ESTË Studio User Manual

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1. Introduction

ESTË Studio prepares songs before the show: tempo and time signatures, regions, backing tracks placed on the bars, and MIDI Program and Control Changes. Then you perform them in ESTË Live.

Studio and Live share the same library in `~/ESTE/` : a song saved in Studio is in Live at once, and the other way round. There is no import or export.

For what both apps share, see the ESTË Live manual: System Requirements, Installation, Songs & Setlists, Click Track, MIDI, Regions and File Structure on Disk.

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2. Setlist Sidebar

The sidebar works like ESTË Live's: switch, create, duplicate, rename and delete setlists; create, load, rename, duplicate and reorder songs; **Unused songs** lists the songs that aren't in the current setlist. Names are unique, as in Live ("AC/DC" and "ac_dc" count as the same name).

A song with unsaved changes shows a dot in the list. Loading another song with unsaved changes asks first: **Load** discards them, **Cancel** keeps working.

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3. Timeline Editor

Loading a song opens its timeline, on a bar and beat grid, with one lane each for tempo, time signature, regions, audio and MIDI.

- **Zoom** with `Cmd` +scroll. The **snap** menu aligns what you place to the bar, the beat or a fraction of it; with **Off**, positions are free (fractions of a beat).
- **Tempo** and **time signature**: click the lane to add a change, click a marker to edit or delete it. The first entries are shown in the toolbar.

Regions

Drag on the region lane to create a section (Intro, Verse, Chorus…); drag its edges to resize it, double-click it to rename, recolour or delete it. ESTË Live shows the regions on every timeline and uses them to jump through the song.

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4. Audio Track Editor

Import in the toolbar adds a WAV or MP3: the file is copied into the song's `backtracks/` folder and a clip appears at bar 1. If the file can't be read, the reason appears next to the button and nothing is added. MP3s start exactly where the music starts: the short silence every MP3 encoder adds is removed, so they line up with the grid like a WAV.

A file the song already has:

- **The same file** (or an identical copy): Studio uses it as it is. Import a file from the song's `backtracks/` folder to get back a clip you deleted.
- **A different file with the same name** (case doesn't count), Studio asks:
  - **Replace**: the song's file gets the new audio right away, and the clips that play it are updated (a clip that played to the end of the old file plays to the end of the new one).
  - **Keep both**: the new file is added as `bass 2.wav`, with its own clip.
  - **Cancel**: nothing changes.

Clips: drag to move (with snap), drag an edge to trim (the file is never changed), use the scissors tool to split, double-click to rename, recolour or delete. ESTË Live plays every clip at its position and with its trims.

5. MIDI Track Editor

MIDI in the toolbar creates a track: name, output port, channel, colour. Double-click the track's label to change them later.

- Click an empty spot of the lane to add a **Program Change** (PC) or a **Control Change** (CC) on that beat; click an event to edit or delete it.
- **Send state at start** (on by default) tells ESTË Live to send the sound the earlier events set when playback starts after the beginning of the song, so the device is right wherever you start. Turn it off for tracks whose Program Changes are one-shot cues (lights, video). See MIDI in the ESTË Live manual.

Files from a DAW or from ESTË Live: a MIDI track can hold more than Studio shows, such as notes. Studio shows only its PC and CC, at the right bar whatever the file's resolution, and never removes the rest: editing PC/CC rewrites only those events, and a track you didn't edit stays exactly as it was.

Tempo changes: MIDI tracks follow the bars. When you change the tempo or time signature and save, every MIDI track gets the new tempo: a patch change at bar 17 stays at bar 17, and plays earlier or later in seconds together with the click.

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6. Preview Playback

Studio plays the song's audio clips as a stereo mix on the Mac's default output, with a click that follows the tempo, to check positions and trims without opening ESTË Live. The transport is in the header: Play/Pause (`Space`), Stop (keeps the position), back to the start (`Home`), click on/off. Click the timeline to move the playhead.

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7. Saving

Save stores the tempo, time signatures, regions, clips and MIDI tracks in the song. Audio files are never modified. A new MIDI track gets its own MIDI file in the song's `midi/` folder; an existing file is rewritten only when you edited its PC/CC or changed the tempo.

With unsaved changes the window's close button shows a dot. Quitting (`Cmd+Q`, closing the window, or from the Dock) then asks **Save**, **Don't Save** or **Cancel**; if saving fails, Studio stays open and shows the error.
