

DAW How-To

Mac beta setup guide | 14 October 2026

ideaZ generates MIDI notes. Connect it to an instrument to hear a pattern, then export the MIDI to edit it in your DAW.

Before you start

Close your DAW and follow the installation instructions included with your download. Reopen the DAW and scan for plugins. Use AU MIDI FX in Logic, and VST3 for the other plugin workflows in this guide.

Choose Sequence or Chords, Key, Scale and Style, then press Generate. Enable MIDI LIVE and start the DAW transport. If Generate is unavailable, briefly start and stop playback so ideaZ receives the time signature.

Control changes prepare the next generation. Original and A-D recall stored alternatives; octave changes apply immediately. DRAG MIDI exports the selected idea with its current octave.

Choose your DAW

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Logic and FL Studio have been tested during development. Ableton and REAPER setup is based on host documentation and awaits hands-on ideaZ verification. Pro Tools cannot load the current AU/VST3 build directly.

Logic Pro

AU MIDI FX | Tested in ideaZ development

ideaZ MIDI FX > Instrument > Audio

1. Install the AU version, then reopen Logic. Create a Software Instrument track and load a synth in its Instrument slot.
2. In the same channel strip, click the MIDI FX slot above the Instrument slot. Choose ideaZ from the Audio Units / ZO Music Systems menu. Do not put it in an Audio FX slot.
3. In ideaZ, choose Sequence or Chords, your Key, Scale and Style, then Generate. Enable MIDI LIVE and press Play in Logic. The instrument on that channel strip plays the notes.
4. To keep the idea as an editable region, drag DRAG MIDI to an empty position on a separate software instrument track with the same synth. Set ideaZ to MIDI MUTED and play the new region.

Using a separate track for exported MIDI avoids sending that region back through ideaZ, which consumes incoming MIDI. No MIDI port numbers are needed in Logic.

Host documentation

Apple: [MIDI plug-ins](#)

FL Studio

VST3 | Tested in ideaZ development

ideaZ Output 10 > Synth Input 10

1. Install the VST3, reopen FL Studio and use Options > Manage plugins > Find installed plugins. Add a synth such as Serum to the Channel Rack.
2. Load ideaZ into a free Mixer effect slot. Open its wrapper settings, find the MIDI section and set Output port to an unused number, such as 10.
3. Open the receiving synth's wrapper settings and set MIDI Input port to the same number. Generate in ideaZ, enable MIDI LIVE and press Play. Use Song mode for timeline playback.
4. To edit the result, drag DRAG MIDI onto the receiving instrument's Channel Rack button or piano roll in an empty pattern. Switch ideaZ to MIDI MUTED before playing the imported pattern.

FLEX and some other native FL instruments do not offer this MIDI Input port. Use DRAG MIDI into their piano roll instead. Keep both plugin instances loaded for live routing.

Host documentation

Image-Line: Plugin Wrapper

Ableton Live

VST3 | Host routing documented; ideaZ verification pending

ideaZ track > MIDI From > Instrument track

1. Enable VST3 system folders in Live's Settings / Preferences > Plug-Ins and rescan if needed. Load ideaZ VST3 on a MIDI track.
2. Create a second MIDI track and load your instrument there. Show the In/Out controls. In MIDI From, choose the ideaZ track, then choose ideaZ in the lower chooser to receive its plugin output.
3. Set the receiving track's Monitor to In. Generate in ideaZ, enable MIDI LIVE and start Live's transport. The second track should play the generated notes.
4. Drag DRAG MIDI into an empty clip slot or Arrangement position on the instrument track. Mute ideaZ's MIDI output, then set the receiving track's Monitor to Auto and disarm it so its MIDI clip can play.

Use VST3 for this routing, not AU. These steps follow Live's documented VST MIDI-output workflow; ideaZ has not yet been verified in Live. If ideaZ does not appear as a MIDI source, do not assume the current build supports live routing in your version.

Host documentation

Ableton: [VST MIDI output](#)

REAPER

VST3 | Host routing documented; ideaZ verification pending

Track FX: ideaZ > Instrument

1. Install the VST3 and reopen REAPER. If it is missing, rescan in Preferences > Plug-ins > VST. Create a track and open its FX chain.
2. Add ideaZ VST3, then add your virtual instrument below it in the same normal track FX chain. MIDI flows from ideaZ into the instrument; the order matters.
3. Choose your settings and Generate in ideaZ. Enable MIDI LIVE and press Play in REAPER. Ensure the instrument track is unmuted and routed to the master.
4. For editable MIDI, create a separate track with the instrument only. Drag DRAG MIDI to an empty timeline position on that track, then switch ideaZ to MIDI MUTED.

The separate export track avoids feeding the MIDI item through ideaZ again. These instructions use REAPER's normal FX-chain workflow; hands-on ideaZ verification is still pending.

Host documentation

[REAPER: User Guide](#)

Pro Tools

MIDI file workflow only | Current AU/VST3 build cannot load directly

Another supported host > MIDI file > Pro Tools

1. The current ideaZ download contains AU and VST3, not AAX. Pro Tools cannot load these formats directly, so there is no native ideaZ insert to choose.
2. Generate and audition your pattern in a host that can run ideaZ, such as Logic or FL Studio. Drag DRAG MIDI to a Finder folder to save a .mid file.
3. In Pro Tools, create an Instrument track, load your preferred AAX instrument, then use File > Import > MIDI to bring in the saved file. Place or move the imported MIDI onto the instrument track.
4. Keep your session tempo unless you deliberately want to import tempo information. Play the session and edit the MIDI as normal. Regenerate in the other host and re-export when you want a new idea.

This is a file-transfer workflow, not live ideaZ support in Pro Tools. No standalone ideaZ app or AAX edition is included. Third-party hosting wrappers are not covered or verified here.

Host documentation

Avid: [AAX plug-in format](#)

Troubleshooting

No sound

Check MIDI LIVE, start the transport and check the receiving instrument and routing. ideaZ produces no audio.

Missing plugin

Check the required format, restart and rescan. Pro Tools uses AAX, which ideaZ does not currently include.

Doubled notes

Set ideaZ to MIDI MUTED after exporting. Play only the imported MIDI clip.

Silent imported clip

In Logic and REAPER, use a separate instrument track without ideaZ: ideaZ consumes incoming MIDI. In Live, restore Monitor to Auto and disarm the receiving track.

No MIDI Input port in FL Studio

Native instruments such as FLEX may not expose the port. Drag the MIDI into their piano roll instead.

[Online DAW How-To guide](#)