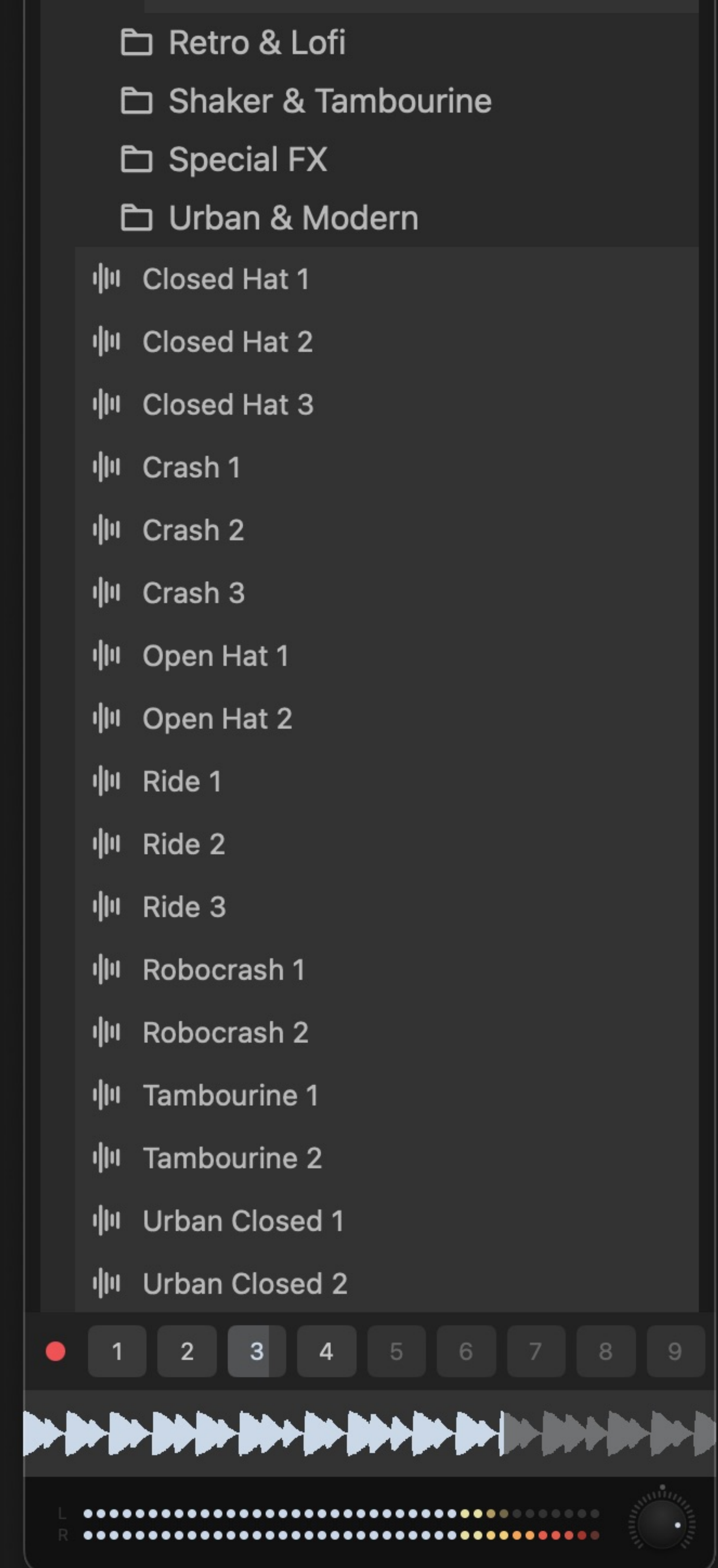




NRRW

User Guide

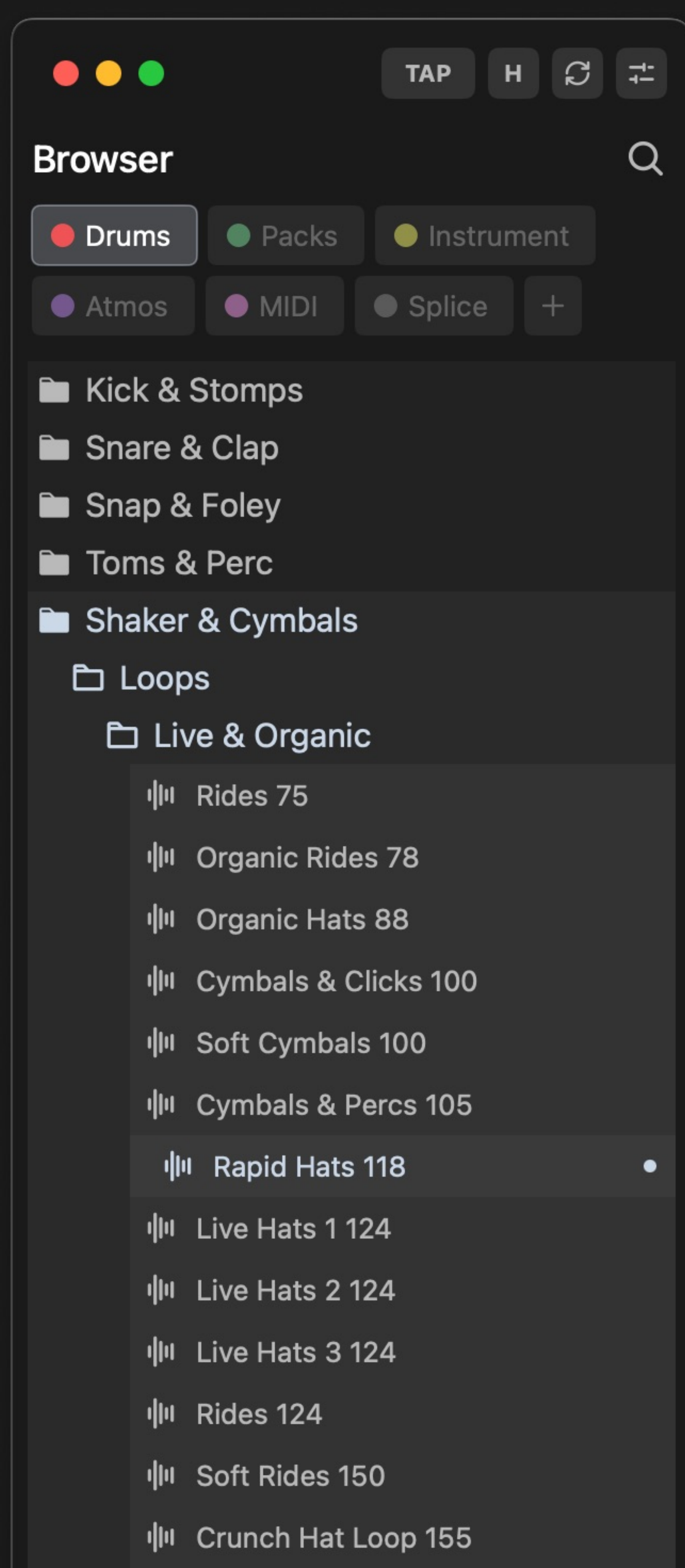


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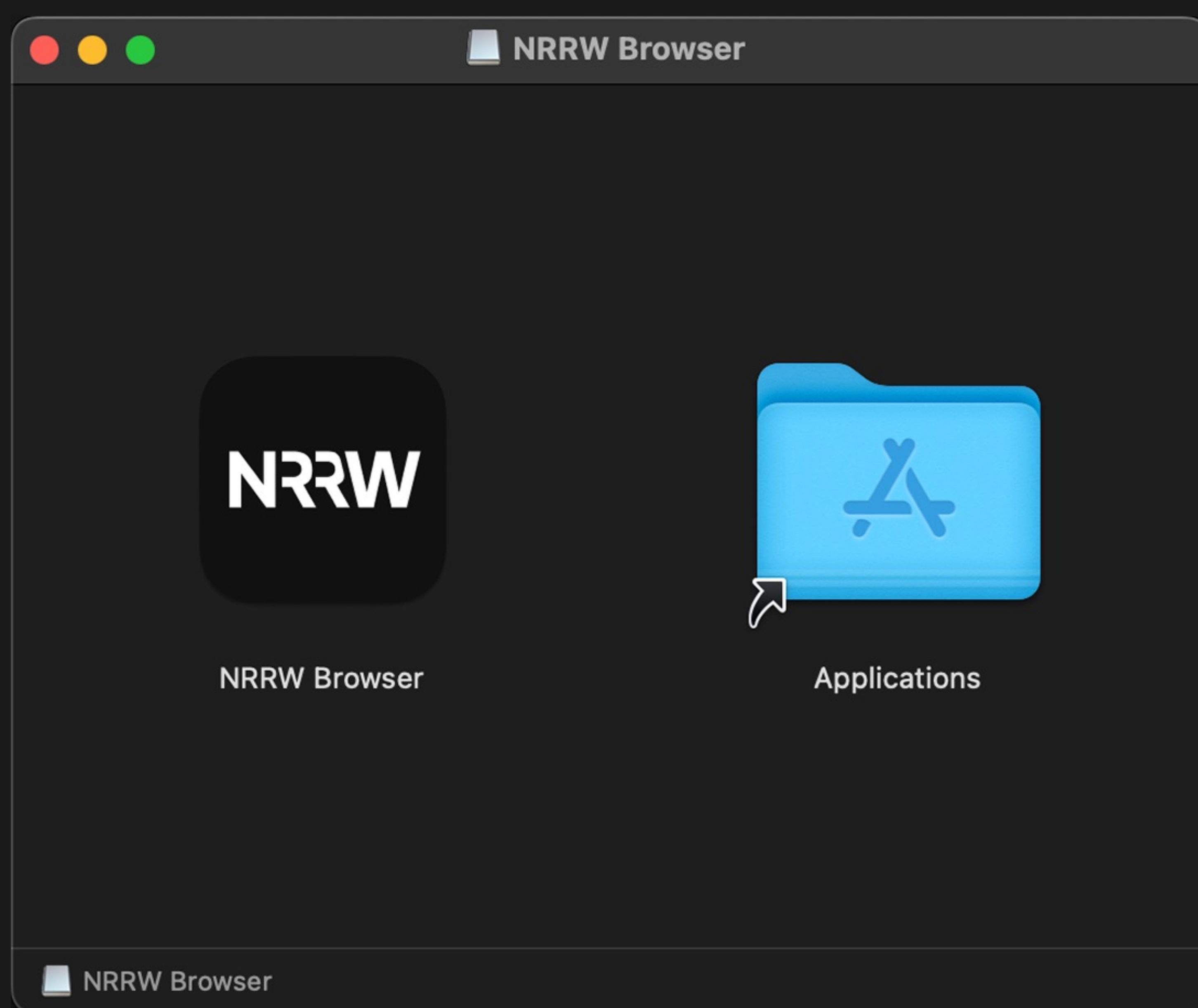
Getting Started

NRRW runs on **macOS 13.0 or later**, on both Apple Silicon and Intel Macs.

The app supports most common audio formats: `.wav` , `.mp3` , `.aiff` , `.flac` , `.aac` , `.m4a` and **MIDI** clips `.mid` , `.midi` .

Installation

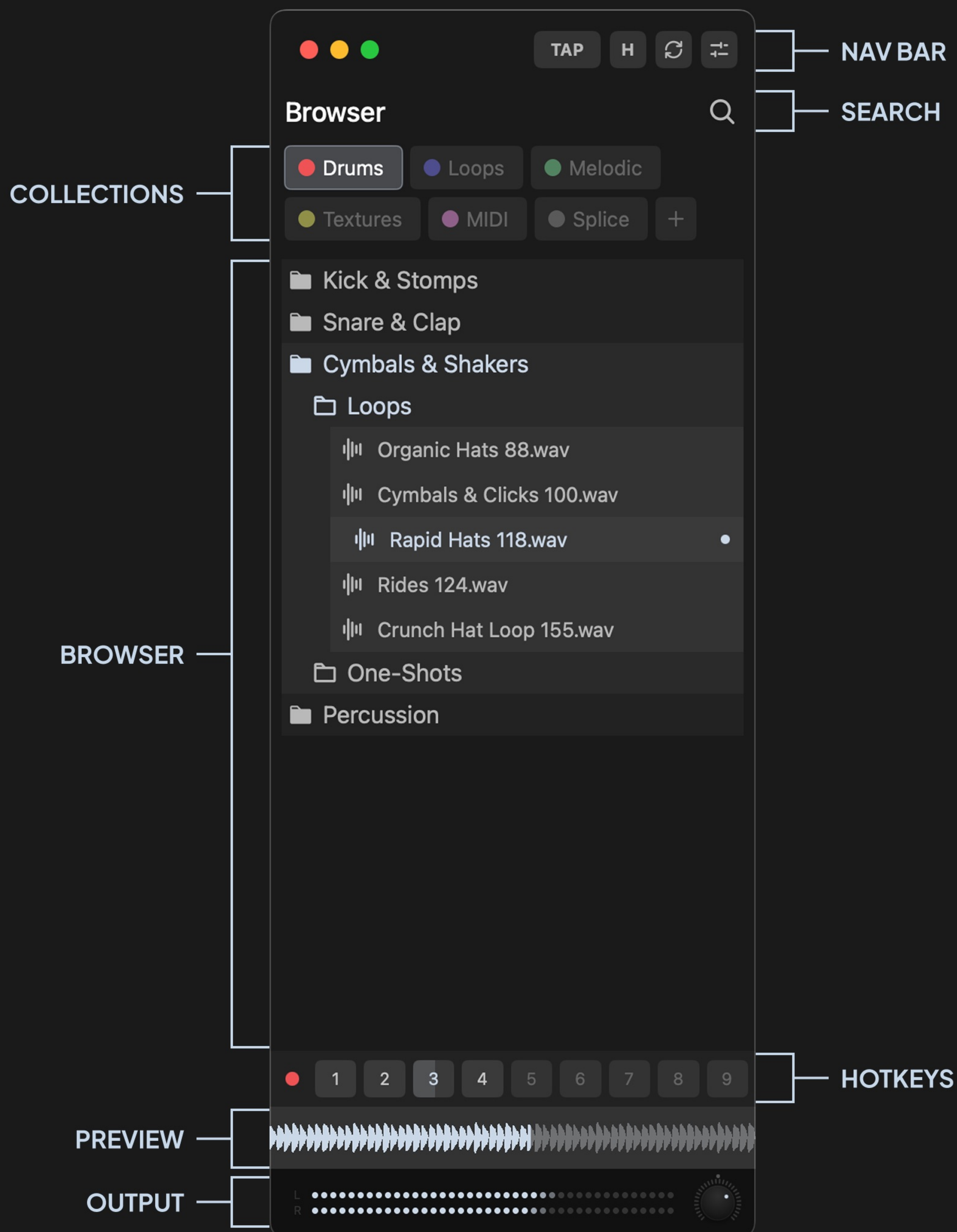
- 1 Open the downloaded `.dmg` file.
- 2 Drag **NRRW Browser** into your Applications folder.



Note: System requirements may change with future updates.

Global Interface

It's in the name. NRRW stands for **narrow**. The app is designed to be used next to your DAW of choice in a compact package.



Custom Collections

Create and edit **collections** to organize your library into groups. Separate by type, genre, artist, or any other grouping you have in mind. Make the system yours.

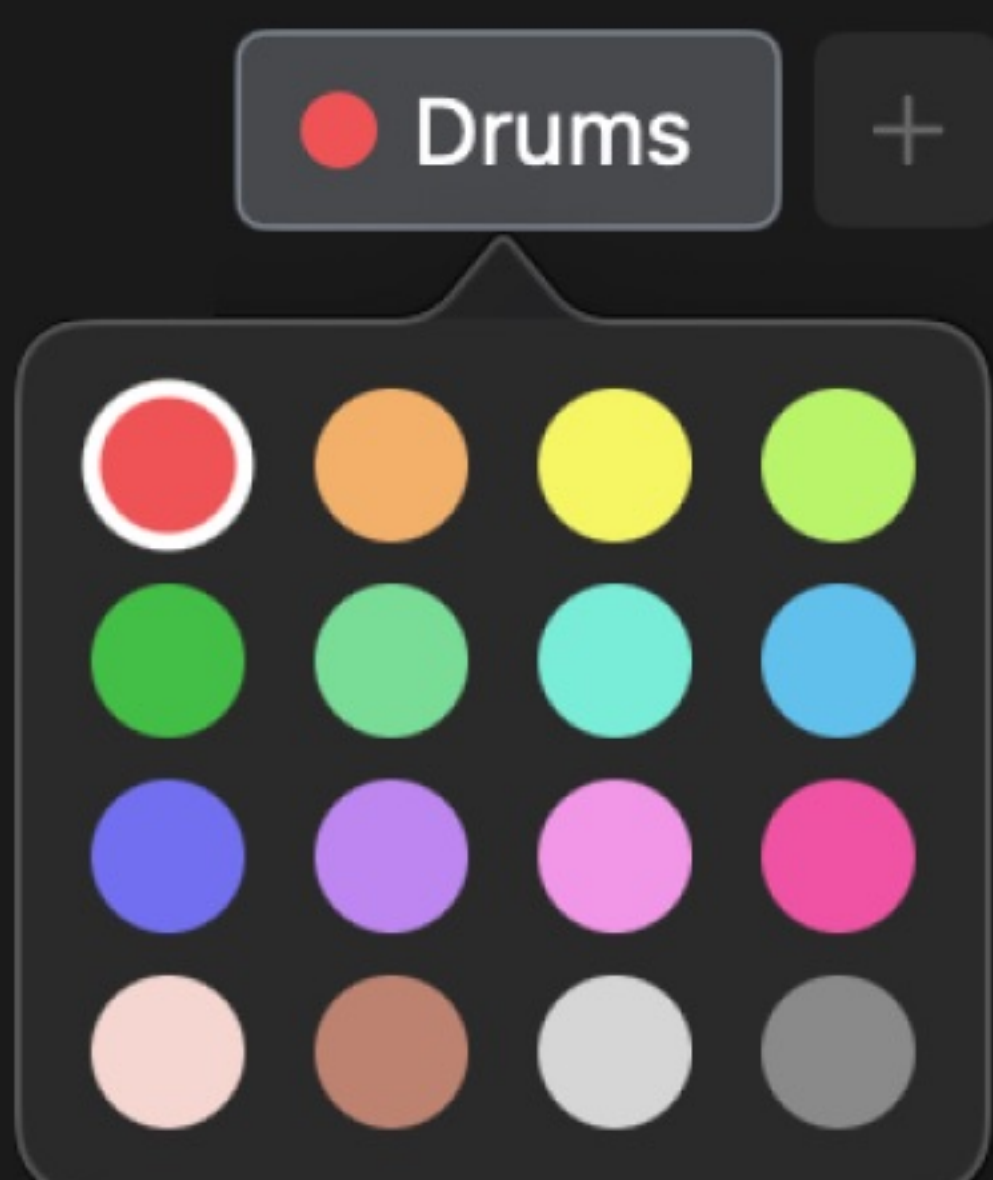
NRRW has one empty collection by default.



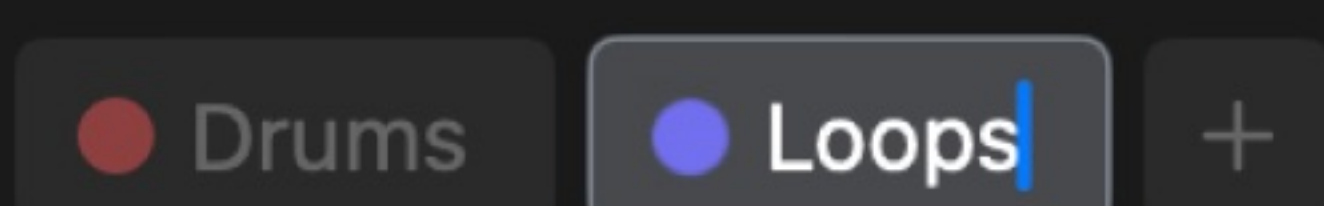
Rename a collection by **double-clicking** the name or by using `right click` + `edit name`.



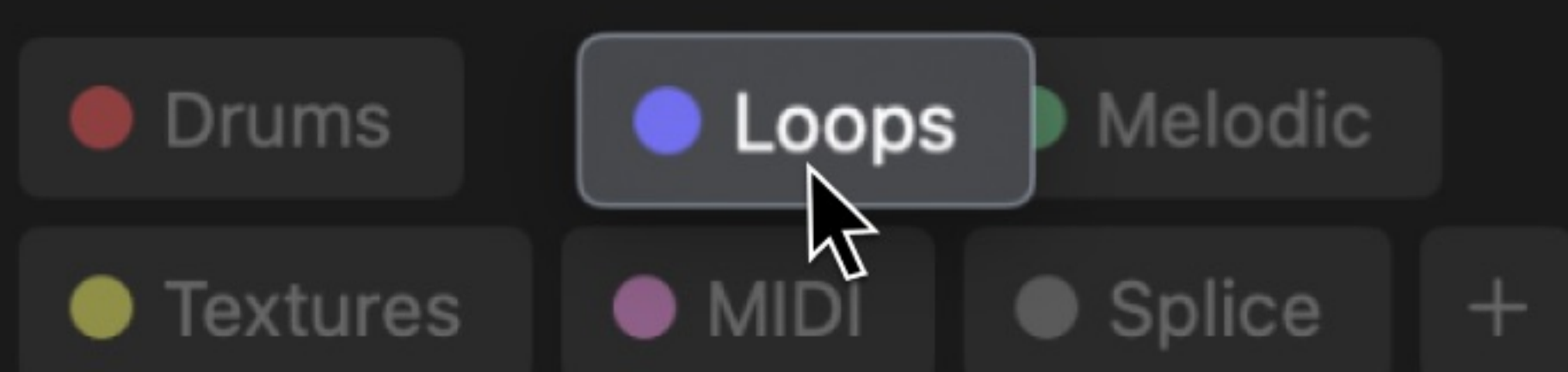
Adjust the color by **double-clicking** the dot or by using `right click` + `edit color`.



Create new collections by clicking on the `+` button.



Re-order collections by `clicking` + `dragging`.

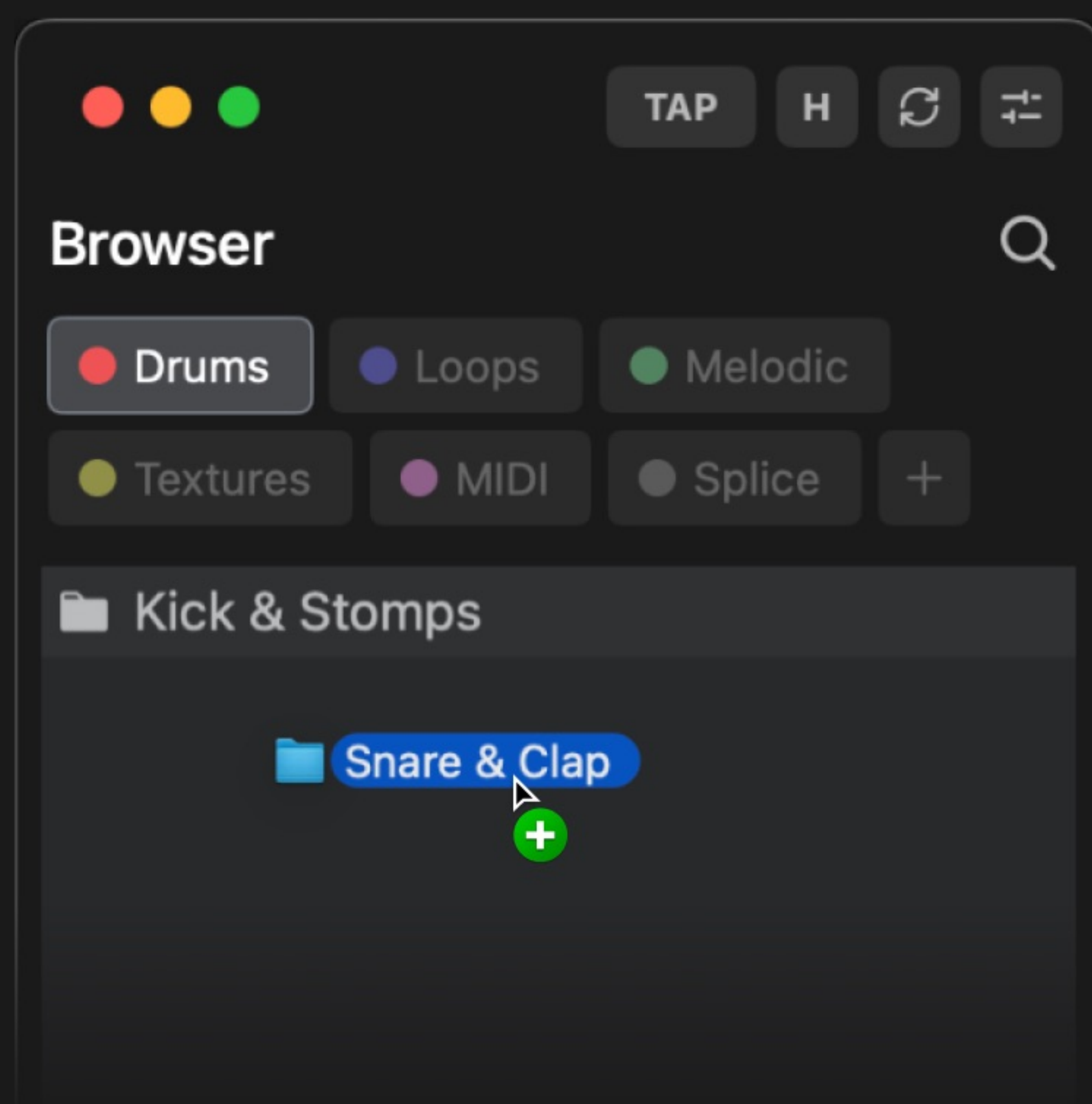


To delete a collection, use `right click` + `delete`. This will remove the entire collection from the browser, including its folders.

Note: Alterations made in NRRW stay within the application – the files on disk remain untouched.

Root Folders

Drag and drop folders from Finder anywhere onto the browser area to add them to the selected collection.

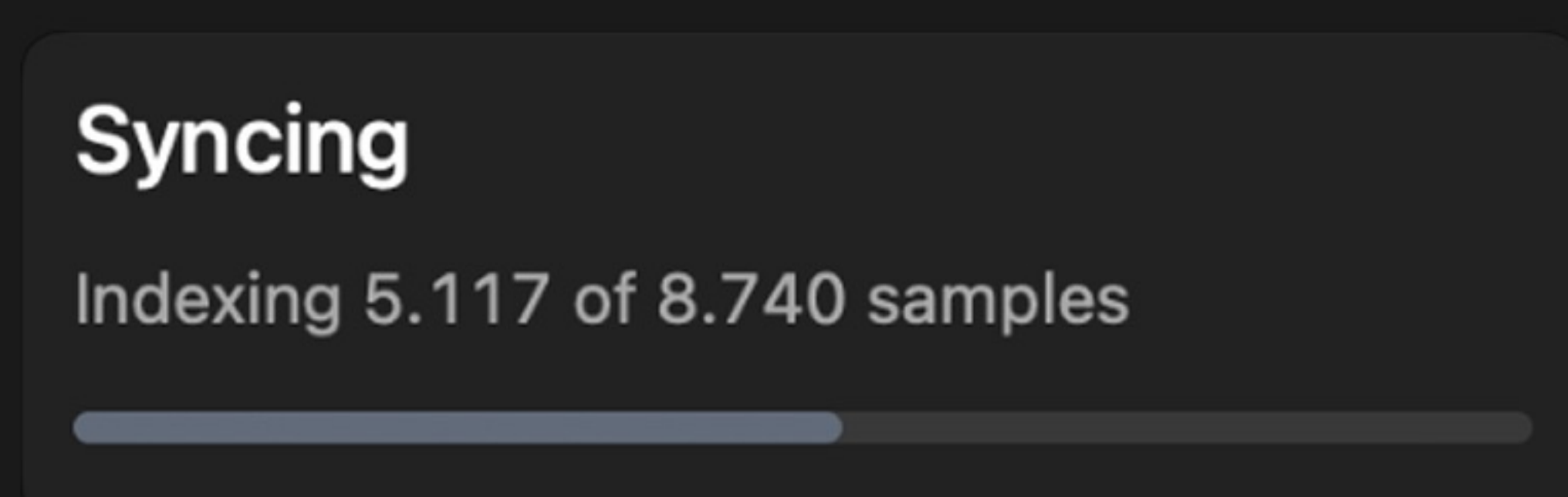


Alternatively, you can **select folders** using Finder's open panel menu. For existing collections, access this menu via **right click** + **add folder** in empty browser space.

Added **root folders** are recognizable by their filled folder icon  and can be re-ordered by **clicking** + **dragging**.

Indexing

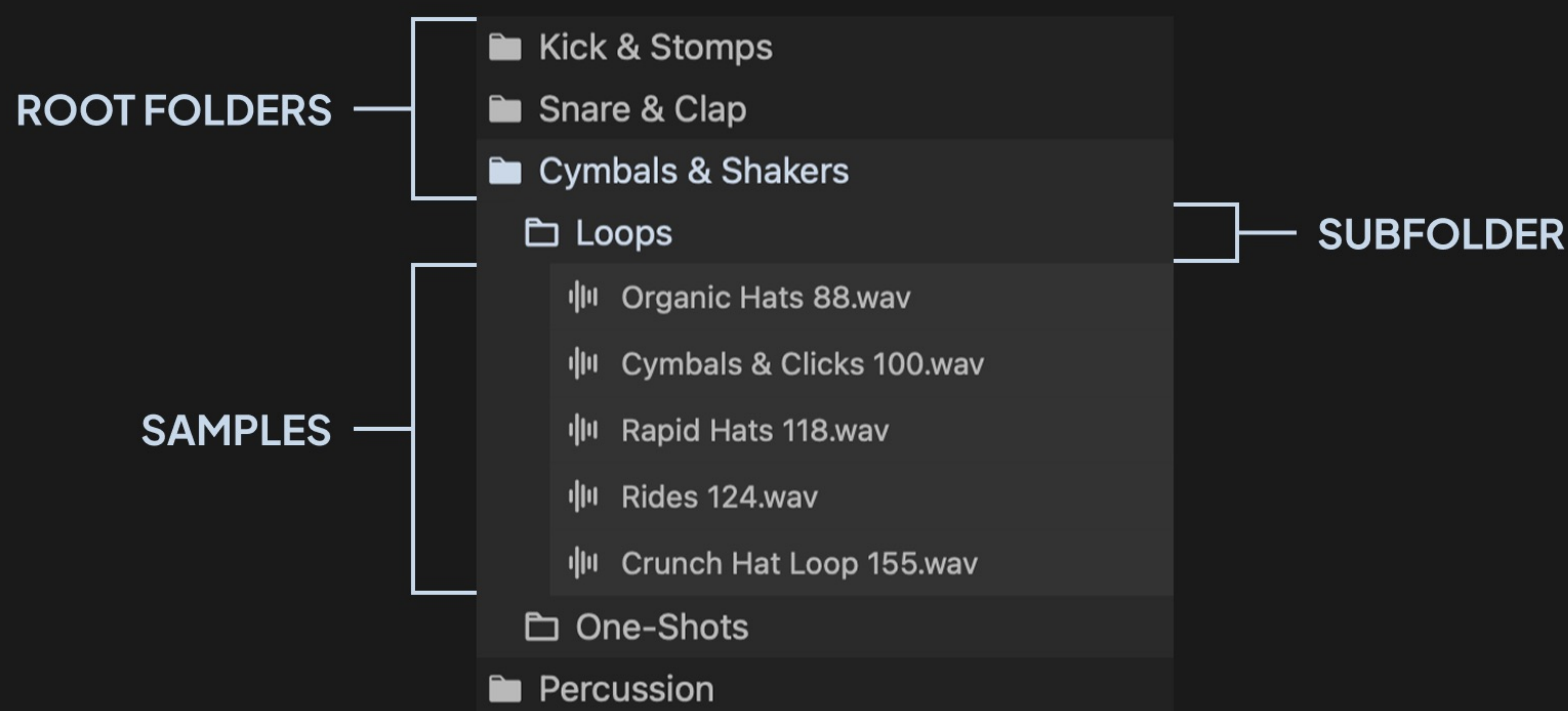
After a new root folder is added, NRRW automatically scans the entire folder hierarchy and stores the extracted BPM and key information found in metadata or folder/file names. This index is what makes sorting and browsing **fast** and **efficient**.



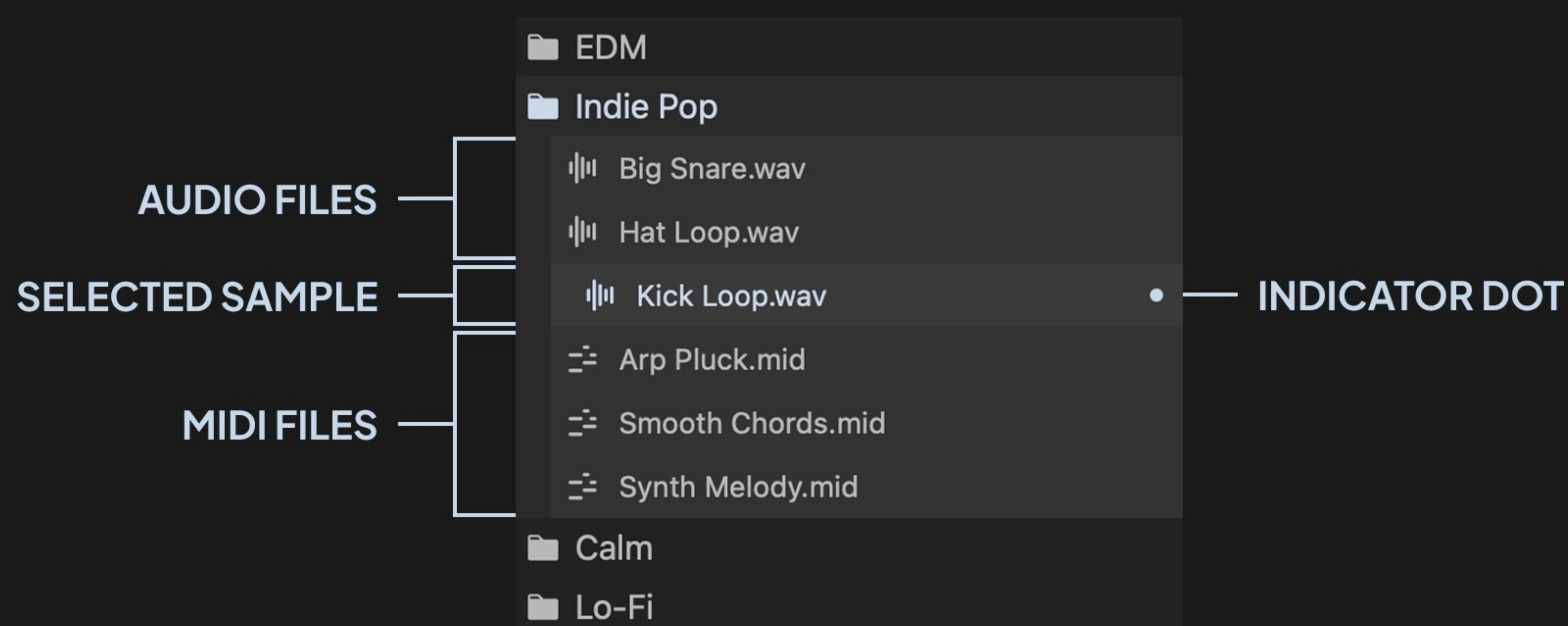
Note: Root folders and their contents are direct mirrors of what's on disk. Making changes in Finder will be reflected in NRRW, unless the path is lost.

Browser: Interface

Click a **folder** to open it, click it again to close it. Subfolders indent as you go deeper, so the hierarchy remains readable.



Click an **audio** or **MIDI file** to audition it. The row is highlighted and shows an indicator dot on the right, marking it as selected. A collapsed folder inherits the indicator dot when the selected sample sits somewhere inside it, so it's traceable even when the folder is closed.



Select one or multiple items with **⌘** + **click** or **⌘** + **click** to control them as a batch.

Tip: Use **⌘** + **click** on an opened folder to collapse it along with all of its subfolders.

Browser: Playback

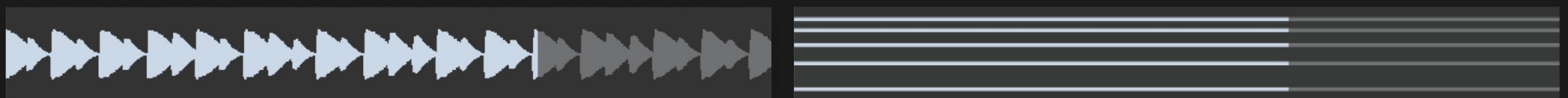
Auditioning samples is what the browser is built around. Every sample plays the instant you trigger it using any of the available methods.

<code>click</code>	Trigger the sample
<code>space</code>	Play from the start
<code>⌘</code> + <code>space</code>	Pause or resume playback
<code>↑</code> <code>↓</code>	Trigger the previous or next sample
<code>←</code> <code>→</code>	Scrub backwards or forwards

The `↑` `↓` arrow keys step through every visible sample, jumping folders when needed. The browser automatically scrolls along to keep the selected sample in view.

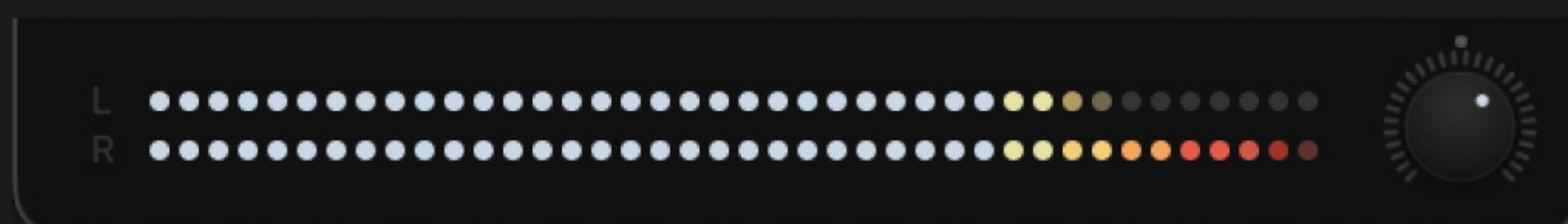
Preview

Selected samples are visualized in the preview section at the bottom of the view. Audio files are shown as a **waveform** and MIDI files as a **region**. Progress is visualized and you can **click anywhere** on the preview to jump to that point.



Output

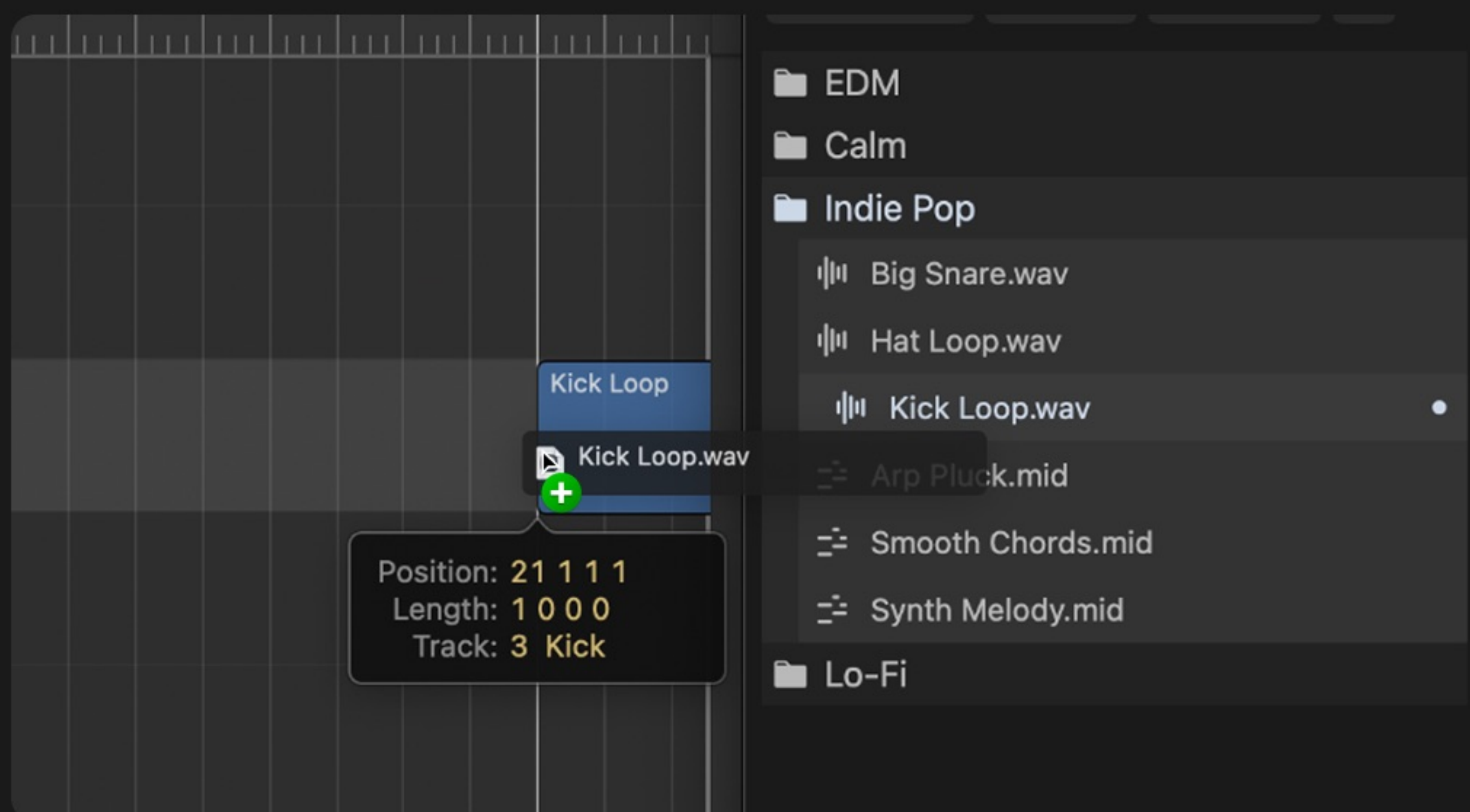
Underneath the preview is the output section, which contains a stereo level meter and a volume knob to the right.



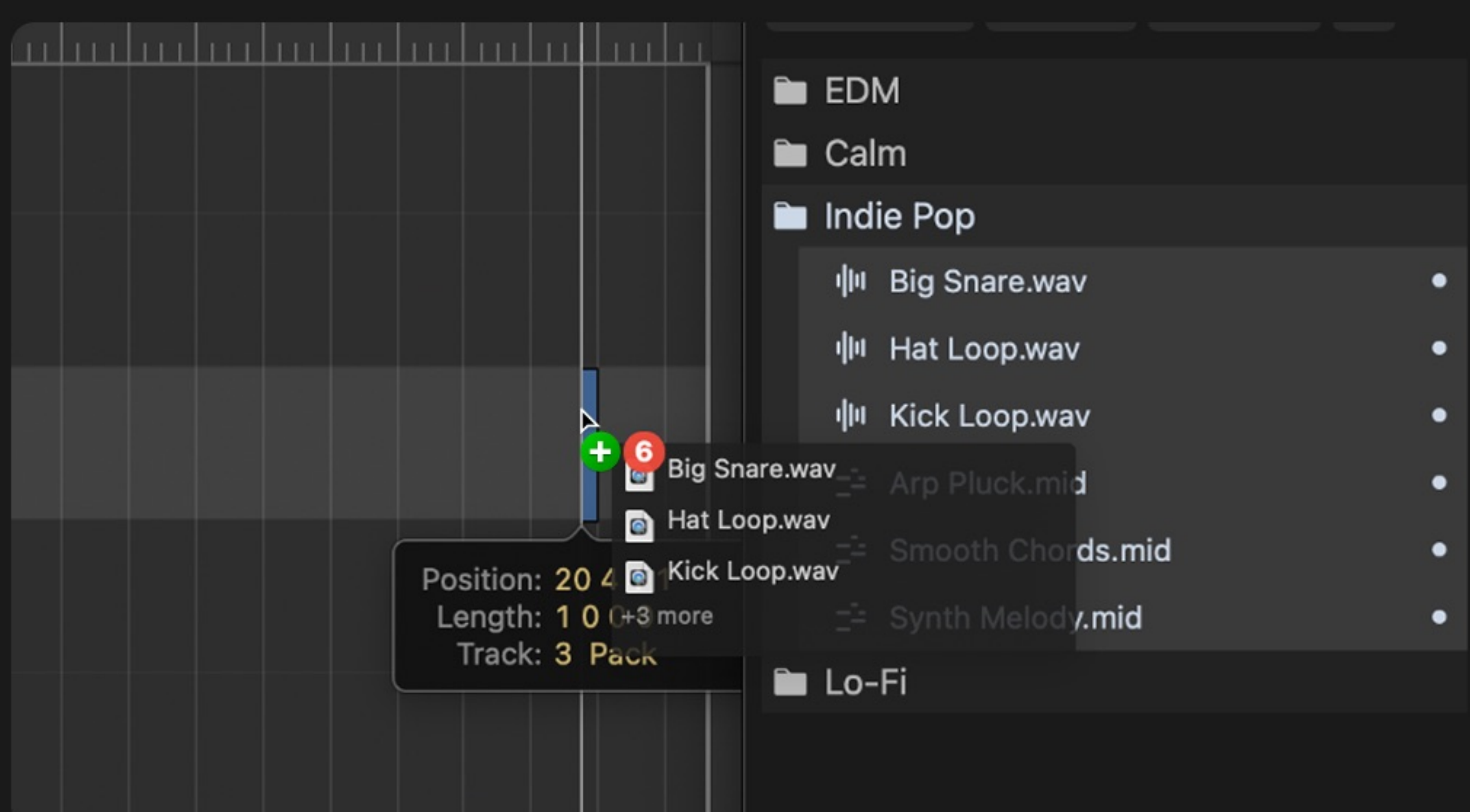
Note: Playback is paused when you switch to another app. This avoids longer samples interfering with playback elsewhere. If preferred, this can be turned off in the settings.

Drag & Drop

Found the sample you were looking for? **Drag** it straight into your session.



Select **multiple samples** with **⌘ + click** or **⌘ + click**, and they drag as a stack in the order you selected them.

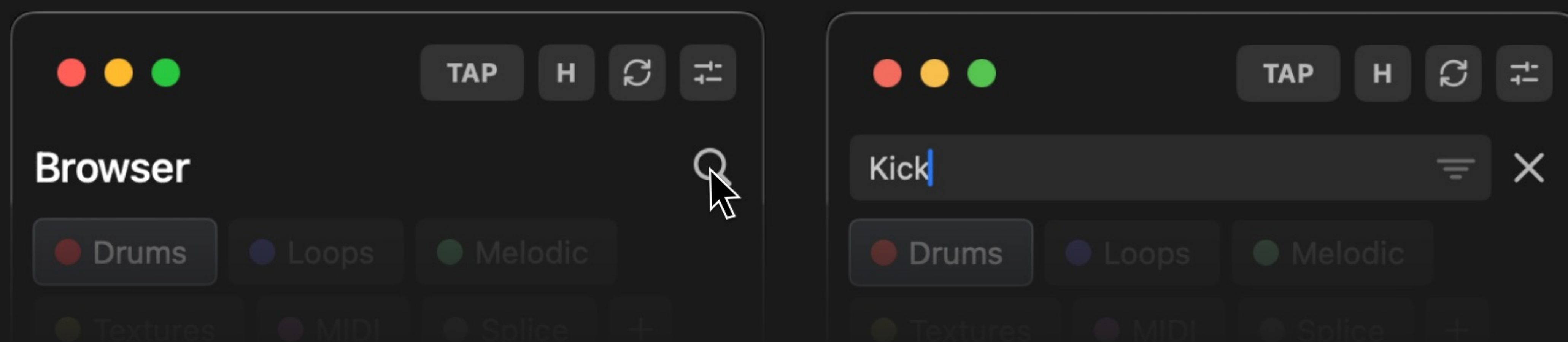


Drag and drop works from anywhere samples appear: the **browser area**, **search results**, a **hotkey slot** or the **preview section**.

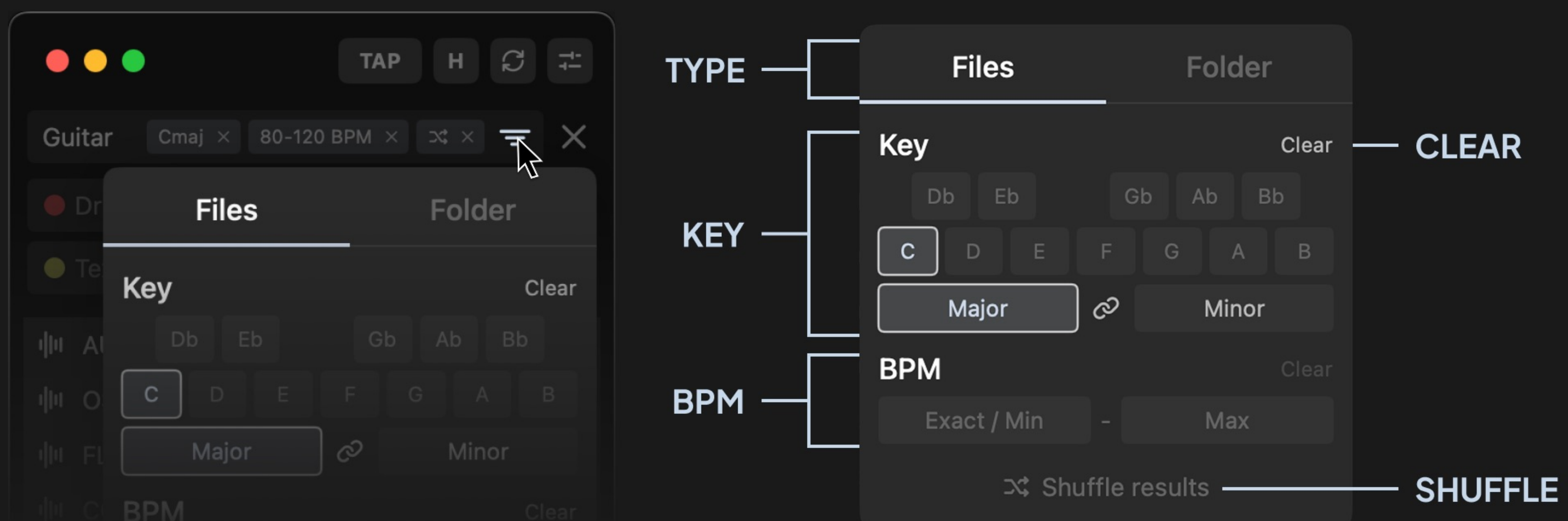
Note: Drag and drop never moves or copies anything on disk. It will only refer to the original file location.

Search & Filters

Finding samples in your collections is made easier with **search**. To toggle search, click the magnifying glass icon  or use keyboard shortcut  + .



Get more specific with **filters**. Click on the funnel icon  to open the filter menu.



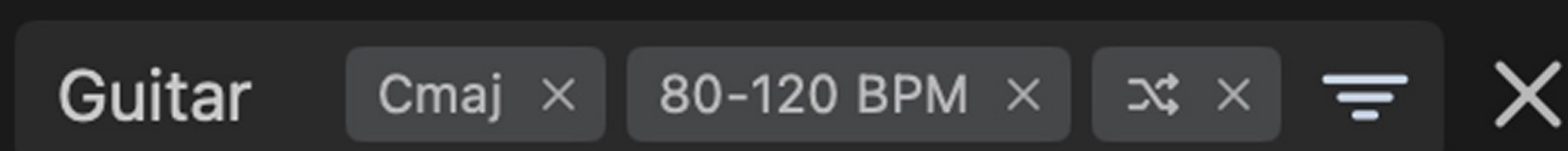
Type — Switch to folder mode to only target and display folders.

Key — Select a key and scale. Click the link icon  to include the relative major/minor.

BPM — Enter a value in the left field to filter by an exact BPM. Add a second value in the right field to filter by a BPM range.

Shuffle — Randomize the results. Use **right click** + **re-shuffle** to shuffle them again.

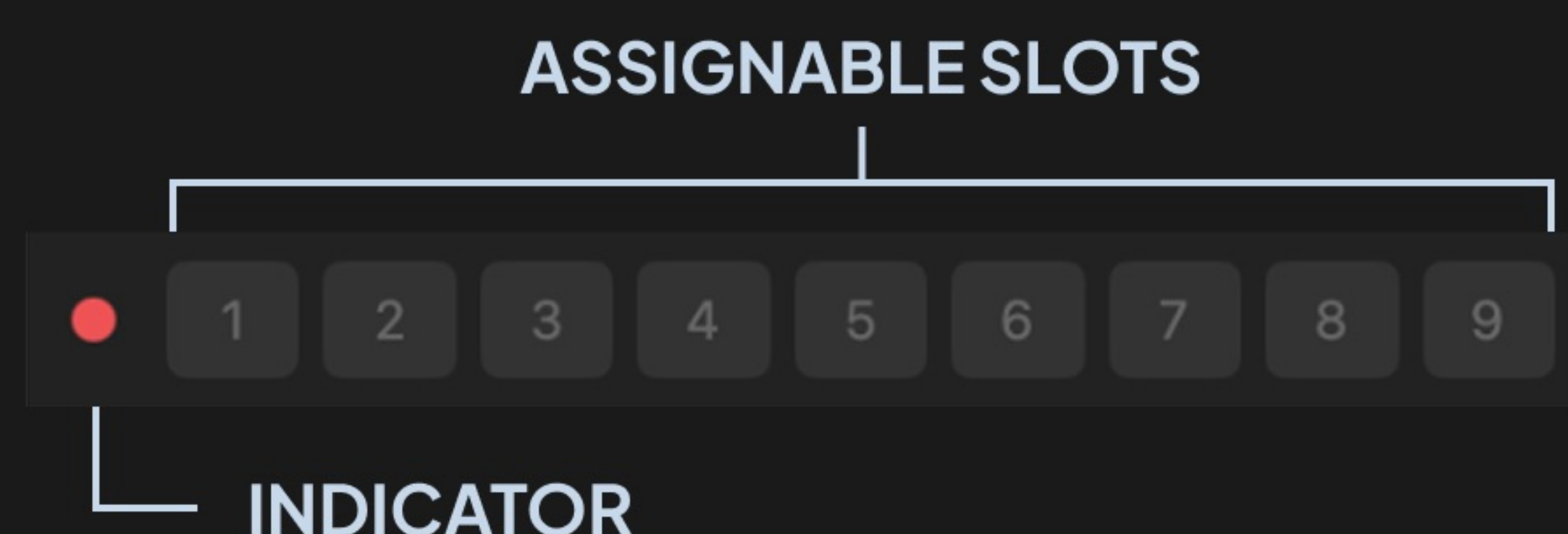
Active filters show up as **tags** inside the search bar. **Clear** any filter from the menu, or by removing its tag. To dismiss the entire search, click the close icon  on the right.



Tip: Switch between collections during a search to show results for any of them.

Hotkeys: Banks

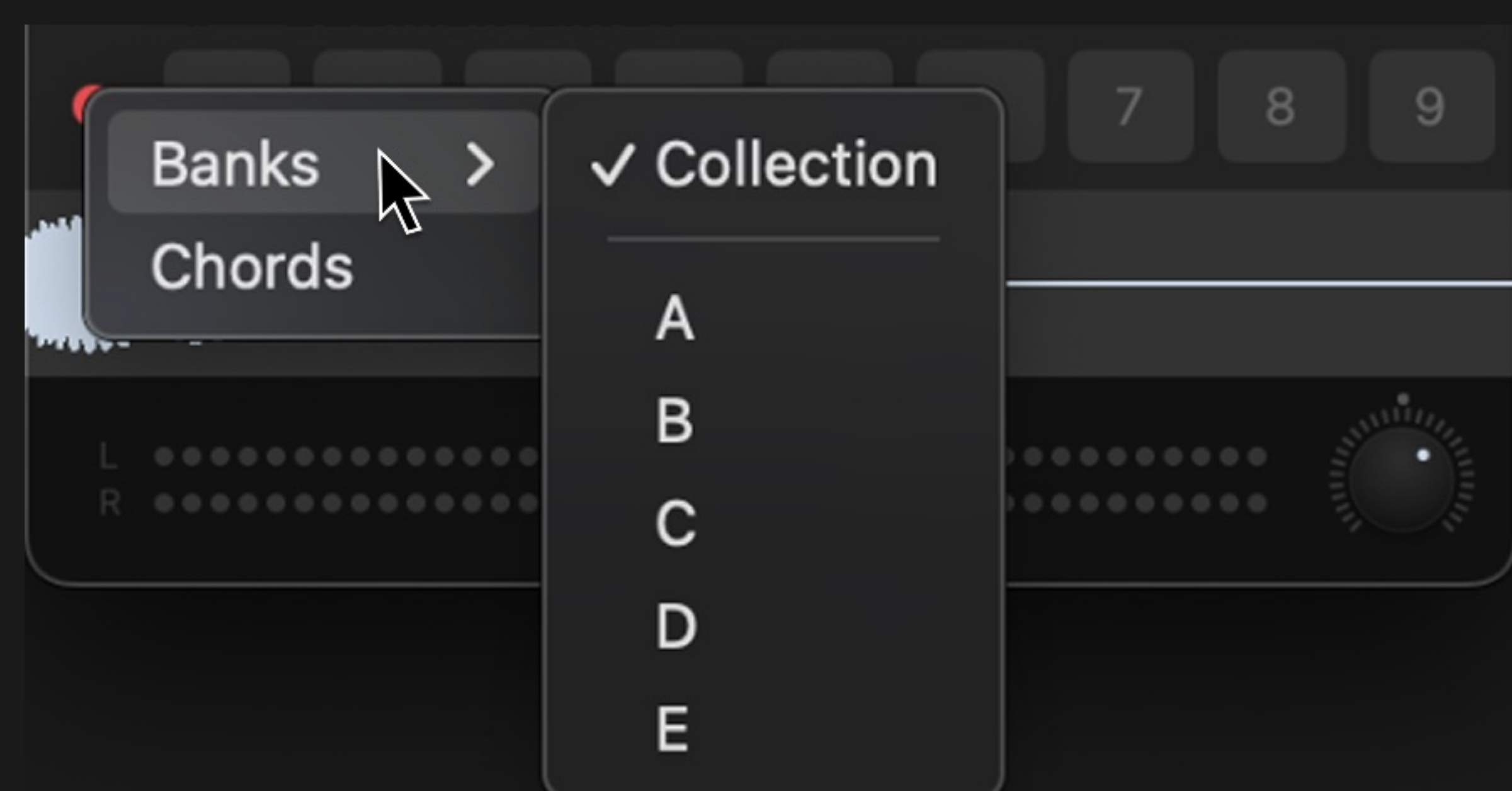
Above the preview is the **hotkey section**, showing the collection's **bank** by default. A bank holds nine **assignable slots**. Ideal for parking the samples you want on hand.



Assign samples with **right click** + **assign hotkey** or use keyboard shortcut **⌘** + **1-9** . You can also drag a sample from the browser onto any of the slots directly.

Trigger slots with a **click** or by using your keyboard number keys **1-9** . You can drag and drop assigned samples straight from the hotkey section into your DAW.

Click on the indicator at the left side to switch banks or change mode.



Collection — Each collection has its own linked bank. Switching collections will switch the bank accordingly. The indicator will inherit the color of the selected collection.

A - E — Five banks that can be accessed globally, even while switching collections.

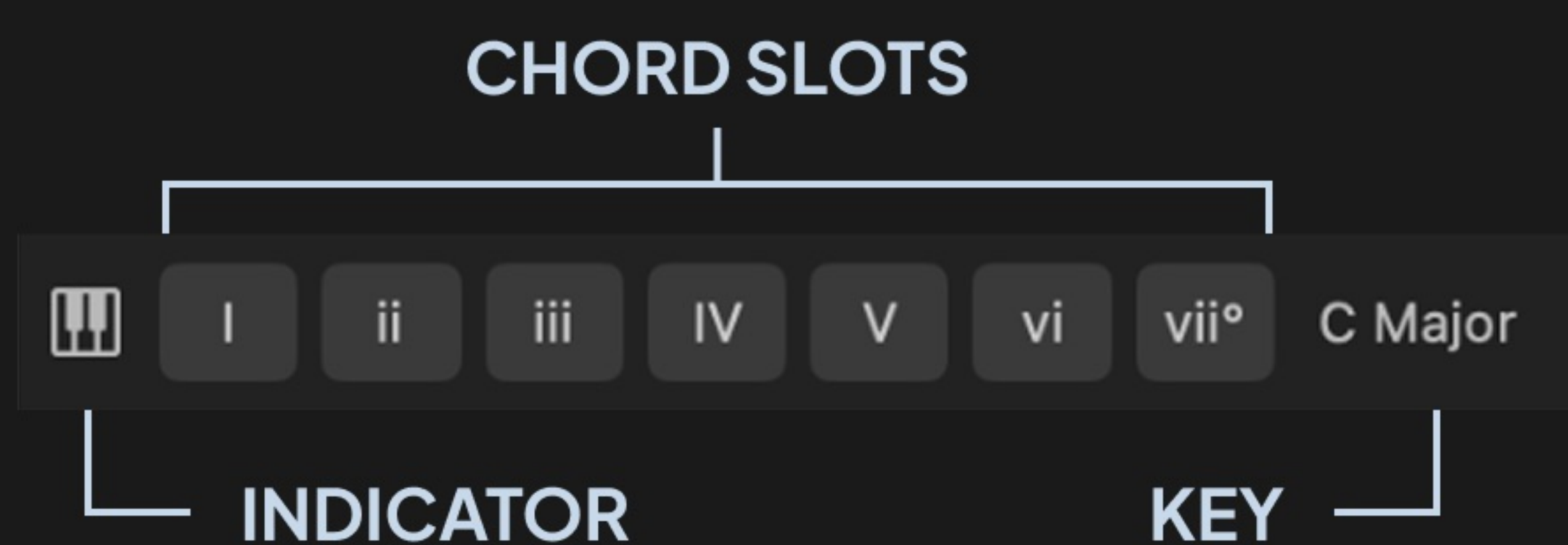
Chords — Chord mode, covered on page 12.

Reveal what sample is assigned to a slot by **hovering** over it. Use **right click** + **locate** to locate the sample inside the browser, or clear the slot with **right click** + **clear** .

Tip: To quickly clear an entire bank, use **right click** + **clear all** on the indicator.

Hotkeys: Chords

Click on the hotkey indicator and select `chords` to switch to chord mode. This will reveal seven slots containing **diatonic triads** of the selected key.

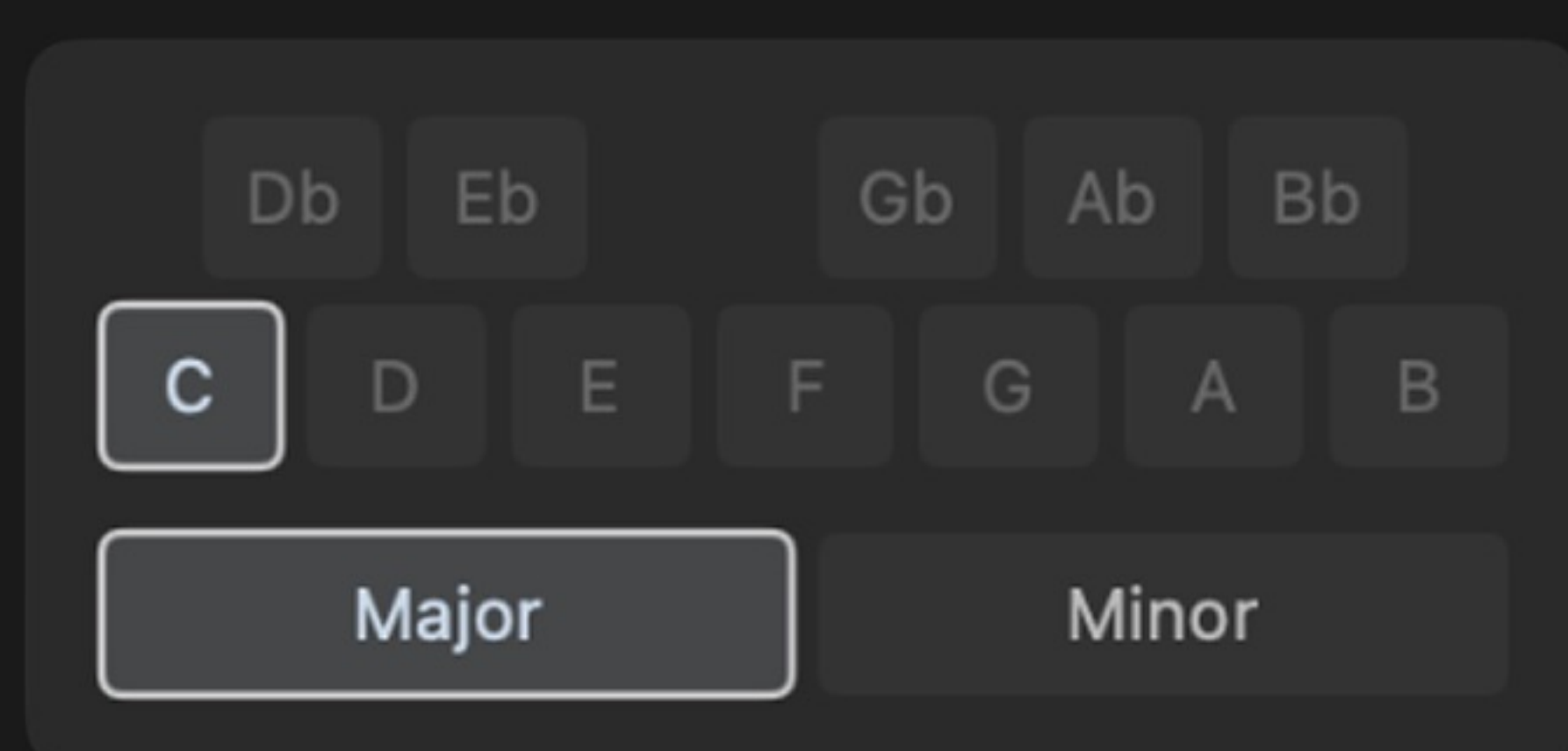


Chords are labeled by their scale degree using **roman numeral analysis**: uppercase for major, lowercase for minor, ° for diminished. The numerals keep their meaning in every key, which is what makes progressions easy to transpose and compare.

	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C major	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
E♭ major	E♭	Fm	Gm	A♭	B♭	Cm	D°

Trigger chord slots with a `click` or by using your keyboard number keys `1-7`. You can drag and drop chords straight from the hotkey section into your DAW as **MIDI**.

Click the key button on the right to change it. Pick a root and choose major or minor. The chords will update automatically. Click anywhere outside of the menu to dismiss it.



Chords play through the same **built-in sampler** as your MIDI files. To adjust the playback sound, go to `settings` + `MIDI playback sound`.

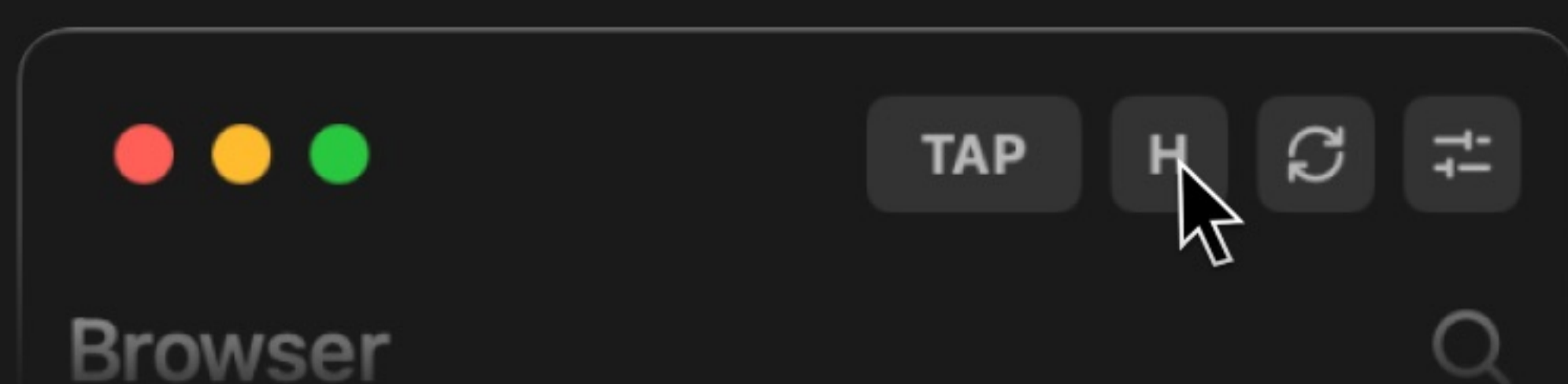
Tip: Hover a slot to see which chord the numeral maps to in the current key.

Note: Chord slots can't be assigned to. Assigning a sample while in chord mode will default the hotkey section back to the `collection` bank and assign it there.

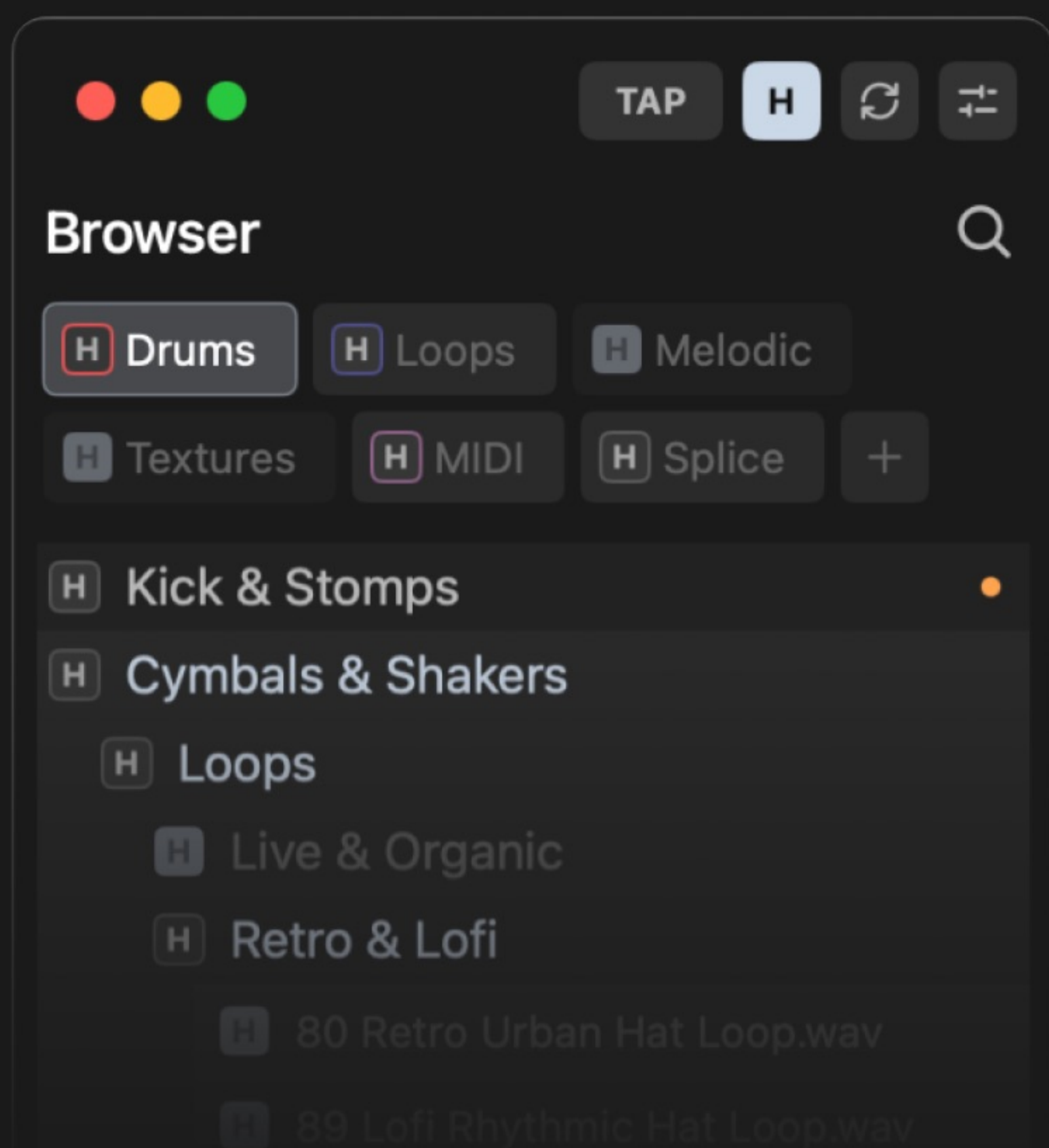
Hide Mode

Your library may have samples you no longer use. **Hide mode** takes them out of sight without taking them off your disk, avoiding the risk of losing files you might need later.

To toggle hide mode, click the H button  in the nav bar or use keyboard key .



Icons get swapped for hide buttons  and hidden items reappear dimmed. Select what you want to hide in the browser and confirm your selection by exiting hide mode.



If a collection contains a hidden item, the nav bar button shows an orange accent . Use the orange indicator dot  to trace down which folders contain hidden items.

Hold down the option key  while toggling hide mode to audit what's hidden. This will only show the hidden items and the folders leading to them.

Tip: Hide anything straight from the browser itself using `right click + hide`.

Skip Folders

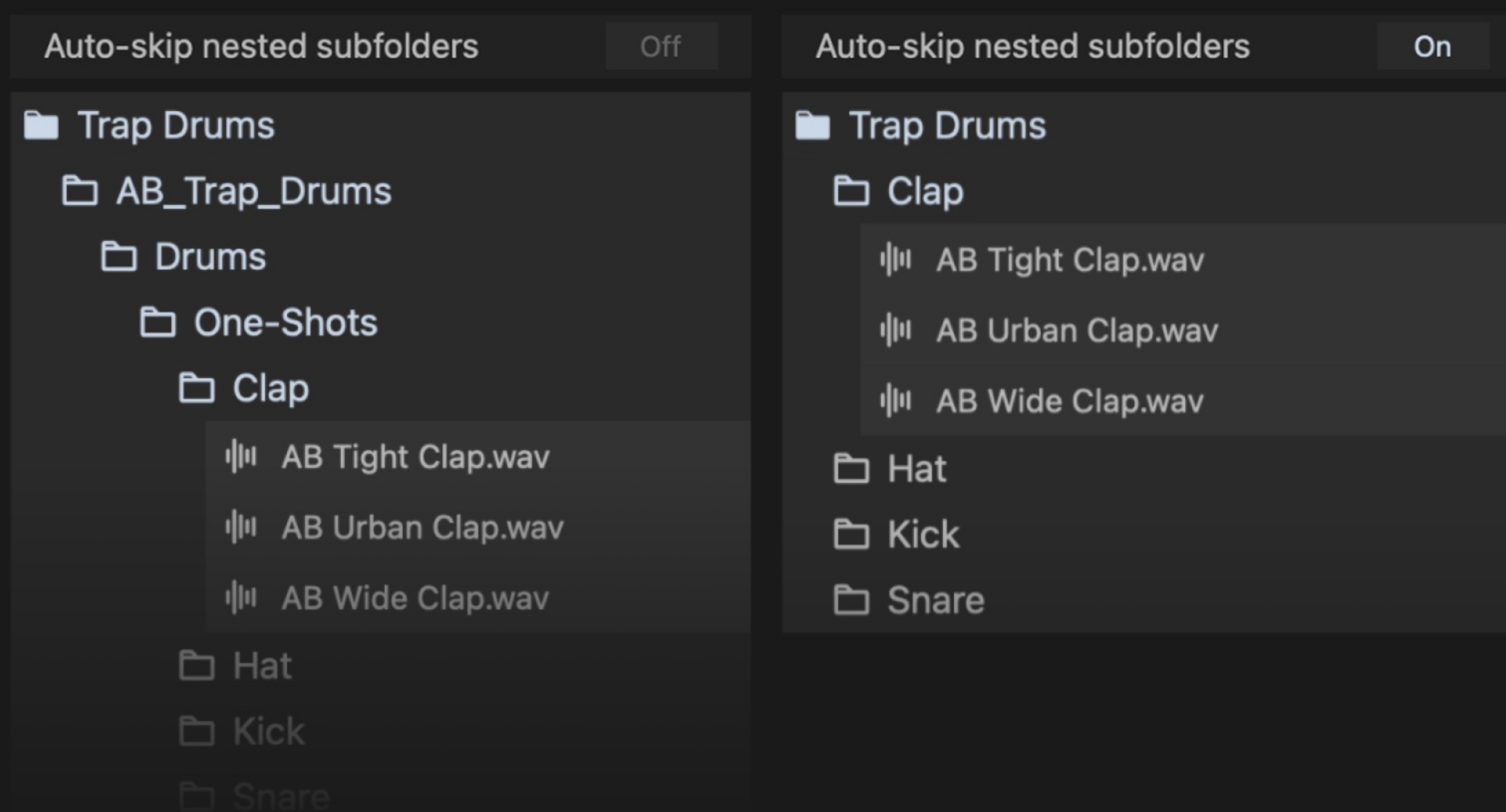
The route to samples isn't always as efficient as it can be. Some folders only exist to forward you to the next one, adding more clicks and visual clutter with no real benefit.

To avoid unnecessary indenting, folders can be **skipped**. This will only hide the folder, not what's inside it. The contents move up and take the folder's place in the hierarchy.

Enter hide mode and use `⌘ + click` on the hide button `H` to mark a folder as skipped. The row dims and the icon shows orange with an arrow `➔`, visualizing the skip state.

Automatic skipping

Turn on `auto-skip nested subfolders` in the app settings and NRRW will assist you by automatically skipping folders that hold nothing but a single subfolder.



Toggle hide mode to find (auto-)skipped folders and adjust them to your preference. User-made changes override the `auto-skip nested subfolders` setting.

Note: `auto-skip nested subfolders` is set to off by default. To turn it on, head to the app's browser settings.

BPM & Key

During indexing, NRRW detects key and tempo information. This is what makes sorting and filtering possible. You can add or edit these values yourself, right from the browser.

There are **four levels of detection** which help to create a complete data set.

User assignment	Information provided by the user.
Metadata	ACID, ID3 and iTunes tags.
File name	A custom name filtering system to detect written values.
Parent folder	Detected folder data is passed down to contents that lack any.

Detection follows the above order. A match higher up overrides those lower down for a more reliable result.

Assigning values

Use **right click** + **add key** or **add BPM** to assign custom values to samples or folders. With **right click** + **edit key** or **edit BPM** you can edit values.

Key
Arp Pluck.mid

DbEbGbAbBb

CDEFGAB

MajorMinor

CancelSave

BPM
Hat Loop.wav

110BPM

CancelSave

For quick access, values are also shown inside the **right click** menu itself.

Edit BPM · 100

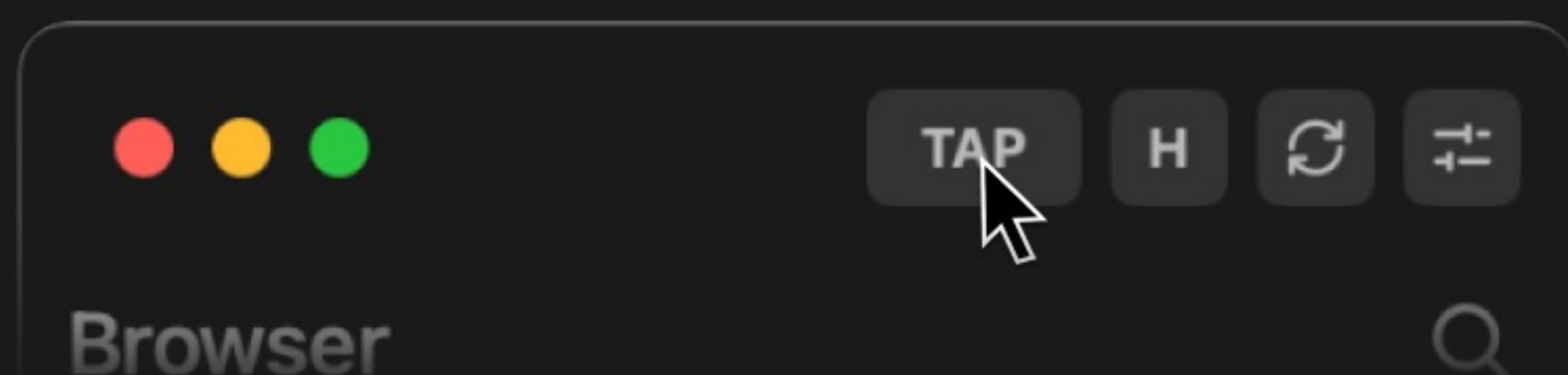
Edit Key · C Major

Tip: Multi-select works for key and BPM information too, making it easy to add or adjust values in bulk.

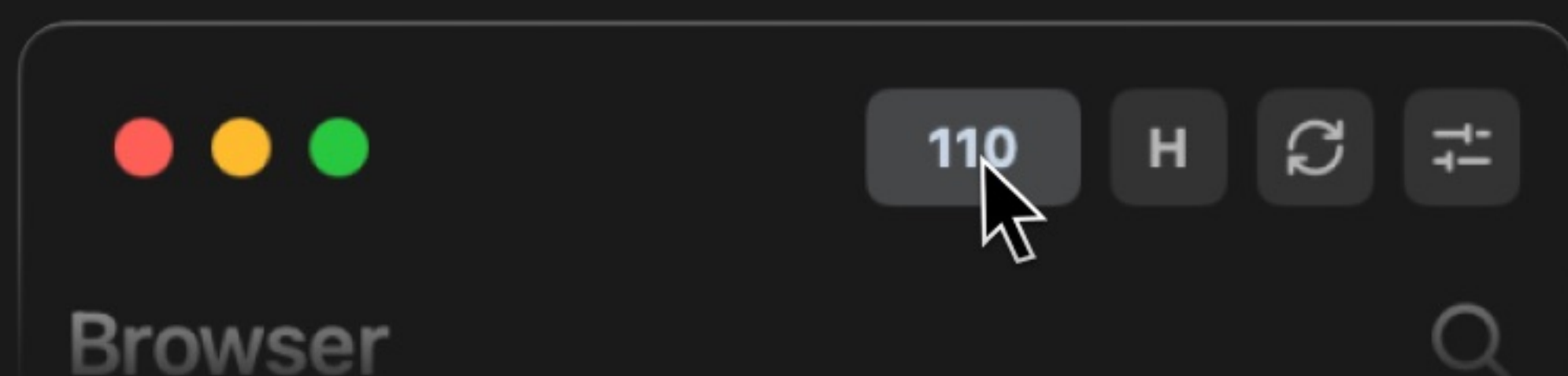
Tap Tempo

Not sure of a tempo? NRRW has a quick way to check, with **Tap Tempo**.

Start tapping by clicking the tap button **TAP** in the nav bar or use keyboard key **T**.



The button flashes on every tap and shows the running tempo, averaged across the current tap session. Outliers get excluded from calculation, so missing a beat or an accidental tap doesn't ruin the read-out.



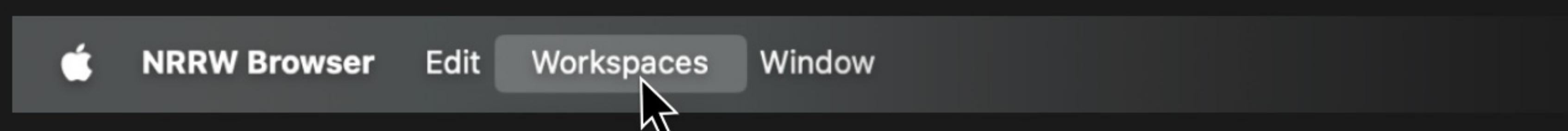
Stop tapping and the read-out lingers for a moment before the button clears itself.

Note: Tap tempo doesn't affect playback or sample tempo information. It's a separate tool that isn't linked to the browser.

Work- spaces

Whether you want to try something new or create completely custom setups to switch between, with **workspaces** you can store and load global configurations.

Workspaces can be managed inside the macOS **menu bar**.



Clicking on the menu bar item will show a drop-down menu.



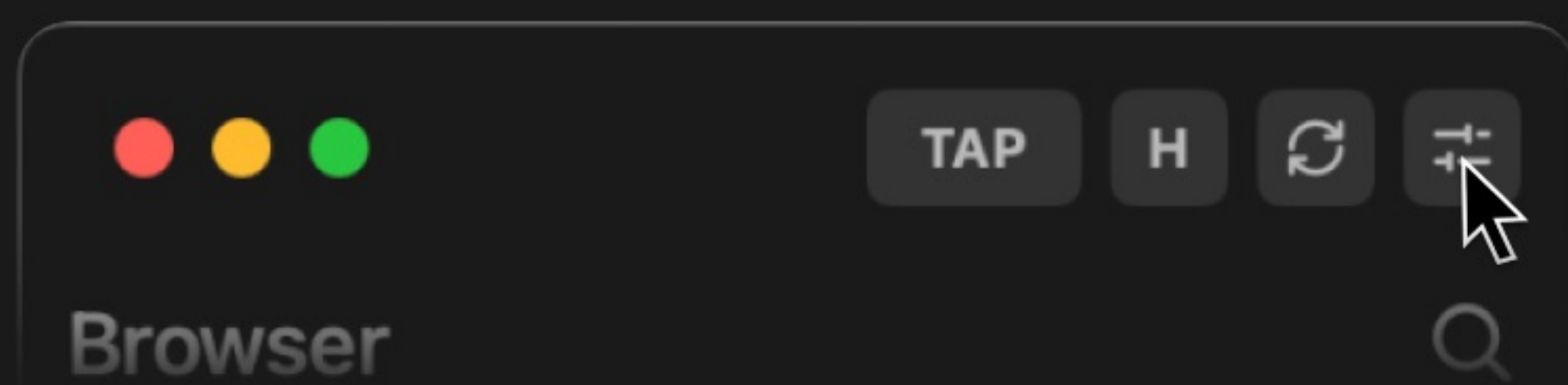
List	At the top of the drop-down menu is a list of your created workspaces, with the active one showing a checkmark.
New	Create a new workspace from scratch.
Duplicate	Duplicate the current workspace and adjust from there.
Rename...	Rename the current workspace.
Delete...	Delete the current workspace.
Import...	Import a .nrrw workspace file stored on disk.
Export...	Export a .nrrw workspace file to your disk.

Changing workspaces shows a loading screen while the settings and index are loaded.

Note: An exported workspace carries folder paths and permissions belonging to the device it was made on. On another machine, the root folders will show as missing until you point NRRW at them again. All other settings carry over directly.

App Settings

Access the app settings by clicking on the settings button  in the nav bar.



Theme color	Pick what color is used for the app's accents.
Hide file extensions	Hide extensions from file names (<code>.wav</code> , <code>.mid</code> , etc.)
Auto-skip nested subfolders	Avoid unnecessary indenting. See page 14.
Force MIDI files to the bottom	Keep audio and MIDI separated, forcing MIDI files to the bottom of the folder.
Sort BPM and force to the top	Sort samples by their detected or assigned BPM (see page 15) and place them at the top of the folder.
Sort roman numeral notation	Chords may be written with roman numeral analysis (see page 12). Let NRRW sort them automatically.
Accidentals preference	How black keys are written. Sharp <code>F#</code> or flat <code>Gb</code> . Pick <code>auto</code> for standard notation fitting the key.
MIDI playback sound	Pick the built-in sampler sound.
MIDI octave shift	Transpose MIDI playback up or down two octaves.
MIDI catch mode	Sustained notes play when you scrub into them.
Auto-pause when unfocused	Automatically stop playback when you leave the app.
Detect disconnected drives	Get notified if an external drive can't be located.
Detect missing root folders	Get notified if a root folder can't be located.
Detect path updates	Get notified if a folder was followed to a new location.

Note: The `default settings` button at the bottom of the panel restores app settings only, `factory reset` will fully reset the app, user data included.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Get the most out of the app and make browsing even easier with the available keyboard shortcuts.

space	Play from the start
⌘ + space	Pause or resume playback
↑ ↓	Trigger the previous or next sample
← →	Scrub backwards or forwards
1-9	Trigger hotkeys
⌘ + 1-9	Assign to hotkey
T	Tap tempo
H	Hide mode
⌘ + H	Audit hidden items
⌘ + S	Toggle search

Note: To avoid interference, shortcuts are bypassed while you are inside settings, typing in the search field, or when a pop-up is open.

Trouble-shooting

A folder has turned red.

The folder can't be reached. Check if the folder is still on your disk. Use `attempt re-sync` if the folder is accessible on your disk, or use `locate in finder` to point NRRW to it manually.

New samples didn't show up.

By default the app should automatically re-sync each time it is brought into focus. However, if something is still missing, you can quickly force a re-sync manually with the sync button  in the nav bar.

The auto-detected key or BPM is incorrect.

Samples may carry incorrect metadata, or NRRW detected information from the file or folder name structure that wasn't intended to be read as key or BPM. You can override or clear the data using `right click` + `edit key` or `edit BPM`.

Playback doesn't feel instant.

NRRW processes and sends audio to your output device of choice within a few milliseconds. Your output device itself could cause playback delay, which is outside of the app's control.

I can't add individual samples to a collection.

The browser is designed to mirror folders on your disk. Individual file management is purposefully left out of NRRW for ease of use and efficiency reasons. However, it is possible to sync a root folder containing individual samples and **skip** the folder itself (see page 14). The individual samples will then live at the top of the hierarchy.

Note: Still facing issues? Write to support@nrrwaudio.com and we'll have a look!