Makey Makey Midi Fact Sheet for Musicians

How can you use Makey Makey to play music?
- The simplest (and most popular) way to make music with Makey Makey is by creating your own **banana piano**! Plug your Makey Makey into a computer, use the alligator clips to connect bananas (other fruits or anything conductive), open the piano app in any web browser, and play away.
- Want a different instrument? Try out our bongos app, and music sampler app!
- Ready to move into a DAW or digital audio workstation? Here are some guides to help you make your own music with different software apps: Garageband, Scratch, Soundplant, Ableton

What is MIDI Protocol? Does Makey Makey use MIDI Protocol?

- MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) is a language that audio software and hardware use to talk to each other. For example, a MIDI keyboard allows you to play software instruments on a computer. Makey Makey does not use MIDI, however there are other ways of using Makey Makey to connect with music software, such as 'virtual computer keyboards' or 'key mapping'.
- Note: You may find old tutorials on websites other than Makey Makey explaining how to upload a MIDI sketch to the board. Those do not work on Makey Makeys produced after 2014 (v1.2 and up)

What is DAW?
- DAW stands for Digital Audio Workstation. It is a piece of software used for recording, editing and producing audio.

Can I use Makey Makey as a looper?

- You can control the looper plugin inside Ableton using Makey Makey, check out the [guide here](#).

What do you recommend for getting the Makey Makey signal into midi? What's the best software?
- If you have a Mac, [Garageband](#) is a great free software that can be configured to use keyboard inputs. And it may not be exactly what you're looking for, but [Soundplant](#) is another free software (for Mac or Windows) that turns your keyboard into a soundboard. Here is a [Soundplant Makey Makey guide to making musical water](#). You can also use keymapping in [Ableton](#) to use Makey Makey with that DAW.
- To send an actual midi data you would need to convert the key press into a midi signal. This is possible using external hardware such as a teensy board. Alternatively you could use a software solution such as MidiMidi https://feelyoursound.com

Can I please have some more specific instructions - I don't know what "making my keyboard into a soundboard" means. By keyboard do you mean the objects that the Makey Makey is connected to? Can I have a detailed set of instructions to getting the Makey Makey Classic triggering midi sounds in Logic?

- If you're looking for instruction on how to use a Makey Makey v 1.2 or higher into a MIDI controller, it is all going to be about which software you choose. Here are a few examples. Your Makey Makey should work with *any* software application that accepts keyboard input -- whether that application is making music or a word processor or a game. These are just some of the MIDI applications people have used. Makey Makey is the key press input.
- Makey Makey simulates key presses on a computer, it isn't able to send MIDI controls itself. However, Logic (like many other DAWs) has a function called the virtual keyboard which allows you to play instruments using your computer's keyboard. With this feature enabled, you can use Makey Makey to trigger notes like you're typing on your keyboard. Note that you may need to reprogram your Makey Makey to access the notes you require. Should you wish to trigger a mixture of sounds, then there are two options 1. Create a sampler instrument with each desired sound mapped to its own note. 2. Utilise the up and down arrows to switch between channels as you perform.

When configuring outputs on the rear of the makey makey panel panel to the WASDFG outputs. I have a button to send a signal to each output which I am

converting a signal via a computer to produce a sound effect. However if you press and hold the button it acts as if you are constantly pressing the button repeatedly queuing up the same sound effect over and over till it crashes the system. Is there a way or something I can build into my loop that makes it only send the signal once per push no matter how long it is pressed for or send the signal on button release. The only thing I can think of is there are some of relay. Any thoughts or advice would be appreciated. [Running on Windows Software OBS]

- [Only documentation](#) we have on MM and OBS

I just got a makey makey 1.4c and im trying to upload the midi sketch from Arduino, i managed to install the the drivers and the board appears on the Arduino boards list, however it doesn't show on the Ports list, i'm using a Macbook pro and Usb-c hub, the board is working fine as a keyboard but a needed the midi support for a project.

- Makey Makey versions 1.2 and beyond are not built on Arduino, therefore Makey Makey will not be compatible.
- *Alternatives?*

I want to build/make a base foot pedal unit by using an old electronic or organs bass foot pedals. Is it possible to use the makey makey electronics to create a signal/trigger from the bass pedals for each bass note on its own to a midi controller like a musical midi keyboard or a midi sound card ? The bass floor pedals I'm planning to use have 13 pedals. (c c# d d# e f f# g g# a a# b c). 1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Please let me know if it is possible with makey makey electronics.

- We are creating a guide similar to your request, but with a synth online. This is the steps to hooking it up. Maybe it will be similar with a midi keyboard or sound card:

- banana (or any other conductive material) ->
- makey makey ->
- computer ->
- browser running cool synth ->
- laptop output 1/8 inch ->
- 1/4 inch cable ->
- FX pedal ->
- 1/4 inch output ->
- audio speakers

Any abilities for velocity/volume/pressure control?

I think the answer here is no- but is there a way to fudge volume, velocity? You could potentially jump to pre-set volumes but it would depend on the software.

Can you use Makey Makey on the ipad app Garageband ?

Is there a way to remap the MakeyMakey keybindings to send MIDI data to Ableton Live in order to use bananas as the keys on a keyboard?
- To send an actual midi data you would need to convert the key press into a midi signal. This is possible using external hardware such as a teensy board. Alternatively you could use a software solution such as MidiMidi https://feelyoursound.com