

Creating “Licks” Using Virtual Trumpet

This tutorial will explain how to use Virtual Trumpet’s Lick Editor, which is used to compose and edit “licks” that Virtual Trumpet can play back. It is intended for Registered Users of Virtual Trumpet. For questions or comments, email the author, Rob Birdwell, at <http://www.birdwellmusic.com/Contact.aspx>

To get to Virtual Trumpet’s Lick Editor:

1. Press F2 or click the “Options” button
2. From the “General” tab, click the “Lick Manager” button
3. Click the “Create” button; this is the “Lick Editor” which allows you to create and preview your lick:

Precision	Values	Notes	Tied Values	Style	Dynamics

When you bring up this form after clicking the “Create” button, the name of your “lick” defaults to “New Lick created on <the date/time>” – feel free to name your lick anything you want.

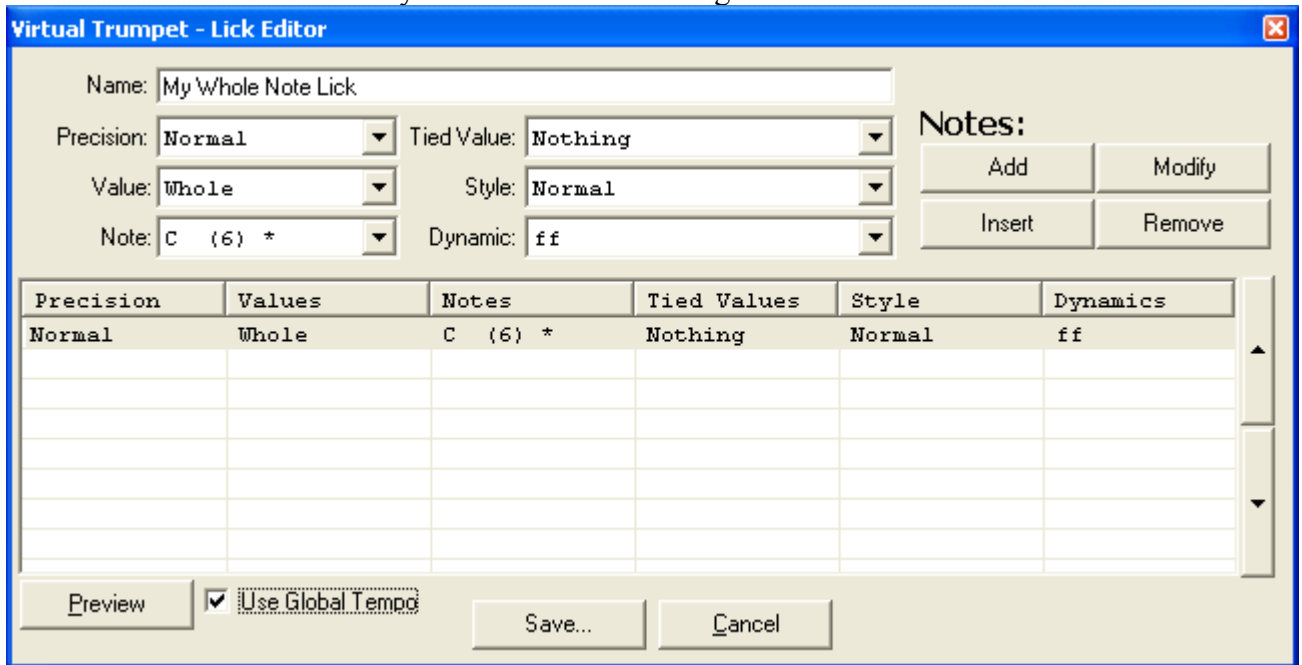
Creating Your First Lick – Middle C played as a Whole Note

Our first lick won’t be much, but will show you how create a lick that plays back a middle C as a whole note – for example:



1. Open the Lick Editor as described above.

2. For every note you add to the grid (the spreadsheet-like multi column box) you need to first set the “properties” of that note (or rest) via the various pull down boxes, most notably the “Value” and “Note” drop downs.
3. To set the properties for our first note, a “middle C” as a whole note:
 - a. In the “Value” drop down, select “Whole” to tell Virtual Trumpet to play a whole note value.
 - b. In the “Note” drop down box select the value “C (6) *” – the letter C denotes the note, the (6) denotes the note index (playable notes include indices from 0 to 37), and the “*” is simply a marker to distinguish between the open C notes.
 - c. Now click the “Add” button – you should see something like this:



- d. Whenever you click the “Add” button, a new note item (or rest, whatever the case) is appended to existing sequence of notes – and in this example, there’s only one note. Press the “Preview” button to listen to your lick. In fact, you can click the Preview button at any point in your lick composition and is especially helpful for longer licks!

Modifying, Inserting, Removing, Re-Ordering and Saving Licks

Now that we covered how to create a “one note” lick, let’s move on to some other concepts you should know before graduating to a more complex lick – such as:

1. To modify any given note:
 - a. Select the note in the grid
 - b. Change any of the properties of that note in the pull down lists (Precision, Value, Note, Tied Value, Style, Dynamic) and then press the Modify button.
2. To insert a note into the grid:
 - a. Select the place in the grid where you want the note to be inserted (notes are inserted before the selected note)
 - b. Set the properties of the note you want to insert then click the Insert button

1. Open the Lick Editor from the steps listed earlier in this tutorial.
2. Name your lick “Oh Susannah”
3. Uncheck the “Use Global Tempo” check box and (using the up/down numeric value control) set a value of 170 or so – this represents the approximate tempo (where a quarter note value equals 170 beats per minute).



4. Using the Lick Editor, the first measures of the tune should look like this in the Lick Editor once the rest and two notes are added into the grid:

Precision	Values	Notes	Tied Values	Style	Dynamics
Normal	Half	REST	Nothing	Normal	ff
Dotted	Quarter	C (6) *	Nothing	Normal	ff
Normal	Eighth	D (8)	Nothing	Normal	ff

- a. Notice that the first “Note” value is set to “REST” and the “Value” is set to “Half” – in other words, our sample lick is starting with a two beat rest! This introduces the concept of rests - but you may decide to delete this particular rest later, since licks typically work best when playback is immediate.
- b. The second item in the grid (the first note that gets played) is a dotted quarter note “C” per the sample melody. In order to create a dotted value note, set the “Precision” to “Dotted” and the “Value” to “Quarter” – the “Note” value will be set to “C (6) *” – which should be familiar since it was the first note we learned in the first tutorial!
- c. Finally, that last note in the first measure is an eighth note D (above middle C) – to enter this note, set the Precision to Normal, the Value to Eighth, and the Note to D (8).
- d. Click the “Preview” button to hear what you have entered.
- e. Remember, if you’ve made a mistake or something doesn’t sound quite right, you can always modify any given item’s properties and click the Modify button. Be patient – won’t take too long. It’s an iterative process – we’re building up the notes, one at a time for playback!



5. After you enter the second measure notes into the grid, you will begin to recognize the tune a bit more. Here's what the grid should look like after entering the next four items (of measure two) to "Oh

Virtual Trumpet - Lick Editor

Name: Oh Susannah

Precision: Normal Tied Value: Nothing

Value: Quarter Style: Normal

Note: E (10) Dynamic: ff

Notes: Add Modify Insert Remove

Precision	Values	Notes	Tied Values	Style	Dynamics
Normal	Half	REST	Nothing	Normal	ff
Dotted	Quarter	C (6) *	Nothing	Normal	ff
Normal	Eighth	D (8)	Nothing	Normal	ff
Normal	Quarter	E (10)	Nothing	Normal	ff
Normal	Quarter	G (13)	Nothing	Normal	ff
Dotted	Quarter	G (13)	Nothing	Normal	ff
Normal	Eighth	A (15)	Nothing	Normal	ff

Preview Use This Tempo: 170 Save... Cancel

Susannah”:

- The selected item in the Lick Editor above is the first note of measure 2 of the melody – an E above middle C (or E (10) in Virtual Trumpet lingo).
- The next two notes are Gs – one is a quarter note and one a dotted quarter. Remember again that to get playback of a dotted note value, you must set the Precision to “Dotted”
- Finally, the last note in measure two is an eighth note A (or A (15)) – by now you should be able to complete the rest of this melody notes on your own.
- When you’re done entering all the notes, click the “Save” button which will add your lick to the library of Virtual Trumpet licks. Remember: you can always edit your lick by selecting it clicking the “Edit” button in the Lick Manager dialog:

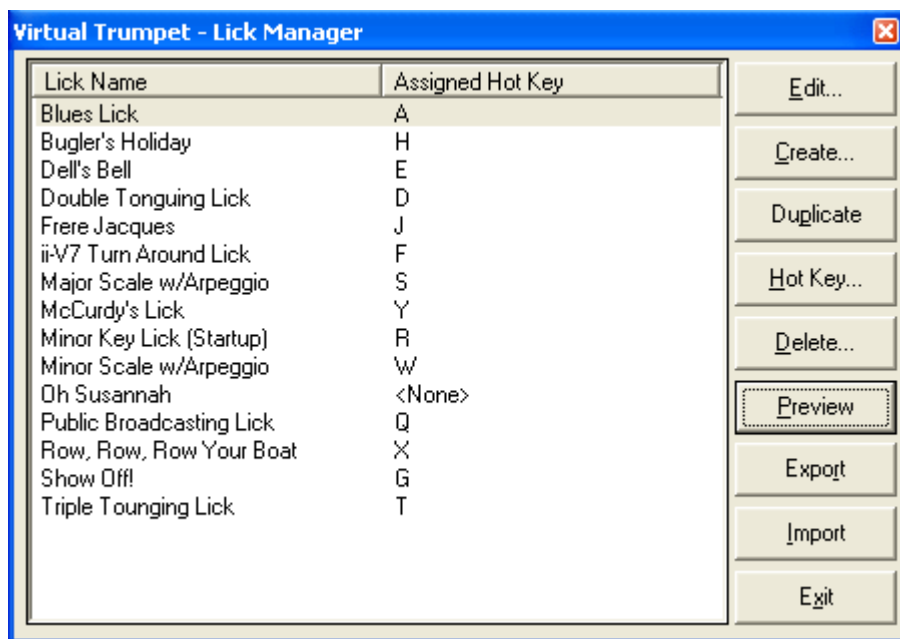
Virtual Trumpet - Lick Manager

Lick Name	Assigned Hot Key
Blues Lick	A
Bugler's Holiday	H
Dell's Bell	E
Double Tonguing Lick	D
Frere Jacques	J
ii-V7 Turn Around Lick	F
Major Scale w/Arpeggio	S
McCurdy's Lick	Y
Minor Key Lick (Startup)	R
Minor Scale w/Arpeggio	W
Oh Susannah	<None>
Public Broadcasting Lick	Q
Row, Row, Row Your Boat	X
Show Off!	G
Triple Tonguing Lick	T

Edit... Create... Duplicate Hot Key... Delete... Preview Export Import Exit

Lick Manager

Virtual Trumpet ships with several interesting licks. When you create your own licks (or modify any of the existing licks) you will access them via the Lick Manager, which is accessed from the main Virtual Trumpet page by pressing F5 or by clicking the Lick Manager button from the Options/General tab. When you use the Link Editor (previously described), any licks you save are added to this listing:



The Lick Manager is has several important features:

1. Displays a listing of available licks for playback through the Lick Manager or via a “hot key” from the main Virtual Trumpet dialog.
2. Provides a way to edit existing licks – clicking the Edit or Create buttons will launch the Lick Editor.
3. Clicking the Duplicate button duplicates an existing lick – this is useful when you want to experiment with editing an existing lick without fear of altering the original.
4. Provides the ability to assign a hot key combination, via the Hot Key button.
5. The Delete button provides the ability to permanently remove licks from the list. **Use this with feature caution!!**
6. The Preview button allows you to listen to the selected lick.
7. The Export button allows you to export licks in two formats:
 - a. The .LIK format – this is the only format the Virtual Trumpet (Windows) version can currently import. So if you are exporting your licks to share with other Virtual Trumpet (Windows) users, be sure to export to the .LIK file format.
 - b. The .XML format – export to this format when you want to share licks with Virtual Trumpet Lite users (a free Java Applet available on www.BirdwellMusic.com) – (NOTE: *Virtual Trumpet Lite has been discontinued!*)

Appendix A – “Oh Susannah” .LIK Format

```
[lickindex]
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[1152002947329990860765]
lickName=Oh Susannah
hotKey=0
tempo=200
1=1|2000|-1|0|0|100
2=2|1000|6|0|0|100
3=1|500|8|0|0|100
4=1|1000|10|0|0|100
5=1|1000|13|0|0|100
6=2|1000|13|0|0|100
7=1|500|15|0|0|100
8=1|1000|13|0|0|100
9=1|1000|10|0|0|100
10=2|1000|6|0|0|100
11=1|500|8|0|0|100
12=1|1000|10|0|0|100
13=1|1000|10|0|0|100
14=1|1000|8|0|0|100
15=1|1000|6|0|0|100
16=1|2000|8|0|0|100
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18=1|500|6|0|0|100
19=1|500|8|0|0|100
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21=1|1000|13|0|0|100
22=2|1000|13|0|0|100
23=1|500|15|0|0|100
24=1|1000|13|0|0|100
25=1|1000|10|0|0|100
26=2|1000|6|0|0|100
27=2|500|8|0|0|100
28=1|1000|10|0|0|100
29=1|1000|10|0|0|100
30=1|1000|8|0|0|100
31=1|1000|8|0|0|100
32=1|2000|6|0|0|100
33=1|2000|-1|0|0|100
```

Appendix B – “Oh Susannah” .XML Format

```
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```

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