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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



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



* Add a channel



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



* 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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