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

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9 March 2012

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
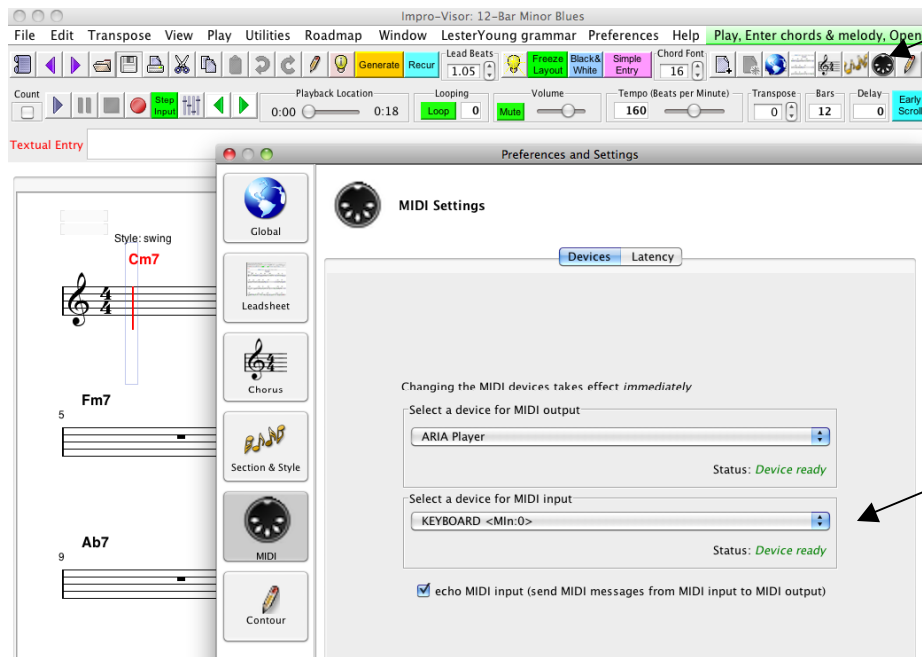
Opens MIDI settings

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

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.

selection

Style: swing

Cm7

Fm7

2

Slot Coloration

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

On-beat slots

Toggling Step Entry

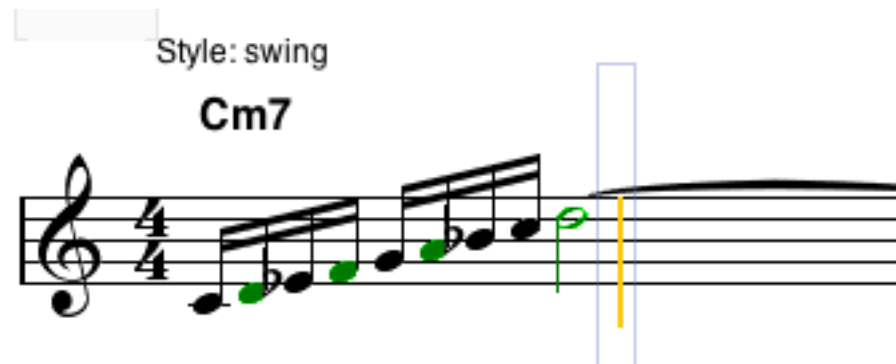- Next to the red button is a toggle button.
- This turns step entry on and off.

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.
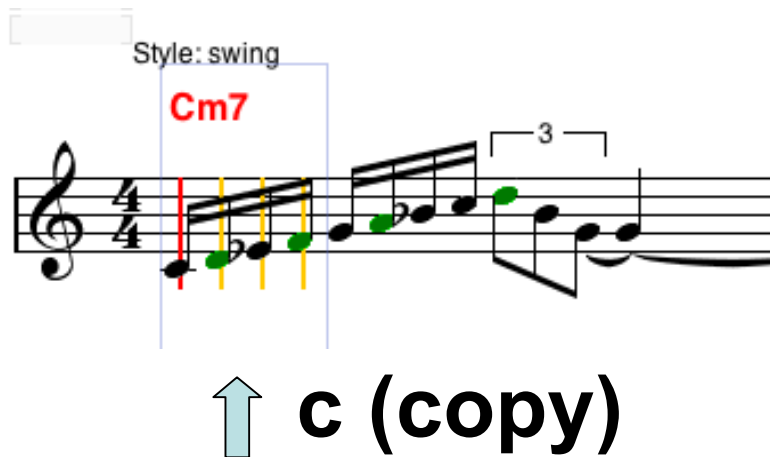- The space formerly occupied is filled by extending the previous note.

Deleting Notes

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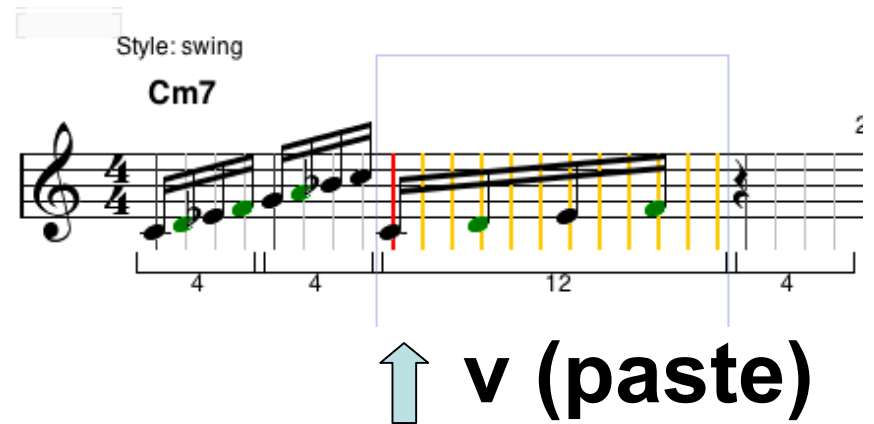
Cutting and Pasting

- 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.

⇧ **c (copy)**

⇧ **v (paste)**

Resetting Spacing

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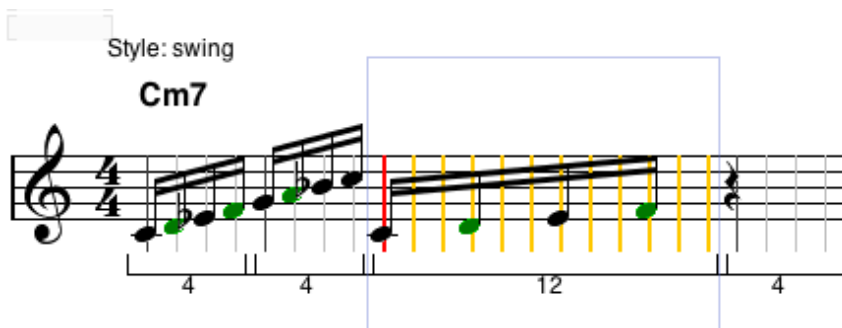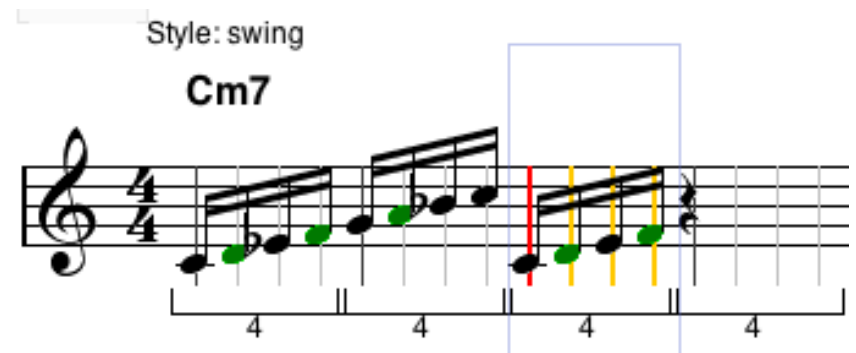
Transposing

- 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.