

# Getting started

## System Requirements

### Which operating systems does Natural Drums support?

Natural Drums is compatible for both macOS and Windows. ***Linux is not currently supported.***

**macOS:** We recommend running DAACI Natural Drums on macOS 12 and above, however it is supported on macOS 10.15 and above. MacOS 10.14.6 and earlier are not supported.

**Windows:** We recommend running DAACI Natural Drums on Windows 10 or above.

### Which DAWs does Natural Drums support?

Natural Drums supports all major DAWs including Logic Pro, Ableton, Cubase, Reaper, FL Studio, Pro Tools and GarageBand. Natural Drums does work on other DAWs, but has not been fully tested.

A full list of supported DAWs can be found [here](#).

See [Using Natural Drums in your DAW](#) for more information and instructions on using the plugin in your specific DAW.

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# Downloading & Installing Natural Drums

## Downloading Natural Drums

**Please note - The download links available in your order confirmation and account will always host the most recent version of the software.**

There are two ways to download the installer file for Natural Drums:

1. Find the download link in your order confirmation email
2. Go to [Downloads](#) in your DAACI account dashboard on the DAACI website. Once on the download page, please click on the link that matches your system and it will be automatically downloaded to your computer

Please note if using a Mac there are **two versions** of Natural Drums to choose between.

### Which Mac version to choose

If you have a Mac with an Intel processor you should always download the Mac (Intel) version.

If you have a Mac with an Apple Silicon processor in most cases you should download the Mac (Apple Silicon) version.

#### EXCEPTIONS:

- If you are running your DAW using Rosetta, you should download the Mac (Intel) version
- If you are using Cubase 10 or earlier, you should install the Mac (Intel) version regardless of your processor
- If you using Ableton Live V10 you should install the Mac (Intel) version regardless of your processor

## Installing Natural Drums

Double click on the downloaded file to launch the installer and follow the instructions.

Note: In Windows when first running the installer you may get a pop up saying "Windows protected your PC" with a warning message about running an unrecognized app. Please click on "More info" and this will then give the option to "Run anyway"

Note: On Windows, you may need to first download and install the latest version of the Microsoft Visual C++ Distributable from <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/windows/latest-supported-vc-redist?view=msvc-170#la-test-microsoft-visual-c-redistributable-version>

At the end of the installation process you should see a window saying “The installation was successful” (Mac) or “Complete” (Windows).

If you wish to check that Natural Drums has installed on your system, you can find the VST3, AU or AAX files in the following folders:

### **Mac**

**VST3:** Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST

**AU:** Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

**AAX:** Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/

### **Windows**

**VST3:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums.vst3

**AAX:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\N-Drums.aaxplugin

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## Activating Natural Drums

When you open the plugin for the first time you will be prompted to enter your **license key** to activate the plugin.

You can find your license key in your order confirmation email or by going to [License Keys](#) in your DAACI account.

Click the “View” button to the right of your license details and you will see an activations panel. Natural Drums allows two concurrent activations. To move a license to another machine, delete the activation in the activations panel.

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# Using Natural Drums in your DAW

## Supported DAWs

This table is a guide to the systems supported by Natural Drums.

We would love to hear from you if you are using Natural Drums in a DAW not listed below. Please get in touch to let us know at [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com).

Note: Click on your DAW in the table below to see instructions on using Natural Drums within your specific DAW

DAW	Earliest supported version	MIDI FX / Virtual Instrument	Mac / Windows	Notes
Ableton Live 10	10.1.43	?	Both *	* Must install (Intel) version on Mac regardless of processor
Ableton Live 11	All	Both	Both	
Ableton Live 12	All	Both	Both	
Cubase 12	All	Both	Both *	* Must install (Intel) version on Mac regardless of processor
Cubase 13	All	Both	Both	
FL Studio	All	Virtual Instrument	Both	
GarageBand	All	Virtual Instrument	Mac	
Logic Pro X	All	Both	Mac	
Logic Pro 11	All	Both	Mac	
Pro Tools	All	Both	Both	
Reaper 7	All	Both	Both	
Studio One V5	Not currently supported	N/A	N/A	See known issues <a href="#">here</a>
Studio One V6	All	Both	Both	

# Using Natural Drums in Logic Pro

## Getting started with Logic Pro X and 11

### Using Natural Drums as a Virtual Instrument

1. Create a Software Instrument channel
2. Add N-Drums as an instrument plugin at the top of the channel strip, just below MIDI FX

### Using Natural Drums as a MIDI FX

1. Create a Software Instrument channel
  2. Add N-Drums as a MIDI FX plugin at the top of the channel strip
  3. Add a drum kit / sampler as the instrument plugin
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# Using Natural Drums in Ableton Live

**Natural Drums is supported in Ableton v10.1.43 and above. Please check that your version of Ableton is up to date before attempting to authorise the plugin.**

Ableton drum kits usually don't offer multiple sounds for the ride drum, so choosing the *Ride Mode* in the *Hats* tab might result in no sound for certain hits. You can map all the hits to the MIDI note of your choice through the Settings menu.

### Using Natural Drums as a Virtual Instrument

1. Add a MIDI channel to the project
2. Add the N-Drums plugin as an Instrument by dragging and dropping it onto the track

### Using Natural Drums as a MIDI FX

Ableton Live does not offer support for external MIDI FX. It supports its internal MIDI FX and Max MSP MIDI FX. As such, there are two possible ways to use the Natural Drums plugin with Ableton as described below.

### Option 1 - As an Instrument (Universal)

3. Add two MIDI channels to the project
4. Add the N-Drums plugin as an Instrument by dragging and dropping it onto the first track
5. On the second track add the drum kit / sampler of your choice
6. On the drum kit / sampler channel, set both the 'MIDI From' drop down menus to N-Drums.
7. Make sure the Red Recording button is **on** on the first channel
8. If you want to get input from a MIDI controller at the same time, you can enable the Recording for multiple tracks

### Option 2 - As a Max MSP MIDI Effect (Available in Live Suite)

1. From the library select Max for live and from there double click on the Max MIDI Effect
2. Click on the little rectangle on the top of the newly created MIDI effect in order to edit the basic Max MIDI effect
3. Make the panel bigger until the plug icon (Plug-Ins) is visible and click on it
4. From the side-panel select VST 3 plugin and double click on **N-Drums MIDIFX**
5. Connect the 5th output of the plugin to the MIDIout object
6. Save and close

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## Using Natural Drums in Cubase

**For Mac users on Cubase V12 and earlier, install the Mac (Intel) version of Natural Drums regardless of whether your processor is Intel or Apple Silicon**

### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

Add an instrument track by selecting Project -> Add Track -> Instrument and selecting **N-Drums** plugin from the pop up menu

### Using Natural Drums as a MIDI FX

1. Add an instrument track by selecting Project -> Add Track -> Instrument and selecting **N-Drums MIDIFX** plugin from the pop up menu
2. Select either a newly created or existing instrument track that you would like to use to play the drum pattern from N-Drums

3. Select **N-Drums MIDIFX** MIDI Output as the MIDI input to this instrument track
  4. Make sure the Red Recording button is on on the instrument track
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## Using Natural Drums in Reaper

### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

1. Add a new MIDI Item
2. Click the FX button on the top of the MIDI Item track, and select **N-Drums** to load the plugin

### Using Natural Drums as a MIDI FX

3. Add a new MIDI Item
  4. Click the FX button on the top of the MIDI Item track, and select **N-Drums MIDIFX** to load the plugin
  5. Insert a new virtual instrument track and load a synth (ideally a drum kit plugin)
  6. Click the route button of the MIDI Item and add the instrument track you added as a 'send'
  7. Click the route button of the virtual instrument track and add the MIDI Item track as a 'receive'
  8. Both tracks should now be connected and you should be able to control the synth with the **N-Drums MIDIFX** plugin
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## Using Natural Drums in GarageBand

### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

1. When you create a new project in most cases the 'create new track' dialog will be displayed. Otherwise you can add a track to your GarageBand project by selecting Track > New Track... from the toolbar menu
2. In the dialog that will come up, select Software Instrument and click Create
3. Press the Smart Controls and GarageBand will display the Smart Controls pane in the lower part of the GarageBand window. (Or you can press the B key on your computer's keyboard.)

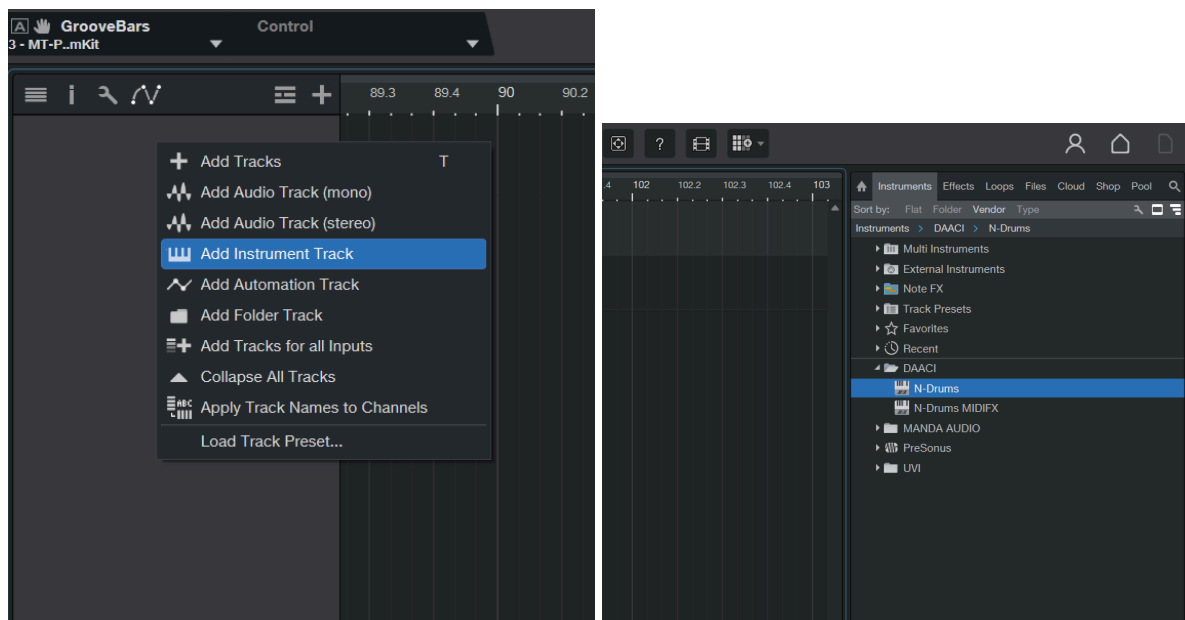
4. On the Smart Controls pane, click the Track button to access the Plug-ins menu
5. On the **Plug-Ins** menu select **N-Drums**
6. There's a chance that you'll get a warning saying that you need to lower the security setting for GarageBand, in order to use N-Drums you'll need to click on **Lower Security Settings**, this is typical for using any VST/AU in GarageBand, so don't worry.

**Please note: GarageBand does not support MIDI FX**

## Using Natural Drums in Studio One

### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

1. Right click in the track header and select “Add Instrument Track”
2. Click on the “Instruments” tab in the right hand pane and click and hold N-Drums in the DAACI folder and drag it over to the header of the new track you created

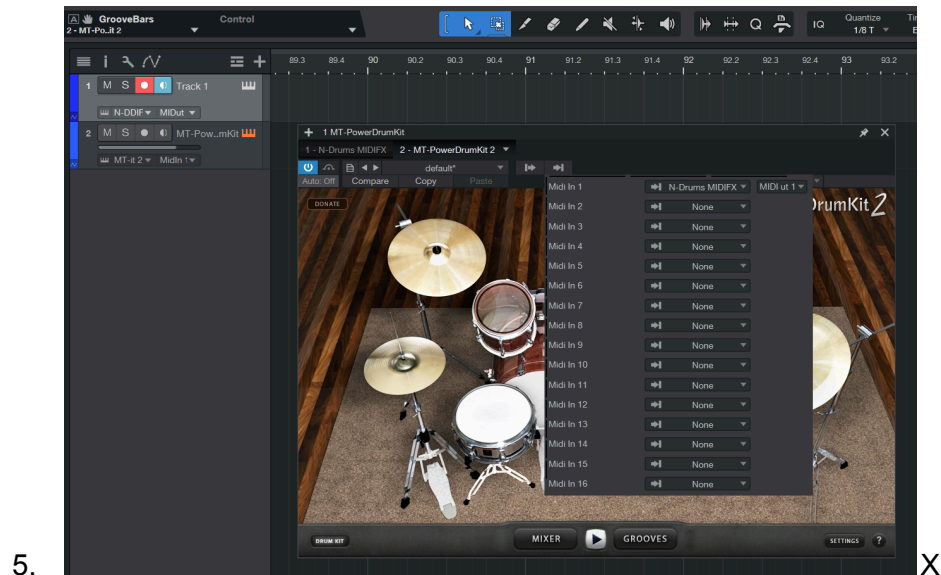


### Using N-Drums as a MIDI FX

1. Add two instrument tracks by right clicking in the track header and selecting “Add Instrument Track”



2. Click on the “Instruments” tab in the right hand pane and click and hold N-Drums MIDI FX in the DAACI folder and drag it over to the header of first new track
3. In the “Instruments” tab select the 3rd party plugin you wish to receive the MIDI from N-Drums MIDI FX and drag it across to the header of the second track.
4. Open the plugin window for the second track, click the “Direct Inputs” button in the top tool bar and select N-Drums in the “Midi in 1” slot.

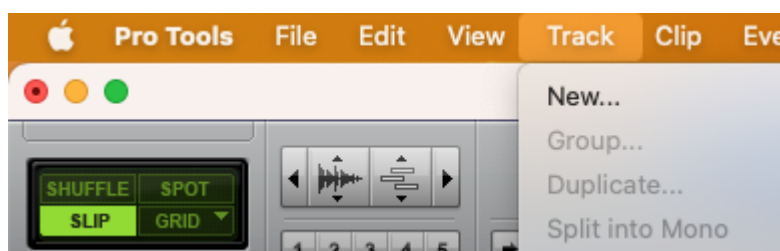


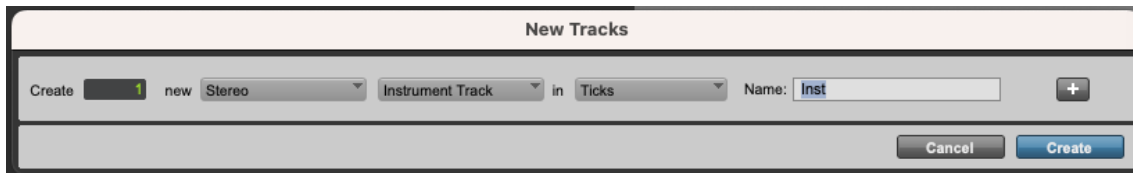
## Using Natural Drums in Pro Tools

### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

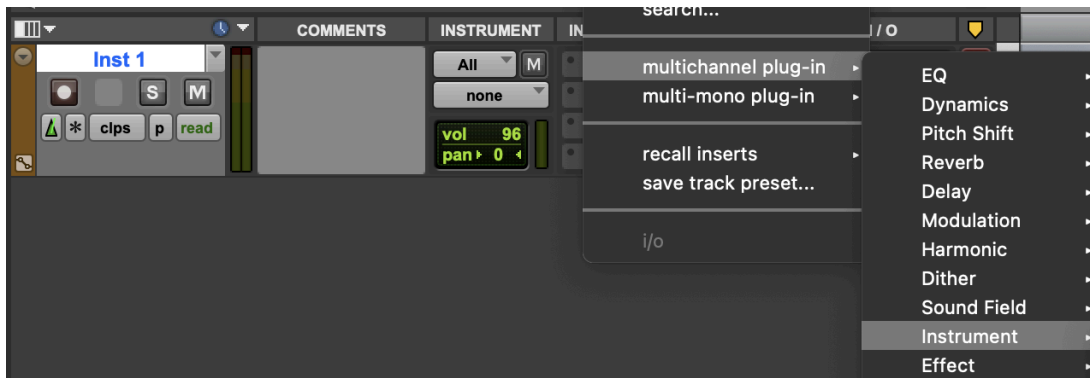
Note: To hear sound when using the plugin in plugin feature, you must record enable the track that has N-Drums on.

1. Add an instrument track by selecting “Track > New...” in the top menu bar and then selecting “Instrument track” in the dropdown of the pop-up box that appears. Click “Create”

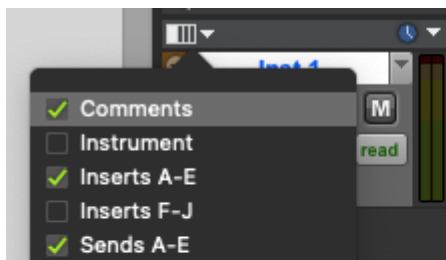




2. Click on one of the “INSERTS” slots in the track header and navigate to “multichannel plug-in > Instrument” and select “N-Drums (stereo)”.



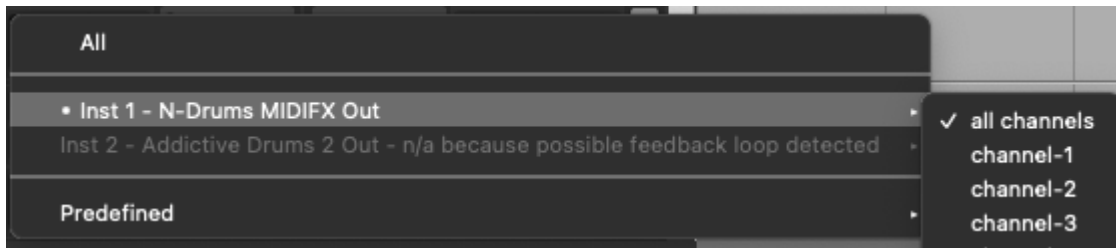
(If you don't see “INSERTS” in the track header click on the little “Edit Window View Selector” icon and make sure “inserts A-E and/or F-J” are selected.)



### Using N-Drums as a MIDI FX

1. Create two new instrument tracks as per step 1 in the instrument section above
2. On the first track add N-Drums MIDI FX to one of the insert slots
3. On the second track add the MIDI instrument you wish to be triggered by N-Drums MIDI FX and enable “track record” (the button in red on the image below).
4. In the “INSTRUMENT” panel on the second track click the upper box (“MIDI input selector”) and select “N-Drums MIDI FX Out > All Channels”





## Using Natural Drums in FL Studio

**Please use the VST3 of Natural Drums in FL Studio as the AU version has an issue with looping.**

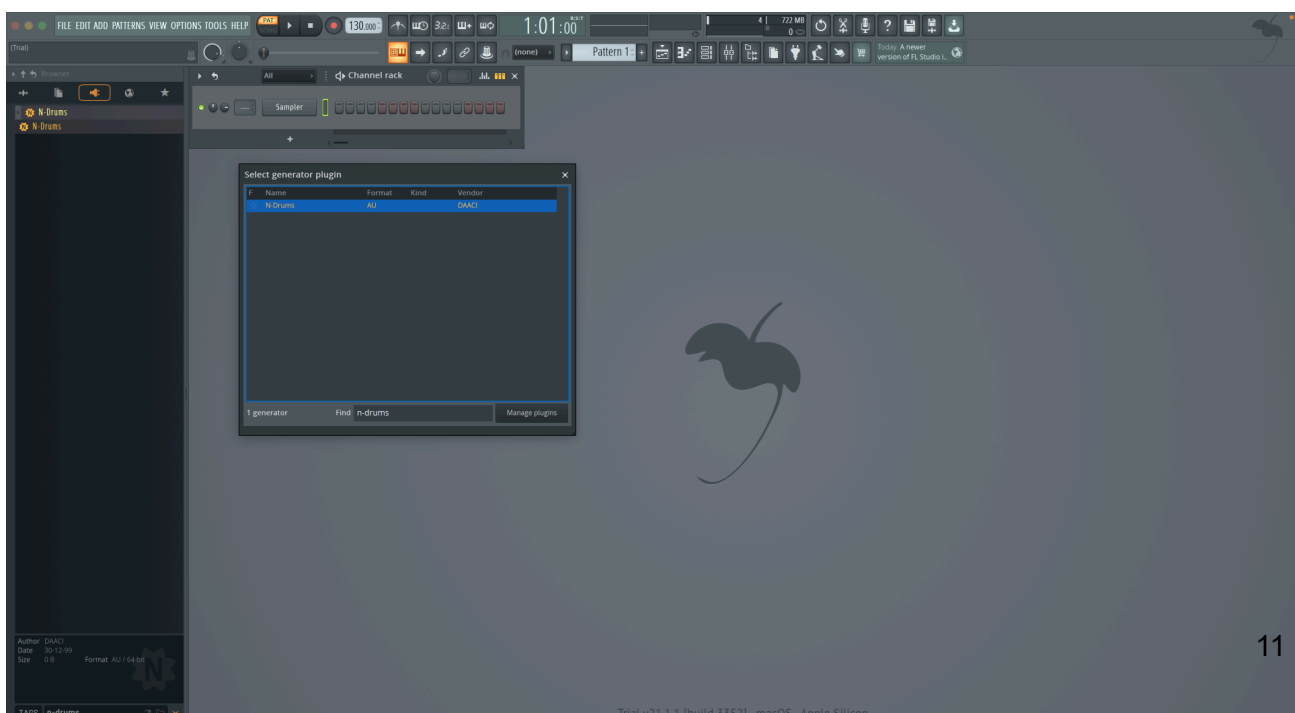
### Using Natural Drums as an Instrument

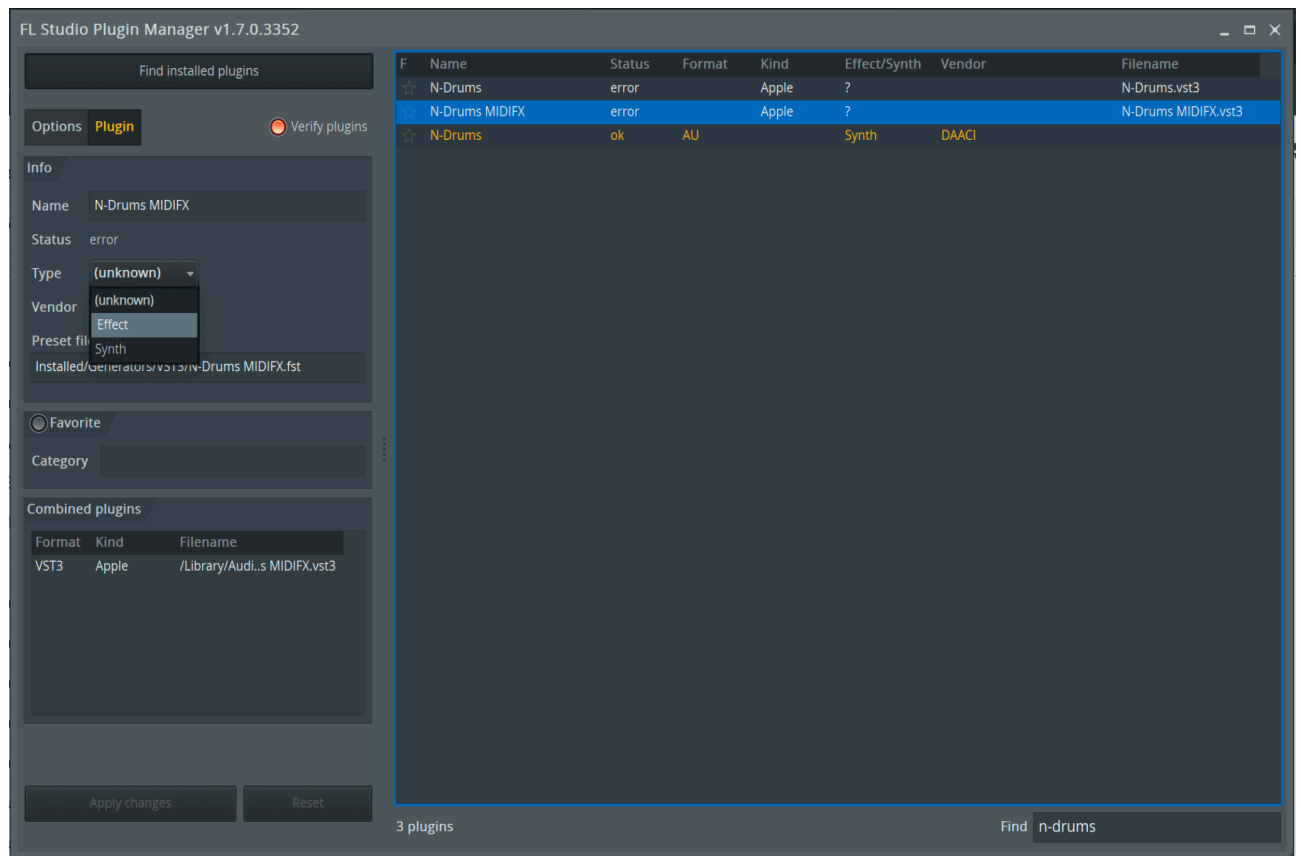
Add N-Drums as a new instrument track by either dragging it from the plugin browser onto your channel rack, or via the “Add / Other plugins...” menu at the top of the window.

### Using Natural Drums as a MIDI FX

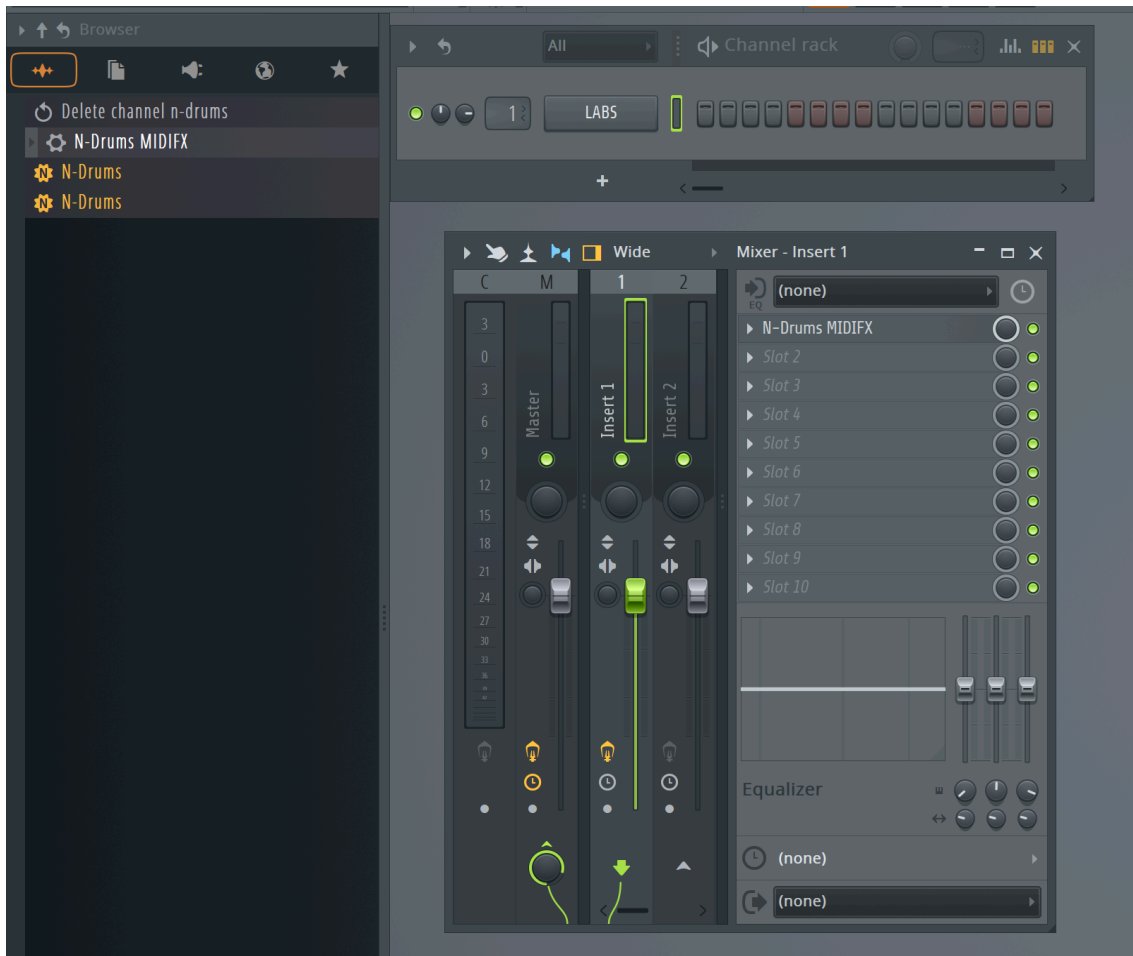
FL Studio does not host MIDI FX plugins in a conventional way, but a workaround can be applied.

Once you have rescanned your plugin list, find “N-Drums MIDIFX” and change its type to “Effect”.



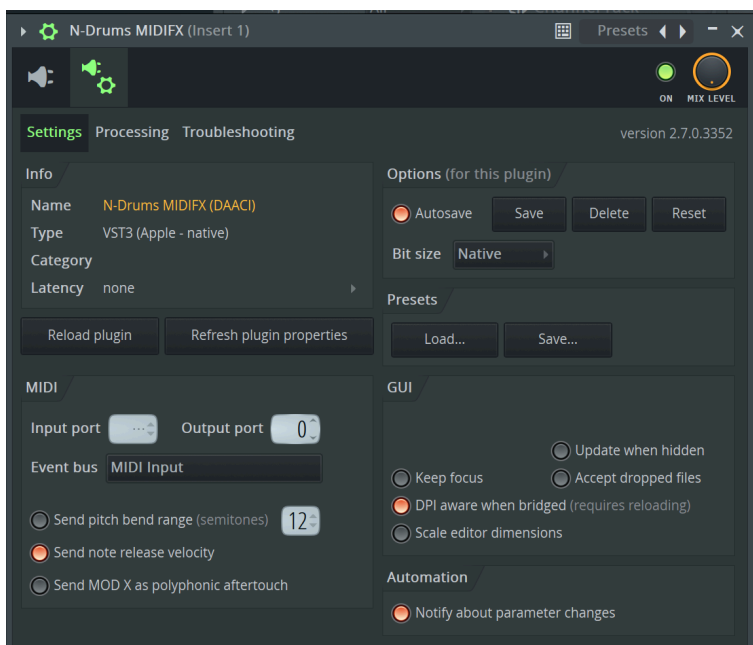


Create a new track using your 3rd party plugin of choice, and insert “N-Drums MIDIFX” as an effect insert on that channel by dragging and dropping.

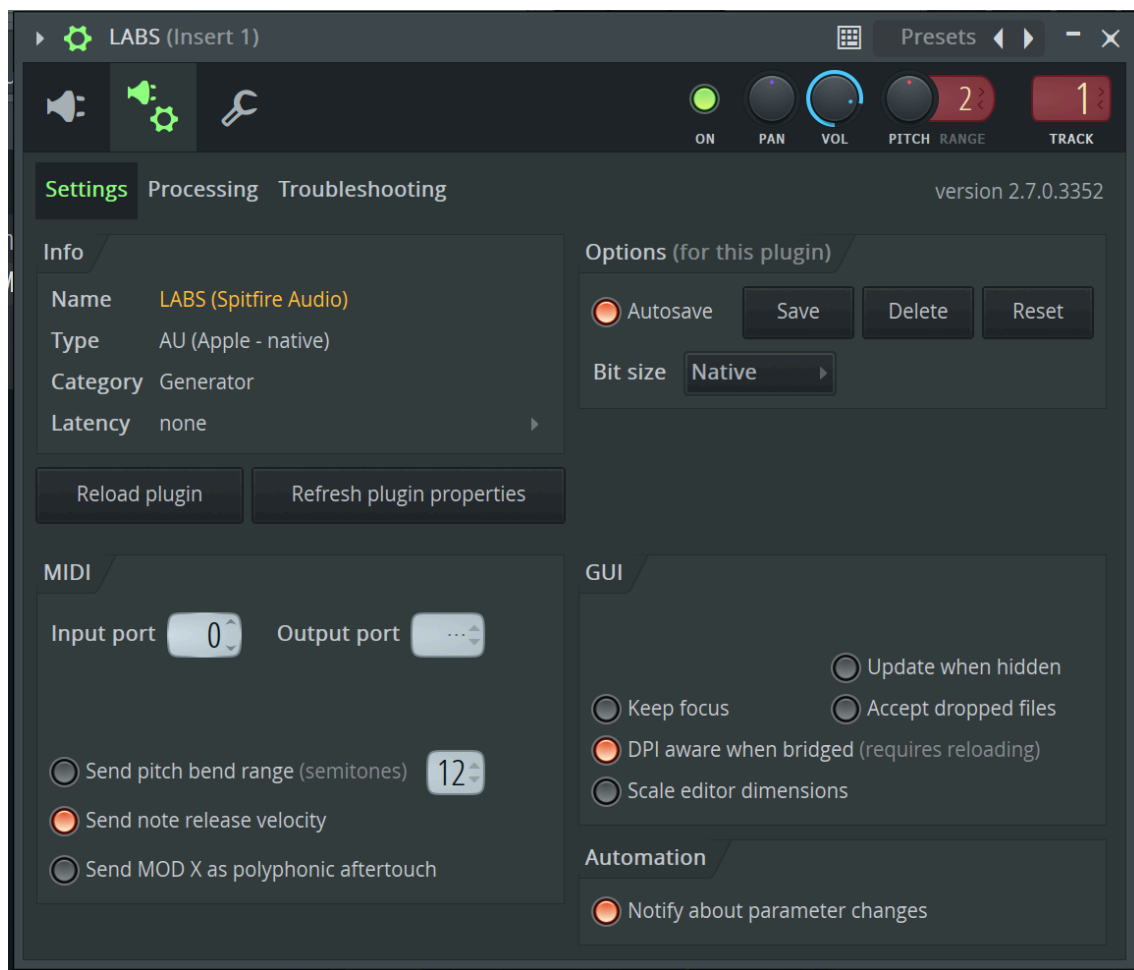


Go to the settings (the cog on the top left) of this instance of N-Drums.

Change the MIDI output port to a value of your choice.



In the same settings page of your 3rd party instrument plugin, change the input port to the same value as the N-Drums output port.



N-Drums will now stream midi into this plugin when FL Studio is playing.

# Natural Drums - Product Manual

## About Natural Drums

Natural Drums is an assistive AI co-pilot plugin that creates drum grooves in real time, as if a session drummer is right there with you in your studio bringing your ideas to life.

Whether you're a new beatmaker or a seasoned producer looking for the quickest way to get to the heart of your creativity, Natural Drums integrates seamlessly into your existing DAW workflow and gives you endless options for amazing beats, fast.

Natural Drums assists creativity, it doesn't replace it, and the genesis of every new beat always comes from you. Start with an idea and let the plugin enhance your initial input, generating new grooves in front of your eyes. Like working with a real drummer, you can jam along and make changes in real time, try things out, and create an end result that is entirely yours.

As part of the DAACI Natural Series, Natural Drums is created by expert drummers and draws on their many years of experience playing music in live settings. In line with DAACI's approach to generative AI and unlike other drum sequencers, Natural Drums doesn't pull from a list of static precomposed patterns or utilise pure randomness. It thinks like a musician and rapidly creates beats that are entirely bespoke and unique to you.

See our product walkthrough videos [here](#)

## Midi Instrument & Midi FX

Natural Drums can be used as a VST instrument plugin as well as a MIDI FX plugin. The instrument version comes loaded with a suite of bespoke DAACI sample packs which are selected in the dropdown menu in the main toolbar.

## Creating a beat

### Kick & Snare



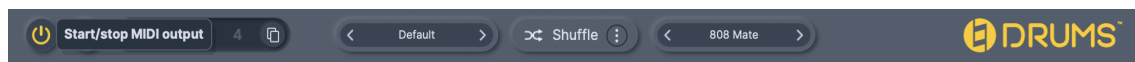
The core input for Natural Drums is achieved by creating a skeleton pattern in the "input grid" found in the Kick and Snare tab in the upper half of the plugin window.

The skeleton pattern is the simplest outline of your drum beat and forms the core groove which Natural Drums then improvises around.

In the default mode of Natural drums not all slots in the input grid are clickable, leaning on the musical knowledge of Natural Drums to guide you to create coherent beats. For example if you move the snare off the downbeat on beat 4 it locks a snare to beat 2 to retain a sense of backbeat.

Similarly it prevents the skeleton pattern from having kick and snare hits on the same beat, but obviously this won't work for classic dance beats and for that you can activate 4 on the floor (4OTF).

## Presets



If you're new to programming drums or looking for inspiration, the pattern Presets are a great place to start and they can also be really helpful for getting a feel for how the skeleton relates to a beat.

Natural Drums provides a variety of presets that are there to guide you through some of the different ways your input affects the output pattern, and each preset can be adapted to your musical ideas using the input skeletons.

You can also create your own presets by clicking "Save Current" in the preset menu and these can be recalled from other projects as well as across different DAWs. You can even use your saved presets on another computer or share with a friend by sharing the preset file which they then use via the "Load" button in the preset menu.

## Busy, Complex & Shuffle

Once you have an initial skeleton you can start shaping your beat further by playing with the Busy and Complex knobs.

As you turn the "**Busy**" dial up and down you will see extra hits get added and removed, displayed in the input grid as yellow dots.

And the "Complex" dial affects how closely these added hits follow the shape of the skeleton.

The power of **Natural Drums** is that all the musical knowledge that went into creating it is inherent in those controls. So you can quickly and easily produce a huge range of great beats all based on your initial musical input (i.e. the skeleton).



Hitting the shuffle buttons at the end of each row will keep recalculating added notes to give you variations based on your current choices.

Note: If the **Busy** dial is set too low then the shuffle function may not have enough flexibility to create any variations and you will see no change in the beat.

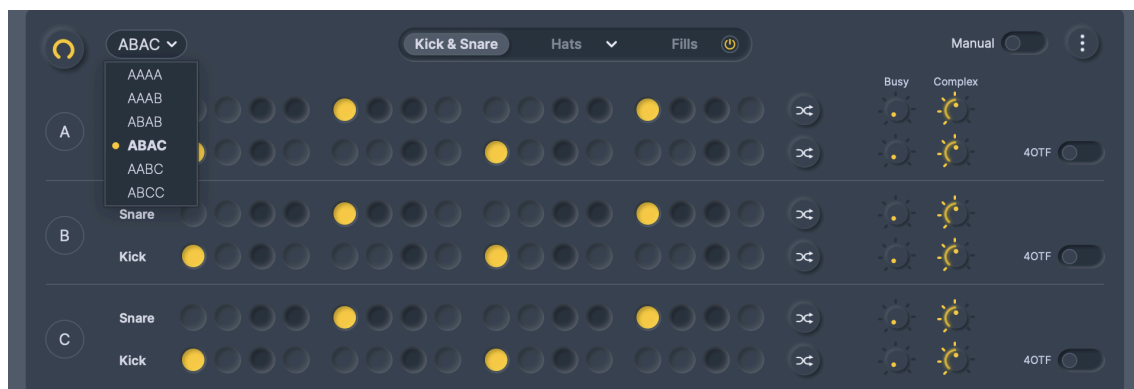
## Manual Mode

As mentioned in the section on the input grid and skeleton, in the default mode of Natural Drums not all slots in the grid are clickable.

However, if you find yourself wanting more detailed control, you can remove all the restrictions in the skeleton grid by switching to **manual mode**.

In manual mode you can place those skeletons beats wherever you like and Natural Drums will still do it's thing and embellish around your beat. Use manual mode to hone a specific beat or perhaps push the system to create something more experimental.

## Structural variation



Create detailed rhythmic variety throughout your beats with structural variation.

Patterns for each part are created in 1 bar phrases and these phrases make a 4 bar loop (or 8 bars in half-time) that can be structured from A, B and C sections using the A/B/C dropdown.

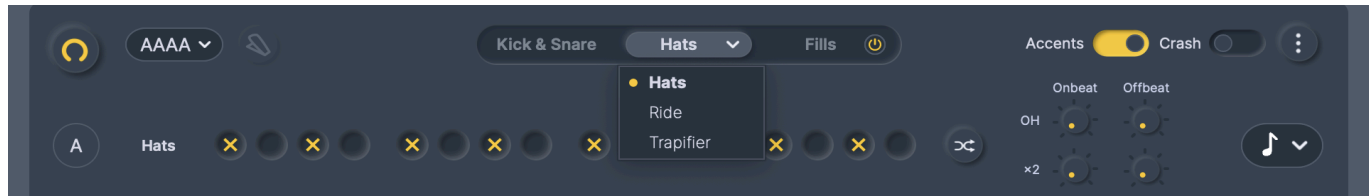
Experiment with different patterns to vary rhythms throughout the loop, saving you time on programming while reaching a richer final result that is all based on your original idea.

Combine this with the global shuffle (open global shuffle and set to every loop) that can be set to shuffle every loop and you have a drum part that not only varies but can keep evolving over a whole track.

## Hats

Creating the Hi Hat and Cymbal parts in Natural Drums is done in the **Hats** section.

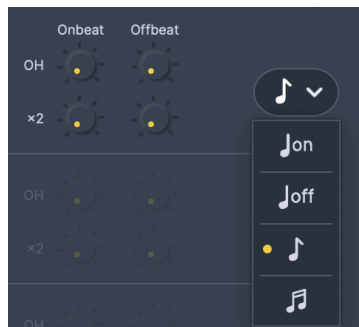
There are three different modes that can be selected.



### Hat mode

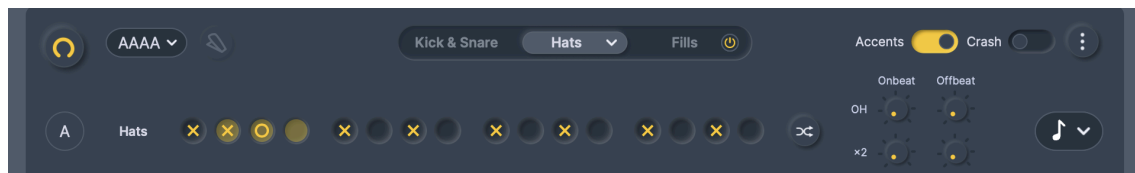
#### Adding notes

The default base pattern for hats is 8th notes but you can change this in the dropdown menu. Go to the dropdown to quickly find a starting point for your pattern.



Once you've selected your pattern then play with **Open Hat (OH)** and **x2** controls to transform your beat.

There are no limitations to the pattern in the Hats tab and each note can be manually changed and fixed to either closed, open or no hit by clicking on the note in the grid and cycling through the states.



### Ride mode

Ride mode moves the pattern to the ride cymbal, and in this mode the Open Hat control generates ride bells. And as always you can quickly rotate through variations with the shuffle button.

## Hi Hat Pedal

When in Ride mode you have the option to add an additional pattern played with the hi hat pedal. You can choose to use the same pattern throughout your beat, or mix and match between the groove and the fill for different musical effects.

## Accents & Crash

For more subtle touches you can change the feel of the hats with the **Apply accents** control, and **Crash** adds a crash cymbal hit at the start of the loop.

The Hats section has its own structure controls that are independent to the kick and snare. There is also an additional control in the right-side dropdown menu that avoids hi hat runs. This prevents long runs of semiquavers, and can give a slightly different feel to your pattern.

## Trapifier

Find the Trapifier option in the Hi Hat drop down menu and fill your pattern with trap-style hi hats. Use the half-time button alongside the Trapifier. Adjust the parameters to generate bespoke hi hat patterns with huge amounts of flexibility and variation right at your fingertips.

Select a base pattern, and then adjust it using the Density and Movement controls. These function similarly to the Busy/Complex controls for Kick and Snare, where Density makes your pattern more rhythmically busy, and Movement makes the rhythms more complex.

Don't feel you can only use the Trapifier on hi hat patterns! It can be great for triggering other sounds, creating rapidly evolving syncopated beats - perfect for electronic music production.

## Fills

At the end of each loop in the piano roll, you can add a drum fill by clicking the power button on the Fills tab.

The length of the fill is set by the control on the left (**adjust fill length and play with skeleton**) and like in the other tabs there is a skeleton grid for setting the fixed pattern that Natural Drums will improvise around.

The style of toms for the fill can be chosen in the Toms dropdown or turned off completely and like other parts there's a shuffle button to hear variations.

**Quick tip** - To audition different fills without having to wait 4 bars for it to come round, we suggest looping the relevant bar in your DAW timeline.

## Global settings

In the main toolbar at the top of the plugin there are few global settings.

Firstly, a MIDI output mute using the power button, and also settings window where you can reassign the MIDI mapping of the individual sounds and change the size of the plugin window.

There's also a global shuffle which recalculates the embellishments for all parts. Set the global shuffle to "**Shuffle Every Loop**" and watch as Natural Drums recalculates at the start of every pattern based on your configuration, the same way a real drummer would start to subtly improvise around a rhythmic idea over the course of a piece of music.

## Piano roll

The complete drum loop you are creating in Natural Drums is always displayed in the piano roll in the bottom half of the plugin window.

### Changing velocities

Hits are grouped by similarity, for example skeleton notes, ghost notes and accents, and if you hover your mouse over a hit you'll see that all the hits in a group are highlighted.

To change the velocity of a group click and drag up and down on an individual hit.

There's also a master velocity control for the whole part in the track header, and velocities can always be reset to default. This master control keeps the relationship between your different velocity groups, and is a great way to quickly make an entire part louder or quieter without losing the dynamics you have programmed.

The final velocity control is Humanise which introduces subtle variations that are great for bringing a more natural sound to real drums.

### Swing and Half Time

In the piano roll we have controls for swing and half-time.

#### Swing

Adjust the feel of your pattern using the swing control, with additional options available to create unorthodox grooves to fit any genre. Swing can be added to affect either 8th or 16th notes.

## Half time

And in the **Half-time** drop down you can independently toggle each of the parts to play at half the tempo.

It's perfect for creating downtempo beats and works particularly well with the Trapifier.

## Compact Mode:

This new mode offers a stripped back version of the controls, allowing you to very quickly experiment with different drum beat styles without needing to deep-dive into the finer details. With four sliders and a genre picker, this is a great place to start if you are new to drum programming, and you can always transition into the fully-featured version of Natural Drums if you would like more control.

## Snapshots

Save multiple patterns inside Natural Drums to quickly compare and experiment with different ideas. Instantly move between drum patterns for different sections of your track without needing to open another window. You can also copy patterns between snapshots to quickly make variations on the same original idea.

## Offline Mode:

Users told us they prefer to work offline sometimes. On a plane? In a studio with no internet? Now you only need to be online to authenticate once every two months, and you can keep enjoying Natural Drums without internet connection in between authentications

## Exporting

### MIDI Export

When you're happy with your loop, exporting the MIDI is as simple as dragging from the export button (top right of the window) to your DAW timeline. Use the mute and solo buttons to export the entire pattern or only certain parts - whatever suits your workflow best.

You can also set your DAW to record Natural Drum's output live, allowing you to jam with your track in real time.

## Audio Export

Now in the instrument version of Natural Drums you can drag and drop audio directly to the DAW or Desktop.

## Using Natural Drums with third party plugins and samplers

Natural Drums can be easily set up to trigger other instrument plugins and samplers, and there are two ways of doing this.

- You can use Natural Drums as a MIDIFX plugin to stream MIDI into another plugin. For information on how to set this up in your DAW, please see our knowledge base.
- You can also host an external plugin inside Natural Drums. To do this, open Natural Drums as an instrument, and select your plugin of choice in the “Plugins” category in the kit menu. You will need to scan for new plugins the first time you do this, but you won’t need to do this again unless you install a new plugin that you would like to use.

## Automation

Currently, MIDI pitch and velocity can be automated as well as Humanisation, Swing and Fill Length. We’re constantly developing Natural Drums and hope to add more parameters in the future. As an alternate approach, you can record live MIDI in your DAW and ‘perform’ your pattern live.

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# FAQs

## Product Functionality

- **What is Natural Drums, and how does it work?**

Natural Drums is an assistive AI co-pilot plugin that creates drum grooves in real time, as if a session drummer is right there with you in your studio bringing your ideas to life.

As part of the DAACI Natural Series, Natural Drums assists creativity, it doesn't replace it, and the genesis of every new beat always comes from you. Start with an idea and let the plugin enhance your initial input, generating new grooves in front of your eyes. Like working with a real drummer, you can jam along and make changes in real time, try things out, and create an end result that is entirely yours.

Natural Drums is created by expert drummers and draws on their many years of experience playing music in live settings. In line with DAACI's approach to generative AI and unlike other drum sequencers, Natural Drums doesn't pull from a list of static precomposed patterns or utilise pure randomness. It thinks like a musician and rapidly creates beats that are entirely bespoke and unique to you.

- **Does the plugin support different music genres?**

Yes, Natural Drums supports writing for any genre. However, it currently only supports 4/4 time signatures. We are working on adding more time signatures in the near future to expand its versatility.

- **How does Natural Drums differ from other drum programming software?**

Natural Drums stands out from other drum programming software in several key ways:

- Our modules provide a wide range of rhythmic ideas, allowing users to generate and expand upon any musical concept. This flexibility supports a broader creative process.
- We allow users as much control as possible to tailor the output to their own ideas, and Natural Drums can respond to any user input.
- Rather than just offering generic backings, our focus is on tools that augment and inspire the music creation process, giving users more control and creative freedom, and we don't use any precomposed loops.
- We don't push users towards a specific sound. Instead, we empower them to lead the creative process, fostering a greater sense of ownership over their music.
- Our approach puts the creative process at the forefront, ensuring that the tools we provide support and enhance your unique musical vision.

- **Is it possible to integrate my own drum samples with Natural Drums?**

Yes, you can integrate your own drum samples with Natural Drums. The plugin works with any sampler that accepts MIDI inputs.

- **What time signatures does Natural Drums support?**

Currently Natural Drums supports 4/4 only. However we will be providing support for other time signatures in future versions.

- **How does Natural Drums generate drum grooves?**

The research behind the development of Natural Drums draws on decades of experience playing drums, and replicates the way a real drummer composes drum grooves. As Natural Drums composes on the spot, you can manipulate your beat in real time to create different musical effects, the same way a real drummer would.

- **Can I save and recall my presets in Natural Drums?**

Yes, Natural Drums allows you to save specific drum patterns and has 4 snapshots for working on different beats simultaneously.

- **Can I use Natural Drums in a live performance setting?**

Yes, you can manipulate the plugin directly within your DAW or link parameters to a MIDI controller.

- **Does the plugin require an internet connection to function?**

You only need to be online to authenticate once every two months, and you can keep enjoying Natural Drums without internet connection in between authentications.

## **Compatibility**

- **Which DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) are compatible with Natural Drums?**

Natural Drums supports all major DAWs including Logic Pro, Ableton, Cubase, Reaper, FL Studio, Pro Tools and GarageBand. Natural Drums does work on other DAWs, but has not been fully tested.

- **Which operating systems does Natural Drums support?**

DAACI Natural Drums is available for MacOS and Windows. Linux is currently not supported.

For Mac, We recommend running DAACI Natural Drums on macOS 12 and above, however it is supported on macOS 10.15 and above. macOS 10.14 and earlier are not supported.



For PC, We recommend running DAACI Natural Drums on Windows 10 or above.

- **Does the plugin work with MIDI controllers and e-drums?**

Yes, there are various parameters on Natural Drums that are automatable and therefore can be linked to an external MIDI controller. We are making more parameters automatable with each release. Using “Thru” mode, you can use external controllers including electronic drum kits and drum pads to play the samples inside Natural Drums.

- **Can I export the drum patterns as MIDI files?**

Yes, you can export drum patterns as MIDI files by dragging and dropping them directly from the plugin into your DAW timeline.

- **Does Natural Drums support integration with other virtual instruments?**

Yes, the MIDI FX version of Natural Drums can send MIDI to any other plugin and the virtual instrument version can internally load Audio Units.

## **Installation & Setup**

- **How do I find the plugin on my computer?**

Natural Drums plugin files can be found in the following locations. (To remove all Natural Drums components from your system see the next question: How do I remove Natural Drums from my computer?)

### **Mac**

**VST3:** Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3

**AU:** Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

**AAX:** Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/

### **Windows**

**VST3:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums.vst3

**AAX:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\N-Drums.aaxplugin

- **How do I remove Natural Drums from my computer?**

To completely remove Natural Drums from your computer, please locate and delete the following files and folders:

#### **Mac**

To find the “user Library” open **Finder** and click **Go** in the menu bar, in the top left of the screen. Hold down the **option** key and “**Library**” should appear.

- Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/N-Drums.component
- Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/N-Drums MIDIFX.component
- Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/N-Drums.vst3
- Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/N-Drums MIDIFX.vst3
- Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/N-Drums.aaxplugin
- Macintosh HD/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/N-Drums MIDIFX.aaxplugin
- Users/<Your\_username>/Library/Application Support/daaci/
- ~/Library/Audio/Presets/DAACI/N-Drums

#### **Windows**

- C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums MIDIFX.vst3
- C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums.vst3
- C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins
- C:\Users\<your\_user\_name>\AppData\Roaming\daaci
- C:\Users\<your\_user\_name>\AppData\Roaming\Audio\Presets\daaci\N-Drums

- **How do I upgrade to the latest version of Natural Drums?**

*Natural Drums will automatically prompt you with a link to download the latest version when it becomes available. Alternatively, you can visit the downloads page in your DAACI account to manually download the latest version. Access the downloads page [here](#).*

- **How do I upgrade from the trial version to the full version?**

*To upgrade from the trial version to the full version of Natural Drums, simply enter your full version license key in the activation window that appears when the trial expires. Alternatively, you can go to the [license keys page](#) in your DAACI account and deactivate your trial license. This will prompt the activation window to appear the next time you open the plugin.*

## Pricing & Licensing

- **What is the pricing model for Natural Drums?**

The price for Natural Drums will be displayed at the time of purchase. For current pricing information, please refer to the purchase page [here](#).

- **Can I use the plugin on multiple devices with one license?**

Yes, your purchase of Natural Drums includes 2 activations, allowing you to use the plugin simultaneously on 2 different devices. If you need to move activations to another device, you can manage this in the license keys section of your account [here](#).

- **How do I delete an activation**

Go to the License Keys page in your DAACI account. Click the **View** button to the right of the relevant license. There you will see activations and a button to **Delete** them.

## General

- **Can I use Natural Drums to create parts for commercial work and are there any copyright or licensing restrictions?**

Absolutely! You can use Natural Drums to create parts for commercial work, and anything made using the plugin is 100% yours. There are no copyright or licensing restrictions on your creations.

- **Is Natural Drums suitable for all skill levels, including beginners?**

Yes, Natural Drums is suitable for all skill levels. Beginners can easily and quickly create professional-sounding beats using its intuitive interface, while experienced users will find it a valuable tool for inspiration and accelerating the creative process. If you are new to drum programming, try using Compact Mode as a quick way to get started.

- **How does Natural Drums handle different playing styles or genres that aren't mainstream?**

Natural Drums excels across a wide range of genres, including those that aren't mainstream. For more experimental beats or unique playing styles, you can enable manual mode to gain complete control over the output.

- **Can Natural Drums be used in educational settings, like music production courses or workshops?**

Yes, Natural Drums is an excellent educational tool. Its intuitive interface and creative capabilities make it ideal for music production courses and workshops, helping users enhance their musical understanding and explore new creative possibilities.

DAACI partners with a number of educational institutes. If you are from an educational institute and want to find out more, please get in touch with our team at [hello@daaci.com](mailto:hello@daaci.com).

- **Do you offer a student or educator discount?**

We support the future of the music and tech industries with a discount of up to 30% for students and staff from institutions across the world. [Read more about the DAACI Education Program and how to apply.](#)

- **What are some creative ways to use Natural Drums beyond traditional music production?**

Natural Drums can be used in a variety of creative ways beyond traditional music production. For instance, it can serve as a MIDI trigger for any virtual instruments, not just drum parts. Additionally, some creators have used the plugin to drive dynamic lighting shows, syncing lights with the rhythm of the drums.

- **How does Natural Drums handle humanising drum parts to avoid a robotic feel?**

*Natural Drums can vary dynamics, either by adding subtle variation via the Humanise Velocities control, or by using accent patterns to add shape to your groove. Subtle usage of the Swing control, particularly the 1/8 note swing, can also add a looser feel to your patterns. We are working on a beat placement humanisation module, and hope to be able to share this soon.*

- **Is there an option to export the entire session, including all drum tracks, as a project file?**

Currently, you cannot export the entire session as a project file. However, you can save your own drum pattern presets, which can be opened on another machine.

- **Where is the AI in Natural Drums?**

The research that went into Natural Drums has enabled us to codify the musical decisions a drummer makes when composing drum grooves, assign a few controls and allow anyone to generate their own musical drum grooves. This intelligence can take any input rhythm and embellish and improvise on it the same way a real drummer would, adding richness and complexity to your drum groove.

- **How does the DAACI approach to AI differ from other AI music companies?**

The patented generative component within the DAACI framework does not rely on machine learning or Large Language Models (LLMs). No form of training has taken place on any pre-existing, third party sound recordings of musical works or other source data. Instead, the

generative mechanism is driven by a complex heuristics engine that operates on human input and is based on the principles of musicology, music theory and music research.

- **Can Natural Drums help with creating other elements of the song, not just drum parts?**

Yes, you can use Natural Drums to create the MIDI input for any instrument or part. While Natural Drums was designed with drum grooves in mind, it can be used to trigger a wide variety of different sounds including percussion, synths and samples. Let your imagination run wild!

## **Accounts & Billing**

- **How do I purchase a full license of Natural Drums?**

Purchasing our full license is easy! Head over to our website and click on the Natural Drums Full License [here](#). Provide your name, billing address, email address and payment information and complete your purchase. An account will be created for you if you didn't already have one, or you will be prompted to login to an existing account. You'll receive an order confirmation email that includes the download files and your license key. Your Natural Drums license will last you a lifetime!

- **Do I need to provide payment information to start the free trial?**

No, there is no credit card required to start the trial, it's completely free!

- **How many Natural Drums free trials can I sign up for?**

You can sign up for 1 free trial of Natural Drums. Each user is limited to a single 7-day trial.

- **What happens when the 7-day trial ends?**

When the 7-day trial ends, your access to Natural Drums will be automatically discontinued, and the trial license will simply expire.

- **Will I be automatically charged after the trial period?**

No charges will be made, and you won't need to cancel anything. If you wish to continue using Natural Drums, you can purchase a full license at any time.

- **Can I extend my trial period if I need more time?**

No, the 7-day trial period cannot be extended. Once it expires, you'll need to purchase a full license to continue using Natural Drums.

- **What payment methods are accepted for purchasing Natural Drums?**

We accept all major credit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. If you need to pay by invoice, such as for a large organisation, please get in touch with us directly to arrange payment. Contact [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com)

- **How do I manage my account?**

To manage your account, view your billing history, or obtain receipts for your purchases, simply head to <https://daaci.com/my-account/>. There, you can update your personal information, review past transactions, and download receipts as needed.

- **What happens if my payment fails?**

If your payment fails, an error message will be displayed on screen. If you encounter any issues with the payment process, please get in touch with us for assistance at [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com).

- **Is there a refund policy?**

Here is the returns and refund policy: [https://daaci.com/refund\\_returns/](https://daaci.com/refund_returns/)). If you would like to request a refund please contact us at [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com)

- **Can I transfer my license key to another account or user?**

No, license keys cannot be transferred to another account or user. For more information, please review our terms and conditions.

- **What do I do if I forget my account password?**

Click the "Forgot Password" link on the login page to reset your password. If you encounter any issues, please get in touch with us for assistance.

- **How do I delete my account?**

To delete your account, please contact us directly at [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com).

- **Are there any additional fees or taxes added to my purchase?**

Any additional fees or taxes will be displayed at checkout before you complete your purchase.

# Troubleshooting

## Troubleshooting General

### **I can't hear any sound when I first load Natural Drums**

There can be a delay of a few seconds when you first load the plugin in a project whilst it checks the license. This is normal and should only occur once the first time Natural Drums is loaded.

### **The kit doesn't change with the snapshot when using a 3rd party plugin in the kit menu**

This is the expected behaviour for Natural Drums. If you remove the 3rd party plugin, the kits you had previously selected in each snapshot will still be there.

### **Audio export is disabled when using a 3rd party plugin in the kit menu**

This is the expected behaviour for Natural Drums. To render the audio of a 3rd party plugin, create a new audio track and set your DAW to record the audio output of Natural Drums to that new track.

### **I don't hear the sound for one of the drums parts (e.g. cymbal ride or crash)**

Natural Drums using the standard general midi mapping for drums, however not all programs or kits built into the various DAWs are mapped this way or include all drum parts. For example Ableton internal kits do not include a ride bell. If you think a part is missing please click on the "Settings" icon on the left hand side of the Natural Drums toolbar and check the MIDI routing matches your chosen 3rd party kit.

## Troubleshooting Installation

### **I can't see the plugin on my computer**

Troubleshooting - I cannot see the plugin

- Please see **I can't see the plugin in my DAW**

### **I can't see the plugin in my DAW**

- There are two versions for Mac. Please see our [installation guide](#) here to check you are installing the correct version for your system and specific DAW version.
- If installation was successful please check that you can see the following folders
  - Mac
    - Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/N-Drums.vst3
    - Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/N-Drums MIDIFX.vst3

- Windows
  - C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums.vst3
  - C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\N-Drums MIDIFX.vst3
- If you can see the N-Drums folders please head to the troubleshooting section for your specific DAW here.
- If you can't see the N-Drums files please contact our Support Team by filling out this form [here](#).

## Troubleshooting Installation (Windows)

The installation has failed with error message (Windows)

## Troubleshooting Activation

1. Make sure you have enough activations left in your license key:
  - Navigate to the [License keys](#) tab in your DAACI account
  - Under **Activation status** you can see how many activations you have used and the total number of activations
  - If you want to delete some activations to reuse them in other machines, click on the **View** button and delete the unused activations from there
2. Make sure you are using the correct email for the license key:
  - Navigate to the [Orders](#) tab in your DAACI account
  - Click **View** on the relevant order and check the email address entered under **Billing address**
  - When activating the plugin in your DAW, you will need to enter the email address, as it is written under **Billing address**
  - If there is a mistake or typo in your email address, or to report any issues, please complete our [support form](#) and we'll get back to you as soon as possible



# Troubleshooting in your DAW

## Troubleshooting in Ableton Live

### Cannot see plugin in Ableton

#### Option 1:

**In Ableton 10 - downloaded for *Apple Silicon*.**

*"It appears that the package has not installed the VST entirely. It doesn't show up in any Plug-In component folder and there's no trace of DAACI products except the original installation file."*

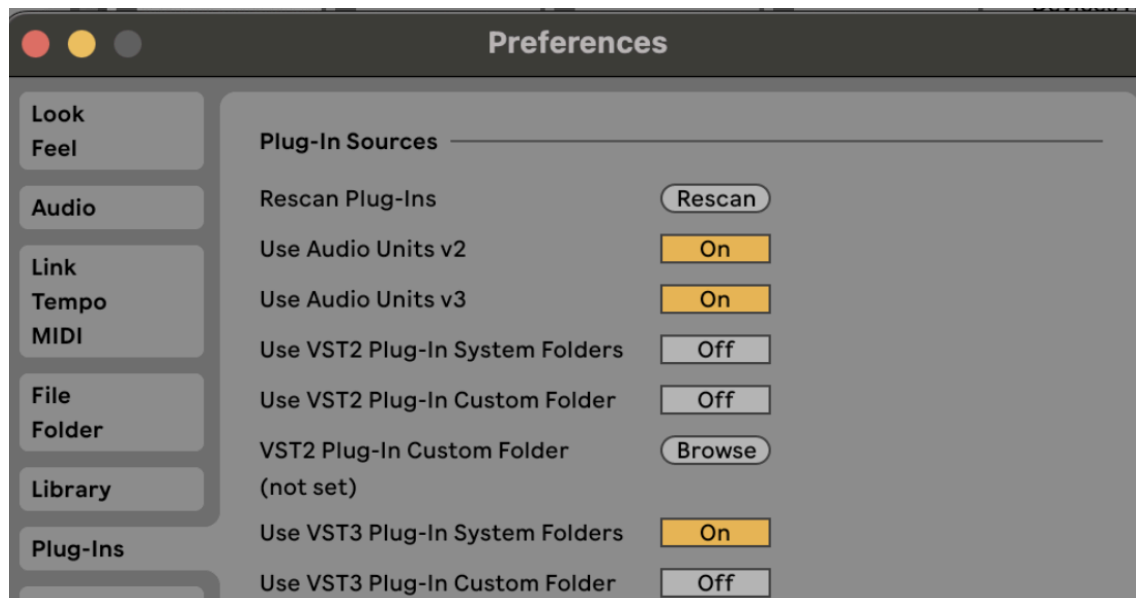
*Answer:*

*In Ableton version 10 you need to download and install the Intel version of the plugin regardless of whether your machine is Intel or ARM.*

#### Option 2:

*Make sure you have enabled the VST3 scanning in your Ableton Plug-In configuration. Go to your preferences and see that the "Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders" is enabled.*

*This option is by default disabled.*



## Troubleshooting in Logic Pro

### **I can't see the plugin in Logic Pro?**

Please check our getting started guide for using N-Drums in Logic Pro [here](#).

If you still can't see the plugin the next step is to try restarting your computer as there is a known issue with Logic not displaying the plugin after initial installation on some machines.

## Troubleshooting in GarageBand

### **I can't see the plugin in Garageband**

Please check the guide on using N-Drums in Garageband [here](#).

If you still can't find the plugin see known issues for Garageband [here](#)

## Troubleshooting in Pro Tools

### **I can't hear any sound in the instrument version of Natural Drums when using plugin in plugin**

Make sure that the track with N-Drums on is record enabled. This is not necessary for the internal kits but is necessary when using 3rd party plugins within N-Drums.

# Known Issues

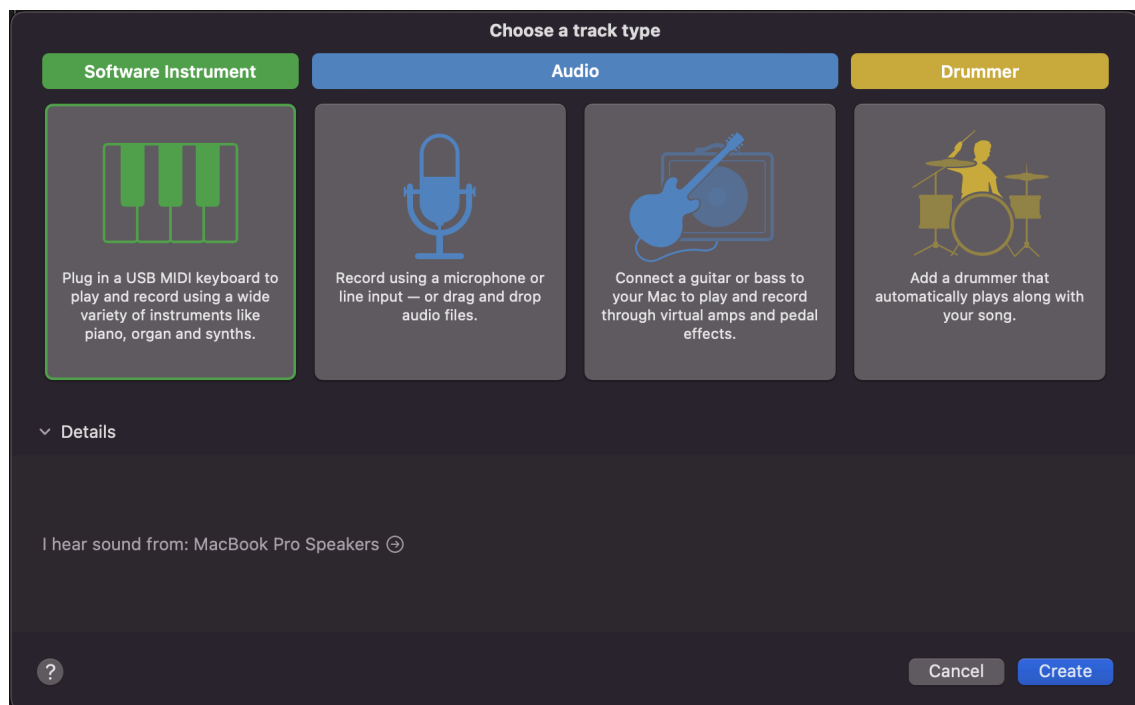
## Known issues in Logic Pro

- Issue - Logic doesn't see the plugin after initial installation.  
Fix - Restart your computer
- For Logic v10.7.1 on Intel based Macs there are known issues with the playback within N-Drums preview but MIDI exports are not affected.

## Known issues in GarageBand

### GarageBand discoverability issue

Create a new instrument track



Ensure “Smart Controls” is selected in the top left of the window.



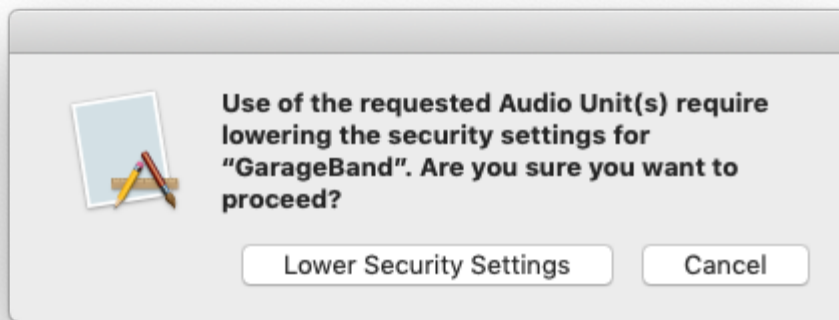
Expand the “Plug-Ins” dropdown.



In the top slot, selected “N-Drums” within the “AU Instruments/DAACI” folders.



If you get a pop-up message, select “Lower Security Settings”.



## Known issues in Studio One

### **Natural Drums crashes when loading in Studio One V5.**

We are not able to support V5 of Studio One, please upgrade to V6 if you wish to use Natural Drums in Studio One

## Known issues in Pro Tools

### **Pro Tools crashes when loading a 3rd party plugin in the kit menu**

This is an intermittent issue that we are working on. Restarting Pro Tools will often solve the issue or if that doesn't work restarting the computer will normally solve the issue.

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## Get in touch

If you have any questions or need to contact a member of our team, please email us at [support@daaci.com](mailto:support@daaci.com). We always value your feedback and input, or if you want to share any music you've made using Natural Drums, we'd love to hear from you.

For technical support, please head to our support section (top right) and click 'Contact Support'. Your question will then be directed to the right team faster.