Ignite Basics Guide

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**Using Ignite for the First Time**

This guide takes you through the steps needed to help you make your first recording with Ignite – from setting up your session to selecting and recording an instrument.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Ignite User’s Guide PDF. This can be accessed via the Help menu in Ignite.

**Download and Install Ignite**

1. Ignite can be download from the web by going to [http://www.airmusictech.com/download-ignite](http://www.airmusictech.com/download-ignite)
2. Follow the instructions on-screen to download the software.
3. Save the downloaded file to your computer’s desktop.
4. After the Ignite installer has downloaded, double click on the Ignite installer icon located on your computer’s desktop.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to install Ignite.
6. When installation is complete, click [OK].

**Connect Your M-Audio Keyboard**

1. Connect your M-Audio keyboard to your computer according to the instructions included with your keyboard.

Your connected M-Audio keyboard will be shown at the top of the screen. If you do not see your M-Audio keyboard on the screen, check the connections and make sure the keyboard is powered on (Axiom series only).

**Open Ignite**

Open Ignite by double-clicking on the application icon on your desktop (Windows) or by clicking on the icon in the dock (Mac).

Once Ignite has opened, you will see the Home screen. The Home screen is where you can open demo projects, check your audio device/sound card settings, watch tutorial videos and check for updates. For now, let’s close the Home screen by clicking on [CLOSE].

After the Home screen is closed, you will see the following on your screen:
Check That You Have Sound
A new session is created when you launch Ignite. A piano instrument is automatically loaded when you create a new session.

To check that you have sound, simply press any key on your connected M-Audio keyboard.

If you have no sound:
- Check the output meter in Ignite is lighting up when playing your keyboard.
- Check the USB connection from your keyboard to your computer.
- Check your speaker or headphone connections and volume.
- Verify the audio output settings of your computer’s operating system.
- If you are using an external audio device or sound card please refer to the manufacturer’s manual for instructions on verifying your sound options.

Overview of Ignite
The following is a brief overview of the main areas in Ignite. Further details can be found in the Ignite User’s Guide PDF.

1. Tabs
2. Control Bar
3. Instruments Bar
4. Arranger
Tabs
Along the top of the main view, you will see tabs with icons. From left to right, they are:

- **Home**: Click this tab to check your audio settings, watch tutorial videos or open demo projects.
- **Choose**: Click this tab to add or change instruments.
- **Shape**: Click this tab to edit instrument sounds and to add audio effects.
- **Play**: Click this tab to use the Smart MIDI Players.
- **Edit**: Click this tab to edit your recorded clips.
- **Share**: Click this tab to share and export your Ignite session.

Save Your Session
At this point, let’s save the session:

1. Go to File > Save As...
2. Name your file.
3. Click Save.

Working with Instruments
Selecting an Instrument
Click on the Choose tab. You will see icons for different instrument families.
Browse Instruments
To browse the instrument families, click on either of the arrows next to the instrument family name.

To choose a sound
1. Click the browse arrows until the desired instrument family is in the center of the window. For this example, let's use “Synths”.
2. Click on the “Synths” icon to select the instrument family.
3. You will now see the instrument categories at the top of the window and the instrument patches. Click on the browse arrows until the desired instrument category is in the center of the window. For this example, let's use “Leads”.
4. The patches for the selected category are shown below the category bar. For this example, click on “Dirty Lead”.
5. You are presented with two icons, for now we will only focus on the one to the left – Create New Instrument. Click the Create New Instrument icon to load the patch:

6. Play a few notes on your connected keyboard to hear the patch.
7. You will also see the instrument added to the Instrument Bar.

Editing an Instrument
You can edit the sound of an instrument if you want to customize the sound or make minor adjustments.

Let's use the Synth sound we just added for this next example.

To change the sound of an instrument:

1. Click on the Shape Tab.
2. You will see your M-Audio keyboard on-screen. All of the controls for the Synth patch are automatically mapped to the knobs on your M-Audio keyboard.
3. To adjust the sound of the Synth patch, simply turn the knobs to adjust the settings.

NOTE: If you are using an M-Audio keyboard that does not have knobs or pads, you can adjust the instrument settings by using your mouse to move the knobs shown on screen.
Recording an Instrument

Before you begin recording, check that the Tempo, Swing, Time Signature and Key Signature settings are to your liking. These settings are located in the Control Bar:

Additional details about these settings can be found in the Ignite User’s Guide PDF.

To adjust the Tempo and/or Swing, double click on the numbers, type in a new value and press [RETURN].

To adjust the Time Signature and/or Key Signature, click and hold the mouse until a menu appears and make your selection.

Recording

When you’re ready to record:

1. Check you have selected the instrument you want to record by clicking on the desired instrument icon in the Instrument Bar.
2. Click the Record button in the center of the Control Bar:
   a. You will hear the metronome and see a count-in begin to cycle on screen. The count-in will continue to cycle until you begin playing.
   b. If you have already recorded a clip, you will hear a one-bar count-in before recording starts and the existing clip starts playing.
3. To stop recording, click the Record button again.
4. The recorded clip will appear in the Arranger.

Using the Arranger

For this example, record two or three clips using the piano and/or the bass instrument.

The Arranger is a blank canvas for you to arrange your musical ideas in a variety of ways. We will review a few methods in this guide - full details are available in the Ignite User’s Guide PDF.

Playing Back Your Recording

After you record a clip, it is automatically cued to play back; this is indicated by a flashing yellow play button on a clip, Multi clip or Song clip.

To Play Back your Recorded Clip

1. Press the Play Cued clips button to the right of the Record button in the Control Bar, or press [SPACEBAR] on your computer’s keyboard.
2. To stop playback, click the Play Cued clips button again or press [SPACEBAR] again.
3. [SHIFT]+click on a clip’s play button to stop it from playing back automatically when recording or when clicking the Play Cued clips button.
Creating and Playing Multi Clips

Clips in the Arranger can be grouped together to create a Multi clip. This is useful, for example, if you have a Chorus or Verse with many parts and instruments. Grouping them together as a Multi Clip allows you to play back all of the clips together in a sequence.

To Create a Multi Clip

1. With two or more individual clips in the Arranger, move one of the clips to another so that the edges are touching:

2. A box forms around the clips and is displayed on screen.
3. The Multi clip is created.

To Play a Multi Clip

1. Click on the Play button in the top left corner of the Multi clip.
2. The play button will light up green and all of the clips in the Multi clip will play back in sequence as they are laid out from left to right.
3. Click the Play button again to stop playback.

Additional Information and Resources

For a more in-depth guide to using Ignite, see the Ignite User's Guide PDF.

Additional and technical support information can be found on our website:

http://airmusictech.com/