

QuickStart Guide for notation composer

This QuickStart Guide is designed for those who want pointers, and then want to explore for themselves.

For a more "hands on" approach, you may want to check out the "[Quick Start Tutorial](#)" which works step-by-step through some of the more common tasks. There are also [Tutorial Videos](#) available that guide you through many tasks.

Back up your software (full version only) – Before anything else, please take a moment to back up your installation. The installation is saved in the zip file

"Inst_NS_Composer_3_English_Backup_xyz.zip" (xyz = version), which you can find for Windows Vista, 7, 8, 8.1, 10 at: C:\Users\Public\Documents\Notation_3\Composer_3\Installation
Windows XP at: C:\Programs\Notation_3\Composer_3\Installation

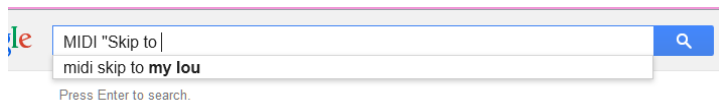
and in the folder where you have started the installation.

Copy this zip file to some safe storage media (e.g. CD, memory stick, external hard drive, etc.) If you should need to reinstall your software for any reason, simply extract the zip file into one folder of computer hard drive, and then run the file "Installation_Notation_Composer_3_English.msi".

Opening a file from your computer – simply use "Open" or "File/Open" and navigate to your file.

Finding MIDI or Karaoke Files

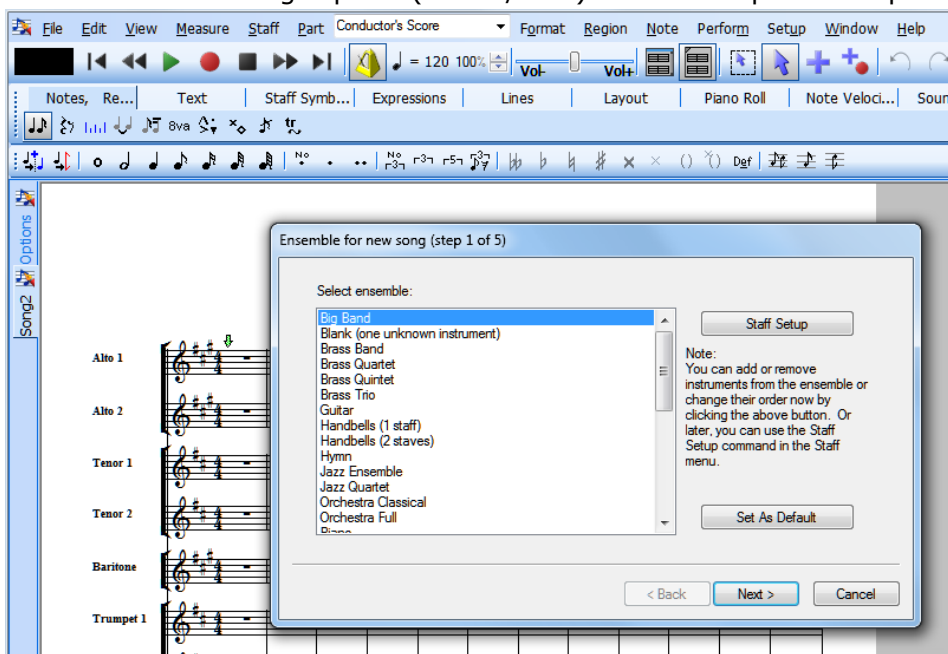
You can use "File/Download files from the internet" to find a directory of websites that host MIDI files, or your browser and favorite search engine to look for "MIDI" plus the name of a song you would like to work with.



Save the file to your hard drive, and open it in **notation composer** using "Open" or "File Open."

Creating a New song

Use the "Create a new song" option (or File/New) to choose options for pre-set templates for a new song.

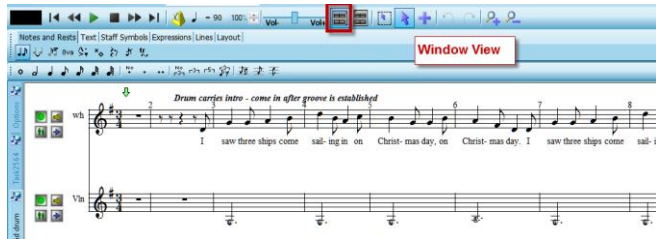


You can also create your own templates:

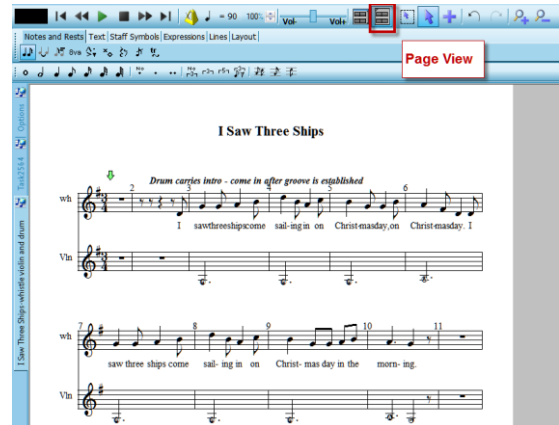
1. Set up a blank file with the instrumentation and layout you want.
2. Use File/Save as template.
3. Now you can use File/New, and select your personalized template from the list.

Setting up your Work Space

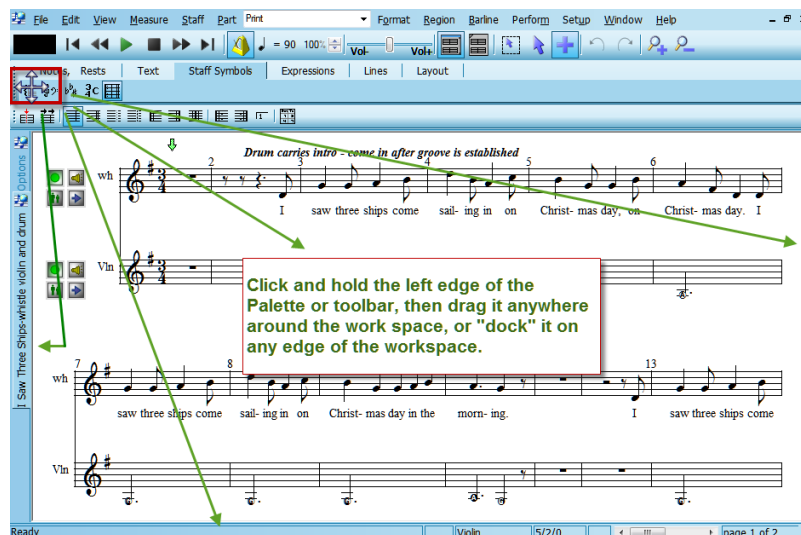
Window view (quick muting, soloing, Staff Setup via control buttons) or **Page view** ("Print preview")



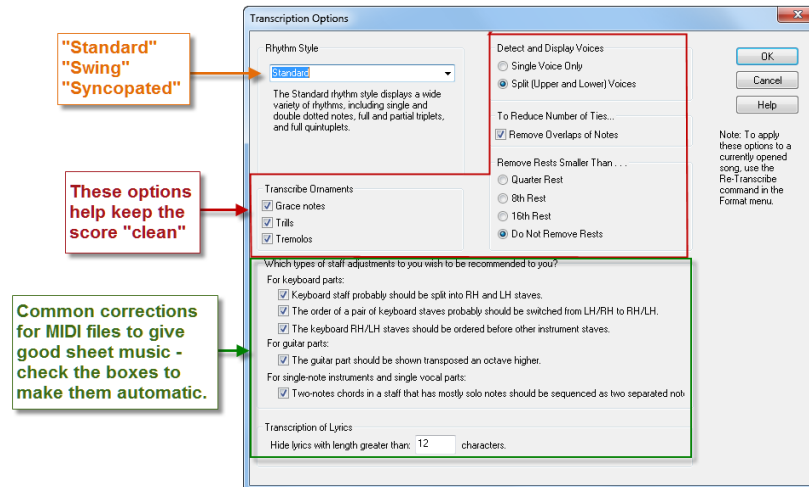
OR



Tool placement - Main Palette (Tabs and Palettes) and Detail Palette (Palette tools) are moveable (only available on Windows).



Transcription Options - Setup/Transcription Options affects the appearance of the notation.

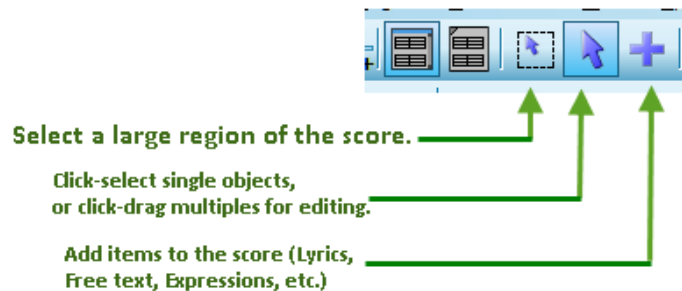


If you don't like how the notation looks, try different options by using Format/Retranscribe.

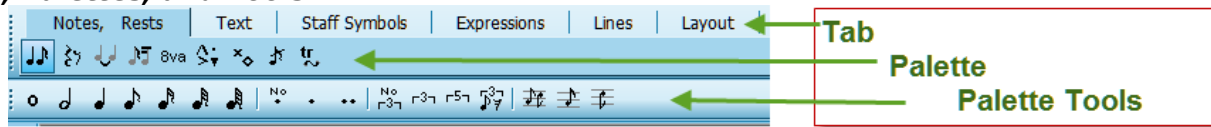
Adding to or Editing the Score

Modes – Add, Select, or Region Select

Region Select is for copying/pasting parts of the score.



Tabs, Palettes, and Tools



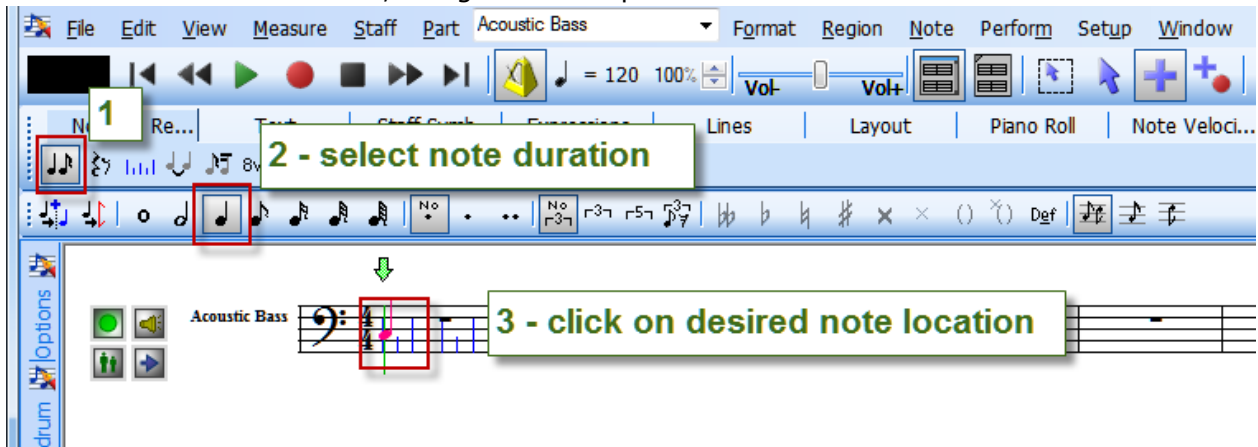
Clicking on an element in the score (eg. a note or key signature) will open the relative tab and palette, with the tools to work on what you have selected.

Clicking on the Tab, Palette, and Tool for an item while in "Add" mode (eg. "Text/Lyrics", or "Notes and Rests/Accents") allows you to add that element to the score.

Recording/adding notes and MIDI performance

You can **add notes** three ways:

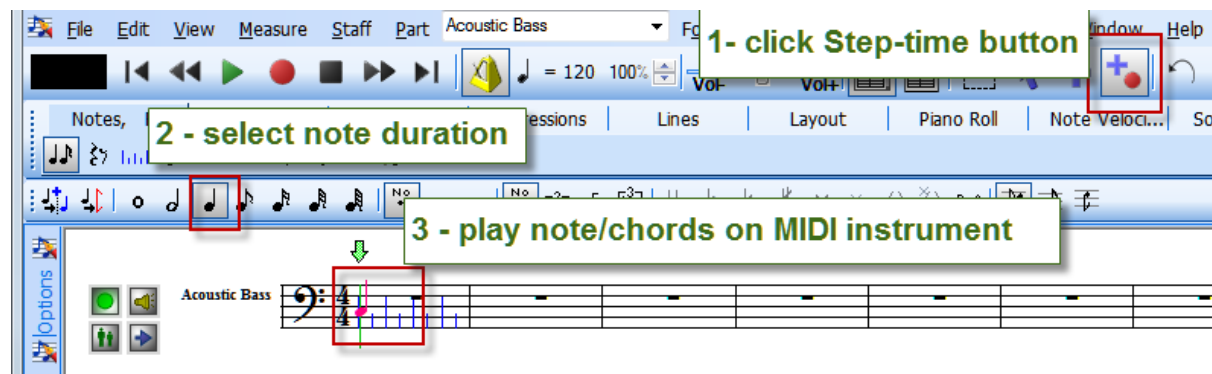
- **via mouse** in “Add” mode, using the Notes palette tools



- **“live” recording via MIDI instrument** (connect instrument to the computer and turn it on)

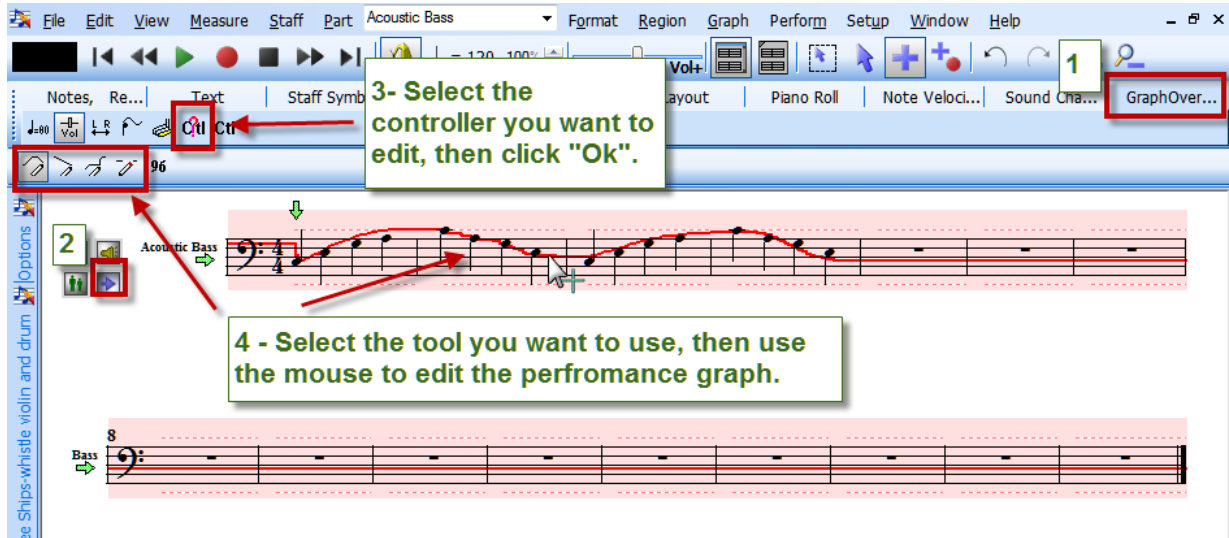


- **“step time” recording** via MIDI instrument (connect instrument to the computer and turn on)

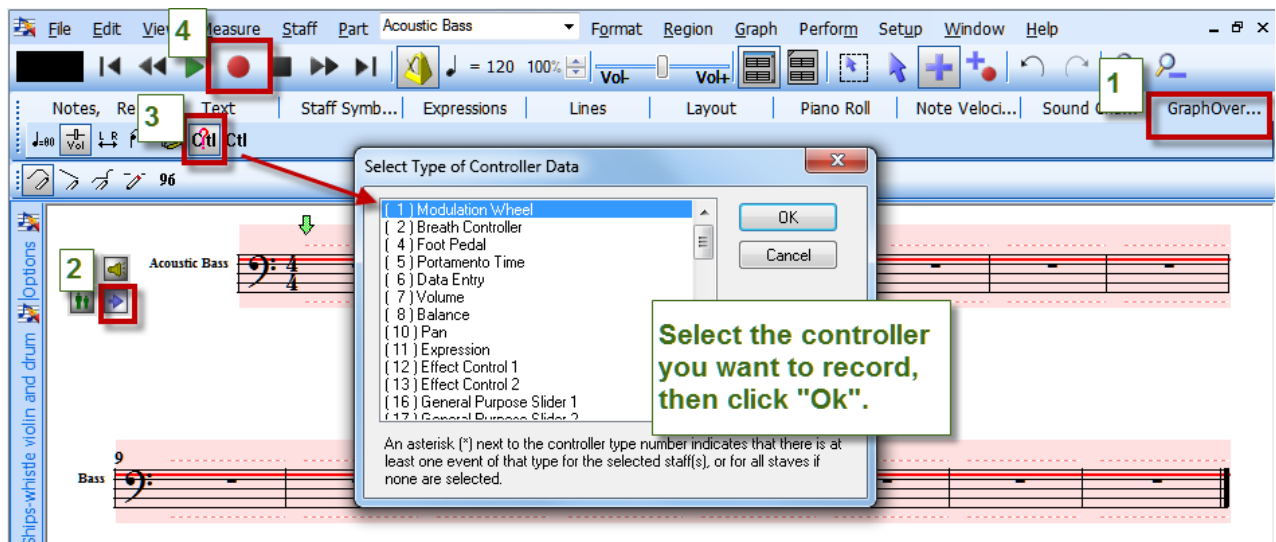


You can also **add, edit, or record MIDI** performance data:

- **via mouse** in "Add" mode using Graph Over Notes and selecting the MIDI controller to add/edit

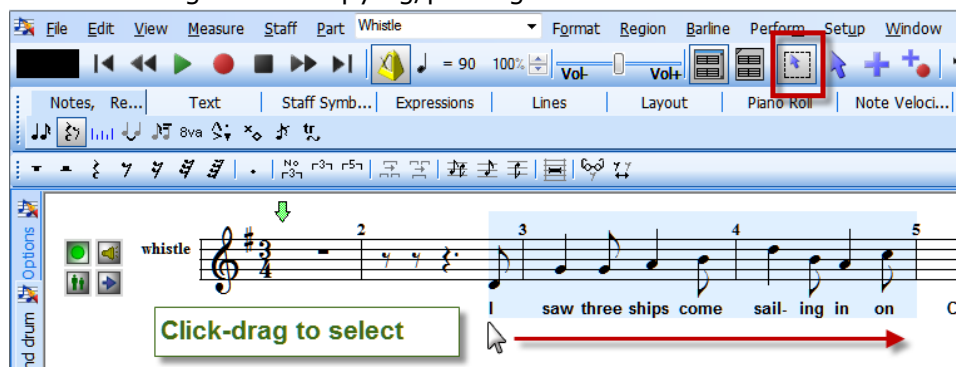


"live" recording via MIDI instrument (connect the instrument to the computer and turn it on; do this on an empty staff, then use Region Select/Copy/Paste to paste the graph onto a staff with notes.)

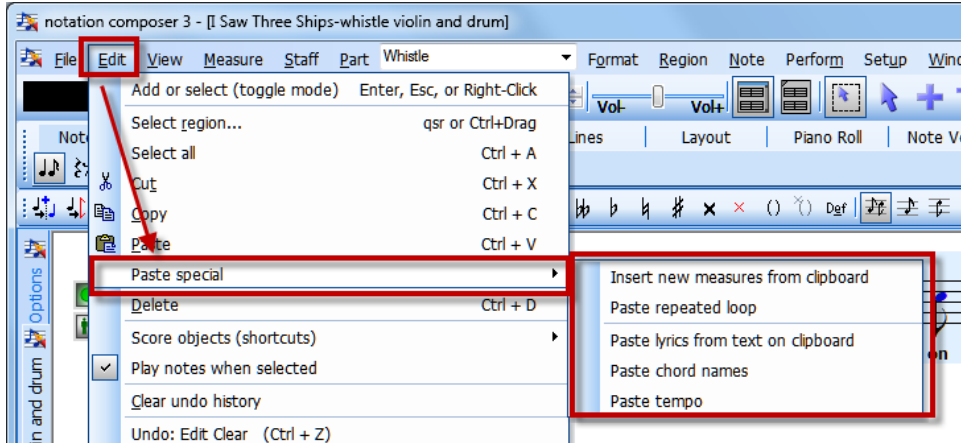


Rearranging

Use Region Select to select regions for copying/pasting sections of the score.



Use Edit/Paste Special commands for filling in loops (eg. drums) or other “specialty” tasks into a selected region:

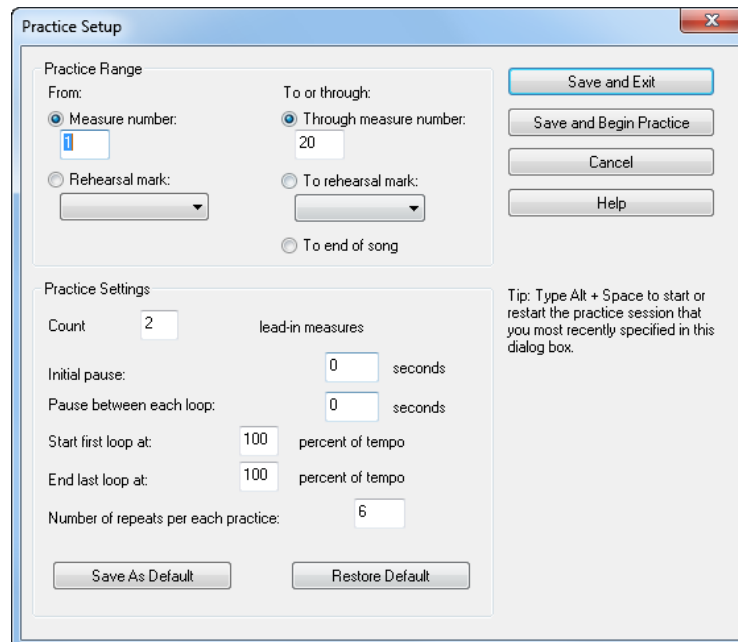


Practicing

Staff Controls- Use the staff control buttons to silence or solo each staff.

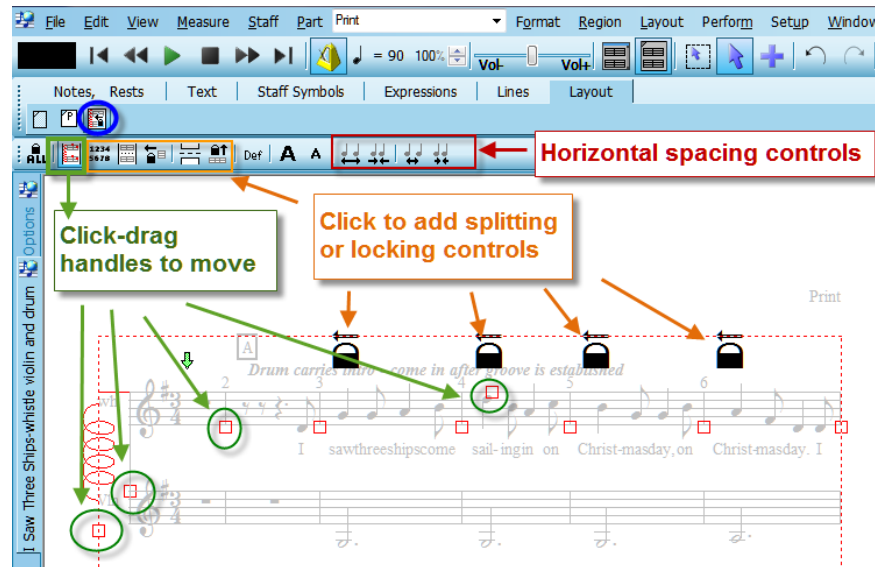


Practice Sessions – Perform/Practice Setup for practice loop options.



Printing – Layout and Formatting

Layout/Page Layout – Tab, Palette and tools for editing the position of bars and systems (“lines”) of the score on the page(s).



Format menu commands – A centralized list of commands and dialogs for other aspects of the appearance such as the Transcription options, fonts, and hiding/showing types of objects in the score.

For details about any of these topics, you can see Help/Users Guide, and then use the Index to look up any topic for step-by-step instructions.

We hope you will enjoy many hours of music making fun with [notation composer!](#)

Your Notation Software Team