



Using MIDI Files with Home Concert Xtreme

Home Concert Xtreme will show any one or two tracks that you choose in music notation and save your choice automatically when you close the file.

When you first open a MIDI file, Home Concert Xtreme has to guess which track(s) you want to see. Unfortunately, there is no universal standard for which tracks are the piano tracks. Also, some people want to see a track that is not the piano track.

The current version of Home Concert Xtreme assumes that you want to see the left- and right-hand piano tracks in notation and does its best to determine which tracks those are. If you have the latest version of the program, most of the time it will guess correctly.

In recent years, most of the piano method publishers have put the piano left- and right-hand tracks on MIDI channels 3 and 4, respectively. AND, they have put a special "sequencer-specific meta event" into the file to tell Yamaha keyboards where to find the piano tracks. If that message is present, Home Concert will show those tracks by default. Newer Alfred, FJH, Frederick Harris, and Hal Leonard files typically have this message.

Changing the Displayed Tracks

To change the displayed tracks, you can either use the **Following Preferences** (found in the Preferences menu on Windows and in the Preferences window on Macintosh) or you can use the **Mixer**.

In the Following Preferences window, you have popup menus on the left side for selecting which tracks will be displayed.

If you choose to use the mixer, click the Show Mixer button at the top of the main window (on the right side) to show the Mixer, and then click the "Follow" button for one of the tracks that you wish to show. Then, hold down the Shift key and click the Follow button for the other track.

If you are not sure which tracks have the piano part(s) and you are using a MIDI disk that coordinates with one of the standard methods, the desired tracks are usually the ones assigned to channels 3 and 4.

When you close the file, Home Concert will remember which tracks were selected and will show them the next time.

If the file has the piano part on a single track, Home Concert will show that part on a single staff. Although the notation will not be the way that you would like it, Home Concert will still follow your playing. In such a case, you are better off reading the music from the printed copy.

Quantize the Notation

If your MIDI file is displaying in smaller notation than the score is written, such as displaying 16th notes in a piece with only eighth notes, you will need to quantize the notation. There are two kinds of basic edits. The first, applies to a region and the second, applies to a location.

For a location, right click a location to see choices.

For a region, select the region, right click in the region, select upper staff track or lower staff track, then select quantization.

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