LiveToolbox

Installation & Setup Guide — Ableton Live 12 for macOS

Version 0.2.1 · November 2026 · Remote Script + LiveKeys daemon + Ableton Extension

1 What LiveToolbox is

LiveToolbox brings DAW-standard key commands to Ableton Live 12 — Studio One / Logic-style editing, transport, and clip actions driven by global hotkeys, MIDI, or a localhost web API. A single installer sets up three pieces that work together:

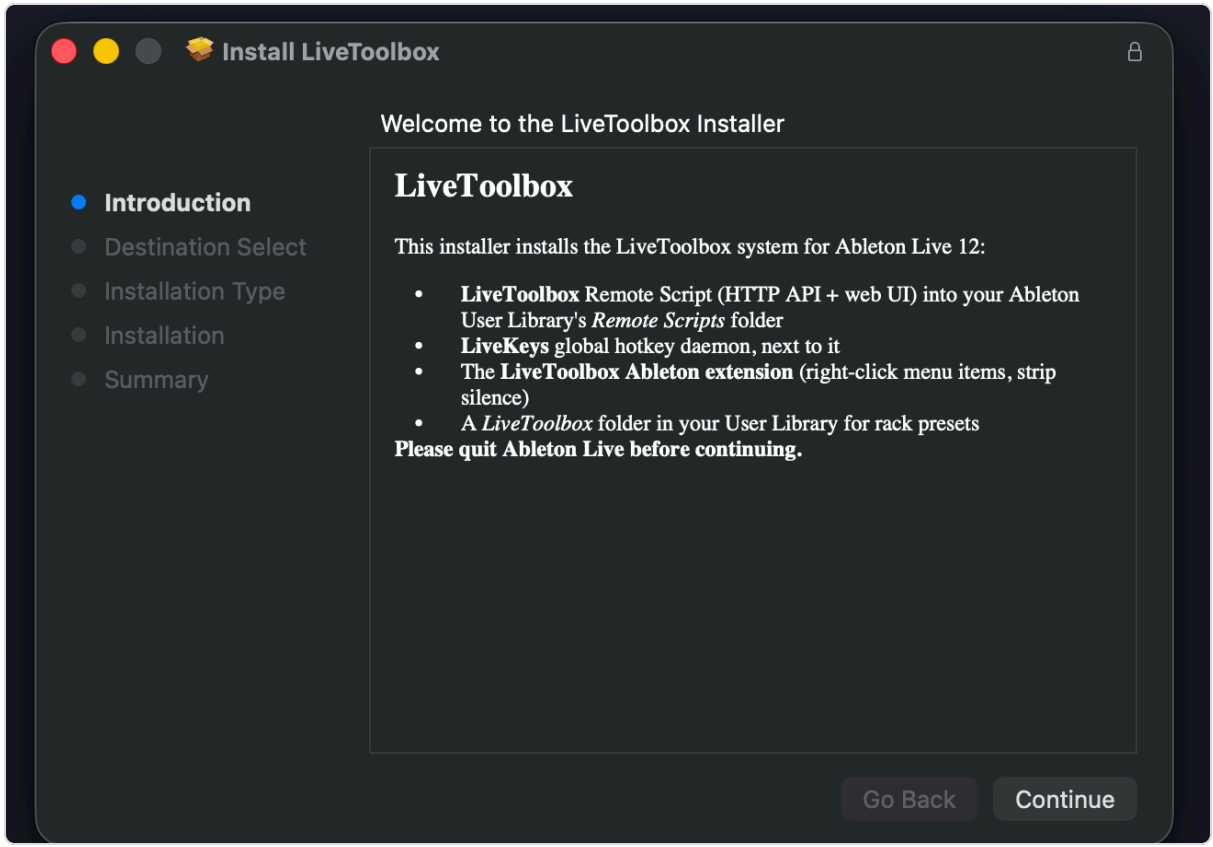
Component	What it does	Where it lives
LiveToolbox Remote Script	Runs inside Live. Exposes every action over a localhost HTTP API (`127.0.0.1:8117`) with a web control panel at `/ui` .	`<User Library>/Remote Scripts/LiveToolbox`
LiveKeys hotkey daemon	Global hotkey listener (pynput). Auto-started by the Remote Script; key bindings live in `keymap.json` and hot-reload.	`<User Library>/Remote Scripts/LiveKeys`
LiveToolbox Ableton extension	Adds right-click menu items and modal dialogs to Live (e.g. *Strip Silence*) via the Ableton Extensions SDK.	`~/Library/Application Support/Ableton/Extensions/`
Rack presets	Empty `LiveToolbox` folder for your `.adg` racks (used by the “Create Track with Preset” actions).	`<User Library>/LiveToolbox`

2 Requirements

- **macOS** on Apple Silicon or Intel (the installer is a universal pkg).
- **Ableton Live 12** — any edition. The Remote Script and web UI work on all Live 12 builds.
- **A Live 12 build with Extensions support** (e.g. the Live 12.4.25 beta) if you want the right-click extension features. Everything else works without it.
- An **administrator password** — the installer writes to `/Library/Application Support`.
- For global hotkeys only: any `python3` on the system (the installer builds a small venv; no manual Python setup needed).

3 Install with the .pkg (recommended)

1. **Quit Ableton Live** if it is running.
2. Double-click `LiveToolbox-0.2.1.pkg`. macOS opens the standard installer — the welcome screen lists what will be installed.



The pkg welcome screen. Click Continue, agree to the install location, and enter your password.

3. Click **Continue** → **Install** and enter your admin password. The installer copies the files and runs a per-user setup automatically.
4. When it finishes, the conclusion screen lists the remaining manual steps (covered below). Installation details are logged to `~/Library/Logs/LiveToolbox-install.log`.

The installer places files here:

- `<User Library>/Remote Scripts/LiveToolbox/` and `…/LiveKeys/` — the Remote Script and hotkey daemon. Your `config.json`, `options.txt` and `keymap.json` are preserved on reinstall.

- `~/Library/Application Support/Ableton/Extensions/livetoolbox.livetoolbox/` — the Ableton extension (only if your Live build supports Extensions).
- `<User Library>/LiveToolbox/` — folder for your rack presets.

> **Re-running the installer is safe.** It updates the code in place while keeping your settings, key bindings, rack presets, and the daemon's Python environment.

4 Select LiveToolbox in Live's MIDI settings

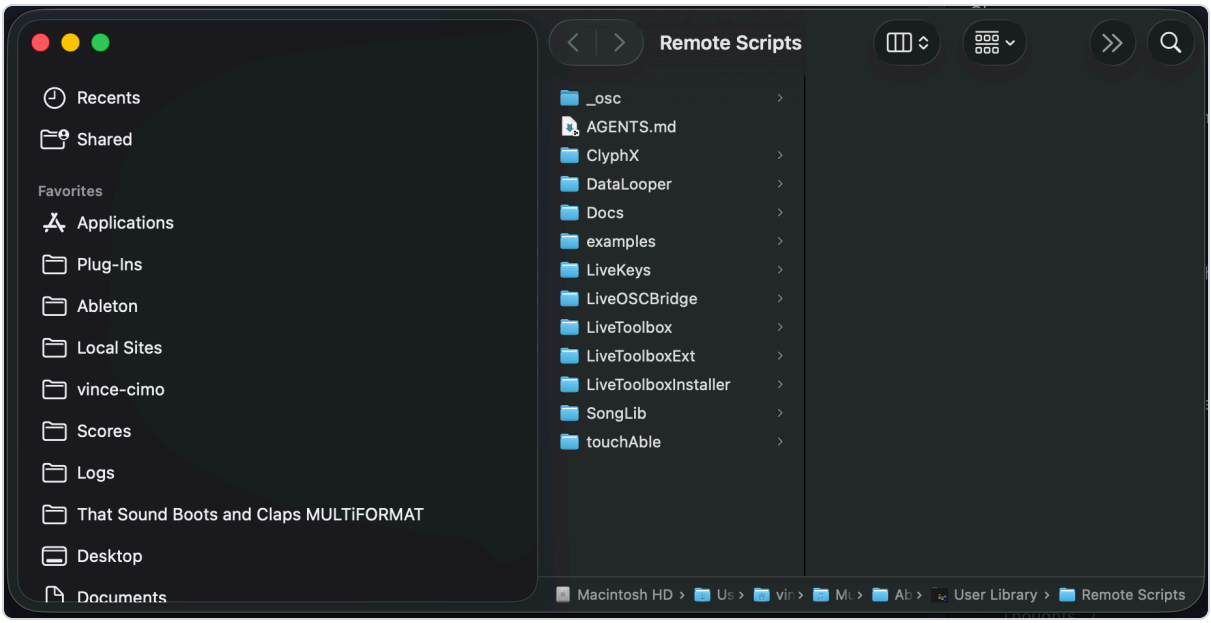
1. Launch Ableton Live, then open **Settings** (`⌘ ,`).
2. Open the **Tempo & MIDI** tab (called **Link/Tempo/MIDI** in earlier Live 12 versions).
3. In a free **Control Surface** slot, choose **LiveToolbox**. Optionally set its **Input** to any MIDI port (an IAC bus works) — input is only needed for MIDI-triggered actions; the HTTP API and hotkeys work regardless.



Settings → Tempo & MIDI → Control Surface → LiveToolbox.

Within a few seconds the status bar at the bottom of Live shows **"LiveToolbox ready — http://127.0.0.1:8117/ui"**. That URL is the web control panel — open it in any browser.

Don’t see LiveToolbox in the list? The folder is probably in the wrong place. It must be inside your *User Library’s* Remote Scripts folder — typically `~/Music/Ableton/User Library/Remote Scripts/` — not inside the Live app bundle or Documents. The correct location looks like this:



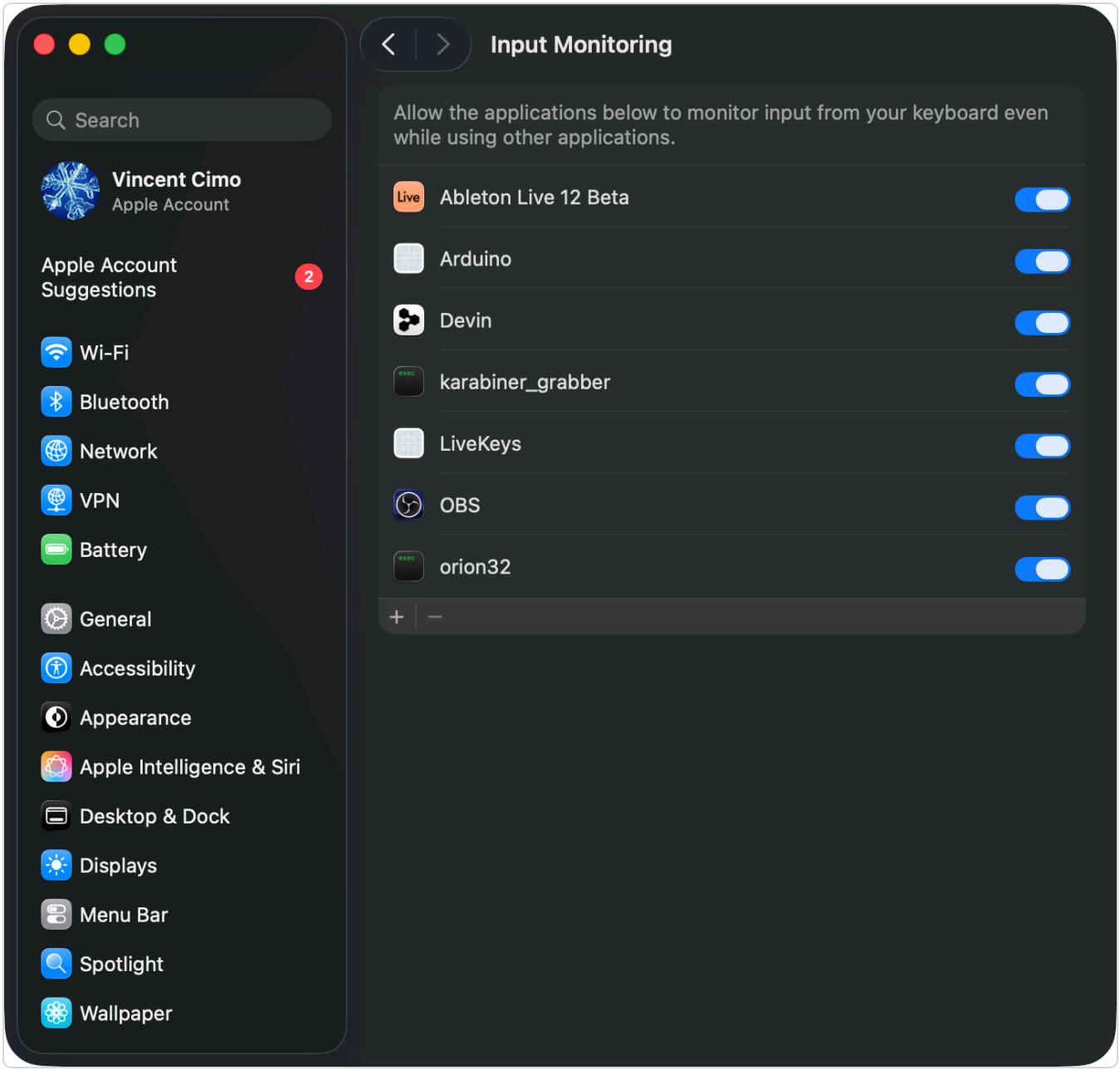
`~/Music/Ableton/User Library/Remote Scripts/` with the LiveToolbox and LiveKeys folders in place.

5 Enable global hotkeys (Input Monitoring)

LiveKeys, the daemon that turns key combos like `^ ⌥ ←` into Live actions, is started automatically by the Remote Script. Because it listens for keys system-wide, macOS requires an **Input Monitoring** grant — and since the daemon is spawned by Live itself, the grant goes to **Ableton Live**.

1. Open **System Settings** → **Privacy & Security** → **Input Monitoring** and enable the toggle next to **Ableton Live** (it usually appears on its own the first time the daemon runs; add the Live app with **+** if it isn’t listed).

2. Back in Live, reload the control surface — set the Control Surface slot to **None** then back to **LiveToolbox** — or just restart Live.



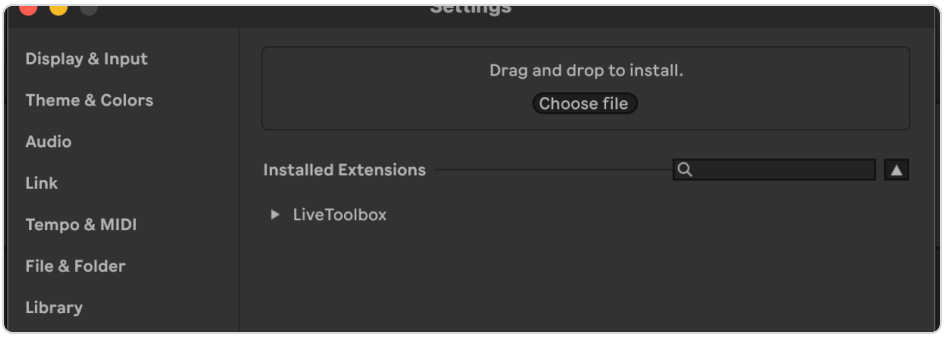
Privacy & Security → Input Monitoring — Ableton Live enabled.

> **Hotkeys do nothing?** This permission is the usual cause. If it is off, the daemon exits at startup and `<Remote Scripts>/LiveKeys/daemon.log` shows “This process is not trusted!”. Enable it **for Ableton Live**, then restart Live. If macOS ever asks about **Accessibility** for LiveKeys, grant that too — most installs never need it.

To customize which keys do what, edit `<Remote Scripts>/LiveKeys/keymap.json` — it hot-reloads, no restart needed. You can also set bindings from the Actions tab of the web UI.

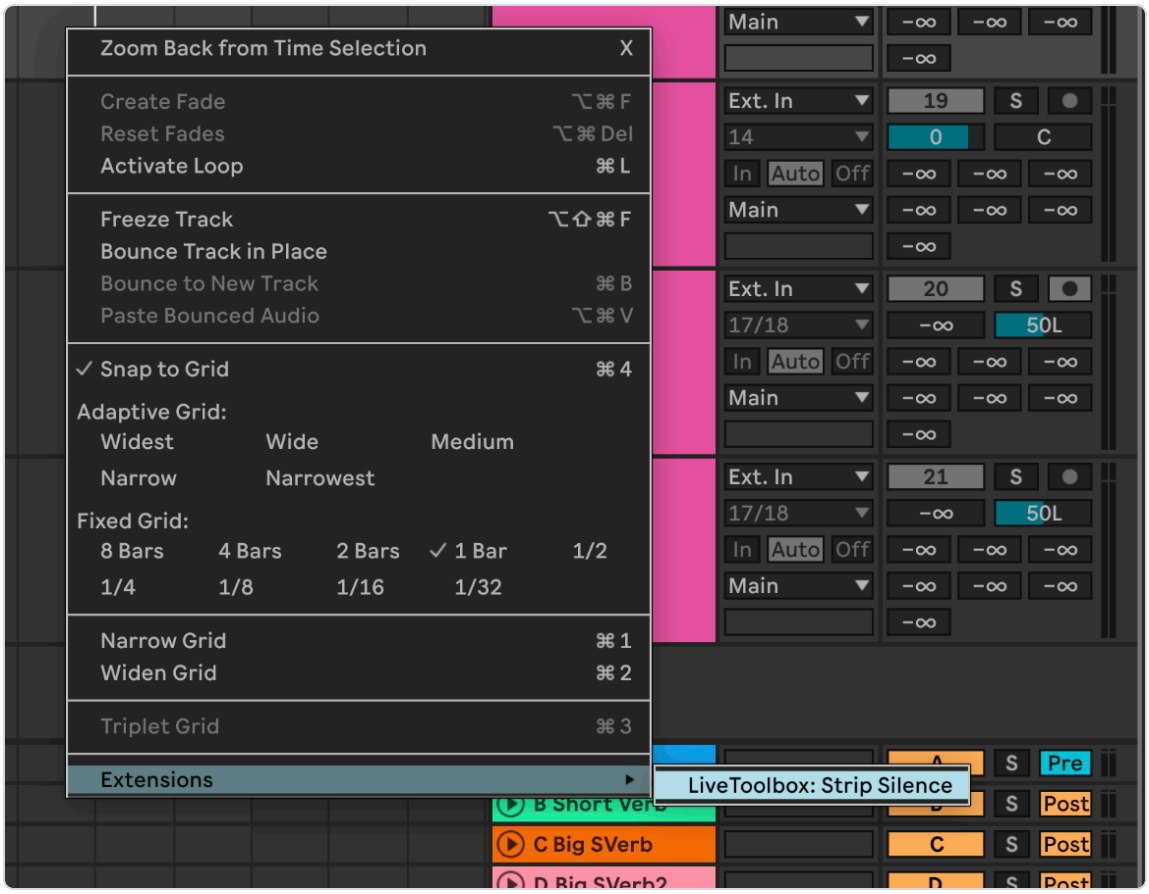
6 The Ableton extension

If your Live build supports Extensions, the installer already placed the extension. After restarting Live, verify it under **Settings** → **Extensions** — **LiveToolbox** should appear under *Installed Extensions*.



Settings → Extensions → Installed Extensions → LiveToolbox.

The extension adds an **Extensions** ▸ submenu to right-click menus — currently on **arrangement track headers / arrangement selections** and **Session-view clip slots** (the Session track-header menu does not show extension items in Live 12.4.25b1). Items may require one Live restart after first registration to appear.



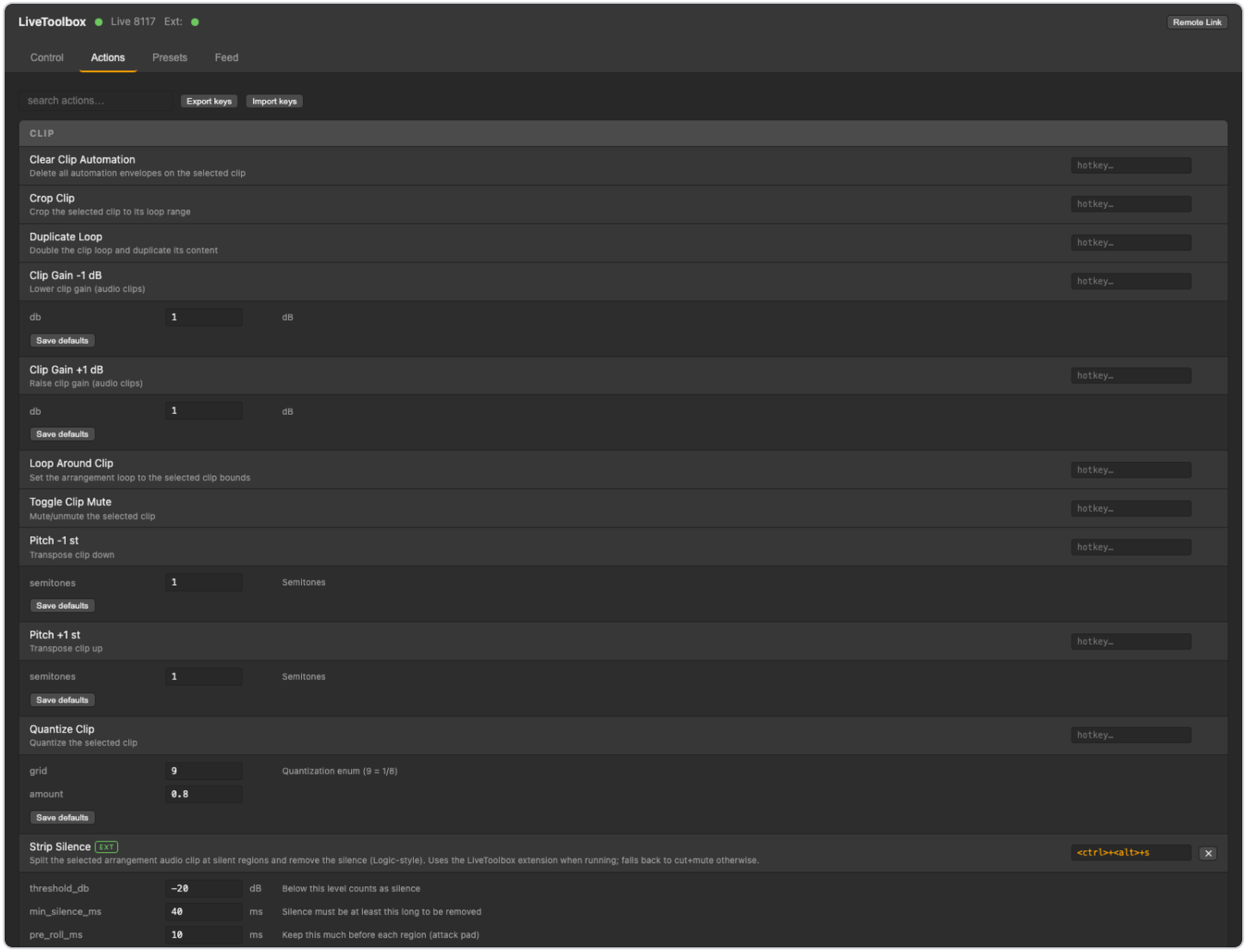
Right-click in the arrangement → Extensions ▸ → “LiveToolbox: Strip Silence”.

7 Verify it works

Open http://127.0.0.1:8117/ui in a browser. You should see green status dots for **Live 8117** and **Ext** at the top — that means the Remote Script API is up and the extension is bridged.



The Control tab mirrors transport — position, tempo, loop — and fires actions.



The Actions tab lists every action with parameters and its bound hotkey.

Quick sanity checks:

- `curl http://127.0.0.1:8117/api/health` → returns `{"ok": true, …}`
- Press a bound hotkey — the action appears in the UI's **Feed** tab.
- Click an action in **Actions** — it runs inside Live immediately.

8 Configuration files

File	Purpose
`LiveToolbox/options.txt`	`http_port` (default 8117), `autostart_livekeys`, `lan_access`, `logging_enabled`. Restart Live after editing.
`LiveToolbox/config.json`	Action parameter defaults and `midi_map` bindings (saved by the UI).
`LiveKeys/keymap.json`	Global hotkey → action bindings. Hot-reloads.
`LiveKeys/daemon.log`, `daemon.pid`	Daemon diagnostics.

9 Manual install (advanced, no pkg)

```
USER_LIB="$HOME/Music/Ableton/User Library"

# 1. Remote Script + daemon
cp -R LiveToolbox LiveKeys "$USER_LIB/Remote Scripts/"

# 2. Ableton extension (builds that support Extensions only)
mkdir -p "$HOME/Library/Application Support/Ableton/Extensions/livetoolbox.livetoolbox"
unzip -q LiveToolbox.ablx \
  -d "$HOME/Library/Application Support/Ableton/Extensions/livetoolbox.livetoolbox"

# 3. Rack-preset folder + LiveKeys venv (optional — daemon self-provisions)
mkdir -p "$USER_LIB/LiveToolbox"
cd "$USER_LIB/Remote Scripts/LiveKeys"
python3 -m venv .venv && .venv/bin/pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Then continue from **Section 4**.

10 Uninstall

```
"$HOME/Library/Application Support/LiveToolbox/uninstall.sh"
```

This removes the Remote Script, the daemon, and the extension while keeping your rack presets and extension data. It then prints two `sudo` commands to remove the installer payload and pkg receipt — run them only if you want a complete removal:

```
sudo rm -rf "/Library/Application Support/LiveToolbox"
sudo pkgutil --forget com.vincecimo.livetoolbox
```

11 Troubleshooting

Symptom	Fix

LiveToolbox not in the Control Surface list	Folder must be in `<User Library>/Remote Scripts/` (see §4 screenshot), then restart Live.
No “LiveToolbox ready” message / API down	Check `~/Library/Preferences/Ableton/Live *⁄Log.txt` for Remote Script errors.
Hotkeys don’t fire	Input Monitoring permission for Ableton Live (§5), then restart Live. Check `LiveKeys/daemon.log`.
No Extensions ▸ in right-click menus	Needs a Live build with Extensions support; restart Live once after first registration; only arrangement headers and clip slots show items.
Web UI unreachable	Check `http_port` in `options.txt`; other devices need `lan_access = true` (no auth — local network only).
Something else	`~/Library/Logs/LiveToolbox-install.log` (install), Live `Log.txt` (script), `daemon.log` (hotkeys), `ExtensionHost.txt` (ext).