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## Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/20 06:23

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I am really digging the new OS, and Elektron have made the file structure somewhat easier with being able to export projects between sets & making saving/reloading more obvious.

But its not yet perfect.

I have a gig coming up and have most of what I want to do in one project.

Unfortunately there is one track (4 patterns, 2 parts & about 8 scenes for each of those parts) I set up in another project which i would like to import into my live project.

I vaguely remember a post regarding hacking into the Octatrack files (which are broken down by bank/part etc) on here a while back whereby this might be made possible but I cant find it.

Before I start down this path blindly, wondering has anyone tried and had success doing this?

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/20 06:40

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yea, this is a real PITA but it can be done. Heres's my approach.

1-open source project, collect all samples.

2-write down the names of all samples used in the bank for reference when reloading sample slots. You do not ned to make note of the machine type, the bank file stores this info.

3-"Save Sample Settings" for each sample in the Operations Menu

4-mount CF card on comptter (Or use OT file manager but much slower with no multi-select)

5-copy the samples settings files and associated audio files to the destination project folder

6-copy the bank files (eg: bank01.strd, bank01.work) to the destination project folder

7-load the destination project and load the appropriate sample(s) for each track in the slots of your choice. If you have sample locks you would need to either load the samples to the same slots or redo your sample locks to reflect the new sample positions.

Presumably, if you have an arrangment you want to move you would copy the eg: arr01.strd file ets. I don't know exactly what the markers file is for, but I assume it globally stores the same info as is saved to the individual sample settings file (.ot) so hopefully that doesn't screw anything up because that is the one file that would be unable to merge into an existing project without a deep understanding of its contents...

Also it is ok to change the order of the banks by renaming the bank files.

(edit: pplease make a backup of your source and destination projects before doing this!)

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/20 06:50

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Thanks N\_Rain.

Most of this makes sense. I am stuck at work for the day so can't try this until @ home.

I wonder though why do you need to collect the samples?

Both projects are part of the same set and use the same sample library.

I do wonder if I manually relink to the samples (they will have to live in different # slots on set project) then will they loose slice / loop / bpm behavior?

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by nocturne - 2011/12/20 07:03

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Since it's a relatively small number of patterns and associated parts, you could also try to copy/paste them one at a time between the projects. It's just a matter of loading the project you want to copy from, doing a copy command on a single

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pattern or part, loading the project you want to copy to, select where you want to paste the object and do a paste command.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by bauer - 2011/12/20 07:06

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good to know this is possible. bit of a faff though. i do hope elektron add a bank copy feature soon. obviously various sticky issues to resolve, like what to do with samples that overlap with slots in the project you would be pasting the bank into, but got to be possible to resolve, somehow.

i've got all my tracks in separate projects, and i'm considering using a hardware looper like a redsound soundbite or kaoss pad and dj mixer to do transitions, as it seems like too epic a job to copy everything from lots of tracks into one project at present...

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/20 07:12

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nocturne wrote:

Since it's a relatively small number of patterns and associated parts, you could also try to copy/paste them one at a time between the projects. It's just a matter of loading the project you want to copy from, doing a copy command on a single pattern or part, loading the project you want to copy to, select where you want to paste the object and do a paste command.

Nocturne, this is possible? Great!

My fear though is that in copying a part, it will overwrite slots on the destination project.

I have maybe 20 free static slots in the live project and need to tread carefully.

Can you clarify what the OT behavior is in this regard to your experience?

Thanks!

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by dataline - 2011/12/20 07:16

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bauer wrote:

hope elektron add a bank copy feature soon. obviously various sticky issues to resolve, like what to do with samples that overlap with slots in the project you would be pasting the bank into

:feelin:

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/20 07:29

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Ozone wrote:

Thanks N\_Rain.

I wonder though why do you need to collect the samples?

Both projects are part of the same set and use the same sample library.

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I guess my reasoning here is that it just makes it a lot easier to reload the samples from a single location, especially with the sample names being truncated in the slots it can be a pain to find them if you don't know exactly where they are. Also, you may not want to be leaving behind fixed sample settings for the source samples in your main audio pool.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by nocturne - 2011/12/20 07:34

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Good question about sample slots... I'm not sure what would happen when copying the parts without doing some testing...

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/20 07:40

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Pretty sure if you copy parts you end up with the parts using the existing sample slots so you still need to save the source sample settings file and load the samples into empty slots and point each track/sample lock to the appropriate slot.

A lot easier to copy over the entire bank file and then load the samples IMO.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/20 07:47

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One way to maybe speed things up a bit would be to save the source project to a new project, then mount the card on your computer and in the new copy replace all of the banks except the ones you want to transfer over with empty ones from a blank project then load the project, and purge all samples. Then you will have cleared all your sample slots except the ones that you need. This would make it easier to determine which samples need to be processed, especially if you have sample locks.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/20 07:55

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I'll play around with things tonight once I do a solid backup and see how smoothly things go.  
Luckily N\_Rain, the source project only has the one bank with the song I want, so it's already 'purged'.

The first plan is to copy bank, & am hoping that copying parts will not overwrite existing sample slots in destination project (will find out). The main work is in the scenes & patterns so i don't mind having to reload the samples into slots & adding slices etc where necessary as long as scenes/pattern data is carried over.

At this point I am also 'feeling' the bank copy feature.

In an ideal world I envisage an operation where we can copy a part, & on pasting a dialog box comes up stating that the destination sample slots are used. It then allows user to place each sample in a destination slot manually, or maybe an option to place samples in the first free available slots. (or another option to overwrite).

Additionally a copy bank feature could include option to copy parts and/or patterns or one of either. Makes one process out of two.

Anyway a work around would be good enough at this point, & I will try to plan new songs on OT better in future.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/20 08:15

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My ultimate dream for this would be a project mode in which each bank were limited to 16 static and 16 flex slots and each bank be treated like individual items in a playlist that could be browsed, selected and loaded with stopping the currently playing sequence. Bam!

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by krafft - 2011/12/20 09:09

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Ozone wrote:

At this point I am also 'feeling' the bank copy feature.

In an ideal world I envisage an operation where we can copy a part, & on pasting a dialog box comes up stating that the destination sample slots are used. It then allows user to place each sample in a destination slot manually, or maybe an option to place samples in the first free available slots. (or another option to overwrite).

That's exactly what i would like to have as options.

Bank copy

1)Assign all samples used(even the p-locked ones)to the forst free available slots(according to their machine state and if not not enough slots populate the existing free slots in the machine that has abundance) or

2) Overwrite existing used slots or

3)choose which slots to overwrite if there are not enough free slots.

My RS7000 has this function when loading new projects(overwriting or assigning to free slots) and its more than 10 years old!

The copy bank function still is a no brainer for me.

At least we should have info for each sample slot in which patterns it is being used or a way to find out this info from hacking the project files.(maybe the markers file)

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/20 09:40

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Yes Krafft, taking into account p-locked samples would be important for this function.

I'll send a request to the Mountain Top regarding this.

N\_Rain that is a cool idea.

Thinking along those lines, if we could pre-load a project, using a 'project load slot' where the new slots are located, and jump to any pattern in any bank of the pre-loaded project, then problem would be solved in a way also. Maybe available memory & data transfer rates to/from the cf card would be a bottle neck then though.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by bauer - 2011/12/20 16:45

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Ozone wrote:

In an ideal world I envisage an operation where we can copy a part, & on pasting a dialog box comes up stating that the destination sample slots are used. It then allows user to place each sample in a destination slot manually, or maybe an option to place samples in the first free available slots. (or another option to overwrite).

yes yes yes! exactly what i'd like too.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Audiolog - 2011/12/20 20:02

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bank copy is really a must for the way I work with the octatrack my livesets consists of each bank being a track, bank

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copy would really help rearrange the order of my tracklist.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by speak\_onion - 2011/12/21 00:46

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Audiolog wrote:

bank copy is really a must for the way I work with the octatrack my livesets consists of each bank being a track, bank copy would really help rearrange the order of my tracklist.

Strong agree, I hope it gets sorted one way or another.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2011/12/21 02:41

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Audiolog wrote:

bank copy is really a must for the way I work with the octatrack my livesets consists of each bank being a track, bank copy would really help rearrange the order of my tracklist.

Reordering banks within a project is relatively easy. Just mount the CF on your computer or use the file browser on the OT and re-number the bank files (ie: bank01.strd, bank01.work, bank02.strd, bank02.work)

proper bank import is a must for me because I like to bring banks from different projects together to form a set instead of starting from scratch every time.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Audiolog - 2011/12/21 04:41

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N\_Rain wrote:

Reordering banks within a project is relatively easy. Just mount the CF on your computer or use the file browser on the OT and re-number the bank files (ie: bank01.strd, bank01.work, bank02.strd, bank02.work)

should have known this a couple of days ago :) , thanks.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Ozone - 2011/12/22 07:48

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Got this working. The save sample settings action is useful for retaining sample settings when reloading a slot. Long way around though for sure. Can definitely recommend a backup to computer/alternate cf card though beforehand as it would be easy to mess things up.

Thanks for the help guys.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by yan - 2012/06/01 23:19

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Hey!

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I don't know if it has been said somewhere else before, but I just made this and it works perfect :

- turn on the USB disk mode from the OT.
- on your computer, go on the folder of the track you want to copy a bank.
- if you want to duplicate bank 1 to bank 2, just rename the files "bank01.work" and "bank01.strd" to the desired bank number.

Every track parameters, sample slots and patterns are now duplicated. That's usefull for me because I want to create songs within the arrangement with more than 16 different patterns. But still it's a pain that it's not possible to link the track parameters between the banks if needed, or copy/load banks directly within the OT.

The trouble with this, is if I change a track parameters from bank 1, it doesn't change in bank 2 (even my master volume on track 8!), and I want all those parameters to stay the same during my whole song.

EDIT : oops sorry, that was written a few messages before and I didn't see.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by butchasound - 2012/11/18 11:27

I'd like to bring this thread back from the dead to ask anyone if they have figured out any other ways to pull this off. If wanting to make a project from banks from 3 different projects, what is the best way possible? Anyone?

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by butchasound - 2012/11/22 13:47

Ok mission accomplished. For those of you finding this thread, it is possible using the combined info here. I'll share my experience if that helps anyone. Took me like 4 hours with me taking my time and also some jamming. I combined banks from 3 projects into 1. N\_Rain's advice in reply #1 helped a lot. I will amend theirs with some other posts and my own. This was in fact a huge PITA and this feature is most needed to protect my future sanity. This time could have been spent making beats!

**\*\* Backup everything to your computer in a folder just in case \*\*** (no, really do it.)

1. Make a new project called "empty" that you can pull empty banks from.
2. start with a project that has the most banks that you plan on using.
3. make note of which bank #s you plan on keeping.

connect USB

3. Copy empty banks from "empty" and write over the banks in the new main project that you dont want to use so that all that remains are the banks you want to go forward with.

back to octatrack

4. Purge all samples in new main project.

4a COLLECT SAMPLES from project menu. this puts all unpurged samples in the project folder and disconnects the project from the audio folder.

5. Go to next project. SAVE TO NEW PROJECT in project menu.

USB

6. again copy empty banks from the "empty" project over ones you dont want in all remaining projects that have banks you want to copy from.

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OT

## 7. PURGE SAMPLES

## 8. COLLECT SAMPLES

(repeat if necessary)

9. write down a chart of all samples in every part. You do not need to make note of the machine type, the bank file stores this info.

10. also, "Save Sample Settings" for each sample in the Operations Menu. this creates a file with an .ot extension. I found that you only have to do this with samples that you actually adjusted in some way. either gain, BPM, or changes to timestretch settings. If you miss saving one that you should have, you can copy/paste later.

I should note that I believe this saving of .ot files does not save statrt/end point settings settings. not 100% sure but will figure that out eventually. maybe that's in the project.work file?

USB

11. Copy all of these collected samples into the main project.

12. copy banks into the new main project. you may need to open a third empty window on your desktop like "sandbox" where you can drop bank files and easily change their file names.

OT

13. jam out and figure out what's wrong and missing. you will find that it is possible to go back to the original banks and copy/paste either sample slots, tracks, parts, etc. yes, this sucks for Sample locks. you gotta go get those manually. different situations called for different copy/paste procedures. good luck.

I should also point out that when you are on a part, and you double tap the track to see what sample is loaded, if it is blank that means if you do place the right sample there, and you use that sample slot in multiple parts, it will do it for all of them. this saved some time when the Kick or something universal was placed luckily on an empty slot. hope that makes sense.

i probably missed something. it's been a long day in the lab. questions? happy thanksgiving if u live in usa, or anywhere for that matter. if you have an octatrack, give thanks. peace.

butcha

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by mcpepe - 2013/05/10 00:55

I want to reorganize my banks and this is the post I have found searching the forum.

Is this the latest, easiest method to do it? Or is there a simpler or easier way?

Thanks.

P.D. I wrote to the Elektron support but they were not of much help. They have no plans to include this feature in an Os upgrade!..:(

This was their response:

Hi,

I am afraid there is no current plans to organize your BANKS in between PROJECTS.

The way to get over this would be to use same PROJECT for all the songs you are going to play and treat each BANK as

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a different song. So each PROJECT can hold 16 songs.

Hope this helps.

Cenk  
Elektron

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by Stevil - 2013/05/10 07:19

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Cenk - Elektron wrote:

The way to get over this would be to use same PROJECT for all the songs you are going to play and treat each BANK as a different song. So each PROJECT can hold 16 songs.

if i was building a setlist i'd export each soundset, file or loop & build a new Set & Audio Pool around all the sounds i'd be using. a bit of a pain but you know you'll have everything you need.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by dalasv - 2013/05/14 05:23

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Yikes, I'm learning the OT right now and this is the biggest drawback I've discovered so far. Seems like it requires a level of forethought that's really unlikely. Like, if you made a new PROJECT of songs for a live set, but wanted to play one song from a previous PROJECT... you're pretty screwed.

The best solution in this thread seems to be the one where you use an external looper to cover your a-- while you switch PROJECTS.

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by N\_Rain - 2013/05/14 10:15

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I agree that this is a huge drawback, and TBH tends to somewhat stifle my creativity with the OT as my main use is for live performance, and I am really not a carefully plan out from scratch the 16 songs I always want to play as one set kind of guy.

I think that if Elektron were to be up to the task at any time, the best solution would not necessarily be to be able to import a bank from another project into any project as this could get messy fast, but rather to have specific project type for consolidating banks from other projects kind of like building a play list in a media player. (perhaps the projects could be called "performances" ?)

The way this would work in my head is that when you imported a bank into this "special" project, all samples in the bank would be loaded sequentially and sample locks would be remapped accordingly. Repeat for each bank imported until out of sample slots or sample memory, then no more bank loading would be possible. Nice 'n simple.

Also nice if banks could be exported from a project. This would simplify the process of browsing for banks to import.

It really doesn't seem so far fetched a request to me and would make working with the OT an infinite amount more flexible and pleasurable.

Here's hoping..

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## Re:Octatrack - Moving banks/parts between projects?

Posted by dalasv - 2013/05/14 12:37



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Yeah, that sounds like an interesting way to do it. I'm sure it's no easy task creating a solution to deal with all of the things that could go wrong when attempting this.

Right now, I feel like I'm doing a bunch of random exploratory work just to understand this machine, but what if I come up with something I really like? It will be lumped in with a bunch of useless noodling and extracting it to a more polished Project in the future will be a real pain. I shouldn't have to think about this as an "artist," and hopefully Elektron comes up with a way to deal with it.

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