Akai MPK2 Series - Setup in Steinberg Cubase

The Akai MPK2 series controllers combine deep software integration, enhanced workflow, and core technologies from the iconic line of MPC workstations. The MPK225, MPK249, and MPK261 are engineered to be all-in-one controller solutions for comprehensive interfacing

and manipulation of virtual instruments, effect plugins, DAWs, and more. This articles walks through how to setup the MPK2 series controller with Steinberg Cubase.

Contents

Hardware Setup

1. First, connect the Akai MPK2 series controller to an available USB port on your computer using the supplied cable and power the controller on.

2. Press the **PRESET** button and use the data dial to scroll to **Preset: 10 Cubase**. Press the **PUSH TO ENTER** knob.

    Note: The presets, preset names, and order of presets may vary depending on the specific model.

3. Press the **GLOBAL** button to enter the Global settings menu. Press the right arrow key until the display reads **Clock Source:** Use the rotary knob to select **External**.

4. Hit the right arrow key until the display reads **Save Globals**. Press the **PUSH TO ENTER** knob to save the settings. The display will flash . When this is complete, the display will read .

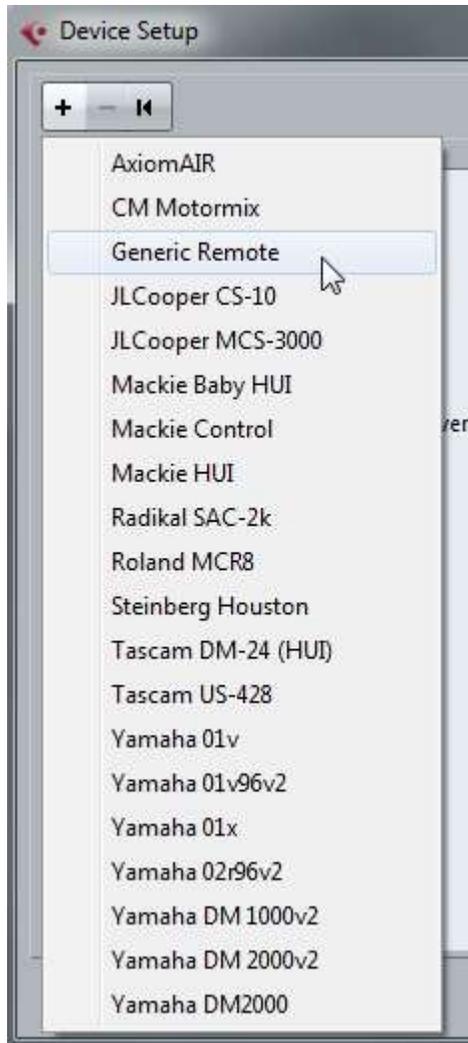5. Press the **PRESET** button to return to the Cubase preset screen.

Software Setup

1. Open Steinberg Cubase.

2. From the top menu, choose **Devices > Device Setup...**

3. In the window that opens, click on the **+** (plus) button in the upper-left corner and choose **Generic Remote** from the drop-down list to add a remote device.

Device Setup

AxiomAIR
CM Motormix
Generic Remote
JLCooper CS-10
JLCooper MCS-3000
Mackie Baby HUI
Mackie Control
Mackie HUI
Radikal SAC-2k
Roland MCR8
Steinberg Houston
Tascam DM-24 (HUI)
Tascam US-428
Yamaha 01v
Yamaha 01v96v2
Yamaha 01x
Yamaha 02r96v2
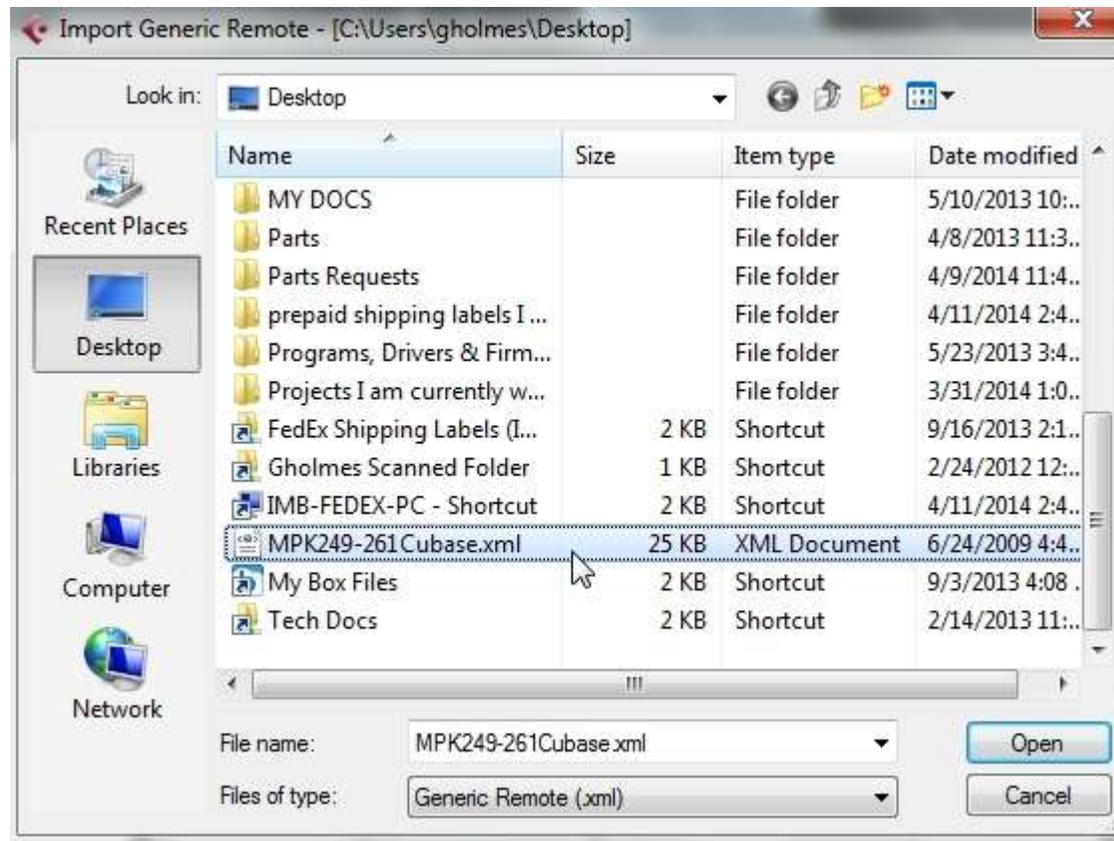Yamaha DM 1000v2
Yamaha DM 2000v2
Yamaha DM2000

4. Ensure that **Generic Remote** is highlighted in the left portion of the window and then choose your **MPK2** series controller in the drop-down menus next to **MIDI Input** and **MIDI Output** in the center-top of the window.

5. Download the **Cubase preset setup file** from this link. Unzip the download, locate the **.xml preset file** and note where you have it saved it on your computer.

6. Back in Cubase, on the right side of the Device Setup window, choose the **Import** button.
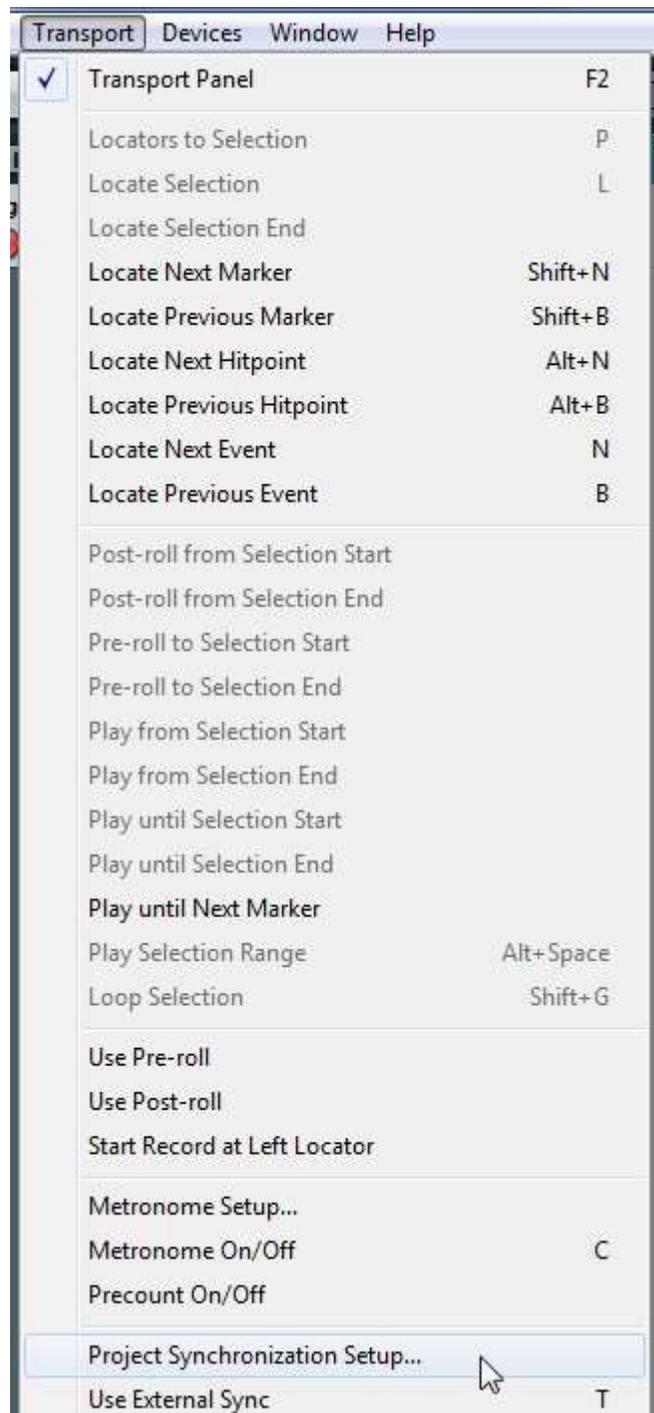

7. In the window that opens, locate the **Cubase preset .xml file** and press **Open**.
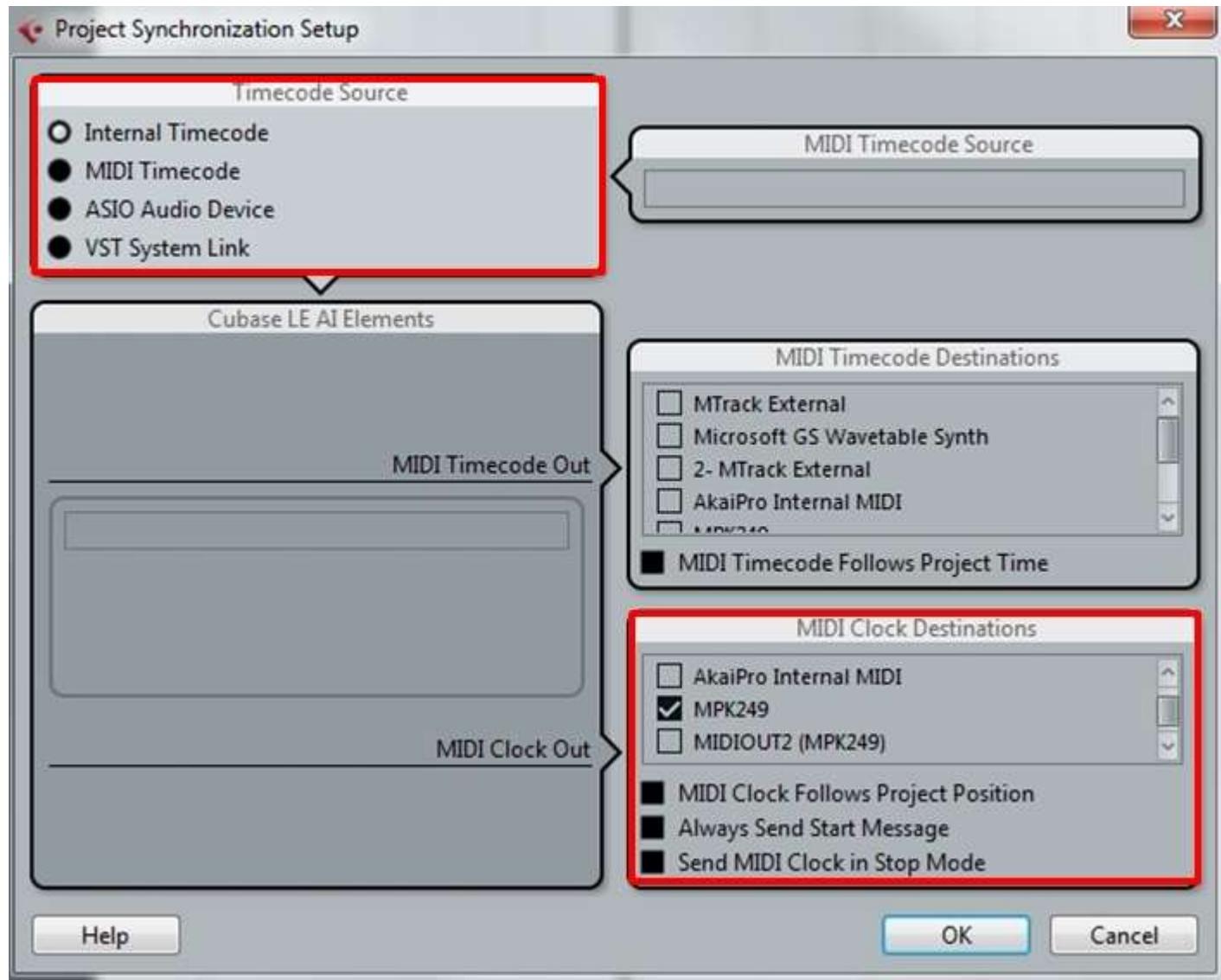
8. Back in the **Device Setup** window, press **Apply**, then press **OK**.

9. Finally, to ensure Synchronization for functions such as the Arpeggiator, choose **Transport > Project Synchronization Setup...**

| Transport | Devices | Window | Help |

	Transport Panel	F2
	Locators to Selection	P
	Locate Selection	L
	Locate Selection End	
	Locate Next Marker	Shift+N
	Locate Previous Marker	Shift+B
	Locate Next Hitpoint	Alt+N
	Locate Previous Hitpoint	Alt+B
	Locate Next Event	N
	Locate Previous Event	B
	Post-roll from Selection Start	
	Post-roll from Selection End	
	Pre-roll to Selection Start	
	Pre-roll to Selection End	
	Play from Selection Start	
	Play from Selection End	
	Play until Selection Start	
	Play until Selection End	
	Play until Next Marker	
	Play Selection Range	Alt+Space
	Loop Selection	Shift+G
	Use Pre-roll	
	Use Post-roll	
	Start Record at Left Locator	
	Metronome Setup...	
	Metronome On/Off	C
	Precount On/Off	
	Project Synchronization Setup...	
	Use External Sync	T

10. Under **Timecode Source**, choose **Internal Timecode**. Within **MIDI Clock Destinations**, choose **MPK249**.

Project Synchronization Setup

Timecode Source

- ⦿ Internal Timecode
- ● MIDI Timecode
- ● ASIO Audio Device
- ● VST System Link

MIDI Timecode Source

Cubase LE AI Elements

MIDI Timecode Out

MIDI Timecode Destinations

- ☐ MTrack External
- ☐ Microsoft GS Wavetable Synth
- ☐ 2- MTrack External
- ☐ AkaiPro Internal MIDI
- ☐ MPK249

- ■ MIDI Timecode Follows Project Time

MIDI Clock Out

MIDI Clock Destinations

- ☐ AkaiPro Internal MIDI
- ☑ MPK249
- ☐ MIDIOUT2 (MPK249)

- ■ MIDI Clock Follows Project Position
- ■ Always Send Start Message
- ■ Send MIDI Clock in Stop Mode

Help   OK   Cancel
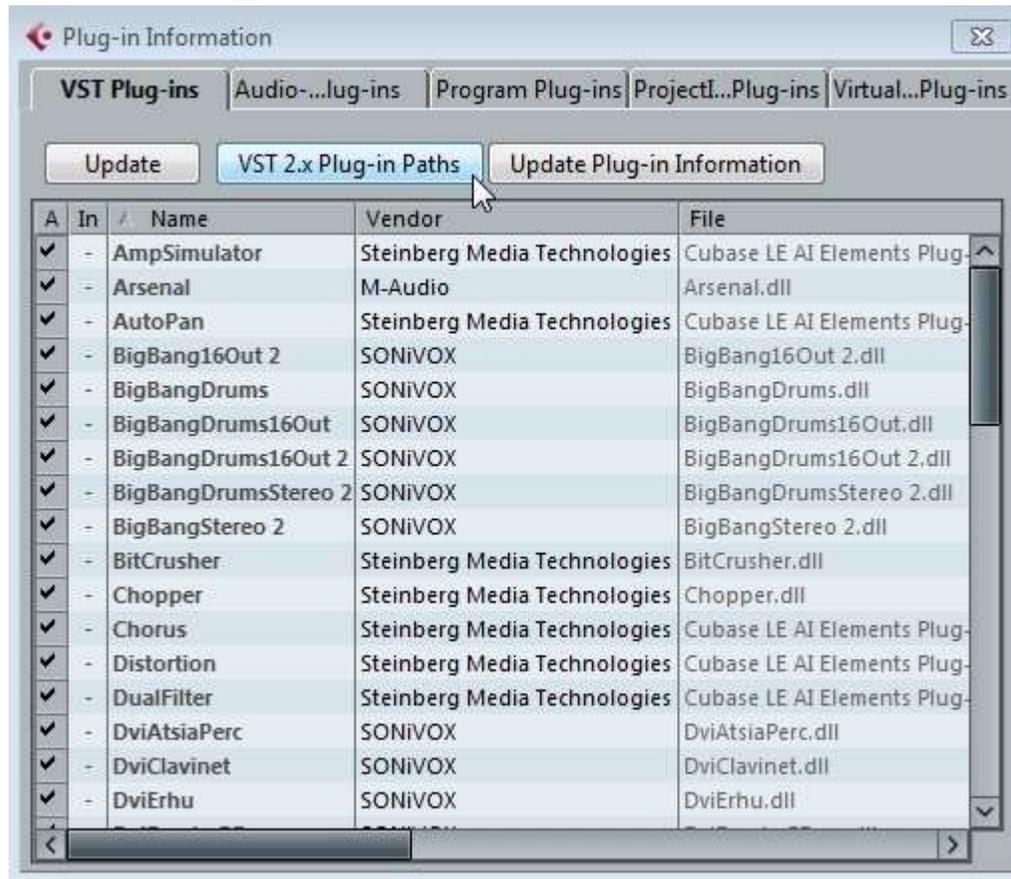
Virtual Instruments and Plugins

Adjusting the Cubase Plugin Sources

Note for Windows users only: If you have difficulty locating a plugin within the Steinberg Cubase software, be sure Cubase is reading plugins from the correct location where your plugins are installed. To do this:
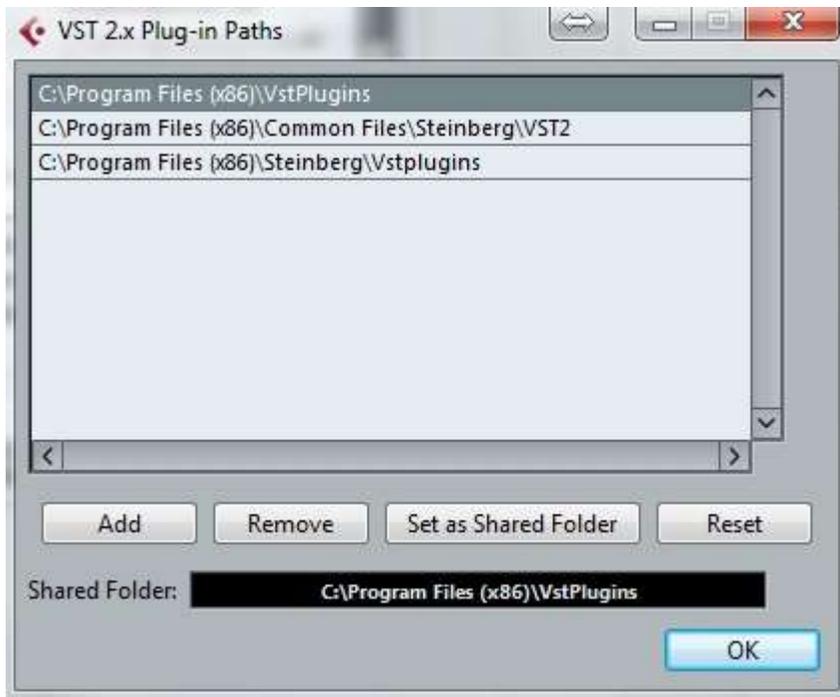
1.

   1. From the top menu toolbar in Steinberg Cubase, choose **Devices > Plug-in Information**.

2. In the window that opens, click on the **VST Plug-ins** tab, then choose the **VST 2.x Plug-in Paths** button.

3. In the next window, choose the **Add** button, browse to the correct plugin folder location and press **OK**. Finally, press **OK** in the **VST 2.x Plug-in Paths** window, then close the **Plug-in Information** window.

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