
MD tracks of different length

Posted by radam - 2008/06/14 12:11

Anyone ever think about the viability of being able to set different lengths along with forward/reverse settings for each of the MD's 16 sequencer tracks?

I can't really think of a reason why this would not be a completely awesome capability.

Maybe a future software update?

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by futureimage - 2008/06/14 17:40

It would be cool... but the way I see it, electronically it would be a lot more complex. Instead of having one master counter that counts through 16/32 steps, you'd need 16 counters for each track, which obviously is a lot more than a single counter. I doubt with the current hardware in the MD this would be available in a software update, but who knows. Elektron would have to totally rewrite the clocking/counting of the tracks though.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by radam - 2008/06/14 18:47

for setting track length on the user side....it could maybe be something as simple as adding an "all" or "(track number)" option like in the swing window

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by hageir - 2008/06/14 22:36

it's been thought of before..

it's kind of complex like future says BUT the arpeggiator length on the monomachine is adjustable (with the level button, the LEDS just light up from step 1-16)

so they know how to do it, I guess :)

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by futureimage - 2008/06/15 03:24

radam wrote:

for setting track length on the user side....it could maybe be something as simple as adding an "all" or "(track number)" option like in the swing window

But it's not just that. It's the way the actual drums themselves are clocked/triggered.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by Nick the Zombie - 2008/06/15 04:47

Can this be done on the MPC 1000?

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by radam - 2008/06/15 05:37

seeing the demos of the deopfer and genoqs sequencers is just making me wish I could do this on the machinedrum. The MD really is a great sequencer and worth every penny as such, even if one were to never load up anything but midi machines. If it were able to run tracks in reverse and set different lengths, it would be just flat out be amazing. Genoqs charges \$3500 for that functionality. Doepfer is fetching \$975 for only 3 tracks.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by futureimage - 2008/06/15 20:34

If it's a really big thing for you, I guess you could start looking into modular gear, get a couple of trigger/gate sequencers and hook them up to the MD's inputs. You could use a couple of Impulse machines as trigger/clock sources for the sequencers. With two gate sequencers set at different lengths, you'd be away then...

BTW do you know about my Decade Counter?

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by texmex - 2008/06/15 23:33

How about getting G2 and using it for sequencing such stuff? You can create sequencers of your wildest dreams :)

BTW not having this feature in MD is not matter of hardware limitation contrary to what Futureimage said. It's purely software issue. But I can see how this would complicate everything in the MD... what would happen if you change pattern while some of the tracks would be yet to be finished? I don't think Elektron is never going to implement such feature - it's a great feature on its own I guess and some people would certainly use it but it just makes developing sequencer software A LOT more complicated. So it's not probably worth it.

For Hageir: Arpeggiator is a special sequecer which generates note events to the actual sequencer. Think it as a sequencer inside sequencer. But it doesn't help with the track length issue I'm affraid :)

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by actuel - 2008/06/15 23:55

on the Elektron feature wishlist i asked for variable track lengths long ago. per the norm i got the "i'll add it to the list".

i didn't realize the power of variable track lengths untill i start messing with MLR, monome software. here's to still wishing!

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by ThinkTanx - 2008/06/16 03:06

I agree it would be monumental. Can't see it ever happening though. As others have said, peeps have been requesting it almost from the beginning and nothing has happened, so...

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by hageir - 2008/06/16 07:03

texmex wrote:

For Hageir: Arpeggiator is a special sequecer which generates note events to the actual sequencer. Think it as a

sequencer inside sequencer. But it doesn't help with the track length issue I'm afraid :)

I wasn't referring to the arpeggiator, just the way you can choose the arp. length, it could be the same command for each track on the MD (that way you could choose how many steps)

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by Rew - 2008/06/16 13:17

yeah. different track lengths would make it a hell of alot easier to lay down traditional west african grooves and North Indian Tehais!!:(

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by ipassenger - 2008/06/16 16:49

texmex wrote:

How about getting G2 and using it for sequencing such stuff? You can create sequencers of your wildest dreams :)

Been meaning to do this since I got my MD, I'll see if I can find time tonight, unfortunately you lose the Pattern locks, but you can always send other control data to add some extra motion.. or just use the MD's LFOs, and/or possibly the CTRL8-P over the top.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by futureimage - 2008/06/16 17:59

texmex wrote:

BTW not having this feature in MD is not matter of hardware limitation contrary to what Futureimage said. It's purely software issue.

Thinking about it it would be both.

Hardware would have to operate quickly enough for all tracks to run at the same time. It would be hard/expensive to do so for 16 tracks, making the MD sloppy and out of time.

Software as I said would have to be totally rewritten... 16 times... "Copy. Paste. Copy. Paste. Copy. Paste." :laugh:

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by neonleg - 2008/06/16 18:20

that would be rad.

the cheapest sequencer to do this is imo the rm1x sequencer for about \$150 - \$200 or the bigger brother for \$500 though the headaches and stop/starting make it very painful. btw this is not a recommendation :blink: but if your on a budget....

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by ipassenger - 2008/06/17 03:00

ok just been messing with my MD and Nord G2 and recorded this.. not quite what i was originally thinking but it is easy to get a bit carried away with the nord and the md!

http://elektron-users.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=419&Itemid=30

It is 4 drum sounds out of the md being controlled and sequenced by the G2. No MD lfos are used.

The kick is basic 4/4 the snare equally basic but has a semi random extra note thing added.

The other sounds are running on 14 and 15 step loops. There are also sequenced controls being sent to the MD for these sounds, the control sequences have loops of 5 and 11 steps.

Basically it all adds up to a crazy amount of movement with some very basic sounds..

TBH: I am bit disappointed with this, i think i could have done something better but i am bit strapped for time (excuse 101), so maybe i'll have another go and concentrate on rhythm rather than modficiations at a later date.

One thing is clear whether they add it as a feature or not, multiple length patterns can make for some incredibly complex music, form very basic patterns.

R.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by papertiger - 2008/06/20 04:16

this g2 example got me thinking (and inspired -- so thanks!) -- anyone messed with numerology? I downloaded it last night but didn't get a chance to fire it up. it looks like the sequencer side of the g2 but in software. . . i was curious if anyone had any experience with it.

M

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by droolmaster0 - 2008/06/27 00:41

Numerology is great, and extremely powerful ...I haven't used it in awhile, but you can actually clock different tracks at different tempos, etc. Since I haven't used it for so long, and only tried out the g2 briefly, I can't really comment at length, but I think that you'd find that overall Numerology is capable of a lot more.

But either one would be excellent for tracks of different lengths.

Another cheaper hardware solution is the Cyclus, though make sure you get one that has the initial midi issues fixed.

I have a mk2 uw coming in about a week or so. I also really like having different track lengths, especially for modulation. Luckily I have multiple hardware sequencers that can help me with that.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by dangulberry - 2008/06/27 01:59

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by dangulberry - 2008/06/27 02:00

ipassenger wrote:

texmex wrote:

How about getting G2 and using it for sequencing such stuff? You can create sequencers of your wildest dreams :)

Been meaning to do this since I got my MD, I'll see if I can find time tonight, unfortunately you lose the Pattern locks, but you can always send other control data to add some extra motion.. or just use the MD's LFOs, and/or possibly the CTRL8-P over the top.

somewhere in between is nice. I use mother misty's MD sequencer for the G2 to play alongside the MD in sync. I param lock and sequence something really simple on the MD and let the G2 fill in the gaps. That way the incoming midi notes are affected to some extent by the locks. It's not a solution, just making the best of a bad situation! Sounds really nice when the semi randomness of the G2 sequencers plays alongside the solid straightforward step-sequencing of the MD.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by ipassenger - 2008/06/27 03:31

I made another example of the MD being completely controlled by the G2. Just 6 drums used, all running different pattern lengths.. only a short demo and not as chotic as the previous one but i think there is more coherency to the pattern this time.

http://elektron-users.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=420&Itemid=30

Gotta agree with Dan above it is probably best used when combining the two concepts and machines, rather than the all out choas of the G2, plus there is a limit on what midi data my midi ports can handle. :)

Dan,

Which mother misty patch are u referring too?

Cheers

R.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by dangulberry - 2008/06/27 07:06

just the patch he made called Md Sequencer or something. It's the only one called anything like that on EM.

I've set up a G2 performance running the sequencer on A, the Md Mutator on B, and a Monomachine mutator on C. So versatile - having access to all those MD and MnM pages and being able to randomise (patch mutate) pretty much every parameter simultaneously is a great way of getting a track up and running.

Using the G2 mutator function is great on the sequencer too. You can conjure up 16 tracks of note/event data with just a button press! Not to mention (though I will) the ability to set up 2 radically different sequences, place them as 'parents' on the patch mutator, and then generate 'children' variations. This way, you can cross over from parent to parent in 5 (I think) steps. Pity the mutator can'tbe controlled outside of the editor environment.

I'm sure you can do this kind of stuff with Max, but it's so easy with the G2.

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Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by hageir - 2008/06/28 11:29

ipassenger wrote:

I made another example of the MD being completely controlled by the G2. Just 6 drums used, all running different pattern lengths.. only a short demo and not as chotic as the previous one but i think there is more coherency to the pattern this time.

http://elektron-users.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=420&Itemid=30

.
fuckin' nice!!!
polyrhythmic action!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
AAAAAAAH!
ARGH!!!!
IT'S AWESOME!!!

AAAAAAH!

Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by Rooob - 2008/11/21 07:05

Hi!
On the electro-music forum you can download a pair of G2 patch to control the MD. Same info:

- 16 individual event sequencers (to trigger the 16 MD parts)
- Each sequencer can have 2 patterns plus an option to x-fade between them
- Each sequencer can have it's own tempo (clockdivider) and it's own lenght
- Random trigger for each sequencer

one of the nice things about this patch is that your MD now has a "sequencer mutator", a great & easy way to generate patterns.

Thanks to mother misty!!!

Sequencer for the Elektron MachineDrum
<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=11362>

Elektron Machinedrum Midi Control Automate patch
<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=11367>

Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by anselmi - 2008/11/21 13:23

IÂ'm a fool for this kind of sequencing manipulation...too bad the micromodular and modular G1 canÂ't export MIDI data like the G2 :(

Re:MD tracks of different length

Posted by burlives - 2008/11/23 03:34

The results using modular G2 were good listening. Sorry I'm not following. Are the tracks of different lengths at the same tempo?

Maybe the arps are more cumbersome to work with, and results come about quicker using the preferred change of length per track.

Aside from a marked facility in building rhythms and that reversing directions of the sequence can't be done with as interesting a snare part on MD alone, what prevents set ups with rhythms such as ipassenger's mp3?

With some attention to detail and using swing with track accent, there should be something closely attainable, as track

delay filled in some of the syncopation as well.

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