DAWbro

Version 1.3.0

User Manual

The library for all your DAW projects

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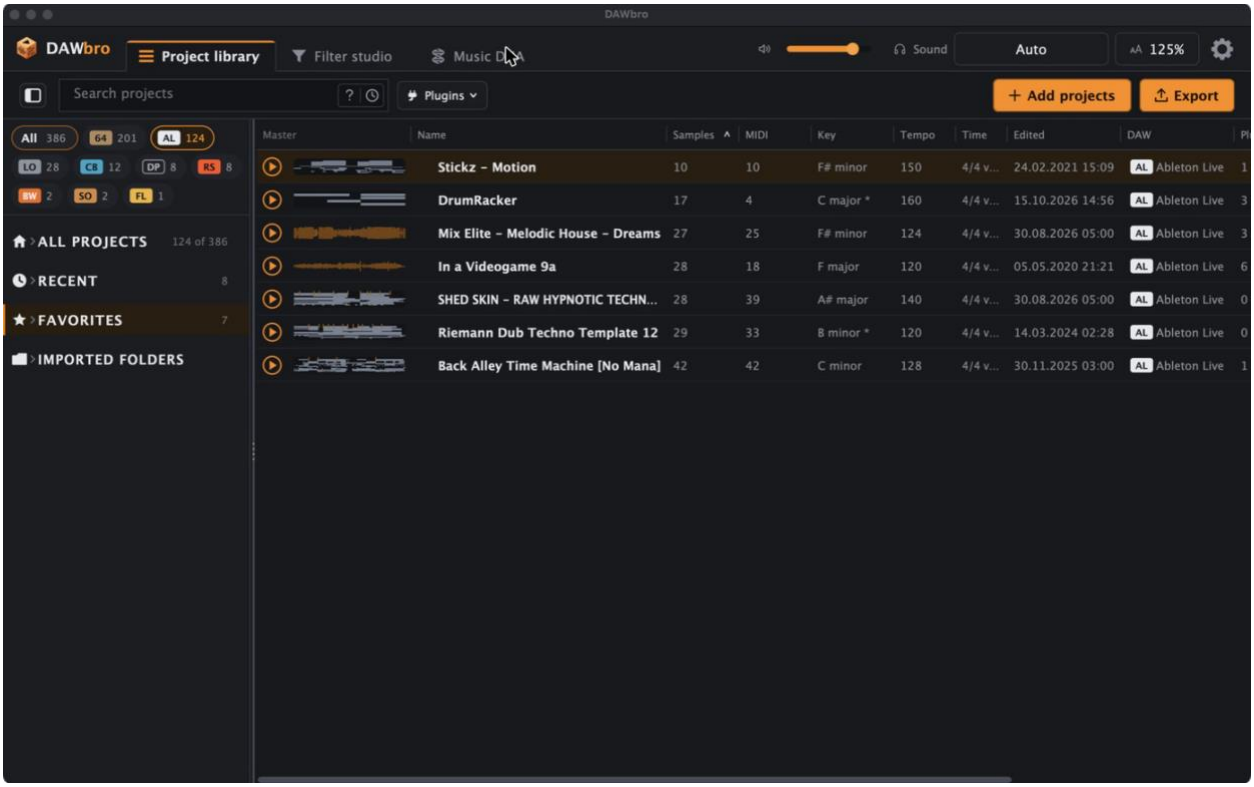
What is DAWbro?

You have made music for years. Somewhere in your old projects there is a great bassline. And a chord progression you forgot. And that one snare sample. The problem: they sit in hundreds of project files, and you do not want to open each one in your DAW.

DAWbro opens them for you. It reads your DAW projects, finds every MIDI clip and every sample, and puts them into one searchable library. Find a clip, listen to it, drag it into your new track. Done.



DAWbro: all your projects in one library.

What You Can Do With It

- **Find:** every MIDI clip and every sample from all your projects, in one place.
- **Listen:** play a clip or a sample with one click, or a whole arrangement. No DAW needed.
- **Reuse:** drag a clip into your DAW as a MIDI file, or a sample as audio. Or save it as a file with a right-click.
- **Convert:** send a whole project to another DAW: Ableton Live, REAPER, Logic Pro, FL Studio or DAWproject.
- **Discover:** see which patterns you used in more than one project, and find similar clips and samples.
- **Collect:** export the MIDI clips, samples and master files of many projects in one step.
- **Keep track of versions:** versions of the same song are grouped, so your list shows each song once.

- **Check plugins:** see which plugins a project needs, and which ones are missing on this computer.
- **Look back:** the Music DNA shows how your music changed over the years.

What DAWbro Never Does

DAWbro only reads. It never changes, moves or deletes your project files. Your projects stay exactly as they are. Export writes new files into a folder you choose, never into your originals. Even the big red button in the settings only deletes DAWbro's own data, not your music.

The Honest Library

DAWbro has one strong rule: **a wrong value is never OK, a missing value is.** If DAWbro does not know the key of a clip, it shows *unknown*. It does not guess a key that sounds nice.

Point at a value. DAWbro shows where it comes from: the project file, the file name, or the notes.

Installation and Your First Launch

Get started in a few minutes. That is less time than your DAW needs to load its plugins.

System Requirements

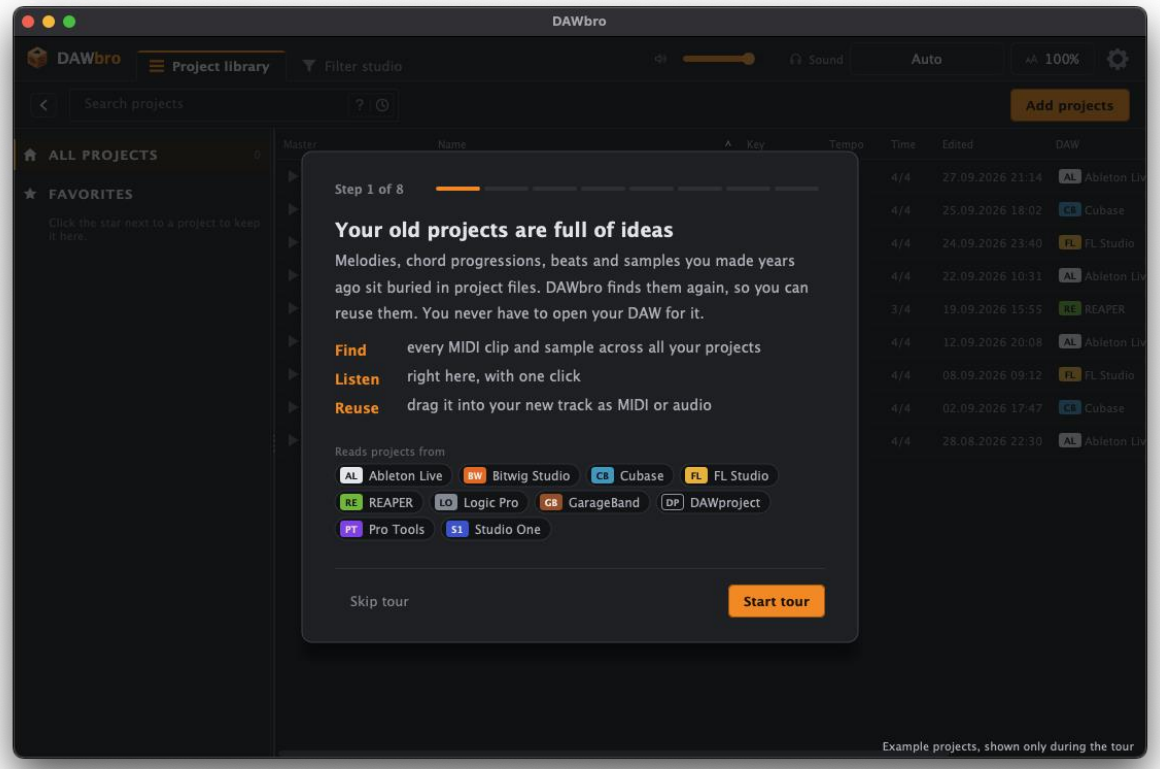
- macOS 14 or newer, or Windows 10/11 (64-bit)
- Some free disk space for the library. It grows with the number of projects.
- Your DAW projects on a drive that your computer can read. DAWbro does not need the DAW itself.

Installing

- **macOS:** open the .dmg file and drag DAWbro into the Applications folder.
- **Windows:** run the .exe file and follow the steps. The installer adds the Microsoft Visual C++ runtime if it is missing, and offers a desktop shortcut.

The Tour

At the first start, a short tour shows you the main parts of DAWbro. It uses example projects, so you see a full library before you add your own. The example projects disappear when the tour ends.



Tip: You can start the tour again at any time: **Settings > General > Tour**.

Your First Session

1. **Add your projects.** Click **Add projects** and choose one or more folders. Or drop the folders onto the window.
2. **Wait a moment.** DAWbro reads the projects. You see the progress, and you can already look around.
3. **Open a project.** Double-click a project in the list. You see its arrangement, its samples and its MIDI clips.
4. **Listen.** Click the play button of a clip, or click into its picture.
5. **Drag it out.** Drag the clip or the sample into your DAW.

Success check: your projects are in the library, and you hear a clip when you play it. That is the whole loop. Everything else is a bonus.

Supported DAWs

DAWbro reads these project formats:

DAW	File type
Ableton Live	.als
Bitwig Studio	.bwproject
Cubase (also Cubase VST and Cubase on the Atari ST)	.cpr, .all, .arr
Nuendo	.npr
FL Studio, FruityLoops	.flp
Logic Pro	.logicx
GarageBand	.band
Pro Tools	.ptx, .ptxt
REAPER	.rpp
Studio One, Fender Studio Pro	.song
ACID	.acd, .acd-zip
MPC 2, MPC 3, MPC Sample, Force	.xpj, .xpa
Reason	.reason, .reasonfree
Adobe Audition, Cool Edit	.sesx, .ses
Cakewalk Sonar, Cakewalk	.cwp, .wrk
Maschine 2 and 3	.mxprj
Mixcraft	.mx8, .mx9, .mx10
Renoise	.xrns
Tracktion, Waveform	.tracktionedit, .trkedit
Steinberg Pro-24, C-Lab Notator and Creator, Dr. T's KCS, Tiger Cub (Atari ST)	.sng, .son, .pat, .all, .cub
Tracker songs (Amiga and DOS): MOD, S3M, XM, IT, MTM, OctaMED	.mod, .s3m, .xm, .it, .mtm, .med, .mmd0 to .mmd3 (also .stk, .nst, .m15)
Commodore 64 music: SID, Compute!'s Sidplayer, GoatTracker 2	.sid, .mus, .str, .sng
DAWproject (open format)	.dawproject

DAWbro reads all these formats the same way. This is why a clip from Ableton and a clip from FL Studio sit side by side in the same list.

The oldest formats are in too: tracker songs from the Amiga and DOS days, Commodore 64 music and Atari ST sequencers. You get their notes and, for trackers, their samples. SID drums show up on

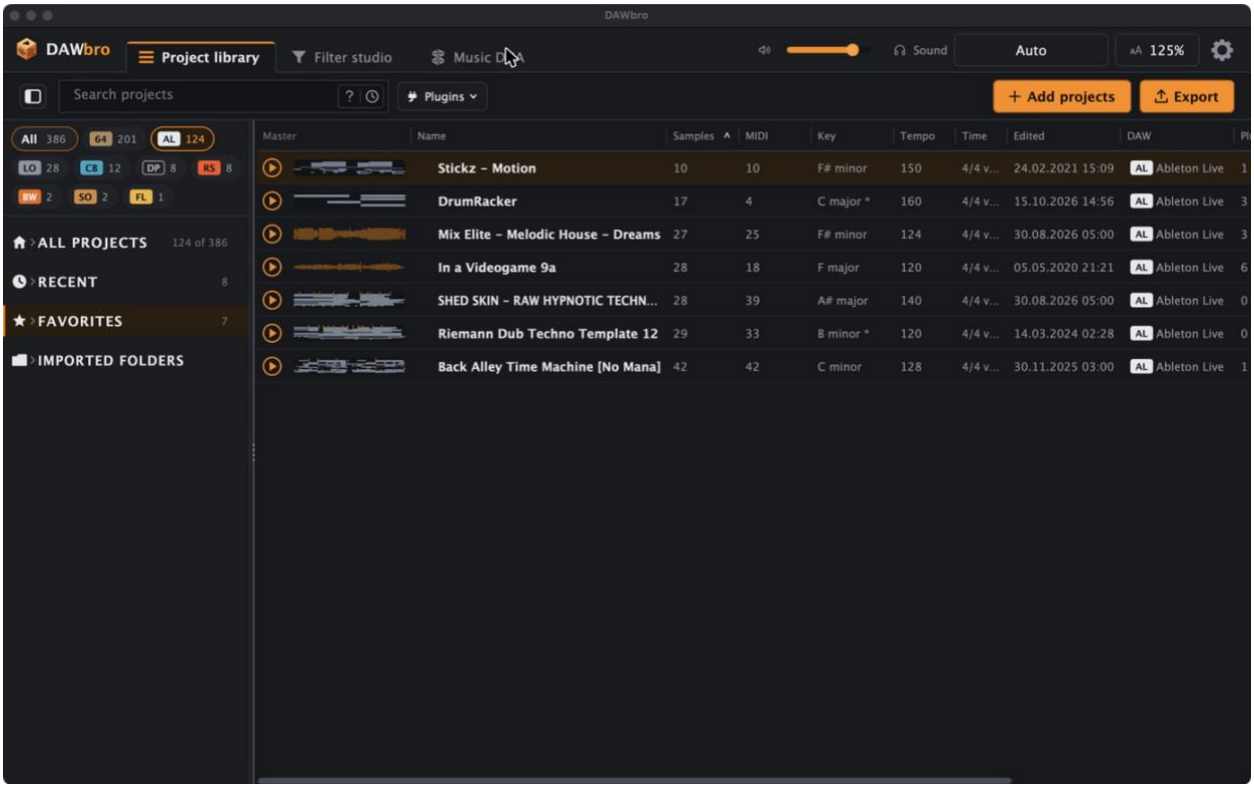
their own track. These old songs have no plugins. Nuendo projects from 2000 and 2001 (Nuendo 1) are read as well.

Not every version of a DAW is read. Click **Add projects** and point at a DAW: DAWbro shows which versions it reads, which it reads in part and which it does not read yet.

Good to know: Every DAW stores its projects in its own way. When DAWbro cannot import something, it tells you. See *Import Notes*.

The Window at a Glance

DAWbro has three main views. You switch between them with the tabs at the top left of the window.



The DAWbro window at a glance.

Area	What it is for
Project library	All your projects as a list. Open a project to see what is inside.
Filter studio	Every clip and every sample from all projects in one place, with filters.
Music DNA	How your music changed over the years: tempo, keys, sounds, plugins and DAWs.
Top bar	The three main view tabs, the free drags that are left (trial version only), a volume slider, **Sound**, the UI scale, the gear for the settings,

Area	What it is for
	and a progress circle while DAWbro reads projects in the background.
Folder panel	All projects, recent projects, favorites and your imported folders.

Tip: Point at almost anything and DAWbro shows a short help text. You can switch this off in **Settings > Look and Feel > Tooltips**.

Adding Projects

Choose Folders or Drop Them

Click **Add projects**. Drop your folders in the area at the top, or click **Choose folders...**. DAWbro wants folders, not single files. Below, every supported DAW shows how many of its projects are in your library. Point at a DAW to see which versions DAWbro reads.

- DAWbro also searches all subfolders.
- DAWbro skips the backup folders of your DAW. You do not want ten copies of the same song.
- DAWbro reads a project again only if its file has changed.

While DAWbro reads, a light stripe runs along the progress bar. Below it, you see the project being read, how long it takes so far and what DAWbro is doing. Click **Stop** to stop after the current project. Nothing breaks.

Click **Close** to keep working while DAWbro reads on in the background. If some files could not be read, the window comes back with the result.

Read a Folder Again

Made new songs? Right-click the folder in the folder panel and choose **Read folder again (finds new projects)**. DAWbro only reads the new and the changed projects. To read a single project again, right-click it and choose **Read this project again**.

After an update, DAWbro reads the affected projects again in the background. The progress circle at the top right shows it. Click it to see how far DAWbro is, why it reads, and a **Pause** button. Nothing is lost when you pause: DAWbro continues the next time it starts.

To read your whole library again, right-click **All projects** and choose **Read all projects and folders again**.

When a Folder Moves

Did you move your projects to a new drive? No problem. Right-click the folder and choose **Change location**. Choose the new place. DAWbro finds the projects there and keeps your favorites. If the drive is not connected, DAWbro shows *drive missing* next to the folder.

Remove and Delete

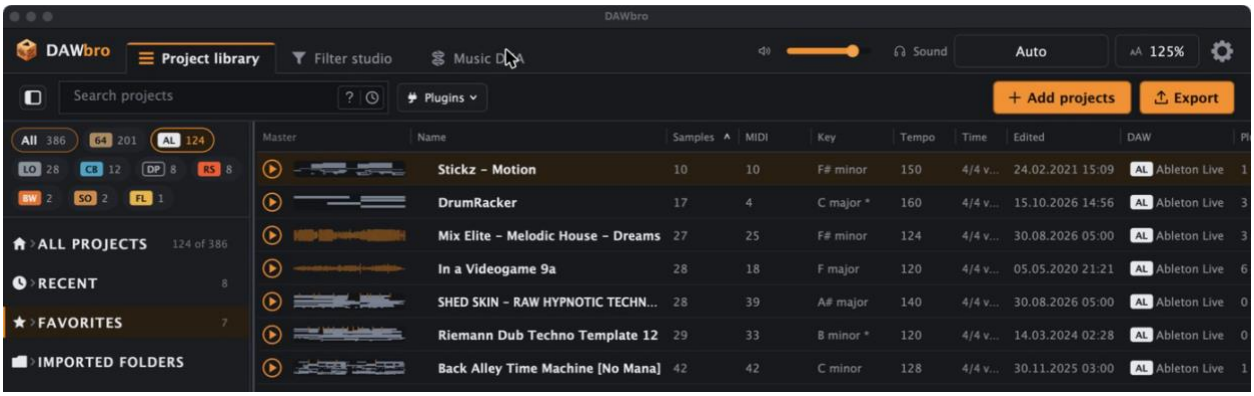
1. Right-click a project and choose **Remove from library**. The project moves to **Removed** in the folder panel.
2. To bring it back, right-click it there and choose **Put back in library**.
3. To forget it completely, choose **Delete from database**. The project file stays on your disk.

Select several projects at once: Cmd-click (Windows: Ctrl-click) adds or removes a project, Shift-click selects a range. This works in the project list and in the folder panel. Right-click the selection to remove all of them, or, under **Removed**, to put them back or delete them. **Cmd+Backspace** removes the selected projects.

Cmd+A (Windows: Ctrl+A) selects all projects in the list. Like every shortcut, you can change it in **Settings > Shortcuts**.

The Project Library

This is your home. Every project DAWbro has read is here, with its key, tempo, DAW and what is inside.



The project library. In the Master column, a small arrangement is a preview you can click to play.

The Folder Panel

- **All projects:** everything in the library.
- **Recent:** the projects you opened last.
- **Favorites:** click the star next to a project to keep it here.
- **Imported folders:** the folders you added. Click one to see only its projects.
- **DAW buttons:** above the folder panel, one button for each DAW with its number of projects. Click one or more DAWs to see only their projects. **All** shows every project again, with the number of projects in your library.

Need more space for the list? Click the arrow button to hide the folder panel.

Click a section header to open or close it. Drag a header to change the order. DAWbro remembers both.

The Columns

Column	What it shows
Name	The project name. Right-click and choose **Rename** to give it a better one.
Samples	How many samples the project has, the same number as in the Samples tab of the opened project.
MIDI	How many MIDI clips the project has. The numbers appear a few seconds after the list.
Tempo	The tempo in BPM.
Key	The key. A star (*) means the key is set in the project. No star means DAWbro computed it from the notes.
Time	The time signature, for example 4/4.
DAW	The DAW that made the project.
Plugins	How many plugins the project uses, and how many are missing on this computer. Sort by it to find projects you can open right away.
Version	The version of that DAW.
Edited	When the project file changed last.
Master	The finished mix of the song, if DAWbro found one. Without a master, a small preview of the arrangement.
Content	How many tracks, samples, scenes and clips are inside, or how many samples are missing.

Click a column header to sort. Click it again to reverse the order. Double-click a project to open it.

Tip: Right-click a project and choose **Open in DAW** to open it in the program your computer uses for that file type. In an open project, the **Actions** menu has the same entry.

Versions of a Song

You saved a song as *Track v1*, *Track v2* and *Track final*? DAWbro groups them. The newest version stays in the list with **+ N versions**, the older ones fold away underneath. Click the arrow, or press Right and Left, to open and close a group.

Projects count as versions when they lie in the same folder and share many clips, or when they are exact copies of the same file. The groups appear a few seconds after the list.

Master Files

Most songs have a finished mix somewhere: a WAV or MP3 next to the project. DAWbro looks for it and calls it the **master**. Click the **Master** cell in the list to hear the whole song. That is the fastest way to remember what a project was about.

DAWbro did not find the master, or found the wrong one? Right-click the project and choose **Choose master file**.

No master? Then the **Master** cell shows a **preview** instead: a small picture of the arrangement. Click it to hear the project. It plays the notes and the audio of the project, with no plugins and no mix. So it gives you an idea of the song, not the song itself. The same preview sits in the header of an open project. Right-click it to choose a master. See *Playing the Arrangement*.

Recordings and masters up to about an hour play and show their waveform. If a file is still too large, the master bar says so.

Inside a Project

Double-click a project to open it. It opens with the **Arrangement** tab. The other tabs show the rest.

Tab	What it shows
Arrangement	The song as your DAW shows it: tracks, clips, bars. Press play to hear it.
Samples	Every sample the project uses, with waveform, key and tempo.
MIDI	Every MIDI clip, with a small picture of its notes.
Sessions	Clips in scenes. You see this tab only if the project has scenes (for example Ableton Live, Bitwig, FL Studio patterns, or MPC sequences).
Instruments	The samples inside your instruments, by track and device. You see this tab only if the project has some. See *Instruments*.
Plugins	Every plugin and DAW device the project uses. See *Plugins*.
Import notes	What DAWbro could not import. See *Import Notes*.

The Arrangement



The arrangement: press Play to hear your song. Every track has its own volume, mute, solo and instrument.

- **Drag the bar ruler** sideways to scroll, or up and down to zoom.
- Click the magnifiers to zoom in and out. **Double-click Fit** between them to see the whole song again.
- **Point at a clip.** A play button appears at its left edge and a drag handle at its right edge.
- **Click into the picture of a clip** to play it from that point.
- If the project has **markers**, they appear in a bar above the tracks.

Muted tracks show an **M**, just like in your DAW.

Playing the Arrangement

The arrangement plays your project. DAWbro plays its notes and its audio where they sit in the song, at the tempo of the project. It is a **preview**, not your DAW: plugins, effects, mixer settings and automation are not played.

- **Start:** press the play button in the corner of the arrangement. Or click the bar ruler or the marker bar to start at that spot. **Space** plays and stops.
- **Notes** sound through built-in instruments, or through a MIDI device, as you set it in **Settings > MIDI**. **Audio** plays from its samples. Tempo changes are followed.

- **Stretched audio** plays at the project tempo. Clips that Ableton Live transposes sound like a tape machine, as they do in Live: pitch and speed change together.
- **Every track** has its own volume, a mute button (**M**), a solo button (**S**) and a level meter. Double-click a volume slider to reset it. Your settings are saved with each project. The lightning button resets all tracks.
- **Sound:** the **Auto** button of a track picks the instrument from the track name and the notes. Click it to choose another one. A track named after a drum instrument, for example Kick or Snare, plays that drum sound. Tracks of Commodore 64 songs are named SID 1, SID 2 and so on.
- **No bars?** A project without a bar grid shows a time ruler in seconds. If its tempo is unknown, DAWbro plays at 120 BPM.

The first time you play an arrangement, a notice explains what to expect. Click **Got it** to close it.

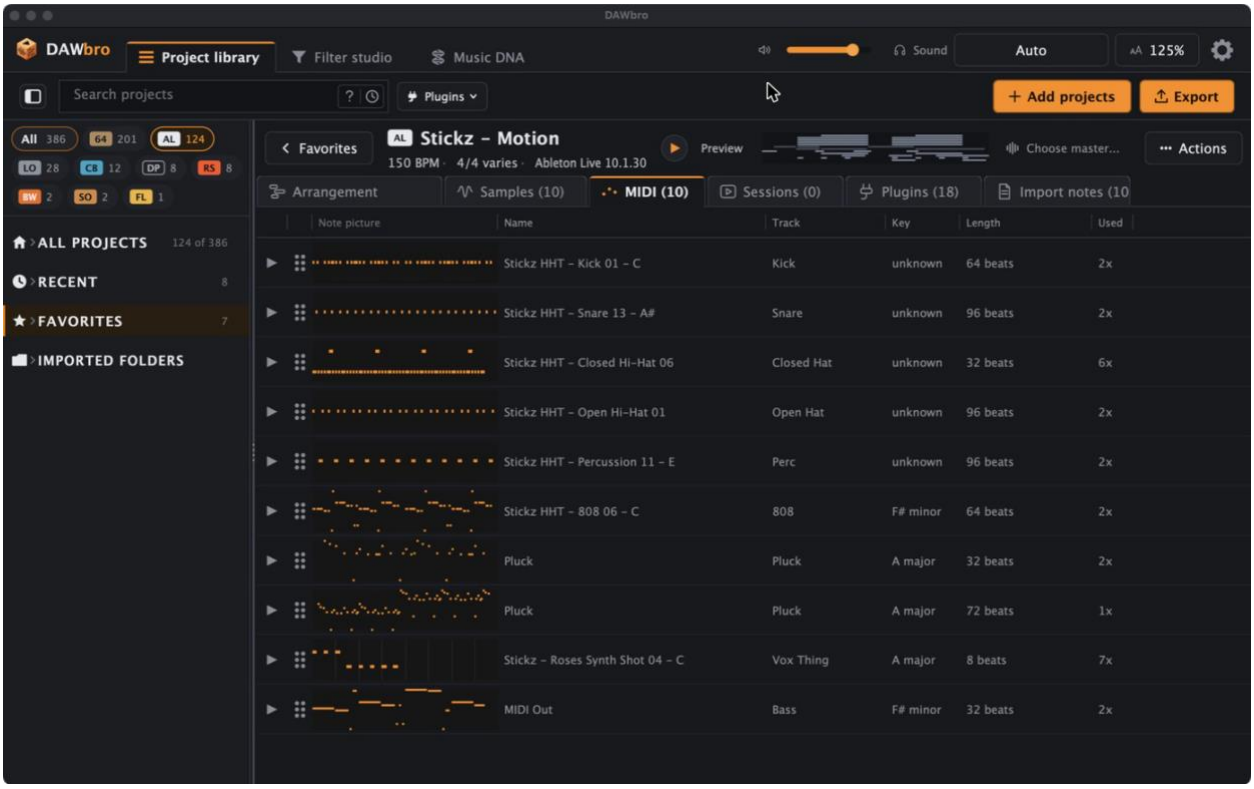
Good to know: Some audio clips stay silent when DAWbro cannot place them safely, for example after a tempo change, or when the sample file is missing. Point at the play button to see how many and why.

Samples and MIDI Clips

The **Samples** and **MIDI** tabs list everything as a table.

- **MIDI clip:** click the play button or the note picture to hear it.
- **Sample:** click the play button to play or stop it. Click the waveform to play from that point.
- **Drag** a row into your DAW with its drag handle. Or right-click it and choose **Save as...** to save it as a file. See *Drag Into Your DAW*.

Samples inside instruments appear next to your audio samples, for example from Simpler, Drum Rack, the Bitwig Sampler, FL Studio sampler channels or MPC pads. Point at **Used** to see the pad or zone.



The MIDI tab: every clip of the project with its notes.

Instruments

The **Instruments** tab shows the samples inside your instruments, for example in Simpler, Drum Rack, the Bitwig Sampler and Drum Machine, FL Studio sampler channels or MPC pads. They are grouped by track and device.

- Each sample shows its key, its waveform and its file name.
- Click a sample to play it. Drag it into your DAW to use it.
- Samples in Ableton Drum Racks show the key of the pad you play, also in nested racks. Pads of the Bitwig Drum Machine show the note that triggers them.

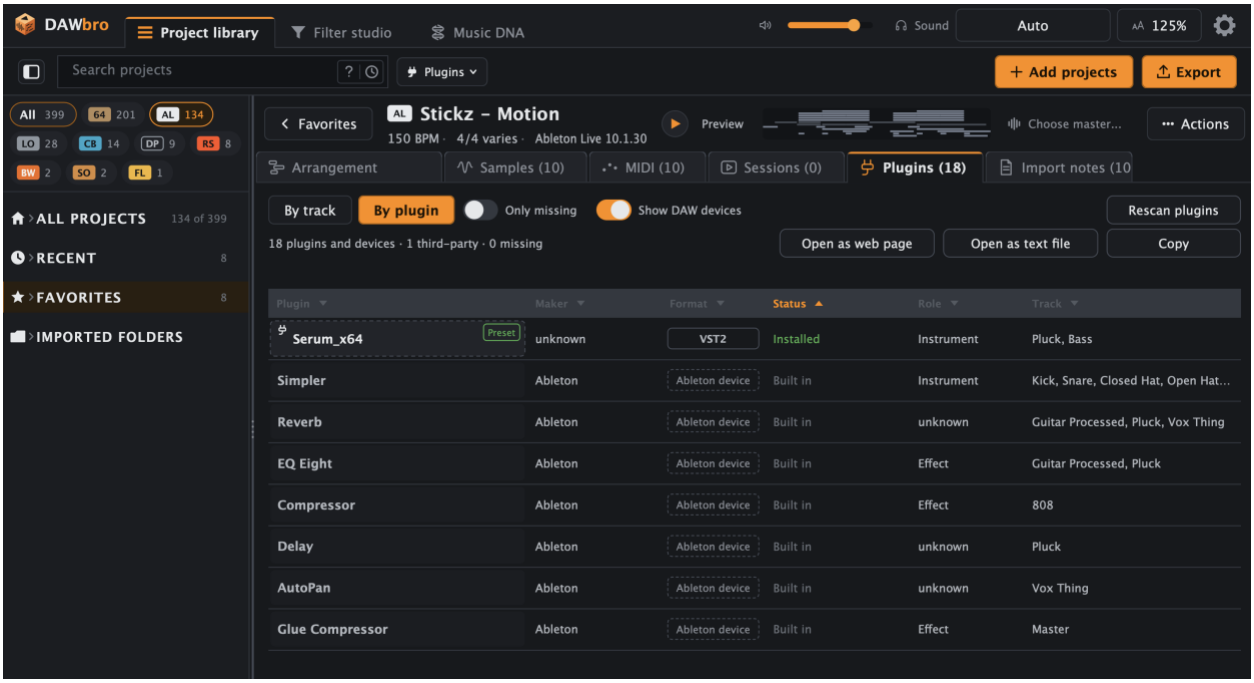
Plugins

You open an old project, and half the plugins are missing. DAWbro tells you before you open it. It reads which plugins and DAW devices a project uses, and checks which plugins are installed on this computer.

The Plugins Tab

Open a project and click the **Plugins** tab.

- **By track** shows the devices of each track, in order. **By plugin** lists each plugin once.
- A plugin that is not on this computer is marked **missing**. Switch on **Only missing** to see only those.
- Plugins that are switched off in the project look faded.
- **Preset** next to a plugin (in green) means that the sound settings of this plugin are in the project file and DAWbro can read them. Grey and struck through means that the project file does not keep settings DAWbro can read. Plugins with a readable preset can come along when you export the project to another DAW.
- Switch off **Show DAW devices** to hide the devices of the DAW itself, like EQ Eight.
- **Open as web page** opens the table in the browser, **Open as text file** in a text editor and **Copy** copies the content to clipboard.
- Installed a new plugin? Click **Rescan plugins**.
- Point at an installed plugin and a folder icon appears. Click it to show the plugin file in the Finder or Explorer. If the plugin is installed in more than one place, you choose from a list.
- Waves plugins show **Unknown if installed** as long as a Waves shell (WaveShell) is installed. The shell does not tell DAWbro which plugins are inside it, so DAWbro cannot check them and does not guess. Point at the plugin to see the reason.



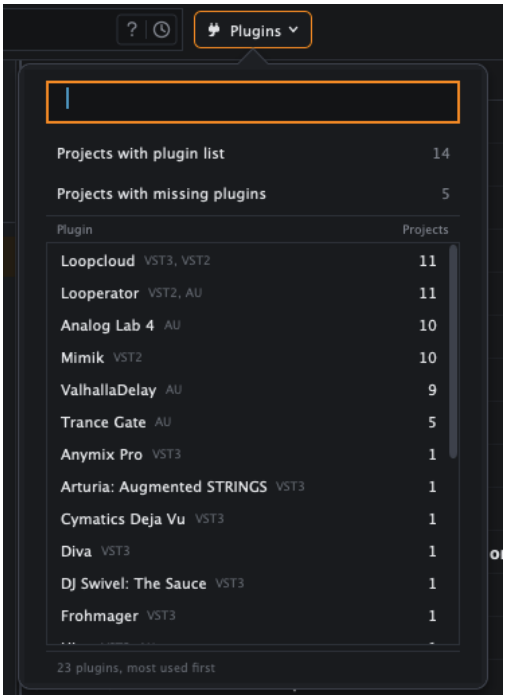
The Plugins tab: every plugin of a project, track by track.

Find Projects by Plugin

In the project library, the **Plugins** column shows how many plugins a project uses and how many are missing. Sort by it to find projects you can open right away.

Click the **Plugins** button next to the search field. You see:

- **Projects with plugin list** and **Projects with missing plugins**.
- Every plugin you used, most used first. Click a plugin to see all projects that use it.



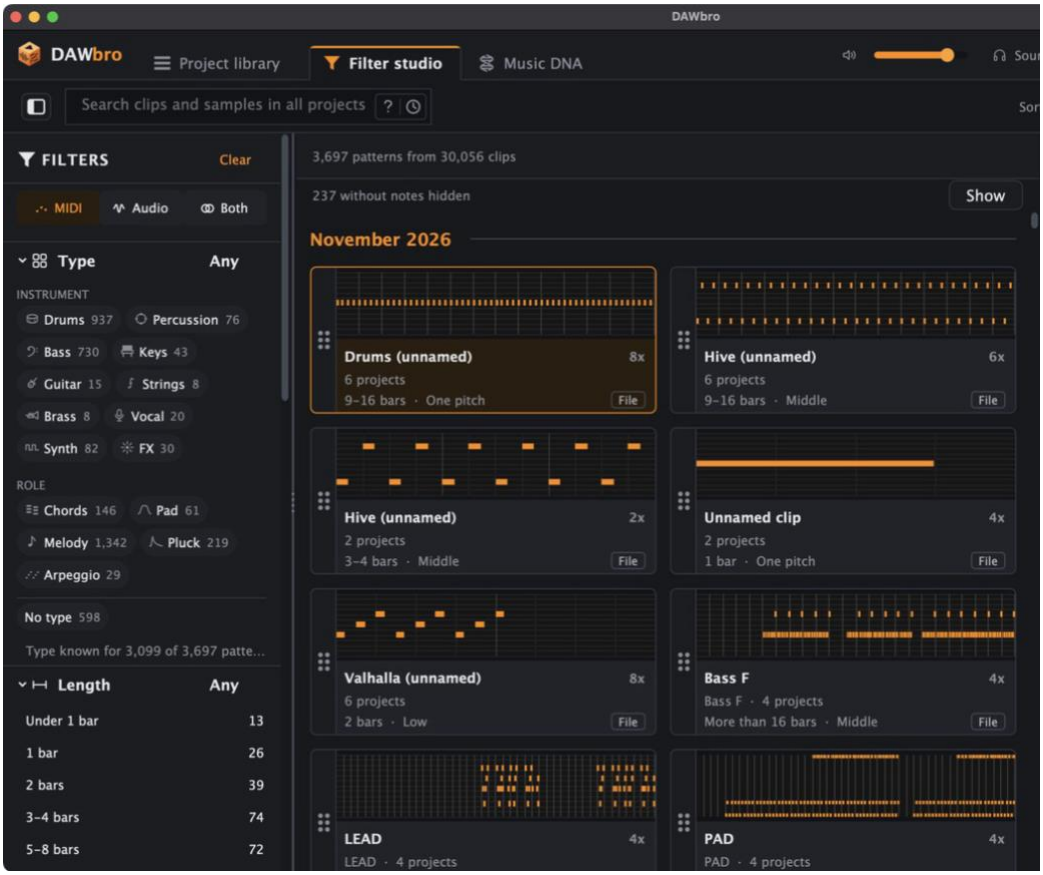
The Plugins button: every plugin you used.

In the filter studio, the **Plugins** filter shows only clips and samples from projects that use a certain plugin. See *The Filters*.

Good to know: DAWbro only looks at the plugin files on your computer. It never opens or runs a plugin. Plugin lists work for every DAW DAWbro reads, except the old tracker, Commodore 64 and Atari ST formats, which have no plugins. What a project says about a plugin differs from DAW to DAW. Some DAWs keep only the name. Then the type shows as unknown. Old versions of some DAWs have no plugin list at all.

The Filter Studio

The project library shows projects. The filter studio shows **everything inside them**: every MIDI clip and every sample from all your projects. This is where you dig for gold.



The filter studio, sorted by newest first: all clips and samples from all projects.

Patterns and Files

DAWbro groups clips with the same notes into one **pattern**. Did you use the same bassline in five projects? You see it once, with "5 projects" next to it. DAWbro groups samples the same way into **files**. To see each clip on its own, switch off **Group same notes**.

At the top of the filters, choose **MIDI**, **Audio** or **Both**.

Patterns without a playing note are hidden. Click **Show** to see them.

The Filters

Use the filters on the left to narrow the list down:

- **Type:** the instrument (drums, bass, keys, synth, vocal and more), the role (chords, pad, melody, pluck, arpeggio), what a drum clip contains (kick, snare, hihat and their friends), and **One-shot** or **Loop** for samples.
- **Length:** from under 1 bar to more than 16 bars. (MIDI only)
- **Pitch:** one pitch, low, middle or high. Good to find basslines or lead melodies. (MIDI only)
- **Tempo** (MIDI only) and **Key**.
- **DAW:** only clips from one or more DAWs.

- **Plugins:** only clips and samples from projects that use a plugin. Pick one from the list, or click **Instr.**, **Effects** or **Missing** (a plugin that is not on this computer).
- **Only in 2+ projects:** show only what you used more than once. Your greatest hits!
- **Hide unnamed clips:** hide clips that you never gave a name.

Which filters you see depends on **MIDI**, **Audio** or **Both**.

Under a filter, DAWbro tells you how many clips it hides because a value is unknown. So you always know what you do not see.

Tip: Click the arrow button to hide the filters and get more room.

Sort

Sort the list by **Most used**, **Name**, **Shortest first**, **Longest first**, **Newest first** or **Oldest first**. When you look at similar clips, you can also sort by **Similarity**.

Sort by **Newest first** or **Oldest first** to group tiles under a heading for each month. DAWbro uses the year you set by hand, then the date stored in the project file, then the date of the file on disk, which it calls **File date**. Hand-set years have no month, so those tiles stand under the year alone. A sample used in several projects takes the newest or oldest of them, matching your sort. Tiles without any date come last, under **No date**. A small tag on each card says where its date comes from.

Similar Clips and Samples

Found a good clip? Click it. The panel on the right shows the clip. Below it, you see **Similar clips** (or **Similar samples**) from all your projects. DAWbro compares the notes or the sound.

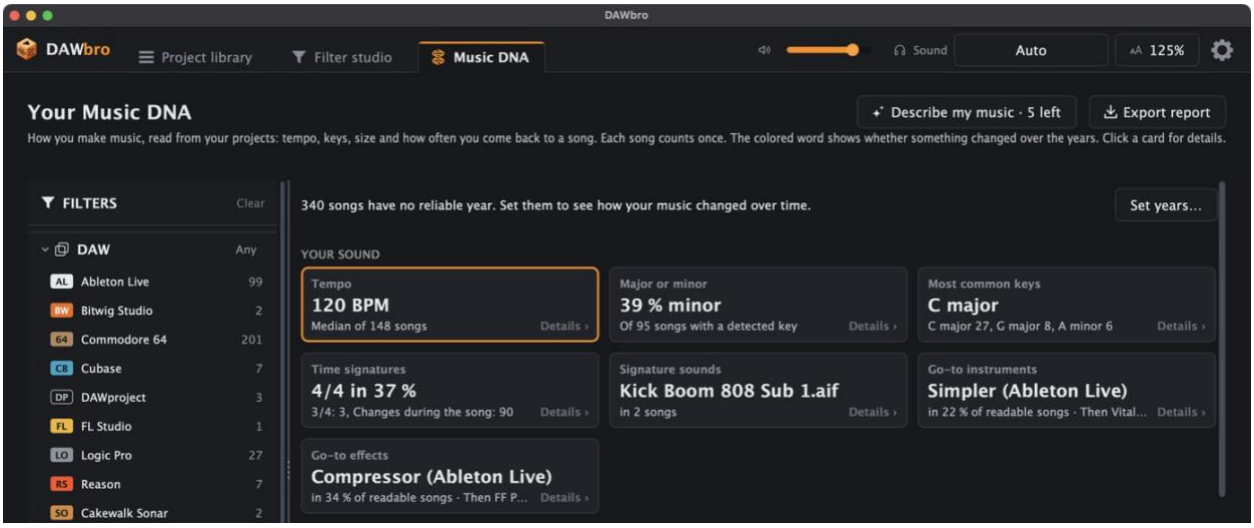
Click **Show in grid** to see the matches side by side. Click **Close grid** to close it. To return to the normal search, click the *Similar to* tag in the search field, or press **Esc**. If you typed a word, the first **Esc** clears it.



Similar clips, side by side.

Music DNA

How did your music change over the years? Did you get faster? Which key do you always come back to? Click the **Music DNA** tab at the top.



The Music DNA: your music, read from your projects.

The Cards

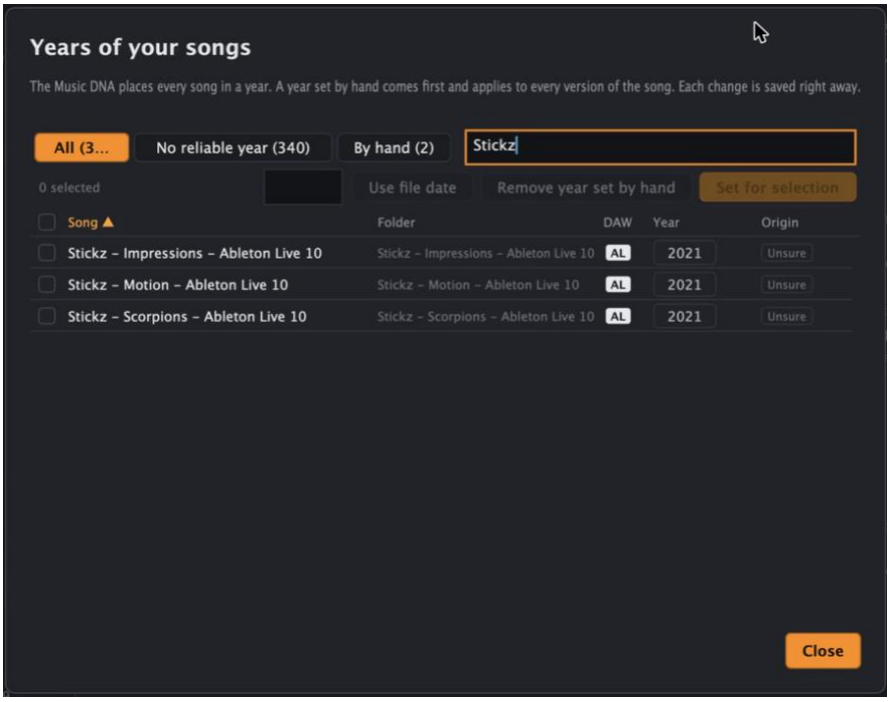
The cards show your sound and how you work: tempo, major or minor, your most common keys, time signatures, your signature sounds, your go-to instruments and effects, tracks and versions per song, the DAWs over the years, and when you work. Click a card for the details. Each song counts once, even if you saved ten versions of it.

Use the filters on the left to look at one DAW, one folder, some years or only your favorites.

Below the cards, a chart shows a value over the years.

If some of your songs have no reliable year, a line above the cards says how many. Click **Set years...** to enter them. The line follows your filters and disappears while a year filter is on, because songs without a reliable year are not counted then. Once every song has a year, it goes away.

Set years... shows all your songs as a table with the year and where it comes from. Sort by any column, filter, search by song or folder, set one year for many songs at once, and remove a year you set by hand. Press **Esc** to close the window. In the search field, the first **Esc** clears it.



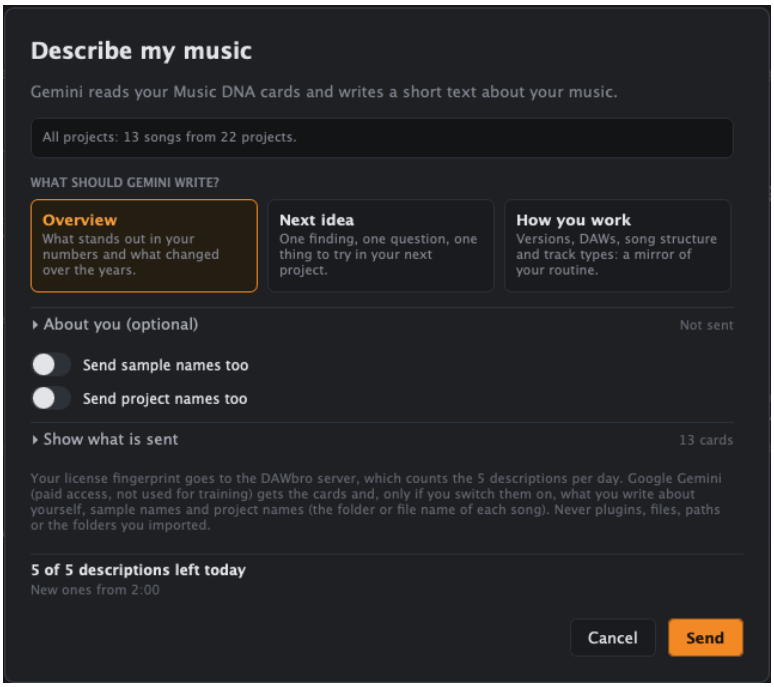
Set years: every song with its year and where the year comes from.

Click **Export report** to save the page as one HTML file in your Downloads folder.

Describe My Music

Click **Describe my music**. Google Gemini reads your cards and writes a short text about your music. Choose what it should write: an **Overview**, a **Next idea** for your next project, or **How you work**.

Your cards only leave your computer when you click **Send**. Under **Show what is sent** you read exactly what goes out. Sample names and project names are only sent if you switch them on.



Describe my music: you see what is sent before you send it.

Good to know: Describe my music needs a license. It does not work in the trial version. It also needs an internet connection. You get 5 descriptions per day.

Search

Type into the search field above the list, or press **Cmd+F**. DAWbro searches names, artist, genre and comment. In the project library it searches projects, always in your whole library: when you type, the folder panel switches to **All projects**. Click a folder to clear the search. In the filter studio it searches clips and samples, also in track, clip and sample names.

You type	DAWbro finds
dub techno	either word
+dub +techno	both words must appear
dub AND techno	the same
"dub techno"	these words in this order
dub -template	dub, but not template
rack	also "DrumRacker": DAWbro finds parts of words from three letters on

Press **Esc** to clear the search. DAWbro remembers your recent searches.

Is a project open? As soon as you type, DAWbro closes it and shows the matching projects. DAWbro searches while you type. To search only when you press **Enter**, switch off **Search while typing** in **Settings > Look and Feel**.

Good to know: The search field does not search keys. In the filter studio, use the **Key** filter for that.

Listening and Dragging

Play

Click the play button of a clip, or click into its picture. DAWbro plays the clip **as it sounds in the song, with loops**. Click into the picture again to jump to another point. Press **Space** to play or stop.

To hear a whole project, press play in its arrangement. See *Playing the Arrangement*.

Where the Sound Goes

Open **Settings > MIDI**. Under **Where the notes go**, choose:

- **Built-in sound generator:** DAWbro plays MIDI clips with its own simple sounds. No setup needed. (macOS only)
- **MIDI device:** DAWbro sends the notes to a MIDI device or a virtual MIDI port. This way, your favorite synth plays the clip.

Good to know: On Windows, DAWbro plays the notes through the MIDI synth of Windows. If the MIDI device is set to **Automatic**, DAWbro picks it by itself.

In the top bar, next to **Sound**, click the instrument button and choose a sound. **Auto** guesses from the clip or track name. If the name does not help, you get drums on the drum channel and piano everywhere else.

Tip: Open **Settings > MIDI**. Next to **Play a test tone**, click **Play**. You hear a short chord. If you hear nothing, check where the notes go.

Drag Into Your DAW

- **MIDI clip:** drag it into your DAW. It arrives as a .mid file.
- **Sample:** drag it into your DAW. It arrives as the original audio file. Old WAV formats, common in older FL Studio projects, arrive as a normal WAV.

Good to know: A sample comes as the whole file, without the stretch, pitch and volume of your old project. You get the raw sound to shape it again.

Where to grab it. Every view has its own handle:

- **MIDI and Samples tabs:** grab the row at its drag handle and drag it.
- **Arrangement and Sessions:** the handle appears only when the mouse is over the clip, at its right edge. Grab it and drag. This works for MIDI clips and for samples.
- **Instruments:** press a sample and drag it out. A short click only plays it.

- **Filter studio:** every card has a drag handle at the left edge of its picture. Grab it and drag. The panel on the right and the rows of similar clips have a handle as well.

Save as a File

No DAW open? Right-click a MIDI clip or a sample and choose **Save as…** to save it as a file.

To save several at once, select them with Cmd-click (Ctrl-click on Windows) or Shift-click, or all with **Cmd+A** (Ctrl+A). Right-click and save them into one folder. Names that already exist are never overwritten: the new file gets 2, 3 and so on.

It works in the MIDI and Samples tabs of a project and in the filter studio, where you mark cards the same way. A window afterwards tells you how many files were saved and where, with a button to show them in Finder (Explorer on Windows). Files that could not be saved are listed with the reason.

Good to know: In the trial version, a save counts like one free drag, however many files it holds.

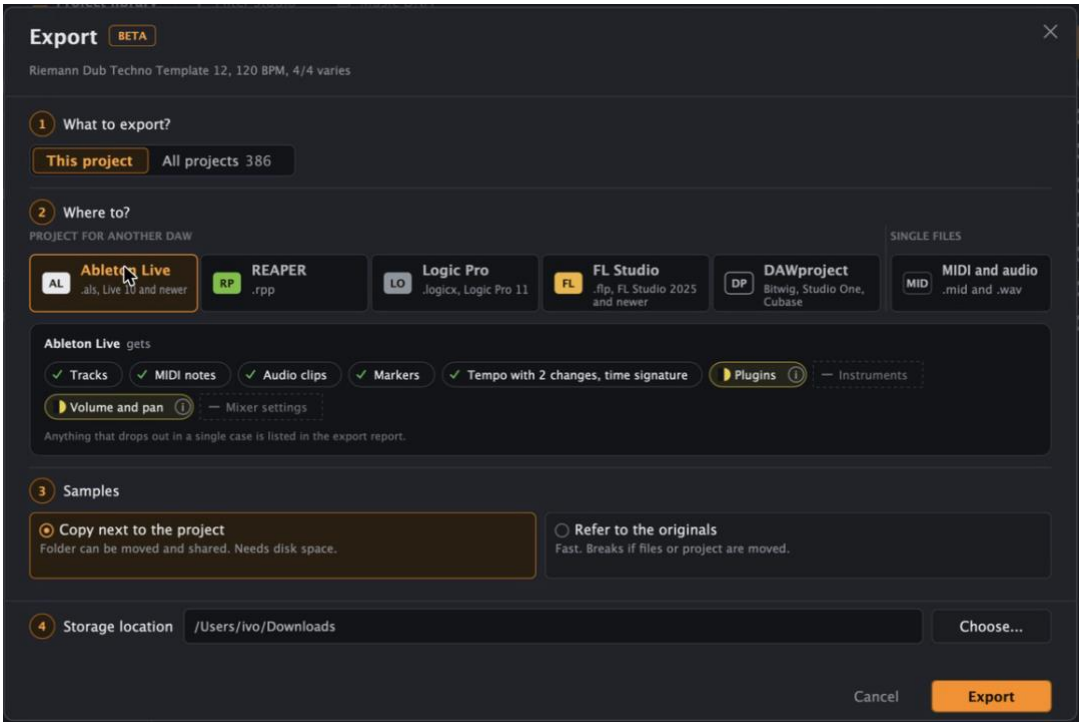
Export

Export takes your projects out of DAWbro. You can write a project for another DAW, or collect the MIDI files, samples and masters of many projects. Right-click a project, several selected projects, a folder or **All projects** in the library and choose **Export**. Or click **Export** next to **Add projects**, or press **Cmd+E** (Ctrl+E on Windows).

Export to Another DAW

Want to continue an old song in a different DAW? DAWbro writes a new project that the other DAW opens. A window with numbered steps guides you:

1. **What to export?** The project you opened, the selected projects, a folder or all projects.
2. **Where to?** Choose the target: Ableton Live (.als, Live 10 and newer), REAPER (.rpp), Logic Pro (.logicx, Logic Pro 11), FL Studio (.flp, FL Studio 2025 and newer) or DAWproject (.dawproject, for Bitwig, Studio One, Cubase and others).
3. **Samples:** choose whether the samples are copied next to the project (the folder can be moved and shared, but needs disk space) or referred to at their original place (fast, but it breaks when files or the project move). DAWproject keeps the samples inside its one file.
4. **Storage location:** choose the target folder, then click **Export**.



The export window: choose the target, the samples and the storage location.

Below the tiles, a strip shows what the target DAW gets: a check mark for everything that comes along, a half circle for what comes along in part, and a dash for what does not. Point at the little **i** to read why.

What comes along:

- Tracks with their MIDI clips and notes, audio clips with their samples, tempo and time signature (also their changes, as far as the target DAW can take them) and markers.
- Mixer settings: volume and panning of every track, groups, and where each track is sent. Logic Pro export writes volume, panning and groups, but not the target of a track.
- Plugins with their settings, as far as the target DAW can load them: VST2, VST3, Audio Units and CLAP, depending on the source and the target. Plugins that belong to a DAW do not come along. Pro Tools plugins cannot be exported, because their settings belong to the plugin maker.
- Stretched audio clips (warped to the project tempo): DAWbro renders them to new WAV files at the project tempo. DAWproject keeps the stretch itself.
- Scenes: they are placed one after another behind the arrangement, each with a marker. A project without an arrangement gets its scenes one after another.
- Projects without a tempo are exported at 120 BPM, with their audio.

What does not come along: the samples inside instruments, and tempo changes DAWbro cannot read exactly. For those projects you choose to export with the start tempo. Anything that drops out is listed in the export report.

Good to know for each target:

- **FL Studio** opens in song mode, with one pattern per MIDI clip, tempo and time signature changes (tempo from 60 to 180 BPM), colors and groups. MIDI tracks sound with drum samples or the built-in 3x Osc synth.
- **Logic Pro** gets MIDI regions where they belong, audio tracks with their samples, effects as Audio Units and groups as folder stacks. Samples only arrive when you choose to copy them. You can create a Logic Pro project on Windows too, to open it on a Mac.
- **DAWproject** keeps everything inside one file, including the stretch of audio clips.

Good to know: The export is new and still growing. If something does not arrive as expected, send us the export report.

Good to know: The trial version has 5 free exports to a DAW, one project at a time.

Export Several Projects at Once

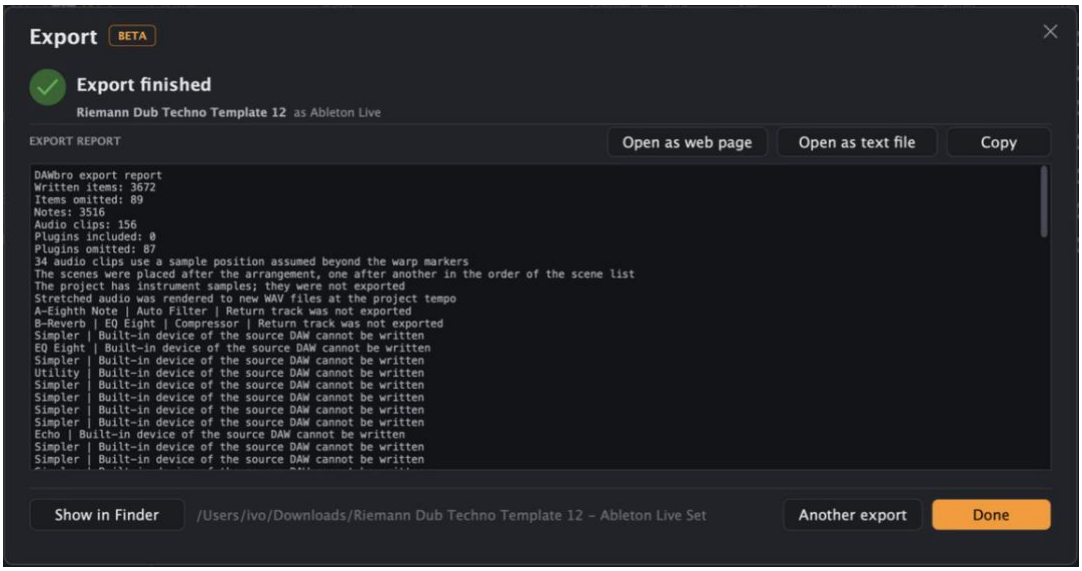
Choose **Selected**, a folder or **All projects**, and one DAW. DAWbro asks before it starts and shows how much room is left on the target drive: with copied samples every project needs its own space, often many gigabytes in total. Each project gets its own folder, and one report lists them all.

- You can stop at any time. Finished projects stay.
- A project that fails is skipped and named in the report. The others go on.

Good to know: Exporting several projects at once is part of the full version.

The Export Report

At the end, a report counts what was written (notes, audio clips, plugins with their tracks) and what was left out. It lists everything that did not come along, with the reason for each item. For several projects, the report starts with a summary and a table with one line per project. Each project is marked **complete**, **with gaps** or **failed**. Click **Open as web page** to read it in your browser, **Open as text file** to read it in your text editor, or **Copy** to put it on the clipboard. **Show in Finder** takes you to the exported project.



The export report: what was written and what did not come along.

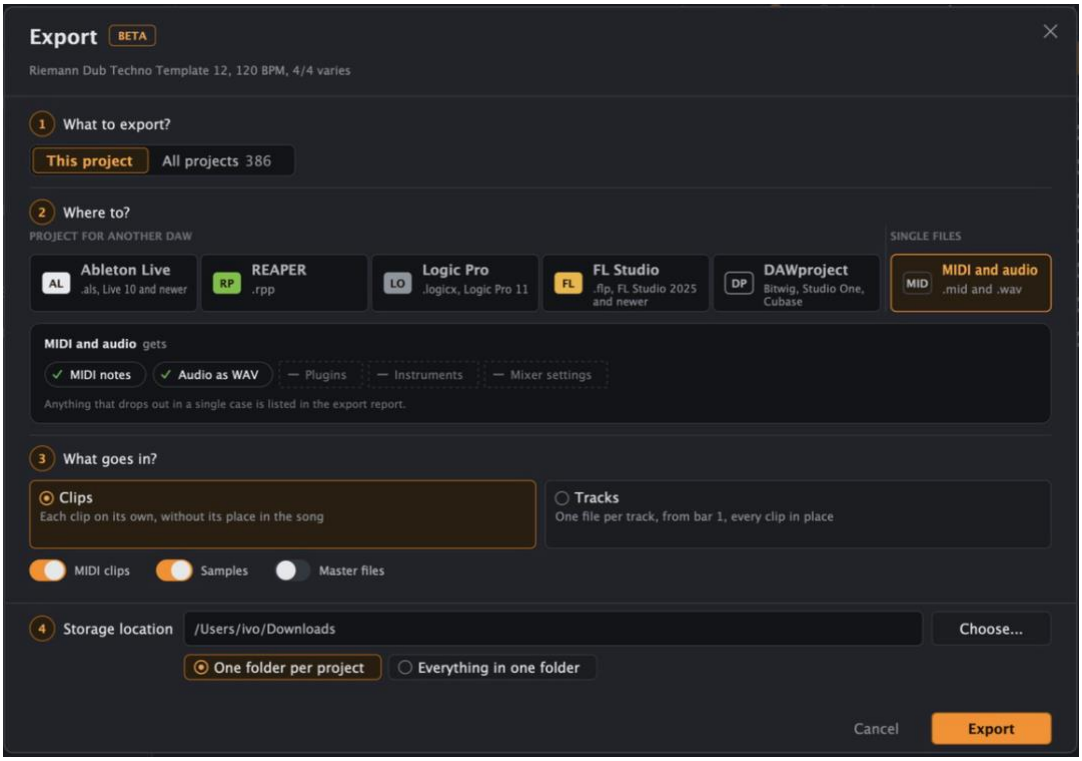
Export MIDI and Audio

Only want the raw material? Choose **MIDI and audio** under **Single files** as the target. Under **What goes in?**, choose **Clips** (each clip on its own, without its place in the song) or **Tracks** (one file per track, from bar 1, every clip in place). Then tick what you want:

- **MIDI clips:** one .mid file per clip group. DAWbro writes a clip only once, even if it appears ten times.
- **Samples:** DAWbro copies them. It never moves them.
- **Master files:** the finished mix of each project.

With **Tracks**, DAWbro writes one .mid file per MIDI track and one .wav file per audio track. The .wav files hold the samples as they are, without plugins and mixer. Loops and repeated clips are written out. Switch on **All MIDI tracks in one file too** to get one more .mid with every track.

Choose **One folder per project** or **Everything in one folder**. In one folder, each file name starts with the project name, so nothing gets mixed up.



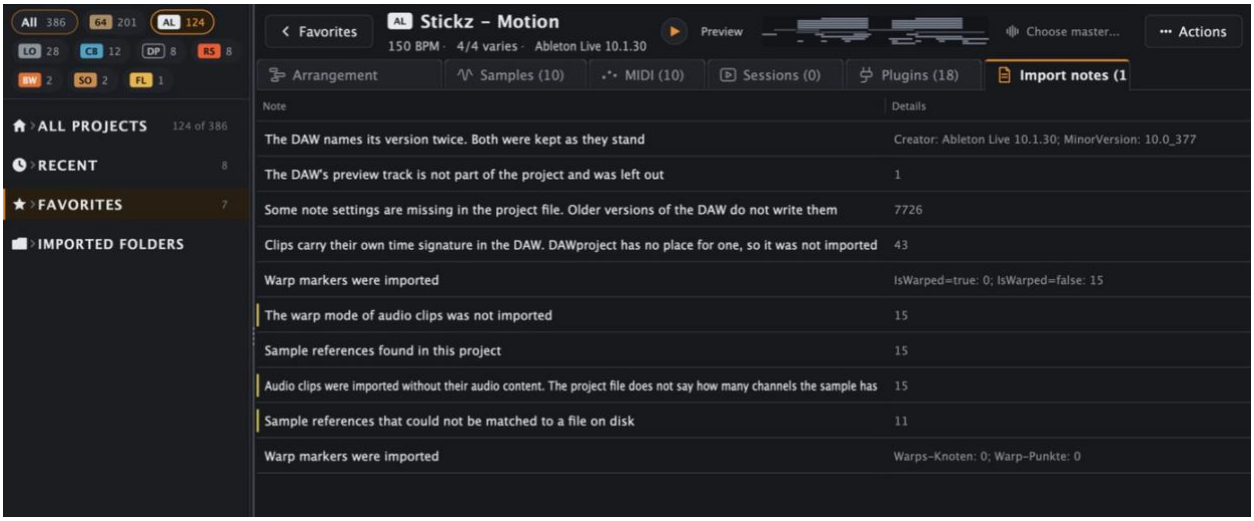
Export as MIDI and audio files.

Good to know: Exporting MIDI and audio files is part of the full version.

Import Notes

Every DAW has its own secrets. When DAWbro cannot import something, it does not drop it silently. It writes an **import note**.

Open a project and click the **Import notes** tab. Each line says what DAWbro left out, and why. For example: "Automation that is not MIDI (volume, pan and similar) was not imported".



Import notes: what DAWbro could not import.

Most notes are harmless. DAWbro marks the few that mean a real loss.

Keyboard

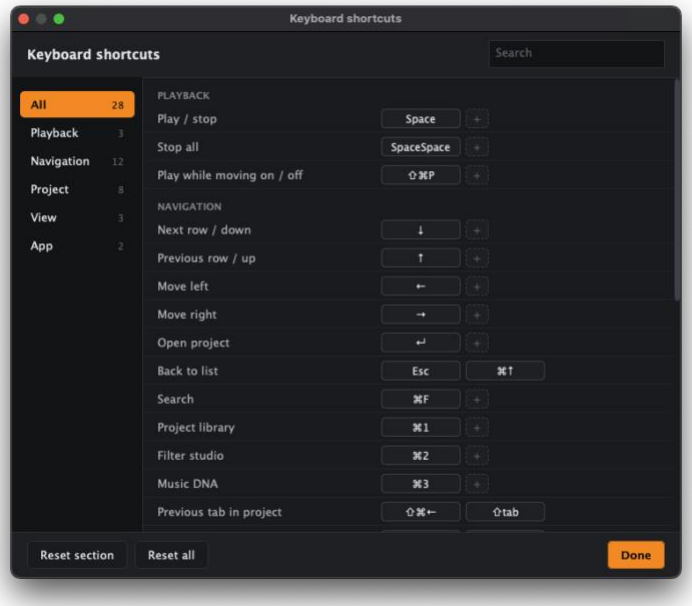
You can use DAWbro without the mouse. On Windows, use Ctrl where this chapter says Cmd.

- **Arrow keys:** move up and down in the project list, the folder panel, the Samples and MIDI tabs, and from clip to clip in the arrangement and the session view. Left and Right switch between the folder panel and the list, and open and close folders.
- **Return** opens the selected project. **Esc** or **Cmd+Up** goes back to the list.
- **Space** plays and stops in a project and in the filter studio. In the project list it stops what is playing. **Shift+Space** stops everything.

Keys	What they do
Cmd+F	Search
Cmd+1, Cmd+2, Cmd+3	Project library, filter studio, Music DNA
Shift+Cmd+Left, Shift+Cmd+Right	Previous and next tab of a project (also Shift+Tab and Tab)
Cmd+O	Add projects
Cmd+D	Favorite on or off
Cmd+A	Select all projects in the list
Cmd+R	Show in Finder (Windows: Show in Explorer)
Shift+Cmd+O	Open in DAW
Cmd+E	Export the selected projects
Shift+Cmd+R	Read this project again

Keys	What they do
Shift+Cmd+C	Copy the path of the project
Cmd+Backspace	Remove from library
Shift+Cmd+Up, Shift+Cmd+Down	Zoom the arrangement in and out
Shift+Cmd+F	Zoom to fit
Shift+Cmd+P	Play while moving on or off
Cmd+Comma	Settings
Cmd+K	Show keyboard shortcuts

Open **Settings > Shortcuts** and click **Edit shortcuts...**, or press **Cmd+K**. There you see every shortcut, and you can give every action up to two keys of your choice. A key that is already used asks before it moves. **Reset all** brings back the keys DAWbro came with.



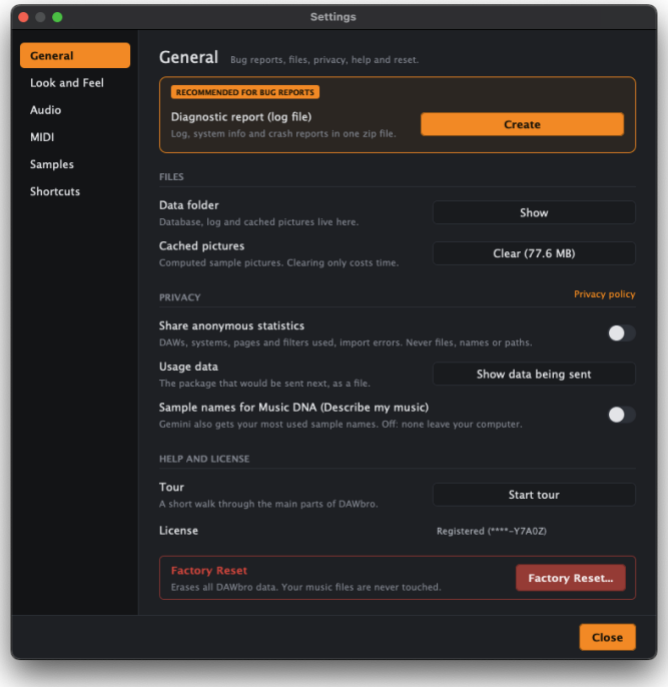
Keyboard shortcuts: every action with its keys.

Tip: Switch on **Play while moving with arrow keys** on the same page. DAWbro then plays each clip or sample you move to. It is off at first.

Settings

Click the gear at the top right.

Page	What is there
General	The diagnostic report (at the top, includes the log file), the tour, your license, the data folder, cached pictures, privacy (usage statistics, sample names for Describe my music), and the danger zone.
Look and Feel	Language, tooltips, search while typing, and motion (moving waveforms, moving notes).
Audio	Output device, sample rate, buffer size, volume, and a test tone.
MIDI	Where the notes go (built-in sound generator or a MIDI device), and a test tone.
Samples	Sample folders: where DAWbro looks for samples a project cannot find.
Shortcuts	Your own keys for every action, and **Play while moving with arrow keys**. See *Keyboard*.



The settings.

Motion

When a clip plays, the waveform bars jump and the notes swell. It looks nice. If it makes you dizzy, switch off **Moving waveforms** and **Moving notes**.

Language

DAWbro speaks English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, Polish and Japanese. Restart DAWbro after you change the language.

The Danger Zone

Factory Reset erases all DAWbro data: projects, folders, favorites and settings. To make sure you mean it, type RESET. DAWbro then restarts with an empty library. Your music files are never touched.

Troubleshooting

A Project Does Not Show Up

- Make sure the format is in the list under *Supported DAWs*.
- Make sure the project is in the folder you added, or in a subfolder of it.
- Right-click the folder and choose **Read folder again (finds new projects)**.

No Sound

- Open **Settings > MIDI**, check where the notes go, and play the test tone.
- Open **Settings > Audio** and check the output device and the volume.
- If you send to a MIDI device: make sure a synth listens on that device.

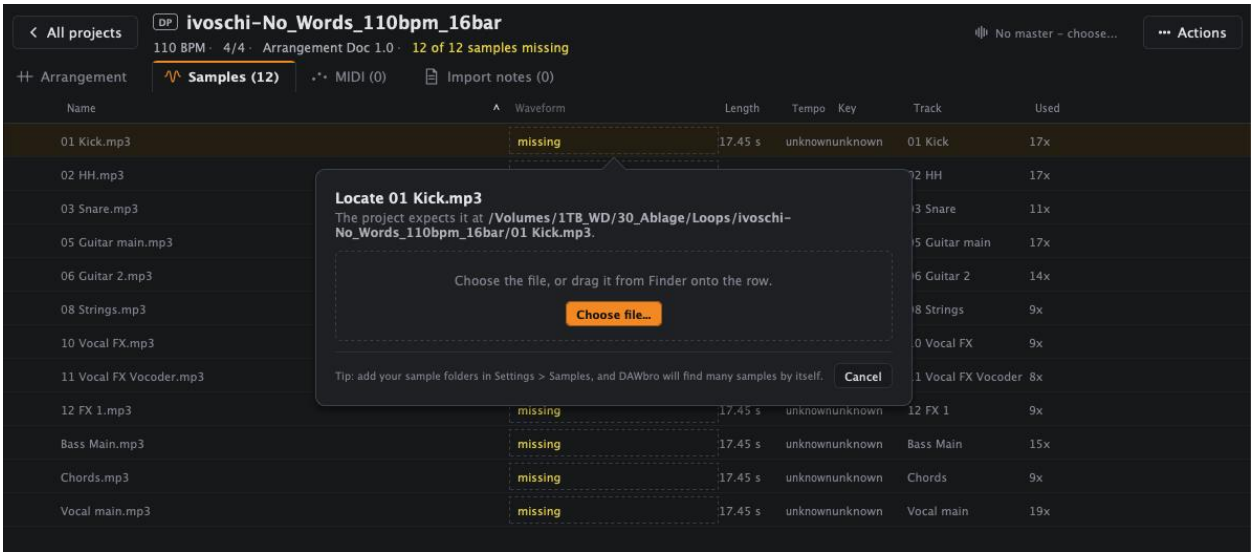
A Sample Is Missing

The project points to a file that is not there anymore. Maybe it was on another drive. Connect the drive. Did you move the project folder together with its samples? Then right-click the folder and choose **Change location**. The *Waveform* column then shows missing.

Keep your samples in their own folders? Add them in **Settings > Samples** under **Sample folders**. DAWbro looks there for samples a project cannot find, for every DAW. A sample only counts as found if exactly one file has the same name (and the same size, if the project stores it). Click **Search now** to read the affected projects again. For Ableton Live sets (Live 10 and later), DAWbro also looks in your User Library and the Core Library by itself.

When samples are missing, **Add sample folders...** appears next to the warning at the top of the project. It opens **Settings > Samples**. Helpful when you moved your sample or loop folders.

Or choose the file yourself: in the Samples tab, click *missing* (or right-click the row and choose **Locate...**) and pick the right file. DAWbro then looks in the same folder for the other missing samples of the project. To undo your choice, right-click the row and choose **Forget my choice**.



Click missing to choose the file of a missing sample.

A Value Says "unknown"

That is on purpose. DAWbro shows *unknown* when it cannot be sure. Point at the value to read the reason. For example, a key does not apply to a drum track.

The Arrangement Is Silent or Incomplete

- Press play and look at the track: is it muted (**M**), or is another track on solo (**S**)? Is its volume turned down? The lightning button resets all tracks.
- DAWbro needs an audio device to play. Open **Settings > Audio** and check the output device.
- Point at the play button. It tells how many audio clips stay silent and why: stretched too far, too many stretched clips at once, a position or timing DAWbro does not know, or a missing sample file.
- A very large arrangement cannot play. The play button says so.

A Clip Sounds Different From My DAW

DAWbro plays the notes, not your plugins. A clip that plays a huge pad in your DAW plays a simple sound in DAWbro. The same goes for the arrangement: it is a preview with simple instruments, with no plugins and no mix. Send the notes to a MIDI device if you want the real sound.

An Export Is Not Complete

Open the export report. It lists everything that did not come along, with the reason. Not every DAW can take everything: see *Export to Another DAW*. If something is missing that should be there, send us the report.

Something Else Goes Wrong

Open **Settings > General** and click **Create** next to **Diagnostic report (log file)** at the top. DAWbro puts the log file, system info and crash reports into one zip file in your Downloads folder. Send it to us with a short description. You find the contact on www.dawbro.com.

Technical Reference

Where DAWbro Keeps Its Data

System	Data folder
macOS	~/Library/Application Support/DAWbro
Windows	%APPDATA%\DAWbro

The data folder holds the database, the log file and the cached pictures. Open it from **Settings > General > Data folder**.

Security and Privacy

Everything runs locally. DAWbro only reads your projects and never writes into them. Export creates new files in the folder you choose. Your library stays on your computer, and no account is needed.

DAWbro goes online for four small things:

- **Updates:** at start, DAWbro asks dawbro.com if a new version is out. You can also check in the About window.
- **License:** some license keys are checked once with the online store.
- **Usage statistics, only if you say yes:** once a day, a small anonymous report with the DAWs you use, rough project counts, your system, app version and language, import errors and crashes, and which main pages, filters and export formats you use. Never your files, your music, names or paths, or anything about you.
- **Describe my music, full version only:** your Music DNA cards go to Google Gemini through the DAWbro server, only when you click **Send**. Before that, DAWbro only asks the DAWbro server how many descriptions are left today. For this, it sends your license fingerprint, nothing else.

DAWbro asks once, after your first projects are in the library. Change your answer any time under **Settings > General > Privacy**. There, **Show data being sent** shows you the exact report, and **Privacy policy** opens the details.

Licensing and Activation

Trial Version and Full Version

	Trial version	Full version
Add projects	unlimited	unlimited
Scan, search and listen	unlimited	unlimited
Drag clips and samples into your DAW, or save them as files	20 in total	unlimited
Export a project to another DAW	5 in total	unlimited
Export several projects at once	no	yes
Export MIDI and audio files	no	yes
Music DNA: Describe my music	no	yes, 5 per day

The trial has no time limit and no project limit. Read your whole collection and see what is in there. The top bar shows how many free drags are left. A save with **Save as...** counts like one drag, however many files it holds. The export window shows how many free exports are left. Describe my music in the Music DNA needs a license.

Activating

1. Open **Settings > General** and click **Enter license**. Or click the free drags counter in the top bar.
2. Paste the license key from your purchase email.
3. Click **Activate**.

You see "Thank you. DAWbro is registered." That is it. Have fun digging!

Good to Know

- DAWbro checks some license keys once with the online store. You need an internet connection for this step only.
- Your license shows in **Settings > General** and in the About window.

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Built with JUCE Framework