nektar | IMPACT

LX25+ | LX49+ | LX61+ | LX88+

Using Impact LX+ with Apple GarageBand

GarageBand Integration Setup and Configuration

The Impact LX+ GarageBand Integration has been verified with GarageBand 10.4.4 or higher running on MacOS 10.15 or higher.

Setup

Here are the steps you need to go through to get GarageBand up and running with your Impact LX+:

- Locate the Impact_GX_LX+_SE49_Apple_support installer included with this package and run it.
- Plug in your Impact LX+ and make sure it's switched on (if you didn't do so already)
- Launch GarageBand
- Create a new Project
- Create an Instrument track

That's it, setup is now complete.

GarageBand and Impact LX+ Working Together

The following pages focus on how Apple's GarageBand and Impact LX+ work together. If you have been using GarageBand for a while, you may not need any additional information but it's always a good idea to revisit Apple's extensive documentation to remind yourself about how GarageBand's functions work.

Track Changes

To navigate GarageBand's tracks from Impact LX+, press [<Track] to go to the previous track and [Track>] to go to the next track. This is the same as using the arrow up/down keys on your computer keyboard.

Transport

The transport buttons give access to activate or deactivate the following transport functions: Cycle (loop), Rewind (in 1 bar decrements), Forward (in 1 bar increments), Stop, Play, Record.

In addition the buttons double up with functionality that's accessed by holding down the [Shift] button. The chart below tells you what each button and button combination does and how they behave.

Key Combination	Description
[Cycle]	Switch the loop/cycle between the Left and Right locators on/off
[Rewind]	Rewinds in steps of 1 bar. Press and hold for fast rewind
[Forward]	Forward in steps of 1 bar. Press and hold for fast forward
[Stop]	Stop playback
[Play]	Activate play
[Record]	Activate record
[Shift]+[Cycle]	Return to song start
[Shift]+[Rewind]	Set Left locator to the current song position
[Shift]+[Forward]	Set Right locator to the current song position
[Shift]+[Stop]	Undo last changes
[Shift]+[Play]	Switch the Click/metronome on/off
[Shift]+[Record] (Mode)	n/a

GarageBand Mixer Control

To control the GarageBand's mixer, press the [Mixer] button to select the mixer preset. The button's LED is illuminated while the preset is selected and the GarageBand mixer is being controlled.

Channel Volume & Pan

With the mixer preset active, moving faders 1-8 will control the first 8 mixer channels in the GarageBand mixer. The 8 pots control pan for each or the corresponding channels.

LX25+: On the Impact LX25+, the 8 pots control 8 mixer channels by default. You can switch them to control Pan by pressing and holding [Mixer] while moving the pots.

Fader 9 (on LX25+, the single fader) controls the channel corresponding to the currently selected track so as you change tracks, you can quickly change volume while you are working. If you have 15 tracks in your song and the currently selected track is 12, that would result in faders 1-8 controlling mixer channel volume 9-16 and fader 9 controlling channel volume 12.

Smart Controls

In GarageBand X, Apple introduced Smart Controls. Smart Controls map up to 12 parameters with the automatic mapping assigning the parameters you are most likely to need. You can also create your own Smart Controls mapping. Read the GarageBand documentation for more information about this.

Impact LX+ is already set up to take advantage of the Smart Controls from the Mixer preset. Using Smart Controls you can therefore control effect parameters and switch between controlling Smart Controls in Mixer mode and controlling Instrument parameters in Instrument mode.

Open/Close the Smart Controls Inspector

Press the [Shift]+[Page] button to open the Smart Controls Inspector. To close the Smart Controls Inspector, press [shift]+[Page] again.

Controlling Smart Controls

When Smart Controls are active, the white User LED above the [Page] button is illuminated. The 8 pots are now assigned to control the first 8 Smart Controls. Press [Page] again to switch off the User LED and control Pan from the 8 pots.

Assuming you are for example on the Retro Synth track, pressing [Page] will bring up the Smart Pane showing the below parameters.

Impact LX+ assigns up to 8 parameters so that the first 4 are controlled by the 4 top row pots, the next 4 are controlled by the bottom row pots. In the above example, the Retro Synth instrument presents 8 smart controls, all fully controllable for Impact LX+.

Assignments will change dynamically as you change track, remove or add plug-ins.

GarageBand Mixer Control

Mute & Solo

Fader buttons 1-8 control mute for each of the tracks the faders are assigned to control. If you prefer to solo tracks, you can press and hold fader button 9 while pressing fader buttons 1-8. The 8 buttons will now control solo for their corresponding tracks.

LX25+: On Impact LX25+, you can use the pads to control mute for tracks 1-8. Press and hold [Mixer] while hitting pads 1-8. This will toggle mute on or off for the corresponding channels. Release the [Mixer] button and the pads revert to trigger MIDI notes. It is not possible to control the Solo function with LX25+.
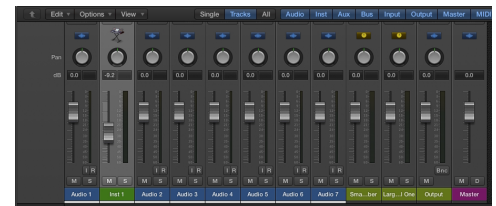
Bank Over (1-8), (9-16) etc

If your song contains more than 8 mixer channels you can bank over so the faders 1-8 control the next group of 8 channels.

To do this, press [Shift]+[Bank>] (the second fader button). The faders, pots and fader buttons are now assigned to control channels 9-16. Push the same key combination again to control 17-24 etc. To go back you press [Shift]+[<Bank].

LX25+: On Impact LX25+ press and hold [Mixer] while pressing [Octave-] or [Octave+] to move the bank down or up.

The image of the mixer (right) shows the 8 channels currently controlled by Impact LX+ underlined below the track name.

You can switch Pickup Mode on or off in GarageBand Preferences/Control Surfaces.

Master Volume

You can control the Master Volume fader of the GarageBand mixer by pressing [Fader button 9] and then move fader 9 while the button is pressed. Upon release of the button, fader 9 will revert to control the current channel volume.

LX25+: On Impact LX25+, press [Mixer] and move the [Fader] to control master volume.

GarageBand Instrument Control

To control an instrument you must first select an instrument track. Next press [Inst] to select the instrument preset. The button's LED is illuminated and all controls are assigned to control instrument parameters.

Changing Patches

With the [Inst.] (Instrument) preset selected, you can step through instrument patches from Impact LX+ which makes it easy to change sounds while you play. Make sure the instrument GUI window is open and change instrument patch by pressing [Patch>] to go to the next patch or [<Patch] to go to the previous patch.

Controlling Instruments

With the [Inst] (Instrument) preset selected, Impact LX+ will automatically map parameters for the GarageBand instrument associated with the track you are currently on. If you have selected an audio track, there are no parameters to control.

Try selecting a track, hosting one of GarageBand's instruments. Press the [Page] button so that the blue Default LED is illuminated. Your Impact LX+ now control the instruments parameter corresponding to the blue screen printing. So for example the faders will control envelopes and pot 5 controls filter cut off.

Using the Pads

Drum instruments can be played from the Impact LX+ keyboard or it's 8 pads.

Operating a drum instrument works the same way as any other instrument and using the Pad maps 1+2 you are able to play drum sounds straight away. However you may want to re-organize the sounds played by each pad for your playing style.

"Learning" Drum Sounds to the Pads

It's easy to change a pad note assignment using the Pad Learn function. It works as follows:

1. Hold [Shift] press the function button labeled [<Patch] (Pad Learn). The display will now blink, showing P1 (pad 1) as the default selected pad.
2. Hit the pad you want to assign a new note value to. The display blinks and updates to show the number of the pad you selected.
3. Press the key on the keyboard that plays the sound you want to assign to the pad. You can keep playing notes on the keyboard until you have found the note you want.
4. When you are done, press [Pad Learn] to exit and start playing your pads with the new assignment.

You can keep repeating steps 2. and 3. until you have created a complete Pad Map. The settings are stored over power cycling so you will not lose them as you power down your system. However it's a good idea to save setups that you may want to have access to regularly in the future to one of the 4 pad map locations in Impact LX49+. To learn how to do that, go to the "Setup Menu" section in this manual.