Kelly Kiel

Connect Optron Mini to FL Studio (DAW)

**Category:** Technology, arts

**Overview:** Students will go through step-by-step instructions on how to connect the Optron mini to FL Studio as a midi instrument. Students will get experience hands on with using multiple programs in conjunction in order to achieve a specific goal.

**Suggested time:** 30-50 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

* Computer
* Optron Mini
* FL Studio trial software
* Max 8 software
* Optron software
* LoopMIDI software

**Activity:** play some simple music with synthesizers in FL Studio on the Optron Mini

* Download FL Studio trial
  + <https://www.image-line.com/fl-studio-download/>
* Download Max 8
  + <https://cycling74.com/downloads>
* Download Optron software
  + <https://github.com/udellc/OptronMax>
    - Click green “code” box
    - Click download zip
    - Navigate file explorer to: This PC > Documents > Max 8 > Packages
    - Open downloaded zip folder
    - Open “OptronMax-main” folder
    - Move folder named “Optron” from zip folder to packages folder from previous step
* Download LoopMIDI software
  + <https://www.tobias-erichsen.de/software/loopmidi.html>
* Watch tutorial on how to connect everything together
  + <https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_l7ngsh1q>
* Now return to Max 8 and open the Optron Mini tab. Set number of frets to 6

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

* Next, go to FL Studio
* Click on channel rack

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

* Add a channel

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidence

* Choose plugin called “Sakura”. (Try other plugins if you would like. Sakura is just an easy one for this activity).

A picture containing text, indoor

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* Now try playing “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” by using the colors from the Optron as reference to the following color-coded sheet music. Read left to right, one table at a time.

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* Here is a video of me playing the song:
  + <https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_vn4njcax>
* If you get the hang of that song, try this next one.

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