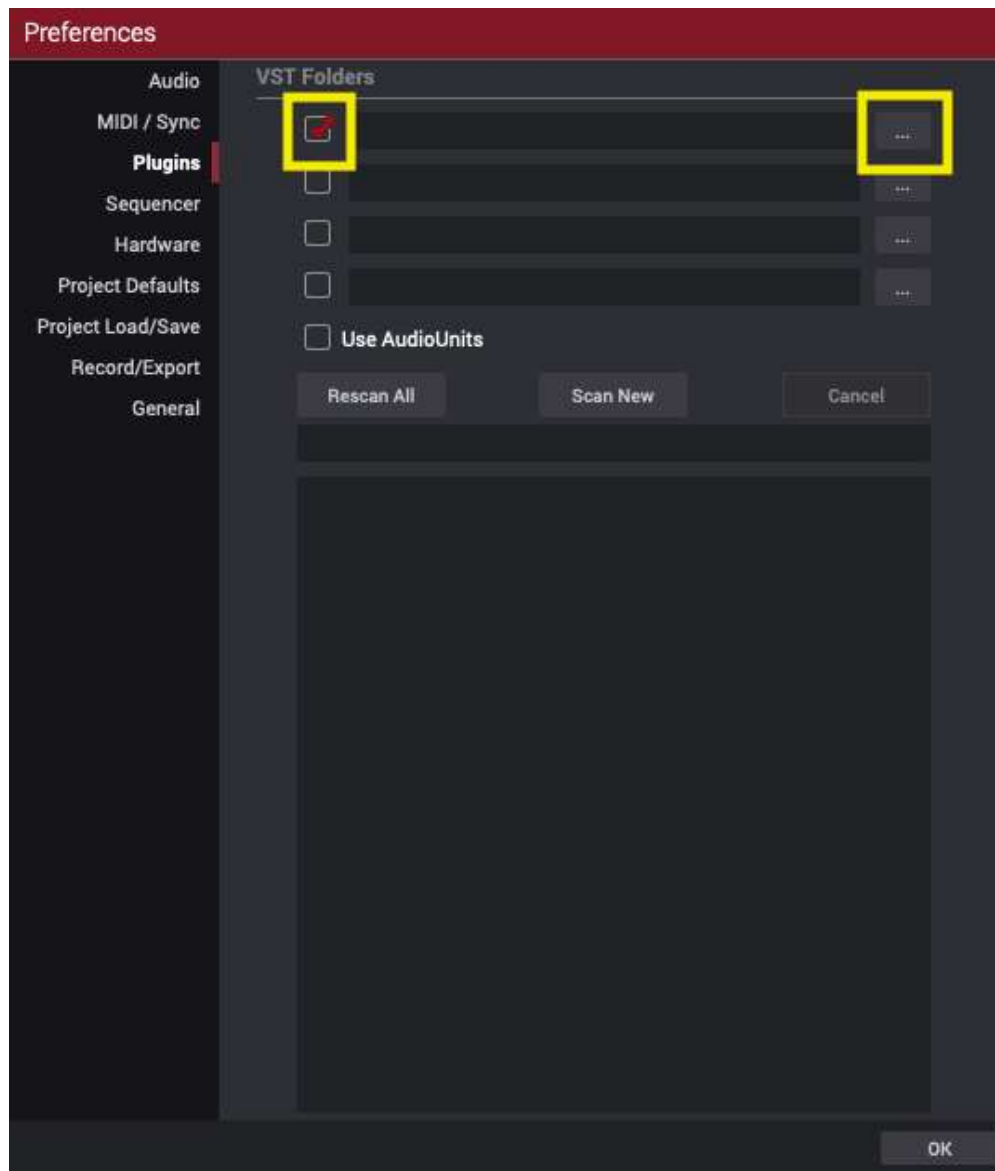
Before using your AIR plugins in MPC Beats, we'll need to **scan** them into the software.

1. Navigate to the **Preferences** menu:

- **MAC:** Select **MPC Beats > Preferences**
- **PC:** Select **EDIT > Preferences**

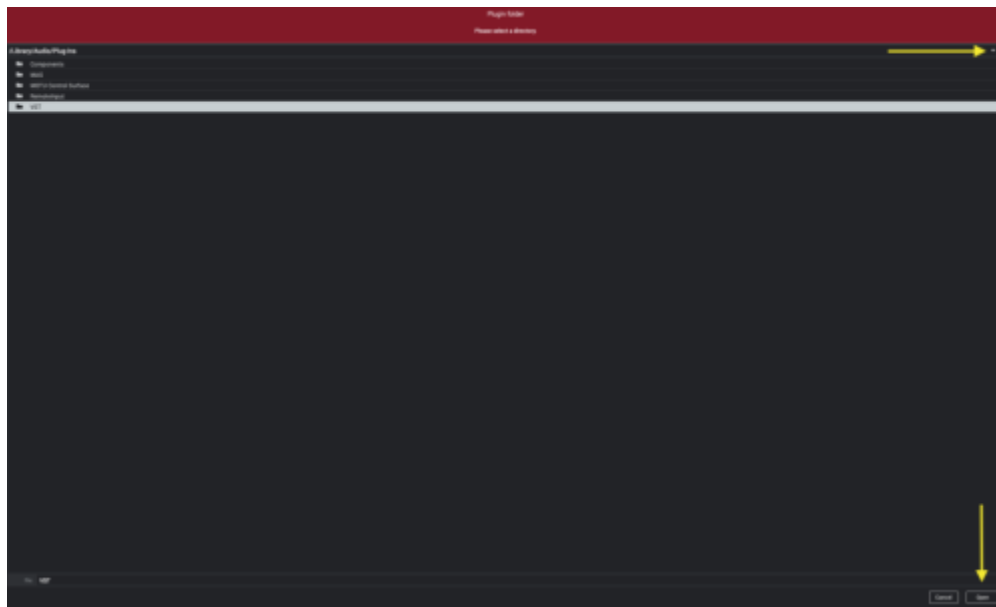
2. Choose the **Plugins** tab.

3. Add a **check** to the first available box on the left, then click on the **browse box** at the end of that row to navigate to your plugin installation location.



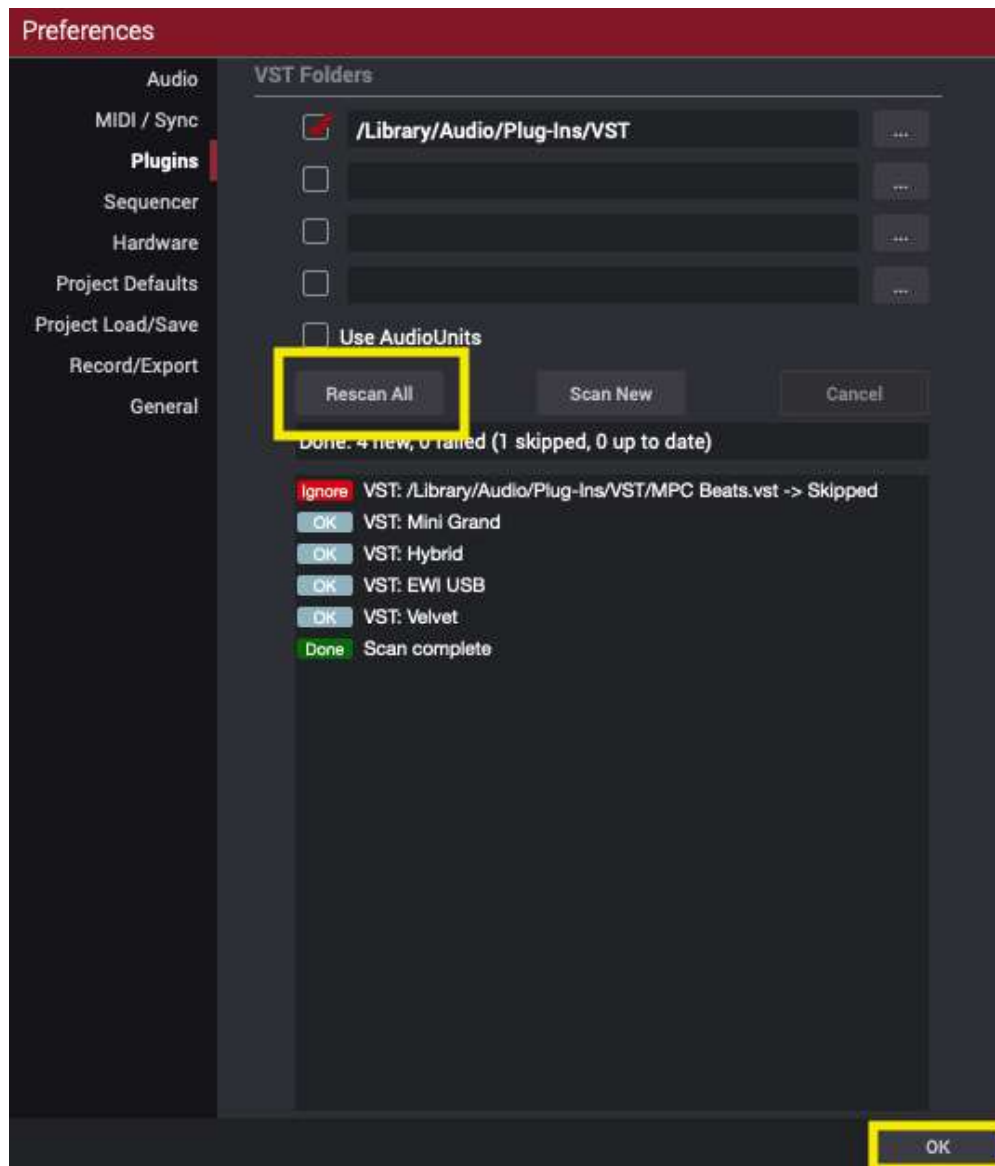
4. To scan for the plugins, click on the **drop-down menu** at the right to browse and then select your plugin folder's pathway.

- **Mac:** Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST
- **PC:** C:/Program Files/Steinberg/VstPlugins

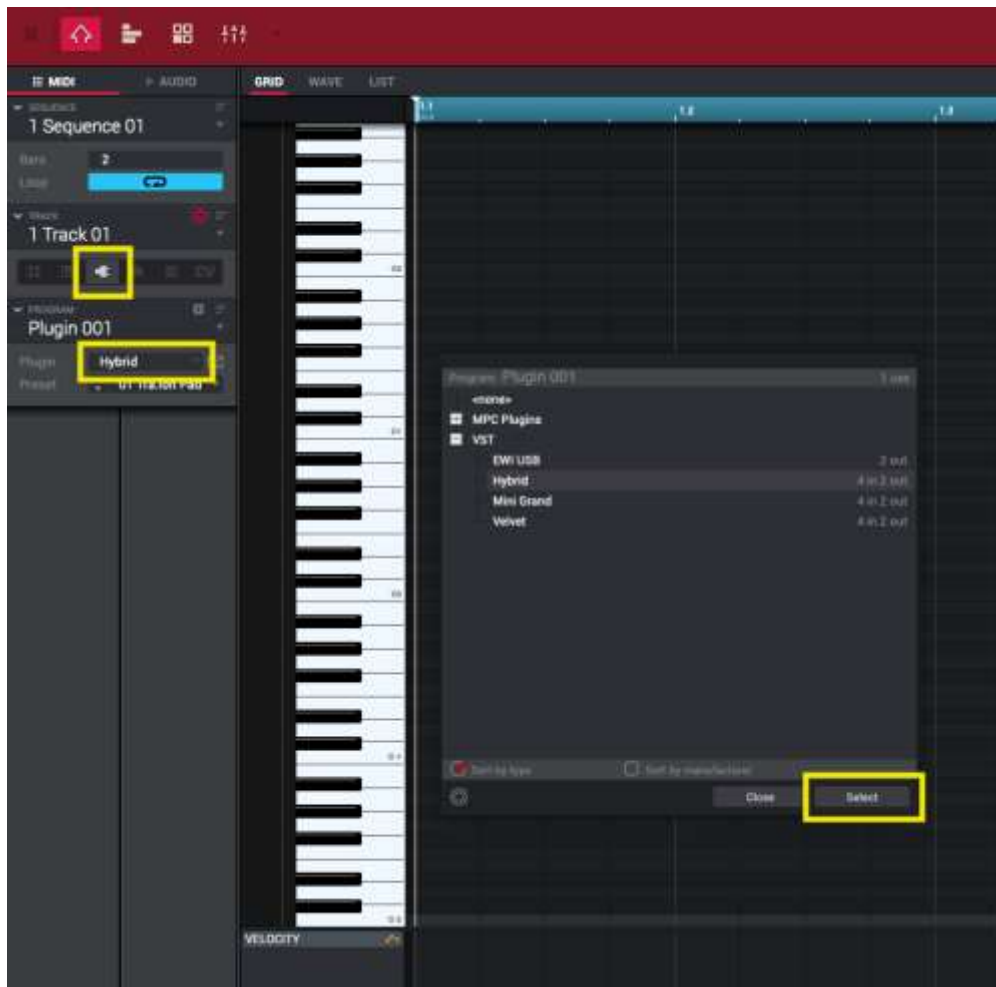


Double-click the folders to load them into the Plugin Manager pathway. Select the last folder with **one click** and choose **Open**.

5. Select **Rescan All**. After the process is finished the Plugin Manager will notify you. Press **OK**.



Now, all included plugins will be accessible in the MPC Beats Software! You can load your new plugins by creating a **Plugin Program** and clicking the **Plugin** field. A Browser will appear with your MPC plugins and AIR plugins.



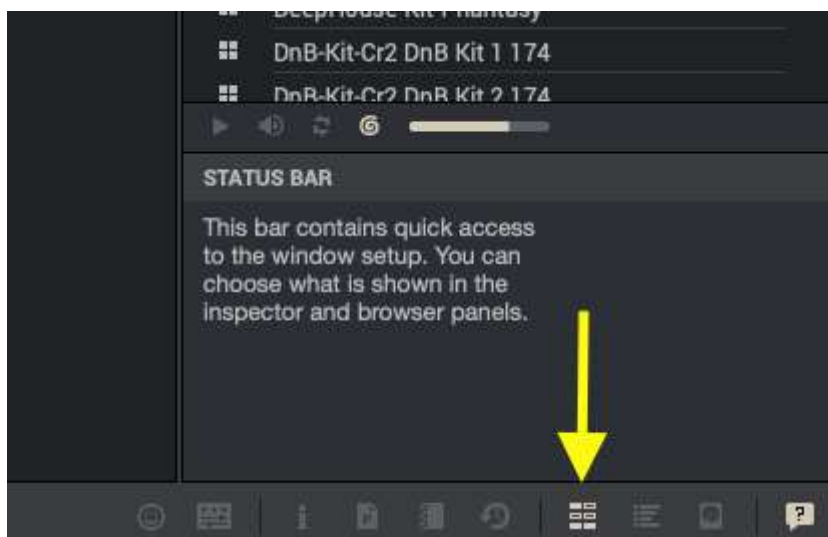
Can't see the plugin GUI? Just click on the **Explode** icon to the right!



[\[Back to top\]](#)

Loading a Sample Pack to a Drum Program

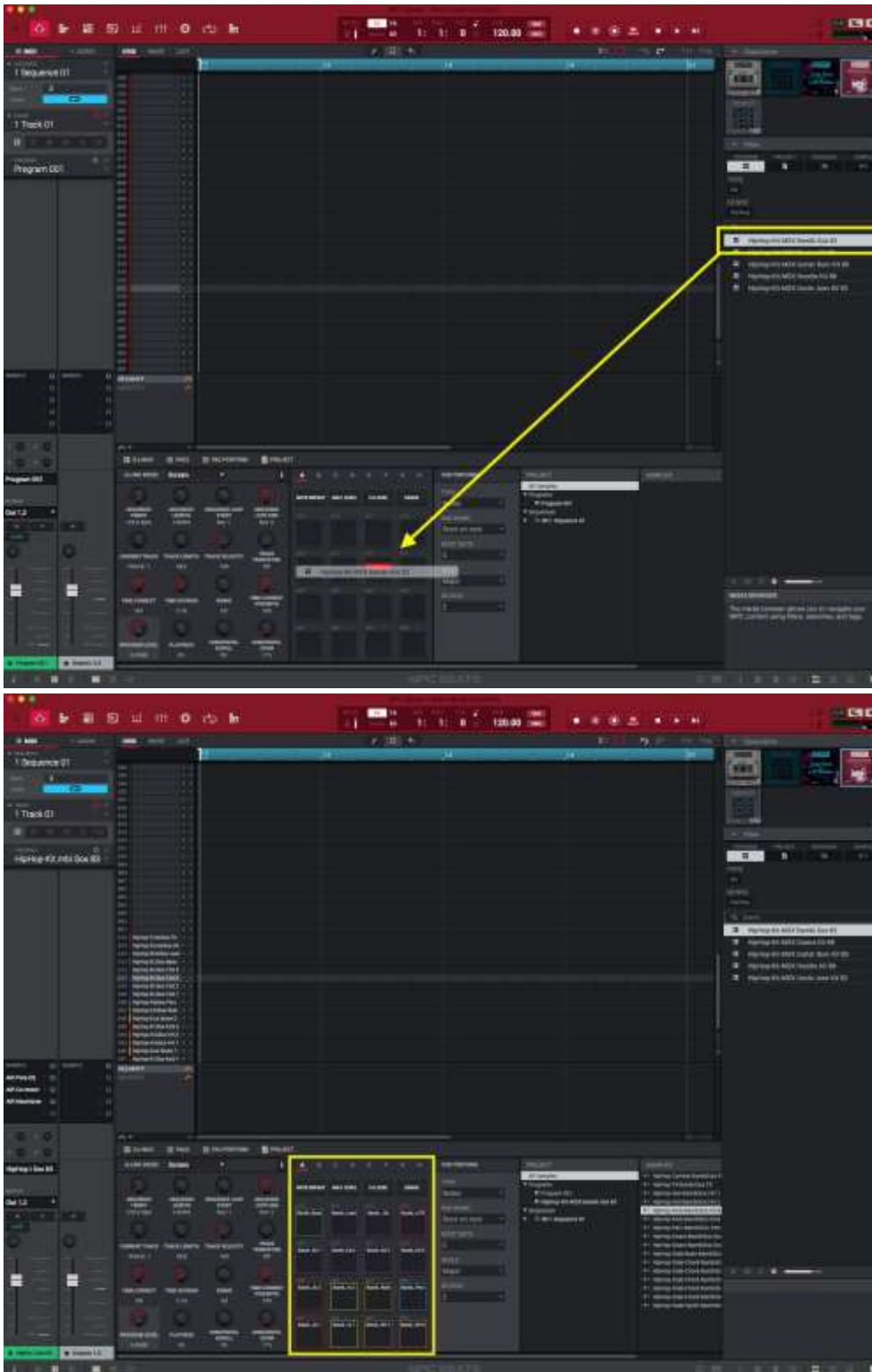
MPC Sample Packs will be automatically loaded into MPC Beats after installation. To access your Sample Packs, click on the **Media Browser** icon on the bottom right of the software, or press the "B" key on your QWERTY keyboard.



All Sample Packs will be shown as an icon under the Expansion tab. Click on the Sample Pack icon to view its samples and pre-configured drum kits.

Note: *If you do not see any icons under the Expansions tab, it's likely that the Sample Packs have not been installed yet. In this case, open the **MPK mini Software Manager** from your computer's **Application** or **Program** folder. Click on the **Software** tab to view your downloads. Click the **Install** button to the right of a Sample Pack to install the sound content.*

You can load a sample or drum kit by clicking and dragging the file from the **Browser** directly to the pads.



The sample or kit will populate the pads and can be triggered from the MPK's pads. The MPK's hardware **Preset 1** is already mapped to Pad Bank A in MPC Beats. Just press and hold down the **Prog Select** Button and press **Pad 1**.

[\[Back to top\]](#)

Using Standalone Plugins

The AIR team has released standalone software versions of the Hybrid, Mini Grand, and Velvet plugins. These apps will install on your computer when you run the plugin installers from the MPK mini Software Manager. These standalone programs are great to play with if you're not looking to use a DAW and just want to plug in the MPK and make some noise!

1. Connect the MPK to an available USB port on your computer.
2. Open your Application or Program folder and click on Hybrid, Mini Grand, or Velvet.



Hybrid



MiniGrand



Velvet

3. The software interface will open and connect to your MPK.



Note: If the software is not responding to the MPK's keys, click on the **Settings** gear icon and enable the MPK under **Active MIDI Inputs**.



4. You can access different sounds by clicking on the **preset** field. A drop-down menu will appear with all available presets. Click on a name to load the patch into the software.



Fine-tune and customize your sound by moving the virtual knobs and parameters with your mouse. Click the **Save** button to save your changes as a **User** preset.



[\[Back to top\]](#)

Further Technical Support

Whether you are a customer or dealer, if you already own an Akai Pro product, or if you just have pre-sales questions, the Akai Pro technical support team is available to help!

Visit the link below to connect with any of the following support options: online community support, phone support, email support.

[Contact Support](#)