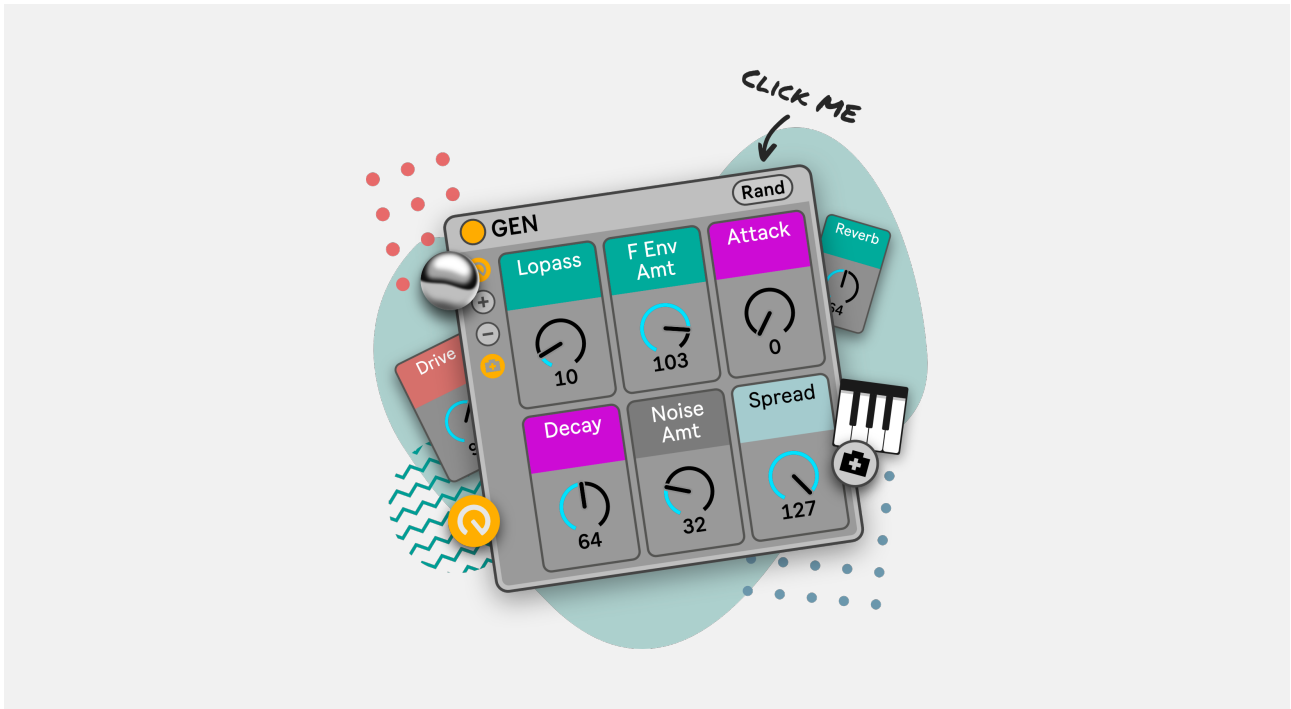


# GEN Getting Started Guide



GEN is a tool for Ableton Live that helps you generate an infinite variety of sounds at the click of a button.

Its there to inspire you with fresh sounds or help you discover new sounds you might not think to create.

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## Installing GEN

The GEN download includes 3 folders; Instruments, FX and Control (for Push).

The Instrument and FX devices are all .adg files and can be dragged and dropped from anywhere into Live to use.

The Control devices are Max For Live devices (.amxd files) and can also be dragged and dropped from anywhere into Live to use.

*Note that you will need Max For Live installed to use the Control devices (Live Standard and Suite only).*

To learn more about installing Packs in Ableton Live, see the [Installing 3rd Party Packs and Content in Ableton Live](#) guide.

### Installing GEN On Push Standalone

GEN is fully compatible with Push Standalone. Simply transfer the whole Devices folder to your User Library and load the instruments and effects as normal.

See the *Using GEN On Push* section of this guide for more info on how to use GEN with Push.

# Using GEN

## The Basics



GEN includes the basic GEN instrument as well as 4 sound-specific instruments; bass, pad, pluck and arp. Each is dedicated to generating a particular kind of sound, though you'll find they're quite versatile. For example, bass or pad can also be used to create lead sounds, pluck can also make swells, etc.

There are also 4 GENfx; dist (*distortion*), space (*reverb, delay*), mod (*modulation*) and fx (*multi-effect*).

Load whichever instrument or effect makes the most sense for the sound you're trying to create then simply **click the Macro Randomisation button** (the one that says 'Rand' in the top right) to generate a new sound. And that's it! Keep doing that until you find a sound you like.

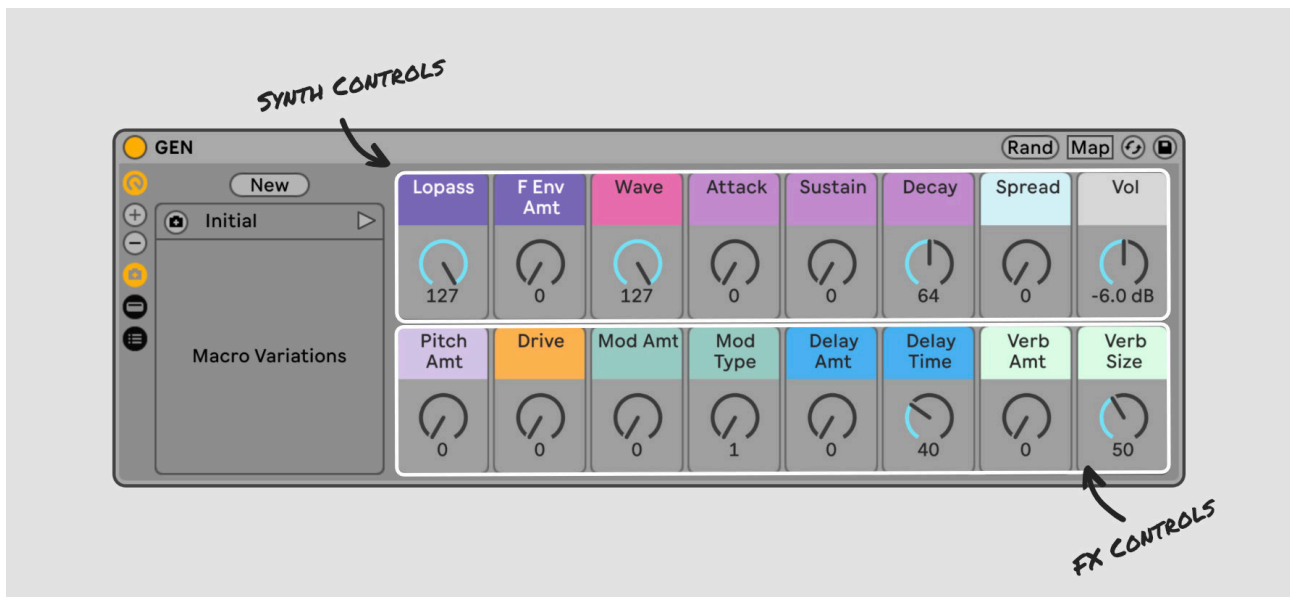
## Tweaking The Sound

GEN is set up such that most sounds should be something usable, but occasionally a dud sound will be generated. In that case, simply randomize again, or launch the *'Initial'* Snapshot to reset the instrument or effect back to its initial state.

If you find a sound that you mostly like but its just a little off, you can use any of the Macro controls to adjust it.

In the basic GEN instrument, the top 8 Macros control the synth sound and the bottom 8 Macros control the built-in effects.

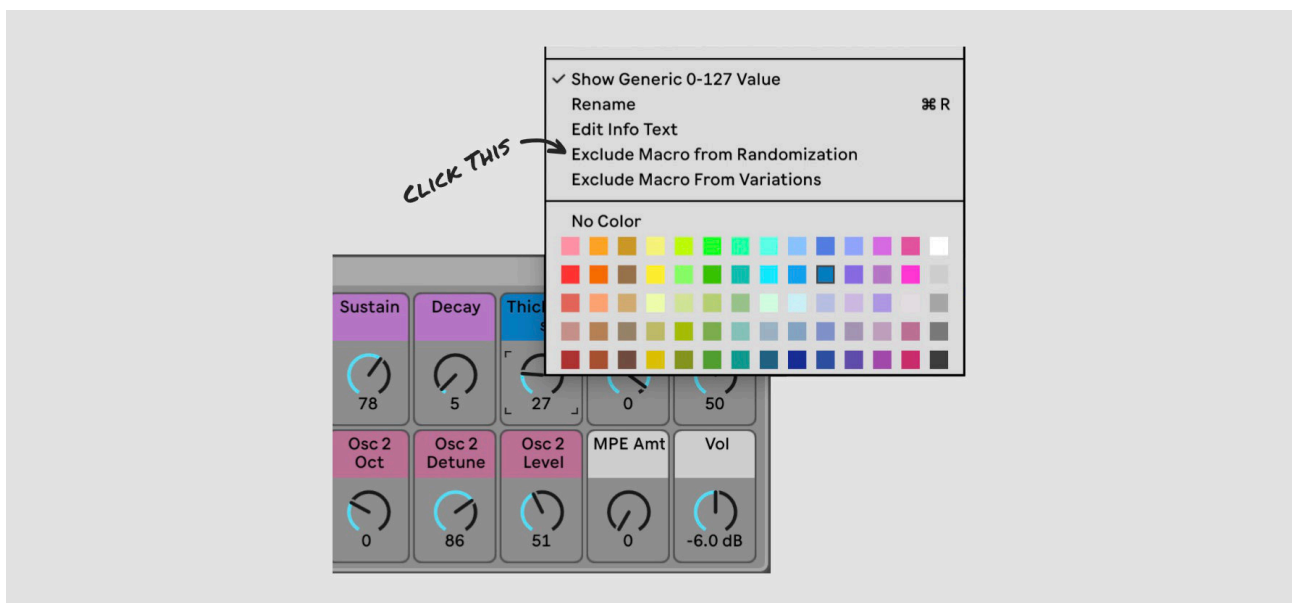
In the sound-specific instruments, the top 8 controls are the most useful sound sculpting controls and will have the most noticeable impact on the overall sound. The bottom 8 controls are common across all 4 instruments and control the basic tone of the sound as well as MPE amount and output volume.



## Excluding Macros

Sometimes you might want to exclude a Macro from being randomized. Perhaps the synth settings are in a good place but you want to try something different with the effects.

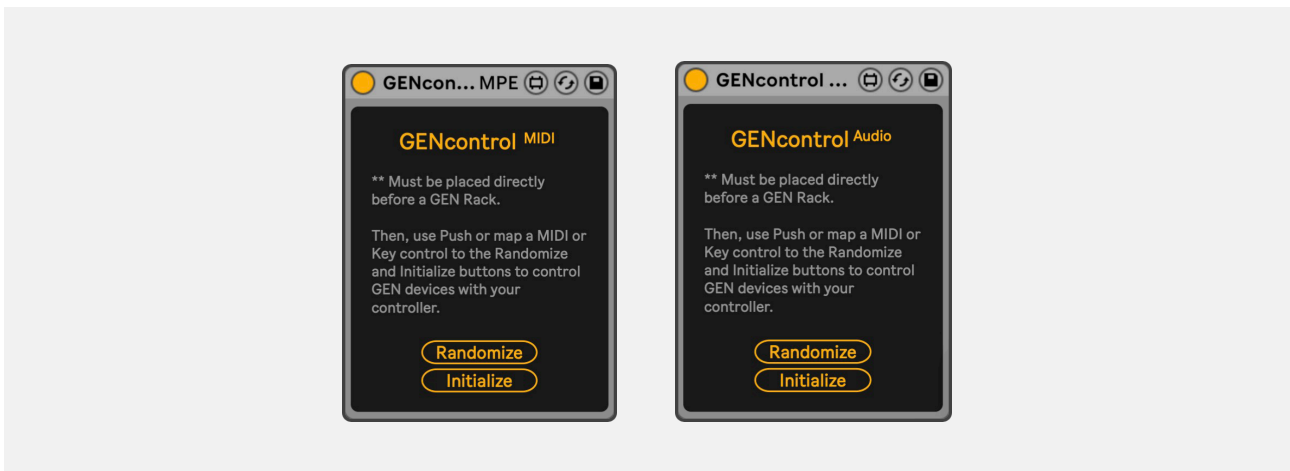
Right-click on any Macro control and choose '*Exclude Macro from Randomization*'. That Macro will now remain unchanged when randomizing. By default the *MPE Amt* and *Vol* Macros are excluded from randomization.



## Using GEN On Push (Control Devices)

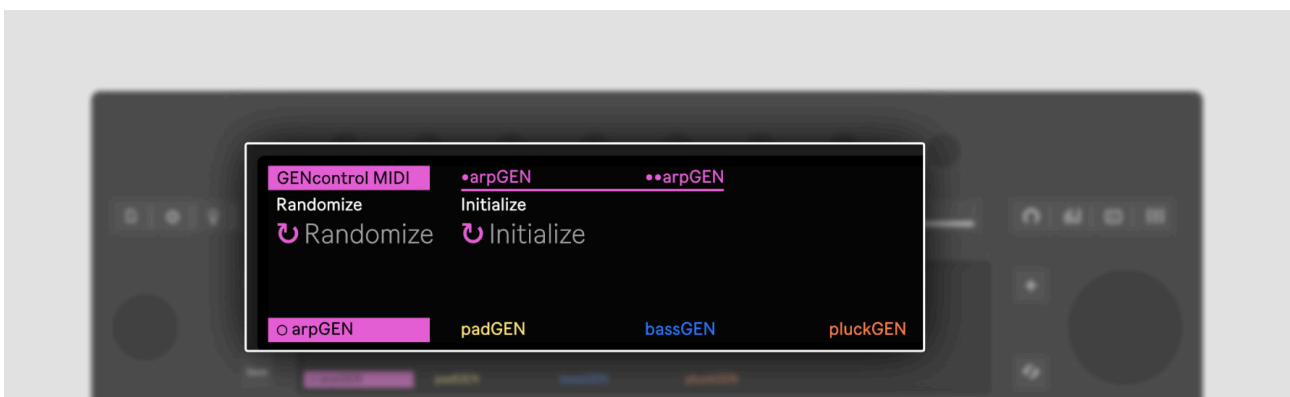
Live currently allows MIDI mapping to the Macro Randomization control so you can map a MIDI controller to trigger the randomization, however the Ableton Push doesn't currently support the ability to randomize Macros from the hardware.

To solve this you can use the GENcontrol devices.



There are 2 devices; GENcontrol MIDI and GENcontrol Audio. These must be placed directly before a GEN device; MIDI goes before the GEN instruments and Audio goes before GENfx.

Select the device on your Push, then turn the encoder above Randomize to randomize the settings. Turn the encoder above Initialize to reset the settings to default.





## **Additional Info**

If you have any questions or issues please get in touch at [elphnt.io/contact](https://elphnt.io/contact)

GEN is made by Ableton Certified Trainer Tom Glendinning, also known as ELPHNT. For more devices, tutorials and free music production resources visit [elphnt.io](https://elphnt.io)

Please read the up-to-date licensing info for GEN at [elphnt.io/licensing](https://elphnt.io/licensing)

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