

ASCENSION

MIDI WORKSTATION

USER MANUAL



Introduction

Ascension is a virtual synthesiser for VST and Audio Unit hosts, featuring a combination of subtractive, wavetable and ROM oscillator options. Ascension ships with a 10.5 GB ROM library, along with a large MIDI file collection taken from our best-selling dancemidisamples.com packs, with drag and drop MIDI support for your DAW.

Table of contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Features | 2 |
| Installation | 3 |
| Windows Installation | 4 |
| Mac Installation | 4 |
| Activation | 5 |
| Quick Tips | 6 |
| Preset Manager | 6 |
| Options Menu | 7 |
| MIDI Library Browser | 8 |
| Oscillator Section | 9 |
| Filter | 13 |
| Amplitude Envelope | 13 |
| Filter Envelope | 15 |
| LFO 1 & 2 | 15 |
| Effects | 17 |
| Mod Matrix | 18 |
| Auxiliary Mod Envelopes | 19 |
| Arpeggiator | 20 |
| MIDI Player Mode | 22 |
| Wave Editor: | 25 |
| Wave Editor Tools: | 26 |
| Master: | 27 |
| End-User License Agreement: | 28 |

Features

- Four multi-select oscillators.
- High shelf and low shelf filters for each oscillator.
- Frequency modulation controls for each oscillator type.
- Pitch detune for each oscillator tab.
- Three oscillator types (subtractive, waveform, ROM).
- Waveform generator and editor for oscillators and LFO's.
- Waveform import.
- Two arpeggiator types: MIDI Player mode, and internally controlled.
- Preset, oscillator & MIDI library browsers.
- Custom preset tagging.
- Nine filter types including lowpass, highpass and bandpass.
- ASDR amplitude and filter envelopes.
- Four auxiliary modulation envelopes.
- Eight modulation matrix destinations.
- 2 LFO's with a choice of 4 waveforms & custom waveform mode.
- 6 FX units with configurable signal chain.
- Light and dark skin options.
- Windows & Mac VST/ Audio Unit and stand alone versions.

Installation

Ascension comes with it's own installer application. This will allow you to select your choice of plugins to install and plugin folder location (Windows only).

You will also need to download Ascension's data library from the link provided in your order, this is a large download - please be patient.

Ensure that you have at least 11 GB of free hard drive space on your system.

Windows Installation

Ascension's installer application will prompt you agree with the software license, then select which plugins you would like to install, and your VST plugins directory.

Once installed, open an instance of Ascension in your DAW or the standalone version, you will then be prompted to locate your data folder.

Mac Installation

Ascension's installer will prompt you agree with the software license. You will then be guided through the installation process.

After your download has finished, the installer will place your selected plugins in your Mac's system library folder - [Library\ Audio\ Plug-Ins].

Once installed, open an instance of Ascension in your DAW or the standalone version, you will then be prompted to locate your data folder.

Activation

Once you have installed Ascension, the plugin will run in demo mode until registered.

To register Ascension make sure you have your Serial Code to hand. This was emailed to you when you purchased Ascension. If you cannot find your Serial Code please [contact support here](#).

Open the plugin and click 'OPTIONS' and then select 'Settings'.



On this tab you will see your 'Hardware ID'. Click to copy your ID and then visit the [click here to visit the Ascension activation page](#).


Ascension VST/AU - Activation

Serial: - - - -

Name:

Email:

Hardware ID:

☐ I'm not a robot 
reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

- Enter your Serial Code, name and email address, and Hardware ID, then click 'I'm not a robot' (this tells us that you're not an evil robot created by Skynet).

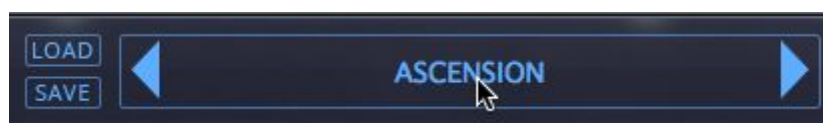
- Click 'Download License File'. You will then be prompted to download and save your License File.
- Reopen Ascension and click 'OPTIONS', then choose 'Settings'.
- Click 'Import License'.
- Navigate to the location of your License File (the filename will be: your-name-license.asl').
- Ascension will then confirm that your plugin is licensed.

Quick Tips

Double click knobs to reset them to their default position. Control click knobs while dragging their positions with your mouse to fine tune settings.

Need Help? You can access this manual by selecting 'Help' from Ascension's 'OPTIONS' menu.

Preset Manager



You can cycle through preset sounds by using the blue left and right arrows on either side of the preset window.

Ascension will display a 'loading' progress bar for larger ROM based presets.



Ascension's preset sound browser can be accessed by clicking the main preset window.



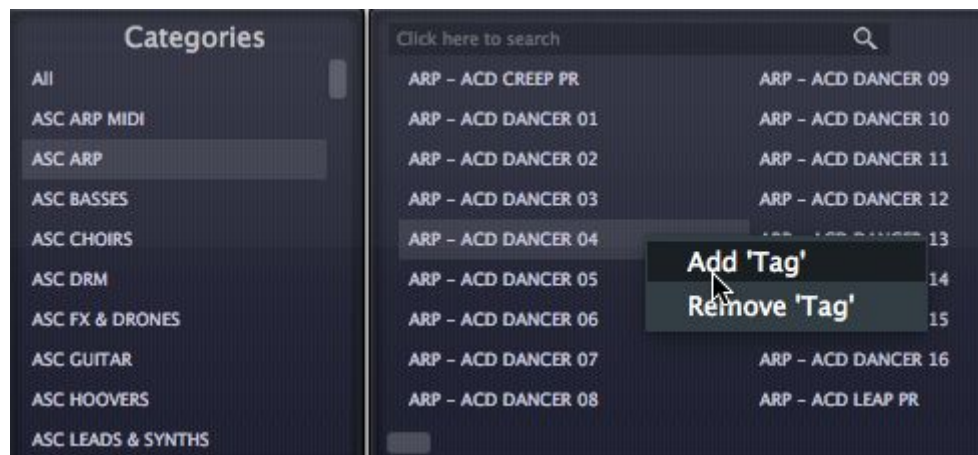
You can select and scroll through presets from the browser's list, and use the category select function on the right of the browser to quickly choose a sound category. You can also use your mouse wheel to scroll through presets.

You can also search for presets using the 'Click here to search' bar.

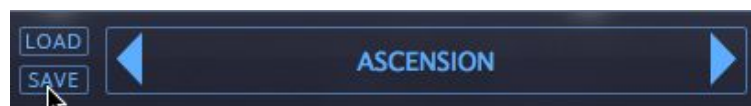
Preset Tagging & Search

Ascension allows you to add your own custom tags to presets, allowing you to quickly find your favourite sounds. To add a tag to a preset right

click a single preset in the browser and choose 'Add Tag' / 'Remove Tag'. Multiple tags can also be added using comma separated strings with no spaces, for example 'bass,trance,favourite'.



Preset Load / Save Buttons



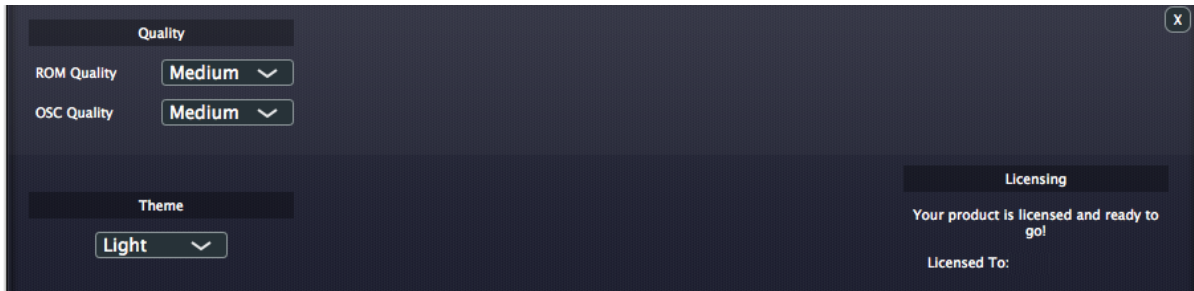
Use these buttons to load or save Ascension presets using your operating system's file browser.

Options Menu

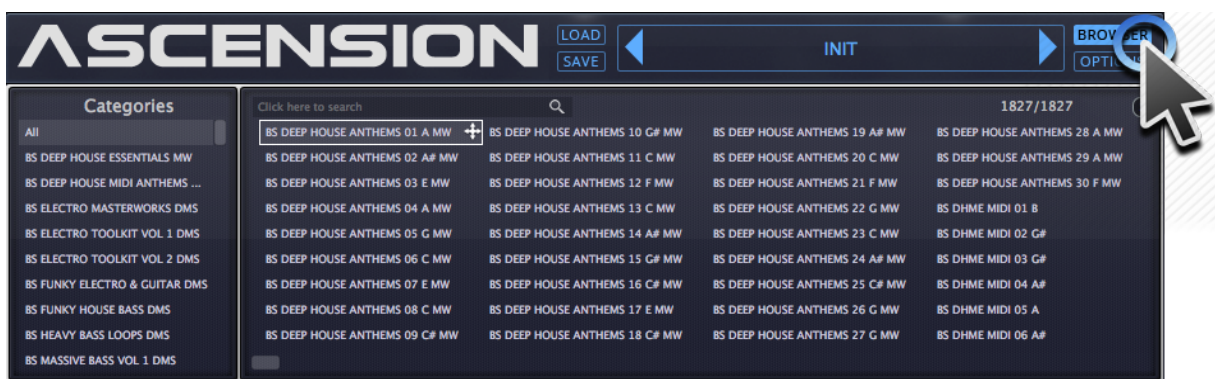


- About - Find about about DMS Ascension, it's creators and contributors.
- Initialize - Initialize Ascension to it's default preset.
- Velocity Curve - Change the way Ascension responds to your MIDI keyboard's note velocity.

- Settings - Register your Ascension license and sound quality settings. You can also choose between light and dark skins using the 'Theme' option.



MIDI Library Browser



Ascension comes with a pre-loaded MIDI file library, giving you instant access to hundreds of grooves, all of which you can drag and drop into your DAW to edit, 100% royalty free.

Please refer to the [Arpeggiator](#) section of this manual for more details on how to use the MIDI Player arp mode.

Oscillator Section



Each of Ascension's four tabbed oscillators can load one of three sound generator choices:

- Subtractive - Choose from 4 subtractive synthesis waveforms.
- Waveform - Single cycle waveforms.
- ROM - Multi-sampled instruments from the DMS studio.

Oscillators can be enabled and disabled using the power button on each oscillator's tab.

Semi: Adjust the oscillator's pitch in semitones.

Fine: Adjust the oscillator's pitch by -100 cents or +100 cents.

Detune: Use our detune effect to thicken your sound: 6 voices are detuned parallel to the center voice (the main pitch of the sound). Further detune settings can be found by clicking the UNISON tab.

Volume: Adjust the volume of each oscillator.

To initialize or solo an oscillator, right click on each OSC tab:

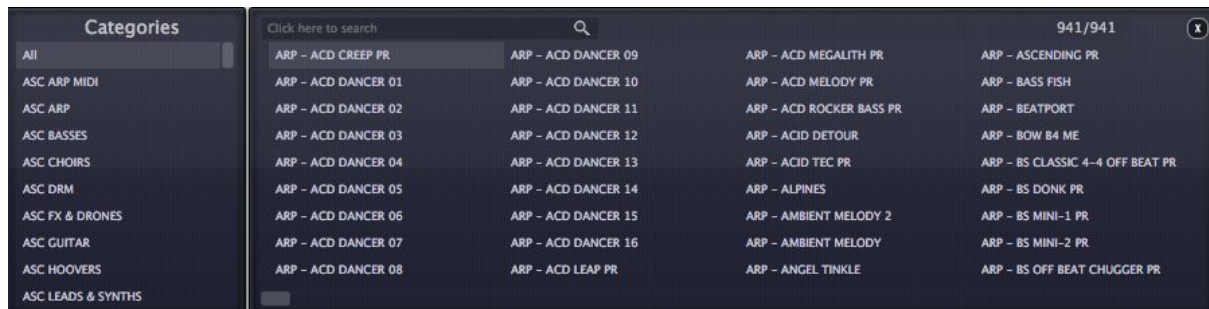


Browsing Oscillator Types

To browse oscillator types and sound generation choices click the selected oscillator's window and choose an option from the drop down menu.



You can also choose 'Browse' from the top of the menu to open Ascension's oscillator browser pane.



Unison

This tab allows fast access to each oscillator's unison detune controls. Choose between unison 3 modes, the amount of voices used, unison width and mix.



Ext. Ctrl

This tab features extra controls for each oscillator.



Lo / Hi: Filter out unwanted frequencies from each oscillator using high shelf and low shelf filters.

About Frequency Modulation (FM): Each of Ascension's oscillators features FM, allowing you to modulate the phase/ frequency against a waveform (FM Type) at the given frequency (FM Rate).

FM Amount: Controls the amount of frequency modulation (FM) applied to the oscillator.

FM Type: Choose from 5 FM waveforms - sine, triangle, saw, square or noise.

FM Rate: Controls the frequency modulation rate.

FM Mode: Choose from 4 FM types - tonal, semi, octave or free.

Phase: Changes the position of the waveform that the oscillator reads from - 0 = start, 0.5 = half, 1 = full cycle, same as 0.

Pan: Use this control to pan each oscillator - 50% is center, 0% is fully panned to the left channel, 100% fully panned to the right channel.

Filter



Ascension features a multi-mode filter with 9 filter types, from standard lowpass and highpass models, to state variable filters (SVF).

Click the filter's LCD screen to select the filter type.

Filter Controls

Cutoff: Control the key point at which all frequencies are cut off.

Res: Boosts the frequency that the cutoff point is currently set to. The more you boost it, the most the set frequency increases.

Drive: Controls the gain on the filter's resonance and adds saturation.

Amplitude Envelope



Ascension features a standard ADSR amplitude envelope. You can click each point to manipulate Ascension's envelopes with your mouse.

Envelope Controls

Attack: The time taken for initial run-up of level from nil to peak, beginning when the key is first pressed.

Decay: The time taken for the subsequent run down from the attack level to the designated sustain level.

Sustain: The level during the main sequence of the sound's duration, until the key is released.

Release: The time taken for the level to decay from the sustain level to zero after the key is released.

Curve: Adjust the response curve of the envelope.

Amount: Adjust the sensitivity of the envelope.

Filter Envelope



Ascension features an ADSR filter envelope. To assign the envelope to your sound increase the 'AMOUNT' control.

LFO 1 & 2



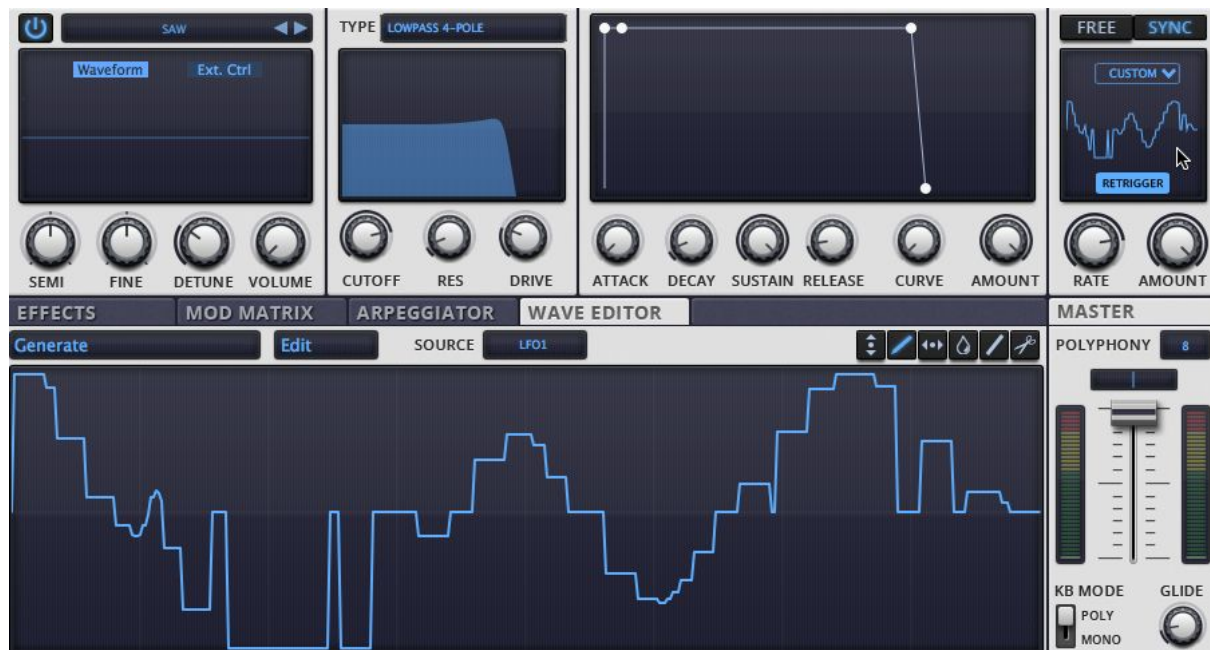
Ascension features 2 LFO's (low frequency oscillators), each with a choice of 5 waveforms, including a custom option, allowing you to draw your own LFO waveforms.

Each LFO can either be synchronised to your DAW's tempo (SYNC), or configured manually using the 'FREE' setting (0-30 Hz).

Custom LFO Waveforms

Ascension allows you to create your own custom LFO waveforms. Select 'CUSTOM' from the drop down LFO menu, then open Ascension's 'WAVE EDITOR' tab. You can now draw or import your own LFO waveform - you will see this custom waveform appear in the LFO display window.

Please refer to the [Waveform Editor](#) section of this manual for more information about creating and editing your own waveforms.



Effects

Ascension features a multi-effect unit with 6 sound effect types. The effect unit's chain is user configurable - use the 'drag' icon on each effect to change the signal path of the effects unit.



Effect Types

Distortion: Choose between 5 distortion types...

Chorus: Widen your sound using chorus.

Phaser: Choose between 6-stage or tight phaser models.

EQ: Shape your sound using 3 Band EQ.

Delay: Choose between standard delay or ping-pong models.

Reverb: Choose between Room or Cathedral reverb models.

Load / Save FX Chain Presets



Right click the EFFECTS tab to load or save an FX chain, or reset the chain's configuration.

Modulation Matrix

Ascension has 8 configurable modulation destinations, allowing you to modulate the synth's parameters within your preset.



Load / Save Mod Matrix Presets



Right click the MOD MATRIX tab to load or save a mod matrix configuration, or reset the matrix to it's default state.

Auxiliary Mod Envelopes



Ascension has 4 extra ADSR envelopes that can be used to further shape your sounds.

Arpeggiator

Ascension has a multi-mode arpeggiator, with pattern and MIDI Player modes.



Standard pattern arpeggiator mode

On/ Off: Turn the arpeggiator on or off using the power button on the top right hand side of the unit.

Mode: Choose between pattern up, down, order, random or polyphonic arpeggios.

Sync: Choose the note sync of the arpeggiator. The unit is automatically synced to your DAW's main tempo.

Octave: Set the amount of keyboard octaves the arpeggiator will play.

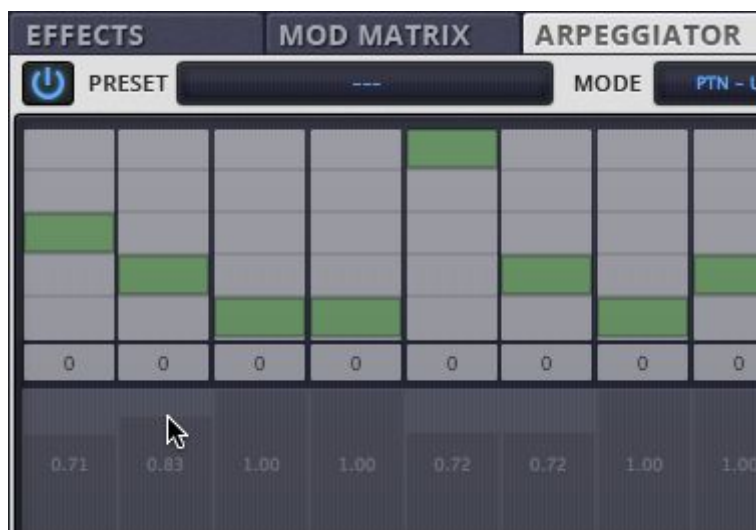
Length: Set the length of the arpeggio.

Random: This function allows you to create randomly generated arpeggiator patterns.

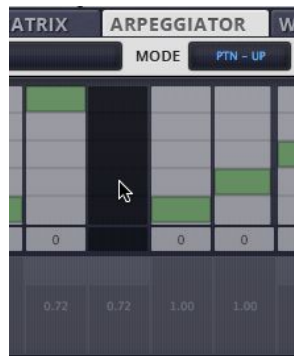
Arpeggiator note length can be altered by dragging the corners of each green note:



Note velocity can be altered using the lower grey sliders:



Notes can be silenced by right clicking:



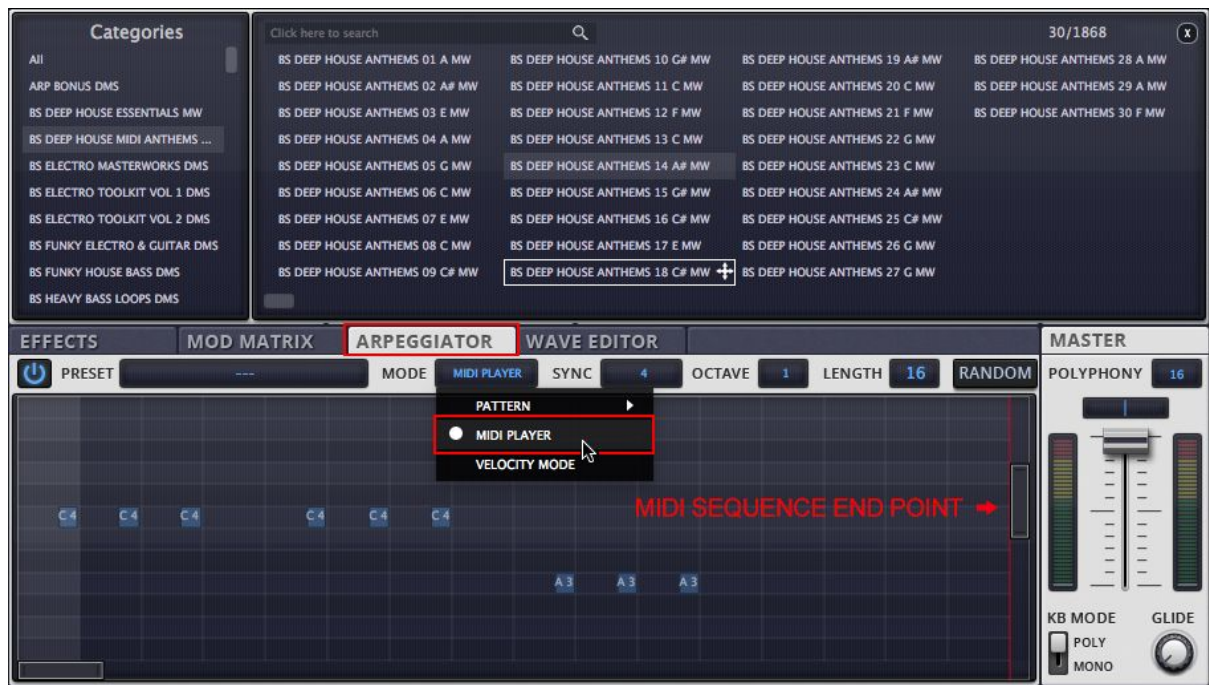
Arpeggiator Presets

Ascension comes with a selection of useful arp presets, these can be accessed, saved and loaded by clicking the PRESET window.



MIDI Player Mode

To enable Ascension's MIDI file player mode choose 'MIDI PLAYER' from the arpeggiator section's MODE drop down.



Click on Ascension's BROWSER button to scroll through the MIDI file library.



To audition any of these MIDI files from within Ascension, choose the ARPEGGIATOR tab, set the function to 'MIDI Player', then double click or drag and drop your chosen sequence to load it into the player.

Hold down a note on your MIDI keyboard or controller to audition the MIDI sequence.

MIDI files will not change key when auditioned in Ascension, however the key notes in the MIDI sequence are displayed in the MIDI player's viewer window, once imported into your DAW you're free to edit them as you wish!

MIDI Player Sync: Use this setting to control the playback speed of your selected MIDI file - this is automatically synced to your DAW's master tempo.

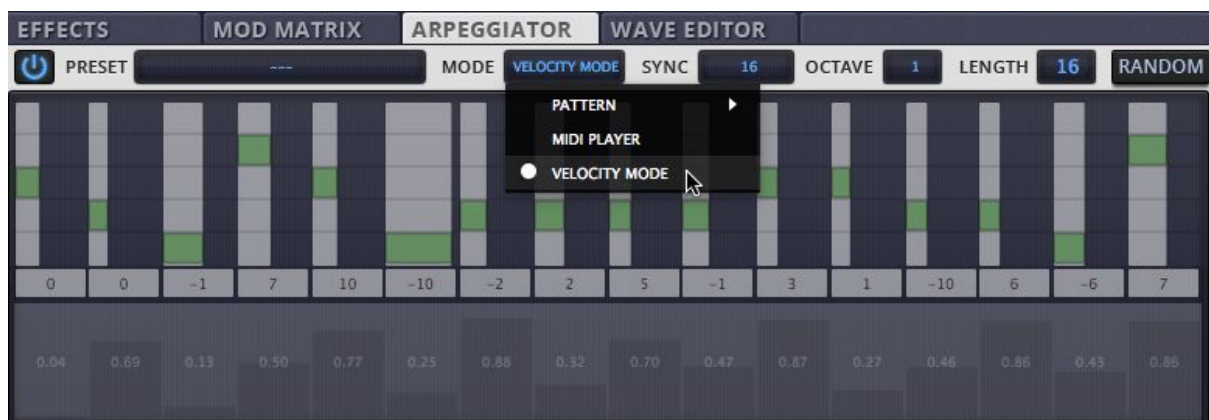
MIDI file display length: Use this setting to set the portion of the MIDI file that is played back - you can set it to play the entire file, or just a portion of the sequence. You will see a red line indicating the end point of the loaded MIDI sequence.

MIDI file zoom: You can use the scroll bars in the MIDI viewer to both scroll through the MIDI sequence and magnify the file.



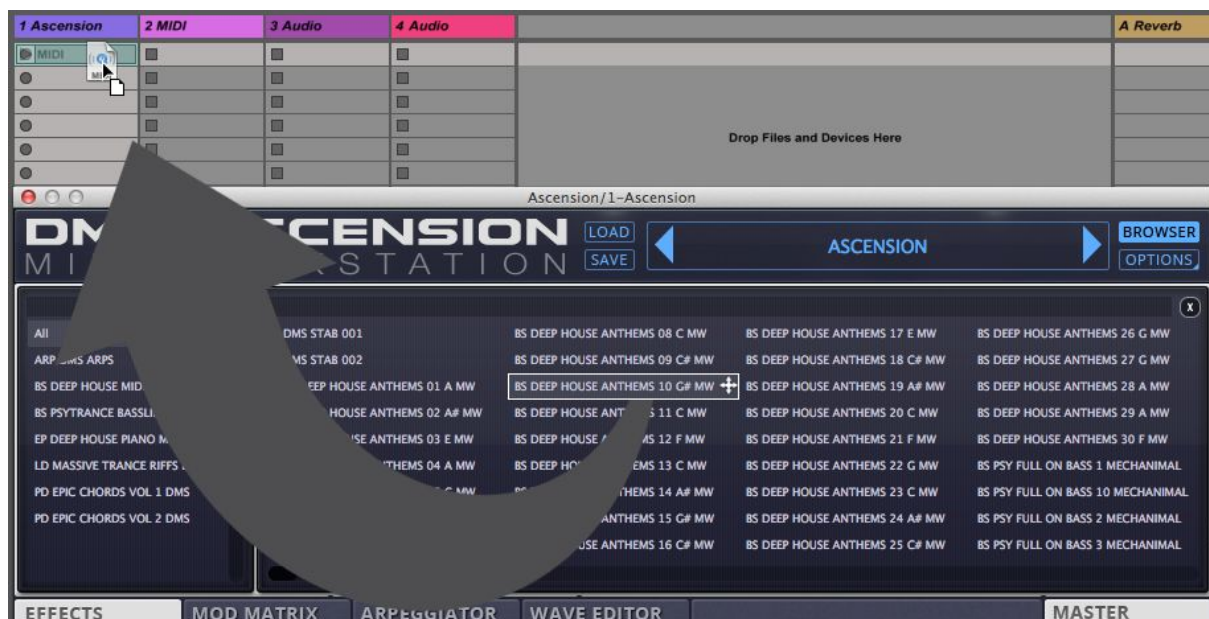
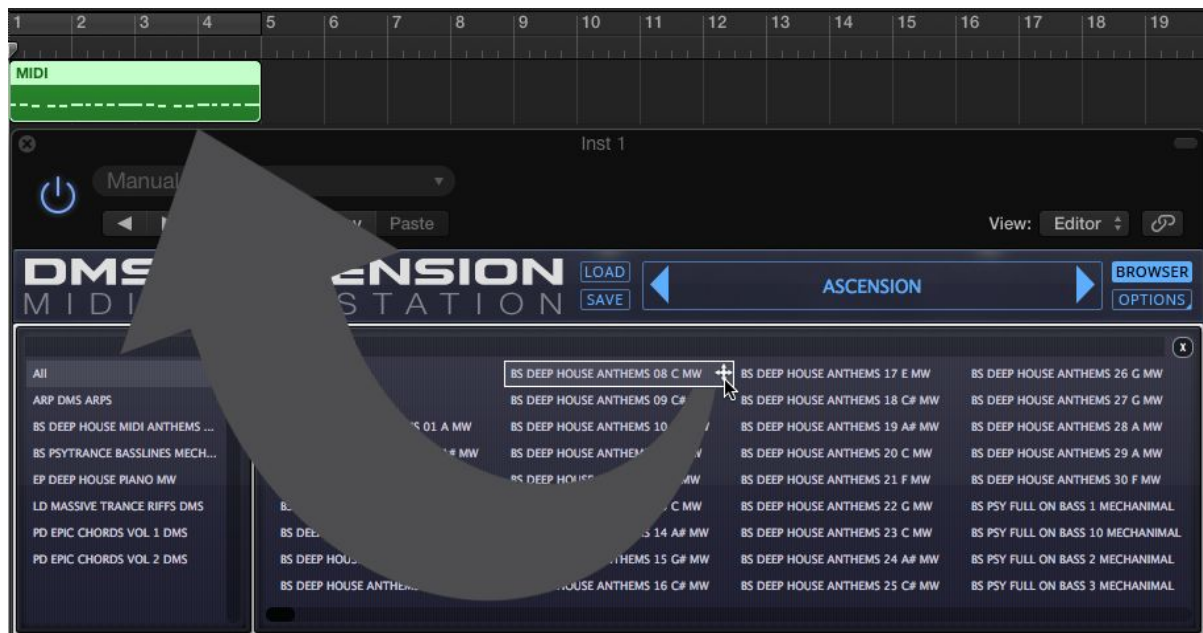
Arpeggiator Velocity Mode

Ascension's arpeggiator can also be used in 'silent' mode as a modulation source. When 'VELOCITY MODE' is selected you can use the Modulation Matrix to assign the velocity of the arp's notes to a modulation destination of your choice. This works particularly well in conjunction with the arp's 'RANDOM' function.

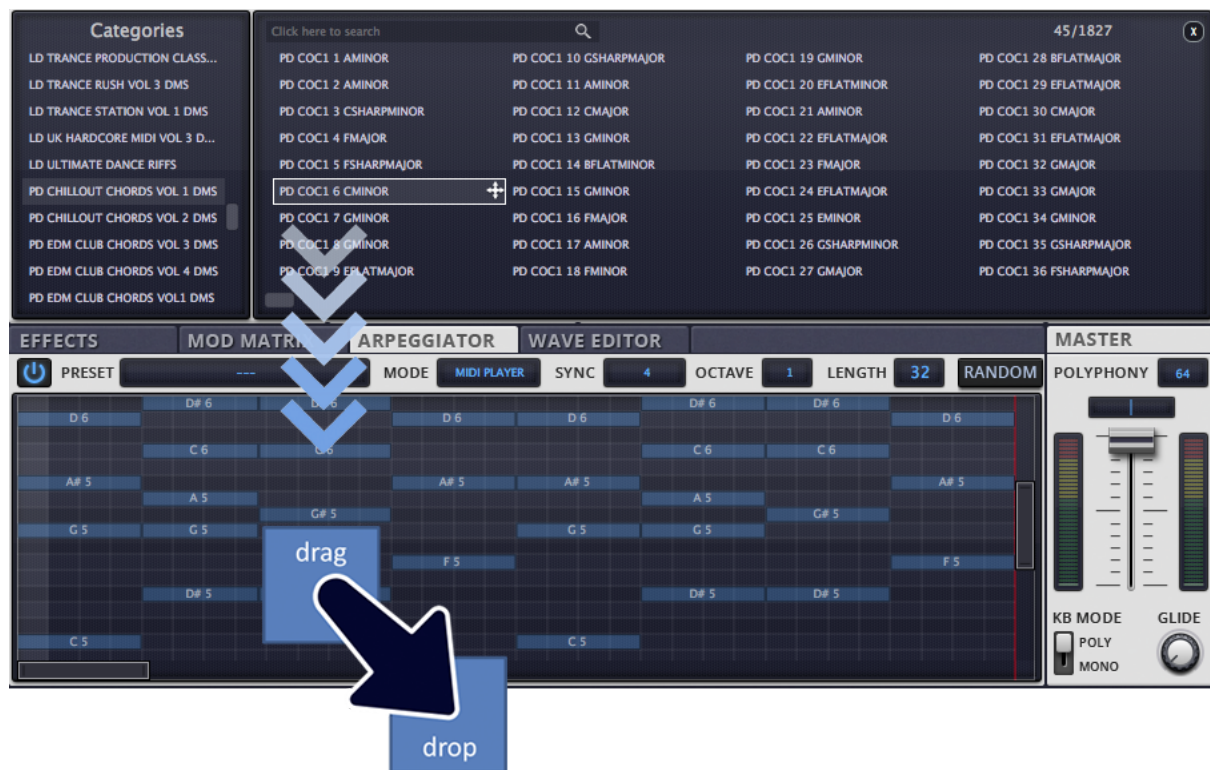


MIDI File Export To Your DAW

To use these MIDI files in your DAW simply drag and drop your chosen MIDI file from Ascension's browser, or the main MIDI Player screen on to your DAW's timeline.



Drag & Drop From The MIDI Player



You can also drag and drop any MIDI sequence directly from the MIDI Player's display window.

Wave Editor

Ascension features the ability to generate, draw, import and edit your own waveforms for use in it's oscillators and LFO's.

To choose the destination for your custom waveform, click the 'SOURCE' select LCD. The drop down then allows you to select any of Ascension's oscillators or LFO's for editing.



To generate your own waveform select 'Generate' from the waveform editor's menu, you can then choose between 6 waveform types.



Custom waveforms can be inverted, or reversed using the drop down Edit function:



Wave Editor Tools



Vertical drag: select this tool to drag the waveform shape up or down.



Draw: select this tool to draw your own waveform.



Horizontal drag: select this tool to drag the waveform shape horizontally.



Blur Samples: select this tool to soften the edges of your custom waveform.




Draw Line: select this tool to draw a straight line.

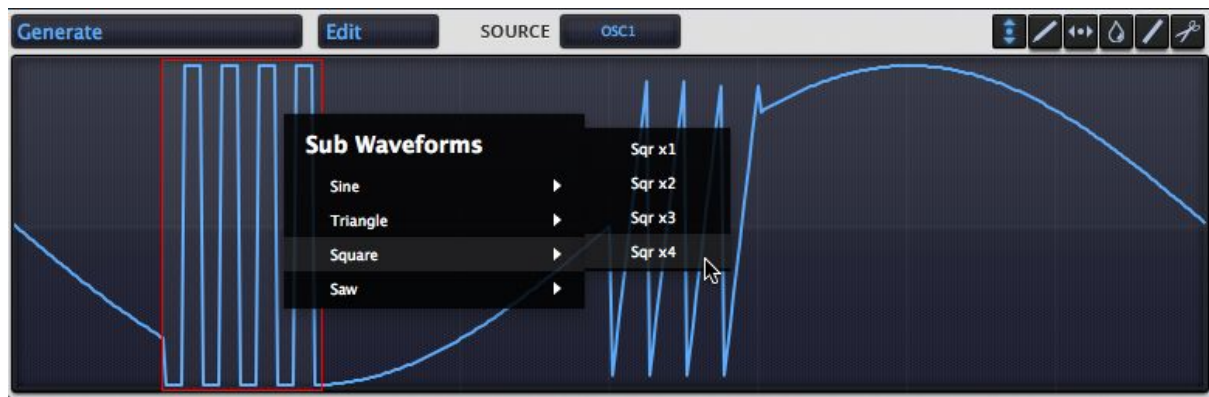


Cut (Flatten): select this tool to flatten the waveform.

Sub Waveforms

Ascension's Waveform Editor also has the ability to create novel 'sub waveforms' within your pre-generated or custom drawn waveforms.

To enable this option ensure that the 'vertical drag' [



Importing Your Own Waveforms

To import your own wave files (.wav), select 'Generate' from the editor's drop down menu and navigate to a folder containing some samples. We using recommend short samples. Wave files can also be dragged and dropped from Windows Explorer or Finder.



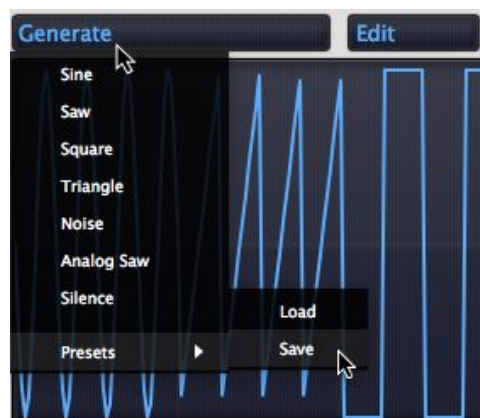
Editing Waveforms From The Library

Ascension ships with a large library of single cycle waveforms, accessible from each oscillator's browser window. These can also be edited using the Wave Editor. To send a pre-installed waveform to the editor, right click in it's oscillator window and choose 'Send To Wave Editor'.



Wave Editor Presets

Waveforms can also be saved as presets, allowing you to copy them to other source destinations, or re-use them in other projects. To save a waveform preset, right click the 'Generate' window. This will bring up a menu allowing you to save or load a waveform.



Master



Polyphony: Set the number of voices that Ascension will use, keeping this low will save on CPU usage.

Pan: Controls the stereo position of Ascension's master output. Use this control to pan your sound from left to right. Click the center bar and drag to position your sound.

Main volume: Controls Ascension's main output volume.

KB mode: Control's Ascension's keyboard mode - choose between MONO - monophonic (one note at a time) and POLY (polyphonic - multiple notes at the same time).

Glide: Adjust your sound's capability to slide in pitch from one note to the next.

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