# LUNCHBOX BATTLES : THE QUICKSTART GUIDE

**Welcome to Lunchbox Battles!** This little application turns your old laptop or your boring PC at work into a groovy live drum machine. You can record beats using your keyboard and you don't even need special audio hardware: that standard onboard soundchip will do the trick just fine (the intelligent timing algorithms will compensate for MME latency and general crappiness).

Play drum contests in your lunchbreaks and earn street cred from your coworkers with your block rocking jams!

### 1 Start the Lunchbox application

Once the mainscreen is visible, you should hear the metronome ticking in the rhythm of the blinking light. If not, crank up your PC's sound volume!

### 2 Hit the drums

Use the 9 keys on the left side of your keyboard to trigger drumsounds. Lunchbox will automatically record and play back the sounds you trigger.
- Sounds will be quantized automatically (use Esc to change quantize)
- Previously recorded sounds in the current measure will be replaced
- Non-QWERTY keyboards can be selected in the settings window

### 3 Change drumkits

You can select the desired drumkit by pressing the "1", "2", ... "0" keys. Some keys may not have a drumkit assigned to them, though.

### 4 Adjust tempo, groove and the number of bars

- You can change the tempo by tapping the CAPS key repeatedly, or by pressing the "<" and ">" keys.
- Change the groove (timesignature, swing and accents) using the function keys (F1, F2, ... F10).
- You may change the duration of the beat (in bars) using "[" and "]" keys.

### 5 Apply sound effects

You can toggle the Delay and Overdrive effects on or off with the onscreen buttons. Using the V, B and N buttons you can also trigger live FX to spice up your performance.

# LUNCHBOX BATTLES : CONSOLE FUNCTIONS

Information about the current **drumkit**, the **tempo**, **duration** of the loop (in bars/measures) and the selected **Groove**-preset (swing, accents and timesignature).

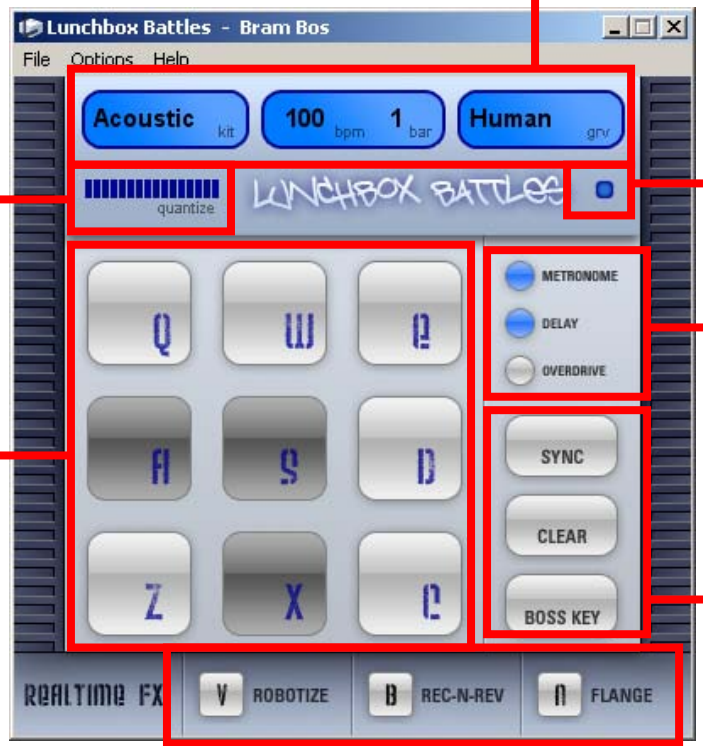
The **Metronome light**. This led blinks in the rhythm of the tempo. Green/white leds indicate the start of a new bar.

Current **quantize** mode. Change this using the Esc-key. Quantize helps you put your drums into rhythmically correct timeslots.

The **Metronome** button enables/disables the click sound for the tempo.

Use **Delay** to toggle the rhythmic echo effect.

**Overdrive** adds a rough distorted punch to your sound.




Use these buttons to **mute** and unmute certain drumsounds in realtime.

You can do the same thing via the keyboard by pressing the Shift key plus the corresponding character.

Use **Sync** to get the app in sync with another PC. Ofcourse boths tempos should also be the same!

**Clear** empties the current beat (but leaves all other settings intact).

Hit the **Boss key** if the old man walks in!

You can use the 3 **Realtime FX** buttons (or the corresponding keys on the keyboard) to add effects to the current mix. The effects will not be recorded and are only for live use.

# LUNCHBOX BATTLES : TIPS & STRATEGIES

A **Exporting beats to other apps**
Beside saving your beats for later, you can also export your creations as WAVs and MID files so you can import and use them in other music applications.

B **Tempo matching to others**
Simply tap the Caps key in the beat until the tempo is the same. Next, hit the “Sync” button at the start of a new measure to synchronize your beats.

C **It’s all live baby!**
Just like any musical instrument playing Lunchbox Battles is a technique you have to learn. Stick with it and your skills will grow with each session.

D **Making your own drumkits**
It’s quite easy to make new drumkits. Look in the Sounds folder and open up a “.kit” file in Notepad to figure it out. LBB will load the first 10 kit-files (alphabetically) it finds in this folder.

E **Uptempo, downtempo**
It’s easier to program beats at lower tempos (80-100 bpm). If you want to make a fast beat, program it first then speed up later on. Unless you’re a highspeed hero ofcourse.

F **FLAMS**
You can create “flam”-sounds by keeping the Ctrl-key pressed while triggering drums.

Don’t overdo it though...

G **Quantize**
Using the various Quantize modes is the secret to creating perfect rhythms. The default setting is usually sufficient, but hit the Esc-key to increase/decrease accuracy.

H **All those keys!**
If you can’t remember all the keys to control LBB, enable the “Show keys” function in the help-menu.

I **My sound pops and stutters!**
You need to increase the buffersize for your audio-playback. Go to “Options->Settings” and find the right buffersetting for your PC.

K **WHY?**
Because of the KVR Developer Challenge 2006 ofcourse! I figured we all had enough synths and effects already, so I wanted to create something new and fun which we can use where we’re not supposed or able to make music.

Lunchbox Battles does not want to be taken seriously. It’s just for fun, to be shared with your non-musical colleagues, friends and family. Although if you find ways of making it useful for you, more power to you ofcourse. Happy jamming!

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