

ALFIL Max Reference Manual v1.2

for Windows and Mac

Reference Manual by killihu

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Plugins, skins and other resources for computer-based audio production

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This book has been inspired by the Ableton Live Reference Manual, with the aim of making it easier for Ableton Live users to read.

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Main information

1.1 Plugin Overview

ALFIL Max (Ableton Live Fast Item Loader) is a Max for Live device designed to speed up the workflow in Ableton Live. It allows you to load Live browser elements from a floating window, avoiding having to navigate through browser folders.

Main features:

- Supports the following file formats: ADG, ADV, ALS, AMXD, AUPRESET and VSTPRESET.
- The device reads files from disk. This way, there's no need to create device presets, and the item list is always up-to-date, even when opening old projects.
- Items can be inserted via a single click or drag and drop.
- The insertion position can be set to the left or right of the currently selected device, or by default at the end of the track's effects chain.
- Optional setting to automatically close the floating window after inserting an item.
- The floating window can be opened via key mapping.
- It works on Windows and Mac. However, one-click insertion takes a while on Windows. In that OS it is preferable to use drag and drop.

Note that single-clicking on the device works the same way as double-clicking in Windows File Explorer. If you have "Allow Multiple Instances" enabled in Live's settings, this opens a new instance of Live.

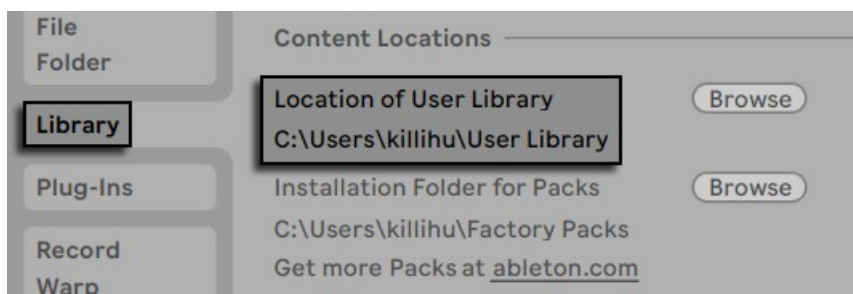
1.2 System Requirements

- Live Version: 10 / 11 / 12 with Max for Live
- Operating System: Windows, Mac

1.3 Installation Instructions

Unzip the ZIP file and copy the plugin AMXD file to your User Library folder. There are two ways to find where your User Library is located:

Go to Preferences – Library – Location of User Library



Or [right-click] on the User Library in the Browser – Show in Explorer



Since the device reads files from disk to create the list of items, a specific folder/file structure must be created. Section 2.5 of this manual and its subsections detail how the folder/file structure should be built, as well as the different ways to establish paths to folders.

1.4 Additional installation on Mac

The device uses external Max components. To install on Mac, the following steps must be followed.

Copy the files 11dragfiles.mxo and 11live.tools.mxo to the folder:

/users/<your user>/Documents/Max 9/Library/

Open the Terminal utility and type the following line, replacing <your user> with your operating system username.

xattr -d -r com.apple.quarantine "/users/<your user>/Documents/Max 9/Library/"

Note that after entering the above command and pressing enter, the terminal does not display any message.

Versions prior to Live 12.2 use Max for Live 8. In those versions of Live, externals should be copied to the Max 8 folder instead of Max 9.

11dragfiles.mxo and 11live.tools.mxo are external Max components created by 11olsen. On his website you will find very interesting material for the development of Max devices.

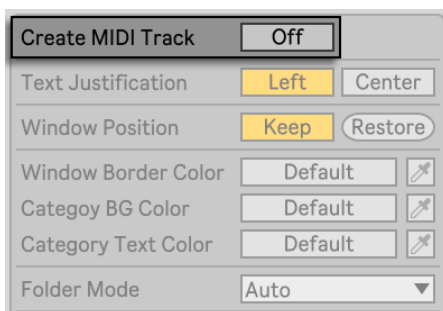
<https://www.11olsen.de/>

More information about the use of external components of Max and Mac security in the following link.

<https://cycling74.com/articles/using-unsigned-max-externals-on-mac-os-10-15-catalina>

Settings

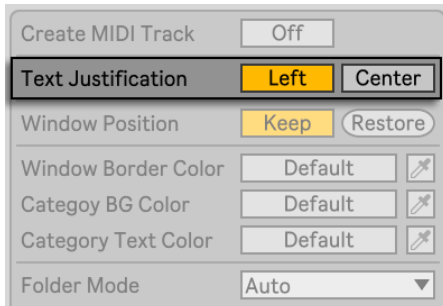
2.1 Create MIDI Track



When this control is enabled, a new MIDI track is created before inserting items. The idea is to use a single instance of the device only for inserting instruments, and automatically create the instrument track.

MIDI track creation is done by either single-click insertion or drag-and-drop insertion.

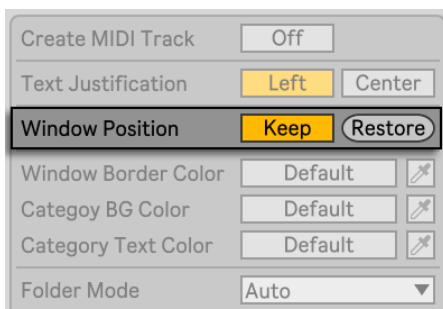
2.2 Text Justification



This control sets the text alignment of the item list: Left or centered.

It only affects items that can be inserted. Category title text is always left-aligned.

2.3 Window Position

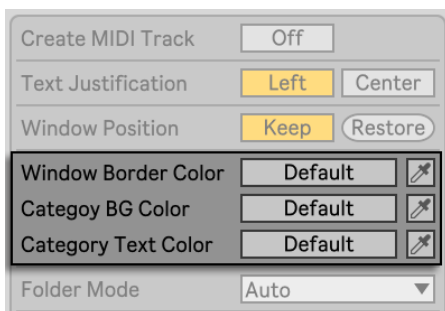


When the Keep switch is enabled, the position of the floating window is maintained when saving the project or when saving a device preset. Note that each time the window is moved, a step is added to Live's undo history.

The Restore button returns the floating window to its default position and size.

2.4 Custom Colors

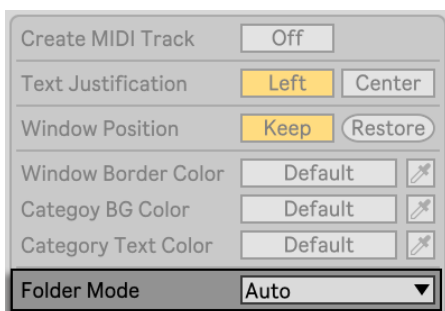
To help improve the display of the floating window, especially when using Live's dark themes, it is possible to modify the color of several interface elements. These are the border of the floating window, and the text and background of the category title slots.



By enabling the custom color for each element, you can use the Color Picker control (located on the right) to select a custom color.

When the Color Picker is activated, clicking anywhere on the screen takes the color under the mouse pointer.

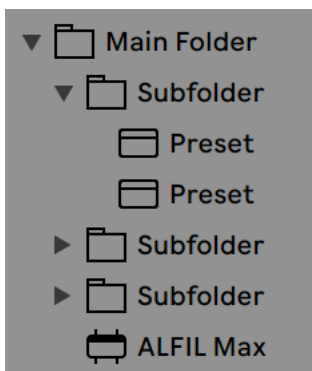
2.5 Folder Mode



The device has three different modes for setting the folder path(s) where it will read files: Auto, Manual, and Multi.

Each mode is detailed in the following sections of this manual.

2.5.1 Auto Mode



In Auto mode, the device searches for files relative to the location of the AMXD file. The structure of folders and files should be created as shown in the image.

The device's AMXD file and subfolders for each category are placed inside the main folder. The preset/device files are placed inside each subfolder.

2.5.2 Manual Mode

In Manual mode, the folder and file structure is built the same as in Auto mode. The only exception is the AMXD file, which doesn't need to be in that location. It can be in any other folder in the user library. This makes it possible to use "Collect All and Save" in Live without interrupting the operation of the device.



When Manual mode is activated, controls are displayed for setting the path to the main folder, as well as to remove the currently established path.

To select a folder, you can use the Select Folder button. This will open a window where you can select the folder location. Another way to select a folder is to drag it from Finder/Explorer to the folder path box displayed under the Folder Mode menu.

On macOS the folder must be located on the computer's internal drive, not on external drives.

2.5.3 Multi Mode

In Multi mode, up to 8 different folders can be used. When this mode is activated, the floating window displays tab buttons to switch between the 8 folders.

Folder paths are set in the same way as in Manual mode. Additionally, it is possible to set custom names for each folder, which will be displayed in the floating window buttons.



When this mode is active, the Create MIDI Track setting is no longer set globally for the device. Instead, it is set individually for each of the eight folders. This makes it possible to use one or more of the folders for inserting instruments, automatically creating new instrument tracks.

On macOS the folders must be located on the computer's internal drive, not on external drives.

Controls

3.1 Rack Controls



The device rack displays controls for displaying the floating window and the settings section.

The control to show/hide the floating window can be mapped, allowing you to assign a key to show and hide the floating window.

An icon is displayed at the bottom of the device rack. Clicking on the icon shows the version of the device. When a new device update is available, a message will be displayed indicating it.

3.2 Common Floating Window Controls



The floating window can be moved by clicking on the top bar and dragging, just like any other program window. At the top right are controls for change the zoom, switch between the different window sizes, docking it on top of other windows so it's always visible, and closing it.

3.3 Refresh



Clicking this control causes the device to reread the files from the disk and rebuild the list.

When working in Multi mode, the Refresh button is replaced by the tab buttons. These buttons simultaneously act as a tab selector and refresh button.

3.4 Insert Position



You can set the position at which items are inserted. The arrows indicate whether the item is inserted to the left or right of the currently selected device. In the center position, items are inserted by default at the end of the track's effects chain. This also affects loading from Live's browser.

3.5 Drag Mode



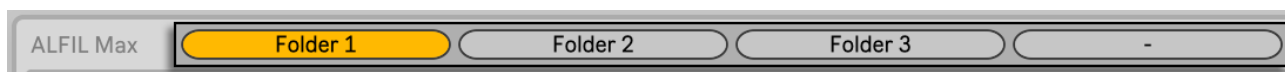
This control activates the Drag Mode. Instead of inserting items with a single click, it allows you to click on an item and drag and drop it into the project.

3.6 Auto Close



When this control is enabled, the floating window closes automatically when an item is loaded.

3.7 Tabs



These controls are displayed when Multi mode is activated. Clicking on each one displays the files corresponding to the eight folder paths configured in the settings.

Additionally, they also serve as a Refresh button for each folder.