

nativeKONTROL ME_APC20 User Manual

Version 1.0.5

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The Ableton Live MIDI Remote Scripts that are supplied with the software are released under the GNU Lesser General Public License. The source code for these scripts is available upon request.

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CHANGES IN THIS VERSION

General Changes:

- Create Troubleshoot Log will now delete Live's Log.txt after generation.
- Live script transfer will now remove old Live scripts before transferring new versions.

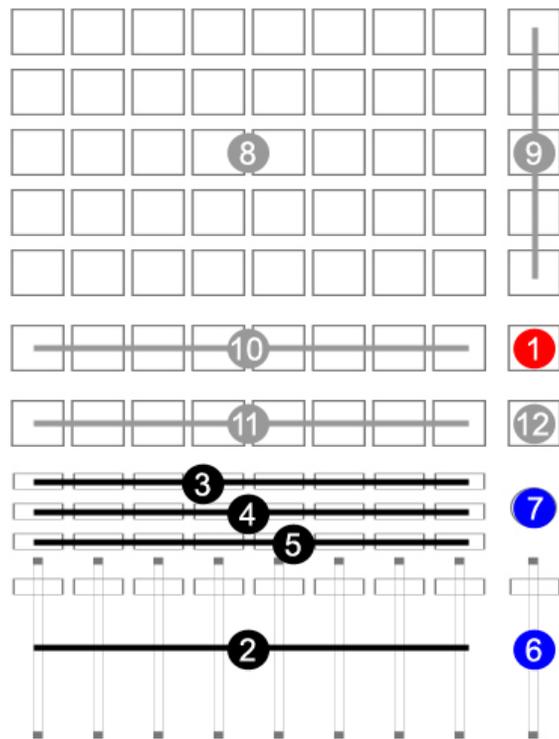
1 GENERAL CONCEPTS

ME_APC20 consists of two primary parts; the ME_APC20 application itself and the ME_APC20 MIDI Remote Script for Live. Both ME_APC20 and Live need to be running and set up correctly in order for ME_APC20 to do its job. Information on the settings you need to make in both ME_APC20 and in Live is provided in the Midi Preferences window, which you can access via [View – Show Midi Preferences](#). The APC20 also needs to be connected/turned on.

In a nutshell, ME_APC20 allows you to create/edit presets that dictate the behavior of the APC20 as well as the operation of the associated ME_APC20 MIDI Remote Script. This allows you to create presets with different types of functionality (a performance preset, a studio preset, etc) that you can switch between on-the-fly. ME_APC20 keeps things as open as possible to allow you to create presets that fit your needs. It merely defines a General Layout, everything else is up to you.

1.1 General Layout

ME_APC20 separates the controls on the APC20 into groups of control types.



SHIFT BUTTON (1)

This is a button that is used to modify the behavior of other controls much like the Shift key on your computer's keyboard.

MIX CONTROLS (2 – 5)

These are groups of 8 controls, each of which can have 8 assignments that are accessed via Mix Mode selection. These controls are further separated into sub-groups.

- *ENCODERS (2)* – Groups of 8 encoders/faders/knobs.
- *BUTTONS (3 – 5)* – Groups of 8 buttons. These buttons also access some additional functionality when the Shift Button is pressed.

GLOBAL CONTROLS (6 – 7)

These are a group of a variable number of controls, each of which can have 2 assignments; a default assignment and a Shifted assignment that is accessed when the Shift Button is pressed. The controls are further separated into sub-groups.

- *ENCODERS (6)* – Group of variable number of encoders/faders/knobs.
- *ENDLESS ENCODER (7)* – Single endless encoder.

OTHER CONTROLS (8 – 12)

These are controls that are not modified by ME_APC20. These controls have a fixed assignment.

1.1a Additional Mix Button Functions

When the Shift Button is pressed down, the Mix Buttons access some additional functions.

MUTE/SOLO BUTTONS (3 – 4) – These will Increase/Decrease the value of the parameters assigned to Faders 1 – 8. Pressing both Mute/Solo will Reset or Toggle the value of the parameters assigned to Faders 1 – 8. For example, Mute/Solo Button 2 will Increase/Decrease the value of the parameter that Fader 2 is controlling.

ARM BUTTONS (5) – Select Mix Mode 1 – 8.

1.1b Other Control Functions

CLIP LAUNCH BUTTONS (8) – These buttons perform their default function and can also be used for playing instruments and/or MIDI mapping in User Modes (see [Special Functions](#)).

SCENE LAUNCH BUTTONS (9) – These buttons perform their default function and are also used in User Modes for switching between User Modes.

CLIP STOP BUTTONS (10) – These buttons perform their default function.

TRACK SELECT BUTTONS (11) – These buttons perform their default function.

MASTER SELECT BUTTON (12) – This button will toggle the function of the Clip Launch and Scene Launch Buttons between their default functions and User Modes. When the Shift Button is pressed down, this will select the Master Track.

1.1c Special Functions

When User Modes is selected via the Master Select Button, the Clip Launch Buttons can be used for playing instruments and/or MIDI mapping. There are five User Modes (User 1 – 5) that you can select between via the Scene Launch Buttons. Each of these uses the same note layout, but each operates on a different channel (Channel 10 – 14).



NOTES ON LEDS:

The buttons in each User Mode use alternating LED colors (Off, Amber, Red respectively). However, if a button is used for MIDI mapping, the LED color will be Green or Off depending on the value of the parameter being controlled.

When a button is not used for MIDI mapping, the LED state is static (unchanging). Pressing the button and/or sending out MIDI data from a MIDI Track in Live will not affect the LED state.

OTHER NOTES:

When User Modes is selected, the Bank Buttons on the APC20 will continue to function, but will not perform their Shifted function. Also, Combination Mode (as found in the standard APC20 Control Surface script) is not supported in ME_APC20. This may change in the future.

1.2 Creating/Editing a Preset

To edit the main assignments of Mix Controls, first choose the Mode to edit (Mode 1 – Mode 8) by using the MODE section in the **Main Window**. You can change the main assignment of a set of Mix Controls by right-clicking on the corresponding section in the Main Window and selecting a new function from the popup menu. If the assigned function is Editable, the editor for the Editable function will open. You can then use the sections in this editor for editing the Editable function.

To edit Global Control assignments, use **View – Show Global Controls Editor** to open the **Global Controls Editor**. Then, choose the Mode to edit (Default or Shifted) by using the GLOBAL MODE section in the Global Controls Editor. You can change the assignment of a Global Control by right-clicking on the corresponding section in the Global Controls Editor and selecting a new function from the popup menu.

While editing, you can test out the changes you’ve made by saving the preset (**CTRL/CMD + S**). If the preset contains unsaved changes, the title of the Main Window and other editor windows will contain an asterisks (*) to indicate that a save is needed.

Please keep in mind that, although each preset has 8 Mix Modes, you don’t necessarily need to use all 8 Mix Modes or have different assignments in each Mix Mode. Likewise, although each Global Control can have a Default and Shifted assignment, you can set up Global Controls to perform the same function for Default and Shifted. The point here is that the presets you create can be as simple or complex as your needs require.

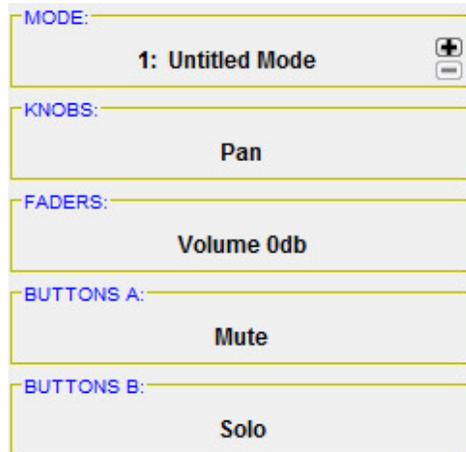
2 ME_APC20 WINDOWS

This section describes each of ME_APC20's windows as well as the functions they provide.

NOTE: The screenshots shown in this section are an approximation of what each of ME_APC20's windows will look like. The windows you will actually see may differ somewhat.

2.1 Main Window

This is the primary window you will interact with/see when using ME_APC20. This window provides info on the assigned functions of the current Mix Mode, allows you to edit these assignments and provides access to other parts of the application. Closing this window will close ME_APC20.



The **MODE** section indicates the current Mix Mode. You can select a different Mix Mode by either using the Plus/Minus buttons in this section or by right-clicking on the section and selecting a Mix Mode.

You can set the name for the current Mix Mode by right-clicking on this section and choosing *Edit Mode Name*.

You can copy the settings of the current Mix Mode to other modes or swap the settings of the current Mix Mode with another mode by right-clicking on this section and using the *Copy Mode To* or *Swap Mode With* menus.

The other sections of this window all work in the same way. Each section shows the assigned function of a set of Mix Controls for the current Mix Mode. You can change this assignment by right-clicking on a section and choosing a new function.

Some of the available functions are marked (*Editable*). Functions of this sort have their own editor, which will be opened when you select the function. You can also re-open this editor by either holding down Shift and clicking on the section or by right-clicking on the section and selecting *Edit Assignment*.

NOTE: The Main Window will not allow you to assign two sets of Mix Controls to the same function in the same Mix Mode. For example, in the screenshot, the Main Window would not allow you to assign FADERS to Pan because KNOBS are already assigned to Pan. The only exception to this rule is with the Button Key Strip (*Editable*) function and the None function. Multiple sets of Mix Controls can be assigned to these functions.

2.1a File Menu

Open Preset – (*CTRL/CMD + O*) – Open a saved preset.

Recent Presets – Display a menu of recently opened/saved presets.

Save Preset – (*CTRL/CMD + S*) – Save the current preset.

Save Preset As – Save the current preset to a new file.

Clear Recent Preset List – Remove any/all files listed in the Recent Presets menu.

Export Preset To HTML – Export the current preset to an HTML file that contains tables that show all of the preset's assignments.

Transfer ME_APC20 Script To Live – Transfer the ME_APC20 script to Live. This option should be used when updating to a new version of ME_APC20 or when installing Live to a new location.

2.1b View Menu

Show Global Controls Editor – (*CTRL/CMD + G*) – Show the **Global Controls Editor**.

Show Midi Preferences – (CTRL/CMD + P) – Show the Midi Preferences window.

Show Advanced Options – Show the [Advanced Options window](#).

Main Window: Show Info View – (CTRL/CMD + F12) – Set whether or not the Main Window will display information on assigned functions. When on, hovering your mouse cursor over a Mix Control section will display information about the current assignment.

Main Window: Use Horizontal Layout – Set whether or not the Main Window should use a horizontal layout. A vertical layout is used by default.

Main Window: Select Color – Select the color to use for the section borders in the Main Window and Strip Window.

Main Window: Show Close Confirmation – Set whether or not a confirmation dialog will be shown when an attempt is made to close the Main Window.

Main Window: Always On Top – Set whether or not the Main Window should stay on top of other windows.

Strip Window: Show – Set whether or not to show the Strip Window, which shows the Editable assignments of the current Mix Mode. When on, upon selecting a Mix Mode that contains Editable assignments, the Strip Window will be shown. Otherwise, the window will be closed.

Strip Window: Use Vertical Layout – Set whether or not the Strip Window should use a vertical layout. A horizontal layout is used by default.

2.1c Help Menu

Open User Manual – Open this manual.

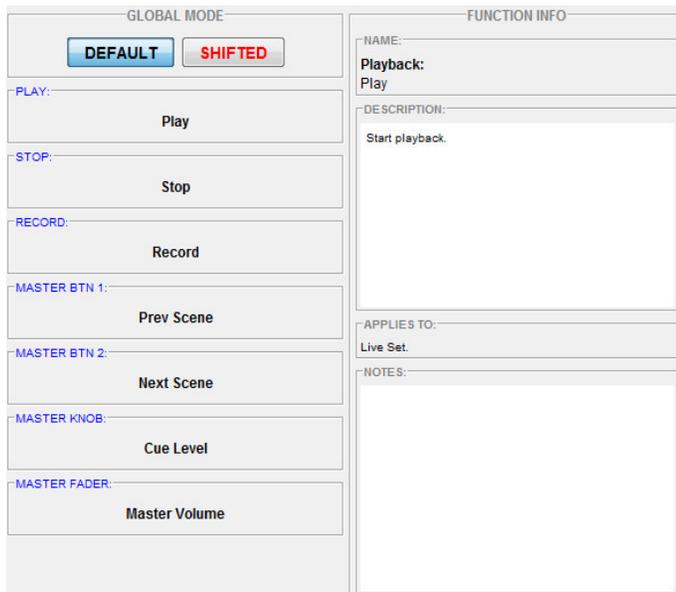
Export Function Reference To HTML – Export documentation for all of the Functions accessible in ME_APC20 to an HTML file.

Run Setup Assistant – Run the Setup Assistant utility, which provides information on the setup steps that need be completed in order to use ME_APC20.

Create Troubleshoot Log – Create a log file to assist in troubleshooting problems with ME_APC20.

2.2 Global Controls Editor

This window allows you to edit the assignments of Global Controls. You can access this window from the Main Window via View – Show Global Controls Editor.



The **GLOBAL MODE** section indicates the current Global Mode (either Default or Shifted). You can use the buttons in this section to select the Global Mode to edit.

The other sections on the left side of this window all work in the same way. Each section shows the assigned function of a Global Control for the current Global Mode. You can change this assignment by right-clicking on a section and choosing a new function.

You can see information on assigned functions by hovering your mouse cursor over a Global Control section.

NOTE: The editor will not allow you to assign two Global Controls to the same function in the same Global Mode. For example, in the screenshot, the editor would not allow you to assign MASTER FADER to Cue Level because MASTER KNOB is already assigned to Cue Level.

2.3 Track Strip Editor

This window allows you to edit the Track Strip (Editable) function. The Track Strip (Editable) function controls parameters on the selected Track. This editor allows you to choose which parameters should be controlled.

To access this window, you first need to assign a set of Mix Controls to Track Strip (Editable) in the [Main Window](#).

CONTROLS		FUNCTION INFO	
1:	Volume	NAME:	General: Out Route
2:	Pan	DESCRIPTION:	Control Track Output Routing.
3:	Send A	APPLIES TO:	Ungrouped Audio or MIDI Tracks.
4:	Send B	NOTES:	This function is not compatible with Live's Takeover Mode.
5:	Send C		
6:	Send D		
7:	In Route		
8:	Out Route		

All of the sections on the left side of this window work in the same way. Each section shows the assigned function of a Mix Control in the Track Strip for the current Mix Mode. You can change this assignment by right-clicking on a section and choosing a new function.

You can see information on assigned functions by hovering your mouse cursor over a Mix Control section.

NOTE: The editor will not allow you to assign two Mix Controls to the same function. For example, in the screenshot, the editor would not allow you to assign 1 to Pan because 2 is already assigned to Pan.

2.4 Global Strip Editor

This window allows you to edit the Global Strip (Editable) function. The Global Strip (Editable) function controls global parameters and also parameters of the selected Track. This editor allows you to choose which parameters should be controlled.

To access this window, you first need to assign a set of Mix Controls to Global Strip (Editable) in the [Main Window](#).

CONTROLS		FUNCTION INFO	
1:	Mute	NAME:	General: Mute
2:	Solo	DESCRIPTION:	Toggle Track Mute state.
3:	Arm	APPLIES TO:	Any type of Track except for the Master Track.
4:	Select	NOTES:	A button assigned to this function can switch between Toggle and Momentary behavior. If pressed quickly, it will function as a Toggle switch. If held down for a half-second or more, it will function as a Momentary switch.
5:	Send Switch A		
6:	Send Switch B		
7:	Send Switch C		
8:	Send Switch D		

All of the sections on the left side of this window work in the same way. Each section shows the assigned function of a Mix Control in the Global Strip for the current Mix Mode. You can change this assignment by right-clicking on a section and choosing a new function.

You can see information on assigned functions by hovering your mouse cursor over a Mix Control section.

NOTE: The editor will not allow you to assign two Mix Controls to the same function. For example, in the screenshot, the editor would not allow you to assign 1 to Solo because 2 is already assigned to Solo.

2.5 Key Strip Editor

This window allows you to edit the Key Strip (Editable) function. The Key Strip (Editable) function sends keystrokes. This editor allows you to choose which keystrokes should be sent.

To access this window, you first need to assign a set of Mix Buttons to Key Strip (Editable) in the [Main Window](#).

Row	Modifier Keys	Main Key
1	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Up
2	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Down
3	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Left
4	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Right
5	<input checked="" type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Enter
6	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Escape
7	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Tab
8	<input type="radio"/> SHIFT <input type="radio"/> CTRL <input type="radio"/> ALT	Delete

All of the sections in this window work in the same way. Each section shows the assigned keystroke function of a Mix Button in the Key Strip for the current Mix Mode.

Each keystroke function has a Main Key assignment, which is the main keystroke that the function will send. You can change this assignment by right-clicking on a Main Key section and choosing a new keystroke.

Each keystroke function also has Modifier Key assignments, which allow you to add/remove modifier keys to the Main Key in order to create keystroke combinations.

2.6 Advanced Options

This window allows you to modify some of the behaviors of the ME_APC20 MIDI Remote Script. The options available in this window are global settings that apply to all presets. You can access this window from the Main Window via [View – Show Advanced Options](#).

Option Name	Option Info
SHOW_CLIP_ON_EDIT	Set the type of clip selection that will be used when any clip-editing control is used to edit a clip. - OFF for no selection. - DETAIL to cause the clip to be shown in Detail view. - SESSION to cause the clip to be highlighted in Session view. - BOTH is a combination of both DETAIL and SESSION. NOTE: The DETAIL and BOTH options will not show a clip in Detail view if Detail view is hidden.

The **General** tab provides general options.

The **User Device** tab provides options related to the User Device functions.

The **ClyphX Strip** tab provides options related to the ClyphX Strip function.

The window may also contain an additional tab with options specific to the APC20.

NOTE: *If Live is running, you will need to close and then re-open it in order for changes you make in Advanced Options to take effect.*

3 MIDI MAPPING

When using the default Live settings as described in the Midi Preferences window, it is not possible for other controllers/MIDI devices to conflict with the APC20 as the APC20 has a direct line of communication with Live. However, the default settings also prevent you from remapping controls via MIDI mapping.

In order to allow for MIDI mapping, you will need to turn on the Remote switches for *ME_APC20 Input* and *Output*.

3.1 General Notes

- If you'd like to remap Global Controls in Shifted Mode, press down the Shift Button before entering MIDI mapping mode. Once you've entered MIDI mapping mode, you can release the Shift Button.
 - When a control is remapped via MIDI mapping, it still retains its function mapping. For example, if Mix Encoders are assigned to Volume and are remapped, the **Main Window** will still reflect that the Mix Encoders are assigned to Volume.
 - **Additional Mix Button Functions** that apply to Mix Encoders do not apply to MIDI mapping. For example, if Mix Encoders are assigned to Volume and are remapped, any associated increase/decrease or reset functions will continue to apply to Volume.
 - Unless otherwise noted, you should only remap Mix Controls and Global Controls. You should NOT remap Other Controls.
-

3.2 Notes on Conflicts

Once you've turned on Remote switches for ME_APC20, this will open up the potential for conflicts with other controllers/MIDI devices whose Remote switches are turned on. Review the following notes for help with avoiding these conflicts.

- The APC20 operates on MIDI channel 16 by default. This exposes MIDI messages on channel 16 to the MIDI mapping system and so other controllers should not use channel 16 for MIDI mapping.
- The controls in each Mix and Global Mode are internally translated. For example, the controls in Mix Mode 1 will be translated to MIDI channel 1, Mix Mode 7 will be translated to MIDI channel 7, etc. This allows the controls in each mode to be mapped independently of other modes. However, it also exposes MIDI messages on channels 1 – 8 to the MIDI mapping system and thus makes conflicts more likely.
- The **Advanced Options window** includes MIDI Mapping Accommodation options. These options allow you to choose which Mix and Global Modes should be translated, which will limit the number of MIDI channels that are exposed to the MIDI mapping system. For example, if you only every use Mix Mode 3 for MIDI mapping, you can turn accommodation off for every other Mix Mode. This will make it so only channel 3 (in addition to channel 16 of course) is exposed to the MIDI mapping system (instead of channels 1 – 8). By default, accommodation is turned on for all modes.

4 TROUBLESHOOTING

This section covers errors/problems that you may run into when using/setting up ME_APC20. If you've tried the resolutions listed here and you're still receiving errors/having problems, please send an email to [Support](#) with as much info on the problem as possible. Also, please include a troubleshooting log with your email. You can create a troubleshooting log via [Help – Create Troubleshoot Log](#).

4.1 ME APC20 Error Messages

This section covers error messages you may receive when starting, setting up and/or using ME_APC20.

Error Opening MIDI Port – This error is typically due to the MIDI port being in use by another application. To resolve this, please close all applications including ME_APC20 and then re-launch ME_APC20.

Insufficient MIDI Ports Error – This error indicates that the number of detected MIDI ports is too few. To resolve this, first close ME_APC20 and then verify the following before re-launching ME_APC20 again:

- Ensure that the APC20 is connected/turned on.
- Ensure that you've enabled some virtual MIDI ports to use with ME_APC20. If you need help with this, run the Setup Assistant via [Help – Run Setup Assistant](#).

User Directory Error – This error indicates that there was a problem creating a user directory, which is used to store global settings and such. The typical cause for this error is related to permissions and/or environment variables. To resolve this, first close ME_APC20 and then create the user directory manually as follows:

In your User folder, create a folder named *nativeKONTROL*. Within the nativeKONTROL folder, you should create another folder named *ME_APC20*.

Fatal Error – This error indicates that files needed for ME_APC20 to run are missing. Please reinstall ME_APC20 to recover from this error.

4.2 Other Problems

This section covers other problems related to ME_APC20 that you may encounter.

1. Correct settings have been made for the APC20 in ME APC20, but the APC20's status is still listed as OFFLINE.
To resolve this, please close all applications including ME_APC20 and then re-launch ME_APC20.

2. Correct settings have been made for Live in ME APC20, but Live's status is still listed as OFFLINE.
To resolve this, please restart ME_APC20.

3. ME APC20 is not listed in Live's Control Surface list.
To resolve this, first close Live and then transfer the ME_APC20 script to Live via [File – Transfer ME_APC20 Script to Live](#).

4. When multiple tracks are selected and Track I/O settings are changed, control LEDs and/or displays related to controlling Track I/O do not update properly. Only control LEDs/displays related to the track the change was made from are updated properly.

This is a Live bug that affects all Control Surfaces that provide feedback regarding Track I/O states. ME_APC20 has no control over this unfortunately. If you'd like to see this fixed, please contact Ableton.

5 SUPPORT

Email:

support@nativekontrol.com

Forum:

[Beatwise Network](#)

Videos:

[Stray's YouTube Channel](#)