

Step-Entry of Impro-Visor Melodies Using a MIDI Keyboard

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Several Ways to Enter Melodies Accurately

- Textual
- Point-and-click using mouse and keyboard
 - You are advised to learn this method first.
- MIDI keyboard step entry
 - Currently the fastest way, once you have practiced a little.
 - Requires equipment (MIDI keyboard) in addition to regular keyboard.
 - Uses control actions from point-and-click

MIDI Keyboard Setup

- Any MIDI keyboard should work.
- I prefer a small one that sits atop my regular keyboard at a slightly higher level.
- I use the MIDI keyboard with the right hand and the regular keyboard with the left.

MIDI Keyboard Recommendation

- I like the Korg Micro Key 37, which has 3 octaves.
- You can also use a 2 octave keyboard, such as the Akai PK 25, but you may have to press the up/down switches a lot more to get the notes you want, and you will tend to need to correct more mistakes as a result.

Setup Pictured

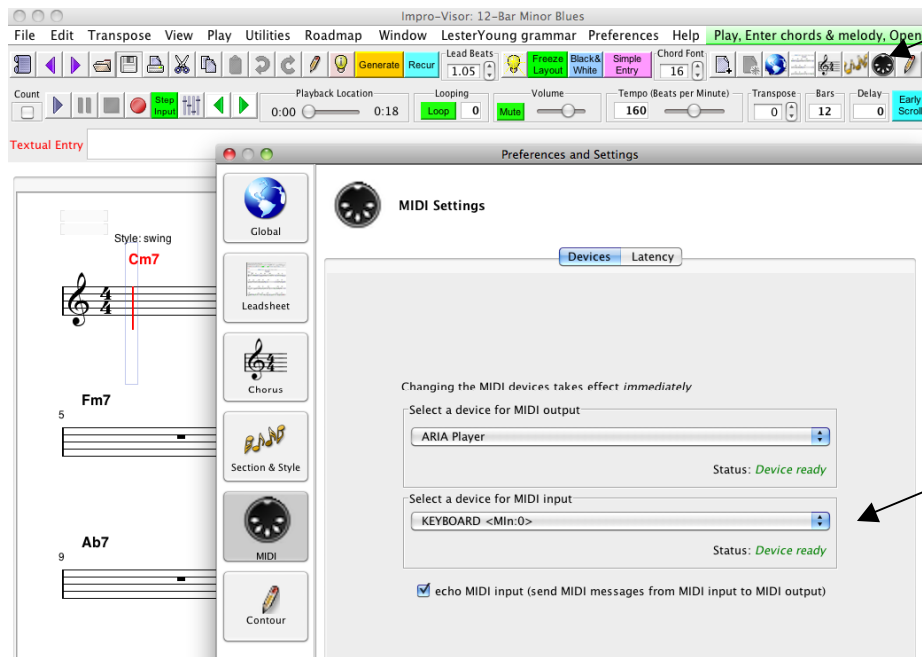
To computer USB port



Set on a higher plane, to avoid long reach

Getting Started

- Launch Impro-Visor
- Select MIDI-In to your MIDI keyboard
- Save Preferences



Opens MIDI settings

Selects input device

Controlling the Insertion Cursor

- Select the first slot in the main Impro-Visor Window
- Try the following behaviors:
 - **f** key: moves cursor Forward one slot
 - **a** key: moves cursor Backward one slot

The diagram illustrates the effect of the 'f' and 'a' keys on the insertion cursor in a 4/4 musical staff. The staff is labeled 'Style: swing' and 'Cm7'. The time signature is 4/4, and the measure is marked with a '2' at the end. The insertion cursor is shown as a vertical line. In the left staff, the cursor is a red line positioned at the first slot. In the right staff, the cursor is a yellow line positioned at the second slot. A blue arrow labeled 'f' points from the first staff to the second, indicating a forward movement. A blue arrow labeled 'a' points from the second staff back to the first, indicating a backward movement.

Note Slot Spacing

- The default spacing is 2, meaning 2 notes per beat.

Style: swing
Cm7

The diagram shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. A red vertical line is positioned at the first beat. Below the staff, four brackets indicate the duration of each beat, each labeled with the number '2'. A light blue arrow points upwards from the first beat, indicating the default spacing of 2 notes per beat.

Changing Slot Spacing

- Pressing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 sets that number of slots per beat.

The diagram illustrates slot spacing in a 4/4 time signature. It features a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. A red vertical line is positioned at the first slot of the first beat. Above the staff, the text "Style: swing" is displayed, and below it, the chord "Cm7" is written in red. Below the staff, a bracket indicates the duration of the first beat, which is divided into four slots. The first slot is labeled with the number "3", and the remaining three slots are each labeled with the number "2". A light blue arrow points upwards from the bottom of the diagram towards the first slot, indicating the point where the slot spacing can be changed.

Changing Multiple Beats

- Select any number of beats (two shift-clicks).
- Spacing can be changed for all in one key press.

Style: swing

selection

The diagram shows a musical staff in 4/4 time. The first measure is labeled Cm7 and contains four beats, each marked with a vertical line. The second measure is labeled Fm7 and contains four beats, each marked with a vertical line. A blue selection box highlights the second measure. A blue arrow points to the first beat of the second measure. The number '2' is written above the second measure. The number '4' is written below the first beat of the second measure. The number '4' is written below the second, third, and fourth beats of the second measure. The number '4' is written below the first beat of the third measure. The number '4' is written below the second, third, and fourth beats of the third measure. The number '4' is written below the first beat of the fourth measure. The number '4' is written below the second, third, and fourth beats of the fourth measure.

Slot Coloration

- Red indicates a slot on the beat.
- Yellow indicates a slot not on the beat.

Style: swing

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The tempo/style is 'swing'. The first measure contains a Cm7 chord, and the second measure contains an Fm7 chord. The staff is divided into 32 slots. Red vertical lines indicate slots on the beat (1, 2, 3, 4), and yellow vertical lines indicate slots not on the beat. Four light blue arrows point to the first four red slots of the first measure. The second measure has a '2' above the first slot and four groups of four slots, each marked with a '4' and a double bar line below the staff.

On-beat slots

Toggling Step Entry

- Next to the red button is a toggle button.
- This turns step entry on and off.

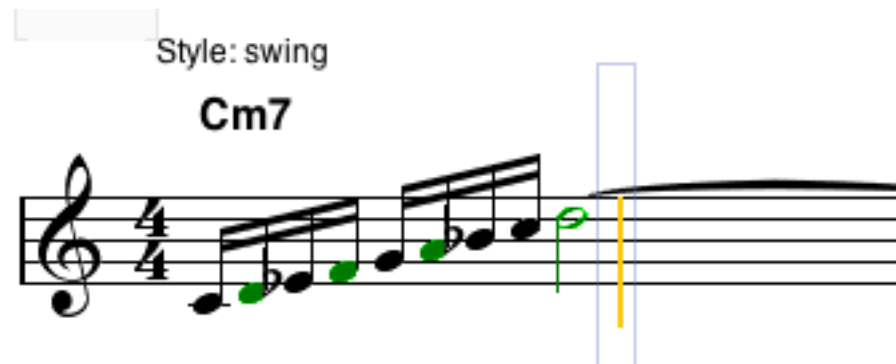
Step-Entry
Toggle

The screenshot shows the Impro-Visor software interface for a 12-Bar Minor Blues. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Transpose, View, Play, Utilities, Roadmap, Window, and LesterYoung grammar. The toolbar contains various icons, including a red button labeled 'Step Input' and a toggle button. A callout box labeled 'Step-Entry Toggle' points to the toggle button. The playback location is set to 0:00, and the looping is set to 0. The volume is set to a low level. The musical score is displayed in 4/4 time, with a style of swing, and features chords Cm7 and Fm7.

The screenshot shows the Impro-Visor software interface for a 12-Bar Minor Blues. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Transpose, View, Play, Utilities, Roadmap, Window, and LesterYoung grammar. The toolbar contains various icons, including a red button labeled 'Stop' and a toggle button. A callout box labeled 'Step-Entry Toggle' points to the toggle button. The playback location is set to 0:00, and the looping is set to 0. The volume is set to a low level. The musical score is displayed in 4/4 time, with a style of swing, and features chords Cm7 and Fm7.

Entering Notes

- Toggle step-entry on.
- Play notes on the MIDI keyboard.
- Notes will be entered with the current slot spacing.
- The cursor advances automatically.



Changing Slot Spacing

- To change note spacing, you must change slot spacing **before** you enter the note.

A musical notation diagram illustrating slot spacing changes. The notation is in 4/4 time, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Cm7). The style is set to "swing". The notation shows a sequence of notes: a quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (B4), an eighth note (C5), a quarter note (B4), an eighth note (A4), a quarter note (G4), and a quarter note (F4). The notes are grouped into three measures: the first measure contains the first four notes, the second measure contains the next four notes, and the third measure contains the last four notes. The first two measures are marked with a "4" below the staff, indicating a 4-beat slot. The third measure is marked with a "3" below the staff, indicating a 3-beat slot. A blue vertical bar is positioned at the end of the third measure, and a red vertical bar is positioned at the end of the fourth measure. A light blue arrow points upwards from the text "Change first, then enter." towards the blue vertical bar.

Change first, **then** enter.

When to Change Spacing

- You can change spacing as you advance from one beat to the next, or
- You can change spacing for a large selection all at once.

Entering Rests

- If you want a rest, rather than a note, you cannot get it from the MIDI keyboard.
- You must use the computer keyboard.
- Simply press the **r** key at that slot.



Deleting Rests

- Use the **x key** to delete a note or a rest.
- The space formerly occupied is filled by extending the previous note.

The diagram illustrates the process of deleting a rest in a musical score. It shows two versions of a 4/4 time signature piece in Cm7, with a style of swing. The left version shows a sequence of notes with a rest in the final measure. A red vertical line marks the rest, and a blue vertical line marks the end of the measure. A light blue arrow points up to the rest, and another light blue arrow points left towards the rest. A large black 'X' is positioned above the rest, and a large black 'r' is positioned below it. A light blue arrow points right from the 'X' to the right version of the score. The right version shows the rest removed, and the final note of the previous measure is extended to fill the measure. A light blue arrow points left from the 'r' to the right version of the score.

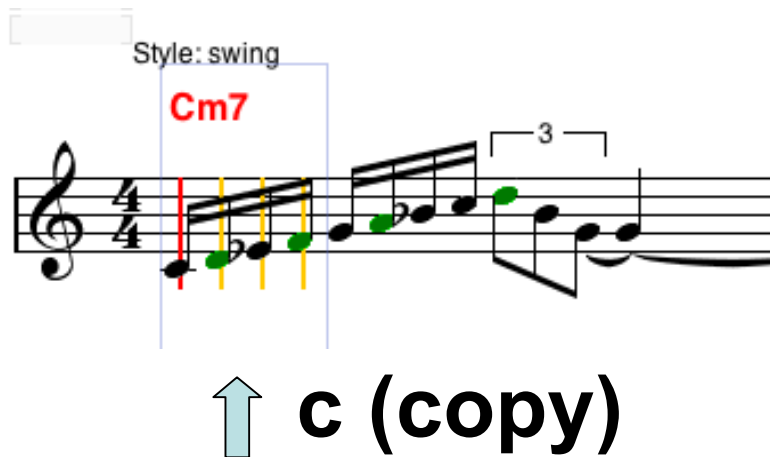
Deleting Notes

- Use the **x key** to delete a note or a rest.
- The space formerly occupied is filled by extending the previous note.

The diagram illustrates the process of deleting a note in a musical score. It shows two versions of a 4/4 time signature piece in Cm7, with a 'Style: swing' setting. The first version shows a sequence of notes with a blue vertical line indicating a deletion point. A light blue arrow points to this line. The second version, marked with a large 'X' and a light blue arrow pointing from the first version, shows the result: the note at the deletion point has been removed, and the preceding note has been extended to fill the space. The notes are color-coded: green for the first four notes, black for the next three, and red for the final note. The time signature is 4/4, and the key signature is Cm7. The style is swing. The first version has a blue vertical line at the end of the first measure, and the second version has it at the end of the second measure.

Cutting and Pasting

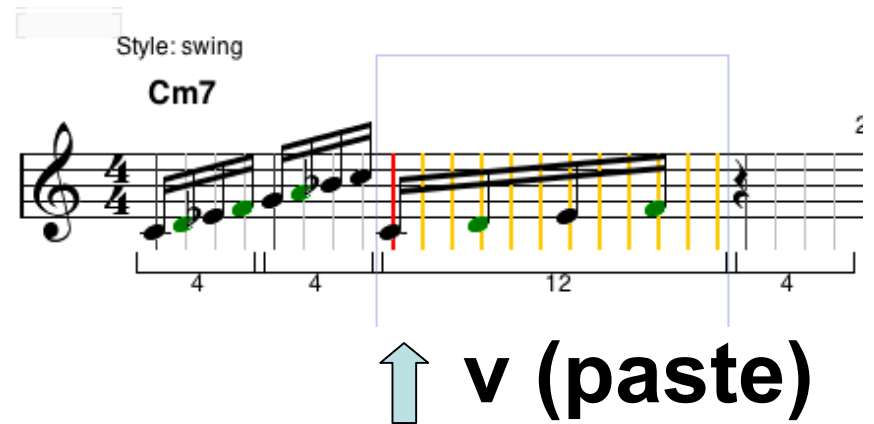
- The cut (**x key**), copy (**c key**), and paste (**v key**) operations can be used to move single or multiple notes from one place to another, close up gaps, etc.
- Spacing may change to the Least Common Multiple as a result of pasting, e.g. 3 to 12 below.



Style: swing
Cm7

↑ **c (copy)**

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a 'Style: swing' label and a 'Cm7' chord symbol. A red vertical line marks the start of a selection. A blue bracket above the staff indicates a selection of four notes. A light blue arrow points to the red line with the label 'c (copy)'. The notes are colored green and yellow.



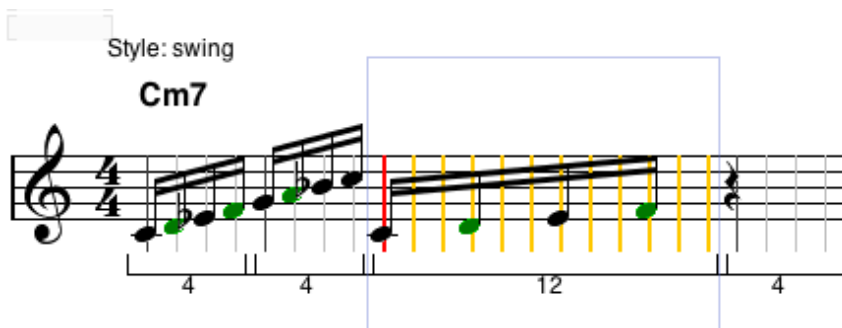
Style: swing
Cm7

↑ **v (paste)**

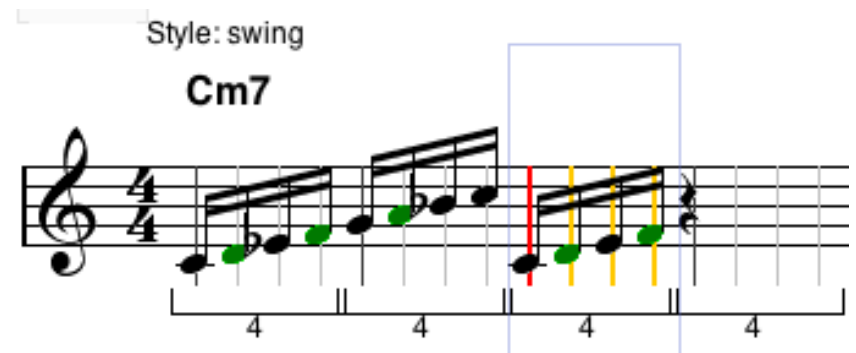
The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a 'Style: swing' label and a 'Cm7' chord symbol. A red vertical line marks the start of a selection. A blue bracket above the staff indicates a selection of four notes. A light blue arrow points to the red line with the label 'v (paste)'. The notes are colored green and yellow. Below the staff, a bracket indicates a selection of 12 notes, with a '2' above the end of the bracket.

Resetting Spacing

- You can reset the spacing manually.
- The system will not let you change to non-conforming spacing.
- For example, below setting to 4 is possible, but not to 3.



4



Transposing

- You can transpose any selection absolutely 1/2 step at a time, or harmonically:
 - **e key**: transpose **up** 1/2 step
 - **d key**: transpose **down** 1/2 step
 - **w key**: transpose **up** harmonically
 - **s key**: transpose **down** harmonically
 - **t key**: transpose up one octave
 - **g key**: transpose down one octave

Setting Note Enharmonics

- Pressing the space bar toggles the enharmonic(s) of a selection.

The diagram illustrates the effect of pressing the space bar on note enharmonics in a musical score. It shows two musical staves, both in 4/4 time and labeled "Style: swing" and "Cm7".

The left staff shows a selection of notes (indicated by a blue box) with the following enharmonic spellings: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and F5. The notes are colored: F#4 (red), G4 (green), A4 (black), B4 (black), C5 (green), D5 (black), E5 (green), and F5 (black).

The right staff shows the same selection of notes after pressing the space bar, with the following enharmonic spellings: Gb4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, and F#5. The notes are colored: Gb4 (black), Ab4 (black), Bb4 (black), C5 (green), D5 (black), E5 (green), and F#5 (black).

Two light blue arrows point from the left staff to the right staff, labeled "space" above and "space" below, indicating the toggle action.

Other Operations

- All other operations that can be done normally, such as playing, etc. can be done in step-entry mode as well.

Real-Time Entry

- Real-Time entry is done by pressing the Red dot (record) button.
- It will turn off step entry.
- Accuracy is harder to achieve in real time (and swing is not understood).
- Slow tempos are advised.
- **Save your work often** with either type of MIDI entry.