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
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
Note Slot Spacing

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

• Pressing 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 sets that number of slots per beat.
Changing Multiple Beats

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

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

On-beat slots
Toggling Step Entry

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

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.
Deleting Notes

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

\[
\text{Cm7} \quad \uparrow c \quad (\text{copy}) \quad \text{Style: swing} \quad \uparrow v \quad (\text{paste})
\]
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.
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.
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.