



MIDIDeviceManager (MDM)

Importing a Searchable Instrument Index

Quick Start Guide

Version 1.16 for Build 108

Control Your Entire MIDI Environment

Welcome to MIDIDeviceManager

Spend less time managing MIDI. More time making music.

Welcome to MIDIDeviceManager (MDM).

MDM helps you organize your MIDI equipment, quickly find your favourite patches and prepare your entire musical environment for rehearsals and live performances.



Chapter 1

What Is a Searchable Instrument Index?

A Searchable Instrument Index is a searchable catalogue of the patches stored in your MIDI equipment.

Instead of working with Program Change (PC) numbers alone, MIDIDeviceManager can display meaningful patch names together with other useful information such as categories and your own personal notes.

A Searchable Instrument Index does **not** change your equipment or its sounds.

Instead, it helps MIDIDeviceManager understand your equipment's patch list, making it much easier to browse, search and assign patches throughout the application.

Searchable Instrument Indexes can be created from several different sources. This guide covers two of them in full — building one from a CSV file, and building one directly from compatible equipment over MIDI — and also touches on other sources, such as text extracted from PDF manuals.

Once imported, a Searchable Instrument Index becomes available throughout MIDIDeviceManager, allowing you to quickly locate patches and assign them directly to Pads without needing to remember Program Change numbers.

Chapter 2

What Can I Do with a Searchable Instrument Index?

Once you've imported a Searchable Instrument Index, MIDIDeviceManager can use it throughout the application to make working with your equipment faster and more intuitive.

A Searchable Instrument Index allows you to:

- Browse your equipment's patches by name instead of Program Change numbers.
- Search for patches using keywords.
- Filter a large index to quickly find the patches you need.
- Create your own custom search fields to organise your patches in ways that make sense to you.
- Assign patches directly to Pads.
- Use Passive Current Patch Detection to help identify patches while creating your Pad assignments.

Custom search fields are one of the most powerful features of a Searchable Instrument Index. For example, you could create your own notes such as "**Hotel California**", "**Sunday Worship**", "**Lead Solo**", or "**Favourite Clean Sound**". Later, simply search for those words and MIDIDeviceManager will immediately locate the matching patches, regardless of their original names.

These features make it much easier to organise your musical environment without having to memorise patch numbers or constantly refer to your equipment's documentation.

Although a Searchable Instrument Index is different from full SysEx support, you can still use **Passive Current Patch Detection** while editing a Pad. As you change patches on your equipment, MIDIDeviceManager can detect the Program Change and Bank Select values of whatever is currently selected, and fill them in for you.

Two things have to be true first. Your equipment must be set to transmit Program Change when a patch is changed on its front panel — a setting in its own menus, and switched off on a good deal of equipment as it leaves the factory. And MIDIDeviceManager must know that it does, which comes from running the **Passive MIDI Monitor** probe once, in the SysEx Lab. Until that has been done the Pad editor does not offer the option at all.

Depending on your equipment, additional information such as the patch name may also be available.

Some functions — Automatic Fetch Current Patch, device backup and restore, and other SysEx-based operations — require dedicated support for your specific equipment, beyond what a Searchable Instrument Index alone provides.

Even without those advanced features, a Searchable Instrument Index provides an excellent way to organise your patches and begin using MIDIDeviceManager with a great deal of MIDI equipment.

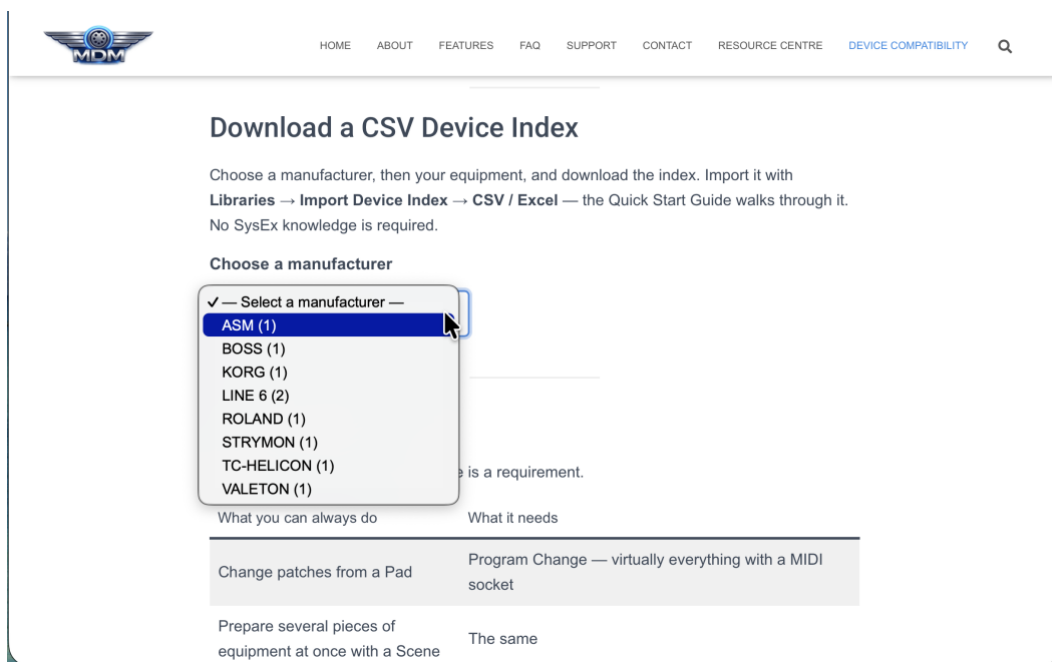
Chapter 3

Finding a Ready-Made Searchable Instrument Index

If you already have a CSV file — one you built yourself from the MDM templates, or one from another source — you can skip ahead to the next chapter, **Before You Begin**.

MDM also publishes ready-made Searchable Instrument Indexes for a growing number of devices, built from real device data rather than typed by hand. Here is how to find one for your own equipment.

1. Visit the MDM Resource Centre at mididevicemanager.com/documentation/.
2. In the Contents list, find **CSV Device Indexes**.
3. Tap **Browse CSV Device Indexes**.
4. Under **Select a Manufacturer**, choose your equipment's manufacturer.
5. If a ready-made index exists for your device, a download link appears. Tap it, and the CSV file downloads to your iPhone or iPad — usually into Downloads, unless you have chosen a different default location in Files.



Not every device has a ready-made index yet. If yours is not listed, you can build your own CSV instead, using the official MDM templates — covered in **Chapter 8, Selecting Your CSV File**.

Once you have your CSV file, whether downloaded here or built yourself, continue to the next chapter, **Before You Begin**.

Chapter 4

Before You Begin

Before importing a Searchable Instrument Index, make sure you have completed the following steps:

- Complete the **Getting Started with MIDIDeviceManager** Quick Start Guide and create your Device.
- Connect your MIDI equipment and confirm it shows green throughout on the **Devices** screen — the badge on its image and the assigned MIDI port text, with no SysEx Device ID line shown in orange. Green means MIDIDeviceManager can reach the equipment. Check its MIDI channel as well: a Device can be green and still ignore everything you send it if its channel does not match the equipment.
- Save the CSV file somewhere accessible from your iPhone or iPad, such as the **Files** app, **iCloud Drive**, **Dropbox**, or another supported location.

Once these preparations are complete, you're ready to build your Searchable Instrument Index.

The next chapter explains how to open the Searchable Instrument Index import tools.

Chapter 5

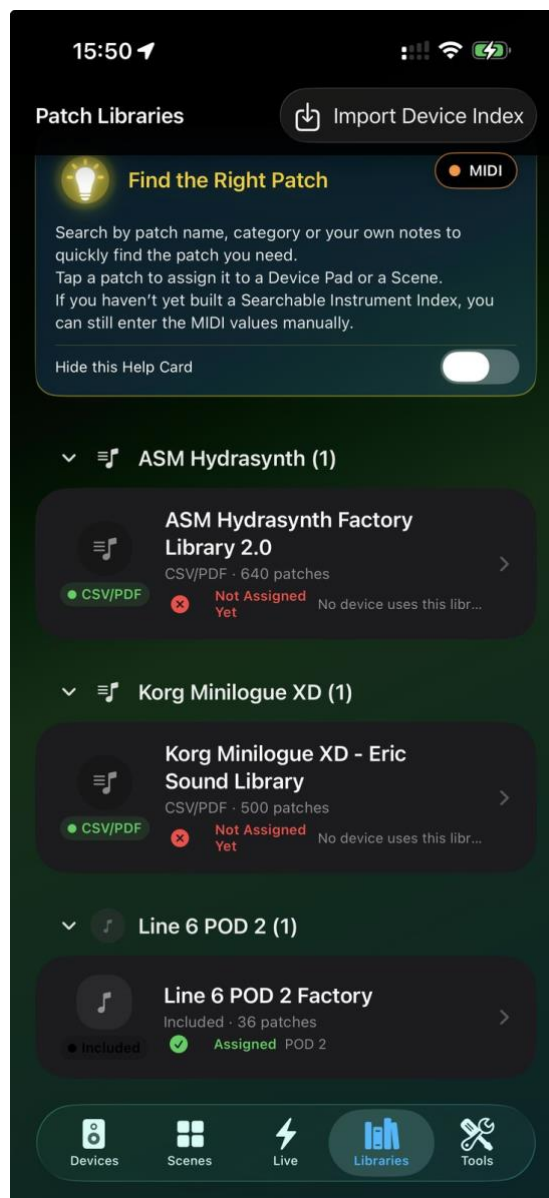
Opening the Import Tools

Open **MIDIDeviceManager** and tap **Libraries** in the tab bar.

The Libraries screen contains the tools used to create, import and manage your Searchable Instrument Indexes.

To begin importing a Searchable Instrument Index from a CSV file, tap **Import Device Index** in the top-right corner of the screen.

The figure below shows the Libraries screen.



Chapter 6

Selecting the Import Method

The **Create Searchable Instrument Index** screen lets you create a Searchable Instrument Index from several different sources.

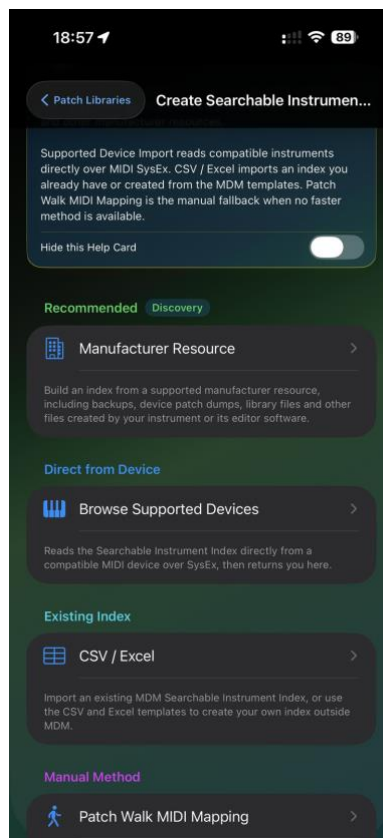
To import an existing CSV file, tap **CSV / Excel** under **Existing Index**.

CSV / Excel builds a Searchable Instrument Index from a CSV file you already have, or from one you create using the official MDM templates.

Manufacturer Resource reads a backup or dump file from your equipment's own software — currently Line 6 Helix backups and ASM Hydrasynth SysEx dumps, with more formats added over time. It identifies the file and exports a CSV, which you then import the same way as any other. That route is covered in Chapter 7.

Browse Supported Devices reads compatible equipment directly over MIDI. It is available in both Standard and Pro, though what you see once you have chosen your equipment differs between the two. That route is covered in Chapter 13.

The figure below shows the **Create Searchable Instrument Index** screen.



Chapter 7

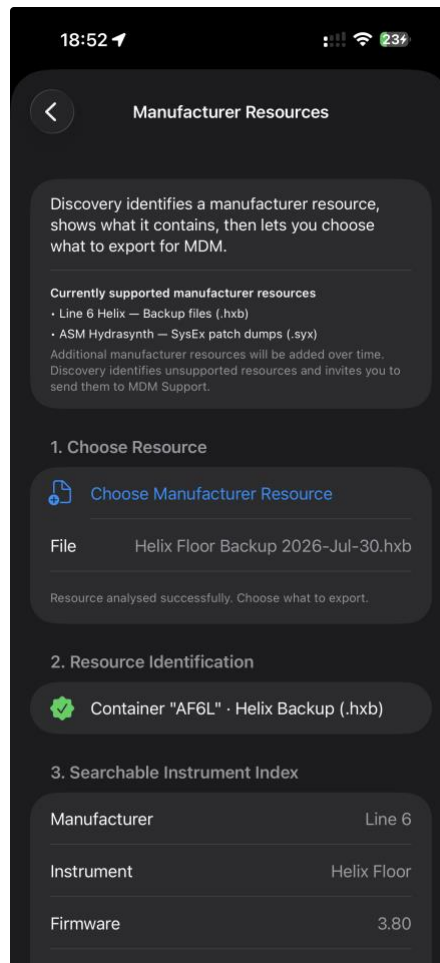
Using a Manufacturer Resource File

If your equipment's manufacturer offers its own backup or dump file, MDM can read it directly — currently Line 6 Helix backups (.hxb) and ASM Hydrasynth SysEx dumps (.syx), with more formats added over time.

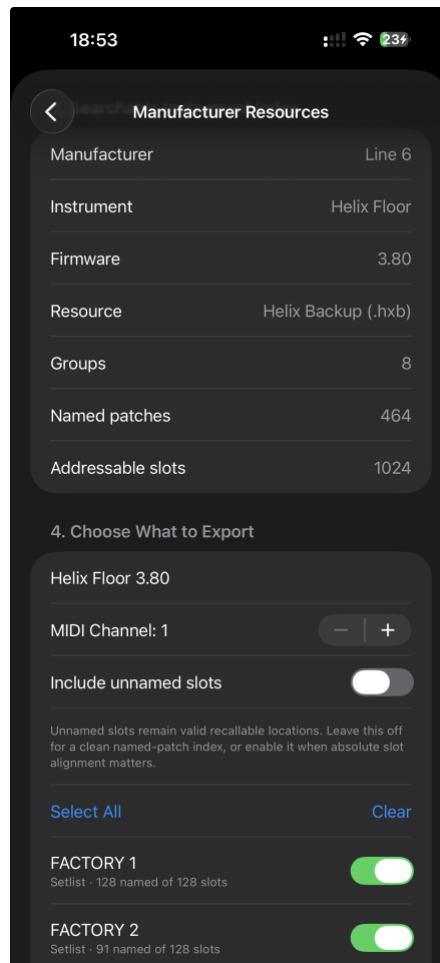
The example in this chapter uses a Line 6 Helix backup file. Other manufacturer resources may present slightly different options once identified, depending on how that format organizes its own patches.

This is a two-step route. Manufacturer Resource does not build your Searchable Instrument Index directly — it identifies the file, shows you what it found, and exports a CSV. That CSV is then imported the same way as any other, through **Chapter 8, Selecting Your CSV File**.

1. Generate the backup or dump file from your instrument's own software — for a Helix, **HX Edit** → **File** → **Create Backup**.
2. In MDM, tap **Libraries**, then **Import Device Index**, then **Manufacturer Resource**.
3. Tap **Choose Manufacturer Resource** and select the file you generated. MDM identifies it and confirms what it found — for a Helix backup, the manufacturer, instrument and firmware version.



4. Under **Choose What to Export**, set the **MIDI Channel** to match your equipment, and decide whether to **Include unnamed slots** — leave this off for a clean named-patch index, or turn it on if absolute slot alignment matters. If your equipment organizes patches into groups, choose which ones to include, or tap **Select All**. A Helix backup, for example, organizes its patches into Setlists such as **FACTORY 1** and **FACTORY 2**, each shown with how many of its slots are named.



5. Review what you've selected, then export as a CSV.
6. Save the CSV somewhere accessible from your iPhone or iPad, such as the **Files** app, **iCloud Drive**, **Dropbox**, or another supported location.

Once your CSV is saved, continue to **Chapter 8, Selecting Your CSV File** and import it the same way as any other CSV.

If you already have equipment set up in MDM and re-import an updated Manufacturer Resource file for it, your existing Searchable Instrument Index is not overwritten. The new index is assigned directly to the Device, and the previous index remains available in Patch Libraries to reassign or delete.

Chapter 8

Selecting Your CSV File

The **Build Index from CSV / Excel** page contains everything you need to import an existing CSV file or create a new one using the official templates.

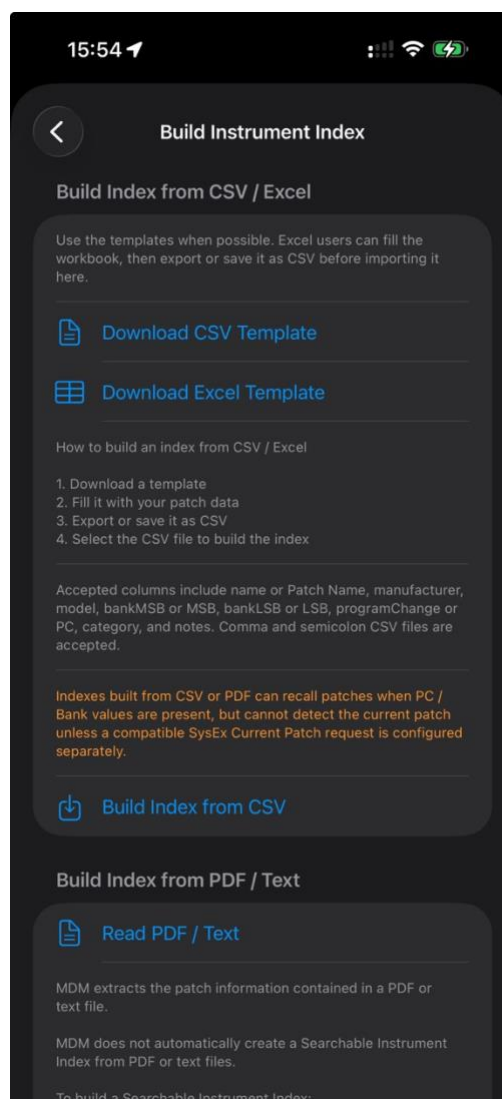
To import an existing Searchable Instrument Index, tap **Build Index from CSV**.

The **Files** app will open, allowing you to browse to the location where you saved your CSV file.

Select your CSV file.

The import will begin automatically.

The figure below shows the **Build Index from CSV / Excel** page.



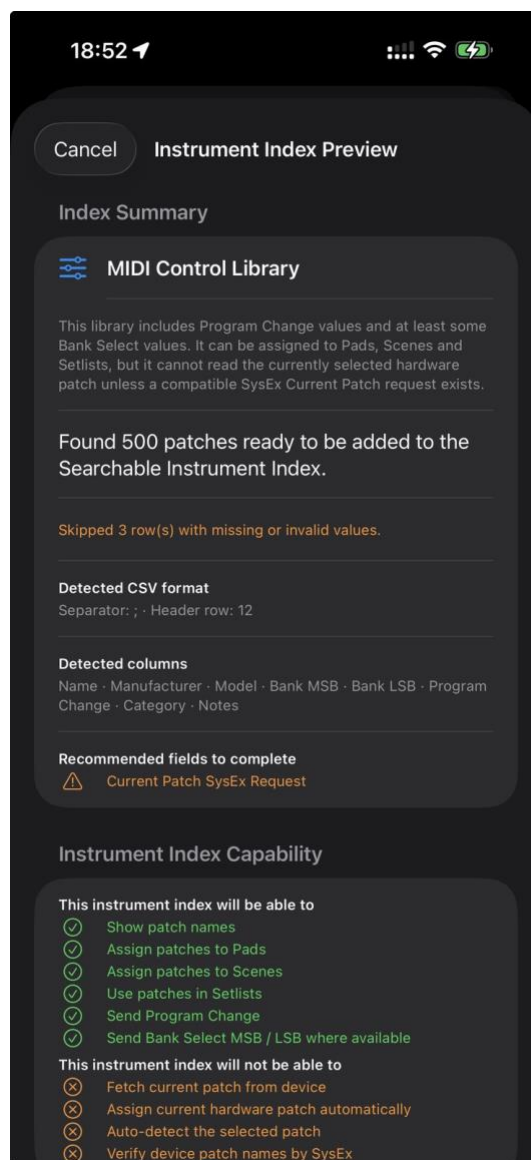
Chapter 9

Reviewing the Instrument Index Preview

After your CSV file has been imported, MIDIDeviceManager displays the **Instrument Index Preview**.

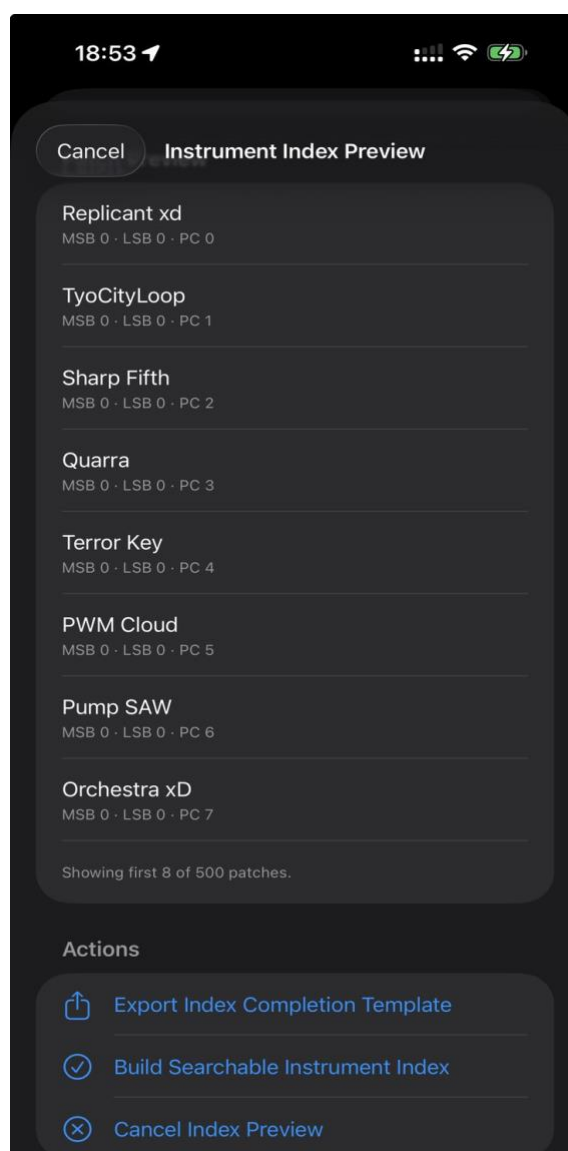
Begin by reviewing the **Index Summary**, which provides an overview of the information found in your CSV file, including the number of patches and the capabilities available in the new Searchable Instrument Index.

The first figure below shows the **Index Summary**.



Scroll down to the **Patch Preview** section to review a sample of the imported patches. This allows you to confirm that the patch names and other information have been imported correctly before building the Searchable Instrument Index.

The second figure below shows the **Patch Preview**.



If everything looks correct, continue scrolling to the **Actions** section, where you'll build your Searchable Instrument Index in the next chapter.

Chapter 10

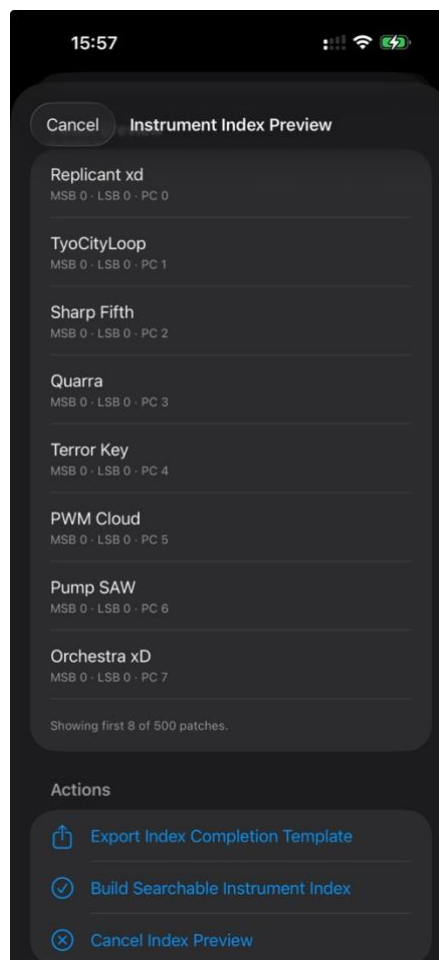
Building the Searchable Instrument Index

Scroll to the bottom of the **Instrument Index Preview** page.

In the **Actions** section, tap **Build Searchable Instrument Index**.

MIDIDeviceManager will build your Searchable Instrument Index and automatically return you to the **Patch Libraries** screen.

The figure below shows the **Actions** section.



Chapter 11

Associating Your Searchable Instrument Index with a Device

Your Searchable Instrument Index has now been created and is available in MIDIDeviceManager.

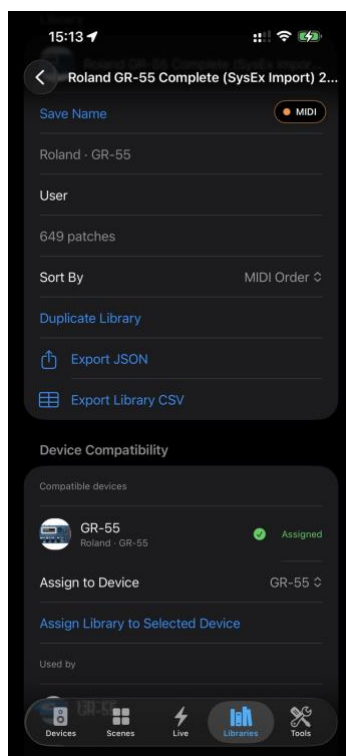
Before it can be used to select patches from Device Pads, it must be associated with the appropriate Device.

Return to the Libraries screen and open the Searchable Instrument Index you have just created.

Scroll down to the Device Compatibility section. Choose your Device under Assign to Device, then tap Assign Library to Selected Device. The Device must already exist in MIDIDeviceManager.

Your Device now appears under Compatible Devices with a green tick and the word Assigned. The Searchable Instrument Index is immediately available throughout the application for that Device.

The figure below shows the Device Compatibility section.



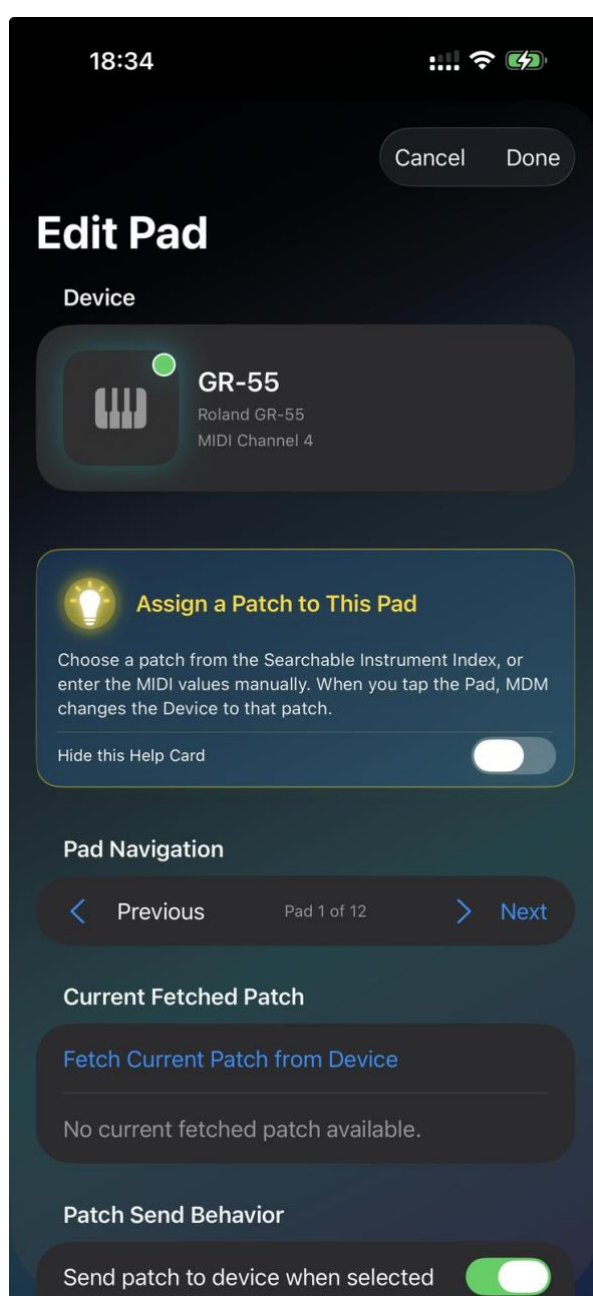
Chapter 12

Using Your Searchable Instrument Index

Return to the **Devices** screen and edit any Device Pad.

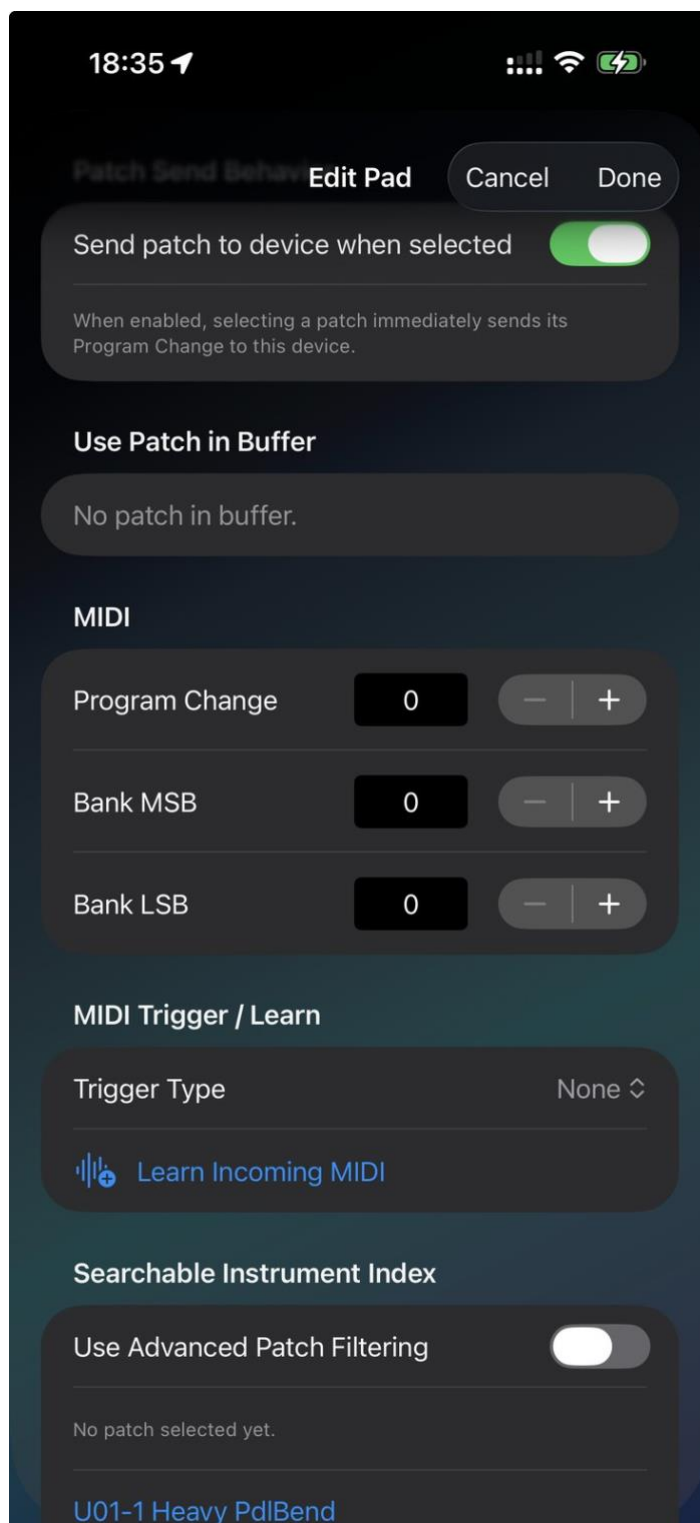
Scroll down to the **Searchable Instrument Index** section. If you wish, enable **Use Advanced Patch Filtering** to take advantage of categories and your own custom notes while searching.

The first figure below shows the **Edit Pad** screen.



Scroll down to the **Searchable Instrument Index** section and tap the name of the currently selected patch, or **No patch selected yet** if no patch has been assigned.

The second figure below shows the **Searchable Instrument Index** section.

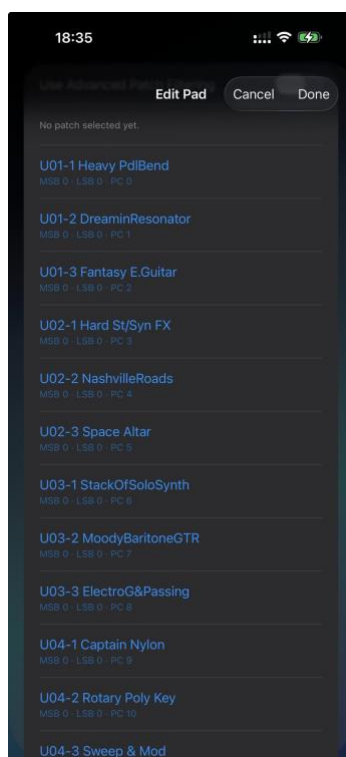


MIDIDeviceManager displays the available patches for your equipment. If **Advanced Patch Filtering** is enabled, you can quickly narrow the list by searching or filtering to find exactly the patch you need.

Simply tap the patch you want to assign to the Device Pad. MIDIDeviceManager automatically fills in the appropriate **Program Change** and **Bank Select** values, making patch assignment faster and easier than entering MIDI values manually.

You do not have to choose blind. Arrows beside the patch name step through the filtered list and send each patch to your equipment as you go, so you can hear a sound before you assign it. This is the fastest way to find the right patch when several names look similar.

The third figure below shows the **Searchable Instrument Index**.



Chapter 13

Building an Index Directly from Your Equipment

Some equipment can send MDM its patch list directly over MIDI, with no file involved. Where this is available it is the fastest route, and it produces an index with the patch names your equipment actually holds.

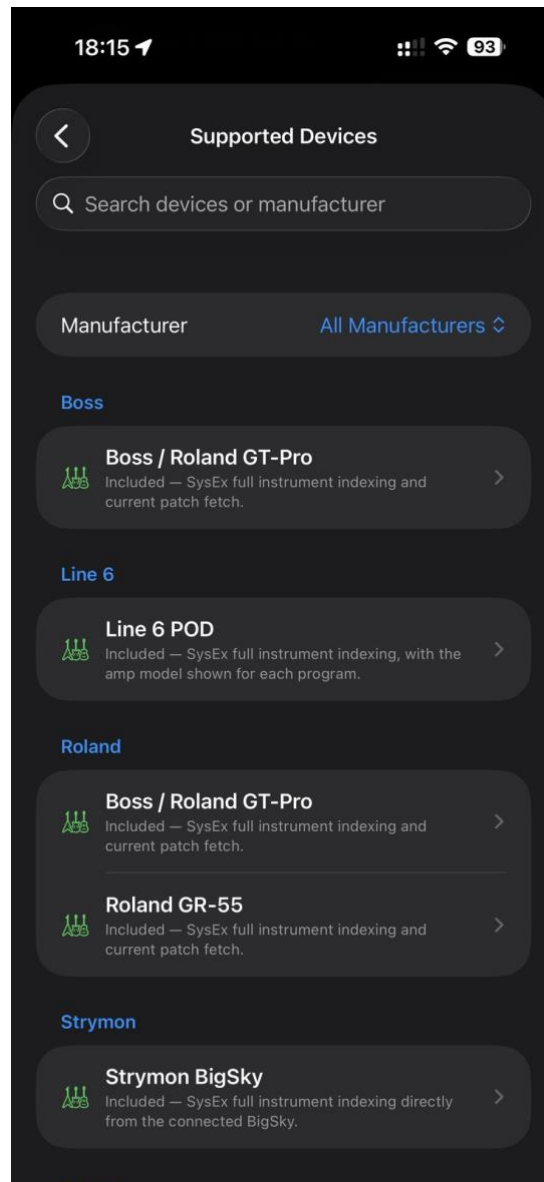
Start the import

Tap **Libraries** in the tab bar, then **Import Device Index**.

Under **Direct from Device**, tap **Browse Supported Devices**. MIDIDeviceManager opens **Supported Devices** — a searchable, manufacturer-grouped list. Search by name or manufacturer, or filter using the **Manufacturer** picker. Some equipment appears under more than one manufacturer where that reflects how it is actually sold — a Boss/Roland pedal, for example.

Choose your equipment to continue. MIDIDeviceManager opens the **SysEx Lab**, where the import is carried out.

The figure below shows the Supported Devices screen.



What You See

MIDIDeviceManager opens a simplified SysEx Lab showing only what this import needs — Target and Device Tests. A help card explains that most musicians will not need anything more, and that you can safely come back to the fuller SysEx Lab whenever you are ready. Once the import finishes, MIDIDeviceManager returns you to Libraries on its own.

This is the same screen regardless of mode — **Standard** and **Pro** both see it, and both use it the same way. If you are in Pro mode and want the full SysEx Lab — Target, Library, Tests, Debug and Discovery — it is reached separately, from **Tools**, not from here. The two paths exist for different jobs: this one is for reading an index from your equipment quickly; the full Lab is for building and sending SysEx by hand.

The figure below shows this screen.



Bluetooth or a cable

Either works. Every piece of equipment MDM can read directly has been imported over Bluetooth, complete and without skips — including three sharing a single adaptor.

An index import asks the equipment for its whole patch list, which can be several hundred replies sent one after another. Patches can occasionally be missing from an index that still appears to have worked — so it is worth checking the finished index rather than assuming it is complete. If patches are missing, build it again over a cable. That is the whole of the advice: try what is convenient, check the result, and change the connection only if the result tells you to.

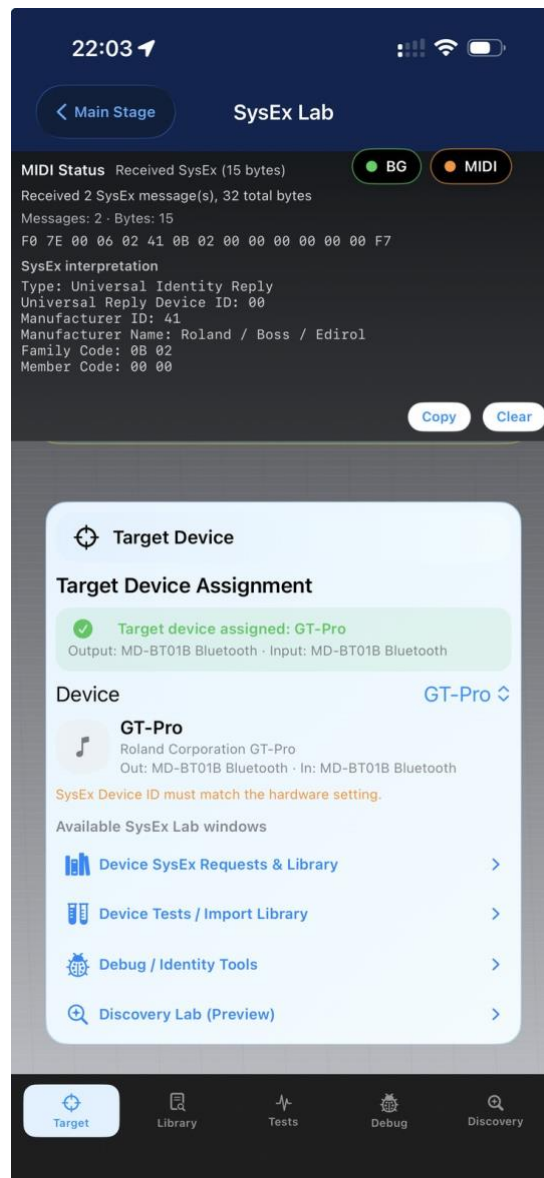
If you cannot find the build button

The **MIDI Status** panel sits across the top of the SysEx Lab and reports what MDM is receiving. It grows as SysEx messages arrive, and on an iPhone it can grow far enough to push the build button below the bottom of the screen.

If the button seems to have disappeared, tap **Clear** at the foot of the MIDI Status panel. The panel collapses and the button returns. Clearing the panel discards only the displayed messages; it does not affect the import.

The **Copy** button beside it copies the panel contents, which is useful if you are sending a report to support.

The figure below shows the full SysEx Lab, reached separately from Tools, with the MIDI Status panel at the top and the complete set of tabs.



Chapter 14

Troubleshooting

My Searchable Instrument Index does not appear when editing a Device Pad.

Verify that your Searchable Instrument Index has been associated with your Device.

1. Open **Libraries**.
2. Select your Searchable Instrument Index.
3. Scroll to the Device Compatibility section.
4. Confirm that your Device appears under Compatible devices with a green tick and the word Assigned. If it does not, choose it under Assign to Device and tap Assign Library to Selected Device.

Once associated, the Searchable Instrument Index becomes available throughout MIDIDeviceManager.

For more information, see **Chapter 11 – Associating Your Searchable Instrument Index with a Device**.

I cannot find my CSV file

Confirm that the CSV file has been saved to a location accessible from the **Files** app, such as **iCloud Drive**, **On My iPhone**, **On My iPad**, or another supported storage provider.

I cannot find my Device

Return to the **Devices** screen and confirm that:

- Your Device has already been created.
- It is connected correctly.
- It shows green throughout — the badge on its image and the assigned MIDI port text, with no SysEx Device ID line shown in orange.

If the Device is green but nothing happens when you tap a Pad, check its MIDI channel against the channel set on the equipment. A Device can be reachable and still be talking on the wrong channel.

Congratulations

You have successfully imported your first **Searchable Instrument Index**.

Your Searchable Instrument Index is now ready to use throughout MIDIDeviceManager.

Looking for additional Searchable Instrument Indexes?

Visit the [MDM Resource Centre](#) on the MIDIDeviceManager website, where you'll find **downloadable Searchable Instrument Indexes, supported devices, Quick Start Guides and additional documentation** as they become available.

Enjoy exploring your MIDI environment with MIDIDeviceManager.