

Cheatsheet 8: Step Sequencer

Accessing the Editor

- Launch Logic and create Software Instrument track with a preset of your choice.
- In the Tracks area, **Control-click** an empty software instrument track, then choose **Create Pattern Region** from the shortcut menu.
- Alternatively, you can open the Editor pane, choose the **Step Sequencer** tab.

Programming a Pattern

- In Step Sequencer, each row is divided into steps of equal duration. Click a step to turn it on. Active steps appear as brightly colored rectangles, while inactive steps are dimmed.
- Choose a preset from the synth's pull-down menu that is similar to the type of sound you wish to create (lead, pad, bass, etc.). Then experiment by tweaking knobs, buttons and switches until you find the sound you're looking for.

Editing Tools

- Next to the **Step On/Off** button (upper left of the Step Sequencer grid), there's a pulldown menu that allows us to edit a number of different settings for each step, including **velocities**, **ties to the next step**, **octave**, **note repeat**, and more.
- You can introduce a chance element in your patterns by choosing **Chance** from the **Edit Mode** selector to change how likely it is for a step to sound when the pattern repeats. Edit the Chance value by clicking on different vertical positions in a step, or click and drag vertically to change the values for each step.
- To view your automation edits, click the **disclosure triangle** on a row's track header in Step Sequencer. You can edit directly in each parameter's lane in this view.
- You can configure the subrows by moving the pointer over the left edge of a subrow, then click the **+** or **x button** to add or delete subrows. To change a subrow's edit mode use the pop-up menu above the Increment Value and Decrement Value buttons.

- Click the **Inspector button (i)** in the **Step Sequencer menu bar** to open its local inspector. You can set parameters for the following:
 - **Pattern** — Edit overall length, playback direction, swing, key, and scale.
 - **Row** — Edit individual row length, playback direction, etc.
 - **Step** — Edit individual step parameters including note, velocity, repeat, etc.
- To create additional rows in melodic patterns, click the **Add Row (+)** pull-down menu in the Step Sequencer menu bar (just under the **Edit** menu), then choose **Notes > [note name] > [note octave]**.
- To add automation rows, click the **Add Row (+)** pull-down menu in the Step Sequencer menu bar, then choose **Automation > [desired effect]**