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

Getting Started

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

Set on a higher plane, to avoid long reach

To computer USB port
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

Changing Slot Spacing

- The default spacing is 2, meaning 2 notes 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.

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.

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 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.