ChordSQ

Chord Sequencer Player

Rack Extension for Reason



WHAT'S NEW

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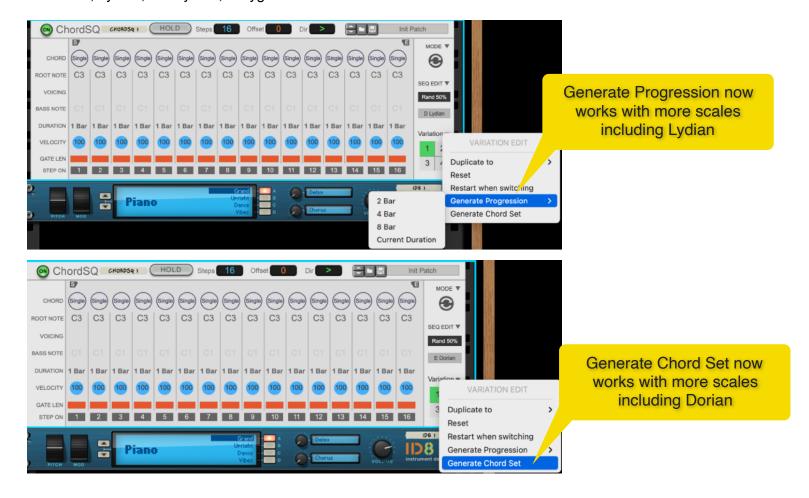
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What's new version 1.3.5

1. Generate Progression and Generate Chord Set - Additions

The option to automatically generate progressions and chord sets has been extended to more scales besides Major and Minor. Now you can use it with the Dorian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Phrygian and Locrian scales.



The Generate Progression has a new entry called "Current Duration". This is useful when you already have a pattern that you like and don't want to change the step durations, just the roots and the chords, as shown in the example below.



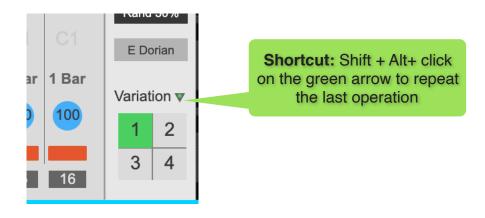
When you use the "Generate Progression" menu function, all the steps which are not part of the progression are set to their default values. Also, if the input mode is set to "Key Trig Individual Chords", it will be changed to "Host Sync".



Similarly, when you use the "Generate Chord Set" menu function, the number of steps is automatically changed to 16 and the input mode is set to "Key Trig Individual Chords" so that you can trigger the chords via MIDI notes starting from C1.



Whenever you use the Generate Progression or Generate Chord Set functions, you'll notice that the downward arrow next to the Variation label shows a green dot. This is a shortcut and if you "Shift" + click on it, the same menu operation is executed again without having to open the menu and re-select the entry. It's a time saver when you want to quickly create new progressions or chord sets in succession.



2. Next-Chord Suggestions

When a supported scale is selected, and the sequencer motion is set to "forward", the device can provide suggestions for building progressions. In order to start, you need to program a chord for step 1. Make sure that at least the root note is in key. Then when you open the chord type menu for the next step, you will see towards the button a new item called "Suggestions". By overing on the ">>" menu entry, you get a sub menu with several chords which are suggested by the algorithm. Please note, the suggestions are not always the same. If you click on the menu more than once, you will notice that the suggestions change.



3. Resize Pattern

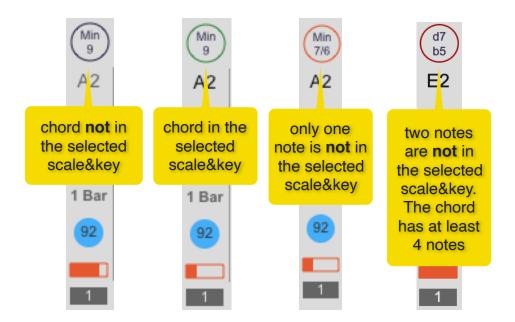
If you have a pattern of a certain total length but you wonder what it might sound like at a different length, let's say 4 bars instead of 8 bars, there is a handy option from the Duration Edit menu which allows you to half or double the total pattern length. This is shown below.

Please keep in mind that it's not always possible to generate a new pattern which is exactly half or double the length of the existing pattern. This is because the options for the step duration are limited. In any case, if an exact half or double option does not exist for a given step, the algorithm will try to find the closest value and set the step duration to that value.



4. New visual indicator for chords

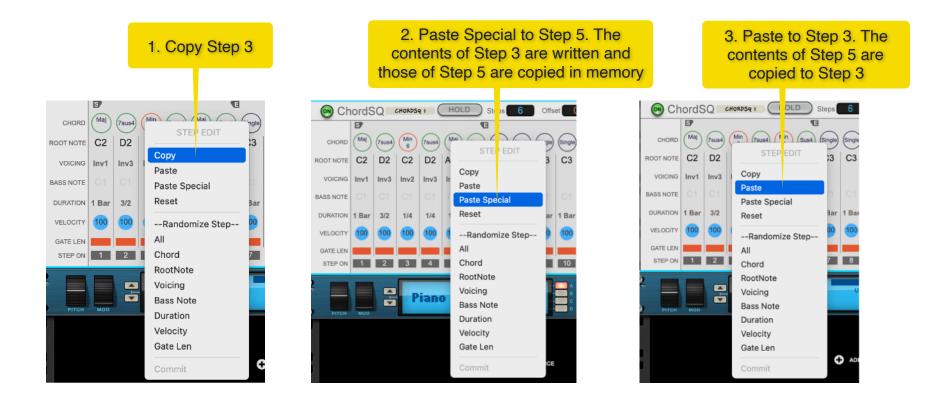
There is a new visual indicator for chords when working within a scale and key. Chords which are fully in scale are shown in green, chords which have only one note not in key are shown in orange, and now chords of at least 4 notes which have two notes not in key are shown in burgundy, as illustrated below.



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5. Paste Special from the Step Edit menu

There is a new "Paste Special" option in the Step Edit menu. The difference from the regular "Paste" command is that when you use "Paste Special", the contents of the step which is being overwritten are copied into memory so they can be pasted somewhere else. This makes it easier to "swap" steps for example, as shown in the example below where step 3 and step 5 are swapped.

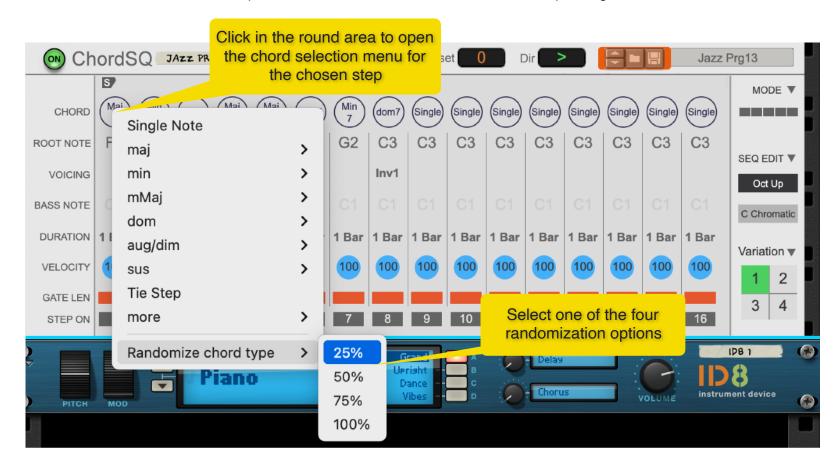


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What's new version 1.3.0

1. Chord Type randomization

The chord selection menu has four new entries for randomizing the chord type for the chosen step in the sequence. The options are 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%. Select an option to activate it. Once activated, select that option again to deactivate it.

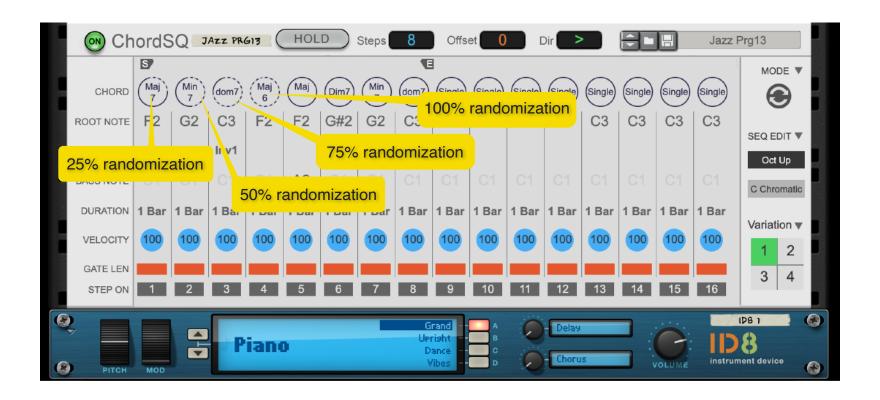


With the first option selected, there is a 25% chance that when the step is triggered, the chord type is selected randomly from all the available chord types, otherwise the original chord type is played. With 100% selected, the chord type is always chosen randomly

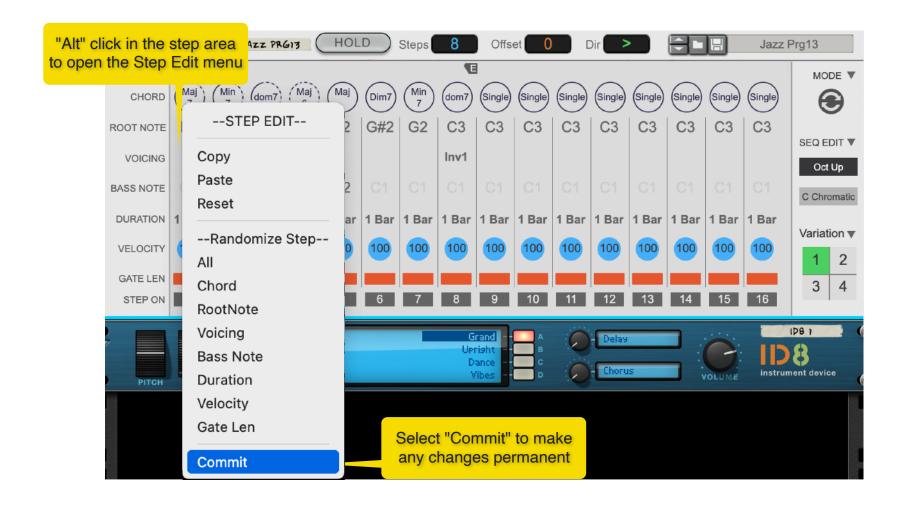
Voicing	Description
Root	plays the chord in root position, with the root at the bottom and the other notes stacked on top
Inv 1	plays the top note in the chord shifted down by 1 octave
Inv 2	plays the top 2 notes in the chord shifted down by 1 octave
Inv 3	plays the top 3 notes in the chord shifted down by 1 octave
Alt 1	plays the 2nd note in the chord shifted up by 1 octave
Alt 2	plays the 3rd note in the chord shifted up by 1 octave
Rootless	plays the chord by omitting the root note
Alt 3	plays the 2nd and 3rd notes in the chord shifted up by 1 octave
Alt 4	plays the 2nd note up an octave and the 3rd note down an octave
Alt 5	plays the 2nd note down an octave and the 3rd note up an octave
Rootless2	plays the chord by omitting the root note, and the 2nd and 3rd notes shifted down by an octave
NoThird	omits the third note
Thick	thickens up the chord by duplicating some of the notes above and below the root note

every time the step is triggered.

If the randomization is active, the graphic circle around the chord type goes from solid to partially or fully dashed as shown below.



Chord type randomization is great for changing an existing progression. What happens if you hear a change you like and want to make it permanent? This can be done by using a new option in the "Step Edit" menu called "Commit". This option becomes active when either Chord Type randomization or Voicing randomization (discussed later) are enabled.



In addition to the Step Edit menu, a handy shortcut to save any changes due to randomization is to "Shift" + "Alt" + click in the chord type selection area of the chosen step.



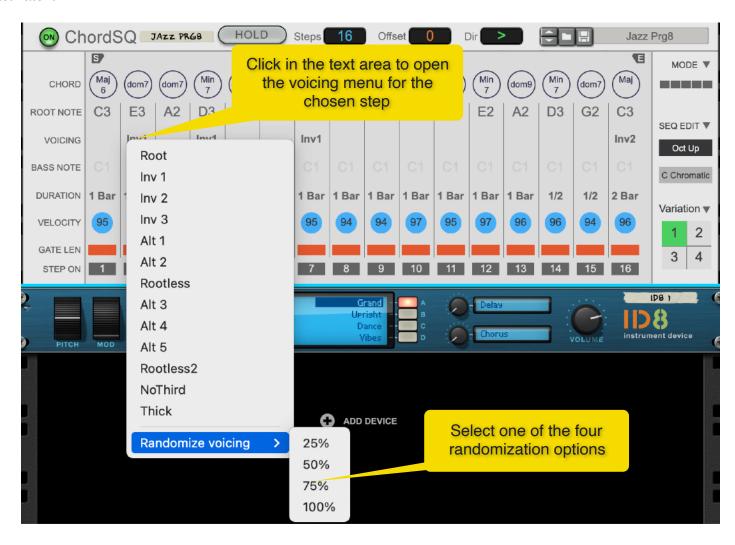
2. More chord types

The chord types have been expanded again offering more options for chord substitutions. The new chord types are accessed from the "more" submenu.



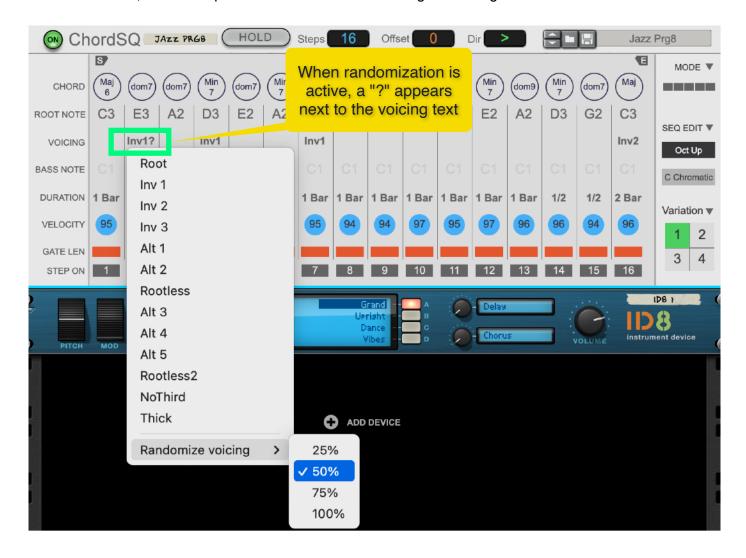
3. Voicing randomization

Like the chord selection menu, the voicing menu also has four new entries for randomizing the voicing type for the chosen step in the sequence. The options are 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%. Select an option to activate it. Once activated, select that option again to deactivate it.

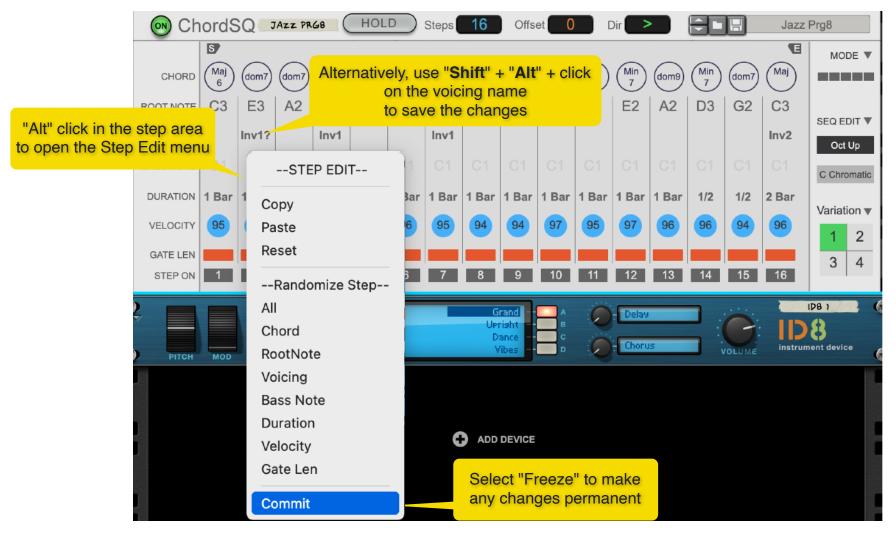


With the first option selected, there is a 25% chance that when the step is triggered, the voicing is selected randomly from all the available types, otherwise the original voicing is used. With 100% selected, the voicing is always chosen randomly every time the step is triggered.

If the randomization is active, there is a question mark "?" next to the original voicing name.



Just like for the chord type randomization, to make any random changes to the voicing permanent, you can use the new option in the "Step Edit" menu called "Commit". This option becomes active when Voicing randomization is enabled as shown below. Alternatively, you can use the shortcut of "Shift" + "Alt" + click on the voicing name to save the changes.

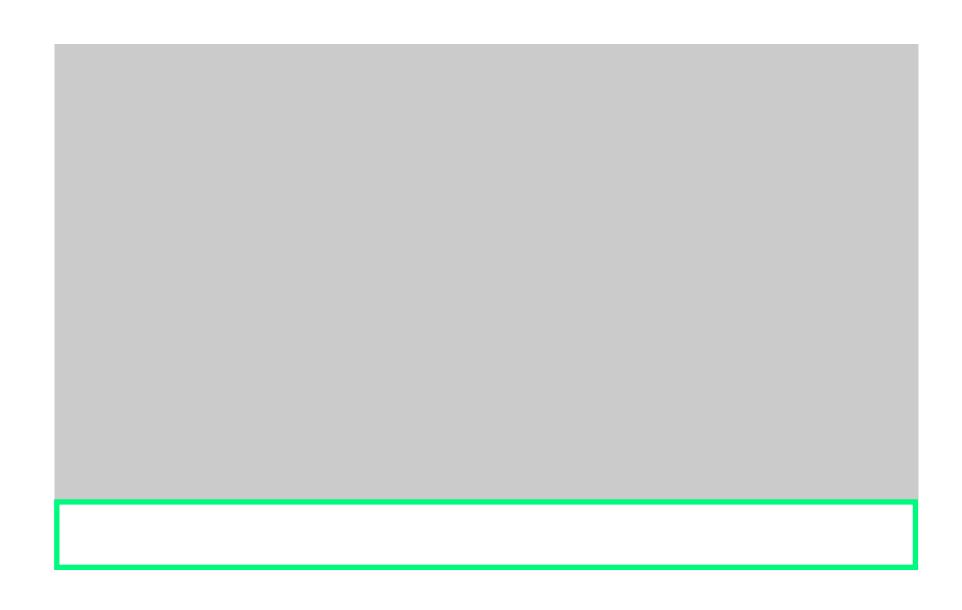


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4. More Voicing options

The voicing selection has been expanded with two new options as shown below.

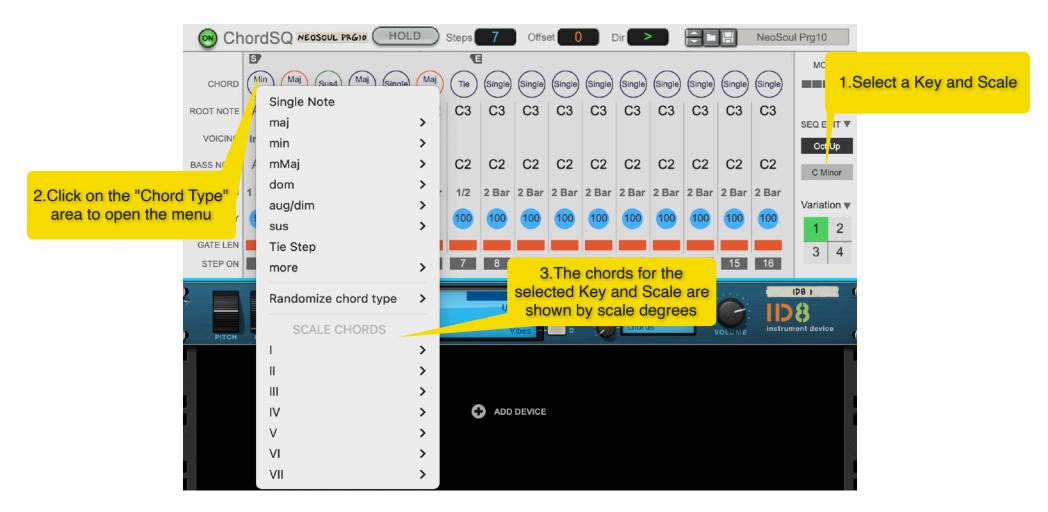




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5. Scale Chords available from the Chord Type menu

When you select a Scale and a Key, the chords for that scale and key become readily available from the "Chord Type" menu as shown below. The chords are arranged by scale degrees and they are divided in two categories: "In Key" and "Chromatic". The first category collects the chord types which are strictly "In Key" with all the chord notes in the chosen scale. The second category collects the chord types which have all notes except for one in the chosen scale.

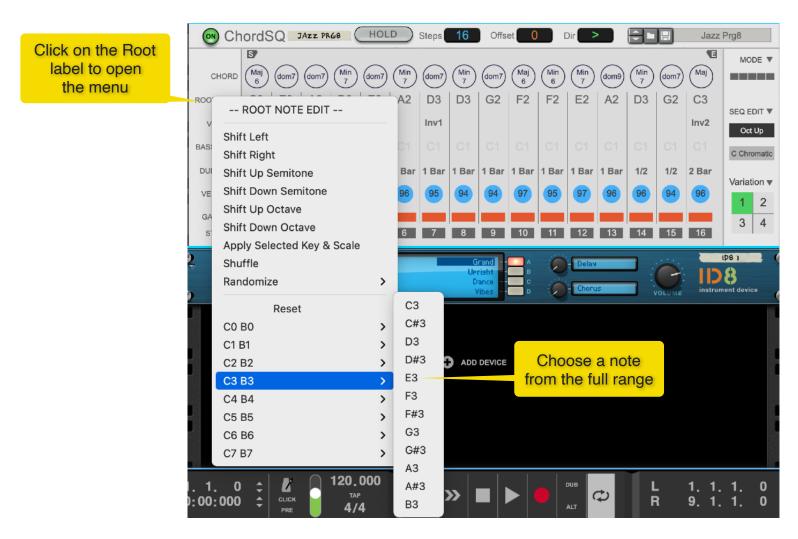


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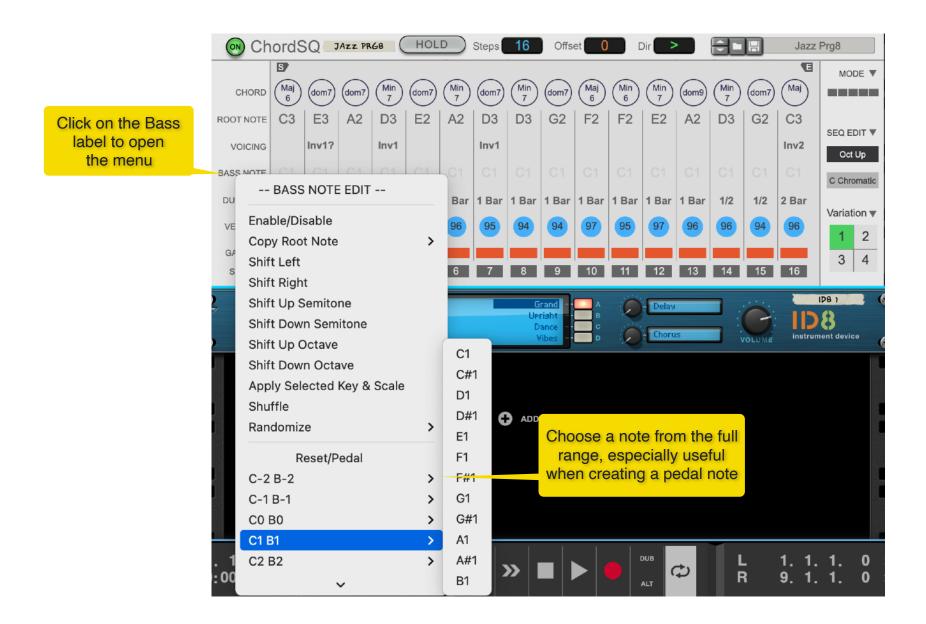


6. Full range Reset options for Root and Bass notes

The "Reset" options from the "Root Edit" menu and the "Bass Edit" menu have been expanded to include the full range of notes. This is particularly handy when creating "pedal" notes.



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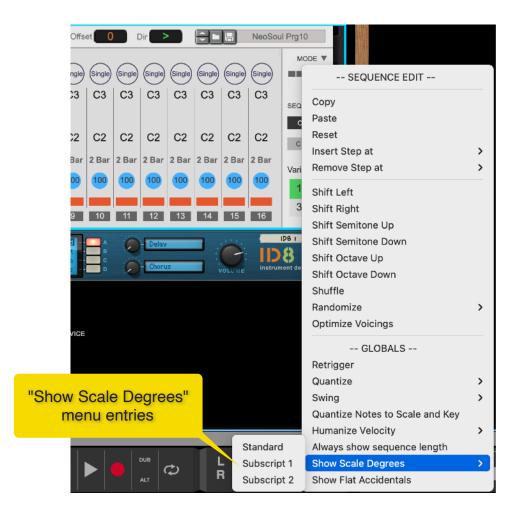
7. Show Flat Accidentals

It is now possible to choose if to display note names using either "sharp" (default) or "flat" accidentals. The option is available from the Sequence Edit menu as shown below.

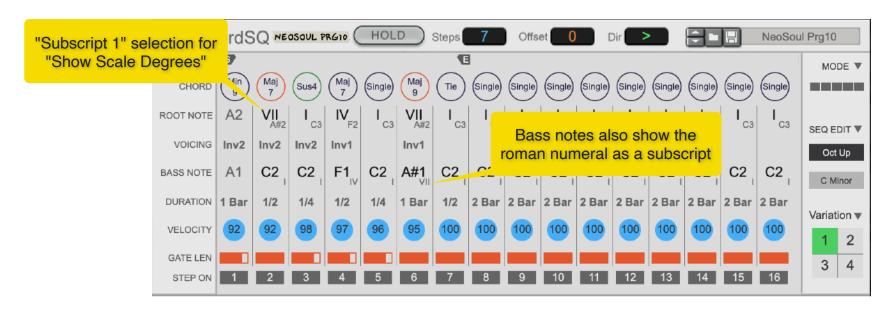


8. New options for "Show Scale Degrees"

The "Show Scale Degrees" entry from the Sequence Edit menu allows to change the display of the root notes from regular note names to roman numerals. This is available when a Key and Scale are chosen (not available in the Chromatic scale). Two new options "Subscript 1" and "Subscript 2" have been added to the menu entry which provide alternative ways to display the note names and roman numerals for both the root notes and the bass notes.









9. "Generate Pattern" from the Duration Edit menu

You can automatically generate patterns of a given duration from the Duration menu. Click on the "Duration" label and from the "Duration Edit Menu", select "Generate Pattern". From there you can select the desired pattern duration in bars. Please note, patterns always start from step 1 and the end step is adjusted to meet the desired length requirements.



10. "Generate Progression" from the Variation Edit menu

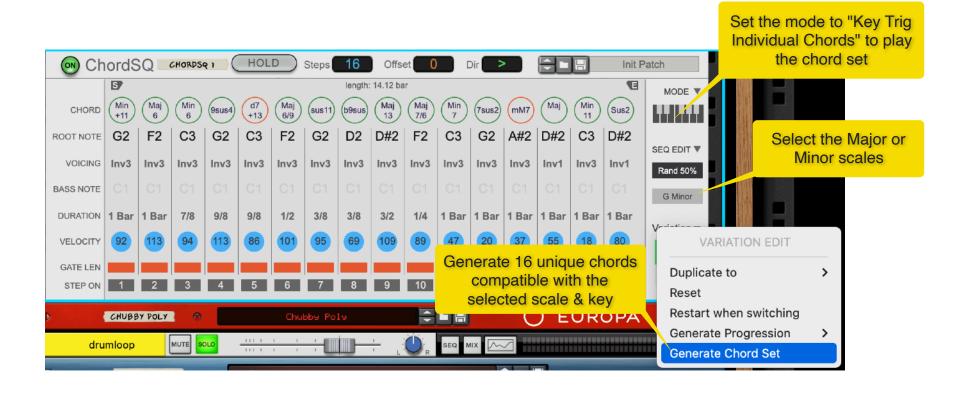
If you have either the Major or Minor scales selected, you can automatically generate chord progressions of a certain number of bars. Click on the Variation edit menu and select "Generate Progression". The algorithm will generate a progression using chords compatible with the selected scale. Please note, the option to generate progressions is only active when either the Major or Minor scales are selected.



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11. "Generate ChordSet" from the Variation Edit menu

If you have either the Major or Minor scales selected, you can automatically generate chord-sets of compatible chords. Unique chords are generated for all of the 16 steps and they can be played using the "Key Trig Individual Chords" mode. Please note, the option to generate chord-sets is only active when either the Major or Minor scales are selected.

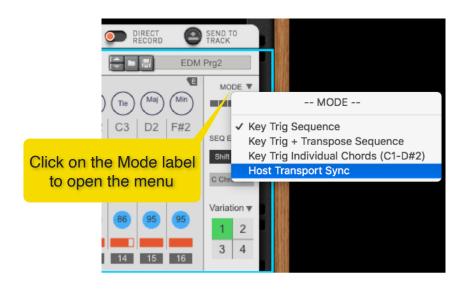


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What's new version 1.2.0

1 Host Transport Sync

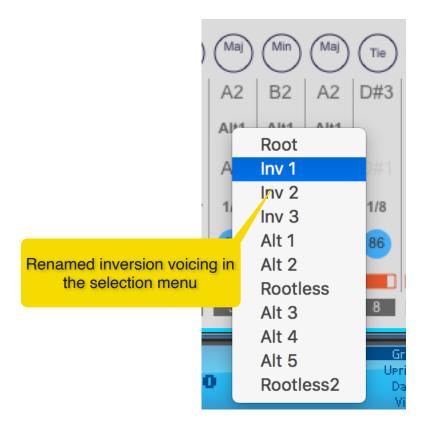
There is a new operation mode which syncs the internal sequencer to the Reason transport. In this mode, the chord sequence starts, stops and runs in sync with the Reason playhead. Click on the Mode label and select "Host Transport Sync" from the menu to activate this mode. Host Transport Sync is the new default mode when resetting the device.





2 Renamed voicing

The inversion selections in the voicing menus have been renamed to "INV 1", "INV 2" and "INV 3". This is to avoid confusion (hopefully) with the first, second and third inversion definitions from music theory. Because in ChordSQ the root note is set independently and stays fixed once set, the inversion selections can only shift down the other notes in the chord while the root remains fixed. For example, if the chord type is a triad, choosing "INV 1" shifts the top note down one octave, while choosing "INV 2" shifts both the top and middle notes down one octave. If "INV 3" is selected, the result will be the same as when selecting "INV 2" because there are only two notes in the chord beside the root.

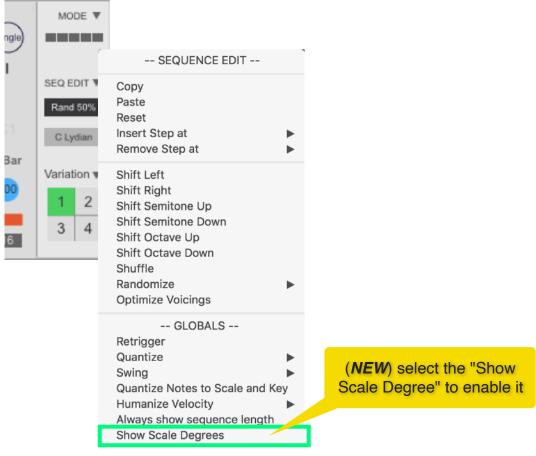


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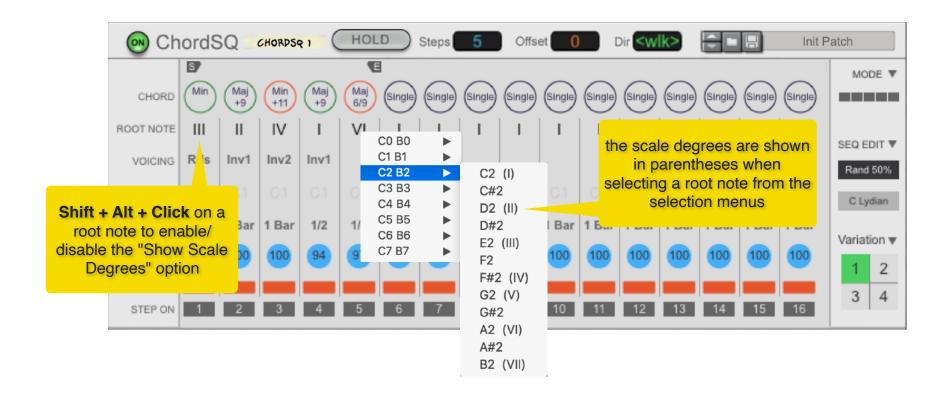
What's new version 1.1.0

1 Show Scale Degrees

In the "Globals" section of the "Seq Edit" menu, there is a new entry titled "Show Scale Degrees". When a scale other than Chromatic is selected, enabling "Show Scale Degrees" will display the root notes as roman numerals according to their position in the scale. For example, in the key of C Major, C is represented as "I" being the first note in the scale. If instead the key of G Minor is selected, then G is represented as "I".

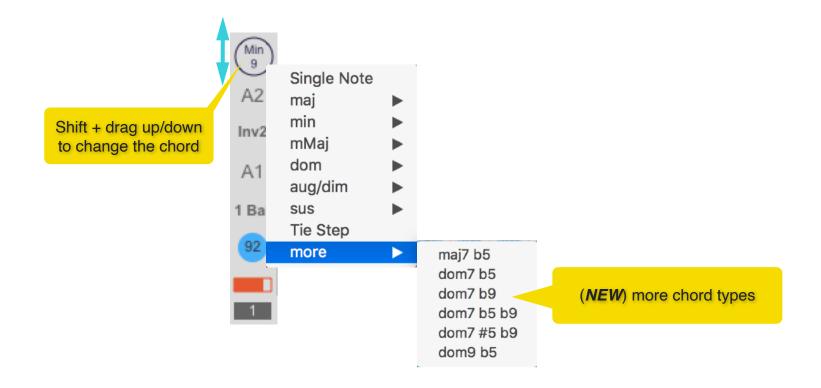


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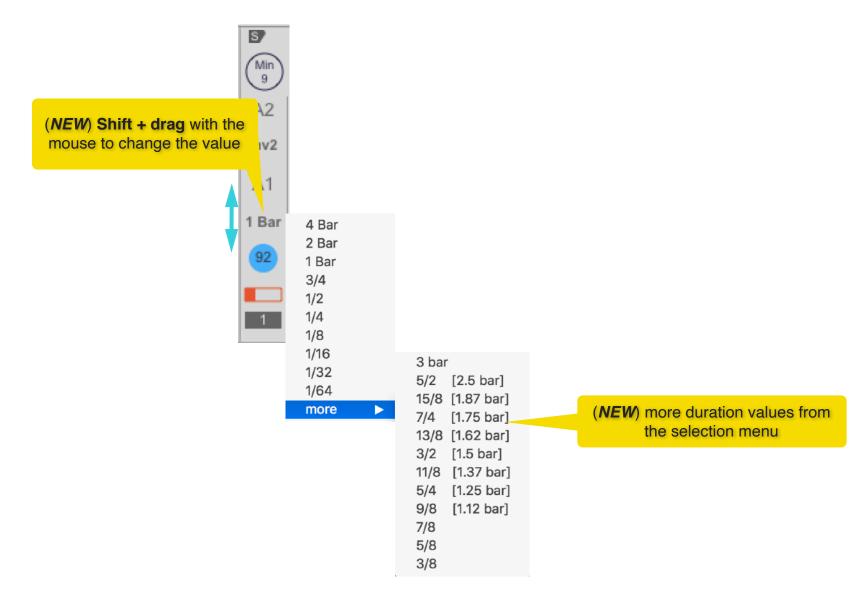
2 Expanded Chord Type and Duration presets

Several new chord presets have been added to the chord type selection menus.



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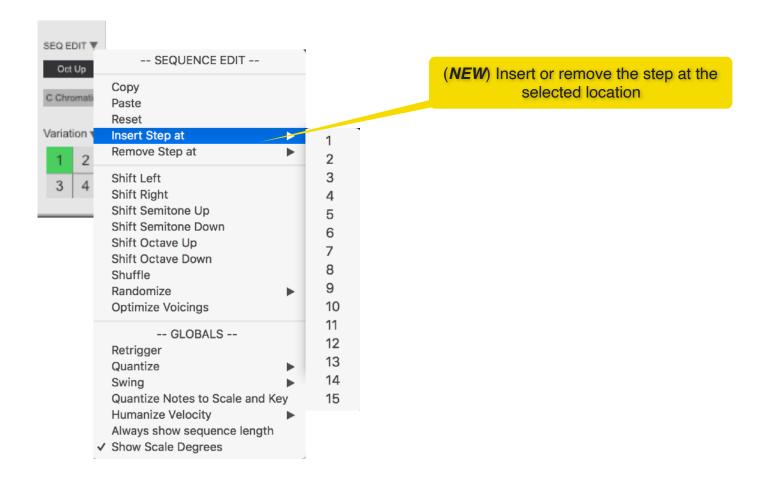
Similarly, more length options have been added to the Duration selection menus. Now you can also "Shift+drag" with the mouse to change the duration value.



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3 Insert and Remove Step editing functions

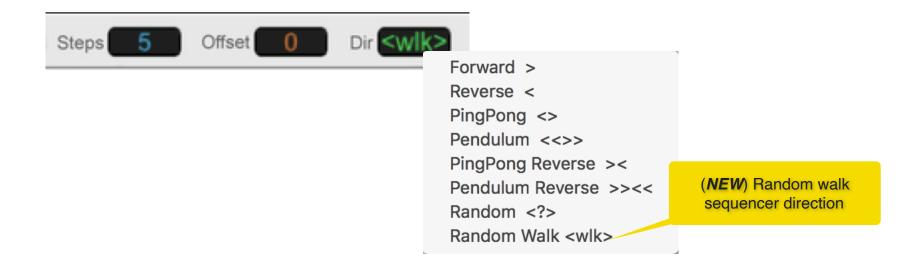
From the Seq Edit menu, it is now possible to Insert and Remove a step at the selected location. When inserting a new step, all steps on the right side of the insertion point are moved one step to the right. On the contrary when removing a step, all steps on the right side of the removal point are moved one step to the left and an new initialized step is created at position 16.



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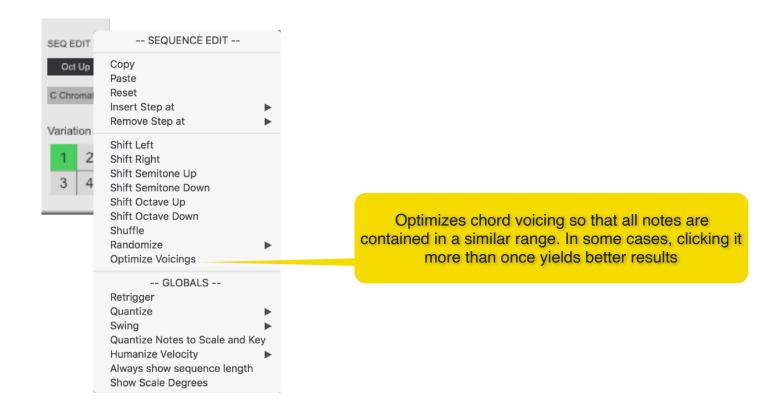
4 New Sequencer Direction - Random Walk

The "Random Walk" has been added as a possible sequencer direction. Instead of choosing steps randomly, like for the "Random" direction, with "Random Walk" the cursor moves always sideways, sometimes to the previous step, sometimes to the next step, and sometimes it repeats the current step. The only exceptions are the S and E locators steps where the cursor can "tunnel" to either of the two locations in addition to moving sideways.



5 Optimize Voicing improvements

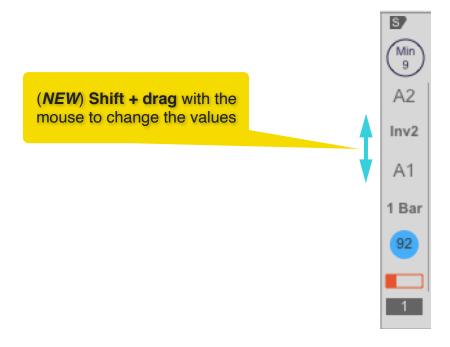
The algorithm for the "Optimize Voicings" in the Seq Edit menu has been improved to yield better results. It takes now into account the chord voicing of the first step (the one at the "S" locator) and tries to optimize the voicing of the other chords accordingly. In some cases, clicking on "Optimize Voicings" more than once can yield better results.



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6 "Shift + drag" extended to all step parameters

It is now possible to use the "Shift + drag" gesture to change the values of all step parameters, except for the step on/off. This can speed up the workflow, and it is especially handy when setting chord types, root and bass notes when a scale other than chromatic is selected.



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