Chapter 22

Mackie Control

The comprehensive Mackie Control mixing surface puts all of Live's real-time creative power at your fingertips.

Mackie Control allows for mouse-free program operation and navigation. Through the bi-directional connection between Live and the Mackie Control, any changes made in the program are reflected in the mixing surface, and vice versa. To establish this connection, open Live's MIDI/Sync Preferences. At the bottom of the window, you will find the Remote Control Surfaces options. Selecting "Mackie Control" from the Control Surface chooser, and then setting the necessary input and output, will establish the connection between Live and the control surface.

It is possible to expand the number of Mackie Control channel strips available using a hardware extension. This extension is separately set up in Live's Preferences (signified by "MackieControlXT" in the Control Surface chooser). If the Mackie Control extension is selected from the topmost chooser, it will control the Live tracks beginning at the left-hand side of the program, and should therefore be placed to the left of the Mackie Control mixing

surface. If selected from the lower chooser, the Mackie Control extension should be placed to the right of the main Mackie Control.

The following sections will describe how to operate the Mackie Control with Live. You may find the mixing chapter (see Mixing) to be particularly useful in locating and understanding Live's track controls.

22.1   Channel Strips
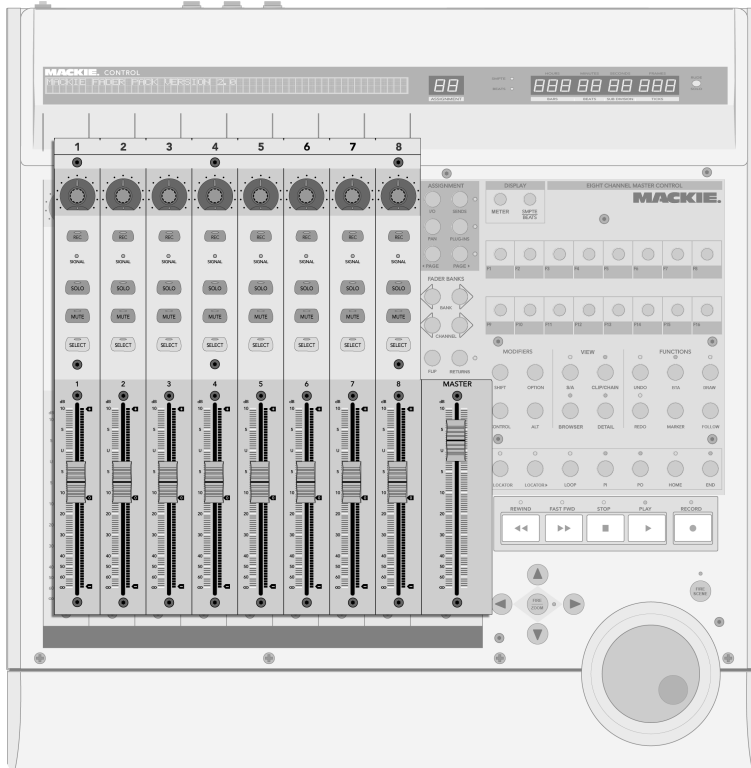
The Eight Channel Strips and the Master Strip.

The Mackie Control's eight channel strips and master strip are automatically assigned to tracks in Live. Each of these strips has a set of track controls, including a motorized fader and a V-Pot, for controlling any number of track parameters. The Mackie Control's bank/channel

controls (see Bank/Channel and Flip/Return) allow reassigning the channel strips to access an unlimited number of Live tracks.

1. *Arm* – By default, this arms the track for recording in exclusion of all other tracks. To arm the track nonexclusively (i.e., in addition to other tracks), hold down the Mackie Control's *Control* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing this. Note that a Misc Preference setting in Live allows deactivating exclusive track arming. When this setting is deactivated, the behavior of this knob with respect to exclusive and nonexclusive arming is reversed.

2. *Signal LED* – Shows an armed track's input signal level from MIDI or audio; shows an unarmed track's output signal level.

3. *Solo* – Activates/deactivates soloing for the track in exclusion of all other tracks. To solo the track nonexclusively (i.e., in addition to other tracks), hold down the Mackie Control's *Control* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing this. Note that a Misc Preference setting in Live allows deactivating exclusive track soloing. When this setting is deactivated, the behavior of this knob with respect to exclusive and nonexclusive soloing is reversed.

4. *Mute* – Mutes/unmutes the track nonexclusively.

5. *Select* – Selects the track, both in Live and on the Mackie Control, for various functions.

6. *V-Pot/Fader* – The fader controls track volume by default but can be flipped (see Bank/Channel and Flip/Return) to control track panning. Please see the next section (see V-Pots and Assignment Switches) for the details on V-Pots.

22.2   V-Pots and Assignment Switches

The V-Pots and Assignment Switches.

The Mackie Control's V-Pots have dual functionality in many cases, as they can be both rotated and pressed. When being used to adjust single parameters (those belonging to track devices, for example), pressing a V-Pot returns a control to its default value. Pressing a

V-Pot when dealing with a control that has various options (filter type choosers, for example), selects the options in sequence. With controls having only two options (e.g., an on/off switch) pressing a V-Pot toggles the options.

There are six assignment switches to the right of the channel strips on the Mackie Control. These select which parameters are displayed in the main display, and set these parameters to be available for control with the V-Pots. The two-character display above the assignment switches shows the currently selected assignment mode.

1. *I/O* – Switches the V-Pot and main display to I/O mode. This allows Live's track inputs and outputs (see Routing and I/O) to be set with the V-Pots.

   - Click once to select the track's Input Type chooser.

   - Click twice to select the track's Input Channel chooser.

   - Click three times to select the Output Type chooser.

   - Click four times to select the Output Channel chooser.

2. *Send* – Switches the V-Pot to control the levels of all available Send controls for the currently selected track. If more than eight sends are available, you can navigate through them using the previous and next buttons (see item 5, below).

3. *Pan* – Assigns the V-Pot and main display to the track's Pan control.

4. *Devices* – Pressed once, this will bring up all available devices for the currently selected track in the main display. Using the page buttons (see item 5, below), you can then scroll through the available devices and choose a particular device to edit by pressing the V-Pot. When you are done editing device settings, you can change the selected track or press the device assignment switch again to return to scrolling and selecting devices.

   When device settings are being changed, the name and settings of the selected device are shown in the main display. You can use the V-Pot to change parameter values as described in the introduction to this section.

5. *Previous/Next* – If, in any of the above assignment modes (especially with devices), more than one page of parameters is available, these buttons will scroll through the pages. LEDs above these switches illuminate when more pages are available before or after the current one.

22.3 Bank/Channel and Flip/Return
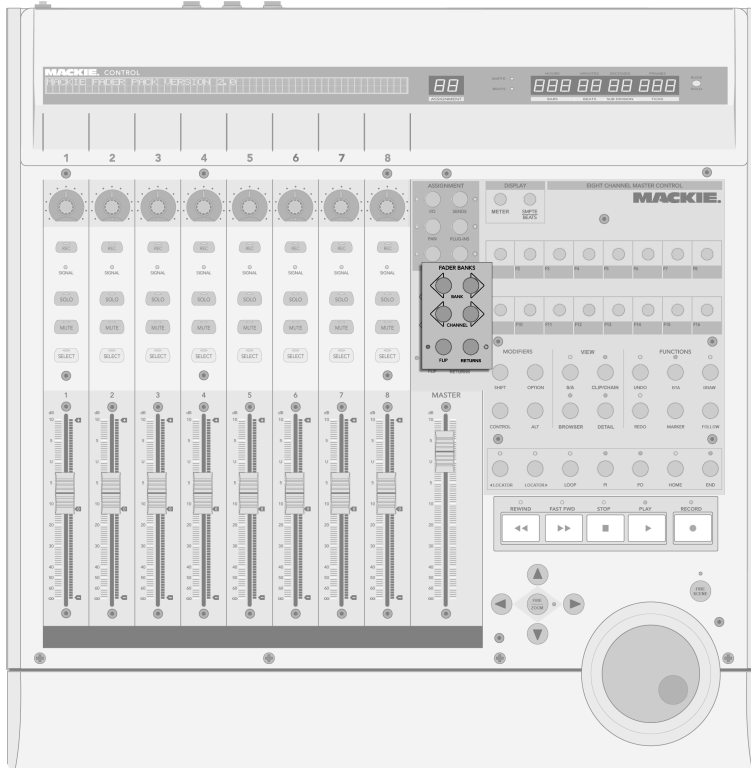
Bank, Channel, Flip and Return Buttons.

1. *Bank* – If more than eight tracks are being used in Live, these buttons can be used to page through the additional tracks and set them to the Mackie Control's eight channel strips. The bank "+" and "-" buttons page the channel strips in

increments of eight (or more, if a fader extension is installed) to the right or left, respectively. To go to the first/last page, hold down the Mackie Control's *Shift* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing these.

2. *Channel* – You can use the channel "+" and "-" buttons to scroll through the additional tracks singly, setting them to the Mackie Control's eight channel strips. To go to the first/last track, hold down the Mackie Control's *Shift* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing these.

3. *Flip* – When flip mode is enabled (as shown by the illuminated LED above the button), the functionality of the V-Pots and faders is switched. This is the case in all available assignment modes.

4. *Return* – By default, the channel strips display only those tracks in Live that contain clips. When return mode is enabled (as shown by the illuminated LED above the button), the channel strip will show and control the return tracks. All assignments and modes will function otherwise identically.

22.4 Transport
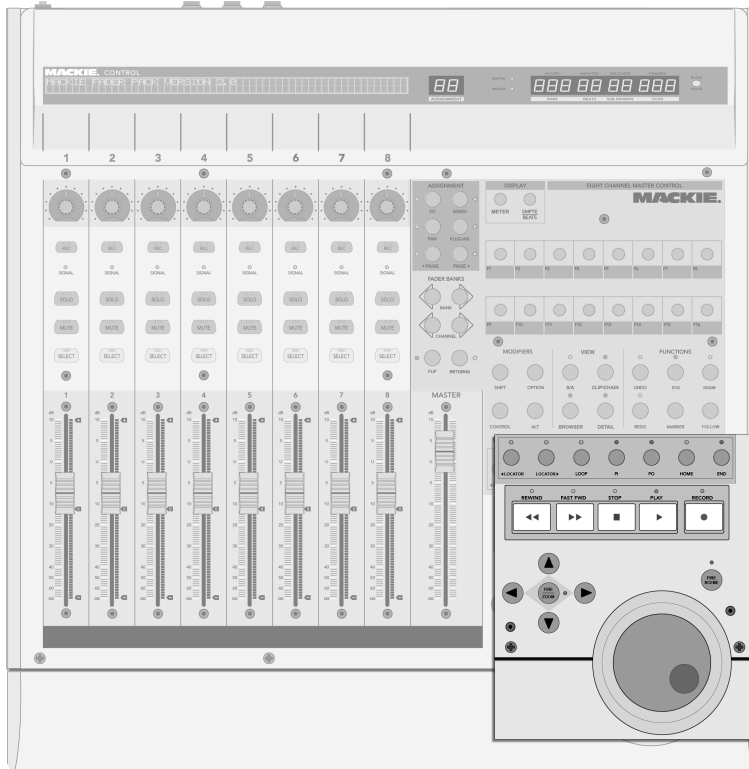
The Transport Controls.

1. *Previous/Next Locator* – Using these buttons, you can skip forward or backward through the Arrangement from locator to locator (see Launching the Arrangement with Locators). Note that the Arrangement start and end are also marked

with "invisible" locators to which you can navigate using these buttons. The LEDs above these buttons are illuminated when a previous/next locator is available in the respective direction.

2. *Loop On/Off* – Toggles the Arrangement Loop switch on/off.

3. *Punch-In/Punch-Out* – Toggles Live's Punch-In/Punch-Out switches on/off.

4. *Home* – Jumps to the Arrangement start, 1.1.1.

5. *End* – Jumps to the Arrangement end.

6. *Rew/Forw* – When pressed once, these buttons will move the play position one beat backward/forward. When held down, the buttons move forward/backward in increments of one bar during Arrangement playback, one beat if the Arrangement is stopped. Holding down the Mackie Control's *Alt* button (see Software-Specific Controls) when the Arrangement is playing will also move in one-beat increments forward/backward.

7. *Stop* – Stops Arrangement playback.

8. *Play* – Plays the Arrangement from the song start or insert marker.

9. *Record* – Toggles the Record button on/off.

10. *Arrows* –

   - In the Session View, the arrows navigate through the Session View grid. Pressing the zoom button in the middle of the arrows will fire the currently selected clip, or stop another playing clip in the same track if the currently selected slot is empty. To stop playing the selected clip, hold down the Mackie Control's *Options* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing zoom, and use the *Alt* button (see Software-Specific Controls) to add/remove the selected slot's Clip Stop button.

   Note that the LEDs associated with the zoom buttons will display the play

status of a clip: an illuminated LED signifies a playing clip; a blinking LED signifies a clip that has been triggered but is not yet playing; and an unilluminated LED signifies a stopped clip or empty slot.

- In the Arrangement View, with the zoom button enabled (i.e., its LED illuminated), you can use the arrow buttons for zooming and scrolling in the currently selected track. When zoom is not enabled, the arrow buttons can be used to select tracks.

11. *Scrub* – This fires the currently selected scene in the Session View and has no effect in the Arrangement View. To stop all running clips, hold down the Mackie Control's *Options* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while pressing this.

12. *Jog Wheel* – In the Session View, the jog wheel scrolls through the scenes. In the Arrangement View, the jog wheel moves the play position. To change global quantization, hold down the Mackie Control's *Control* button (see Software-Specific Controls) while turning the jog wheel. You can also use the Mackie Control's *Alt* button (see Software-Specific Controls) in the Arrangement View to move the play position in smaller increments.

22.5   Software-Specific Controls
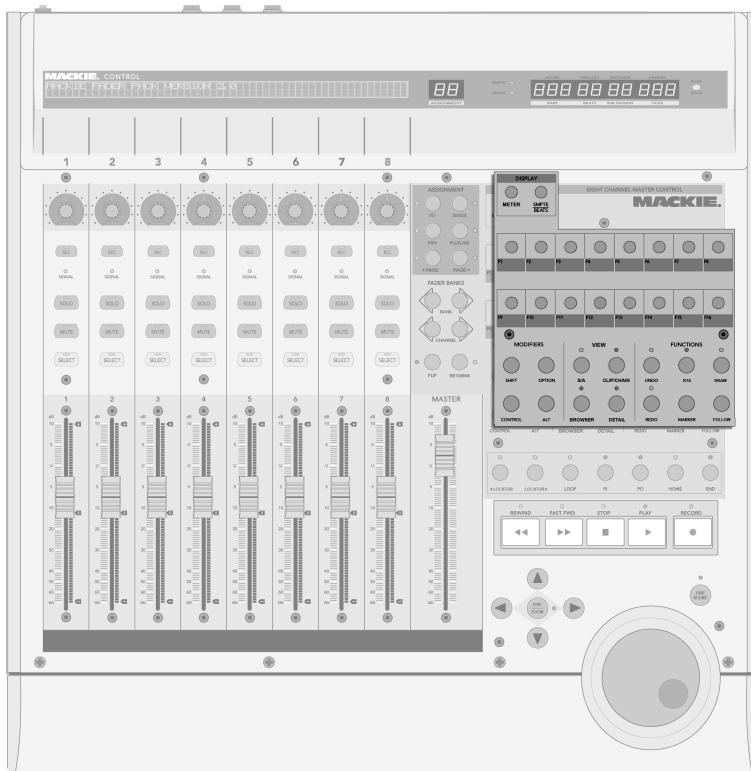
The Software-Specific Controls.

1. *Shift, Option, Control, Alt* – Used to access additional Mackie Control options.

2. *SMPTE/Beats* – Toggles between displaying beats/bars and SMPTE in the time display.

3. *Name/Value* – Switches the meters in the main display on/off. Note that these meters appear only when pan assignment mode (see V-Pots and Assignment Switches) is active.

4. *F-Keys* – These keys can be mapped freely to controls in Live (see MIDI Remote Control).

5. *ViewArr (On)* – Toggles Arrangement View and Session View. When the Mackie Control's *Shift* key is held down, this sets the program focus to the Arrangement View or Session View, whichever is currently on screen.

6. *ToggleDetail (Rec/Rdy)* – Toggles Clip View and Track View. When the Mackie Control's *Shift* key is held down, this sets the program focus to the Clip View or Track View, whichever is currently on screen.

7. *ViewBrowser (SnapShot)* – Shows/hides the Browser. When the Mackie Control's *Shift* key is held down, this sets the program focus to the Browser.

8. *ViewDetail (Touch)* – Shows/Hides the Clip/Track View. When the Mackie Control's *Shift* key is held down, this sets the program focus to the Clip View or Track View, whichever is currently on screen.

9. *Undo* and *Redo* – Undoes/redoes the last change made to the Live Set. The LED will illuminate if there is an available action to undo/redo.

10. *BTA (Cancel)* – Stops clips in the Session View from playing differently than how they were recorded into the Arrangement, and returns to playing the Arrangement. The LED will illuminate if there is an Arrangement state available to which to return.

11. *Locator (Marker)* – Deletes a locator (see Launching the Arrangement with Locators) when a locator is currently selected and the song is stopped. Otherwise, it creates a new locator at the current play position.

12. *DrawMode (Enter)* – Enables/disables Draw Mode, for drawing notes and en-

velopes.

13. *Follow (Mixer)* – Toggles Follow Mode, which scrolls Live's display to follow playback.