This user guide has been created for use with
MixPad Multitrack Recording Software Version 5.xx
Technical Support

If you have difficulties using MixPad Multitrack Recording Software please read the applicable topic before requesting support. If your problem is not covered in this user guide please view the up-to-date MixPad Multitrack Recording Software Online Technical Support at www.nch.com.au/mixpad/support.html. If that does not solve your problem, you can contact us using the technical support contacts listed on that page.

Software Suggestions

If you have any suggestions for improvements to MixPad Multitrack Recording Software, or suggestions for other related software that you might need, please post it on our Suggestions page at www.nch.com.au/suggestions/index.html. Many of our software projects have been undertaken after suggestions from users like you. You get a free upgrade if we follow your suggestion.
MixPad Multitrack Recording Software

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Overview

MixPad is a multi-track mixing software package designed for professional audio production. Simply load existing audio files, or record new files into MixPad, adjust the volumes, pans, fades, add effects and mix your audio clips down to create a single high-quality audio file. It is the digital equivalent of using a multi-track recorder and mixing desk.

Features:

- Driver support for ASIO, DirectSound, MME.
- Unlimited tracks.
- Support for MIDI playback.
- Pan and volume envelope automation.
- Intuitive, simple graphical interface.
- Independent volume, pan and effects for each track.
- Independent audio input and output routing for each track.
- Supports a large number of file formats including wav (multiple codecs), mp3, ogg, flac, vox, gsm and many more.
- High accuracy for precise mixing.
- Drag and drop existing files straight into the work area.
- Includes a CD ripper to load audio directly from an audio CD.
- Includes a high quality sound recorder which supports autotrim and voice activated recording.
- Integrated with Wavepad sound editor so you can conduct advanced editing on your files without having to save your files in between.
- Solo and mute feature on each track.
- Add multiple chained effects to each track.

System Requirements

- Windows 2000/XP/2003/2008/Vista/7/8/10

MixPad is just one component of the NCH Software suite of audio software. If you have not done so already, why not visit www.nch.com.au to download and trial our other professional audio software packages.
Getting Started with MixPad

A MixPad project consists of one or more tracks. Each track has its own set of controls on the left side of the screen for controlling the overall volume, pan and other playback features of the track.

Each track can contain an unlimited number of audio clips. Audio clips are the pieces of audio that you wish to mix together into one file. Whenever you add an mp3 file, import from a CD, or make your own recording, an audio clip will be added to the currently selected track.

When you have adjusted all the volumes and fades exactly how you want them, you can output your project to a .wav, .mp3, .gsm or one of many other formats by simply selecting Export Project as Audio File from the File menu and then choosing the format you wish to save in. Alternatively, if you are not finished mixing and want to come back to it later, you can save your project to be reopened for later.
Choosing Your Audio Settings

Supported Devices

MixPad currently features support for playback to ASIO, DirectSound and MME devices and recording from ASIO and MME devices.

NCH recommends ASIO for both playback and recording. ASIO will provide the best performance and the lowest possible latency and offer the greatest accuracy when synchronizing recordings. ASIO will also allow you to play and record from multiple channels of the same device. If you don't have an ASIO capable sound card then you should choose DirectSound as your playback option and MME as your recording option.

Another option is to install the driver from ASIO4ALL which provides a layer over the regular soundcard, allowing it to be used as an ASIO device by software such as MixPad. You can download it for free from http://www.asio4all.com/.

Setting up the Project Audio Options

Open the Options dialog (File --> Options...) and click on the General tab. Here you are able to set the playback device you would like MixPad to use. If you select an ASIO device then you will also be able to select which channel to allocate as your primary left and right outputs. This option is not available for DirectSound or MME drivers.

Setting up the Track Audio Options

To set audio options that are specific to an individual track, select the track and click either the 'Audio Options' button under the 'Recording' tab or click the 'wrench icon' button to the right in the track's control panel.

Track
The Select track's settings displays the track you are editing by it's Track Index number. You can switch to any other of the tracks listed from the drop down list. If you make a change to any of the options below, choose Apply Settings by clicking Apply or click OK to apply those settings to the track. If you make a change then click Apply, Choose Apply Settings to all tracks

Recording options
Here, you will be able to set the recording device you wish to use for this track. If you choose an ASIO device you will also be able to select which channels to use for multichannel devices.

To set up recording using an audio device, select the Record using an audio device option and select the device you want to record. You can specify whether to record as mono or stereo and if the device can record multi-channel you can specify which two channels will be recorded.

To set up recording using a MIDI device, select the Record using a Midi device option and select the device you want to record. For more information about MIDI recording, see the
MIDI Recording topic in this manual.

Audio Playback Device
Here you are able to select the output channel for this particular track. Please note, this is only available if you have selected an ASIO device as your main playback device (see Setting up the Project Audio Options, above). If you want to use the default project left and right channels, you can set these options to Main Output (Left) and Main Output (Right). If you wish to use different outputs from the default project settings, you can change them here and override the project settings.

Midi Playback options
This section allows you to choose between a Midi device or a Virtual Instrument for playback.

Monitoring Options
If you are using ASIO hardware then you can check the Enable monitoring for ASIO devices box which will allow you to hear what you are recording through your headphones. However, a better approach to monitoring your recording is to use your hardware directly. Most external soundcards will allow you to directly monitor your input via a headphone output. This option will provide you with the best performance and zero latency.

If you are recording from a MIDI device (such as a MIDI piano keyboard) then you can monitor your recording using a VST instrument to synthesize the MIDI into sounds. To do this check the Enable MIDI monitoring via VST instrument for ASIO devices box and select from the drop down list which instrument you would like to use.
Loading an Audio Clip into the MixPad Work Area

Use one of the following methods to load a clip into a track. Note that MixPad may relocate the clip to the next track if the clip being loaded will overlap other clips.

Record a track using MixPad

For details on recording a track in MixPad see the Recording a Clip topic in this manual.

Load an existing clip from a location on your hard drive

To open an existing audio file and add it as a MixPad clip, click the Load Clip button in the toolbar. Browse to the location of the audio file and click Open. Alternatively, you can just drag and drop the file into the MixPad work area.

Load a clip from a CD

You can load an audio track from a CD by selecting the menu option Clip-->Load Clip From CD. Alternatively, you can click the drop down of toolbar icon Load Clip and select Rip Clip. MixPad will first attempt to look up the track information for your CD online and then display a list of available CD tracks for you to choose from. Select one or more track(s) that you wish to load and then click the Load button.

Load a clip from the Stock Library

MixPad comes with a free sound effect library, which includes royalty free sound effects and music files. During the free trial period, users will be allowed to download three clips from the library for free, and will gain unlimited access upon purchase of MixPad.

To access the stock library, click the Clip menu item and select Load clip from Stock Library. You can preview any clip in the library. To download, select the clip and click the Download button.

Load a clip from a video file

MixPad can extract the audio from a video file for use in your mixes. Simply load an existing video file into MixPad as a clip, as described in the section "Load an existing clip from a location on your hard drive" above.
Positioning, Selecting and Copying Clips

When you need to select only one clip, just click on the title of the clip you want to select. If you want to select multiple clips, push the left mouse button down and drag a selection box around the clips you want to select.

The easiest way to change the position of a clip is by simply clicking on the caption of the clip window and dragging it to a new location. You can drag a clip to a new location within its current track or to a new track altogether. If the clip is very small then you may find it useful to zoom in closer. This will give you a larger caption bar to work with.

If you need to move a clip by very small amounts, you can zoom in very close so you can see the precise start point of your clip. Or you can use Shift + LEFT/RIGHT key to nudge selected clips to left or right. The size of the nudge can be configured in the Options dialog's Project tab.

For accurate and consistent positioning of clips, you may find it useful to use the grid lines. When the grid lines are turned on, clips will snap to the nearest grid line as you drag them. To override snapping, simply hold down the Shift key as you drag the clip. Alternatively, you can turn the grid lines off altogether by clicking the toggle button in the tool panel on the bottom left of the MixPad screen.

You can copy and paste clips to different positions and tracks. Simply select the clip you wish to copy, press Ctrl+C, select the new location of the clip and press Ctrl+V to paste it. Alternatively, you can use the copy and paste commands from the Clip menu, or from the right click menu.

Another way to copy a clip is to hold down the Ctrl key and drag a clip. This will produce a copy of the clip and allow you to drag it to the new location.

You can also copy and paste multiple clips simultaneously. Select multiple clips by holding down the Shift key as you select each clip. If you make a copy at this point, all clips will be copied.

You can lock clips to prevent accidental re-positioning of clips while you are editing. Once locked, a clip can not be moved until you unlock it. To lock the selected clip, click the Lock/Unlock Clip icon on the Clip tab toolbar. Click this button again to unlock the selected locked clip. When a clip is locked, the padlock icon in the right side of the clip's title bar will appear locked. If the clip is very small, you may not be able to see the lock icon unless you zoom in.

To delete a clip from the work area, just click on the "X" icon at the top right corner of the clip window. You can also select the clip and press Ctrl+Delete. Deleting a clip does not delete the underlying audio file so you will be able to reload the clip if you change your mind. As with the lock icon, the close icon may not be visible if your clip is very small.

Copy to System / Paste from system
This feature can let you share audio data between different applications. You can copy one clip or part of one clip to system's clipboard, and then other applications, Wavepad for instance, can paste that clip or part of that clip from the system clipboard. Vice versa, if you use Wavepad to copy some audio to the system clipboard, and then in MixPad, you can use paste from system to get that audio from the system clipboard.
Using the Navigator

If you are working on a large or complex project, you may find using the navigation control (bottom left of your project window) helpful for moving around your project. This small control shows an overview map of your entire project. You can click and drag on the control to quickly locate the area of your project to which you would like to move without needing to change zoom settings or scroll around looking for it.

Clips are represented by small rectangles and the boundaries of the currently viewable area (i.e., what you can see on your main window) is represented by the outlined lighter colored area.
Envelope Fade Points (Automation)

Working with fade points

Automation allows you to vary the volume and pan of each clip or track over time. By default, MixPad displays the automation for the volume of a clip. You can swap between Pan, Volume and No automation by using the drop down menu on each track's control panel (left of the track). You can add fade points to this envelope by using the left click mouse button.

To edit a fade point click on the point you wish to edit and drag it to a new location. As you drag the item you should see a bubble tip providing precise information about the new position of the fade point.

To remove a fade point, move your mouse cursor on the fadepoint and it will be selected automatically, right click and the fade point will be deleted.

Cross fading

A common usage of fade points is to crossfade two audio tracks to create a smoother transition between them. MixPad features a short cut option for doing this. Just select the two clips you wish to cross fade and select Clip --> Cross Fade Selected Clips from the menu. The clips need to overlap in order for this to work, either on separate tracks or the same track. At this point you can then edit the fade points as described above to fine tune the fade.

Track Automation

Another usage of fade points is to set up an automation track based on volume, pan and VST plugins. Suppose you want to vary one parameter of a vst plugin over time. Click the Add Automation command from the Track tab and choose VST Plugin from the drop menu, choose a vst plugin file(*.dll), tick parameters from the plugin, and when you are done a new automation track(s) will be added to that track. Now you can click the line to add and edit the fade points, which will apply the parameters of the vst at the levels you specify while playing.
Editing Clips

Basic Editing in MixPad

MixPad comes with basic editing tools for arranging your projects. The included editing functions are listed below. For more advanced editing tools, use the integrated WavePad audio editor, described at the bottom of this help topic.

Selected Region

Many of the edit functions below apply to a selected region. To select only one clip, just click on the title of the clip you want to select. If you want to select multiple clips, hold CTRL and click left mouse button down the clips you want to select. To select a region, hold the left mouse button and drag a selection box around the region.

Select All (Ctrl+A).

To select all clips on all tracks, press Ctrl+A.

Scrub (B)

A useful tool for locating specific sections while editing is the Scrub tool. To playback your mix in scrub mode, click the Scrub button located in the controls at the bottom of the project window. You can also press B to toggle scrub on or off. Once playback is in scrub mode, use the left and right arrows to navigate through the mix. Playback with scrub begins slow and increases in speed as you hold the arrow buttons down.

Undo (Ctrl+Z)

To Undo is to restore the file to its state before the previous edit function. This is useful if you want to try an edit or just make a mistake. To undo your last action press Ctrl+Z.

Cut (Ctrl+X)

To 'cut' is to delete the selected region but to keep a copy on the clipboard so it can be 'pasted' somewhere else. This is useful when moving parts of the audio around in the file.

To cut, select a region and then press Ctrl+X.

Copy (Ctrl+C)

To 'copy' is to make a copy of a selected region to the clipboard so you can paste it in another location. This is useful if you want to duplicate a part of the audio and insert (or mix it) in another file.

Select the region and then press Ctrl+R. To copy the entire file press Ctrl+C.

Paste (Ctrl+V)
Paste can only be used after you have used the Cut or Copy functions (above) to take a selected region to the clipboard.

The paste function replaces the currently selected region (or inserts at the cursor on the selected track if there is no selection). To replace a selection press Ctrl+V. To insert click on the position within a track and press Ctrl+V.

Delete (Ctrl+Delete)

To delete the clip or selected region press the button 'Delete' on Editing Tab toolbar. This is similar to the cut function but a copy is not taken to the clipboard.

Trim

To 'trim' is to cut off the beginning or the end of the file. This is useful when you have just recorded a file but there is silence or noise before the start or after the end.

To trim using MixPad, simply move your mouse cursor over the beginning or ending edge of a clip. You will see the cursor change from a normal pointer to a double ended arrow. Click and drag to resize the clip to the length you want.

Another way to trim is to select the clips you want to trim, press and hold CTRL to select a region which you want to keep, and then click Trim Region, it will trim all the other parts of selected clips and keep the selected region part.

Silence Region

Silence Region can make the selected region silent. Select the clips you want to edit and hold CTRL to select a region. Then click the Silence Region button to make the selected region part of clips silence.

Split Clip

Use this option if you want to quickly split the current clip into two small clips. To do this, click on the position where you want to split the clip and click the Split Clip button in the Editing tab toolbar.

Join

Use the Join feature to combine two clips you have just split. After using the Split function described above, click the Join button in the Editing tab toolbar to combine the clips into one.

Editing integration with WavePad Audio Editor

The most powerful way to use this feature is to install WavePad Audio Editor, a free version of which is available from our website at www.nch.com.au/wavepad. To Edit a clip, right click the clip and select Edit Clip from the context menu. The clip will open in WavePad for you to edit. Once you finish editing the clip, click on the Save button in WavePad and the clips will be refreshed in MixPad automatically.

Lock/Unlock
clips can be locked to prevent them from accidentally being moved, edited, or deleted. "Lock/Unlock Clip" can be found in the Clip toolbar tab and will lock or unlock the selected clips.
Trimming or Expanding Clips

Trimming or expanding clips is an amazing feature in MixPad. You can trim and expand a clip from either its beginning or end.

Trimming and expanding

When trimming or expanding the clip, put your mouse to the beginning or end of a clip and the mouse will change to a double-arrow resize cursor, then as you push down the left mouse button and drag, the clip will expand or be trimmed accordingly.

Vertical dotted lines in the clip indicate the start point and end point of the original clip, if the clip has been expanded beyond its original length. As a clip is expanded beyond its original length, the clip contents will be looped.

Set as Trim/Expand base

You may trim or expand a clip many times, but if you want to expand or trim the clip based on the current clip, not the original one from file, you can use the context menu "Set as Trim/Expand base", then the current clip will be treated as base for the later trimming and expanding.

After Set as Trim/Expand base has been selected, any vertical dotted lines in the clip will disappear for that clip, meaning the visible portion of the clip is now the base for later trimming or expanding.
Working with Tracks

MixPad allows you to work on an unlimited number of tracks. By default, there are five tracks in the project window, but you can add or delete as many tracks as you need.

Adding and removing tracks

To add a new track, press Ctrl+T. Alternatively you can use the "Add track" icon on the Track tab, or use Track --> Add Track from the menu.

To insert a new track, press Ctrl+Insert. Alternatively you can use the "Insert track" icon on the Track tab.

To delete a track, select it and then press Ctrl+Shift+Delete. Alternatively you can use the "Delete track" icon on the right hand side of the project window, or use Track --> Delete Track from the menu.

Select and move tracks

You can use Up and Down to select a track or use mouse to click the track you want to select. Page Up/Page Down can be used to the select first or last track. Ctrl+Up/Down will move the current selected track up or down.

Recording on multiple tracks

To record to many tracks at the same time, click the Rec button in the control panel of the tracks you want to record to. Clicking the Rec button puts that track into record standby mode. To begin recording all tracks in record mode, click the main record button in the controls at the bottom of the project window.

Setting Audio Options

Each track in MixPad has its own audio options, covering both input and output devices and channels. You can set these options by clicking the Audio Options icon in the track window or you can click the track and select "Audio Options" from the Track menu. Any clips recorded on this track will then use those settings.

To quickly view the audio options for any track, hover your mouse over the Audio Options icon in the track window to make the settings appear.

Muting and soloing tracks

When you are listening to a MixPad project you may wish to only listen to a few tracks at any one time. For instance, you may wish to listen to a quiet piano piece without hearing a loud drum track. The mute button M, which is found in the track control panel, allows you to silence a track. Any track on mute will not play when you play the project. Conversely you can set a track to solo by clicking the S button, also found in the track control panel. When one or more tracks are set to solo, only tracks set to solo will be played.
Collapsing

If you have a complicated mix, you may end up with too many tracks. To avoid unnecessary amounts of scrolling you have the option to collapse the tracks you are not currently editing. To collapse a track, click the small "-" button next to the track title field in the track control panel.

Pan

You can use the pan slider, located in each track control panel, to pan the audio of a track so that it comes out the left channel only, the right channel only, or anywhere in between. The effect of the pan slider on the track will combine with any pan specific fade points you have added to individual clips.

Adding an effect chain

MixPad allows you to build a live effect chain on each track. A live effect chain means that any effect you apply will be applied during playback, which eliminates the need to wait for your audio to render with the effect. To create or edit an effect, simply click the Fx button in the track control panel. MixPad will present you with a window showing the list of effects currently applied to the selected track. Click Add to add a new effect, or select an existing effect and click Edit to edit its properties. Select an effect and click Remove to remove the effect from the chain.

Track Colors

You can assign a color to each track, which may help in visually differentiating tracks from each other. To assign a color, right click on a track and select Track Color from the menu that appears. A color dialog will appear; click a color to select it and click OK to apply it to the track. Note that darker shades have a better contrast against the track background, increasing waveform visibility.

DB Display

DB display is the colorful meter show the DB level when you playing or recording clips. Every track has a DB display, and you can notice there is a peak red line on db display when you playing or recording. This helps you to know the exact db level, and you can clear the peak db red line just simple click on db display.

Mixer Window

The mixer window is a floating window that contains all the track controls in vertical style. It has the same functions as the track controls in the main window but provides easy access to all track controls. Click the Mixer button on the Home tab to open. Here, you can control the master volume as well as each track's volume, and you can also set up every track, including pan, color, mute, solo, etc.

Explorer Bar
The Explorer Bar contains links to the most-used features in MixPad. You can minimize sections you don't use often by clicking the heading. To control the Explorer Bar's appearance, click the View menu and then Explorer Bar.
Working with Your Project

A MixPad project is your entire mix. It is all your tracks and all your clips.

Playing

To play a MixPad project move the play cursor to the position you would like to start from and click the Play button at the bottom left side of the screen. Alternatively, you can press the space bar as a quick way of toggling between play and stop. Click the Fast-forward and Rewind buttons to search through your audio, or click the Go to Start or Go to End buttons to quickly jump to the start or end of the selected track.

Playing the mix using the Scrub tool can be useful for locating specific sections while working on your mix. To playback your mix in scrub mode, click the Scrub button located in the controls at the bottom of the project window. You can also press 'B' to toggle scrub on or off. Once playback is in scrub mode, use the Left and Right arrows to navigate through the mix. Playback with scrub begins slow and increases in speed as you hold the arrow buttons down.

Stopping and Pausing

In MixPad, if you click the Stop button, playback will stop and the cursor will return to the position it was before you started playing. This is so you can easily test that your cursor in the correct location without losing the position of your cursor each time you play.

You can also pause playback by hitting the Pause button or pressing the 'P' key. In this scenario, playback will stop, but instead of the cursor returning to its original location, it will stop exactly where it was when you pressed pause. You can then resume playback by pressing pause again or the play button.

If you hit the Play button while playback is already in motion, playback will restart at the position the cursor was at when playback was first started.

Selecting a Project Region

You can select a specific region of your project if you want to focus your work on that area. Drag the mouse in the MixPad timeline area and this will create a highlighted region. Now when you click play, MixPad will start playing from the cursor position, and if currently, the project is in loop mode, MixPad will loop playing the highlighted area once it reaches the end of region. If you start playing after the region end, then MixPad will just play to the end of project instead of looping. To deselect the selection on the timeline, either click the Clear button on the timeline, or press Ctrl+D.

Saving and Loading
You can save your project as a .mpdp file with a data folder (same name as project file with a .ProjectData postfix) and then load it for use again later. When you save a MixPad project, all audio files are saved into the project's data folder. This means that if you want to move your project to a different computer or location, the things you need to save are the project file and associated data folder.

Timeline Modes

The timeline can be viewed in either minutes and seconds or in bars and beats. To toggle between the two, click the timeline mode button located above the play controls and just right of the loop button.

Loop Play Mode

To loop a section of your MixPad project over and over, turn loop play mode on by clicking the loop mode button, located on the Recording tab toolbar (also found just above the Play button in the lower left corner of the MixPad window). Next, select the portion of your project you want to loop by clicking and dragging in the timeline area beneath the tracks. When you click play and the cursor position is before the end of region, MixPad will play from current cursor position and once reaches the end of selected region, the selected region will loop as long as the loop play mode button is activated.

Adjusting BPM and Time Signature

In the same area as the timeline mode button (under the tracks), you can assign a new beats per minute (BPM) to the project and change the time signature. If the timeline mode is set to bars/beats, adjusting the BPM or time signature will update the markings on the project timeline.

View Grid Lines

Using grid lines will help line up loops and pieces across several tracks. To turn on grid lines, click the grid lines button to the right of the timeline mode button, just above the play controls. Note that if you change the BPM, you will have to reset the grid lines by turning them off and back on again.

Metronome

Playing a metronome during playback will help you align tracks with the master tempo of the mix. To toggle the metronome on and off click the metronome button, located below the tracks in the lower left corner of the project window. Note that you may need to enable the metronome in the Options dialog on the Metronome tab before the metronome is available for use from the project window. See the "Options" ~ Metronome section of this manual for more information on metronome options.
Bookmarks

Bookmarks

Bookmarks are locations within your project that you might frequently want to return to. For example, you can use bookmarks to denote different parts of a song you are creating eg. intro, verse, chorus etc. You can also use bookmarks to create working regions.

The easiest way to use bookmarks in MixPad is via the Bookmark Manager dialog. You can access this dialog by clicking the Bookmarks button on the Tools tab. You can also interact with bookmarks by right clicking on the project timeline. Only the most common bookmark features are available from this point.

Click the Add button in the Bookmark Manager dialog to create a new bookmark at the current cursor location in your project. You can also fine tune the location of the bookmark by changing the parameters in the dialog box. You can specify the location of the bookmark by entering the time in hours/minutes/seconds or using musical timing notation in the form of bars and beats. You can also specify a color for the bookmark.

To edit a bookmark simply highlight the bookmark and click the Edit button in the Bookmark Manager dialog. Alternatively you can drag the bookmark on the project timeline to a new location.

When you want to return to a bookmark you have created, click the Bookmarks button on the Tools tab, and a list of bookmarks will be shown. Click the bookmark you want to return to.

To navigate between the bookmarks you select the bookmark you want to return to in the Bookmark Manager dialog.

If you have more than one bookmark in your project you can quickly select the area between the two bookmarks as a region. Creating a region in this way will allow you to create a section for looping playback and looping recording. Looping recording is a feature which allows you to record multiple takes without having to first stop and restart the recording. To select a region highlight the bookmark which will be the start of the region and click the Select Work Region button in the Bookmark Manager dialog. Remove the work region by clicking the Clear Work Region button.
Timeline Edit

Tempo Changes

MixPad supports changing tempo at a specified position. Tempo changes can be only applied to MIDI files. By default the tempo is 120 beats per minute, and you can change the tempo to any value between 30 and 280 at a beat position.

For example, if you want to change the tempo to 240 beats per minute at the beginning of bar 12, switch the timeline mode to Beats and measures either from the lower Loop & Grid tab or by right-clicking the timeline and selecting Time Display Modes -> Beats and Measures. Next, right-click the timeline, choose Insert Tempo Change, then from the Edit Tempo dialog change the tempo value to 240 and change the Bar value to 12 and Beat to 1.

Now when you turn on the metronome and load clips to play, you will hear that the metronome will change speed at the places you specified.

To edit or remove a tempo change, just right-click on the tempo change mark on the timeline and choose Edit Tempo Change or Remove Tempo Change.
Recording a Clip

The first step to recording a clip is to select your audio input options. Click the Audio Options icon on the track control panel, which will open the audio options for that track. Select the device and channels you wish to use. If you have an ASIO capable device, selecting it as the Device will give you the best possible performance with MixPad. If you have an ASIO capable sound card with multiple inputs, you can record several different sources into different tracks at the same time. Simply choose which input you would like to use for each track from the audio settings dialog.

In the same recording options window, you can also choose which Sample Rate you would like to use for recording, and whether you would like to record in stereo or mono. Click OK to save the audio settings.

Now click the Rec button on the track’s control panel to place the track into record-standby mode - MixPad will not start recording yet. Check that the audio level meter, located at the bottom of the track control panel, is registering an input. If there is no meter reading here, your audio input devices have not been set up properly.

Finally, press the main record button (found at the bottom with the other project control buttons), and MixPad will start recording.

You can easily record to multiple tracks by putting more than one track into record-standby mode. When you press the main record button, any track in record-standby mode will commence recording.

If in the recording process you are not satisfied with what has been recorded and want to restart, simply click Rerecord, MixPad will discard everything recorded and restart recording from beginning.

Multiple Take Feature

Multiple take is an advanced feature which allows you to record the same segment several times. After recording, you will have a multiple-take clip, which is one clip that contains multiple takes. You can choose the best one and delete all other takes.

To use this feature, select a region on the timeline and enable loop mode, set one or more track(s) to record mode using sound recorder, then start recording before the region. You will notice that your recording will loop from the region start to the region end. Each loop will create a take. When finished, you can use the popup menu to choose the take you want, or you can press Ctrl + Shift + P (Previous), Ctrl + Shift + N (Next) to choose the previous or next take in the multiple-take clip.

Currently this feature does not support MIDI recording.
Metronome and Pre-roll

Metronome

MixPad has a built in metronome which will tick along at the tempo and time signature specified in the project Tempo field in the mini-toolbar at the top of the project window. You can quickly switch the metronome on/off by clicking the metronome button in the same toolbar.

Pre-roll

Pre-roll is a feature which allows you to start playback or recording from a position a set amount earlier than your current cursor position. This is most useful when you are recording and you want to hear the few bars before the position of your recording.

You can set a separate amount of pre-roll for both playback and recording in the Options dialog.

You can quickly enable/disable the pre-roll function by clicking on the button in the mini-toolbar at the top of the project window.
MIDI Playback

MixPad supports the playback of MIDI files. Unlike most digital audio workstations, MixPad allows you to add a MIDI clip to any track - it does not distinguish between a MIDI track and an audio track. This allows you greater flexibility in your mixes.

You add a MIDI clip to your project the same way you add a normal audio clip - either by dragging and dropping or from one of the Load options under the 'Clip' menu.

It is important to note that a MIDI clip is not an audio file. It is just a sequence of instructions which can be sent to a synthesizer which can then convert the instructions into audible notes. As such, if you wish to playback your MIDI clips you will need to select an output device to play back to. If you have an external MIDI synthesizer then this will be your best option because the latency is likely to be very low and you will keep good synchronization between your MIDI clips and audio clips. If you do not have an external MIDI device then you can use the built in Microsoft synthesizer. Please note that the built in synthesizer has a significant lag which can make synchronization difficult.

MIDI files can contain more than one MIDI track. If you load a track into MixPad that contains multiple tracks, MixPad will give you the option to merge all the tracks into one clip, or separate them out in individual clips.

MIDI volume control is a little bit different from audio. Currently, if you want to control one midi clip volume, you have to use VST Instrument. Or you can use the master volume control on the right bottom of MixPad, which controls all the midi device volume and audio volume. You can't adjust one single midi clip volume directly while playing through midi device.
MIDI Recording

MixPad supports live recording of MIDI input from MIDI capable devices. You can record a MIDI clip into any of your tracks - even tracks that already contain audio files.

In order to record a MIDI clip you will need to first configure your MIDI input settings:

1. Click the Audio Options icon on the track you would like to record into. You should see the Audio Options dialog for that track appear.
2. Under Recording Options, select the 'Record using a MIDI device' option.
3. Select the MIDI device you wish to use for recording from the pulldown list.

The rest of the recording process is basically the same as it is for recording audio.

1. Put the track into record-standby mode by clicking the Rec button.
2. Start recording by clicking the MixPad record button at the bottom of the screen.
3. Start playing your MIDI device. You should see the MIDI in light, located in the track control panel, illuminate every time MixPad receives a MIDI event.
MIDI Editing

MixPad allows you to edit MIDI files using a special MIDI editor window. To edit a MIDI clip, simply select that clip and press 'CTRL+E' or right click on the clip and select 'Edit Clip' from popup menu. This will open the clip in the MIDI editor.

From this editor you can do the following:

- Move MIDI notes around - grab the note with the mouse and drag.
- Resize the length of MIDI notes - place the mouse cursor over the edge of the MIDI note until you see the double-arrow resizing cursor.
- Delete notes - simply select a note by clicking on it and press Delete.
- Property Panel - Property Panel contains 'Selected notes', 'Create notes' and 'Filter' three parts. You can show or hide 'Property Panel' by clicking the 'Property Panel' on the Setting Tab.
- Add new notes - Hold down the Ctrl key and click and drag the mouse in the editor where you would like the new note created. The new note's velocity and channel is determined by the settings in the Context Panel's 'Create Notes'.
- Change the properties of notes - simply select the note you would like to change, or select the note and press Ctrl+P. You will see the context panel where you can change the selected notes' property.
- Filter -- you can show/hide notes by channels. If you do not want to see all note on channel 0, then just untick check box of channel 0.
- Copy & Paste -- After selecting a note by clicking on it, press Copy to save the selection to the clipboard. By pressing and holding the Ctrl key as you click, you can select multiple notes at ones. Then click on Paste to add those copied notes on to the rollout. They will be added where the cursor on the timeline is located.
- Quantize and Humanize -- Quantize can let you align notes' start, length etc to divisions. And Humanize is the reverse of Quantize which introduces random errors for notes' start position, length etc.
- VSTi -- Apply an effect to the MIDI by using Virtual Studio Technology DLL plugins you have downloaded. For more info please refer to topic "VSTs".
- Events List -- Events list window lists all events including program change, controller change events etc.

You can leave the MIDI editor window open while you work on your MixPad project. Changes you make to the MIDI clip are immediately reflected in the main MixPad window.

Shortcuts for MIDI Editing
- Add note [Left Click + Drag OR Double Left Click]
- Delete note [Ctrl + Left Click]
- Duplicate note/s [Ctrl + Drag selected note/s]
- Resize note [Left Click on the note edge + Drag]
- No snap to the grid [Hold Shift, while performing other actions]
- Select notes [Right Click + Drag]
- Zoom [Mouse Wheel]
- Scroll vertically [Alt + Mouse Wheel]
- Scroll horizontally [Middle Click + Drag]
Beat Designer

The Beat Designer is a utility which lets you build a beat track for your project. To open the beat designer, click the Beat Designer button on the Tools tab. To help get you started, there is a kit of sounds and patterns available for free download - just click on File->Download Kits and Patterns.

Tool Panel
The tool panel is located in the bottom-left corner beside the timeline and contains controls for adjusting the tempo (BPM), time signature and length (in bars) of the beat clip you are creating. Changing their value will change the scale of the timeline.

Beat Divisions
You can subdivide each beat in a track to create smaller beat durations. So, for your kick drum you may have a kick every 1/4 quarter note, but for your hi-hat you may have a hit every 1/8 note. To change the beat divisions click on the spanner icon of the track and change the number of divisions.

Adding a Beat
The sound a track makes is determined by the sound that is assigned to it. You can create and manage sounds using the Sound tab from the main toolbar. You can assign a sound to a track by clicking on the button with the trumpet icon. You add sounds to your track by simply clicking on the division you would like to place a sound.

Adjusting the Volume
You can change the volume of each individual sound by dragging the small fader control in the centre of each beat up or down. If the sound you are using consists of only one file then the volume will be attenuated by processing the audio. You can however configure your sound to use multiple files assigned to different volume ranges. In this case MixPad will choose the file which most closely fits the fader volume and then apply further processing to adjust the volume as required.

Tapping a Rhythm
If you'd like to tap a rhythm into the Beat Designer while playing back, you can bind a key to each track so that when you hit the key, a sound will be placed in the division at the current cursor position. You can assign a key binding by clicking on the spanner icon of the track.

Loading your Beat Clip Back Into MixPad
Once you are finished building your beat clip, click the Create Clip button on the toolbar and MixPad will create a new audio clip in the selected track of MixPad's main window.

Pattern Library
A pattern is just a sequence of events played across the tracks of your beat clip. You can save and load your favorite patterns from the pattern library by using the Save Pattern and Load Pattern buttons. Patterns can be re-used with different sounds and kits. So you may have a standard 4/4 rock pattern that you like to begin with, but you can change it up quickly by assigning different sounds to the tracks.
A kit contains a list of sounds configured for each track. Saved kits can be loaded into the Beat Designer by selecting the kit from the library list at the left side of the Beat Designer. At any time, you can save your current configuration as a new kit using the Save Kit button.

Managing Sounds
You can create and modify your library of sounds using the Sound tab.

The simplest form of a sound consists of a single audio file. This file will then be used for all volume ranges. You can create a more sophisticated sound by assigning different files to different volume ranges. For example you may have a recording of a cymbal being hit at different strengths. You can load all these files and then assign each file to its own volume range. Now when this sound is used, MixPad will use the file belonging to the correct volume range. Doing this can give a more natural sound to your audio.

Humanize
The Humanize tool introduces minor randomised timing errors to the onset of each beat to make it sound more like a human is playing rather than a machine. Click the Humanize button on the Tools tab and adjust the degree of error you want to introduce, then click the Humanize button to apply. Setting the degree of error to 0 will clear all errors.

Quantize
Quantizing is the reverse of humanizing. It will re-align all your beat sounds to exactly on the beat grid. Clicking this button is the same as using the Humanize feature and setting the degree of error to 0.
Exporting

When you are happy with your mix, you will probably want to export it to an audio file, such as .wav or .mp3, so that it can be played by normal players or burnt to a CD. To do this in MixPad go to File --> Export project as Audio file. You will see a dialog box called Export Options. Here, you can use the Browse button to select where, and in which format, you would like your mixed project to be saved. Once you have selected the location and file type, you can click the Settings button which will allow you to define the settings MixPad will use when exporting.

There are several options available when exporting:

Export selected work region only
Selecting this option will only export the region of your project inside the working region you have selected. To select a working region you can set the start and end points of the region in the main project timeline.

Render unassigned MIDI tracks using the Microsoft Wavetable synth
The best way to export a project containing MIDI is to render your MIDI clips and then add them back into your project as normal audio clips. However, MixPad offers the option of rendering your MIDI clips during export using the built in Microsoft synthesizer. If you would like to use that option then you can select this option.

Tag exported audio file with project meta-data
Select this option if you would like MixPad to add meta-data tags to your exported file so that music libraries can display information about your track such as Artist and Album. You can edit the project meta-data by going to the main window and clicking Edit --> Edit Audio Tags...
Cloud Support

Dropbox MixPad allows you to directly upload and download your project from your Dropbox account. To upload your project select File->Cloud Upload/Download->Save Project to Dropbox. This will save all files necessary for your MixPad project to be opened on another computer.

SoundCloud
You can upload your final mix directly to your SoundCloud account by selecting File->Cloud Upload/Download->Upload Mix to SoundCloud.
History Manager

Each time you complete an action with MixPad, MixPad stores that action in a history list. To revert back to the previous state prior to your last action, you can simply undo the last action by pressing Ctrl+Z on your keyboard or by clicking the Undo button on the Editing tab. To manage several steps back, you may want to use the History Manager, found by clicking the History Manager item in the Edit menu. The History Manager displays a list of all your actions in the project during the current session. Select an action to preview your project with the corresponding action, and close the window with an action selected to revert your project back to that action.
Clip Manager

The Clip Manager is a floating window that shows all clips inside your project. You can open the Clip Manager by clicking on Clip Manager in the Tools tab. Sometimes clips are very short and not easy to select, you can open the Clip Manager and select Short Clips. Also you can right click on Clip Manager and choose the commands from the context menu.
Effects

MixPad allows you to build a live effect chain on each track. A live effect chain means that any effect you apply will be applied during playback, which eliminates the need to wait for your audio to render with the effect. To create or edit an effect, simply click the Fx button in the track control panel. MixPad will present you with a window showing the list of effects currently applied to the selected track. Click Add Effect to add a new effect, the new added effect will be highlighted which means it is selected and the checkbox before the effect indicates that it is enabled. If you select an existing effect, you can see and edit all the effect’s properties. Select an effect and click Remove Effect to remove the effect from the chain. If you untick the checkbox next to an effect you can disable the effect but still keep it in your chain.

Once you setup the effect chain, you can save that effect chain to a file by clicking on Save Effect Chain. You can also load effect chains into a track by clicking Load Effect Chain.

Effects

Amplify

To ‘amplify’ is to increase the loudness or volume. The volume is entered as a percentage: 100 being no change, 50 being -6dB softer or 200 being +6dB louder.

Chorus

The chorus sound effect is used to make one voice or instrument sound like 3 voices or instruments by playing the original with variably-delayed and slightly pitch-changed copies of the original.

Note: Chorus is a very useful way to make a mono source sound stereo. You should convert your file to stereo before applying the chorus effect.

Dynamic Range Compressor

A Dynamic Range Compressor limits the volume levels of a sound recording so that it stays within a certain loudness range. An example of where it is used is in TV broadcasting, where it ensures that the volume levels of ads are perceived as being louder than the television program itself, without any change in the actual broadcast volume.

It also has a use for recording audio from one medium to another, where the two mediums are not capable of handling the same range of volume levels (e.g., A CD can handle a much greater range than a cassette tape).

The "Threshold" setting works by detecting when the sound recording volume exceeds a defined decibel level. It then gradually attenuates the sound to bring it down below the dB level, and does it in such a way that the listener will not be aware the attenuation is occurring.
The "Ratio" setting limits the amount the volume level of the recording increases at any one time. If, for example, you wanted the volume levels of a recording to only increase by at most 1/4 of the amount they would normally increase, then this would correspond to a Ratio of 4:1. So if the recording volume level increased by 8dB, then you would only hear a 2dB volume increase.

The "Limit" setting defines at what maximum decibel level the sound recording will be allowed to rise up to. So if, for example, the Limit was set to 0dB, then you will never hear the volume level of the recording get louder than 0dB. The Limit setting has similarities to the Threshold setting, but the main difference is that the Threshold does allow sounds to go above the defined decibel level (for a short time), whereas the Limit does not.

You will find that the minimum Limit volume you can set is the same as the maximum Threshold value. This basically means that, in any situation, the sound will start to attenuate at the threshold level, but will never be heard louder than the limit.

Distortion

While normally we do everything to reduce distortion, sometimes you want to add it. It is popular for use with guitars. The distortion is measured between 0.0 (off) and 1.0 (clipping). The level where it kicks in can also be specified in dB. For a more consistent sound, you should apply Dynamic Range Compression first before you add distortion.

Echo

An echo is a repeat of the sound after a short time. It can sound like the person or instrument is in a large stadium or is shouting between two mountains. Specify the duration and amplitude of the echo. The duration is the length of time after which the sound repeats - usually this is between 400 and 1000ms. The amplitude can be between 1 - 99% (99 being a very loud echo).

Flanger

A Flanger sound effect is created by mixing a slightly delayed signal that is slowly modulated over time with the original. You specify the starting delay time (default 5ms), the frequency of modulation in times per second (default 0.5Hz which is 2 seconds) the depth of modulation (default 50%) and the wet dry gain (100% for wet, 0% for dry).

Tremolo

The tremolo sound effect is similar to the vibrato effect, except that the amplitude pulsates rather than the pitch. The higher the Frequency (Hz) set, the more often the pulsation will be heard, and the higher the Depth (%), the deeper the fluctuation in volume.

WahWah

As the name suggests, the effect modulates a specified frequency band within the sample, which results in the characteristic "Wah wah" sound. The effect is a bandpass filter with its center frequency (not to be confused with the center frequency parameter, below) alternating between a min frequency and max frequency (specified by the center frequency and depth parameters) and from max frequency to min frequency. The frequency of alternating direction is represented as a triangular wave with a frequency specified by the wah frequency parameter.
Resonance: also known as Q or emphasis, this parameter controls the resonant peak of the bandpass filter. This value determines the sharpness of the wah-wah effect. Higher values produce more resonant/peaky tones.

Depth: this parameter determines the frequency range swept by the bandpass filter. Its range is specified as a percentage of the range (0 to center frequency). If the value of the percentage of the range (0, center frequency) is specified as X, the min and max frequencies are (center frequency - X) and (center frequency + X).

Center Frequency: This parameter is the center frequency of the bandpass filter sweep, and is used to determine the min and max frequencies as mentioned above.

Wah Frequency: This is the frequency of alternating the direction of the sweep, or the frequency of the wah-wah sound. It is the frequency of the triangular wave described above.

High-Pass Filter

A high-pass filter (sometimes called a low cut filter) removes all low frequencies below a specified Hz. This is useful if you want to make your recording sound 'clearer' or less 'muddy'. It is very usual to use a high-pass filter of about 300Hz on all voice recordings to improve intelligibility.

Low-Pass Filter

A low-pass filter (sometimes called a high cut filter) removes all high frequencies above a specified Hz.

Reverb

Reverb is many small randomized reflections of a sound that come after a set time. It is most noticeable in when someone is speaking in a room, hall, etc. When you record in a studio, there is usually very little reverb which can make the recording sound flat. Adding reverb to your tracks can help to make the recording feel more 'live.' The reverb level is the amplitude - 99 is very wet, 0 is dry. The time can be between 100 and 800ms - 200ms sounds like a small room or 800ms sound like a large hall.

Equalizer (Visual, Graphic, Parametric)

Please refer to topic "Equalizer".

Pitch Correction

Pitch correction is a powerful tool that can be used to make minor adjustments to a voice's pitch. Load a voice clip, select the part of the clip that needs to be adjusted, click the Pitch Correction button on the toolbar to open the pitch correction window.

In the Pitch Correction window, you can see the voice in notes. If needed, add some envelope points to the red envelope line, and drag the points to increase or decrease the pitch at the desired places. After adjustment, click the Apply Pitch button and then you will get the corrected vocal voice.
Surround Sound

Please refer to topic "Surround Sound".
Equalizer

An equalizer changes the frequency response of a signal so it has different tonal qualities.

After you add Equalizer effect you will see a panel containing three different Equalizer representations. Use the tabs at the top to select between the FFT Equalizer, Graphic, and Parametric Equalizer views.

**FFT Equalizer**

Left click on any point to create a new band point. To remove a band point right click on it. To assist you with shaping the Equalizer graph in the way you want, there is a preset list that displays the most common sorts of filters used in the Equalizer graph. You can choose any preset filter from the list and then manipulate the filter to achieve the effect you desire. The list of filters to choose from and how you can shape them are explained below. Note that all fields where a frequency value is entered can have a maximum value of 20000 (Hertz).

**Graphic Equalizer**

The Graphic Equalizer uses discrete sliders to set the gain or attenuation of a signal at a particular frequency. You can select how many sliders you would like to manipulate by entering a value between 3 and 20 in the box at the top of the display. When you change the number of sliders you would like to utilize, the frequencies are automatically allocated to best span the audible frequency range from 20Hz to 20kHz. Selecting presets allows you to easily configure common filters such as low pass or high pass. Note that when you change the Graphic Equalizer, the FFT and Parametric Equalizer views are not changed, as the changes in the three views are not compatible.

**Parametric Equalizer**

The Parametric Equalizer is similar to the Graphic Equalizer, but with more control. Here you can adjust the frequency and bandwidth of the individual sliders by left clicking on the frequency or Q values below each slider. Frequency must be set between 20Hz and 20,000 Hz. The Q parameter must be set between 0.05 and 20. A higher Q causes the gain or attenuation peak at the frequency to be much sharper, and therefore less likely to impact adjacent frequency content, while a lower Q applies the modification more smoothly across the frequency spectrum.

**Band Pass Filter**

Keeps only those frequencies in the audio between a certain range. **Start Frequency** The lower cutoff frequency value, in Hertz. **End Frequency** is the upper cutoff frequency value, in Hertz. **Slope Length** is the width of the slope extending from the lower and upper cutoff points, in Hertz. **Amplitude** is the degree that the frequencies outside the cutoff range are suppressed. 50% means the volume is reduced to one-half, 25% means the volume is reduced to one-quarter. Maximum value is 100%.

**Band Stop Filter**


Keeps all frequencies in the audio except those between a certain range. Start Frequency is the lower stop frequency, in Hertz. End Frequency is the upper stop frequency, in Hertz. Slope Length is the width of the slope extending from the lower and upper stop points, in Hertz. Amplitude is the degree that the frequencies inside the stop range are suppressed. 50% means the volume is reduced to one-half, 25% means the volume is reduced to one-quarter. Maximum value is 100%.

High Pass Filter
Keeps only those frequencies in the audio above a certain value. Pass Frequency is the point at which all frequencies above are to be kept, in Hertz. Slope Length is the width of the slope extending from the pass frequency, in Hertz. Amplitude is the degree that the frequencies below the pass range are suppressed. 50% means the volume is reduced to one-half, 25% means the volume is reduced to one-quarter. Maximum value is 100%.

Low Pass Filter
Keeps only those frequencies in the audio below a certain value. Pass Frequency is the point at which all frequencies below are to be kept, in Hertz. Slope Length is the width of the slope extending from the pass frequency, in Hertz. Amplitude is the degree that the frequencies above the pass range are suppressed. 50% means the volume is reduced to one-half, 25% means the volume is reduced to one-quarter. Maximum value is 100%.

Notch Filter
Attenuates the frequencies in the specified range to very low levels and passes all other frequencies unaltered. There is no slope - frequencies are either attenuated or not. Start Frequency is the lower cutoff frequency value, in Hertz. End Frequency is the upper cutoff frequency value, in Hertz.

Boost/Cut Filter
Either attenuates or boosts frequencies in the specified range and passes all others unaltered. Start Frequency is the lower boost/cut frequency value, in Hertz. End Frequency is the upper boost/cut frequency value, in Hertz. Slope Length is the width of the slope extending from the lower and upper boost/cut points, in Hertz. Amplitude is the degree that the frequencies inside the boost/cut range are either boosted or cut. 200% means the volume is boosted to twice the original amount, and 50% means the volume is cut to half the original amount. Maximum value is 200%. If you are using the equalizer simply to drop lower frequencies, you should always try the High Pass filter first (Effects menu -> High Pass Filter), because it is better and faster for very low frequencies.
Surround Sound

The surround sound feature lets you to create a surround sound project. It is better to use DirectSound Player with a device (headphones, etc) that supports surround sound to achieve the best effect. To use the surround sound feature, set up the "Project Channels" to 5.1 or 7.1 surround in the Project tab of the Options dialog. Then open the Surround Sound dialog by clicking the Surround Sound button on the Effects tab.

There are two kinds of surround sound: static and dynamic. Static means the position of the sound source is fixed in 2D space. Dynamic means the sound source position can change while playing. In MixPad, static surround is used for tracks, and you can configure the position of each track. Dynamic is used for clips and clip positions can change along with the progress of playing in percentage.

Choose Static on the surround sound dialog and a list of all track sources will display. You can select and drag one track source on the radar display. If it is playing, you will hear the difference immediately.

Choose Dynamic surround sound and use the envelope pan to adjust the position of clip source. The envelope pan provides two point lines which allow you to control the up/down and left/right position of clip source. The red line on the envelope pan indicates the time position (percentage) of the source. You can drag the red cursor and you will notice the source will move around on the radar display. Note that in dynamic surround sound mode, dragging the source on the radar display does not alter its settings.

Once satisfied with the project, you can export the project to a "multi-channel" surround sound in .wav file format. Just click the "Export Project As Audio File" and choose surround on the popup dialog. Then MixPad will export the surround project to a single multi-channel wav file.

ASIO Channel Mapping
If your playback device is ASIO compatible, you can assign channels to your ASIO outputs. Click on Configure ASIO Channels on the Project tab of the Options dialog.
VSTs

VST and VSTi Plugin Support

MixPad supports Virtual Studio Technology (VST) plugins. You can use these plugins to enhance MixPad's capabilities. You can use effect plugins to add an effect to one of your tracks, or you can use instrument plugins to synthesize playback of MIDI files. Other plugins may provide some type of visual feedback of the audio signal.

VST plugins are available from a wide variety of sources - some are free, while others require licences. A good place to start your search is here: http://www.kvraudio.com

To add a VST effect to one of your tracks, click the Fx button in the track control panel on the left of the track. In the left hand panel of the dialog that opens you should see a sub-heading VST Effects. Any valid VST plugins you have installed will be listed underneath this sub-heading. If there are no items listed here, it means that you either do not have any VST plugins installed, or you have not configured your VST plugin path. You must tell MixPad where to look for your VST plugins. You can do this by going to the VSTs tab of MixPad's Options dialog.

Playback and Monitoring of MIDI with VST Instruments

A VST instrument (VSTi) is a special type of plugin which takes MIDI as its input and outputs audio. You can use VSTis to playback your MIDI clips and you can also use them to monitor any recordings you make using MIDI hardware. To add MIDI playback or monitoring to a track, open the track options dialog by clicking on the small spanner icon on the track controls. In the dialog that opens you should see a MIDI Playback Options option group. Select the radio button which says "Play MIDI using VST instrument" and then select which instrument you would like to use.

You can do the same for monitoring MIDI recordings in the Monitoring Options option group. Select the radio button which says "Enable MIDI monitoring via VSTi for ASIO devices" and select the instrument you would like to use from the associated pull down list.

Once you have selected a VSTi, you should be able to open your chosen plugins' GUIs via the two small keyboard icons on the control panel of each track. The button on the left opens the VSTi currently assigned for playback and the button on the right opens the GUI of the VSTi assigned to monitoring recordings.
Working with Video

Video Exporting Support

This feature allows you to replace the sound of a video file with your own project. After preparing the whole project, if you want to replace one video file's sound with your own project, click the 'Export to Video' button on the 'Mixing' Tab, then the video window will pop-up. Choose the video file you want to use and choose the export file you want MixPad to create. Then click 'Export', MixPad will create a new video file which contains the original video file's video frames and your project's sound.
Shortcut Keys Reference

Help

- MixPad Help [F1]

Closing

- Quit MixPad [Alt+F4]

Project Operations

- New Project [Ctrl+N]
- Open Project [Ctrl+O]
- Close Project [Ctrl+F4]
- Save Project [Ctrl+S]
- Save Project As... [Ctrl+Shift+S]
- Export Project as Audio File (mp3,wav,etc)... [Ctrl+Shift+E]
- Undo [Ctrl+Z]
- Redo [Ctrl+Y]
- Add Bookmark [Ctrl+SHIFT+B]
- Goto Previous Bookmark [Ctrl+SHIFT+LEFT]
- Goto Next Bookmark [Ctrl+SHIFT+RIGHT]
- View Bookmark List [Ctrl+SHIFT+M]
- View Clip Manager [Ctrl+SHIFT+C]
- Open Beat Designer [Ctrl+B]

Track Operations

- Add Track [Ctrl+T]
- Insert Track [Ctrl+Insert]
- Delete Track [Ctrl+Shift+Delete]
- Mute Track [Ctrl+M]
- Solo Track [Ctrl+L]
- Move Track Up [Ctrl+Up Arrow]
- Move Track Down [Ctrl+Down Arrow]
- Expand Selected Track [Alt+Down Arrow]
- Collapse Selected Track [Alt+Up Arrow]

Clip Operations

- Select All Clips [Ctrl+A]
- Select All Clips of Current Track [Ctrl+Shift+A]
- Load clip from file [Ctrl+Shift+O]
- Edit clip [Ctrl+E]
- Split clip [Ctrl+Shift+T]
- Auto Beat Detection [Ctrl+Shift+D]
- Copy clip(s) [Ctrl+C]
- Copy Selected Region [Ctrl+C]
- Cut Selected Region [Ctrl+X]
- Paste clip(s) [Ctrl+V]
- Delete clip or selected region [Ctrl+Delete]
- Rename clip [F2]
- Lock/Unlock clip [Ctrl+K]
- Delete fadepoint [Delete]
- Choose previous take [Ctrl+Shift+P]
- Choose next take [Ctrl+Shift+N]
- Nudge Clips Left [Shift+Left]
- Nudge Clips Right [Shift+Right]

**Play Operations**

- Record [F5]
- Re-record [Ctrl+F5]
- Play [Space]
- Stop [Space]
- Pause [P]
- Scrub [B]
- Loop mode [Ctrl+Shift+L]
- Go to Start [Home]
- Rewind [Left Arrow]
- Fast Forward [Right Arrow]
- Go to End [End]

**Zoom Operations**

- Zoom In Horizontally [Ctrl+Plus]
- Zoom Out Horizontally [Ctrl+Minus]
- Zoom In Vertically [Ctrl+Shift+Plus]
- Zoom Out Vertically [Ctrl+Shift+Minus]
- Zoom To Full Vertically [Ctrl+Shift+V]
- Zoom Out Full Both Axes [Ctrl+Shift+F]

**MIDI Editor**

- Show note properties [Ctrl+P]
Support

You can contact NCH Software by visiting http://www.nch.com.au/support/index.html. Paid telephone and high priority support is also available for purchase.

You can also get developer and community based support from the MixPad forum page at the NCH Software forums.
Related Software

MixPad is just one of many great audio software products from NCH Software. You may find the following list of related audio software useful.

- **Wavepad Audio Editor**. A sophisticated and full featured program for editing audio recordings. Features...
  - Supports a number of file formats including wav (multiple codecs), mp3, vox, gsm, real audio, au, aif, flac, ogg and many more.
  - Sound editing functions including cut, copy, paste, delete, insert, silence, auto-trim and more.
  - Audio effects including amplify, normalize, equalizer, envelope, reverb, echo, reverse, sample rate conversion and more.
  - Tools including spectral analysis (FFT), tone generation and speech synthesis.
  - Audio restoration features including noise reduction and click pop removal.
  - Supports sample rates from 6000 to 96000Hz, stereo or mono, 8, 16, 24 or 32 bits.
  - Ability to work with multiple files at the same time in separate screens.
  - Includes a CD ripper to load audio directly and quickly from CD.
  - CD burner function allows you to burn your sound files to CD.
  - Recorder supports auto-trim and voice activated recording.
  - Easy to use interface will get you started running.

- **Express Burn CD/DVD/Blu-Ray Writer**. Burn your data to CD, DVD or Blu-ray with this easy to use program. Features...
  - Writes data CDs (for files), audio CDs (to be played in CD Players) data DVDs and data Blu-Ray discs (Plus Version Only).
  - Records CD Recordable (CDR) and CD Re-recordable (CDRW) discs.
  - Can seamlessly burn audio CDs with no pause between tracks.
  - Express Burn Plus can burn ISO compliant data DVDs (DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R, DVD+RW).
  - Support Joliet and CDA formats.
  - Data CDs support multilevel folders and long file names.
  - Audio CDs are recorded with direct digital recording (so perfect audio quality is maintained).
  - For Audio CDs it supports wav, mp3, wma, au, aiff, ra, ogg, flac, aac and a number of other audio file formats.
  - Data CDs are fully ISO compliant with Joliet extension.
  - Includes command line operation for automation and integration with other programs.
  - Simple, easy to use interface for day-to-day operation.

- **Express Talk VOIP Softphone**. Conduct Voice over IP (VoIP) conversations with Express Talk. Features...
  - Lets you make internet phone calls free direct PC to PC, or PC to phone via a VoIP SIP gateway provider. More information on VoIP.
  - Supports up to 6 lines on the one phone with the ability to put calls on hold.
- Works with a headset or in speakerphone mode with just a standard microphone and set of speakers.
- Includes data compression (GSM, uLaw, ALaw, PCM and G726), echo cancellation, noise reduction, comfort noise and more.
- Uses the standard SIP protocol so it can link to a broad range of telephone gateways, SIP systems or other internet phone software. See our list of recommended VoIP (SIP) service providers.
- Can be configured to work behind NATs and Firewalls.
- Supports caller ID display and logging.
- Includes a phone book with quick dial.
- Supports call transfer (Business Edition).
- Lets you record phone calls to wav (Business Edition).
- Allows up to 6 people to join one call using the Call conferencing feature (Business Edition).
- Allows for quicker and easier communication using the Push to talk intercom (Business Edition).
- Includes Do not disturb button (Business Edition).
- Also features more advanced line configuration options in the Express Talk Business Edition.
- Works with our VoIP Virtual PBx to create a LAN based PBx for offices or call centers.
- Used in conjunction with the VRS Call Recording Software, can record and save phone calls to MP3, wav and more.
- Plays on-hold music to callers on hold. Can also link to the IMS On-Hold Messages Player Software to create professional mixes of music and messages on the fly.

- **Twelve Keys Music Transcription Software**. Learn to play and transcribe your audio recordings using this music transcriber. Features...
  - Analyzes and graphs monotone and polyphonic audio recordings
  - Play your recording and watch the notes go past in real time
  - Rip files from CDs
  - Configurable settings to get the clearest graphs possible
  - Support for foot pedals to allow hands free operation
  - Slow down or speed up recordings without changing the pitch
  - Tone-enabled piano keyboard to assist in identifying notes
  - Stereo channel separation
  - Ability to loop a section of the recording
  - Quick and easy operation

- **Express Rip CD Ripper**. Rip files from music CDs to audio files like wav or mp3. Features...
  - Converts audio CD tracks to wav or mp3 files.
  - Quality CD digital audio extraction (ripping).
  - Fastest CD Ripper available.
  - Complete control over mp3 encoding including constant and variable modes at selectable bitrates.
  - Automatically links to the CDDB database to obtain track name information.
  - Simple, easy to use interface.
**SoundTap Streaming Audio Recorder.** Record internet audio streams in perfect digital quality. Features...

- Pure digital recording. No analogue conversion like other internet radio recorders.
- Records any sound you can play on your PC.
- Lets you listen as you record (optional).
- Records Voice Over IP conversations.
- Saves files in wav or mp3 format with a wide range of selected codec and compression options.
- Recordings can be searched easily by date, time, duration or format.
- Directly links to the WavePad Sound Editor Software so you can edit the files you have recorded.
- Directly links to the Switch Mp3 File Converter Software so you can convert the files from mp3 to over 20 other file formats if you need it in another format.
- Directly links to the Express Burn CD Burner Software to record to CD.
- Very easy to install and use.

**Switch Audio Converter.** Convert your audio recordings to different audio formats using this fast and easy conversion tool. Features...

- Converts a variety of different audio file formats including wav, mp3, ogg, flac, aac, wma, au, aiff, ogg, msv, dvf, vox, atrac, gsm, dss and other formats into mp3 or wav, plus more formats supported.
- MPEG Layer-3 encoder supports constant or variable bit rates from 8 to 320kbps with optional error correction and stereo modes.
- WAV encoder support sample rates between 6000 and 196000Hz in PCM or a number of other codecs.
- Up to 32000 files can be converted in one batch.
- Optimized CPU usage and efficient code for fastest conversion times.
- Switch Sound File Converter integrates directly with other sound software programs including Express Burn for CD Recording, Express Rip for Direct CD Ripping, WavePad for Sound File Editing, RecordPad for Professional Sound Recording and Express Scribe for Typing Voice Recordings.
- Can be run from the command line for automation and other programming applications.
- Switch audio file converter is intuitive and easy to use interface.

- Click here to view a full list of other great software products available from NCH Software.
Recommended hardware

There are lots of hardware and devices that work with MixPad. The following is the recommended hardwares

- Click here to view AltoEdge's hardware products.
NCH Software Suite

This is a useful way to browse all the software available from NCH Software.

You can see a set of products by type like Audio, Video and so on and view the product. From there you can try out the product and it will download and install it for you to trial. If you already have the product installed then you can click "Run It Now" and the program will be launched for you.

There is also a list of features for products in the category. Click on a feature, such as "Edit a Video File", to install a product with that ability.

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7. Use of data collected by the software is subject to the NCH Software Privacy Statement which allows automatic anonymized collection of usage statistics in limited circumstances.

8. Choice of Law. If you reside in the United States, your relationship is with NCH Software, Inc, a United States company, and this agreement is governed by the laws and courts of Colorado. If you reside anywhere in the world outside of the United States, your relationship is with NCH Software Pty Ltd, an Australian company, and this agreement is governed by the laws and courts of the Australian Capital Territory. Such courts have continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over any dispute between you and us, regardless of the nature of the dispute.

9. U.S. Customers Only: Arbitration Agreement and Class Action Waiver: PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY. IT MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.
If you reside in the United States, NCH Software and you agree to arbitrate all disputes and claims between us. This agreement to arbitrate is intended to be broadly interpreted. References to "NCH" "you," and "us" include our respective subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, employees, predecessors in interest, successors, and assigns. This arbitration agreement does not preclude you from bringing issues to the attention of U.S. federal, state, or local agencies. Such agencies can, if the law allows, seek relief against us on your behalf. This Agreement evidences a transaction in interstate commerce, and thus the Federal Arbitration Act governs the interpretation and enforcement of this provision. This arbitration provision shall survive termination of this Agreement.

A party who intends to seek arbitration must first send to the other, by certified mail, a written Notice of Dispute ("Notice"). The Notice to NCH should be addressed to:

Legal Department

NCH Software, Inc.

6120 Greenwood Plaza Blvd, Ste 120

Greenwood Village CO, 80111

USA

("Notice Address"). The Notice must (a) describe the nature and basis of the claim or dispute; and (b) set forth the specific relief sought ("Demand"). If NCH and you do not reach an agreement to resolve the claim within 30 days after the Notice is received, you or NCH may commence an arbitration proceeding. The amount of any settlement offer made by NCH or you shall not be disclosed to the arbitrator.

A. The arbitration will be governed by the Commercial Arbitration Rules and the Supplementary Procedures for Consumer Related Disputes (collectively, "AAA Rules") of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), as modified by this Agreement, and will be administered by the AAA. The AAA Rules are available online at adr.org, by calling the AAA at 1-800-778-7879, or by writing to the Notice Address. The arbitrator is bound by the terms of this Agreement. All issues are for the arbitrator to decide, including issues relating to the scope and enforceability of the arbitration provision. Unless NCH and you agree otherwise, any arbitration hearings will take place in Greenwood Village Colorado. If your claim is for $10,000 or less, we agree that you may choose whether the arbitration will be conducted solely on the basis of documents submitted to the arbitrator, through a telephonic hearing, or by an in-person hearing as established by the AAA Rules. If your claim exceeds $10,000, the right to a hearing will be determined by the AAA Rules. Regardless of the manner in which the arbitration is conducted, the arbitrator shall issue a reasoned written decision. NCH will pay all AAA filing, administration, and arbitrator fees for any arbitration initiated in accordance with the notice requirements above. If, however, the arbitrator finds that either the substance of your claim or the relief sought in the Demand is frivolous or brought for an improper purpose then the payment of all such fees will be governed by the AAA Rules. In such case, you agree to reimburse NCH for all monies previously disbursed by it that are otherwise your obligation to pay under the AAA Rules. In addition, if you initiate an arbitration in which you seek more than $75,000 in damages, the payment of these fees will be governed by the AAA rules.
B. The arbitrator may award declaratory or injunctive relief only in favor of the individual party seeking relief and only to the extent necessary to provide relief warranted by that party's individual claim. YOU AND NCH AGREE THAT EACH MAY BRING CLAIMS AGAINST THE OTHER ONLY IN YOUR OR ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, AND NOT AS A PLAINTIFF OR CLASS MEMBER IN ANY PURPORTED CLASS OR REPRESENTATIVE PROCEEDING. Further, unless both you and NCH agree otherwise, the arbitrator may not consolidate more than one person's claims, and may not otherwise preside over any form of a representative or class proceeding. If this specific provision is found to be unenforceable, then the entirety of this arbitration provision shall be null and void.

C. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, we agree that if NCH makes any future change to this arbitration provision (other than a change to the Notice Address) you may reject any such change by sending us written notice within 30 days of the change to the Arbitration Notice Address provided above. By rejecting any future change, you are agreeing that you will arbitrate any dispute between us in accordance with the language of this provision.

D. To opt out of this Arbitration Agreement and class action waiver send an Opt Out notice to the Notice Address stating "I am electing to opt out of the Arbitration Agreement and class action waiver contained in the Legal Terms applicable to my purchase of an NCH product." Your Opt Out Notice must include the date and proof of purchase. The Opt Out Notice must be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days after the date of purchase. A separate Opt Out Notice must be sent for each product purchased.
Google Authorization Process on Windows XP and Vista

Extra steps are required to give MixPad authorization to upload to Google Drive and/or YouTube when running on Windows XP or Windows Vista:

1. Click Authorize... in the Authorization dialog.
2. In the web page that opens, sign in to your Google account, if required.
3. Confirm that you authorize MixPad to access the requested features.
5. Click Ready to confirm that authorization is complete.
NCH Sound Library - NCH Sound Library

The NCH Sound Library is a collection of thousands of royalty-free sound effects that can be added to your project.

Once you have opened the library, you'll see the following:

Folder Tree

On the left hand side, each folder represents a category of sounds. Expand a folder to either see its subfolders or a list of sounds it contains.

Sound List

On the right hand side, all the sounds in the currently selected category are listed. This will be empty until a category is selected.

Preview Sound

Select a sound in the list then click the Play button to hear it. When you have finished, click .

Download

Select a sound in the list then click the Download button to download the sound (if it hasn't already been downloaded).
Screen References - Advanced Recording Options

Automatic Recording

The recording can be automatically started when either the Record Control dialog is opened or when the audio to be recorded reaches the threshold level. Additionally any quiet periods at the start and the end of the recording that is below the threshold level can be trimmed.

Auto Start Recording

The recording will automatically start when the Record Control dialog is opened, you will not need to select the record button.

Auto Trim Recording

Trim the recording to remove any quiet periods from the start and ending of the recording. Use the threshold slider to specify the cutoff level. Voice Activated Recording

Automatically start the recording when the audio level reaches the threshold.

Threshold:

Use the slider to set the threshold level for the recording. Used for both the auto trim and the voice activated start.
Screen References - Opus Encoder Options

Encode audio into the Opus format.

Bitrate

Target bitrate in kbit/sec (6-256 per channel) In VBR mode this specifies the average rate for a large and diverse collection of audio. In CVBR and Hard-CBR mode it specifies the specific output bitrate. Default for >=44.1kHz input is 64kbps per mono stream, 96kbps per coupled pair.

Use default bitrate encoding

In default mode, encoder will choose bitrate automatically. For >=44.1kHz input is 64kbps per mono stream, 96kbps per coupled pair.

Use variable bitrate encoding

In VBR mode the bitrate may go up and down freely depending on the content to achieve more consistent quality.

Use constrained variable bitrate encoding

Outputs to a specific bitrate. This mode is analogous to CBR in AAC/MP3 encoders and managed mode in vorbis coders. This delivers less consistent quality than VBR mode but consistent bitrate.

Use hard constant bitrate encoding

With hard-cbr every frame will be exactly the same size, similar to how speech codecs work. This delivers lower overall quality but is useful where bitrate changes might leak data in encrypted channels or on synchronous transports.

Down mix (None)

Don't down mix, keep the channels same as source.

Downmix to mono

Force to Downmix to mono.

Downmix to stereo

Downmix to stereo if input channels > 2.
Screen References - Detecting MIDI Event

Detecting MIDI events

Press buttons, push sliders or adjust knobs on your hardware, you will see the MIDI events generated by your hardware. That MIDI event will be associated with a command and the command will be executed whenever that MIDI event happens.
Screen References - Jog Wheel Setup

Jog Wheel Setup

FastForward(Rotate clockwise) all your jog wheels one by one and Mixpad will detect the jog wheel events and its speed. Jog wheels will be used to control FastForward and Rewind in Mixpad. If you accidentally touch other Controllers(sliders or keys) on your hardware, you can use Clear All to clear all events and rotate all your jog wheels again.

When you rotate the jog wheel, your hardware will generate a MIDI event which contains the rotating speed. Generally, the speed is between 65 to 127 if you rotate clockwise and 0 to 63 if counter-clockwise. For example, 65 means rotating clockwise at the lowest speed and 0 means rotating counter-clockwise at the highest speed. Inside the Jog Wheel group the Start input means the lowest speed value and End input means the highest speed value. Please refer to your hardware manual for those values.
Screen References - Rename Clip

Enter a new name for the selected clip in the text field. This will only change the name of the file within MixPad; it will not change the file name from the location you loaded the file from.
Screen References - Select Speed

You can control the speed the audio plays back at. Normal speed is at 100%, half speed is 50%, and double speed is 200%.
Screen References - Stretch or Shrink Clips

Use this feature to alter the duration of the selected clip without trimming any audio. MixPad will stretch or compress the clip to meet the specified duration. You can also use the Keep Pitch Constant option to avoid changing the pitch of the audio.
Screen References - Customize Tool Tab

Custom Tab  Select Custom Tab to display a custom tool tab before the Suite tab. You can add and remove your preferred commands to this custom tab by clicking on the Customize command. You can use this custom tab for commands which you use most frequently.
Screen References - Apply Auto Duck

Use this feature to apply an auto duck effect to some tracks. MixPad detects the volume of control track and applies volume reduction to other tracks. It is helpful if you want to lower the music background track when a vocal track is the main focus and then raise the music background when the vocal track is silent.

Suppose Track 1 is selected as a control track and the auto duck effect is applied to Track 2, Mixpad will detect the volume level of Track 1 and once that volume crosses over the threshold configured a dB reduction, a Fade-In and Fade-out will be applied to Track 2 automatically. When Track 1’s volume is lower than the threshold, Track 2 will return to its original volume level.
Audio Playback

If you have more than one sound card installed select the sound card that you want MixPad to use using the Sound Play Device pull down list. If you select an ASIO device you can also choose which output channels to use.

We suggest to use DirectSound or ASIO device(s) as your playback device, because they have much better performance and quality than MME. If you choose MME device and try to start playing again while mixpad is playing, the delay and interruption is obvious.

Offset recordings (adjustment for hardware latency): If the recordings you are making with MixPad are not perfectly synchronized with each other, then you may have hardware latency issues. You can specify an offset in milliseconds here which will automatically adjust your recordings. This option is only available if you are using an MME recorder. The issue of latency should not affect you if you are using an ASIO capable sound device and selecting the ASIO drivers for both playback and recording.
Screen References - Options ~ Messages

Warn when deleting a clip

Check this box if you would like to be warned whenever you try to delete a clip from the project window.

Warn when deleting a track

Check this box if you would like to be warned whenever you try to delete a track from the project window.

Ask to render MIDI files when panning

Check this box if you would like to be prompted to render your MIDI clips when you change the pan on a track which contains MIDI clips.

Warn when using different devices

Check this box if you would like to be warned whenever you try to use ASIO device and DS/MME device at the same time.

Warn when moving locked clips

Check this box if you would like to be warned whenever you try to move locked clips.

Warn when using MME devices

Check this box if you would like to be warned whenever you try to use MME device.

Warn about ASIO latency problems

Check this box if you would like to be warned when MixPad is experiencing latency issues with ASIO hardware.

Tell me when creating a beat clip was successful

Check this box if you would like to be notified when you successfully create a beat clip using the beat designer

Tell me when one or more Beat Designer tracks have no sound assigned

Check this box if you would like to be notified when one or more Beat Designer tracks have no sound assigned
Screen References - Options ~ Metronome

Choose a custom metronome sound

Check this box if you would like to choose your own metronome sound. Otherwise, MixPad will use the default metronome sound.

Use the metronome volume slider to control how loud the metronome sound is played when it is enabled.

Only play metronome during pre-roll while recording tracks

Select this box to have the metronome only make a sound while it is in the pre-roll phase. This can help if you want to be counted into a recording but then would prefer time based on other already recorded tracks.

Pre-roll settings

Enable Pre-roll

Check this box to have the current pre-roll settings apply to your project

Playing Pre-roll (beats):

Configure this value from 0 to 280 to decide how many beats before playback. 0 means start playback immediately.

Recording Pre-roll (beats):

Configure this value between 0 and 280 to decide how many beats to wait before recording. 0 means start recording immediately.
Screen References - Options ~ Mouse

Zoom options

Zoom to mouse location

Choose this option if you would like zoom actions (such as scrolling the mouse wheel) to center on the current location of the mouse pointer.

Zoom to project cursor

Choose this option if you would like zoom actions (such as scrolling the mouse wheel) to center on the current location of the project cursor.

Mouse Zoom Options

You can choose how you would like MixPad’s zoom to work. There are two options. You can have the zoom center on the current location of the mouse in which case you should hover your mouse over the spot you would like to zoom on. Or you can choose to zoom to current project cursor location in which case you should click on the area of interest before zooming. This only works for zooming using the mouse scroll wheel - using the zoom slider and keyboard shortcuts will zoom to the current project cursor.
VSTs are plugin components (usually in the form of *.dll files) which are used to apply effects or visualisations to your audio. You can read about them in detail here.

On this tab you must select the directory where your VSTs are stored so MixPad will know where to search.
Screen References - Options ~ Project

Project Settings

Project sample rate: Select the sample rate you would like to use as your project level setting while recording and playing back using MixPad. If you are aiming for CD quality then choose 44100Hz.

Project Channels: If you want to create a surround sound project, please set up the channels as 5.1 or 7.1 surround. Otherwise please choose Stereo.

Nudge Settings

Set up the nudge offset and use SHIFT + LEFT/RIGHT key to nudge selected clips to left or right. This gives you finer control over movement when trying to adjust clip positions.
Screen References - Options ~ MIDI Controller

Enable MIDI Hardware Control

Check this item to enable control of Mixpad through external MIDI hardware.

MIDI Device

Select a MIDI device to be used as MIDI controller.

Jog Wheel Setup

Setup your jog wheels MIDI events and speed. Jog wheel’s speed values will be used to determine the rotating direction and rotating speed.

Add Command

Add a command needing to be controlled by MIDI hardware. You can only add commands that relate to the current track.

Delete Command

Remove a command that won’t be controlled by MIDI hardware. You can only remove commands that relate to the current track.

Set MIDI

Click this button to set a MIDI event for the selected command in the list.

Clear All MIDI

Click this button to clear the associated MIDI events for all commands.