

WORDBUILDER

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE





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Quick Reference Guides

Click on the category header below to open the specified Quick Reference Guide.

Composer Cloud

This guide contains the following information:

- a comparison of the currently offered ComposerCloud plans
- a chart detailing the space requirements for libraries within those plans
- how to download, install and activate your ComposerCloud subscription

ComposerCloud FAQ: for the latest information and FAQ's regarding ComposerCloud, please see the following link: <http://www.soundsonline.com/composercloud>

Installation Center

This guide covers how to:

- download and install the latest software updates
- download and install Play Libraries and instrument updates
- activate new product licenses
- manage your product catalog and more!

Installation Center Installer: to download the latest version of the Installation Center, please see the following link: <http://www.soundsonline.com/Support?section=updates>

The Play 6 System

This guide covers how to:

- navigate around the Play 6 user interface
- achieve realistic performances using MIDI CCs
- optimize the streaming engine for best performance

Play Libraries

This guide contains the following information:

- the amount of space required for each Play Library
- a comparison of Play Library editions -- Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond
- the Play Libraries included in different ComposerCloud subscriptions

WordBuilder

This guide contains the following information:

- an overview of new features included in WordBuilder
- how to setup WordBuilder in stand-alone and as a plug-in
- quick “how to” instructions for using various WordBuilder features
- a glossary of the Votex phonetic symbols that unlocks the power of WordBuilder

A New and Improved WordBuilder

Hollywood Choirs includes a new version of WordBuilder, the program that allows you to type in words and have them sung by a choir. Please see below for descriptions of these new features, including many under-the-hood enhancements.

- **All New Phrases:** Over 100 new phrase presets, and more on the way!
- **All New Phonemes:** New vowel and consonants added for increased realism.
- **Frequency Dependent Consonants:** Non-pitched consonants now sampled with high and low frequency variations.
- **Independent Handling:** All consonants that fall at the end of a word are now handled independent of those that begin a word, resulting in more realistic delivery of words.
- **Consonant Volume Scaling:** WordBuilder detects the number of notes in a chord and applies volume scaling to consonants to ensure they remain at an intelligible level.
- **Sync to DAW:** Now you can synchronize the position in WordBuilder's Text Editor to your DAW's sequencer playback. For more: [How To Adjust Timing and Sync WordBuilder to Your DAW](#)
- **Global Phoneme Balance:** Vowels, Pitched Consonants and Non-Pitched Consonants have volume sliders that allow you to adjust the relative balance between phonemes. For more: [How to Create Voice Files](#)
- **Alternative Takes of Non-Pitched Consonants** The importance non-pitched consonants play in creating intelligible words led to the development of a new feature that provides the user with complete control over alternative takes. Instead of using a traditional 'round robin' system that cycles through alternative takes, often leading to inconsistent results, users can now define a specific alternative take of all non-pitched consonants by using a numbering system. For example, if the first 'S' at the start of the word doesn't sound right repeated later in the word, you can try 'S2', 'S3', or 'S4' until you find an alternate take that sounds more realistic. For more: [Mastering the Votox Text Mode](#)
- **Parameter Grouping:** Volume, Pan and Microphone Mix changes are applied across all instruments within a WB Multi. Combined with the existing Reverb Master functionality that applies reverb across all instruments within an instance of Play, shaping the mix any way you want is easier than ever. For more: [How To Adjust Volume, Pan, Microphone Mixes and Reverb](#)
- **Ease of Use:** Hollywood Choirs was recorded with combined Men and Women sections, allowing for an increase in overall power of the choir by taking advantage of the overlapping ranges. As an added benefit, this makes setting up WordBuilder with just 2 Voice Types much easier. For more: [WordBuilder Setup](#)



WordBuilder Interface

There are 7 main areas in the WordBuilder interface. A brief description of each area is provided below, with more information available by clicking on the subject header links below.

- [Voice](#) is the area to set Voice Properties, select a Text Mode (English, Phonetics and Votox) and Import / Export Voice Files (that save essential text and timing data).
- [Text Editor](#) is the area to enter type phrases in 1 of 3 Text Modes, with a glossary that displays 'letters' recognized by Phonetic and Votox Text Modes.
- [Tools](#) has functions for Undo/Redo, to 'Reset Position' of the cursor in the Text Editor, buttons for MIDI Panic and Bypass, an Options menu where you can set English or Latin Vowel Mode, and a menu of preset Phrases.
- [Word](#) displays the selected syllable in the three Text Modes: English, Phonetics, and Votox. It also has an option to solo the selected syllable.
- [Syllable](#) is the area to apply the Learn function in 1 of 2 modes (Change Speed or Sync/Draw Only), and adjust the Syllable Speed.
- [Letter](#) contains options for modifying the velocity of a letter selected in the Time Editor, and to select among types of syllable transitions (normal, legato, staccato, etc).
- [Time Editor](#) displays the selected syllable, and contains options to shape individual letters within the syllable and how they move from one to the next.



Voice

This area is located in the top-left corner of the WordBuilder interface. It includes options to export and import Voice Files, which contain all of WordBuilder's text, timing, controller data and global phoneme volumes. The data contained in a Voice File is automatically saved in your DAW when using WordBuilder as a plug-in, but this option is useful to transfer WordBuilder settings between project files.

Please Note! Voice Files must be imported and exported between the same Voice Type (HC Mens, HC Womens).

- **Export, Import and Voice Properties:** allows you to import and export Voice Files and access the Voice Properties menu where you can name
- **Voice Name and Type:** readout of the current Voice File's name and type are displayed.
- **Text Modes:** switch between 3 text modes to change the alphabet symbols displayed in the Text Editor between English, Phonetic and Votox. For more, please see the Text Editor section below.



How to Create Voice Files

When you're ready to export a Voice File:

1. Click on the '...' button in the Voice area to open the Voice Properties menu.
2. In the Voice Properties menu, enter a unique name in the Voice Name field.
3. Move the sliders in the Phonemes section of Voice Properties menu if you wish to change the overall balance between Vowels, Pitched and Non-Pitch Consonants.
4. Click 'OK' to apply settings.



Importing and Exporting: Click the 'Export' button in the Voice area to create a Voice File containing all of WordBuilder's settings. Use the 'Import' button to open a Finder (MacOS) or Explorer (Win) window, then navigate to the Voice File you exported and open the file.

Global Phoneme Balance: The volume of vowels, pitched consonants and non-pitched consonants can be adjusted relative to each other by moving their respective sliders in the Voice Properties window in the 'Phonemes' section. Boost the Consonant volume if the choir is hard to decipher, or lower the volume to soften the delivery.

Text Editor

This area is located in the center top of the WordBuilder interface, and provides an area to enter text for the choir to sing. Text can be entered in 1 of the 3 text modes:

- **English** is a good starting place for beginners. English words are translated from a 100k word dictionary into the Phonetic and Votox alphabets, where the phrase can be further refined. Note that changes made to the phrase in the Phonetic and Votox modes do not translate back into English mode.
- **Phonetics** is ideal for those familiar with the Romance languages. It uses a traditional phonetic alphabet, a glossary of which is available by clicking on the (+) button in the Letters dialog to the right of the Text Editor field.
- **Votox** is WordBuilder’s own phonetic alphabet, a glossary of which is available by clicking on the (+) button in the Letters dialog to the right of the Text Editor field. WordBuilder’s playback is based on the Votox mode, which both English and Phonetics modes are translated into, to playback each phoneme (distinct units of sound within a word) that makes up a word or syllable.

How to Select a Text Mode

Click on 1 of the 3 text modes buttons that appear in the Voice area (left of the Text Editor), then enter the letters of the corresponding text mode in the Text Editor.



Mastering the Votox Text Mode

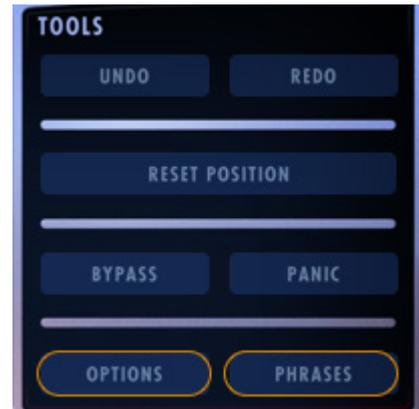
Learning the phonemes associated with each Votox letter will enable you to fine-tune the pronunciation of words and phrases. See the [Mastering The Phonetic Alphabets](#) section later in the guide for more information.

- **Separate Words into Syllables:** Words entered into the English text mode are translated into Votox text mode as a single word, with no spaces in between syllables. If you would rather play each of the two syllables in the word “dragon” (English) as separate notes or chords, place a cursor in the Text Editor while in Votox text mode and put a space between them like this: “drA gun” (Votox).
- **Use Alternative Non-Pitched Consonants:** All 12 non-pitched consonants have sample variations that can be triggered by typing numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 after the Votox letter in the Text Editor. For example, the English phrase “Heart of Courage” will be translated into Votox as “haUrt uv kurej”. To use alternative takes of “h” and “k”, place a number between 1 and 4 after the non-pitched consonant like this: “h3aUrt uv k2urej”.

Tools

Provides a variety of options and settings, including:

- **Undo and Redo** allows you to backtrack or re-apply changes made to WordBuilder with a history log of the last 100 changes.
- **Reset Position** instructs WordBuilder to reset the playback position to the start of the text. The next incoming MIDI note will “sing” the first word in the Text Editor.
- **Bypass** sends incoming MIDI data directly to a MIDI port without passing it through WordBuilder for processing.
- **Panic** silences “stuck notes” on every MIDI channel within a single instance of Play, in cases where a MIDI Note-Off message was not received.
- **Options** contains a variety of settings divided into 3 categories: general, timers, and events. For more, please see below.
- **Phrases** opens a menu that allows you to select from a variety of phrase presets to import into the Text Editor, or add your own phrases for later recall. See below for details.



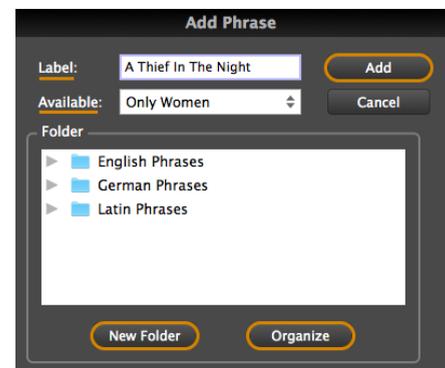
Add to Phrases...
Organize Phrases...

English Phrases ▶
German Phrases ▶
Latin Phrases ▶

How to Load and Save Phrases

The Phrases menu contains options to load existing phrase presets, save your own phrases, and organize them anyway you like.

- **To Load A Phrase:** delete the existing text in the Text Editor, then click on the Phrases button and select a phrase from the English, German or Latin menus.
- **To Save A Phrase:** highlight the text you wish to save, then click on the Phrase button and select ‘Add to Phrases’ from the menu. In the ‘Add Phrase’ dialog window, name the phrase in the ‘Label’ field, and select a Voice Type you wish to save the phrase with from the ‘Available’ drop-down menu. Last, select the folder you wish to store the phrase in, then click ‘Add’.
- **New Folder and Organize:** click the ‘New Folder’ button highlighted above to add a new folder to store phrase presets in. Enter the folder name in the dialog window that appears, then click ‘OK’. Click the ‘Organize’ button to open your computer’s finder (macOS) or explorer (Win) windows, which will display the default location of the 3 folders that come with WordBuilder, as well as any new folders you have created. Here, you can organize the folders and sub-folders anyway you please.



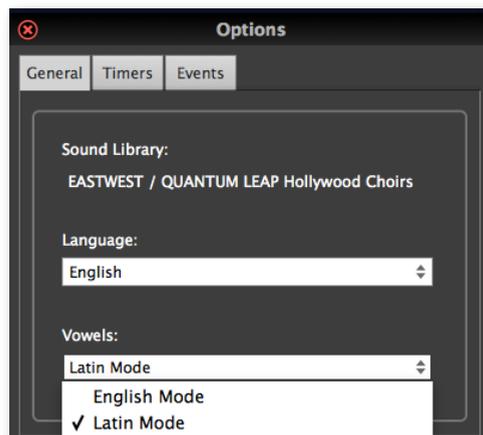
How To Select Between English and Latin Modes

When deciding between English or Latin vowel symbols, keep in mind changing modes does not affect the sound itself, only the symbols used to represent them.

For more about the different phonetic alphabets that make up the English and Latin Modes, see: [Mastering The Phonetic Alphabets](#).

To change Vowels between English and Latin modes, follow these steps:

1. Click on the 'Options' button in the Tools area, then click the 'General' tab.
2. Click in the drop-down menu in the Vowels section and choose either English or Latin.



How To Assign Commands to MIDI CCs

To assign the 'Return to Beginning' and 'Hold Syllable' commands to MIDI CCs that can be controlled by your MIDI keyboard or DAW's sequencer see the instructions below.

- **Return to Beginning** resets the cursor position in the Text Editor back to the beginning.
- **Hold Syllable** instructs WordBuilder to start holding a syllable when it receives an ON command, and stop holding a syllable when it receives an OFF command.

Follow these steps to assign MIDI CC's to WordBuilder controls:

1. Click on the 'Options' button in the Tools area, then click the 'Events' tab.
2. By default, the 'Return to Beginning' is engaged when it receives MIDI CC 20 with a value of 127 (max). This can be changed to any unused MIDI CC with any value between 0 and 127.
3. The 'Hold Syllable' On and Off commands can be assigned to any unused MIDI CCs separately, each with any value between 0 and 127. You could also assign both On and Off to the same MIDI CC with different values (ex: MIDI CC 21 assigned to both, with a value of 0 for Off and 127 for On).

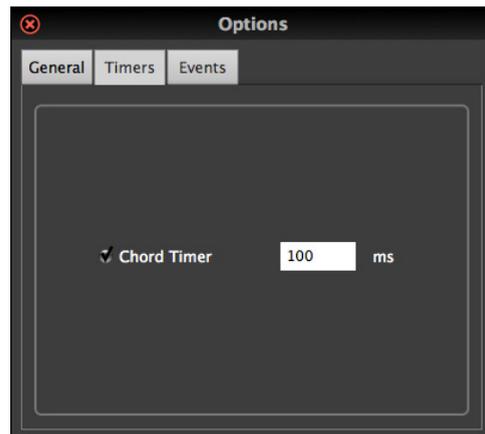


How to Set the Chord Timer

This option allows you to set the window of time in milliseconds (m/s) within which notes are considered part of the same chord. By default, the Chord Timer is enabled and set to a value of 100 ms. This works well in many cases, but depending on the melodic rhythm being played on top of chords, you may want to adjust this value.

Follow these steps to change the Chord Timer value.

1. Click on the 'Options' button in the Tools area, then click on the 'Timers' tab.
2. In the Chord Timer section, check the box and input the number of milliseconds to define the range.



Word

Displays the English, Phonetics and Votox spelling of the selected word or syllable, and allows you to Solo that selection. The selected word or syllable in the Text Editor will turn red to indicate it has been soloed, allowing you to play it over and over while adjusting other parameters.

How to Solo a Word or Syllable

To Solo a selected word or syllable, follow these steps:

1. Select a word or syllable by placing the cursor with your mouse in the Text Editor.
2. Once selected, it's spelling will be displayed in the Word area in all three text modes.
3. Click the 'Solo' button in the Word area.

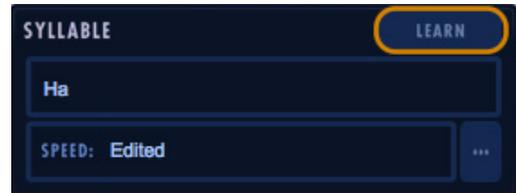


Syllable

When placing a cursor on a word or syllable in the Text Editor, the Syllable area will display the English spelling of the selection, and the current 'Speed' state, which includes:

- **Normal** indicates default timings are in effect.
- **Learned** indicates the timings have been modified by the Learn function.
- **Edited** indicates the timings have been manually modified with the mouse.
- **Adjusted** indicates the Syllable Speed function was used to modify timings.

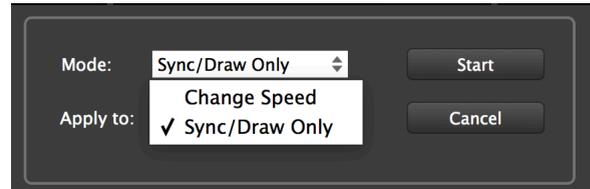
This area also contains buttons to access the 'Learn' and 'Syllable Speed' functions themselves, which are further explained in the sections below.



How To Adjust Timing and Sync WordBuilder to Your DAW

Applying 'Learn' adjusts the default timing of phonetic segments based on playback information (live or sequenced), and syncs the text position in WordBuilder to the DAW's playback position. Learn can be used in two different modes:

- **Change Speed** modifies the duration of phonetic segments based on learned playback. It is best used on fast-paced music, where the default durations may not have time to finish before a notes end.
- **Sync/Draw Only** allows you to make informed decisions when manually adjusting phonetic segments by displaying the length of each syllable in the Time Editor based on learned playback, without actually changing the timing information.



When a phrase is ready to be learned, follow these steps:

1. Click the 'Learn' button in the Syllable area to open options.
2. Select 1 of the 2 modes and click 'Start' to begin the process
3. Play the passage from your MIDI keyboard or DAW sequencer.
4. Click 'OK' when WordBuilder has received as many notes as there are syllable's in the passage.



How To Adjust Syllable Speed Options

Applying the 'Syllable Speed' options allows you to adjust the default timing of phonetic segments based on 1 of the 3 selected modes.

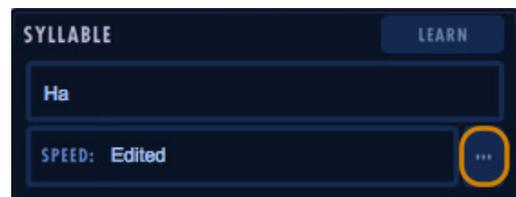
- **Normal** mode reverts timings to their default values and removes all MIDI CC data that has been previously automated.
- **Learn** mode can be applied to words or syllables that have been learned with the Sync/Draw Only mode (which does not actually apply changes to the phonetic timings) to apply the learned timing changes to phonetic segments. You can also use this mode if you wish to change a word in the text, but want to keep the learned note timings. Here, WordBuilder will apply those learned timings to the new phonetic segments.
- **Adjust Speed** mode allows you to change the duration of the syllable as a percentage of its current duration. This change can be applied to only the Note On portion of the Time Editor, the Note Off portion of the Time Editor, or to both Note On and Off portions.

To revert note timings to their default state, follow these steps:

1. Place a cursor on the word or syllable in the Text Editor you wish to edit
2. Click the '...' button in the Syllable area to open options.
3. Select 'Normal', then click 'OK'.

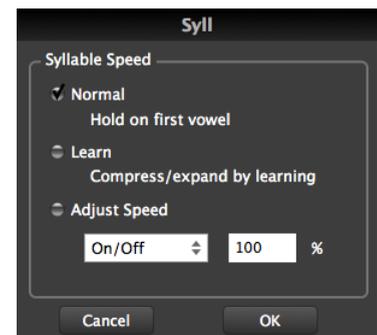
To change a word in the Text Editor, but retain the learned timing, follow these steps:

1. Place a cursor on the word or syllable in the Text Editor that has changed
2. Click the '...' button in the Syllable area to open options.
3. Select 'Learn', then click 'OK'.



To adjust note timings as a percentage of its current duration, follow these steps:

1. Place a cursor on the word or syllable in the Text Editor you wish to edit
2. Click the '...' button in the Syllable area to open options.
3. Select 'Adjust Speed'
4. Click in the drop-down menu and choose to apply this option to either Note On, Note Off, or both Note On and Off portions of the Time Editor.
5. Input a percentage value in the field, then click 'OK'.



Letter

Clicking on a Votox letter in the Time Editor's left column will make it available for editing in the Letter area. There, you can change the volume and articulation of each Votox letter that makes up a word or syllable, controlling how each transition from one to another.

How To Transform Velocity of Individual Letters

Letter Velocity options allow you to transform the existing note velocities of Votox letters that make up a syllable by applying 1 of 6 different modes:

- **Nothing** leaves letter velocity unchanged
- **Equal Sign (=)** forces letter velocity to the value specified in the dialog box.
- **Plus (+)** transforms note velocity by adding the number in the dialog box to its value.
- **Minus (-)** transforms note velocity by subtracting the number in the dialog box from its value.
- **Multiply (*)** transforms note velocity by multiplying its value by the number in the dialog box.
- **Divide (/)** transforms note velocity by dividing it's value by the number in the dialog box.

To transform note velocity on individual Votox letters within a syllable, follow these steps:

1. Click on a syllable or word in the Text Editor to make it the current selection.
2. Click on an individual letter in the Time Editor, making it the current selection in the Letters area.
3. Click on the '...' button in the Letters area to open the menu options.
4. Click in the drop-down menu on the left and select one of the 6 options described above.
5. Type in a value between 0 and 127 (per MIDI spec) then click 'OK' to apply the changes.

How To Assign Articulations To Individual Letters

The Letter Key-Switch option allows you to set the Votox letters that make up a word or syllable to 1 of 4 articulations:

- **Normal** is the natural articulation of sung speech.
- **Legato** smoothly connects from one syllable to the next.
- **Staccato** plays disconnected from the next syllable.
- **Slurred** slides into the next syllable.

HOLLYWOOD CHOIRS - QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Using Text Syntax: To change articulations of a Votox letter with text syntax option (the default mode), input one of the following symbols (within quotations) directly into the Text Editor preceding the word you wish to change.

- **Normal** “ = ”
- **Legato** “ (“
- **Staccato** “ > “
- **Slurred** “ < “

Take the phrase “The Dragon is Sleeping”, for example. If you’d like the word “Sleeping” to have a legato connection between its two syllables, place the “ (“ symbol in the Votox text mode in the Text Editor before the word like this:



The Letter area will display the articulation applied to the letter in the field below:

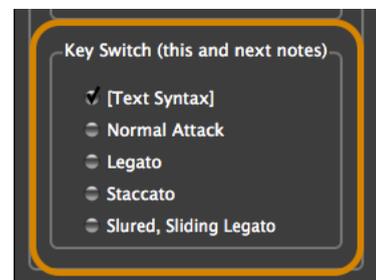


Using Key-Switches: You can also change the articulation of a Votox letter by sending key-switch commands via MIDI (live or sequenced). Use the key-switch commands outlined below to trigger the corresponding articulations:

- **Normal** C0 (Note 24)
- **Legato** C#0 (Note 25)
- **Staccato** D0 (Note 26)
- **Slurred** D#0 (Note 27)

Manual Assignment: To change the articulation of a Votox letter manually, follow these steps:

1. Click on a syllable or word in the Text Editor to make it the current selection.
2. Click on an individual letter in the Time Editor, making it appear in the Letters area for editing.
3. Click on the ‘...’ button in the Letters area to open the menu options.
4. In the ‘Key-Switch’ section, select the desired articulation then click ‘OK’.

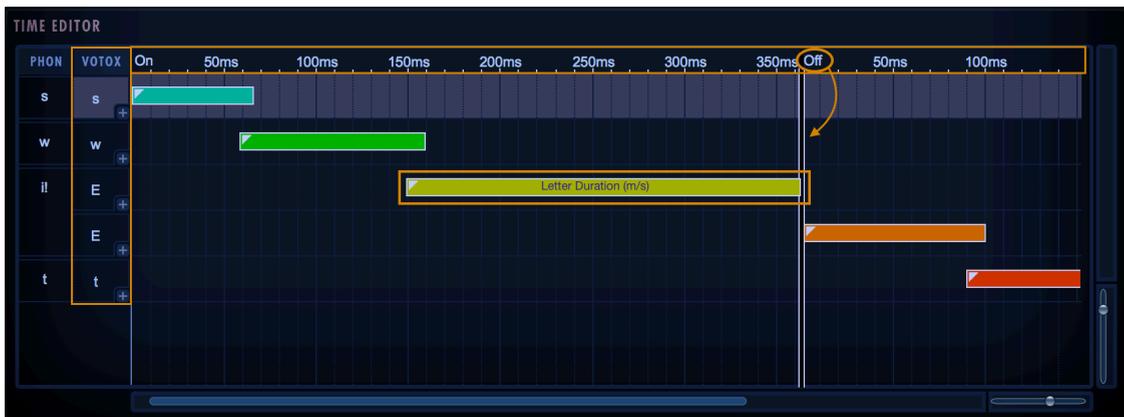


Time Editor

The Time Editor allows you to fine-tune how each Votox letter (phoneme) within a word or syllable sounds when moving from one to the next during playback. Playing a single note will trigger 5 samples, one for each Votox letter in the word “Sweet” (shown below).

- **Votox Letters:** Selecting a word or syllable in the Text Editor makes the individual letters available for editing in the Time Editor, which appear on the left side of the Time Editor. Because each Votox letter triggers a different phoneme (a distinct unit of sound within a language), it’s advantageous to learn the Votox text mode for more direct control.
- **Timeline (Note On / Note Off):** The timeline across the top of the Time Editor displays a marker every 50 milliseconds, with white vertical lines separating the MIDI Note On portion of the timeline (the note itself) from the MIDI Note Off portion (the release trail).
- **Letter Duration (m/s):** The colored bars on the represent the duration of each Votox letter (phoneme). In this example there are 3 notes during the Note On portion and two notes during the Note Off portion. The last Votox letter in the Note On portion (highlighted below) appears to the left of the white vertical line separator, will continue indefinitely until you release a held note.

WordBuilder uses standard lengths for each letter when first entered it into the Text Editor, but you can drag the ends of the bars with your mouse to change the start time and duration of each letter within a syllable, giving total control over when each sample begins and ends as well as how much each overlap.

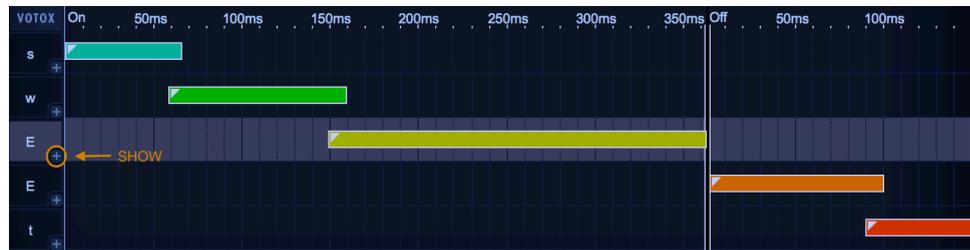


How to Use Per-Letter Automation

The Time Editor gives you expressive control by allowing you to use MIDI CCs (Continuous Controllers) to automate things like the Mod Wheel (CC1), Volume (CC7) and Expression (CC11) for each Votox letter within a word or syllable.

To open a controller lane:

1. Click the plus (+) button in the bottom-right corner of any Votox letter area in the left column of the Time Editor.



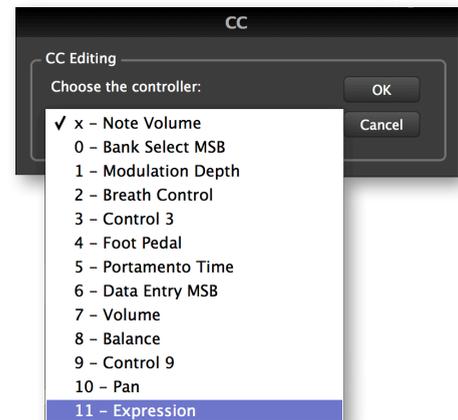
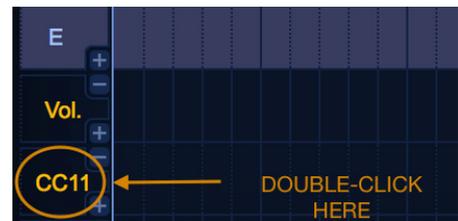
2. Once opened, each automation lane contains a plus (+) button allowing you to show another automation lane, and a minus (-) button to hide the existing lane.



How to Select a MIDI CC to Automate

To change the default parameter assigned to an automation lane, follow these steps:

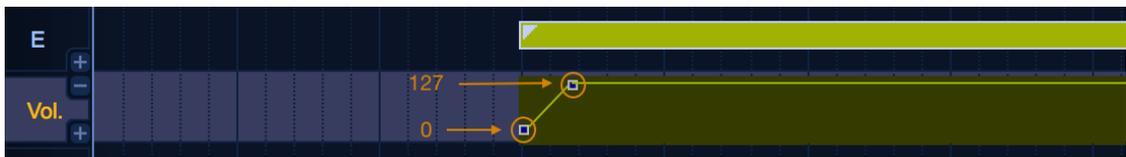
1. Double-click on the parameter name below the Votox letter box to open the CC Editing dialog.
2. Click in the drop-down menu under the header 'Choose the Controller' and select the parameter you wish to automate and click 'OK'.
3. The parameter name will now appear in the controller lane under the Votox letter (phoneme) you are automating.



How to Create an Automation Envelope

The default automation value is 127, but nodes can be placed between the values of 0 and 127 to create an envelope. To do this:

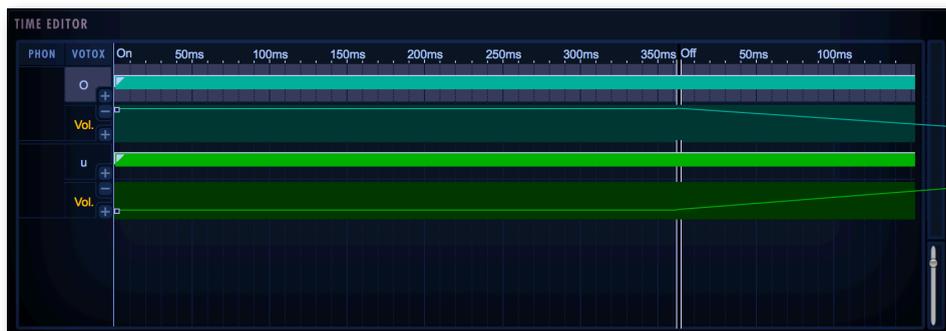
1. Double-click anywhere on the envelope to create a node that is displayed as a small square.
2. Drag the node within the designated colored area to create a change in the time value (x-coordinate) and/or parameter value (y-coordinate). When dragging the node, a small Tool Tip dialog will open and show the exact location in terms of these x - y coordinates.
3. To delete a node, double-right-click on it with your mouse.



A Note About Cross-Fades Between Vowels (Diphthongs)

Votex letters (phonemes) do not always follow each other sequentially in the Time Editor. In certain circumstances blending two vowels together by using a cross-fade, where one letter fades out as another fades in, is necessary to achieve a particular pronunciation.

These sounds, which are made up of two vowels cross-faded within a single syllable, are called Diphthongs. WordBuilder handles this by creating cross-fades automatically where needed, however, adjustments to the automation envelope can be altered as described above.



WordBuilder Setup

The steps below outline how to setup WordBuilder in both stand-alone mode and as a plug-in within a DAW, as well as a few tips to get you started. While it's easy to get WordBuilder singing quickly, familiarity with its deep editing features and practice yield the best results. For more in-depth coverage, please see the Hollywood Choirs User Manual.

How to Setup WordBuilder in Stand-Alone Mode

To setup WordBuilder in stand-alone mode see the following steps:

Step 1: Launch Play in Stand-Alone Mode

Launch Play in stand-alone mode, found in one of the following directories:

- **(Mac)** Mac HD / Applications / East West / Play
- **(Win)** C:// Program Files / East West / Play

Step 2: Load a WordBuilder Multi from the Browser View

Click on the Browser button in the top-left area of the Navigation Bar, then find 'EW Hollywood Choirs' in the left column of the Libraries area.

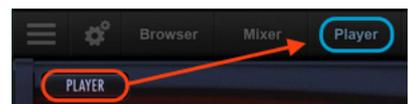
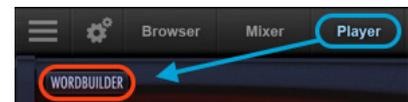
Click on either the Men's Choir or Women's Choir sub-folder, then click on either the Men's or Women's WB Multi folders. Double-click on a WB Multi in the right-column to load it.



PLEASE NOTE! Each WordBuilder Multi requires a dedicated instance of Play. When loading a WB Multi, Play will Replace All existing loaded instrument to ensure proper setup.

Step 3: Access WordBuilder Interface from the Player View

- TO ENTER: click the **WordBuilder button** located in the top-left corner of the Player view.
- TO EXIT: click the **Player button** located in the top-left corner of the WordBuilder window (this will return you to the Player view).



Step 4: Play Your Keyboard To Hear The Choirs Sing

The WordBuilder window will appear with a pre-loaded phrase in the **Text Editor** area. On your MIDI controller, use the Mod Wheel (CC1) to control dynamics, and play the keyboard to cycle through the phrase, with every keystroke advancing to the next syllable in the word or phrase.

- **Audition Phrases:** To audition preset Phrases, first delete the existing phrase in the Text Editor, then click the Phrases button in the Tool area (highlighted in red below), and navigate to the English, German or Latin phrases from the pop-up menu and click on a phrase to load it.
- **Reset Position:** If you're unsure where in the phrase you've ended up, click the Reset Position button in the Tool area to reset the phrase back to the beginning of the text.

Step 5: Learn More About WordBuilder

Check out the next few pages to find out how to change global parameters and check out helpful hints from the producers. For more in-depth coverage, please see the Hollywood Choirs User Manual.

How to Setup WordBuilder as a Plug-in

The steps below outline how to setup a 2-part (Men and Women) or 4-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) choir when using WordBuilder as a plug-in. Hollywood Choirs was recorded in two sections to increase the overall power of the choir with overlapping ranges.

The Men's choir includes Bass and Tenor vocalists with a range between MIDI note 36 (C1) and 71 (B3), and the Women's choir includes Alto and Soprano vocalists with a range between MIDI note 53 (F2) and 86 (D5).

Step 1: Load Play into Your DAW as a Plug-in

Each WordBuilder Multi requires a dedicated instance of Play. For help setting up Play as a plug-in within your DAW, please see Chapter 5 of the Play 6 User Manual: Using Play as a Plug-in.

- **2-Part Choir:** to setup WordBuilder with a 2-part choir (Men and Women), load 2 instances of Play into separate instrument tracks in your DAW.
- **4-Part Choir:** to setup a 4-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), load 4 instances of Play into separate instrument tracks in your DAW.

Step 2: Load a WordBuilder Multi into Each Instance of Play

Click on the Browser button in the top-left area of the Navigation Bar, then find 'EW Hollywood Choirs' in the left column of the Libraries area. Click on either the Men's Choir or Women's Choir sub-folder, then click on either the Men's or Women's WB Multi folders. Double-click on a WB Multi in the right-column to load it.

- **2-Part Choir:** into each of the 2 separate instances of Play, load the MEN WB Multi and WOMEN WB Multi. After this step, the 2-part choir setup is complete.
- **4-Part Choir:** into each of the 4 separate instances of Play, load (2) MEN WB Multis and (2) WOMEN WB Multi.

Step 3: Define the Key Range for the Each Choir Part

To continue setting up a 4-part choir, name the 2 instrument tracks containing the WOMENS WB Multis, Sopranos and Altos, and name the 2 instrument tracks containing the MENS WB Multis, Basses and Tenors.

If you plan to write each of the 4 parts separately, simply play within the range of each voice type. Typical vocal ranges for each part are outlined below.

- **Sopranos** - MIDI note 60 (C3) to MIDI note 86 (D5)
- **Altos** - MIDI note 53 (F2) to MIDI note 74 (D4)
- **Tenors** - MIDI note 48 (C2) to MIDI note 71 (B3)
- **Basses** - MIDI note 36 (C1) to MIDI note 60 (C3)

If you wish to record multiple parts simultaneously, but only want each part to respond to a specified key range (or key limit), we recommend using your DAW to define the key range values for the 4 instrument tracks that each vocal part is loaded into. Please refer to the documentation of your preferred DAW, as each handles this differently.

Step 4: Learn More About WordBuilder

Check out the next few pages to find out how to change global parameters and check out helpful hints from the producers. For more in-depth coverage, please see the Hollywood Choirs User Manual.

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How To Adjust Volume, Pan, Microphone Mixes and Reverb

A WB Multi is made up of 13 individual instruments that act as one Multi-Instrument. Play 6 now has the ability to change Volume, Pan, and Microphone Mixes across all instruments within a Multi. Simply make changes to these parameters in any one of the instruments within a multi, and it will affect all other instruments.

To apply Reverb to all instruments within a WB Multi, first make sure the Reverb button is illuminated (On), then click the 'Master' button on any instrument to apply Reverb globally to all the instruments.



All other parameter changes must be applied across all the individual instruments that make up a WB Multi. Use the **Instrument Selector** or the **Instrument Sidebar** (highlighted below) to switch between the 13 individual instruments and apply the same parameter changes to each of them.



Mastering The Phonetic Alphabets

The various phonetic alphabets available in WordBuilder are listed here along with examples of English words to help contextualize the sound of each symbol.

The Phonetic and Votox alphabets share a close relationship, but the Votox alphabet was designed exclusively for WordBuilder for the sole purpose of notating individual sounds that, when combined, form words that are sung (as opposed to simply words on a page).

We recommend learning Votox mode, because its the Text Mode that WordBuilder uses to construct words, and gives you direct control over each component sound of a word. The English and Phonetic text modes are useful, but are ultimately converted to Votox mode for WordBuilder to make use of.

Choosing Between Latin and English Modes

The Votox alphabet has English and Latin text modes that use different sets of Votox symbols for vowels (and only vowels). The choice does not affect the sound of the words, only the symbols used to represent them.

Speakers of Romance languages may feel more comfortable using Votox in Latin Mode, as the symbols more closely reflect spellings in Romance languages. To change modes, please see: [How To Select Between English and Latin Modes](#).

This section contains several tables that list the phonetic alphabet symbols used in each of the available text modes. Separate tables break them down into their respective text modes, and/or by word type.

Phonetic Alphabets With English and Latin Vowels

This table contains all the symbols used in the Phonetic alphabet, and the Votox alphabet in both English and Latin modes.

Use the english pronunciation guide for context on how each symbol sounds by reading the words out loud to decide which of symbols used to represent the phoneme seem most natural to you.

This chart contains all word types; vowels, diphthongs, pitched consonants and non-pitched consonants.

- **Vowel** is a speech sound produced by vibrating vocal chords with an open vocal tract.
- **Diphthong** is a sound made up of two vowels are cross-faded within a single syllable.
- **Pitched Consonants** are speech sounds produced with vocal chords engaged (voiced).
- **Non-Pitched Consonant** are speech sounds produced with breath only (unvoiced).

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PHONETIC ALPHABETS TABLE

Phonetic	Votox		Pronunciation
	Latin Mode	English Mode	
a	A	u	money, rough
a!	a	a	copper, wander
Ai	ai	aE	white, sigh
Au	Au	uO	brown, mouse
b	b	b	blue, slab
c!	C!	C!	chair, catch
-	h!	h!	nacht (night)
d	d	d	red, candor
d!	t!	t!	the, neither
e	e	e	red, steady
e!	a!	A	black, after
Ei	Ei	iE	grey, slate
f	F	F	file, enough
g	g	g	green, leg
g!	ng	ng	ping, hangar
h	H	H	hat, ahead
i	i	E	index, finger
i!	ii	EE	green, ski
j	j	j	orange, fidget
k	K	K	black, coal
l	l	l	blue, less
m	m	m	money, hammer
n	n	n	green, snug
o	o	o	orange, naughty
Oi	oi	oE	oil, boy
Ou	ou	oO	yellow, ocean
p	P	P	pink, upper
-	Q	Q	quick, queen
r	r	r	red, car
r!	ur	ur	purple, lower
rr	r!	r!	rojo, perro
s	S	S	silver, lace

l continued l

PHONETIC ALPHABETS TABLE			
Phonetic	Votox		Pronunciation
	Latin Mode	English Mode	
t	T	T	white, true
t!	T!	T!	theme, sloth
u	U	U	put, could
u!	u	O	blue, pool
v	v	v	olive, avert
w	w	w	wait, awash
x	X	X	fix, excess
x!	S!	S!	flesh, nation
y	y	y	yellow, yonder
z	z	z	zero, poison
z!	zj	zj	vision, azure

Vowel Table

This table compares the differences between the symbols used to represent vowels in the English and Latin modes. Read the example words out loud and decide which of the vowels to the left seems most natural.

PLEASE NOTE! In the first four rows, the English and Latin versions of the vowels are the same, but in the rest of the rows, they differ.

VOTOX VOWELS

English Mode	Latin Mode	Pronunciation
a	a	money, rough
e	e	red, steady
o	o	orange, naughty
U	U	put, could
u	A	copper, wander
A	a!	black, after
E	i	index, finger
O	u	pool, blue
i	E	only used in diphthongs (see below)

Diphthongs Table

This table compares the differences between the symbols used to represent diphthongs in the English and Latin modes. Diphthongs are sounds made up of two vowels sounds.

VOTOX DIPHTHONGS		
English Mode	Latin Mode	Pronunciation
aE	ai	white, sigh
uO	Au	br own, mou se
iE	Ei	gr ay, sl ate
EE	ii	gr een, ski
oE	oi	oi l, bo y
oO	ou	ye llow, oce an
ur	Ar	pu rple, low er

Hints from the Producers

We want to mention a few things about the choir samples that may not be obvious. These hints are the sort of thing you can find being posted on our Soundsonline.com forum, so please contribute there anything you find that may help others.

Hint 1: Normal Attack and Legato Attack vowels in the Men and Women choirs all have a hard, staccato accent that kicks in at velocity 102 and above. This means that independent of everything else, if you hit the keys hard, you will get a strong attack. This can be very useful for fast, accented passages. When writing smooth lines, avoid these higher velocities.

Hint 2: Unusual and non-English vowel or consonant sounds can be created by layering vowels or consonants in WordBuilder. For example: the French word “Louvre” can be created in Votox with this text: IOU vrgU. In the first syllable overlap “O” and “U” so that they play together until note off. (To accomplish this overlap, drag the ends of the horizontal bars in WordBuilder’s Time Editor.) In the second syllable, overlap “r” and “g” for a French R. Experiment to find your own combinations and post what you find on the WordBuilder forum.

Hint 3: The Latin word “maximus” can be written either like this in Votox: “maX E mOS”, or like this: “maX SE mOS”. In the second example, the S-sound within the “maX” syllable gets connected to the next syllable because the S-sound is triggered again at the beginning of the next syllable.

Hint 4: Many words work better if you repeat a vowel twice. The word “drum” is usually written like so in Votox: “drum”, but it can also be written as: “druum”. When you let

go of the note, “u” is triggered again for a short period of time before the “m.” You can overlap and cross-fade the second “u” and the “m” for a smooth realistic effect.

Hint 5: Consider a word like “rain,” which can be written like so in Votox: “reEn”. The realism of the vowel sound can be enhanced by adjusting the curve on the “eE” cross-fade. Have the “e” decrease from 127 down to y=50, instead of near 0. This detail makes for a more convincing diphthong.

Hint 6: Generally, the slurred legato is best for a rolling legato line. The regular legato is good for fast, clean connected notes. The legato attack is the least natural and most perfect sounding of all the attacks. Nice lines can be created by mixing the two styles, for example: Normal, Legato, Legato, Legato, Normal, Legato, etc.

Hint 7: When consonants are even slightly too loud, it can sound unnatural. Real choirs in a hall are hard to understand. Consonants that are too soft are preferable to consonants that are too loud.

Hint 8: Use the Mod Wheel and CC 11 for expression. It really helps.

Hint 9: The preset, default relationship in volume between the vowels and consonants in all the multis is supposed to be consistent, but slight differences may be present. For this reason, we recommend that you don’t do any final tweaking in WordBuilder until you have loaded the multi you plan to use in the final version.

Hint 10: If your choir is sounding fake, try leaving more space between consonants, or make each consonant longer. Try overlapping certain consonants and possibly cross-fading them. Sometimes legato attacks can make things sound better or worse. Sometimes you need to use slurred legato on the vowel to improve a consonant-vowel transition. Sometimes an accent on a certain syllable is crucial to realism. Hit the keys on the keyboard hard for an accent. Sometimes it’s a good idea to fix MIDI velocity in your sequencer at a single value. This can improve smoothness and make editing in WordBuilder easier. Use CC 11 and the Mod Wheel to inject dynamics.

Hint 11: We really recommend using Votox exclusively. Once you get good at sounding things out and you learn the letter symbols, it’s powerful stuff.

Hint 12: If all else fails we have included over 100 phrases to get started and speed up your work flow.

Enjoy,
Nick Phoenix and Doug Rogers