



Getting Started

# Gatelab 2



**Gatelab 2 is a creative gate sequencer, volume modulation generator and beyond.**

You can choose from a variety of randomization modes, density values, Flow or Gate mode and Built-in presets

Beyond audio gating, Gatelab can also send MIDI data, letting you control or randomize parameters in other plugins for even deeper experimentation.

Available as:

**VST3 · AU · AAX · AUv3 · Stand Alone**

Compatible with:

**Windows · MacOS · iPadOS**

**Developed By:**

Mario Nieto, Vladislav Sakov, Maximos Maximilianos, Landon Viator, Gustavo Castelom Katerina Mantzari and the Audiomodern team

Special Thanks to all Beta Testers!

**Want to learn how to make the most out of our software?**



**Quick Start**

Double-click the installer found inside the main folder and follow the instructions.

*For Windows users: During the installation you may select the formats you want to be installed (VST3, AU, AAX or Standalone).*

After the installation is completed, you will be able to see Gatelab 2 in your DAW's plugin list and your Plugins folder.

**Gatelab 2 Activation**

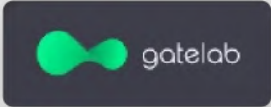
The first time you open Gatelab 2, you will be prompted to either unlock it using your license key or continue using the Trial version.

- **To unlock Gatelab:** Click **"Unlock Gatelab"**, then enter your email and license key to activate the full version.
  
- **To use the Trial version:** Click the **"X"** button in the top-right corner of the activation screen to close it and continue using Gatelab in trial mode.

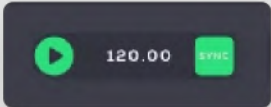
You can also activate Gatelab later by clicking the **"Unlock"** button in the top bar.

Your license key can be found under the **License Keys** tab in your Audiomodern account or in your order confirmation email.  
If you purchased Gatelab from a reseller, you can find your license key in your account on the reseller's website.

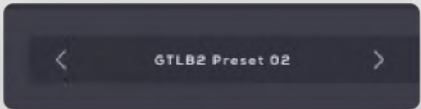
# Top Bar Controls



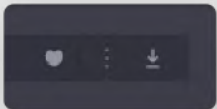
Info Tab



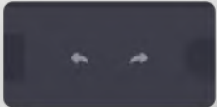
Tempo in BPM: In the VST/AU plugin, tempo is automatically synced to your Host/DAW. Disable SYNC to set a custom tempo. Manual tempo adjustment is available only on the iPad version.



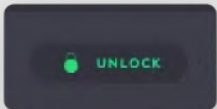
Presets Manager: Access the Presets Manager via this menu, or use the left and right arrow buttons to navigate through presets.



Click the heart icon to add a preset to your favorites. Use the three-dot icon to open the Presets Manager. Click the down arrow button to save your preset.



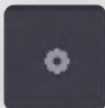
Undo and redo buttons.



Use the Unlock button to activate the full version of GateLab. You will be prompted to enter the license key provided after purchase.



GateLab can send MIDI on two channels, which can control different instruments or audio effects in your project. Click this button to open the MIDI Control tab.



Settings Tab: Access MIDI Mappings and the MIDI Map Channel in this tab.

# Sequencer Settings



Gatelab has two modes:  
A volume modulation mode called **Flow mode**  
and a gate sequencer mode called **Gate mode**.

In **Flow mode**, the sequencer allows you to set any value for the gate on each slider. Drag up or down the sequencer's vertical sliders to draw your preferred sequence:



In **Gate mode**, the steps function as on/off switches, so the values will be either **0%** or **100%**. Click the steps to activate or deactivate them:

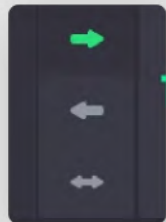


Click **MONO** to enable a monophonic sequencer, or click **STEREO** to use stereo output.

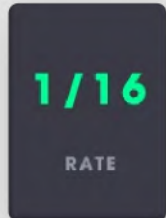
- In **MONO** mode, only one sequencer is included.
- In **STEREO** mode, there is a separate sequencer for each audio channel.



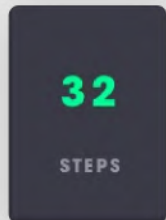
Enable **LINK L-R** to apply the same changes in both left and right sequencers at once. This will copy any actions you draw in the sequencer to both channels.



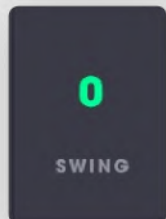
Select the **motion** of the sequencer. You can choose between Forward, Backwards and Ping-Pong.



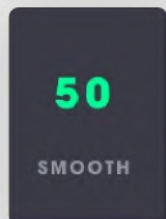
Drag **RATE** up or down to adjust the sequencer's quantization rhythm.



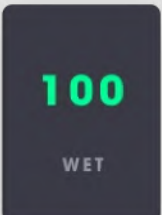
Drag **STEPS** up or down to adjust the sequencer's number of steps.



Drag **SWING** up or down to adjust the sequencer's swing amount.



Drag **SMOOTH** up or down to adjust the smoothness of the gate effect. Increasing this control will create smoother transitions between steps.



**WET:** Set to 100% by default. Reduce this value to make the gate effect drier.



**Lock Steps:** When enabled, click any step to lock it, preventing it from being randomized. Locked steps are highlighted with a lock icon.

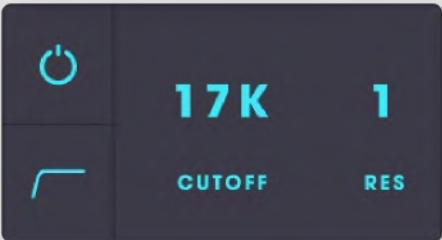
To make further changes, disable this option. Locked steps will remain locked until manually unlocked.



To unlock a step, enable the Lock Steps option and click it again. Alternatively, click the Reset button to unlock all steps at once.

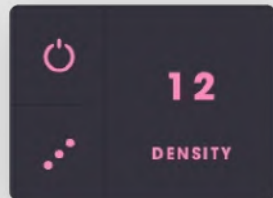


**Temporary Bypass:** Hold this button to bypass the gate effect. Release it to resume the effect.



- Filter section:**
- Use the **On/Off** button to activate or deactivate the filter.
  - Adjust **Cutoff** and **Resonance** by dragging their sliders up or down.
  - Click the **Filter Shape** icon to choose the filter type: Low-Pass, Band-Pass, or High-Pass.





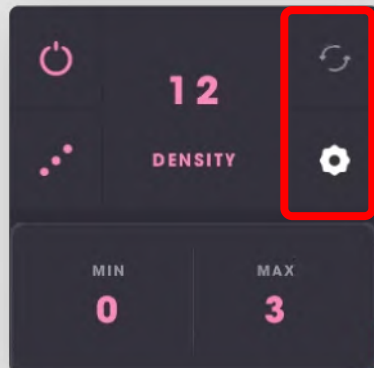
The **Density** feature allows you to split the sequencer's steps into 2 or 3 smaller steps, adding rhythmic variation and complexity.

- Use the On/Off button to activate the Density feature.
- Adjust the number of steps with density by dragging the Density number up or down.
- Click the Randomize button to randomize density across the sequencer.



You can also manually set the density for each step directly in the sequencer by clicking or dragging the buttons below each step up or down.

In Stereo mode you can set different Density for each step in both sequencers.



#### Density Settings:

- Click the **Reset** button to reset density for all steps at once.
- Click the **Settings** button to define the minimum and maximum density values that steps can have.

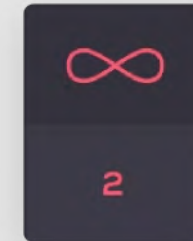
Each step can have one of the following density values:

**0:** No density — the step remains as is.

**H (Half):** Step is divided into 2 equal parts, with only the first part playing.

**2:** Step is divided into 2 equal parts.

**3:** Step is divided into 3 equal parts.



**Infinity mode:** When enabled, Infinity Mode automatically generates a new sequence after a set number of repeats.

- Click the **Infinity** button to activate it.
- Adjust the **Infinity number** by dragging it up or down, or click on it to type a value. This number determines how many times the current pattern will repeat before a new one is created.



#### Disintegration Mode:

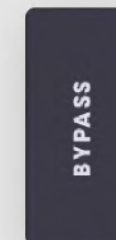
Click the Disintegration mode button to activate it.

When enabled, the sequence gradually breaks down over the set number of cycles. For example, with a value of 4, steps are deactivated on each pass until the pattern is empty. Adjust this number by dragging it up or down, or click on it to type a value.



#### Grow Mode:

When enabled, the sequence gradually builds up over the set number of cycles. For example, with a value of 2, new steps are added on each pass until the pattern is complete.



#### Bypass:

When enabled, the Gate effect is bypassed, allowing the original signal to pass through unaffected.

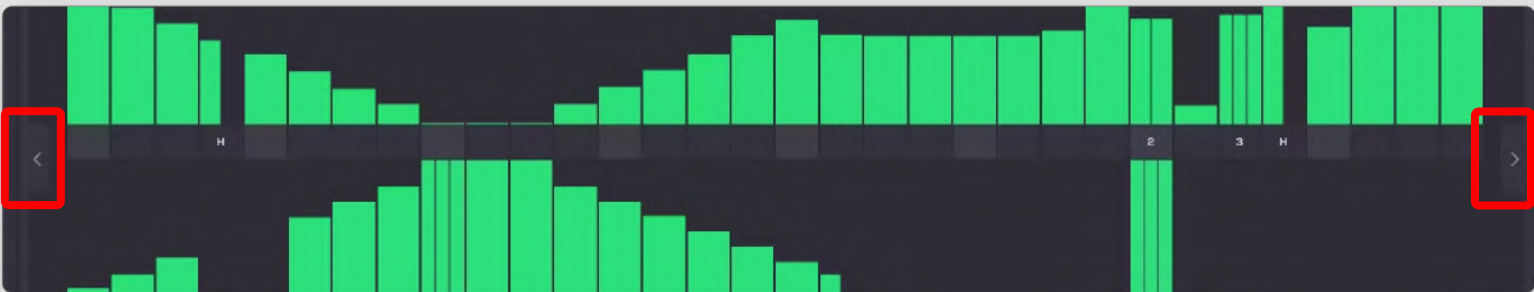
To change where the sequencer starts and ends, drag the edges of the horizontal slider at the top of the sequencer left or right.  
Steps that are not active will appear greyed out.



Click and drag the area between the edges of the horizontal slider left or right to move the active section of the sequencer. Double-click it to expand it to include all steps:



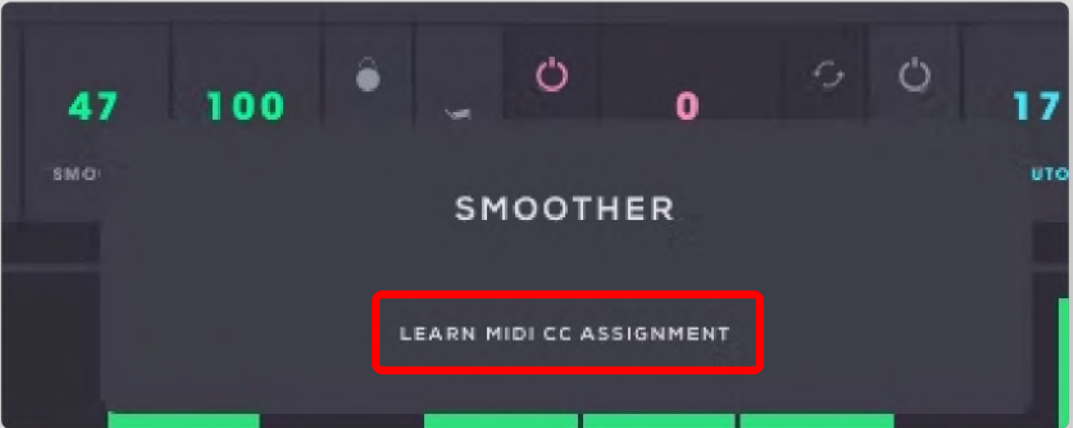
Click the left or right arrow buttons on the sides of the sequencer to circularly offset the sequence.



## Learn MIDI CC Assignment

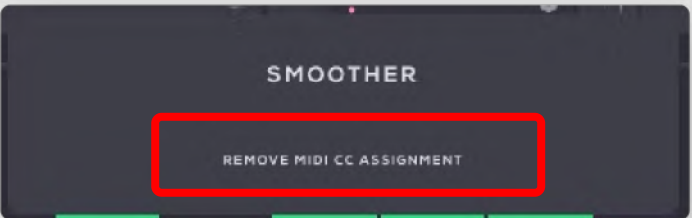
Gatelab allows you to assign different MIDI CC numbers to controls and automation settings directly through its interface.

- **Right-click** on a parameter to open its Settings menu.
- Click **Learn MIDI CC Assignment**.



- Move a control on your MIDI controller (e.g., a button or knob) to assign it to Gatelab's parameter.

Once assigned, using that control will instantly trigger the corresponding Quick Preset or automation parameter.



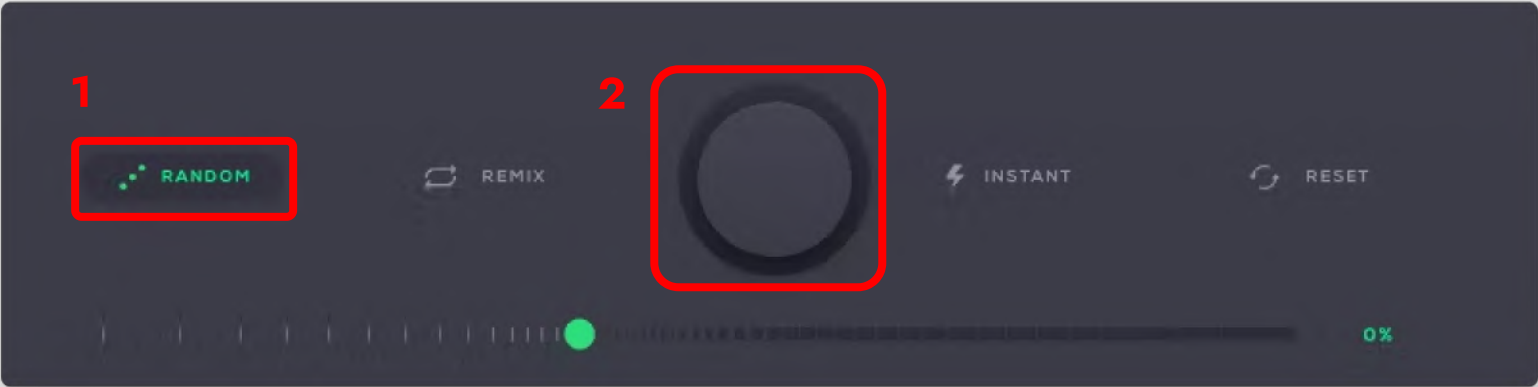
To remove the assignment, click **Remove MIDI CC Assignment** in the same menu.

### Important Notes:

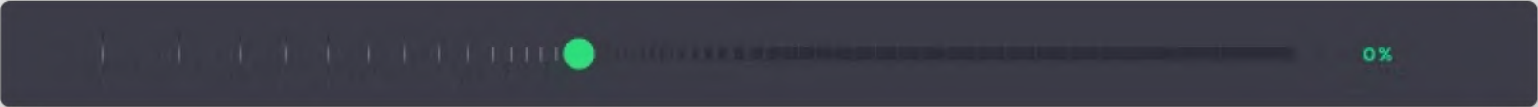
- ⚠ **Logic Pro:** Logic Pro does not route MIDI to standard audio effects. To use MIDI mappings with Gatelab 2, load it from the **AU MIDI-Controlled Effects** section.
- ⚠ **Ableton Live:** Ableton Live does not route MIDI in audio tracks. To use MIDI mappings with Gatelab 2, load it in an **Instrument Track**.

# Randomization modes

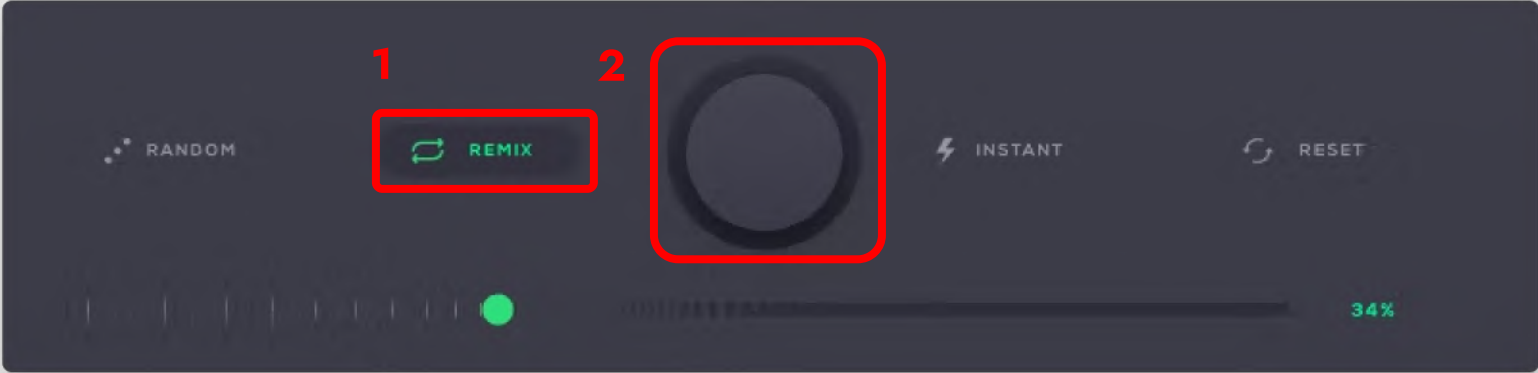
• **Random:** Click the **Random** button, then click the central randomization button. Gatelab will generate a completely random pattern:



Additionally, drag the **Complexity** slider horizontally, located under the randomization button, to adjust the complexity of the generated patterns:



• **Remix:** Enable the **Remix** option to create patterns similar to the ones currently playing.



• **Instant:** Generates a new pattern and keeps it playing as long as you hold the button. Release it to return to the previous pattern.



• **Reset:** This will clear the sequence.



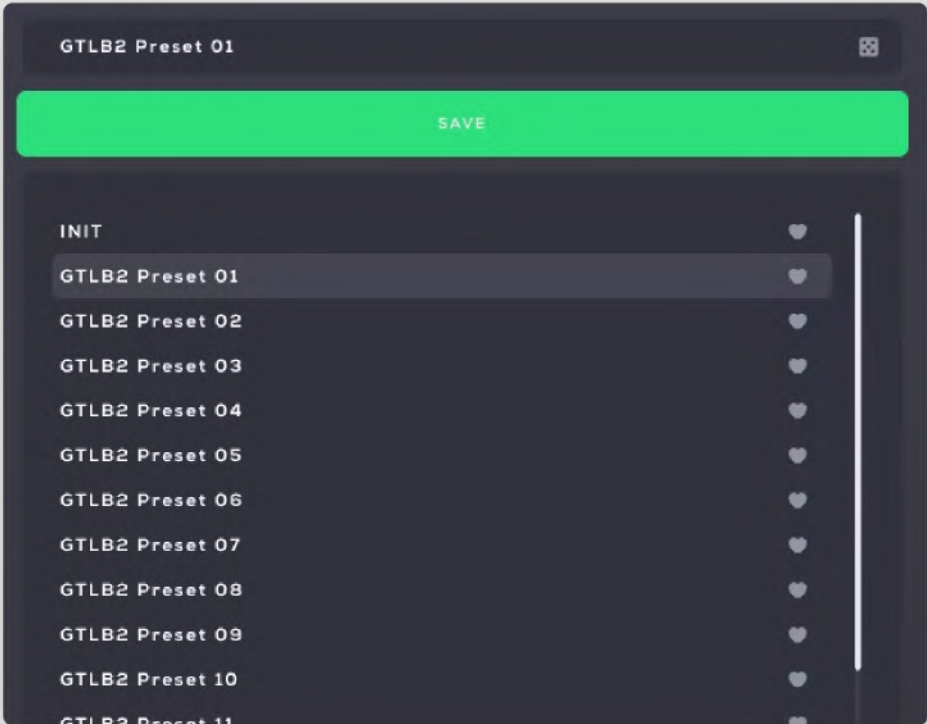
**Tip:** The Random and Remix randomization modes can also be used in combination with the Infinity mode, which automatically generates a new sequence after a set number of repeats.

# Saving presets

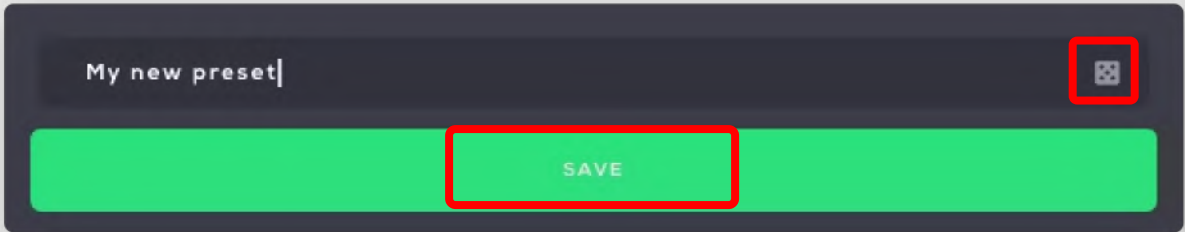
Click the preset name or the three-dots icon in the central menu at the top to open the Preset Manager:



All your saved presets will be available in this tab:



To save a preset, enter a name in the provided field and click **Save**. Alternatively, click the dice button on the right of the field to give your preset a random name.



Click the **heart** icon to mark a preset as a favorite.



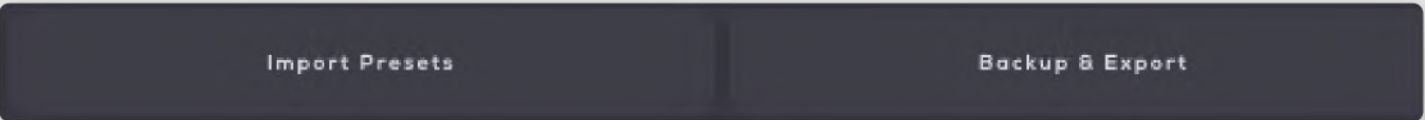
User presets can be renamed or deleted:

- Click the **pencil** icon to rename a preset.
- Click the **trash** icon to delete it.



You can also export your presets to back them up, share them, or import them to another device:

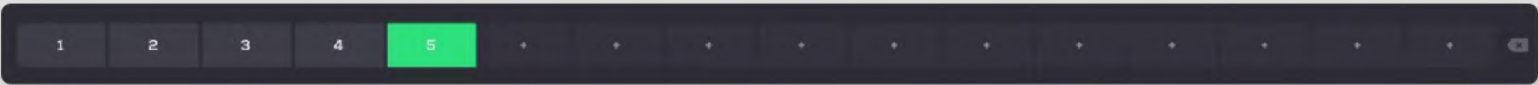
- Click **Backup & Export** to save presets to your hard drive.
- Click **Import Presets** to load presets from a saved file.



**Tip:** Saving a preset also saves all stored Quick-Load presets.



# Quick-load slots



Gatelab 2 includes 16 slots where you can store your Quick Presets.

Quick Presets are saved together with your main presets but can only be accessed from within the preset itself — not directly through the Preset Manager.

**When you save a preset, all associated Quick Presets are saved with it.**

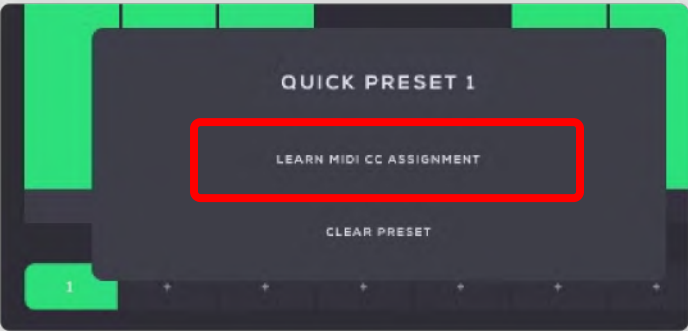
Quick Presets are especially useful when you want to recall patterns for the same project instantly with a single button press, without needing to open the Preset Manager.

## How to Use Quick Presets:

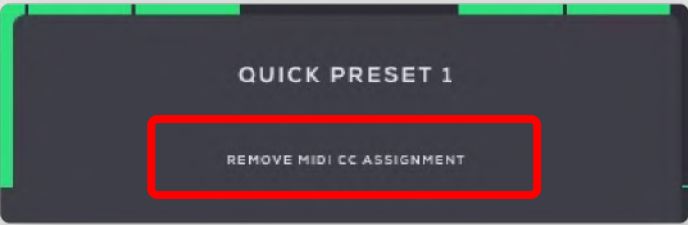
Once you have a pattern you want to save, click an empty slot to automatically store the current pattern in that slot.

- Slots that contain a saved pattern display their slot number.
- The currently loaded pattern is highlighted in **green**.
- Empty slots display a “+” symbol.

Right-click on a **Quick Preset** slot to open its **Settings menu**:



Click **Learn MIDI CC Assignment**, then move a control on your MIDI controller (e.g., a button or knob) to assign it to a Quick Preset slot. Once assigned, pressing that button will instantly load the corresponding Quick Preset.



Click **Remove MIDI CC Assignment** to disconnect your MIDI controller from the Quick-Load slot.

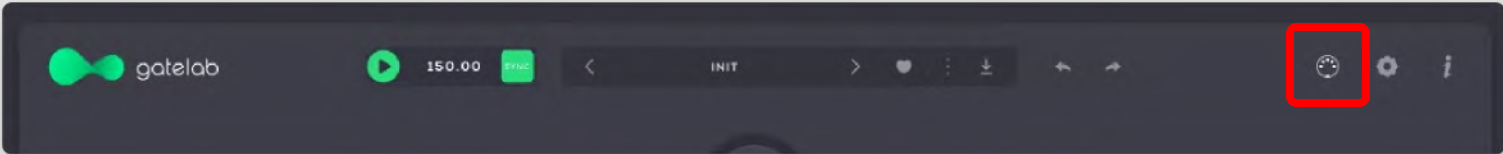


Click **Clear Preset** to delete a Quick Preset.

# MIDI Control

Gatelab can send out two MIDI channels, allowing you to control different instruments or audio effects within your project.

Click the **MIDI** button on the right side of the top menu to open the **MIDI Options** tab.



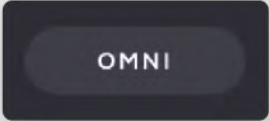
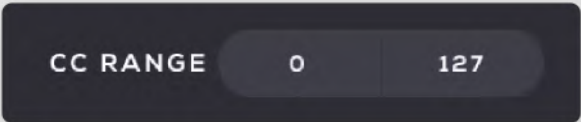
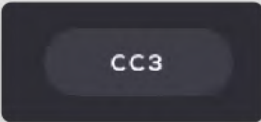
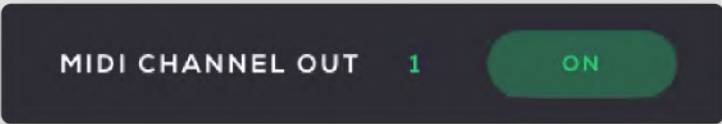
MIDI Channel No.1 and MIDI Channel No.2 correspond to the 2 MIDI Channels Gatelab has in Stereo mode:



The steps of each channel, send MIDI information to another instrument, or another effect within your project

## How It Works:

1. Set your instrument’s **MIDI input** to **Gatelab** so it can receive the MIDI messages sent by Gatelab.
2. Turn the desired **MIDI Channel ON**:
3. Select which **MIDI message type** Gatelab will send:
4. In your instrument or effect, set the **MIDI input** of any parameter to match Gatelab’s output (e.g., **CC3**).
5. Adjust the **minimum** and **maximum** values for the messages being sent out:



- MIDI Channel selector:**
- **Omni:** Gatelab will send MIDI messages on all channels.
  - **1–16:** Gatelab will send MIDI messages only on the selected channel number.

# Settings

On the Top-right Settings (Gear) icon, you can access MIDI Settings as well as Ableton Link (iOS version only).

Within MIDI Settings, you can:

- Select/set the MIDI Map Channel
- Assign different MIDI CC numbers to your controls and automation settings.

This allows for flexible MIDI control and integration with your setup.

