
How to play and record a software instrument in Studio One

In this session we will look at how to set up a software instrument in Studio One, and how to record yourself playing it.

The process simply adds an additional track to any project you may be working on, whether it is an album track, or background for a podcast or promotional piece. Or if you are putting together a sound track for a film or audio story.

Even if you are not ready to perform, and only have general ideas for music, you will find this helpful. Any mistakes you make, or changes you realize later that you want to do, can be done with simple editing tools.

And editing these first tracks you will make is an introduction to working with a MIDI sequencer.

Browse > Instruments

Drag Presence to a Track

Then choose an instrument preset

Upper left drop down

Or Drag a instrument preset from the Browse

Notice a "program" has to appear in the center gray box or no sounds are actually loaded yet.

Click on default in upper left for dropdown

Open the Strings folder and choose

Cello Long (long holding notes)

Cello Legato is pretty but limits you to one note at a time.

For an input device like a MIDI keyboard to be used, you have to formally set it up using Song Setup.

Here is how to set up your typing keyboard "querty" to substitute for a piano keyboard. It works great if you just need to add a few intervals.

Song > Song Setup > Preferences (bottom)

Click External Devices

Click Add

Scroll down to the Presonus folder

Choose Qwerty Keyboard, then OK

Back in the Arrange area, click the little keyboard icon next to the word Presence in the left of the track. Presence appears.

Click the little gear icon near the top right corner.

A Control line drops down.

Press the down arrow near "Control"

Choose Qwerty Keyboard

A little chicklet keyboard appears.

Click along the edge of the chicklet keyboard to activate it.

Notice what happens when your press QWERTY or 23567 keys

Notice you can pick a lower or higher octave with the right and left arrows.

Finally click the little speaker button in the track header (Next to M S and the Record button)

Recording

1) Arm the track by pressing the dot in the header. The box turns red, and it is ready.

2) Press the round button next to the play button along the bottom of the S1 Window to start recording. Press the square stop button to stop recording.

Notice you have created an event in the track. You can drag this event to any other location in the arrange. It represents a MIDI file and will work as long as its track has an instrument to play, and as long as the instrument has notes to play in this octave. Obviously a flute can't play the same range of notes that a cello can play.

To edit your notes, select the event, and the blue **Edit** button on the lower right edge of the window. Notice you may have to scroll to find the notes in the Edit window.

Any of these rectangular notes can be dragged to a new pitch with the arrow tool, or stretched to play longer, or the vertical bar in the little velocity track below moved to change the level of the note above it (called velocity).

In the Edit window, you can now add new notes with the pencil tool or delete them with the eraser. Lots of other musical options to explore.