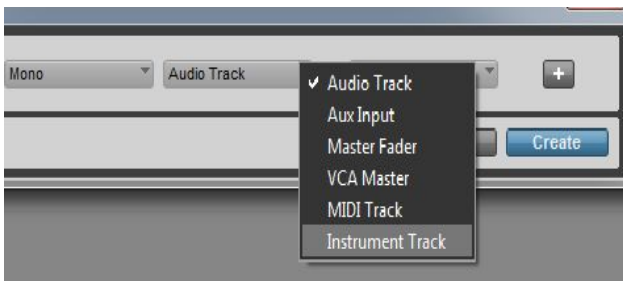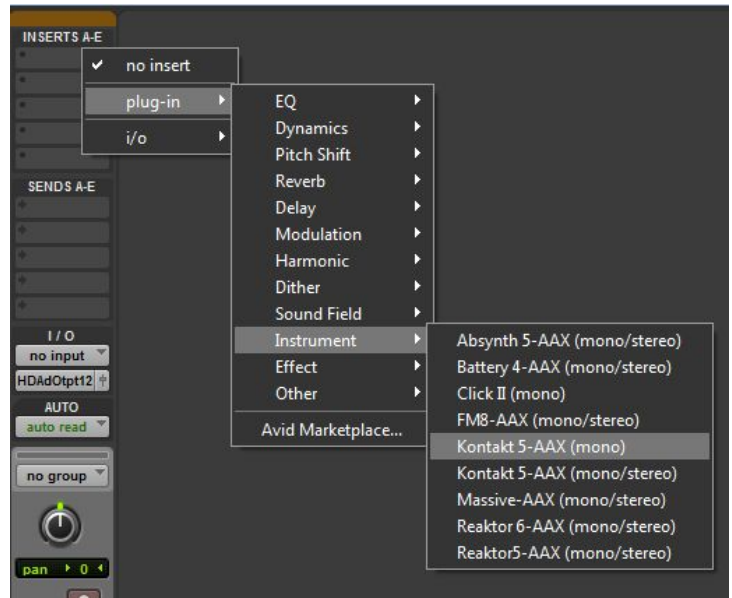# Recording a Virtual Instrument Track

Used for Making Beats, Playing Instruments Through the MIDI Keyboard Controller
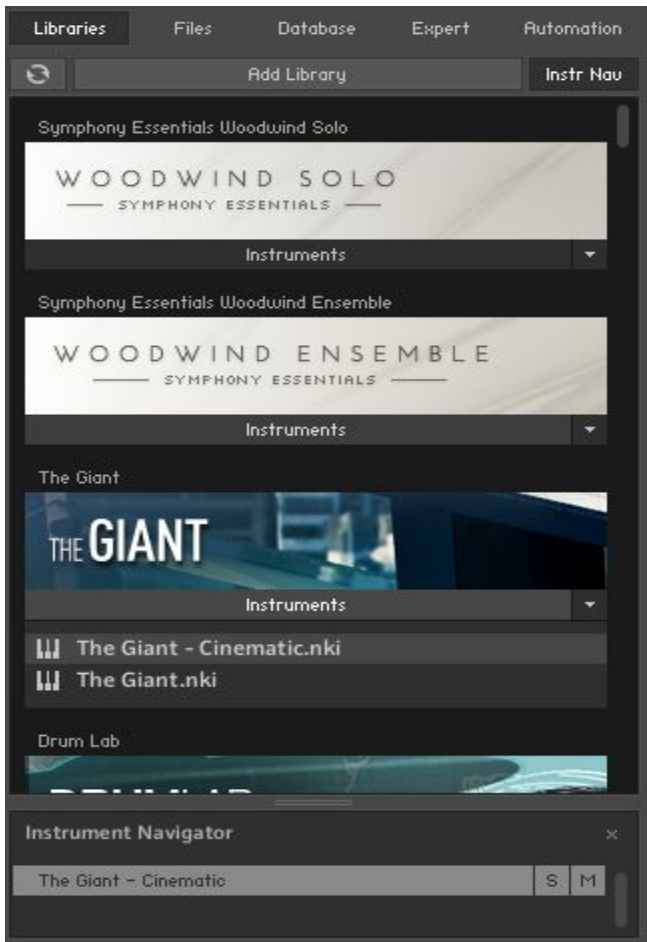
1. Open **Pro Tools 12**, found in the bottom left hand side of the far left monitor.

2. When the plugins are done loading, you will see the **Dashboard**. Click, **Create**, and give your session a name. You do not need to change any other settings on the dashboard. Click the blue **Create** button to launch your session.

3. The middle monitor will display the **Edit** window. Open the **Mix** window from the toolbar on the far left monitor, by clicking **Window** > **Mix**.

4. Confirm that the **Octa-Capture** is selected as the playback engine by going to **Setup** > **Playback Engine**, and verify that **OCTA-CAPTURE** is set as the Playback Engine. If not, choose it from the drop down list and click **OK**.

5. To insert an **Instrument Track**, go to **Track** > **New**. From here, select **Instrument Track** as the type of track as shown below. Click **Create**.

6. To open a plug-in which will allow you to use the MIDI keyboard controller as a virtual instrument, follow the following steps:

   ○ In the Mix window, under **INSERTS A-E**, click the first blank field

   ○ Next, click **plug-in** > **Instrument** > **Kontakt 5-AAX (mono)**. (The Kontakt 5 AAX plug-in offers thousands of instruments).

7. Once Kontakt 5-AAX launches, you will be able to load whatever instrument you want from the list of plug-ins on the left hand side. Scroll through them to find the one you want. (this may take some time to browse).

8. Once you have found the plug-in you would like to use, Click on the word **Instruments,** then click on the specific plug-in file to load the instrument.

9. Before you begin playing the instrument, you must first enable the track by pressing the **Track Record Enable** in the **Mix** window of **Pro Tools 12.** It will now flash **red** indicating the track is enabled,

10. If you press a key, or any of the touch pads on the MIDI keyboard controller, it will now sound like the plug-in you have chosen. *Remember, every virtual instrument should have it's own track. For instance, if you want to have the drums, a guitar, and a bass, they each require their own instrument track.

11. When you are ready to record, click the **Record Enable** button and then the **Play** button shown below. When selected, they will turn red and green.

12. You can now begin playing the MIDI keyboard controller, and anything you play will be recorded to the track.

13. When finished with your recording, click the **Stop** button to stop your recording. You can playback your audio by pressing the **Play** button.

See also

- **Saving Unfinished Sessions & Opening Unfinished Sessions**
- **Bounce Completed Sessions**