Notation Express User Guide - Dorico

Notation Ex*press*

Congratulations on purchasing Notation Express, the fastest way to use Dorico!
Before we get going, here's some Q & A about what you are and aren't allowed to do.

License Q & A

Can I use Notation Express on more than one computer?

Yes! A purchase entitles one person (you) to use it on one computer at a time, on as many computers that you personally use. Unless you have extra limbs, that should suffice nicely.

Can I use Notation Express on both the Stream Deck console and the iOS app?

Yes! Your purchase entitles you to use Notation Express on both devices. You must purchase the Stream Deck console and subscribe to the Stream Deck Mobile iOS app separately.

Can my buddy who shares my computer use Notation Express?

No! Well, there's no way to technically prevent it. But please ask your buddy to purchase his own copy.

My buddy wants to use my copy of Notation Express. Can I send it to him?

No! He should purchase his own copy. Let's all be buddies!

OK. Can I change the default Notation Express profile — move icons around, add my own shortcuts, actions, etc.?

Yes! That's the beauty of it — it's totally customizable for your own use. You can change it straight away or keep the original handy and duplicate it for your own use. If you need to, you can always re-import the default Notation Express profile again.

So, once I do that, can I send that profile to my buddy?

No! Please don't share any profile derived from the Notation Express profile, unless your buddy has already purchased Notation Express, too — then it's OK.

Now that we're all clear on that, it's time to set up Notation Express!

Notation Express and Notation Express XL

This documentation guide refers both to the "original" version of Notation Express and Notation Express XL.

The original version of Notation Express uses a 5x3 grid and is designed to work with the Stream Deck console and the Stream Deck Mobile app for iOS and Android devices.

Notation Express XL uses an 8x4 grid and is designed to work with the Stream Deck XL console and the Stream Deck Mobile app for iPad.

The setup, installation, and method of use of both products is the same. However, Notation Express XL includes many additional functions that take advantage of the extra buttons.

When applicable, in this guide those instructions will be denoted by this icon: XL

If you are fortunate enough to have both a Stream Deck and a Stream Deck XL, or even the Stream Deck Mobile app on your iPhone, iPad, and a Stream Deck or Stream Deck XL, it is possible to use both products simultaneously to supercharge your workflow even more.
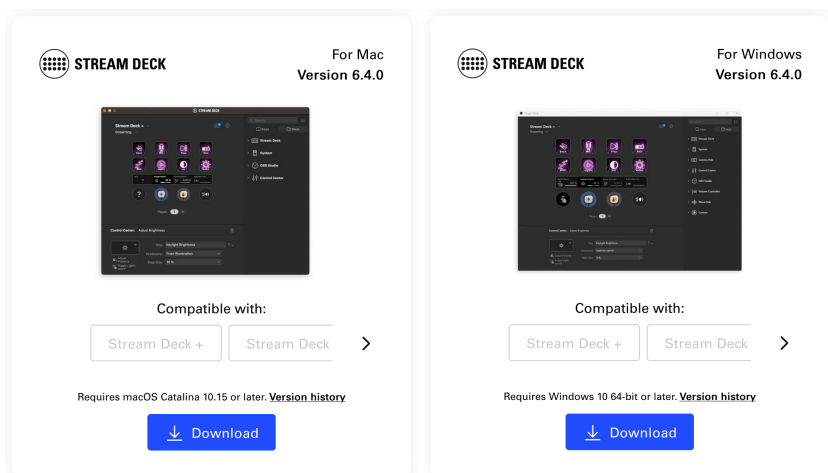
Set up

Setup is really easy.

> **Important!** Notation Express only supports Dorico 5 (and later). Earlier versions of Dorico are no longer officially supported, although they should work for Dorico 4 as well. These installation instructions only apply to Dorico 5 (and later).

1. Install the Stream Deck desktop app from Elgato

If you haven't done so already, download and install the Stream Deck desktop app from:
https://elgato.com/gaming/download

If you're using the Stream Deck console, connect it to your computer via the USB cable.

Stream Deck Mobile only

If you're using Stream Deck Mobile on iOS or Android, be sure that that your phone/tablet and your PC are on the same wireless network.

Download the mobile app and purchase a subscription if you haven't done so already:

iOS/iPadOS: https://apps.apple.com/app/elgato-stream-deck-mobile/id1440014184
Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.corsair.android.streamdeck

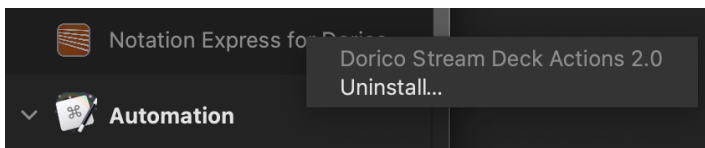Launch the Stream Deck app on your desktop. Follow the instructions to pair your devices.

2. Install the Notation Express for Dorico plugin

Don't like reading installation instructions? We understand that you just want to start pushing those shiny buttons right away. It's important to get Notation Express working correctly, though, so if you prefer, please watch this installation video. It's less than 3 minutes long!
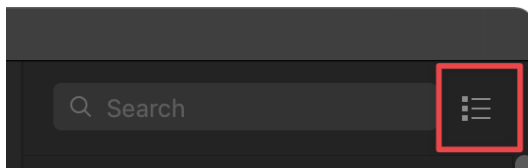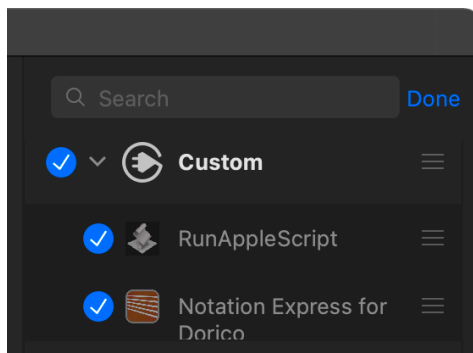
https://youtu.be/c7gBWP14yPE

Important!

If you have an earlier version of the plugin installed, please uninstall it by right-clicking (**Control**-click, on Mac), and selecting **Uninstall…**

⚠️ If you don't see this in the Stream Deck desktop app, click this icon to customize which actions your Stream Deck shows:

Select **Custom** and make sure that **Notation Express for Dorico** is selected, and click **Done**.
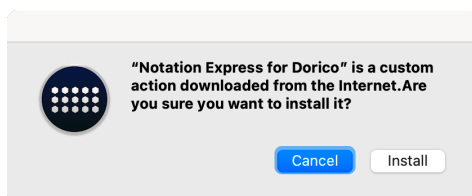
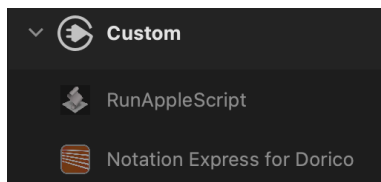Then, uninstall as above, and proceed as follows.

First, launch Dorico.

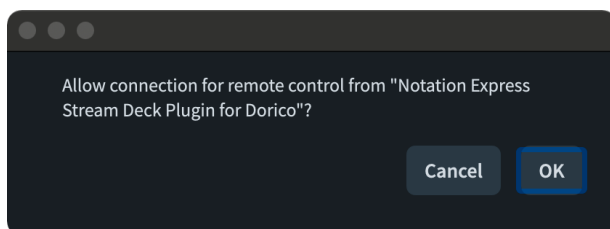Double-click the **Notation Express for Dorico.streamDeckPlugin**.

You will get a message from Stream Deck. Click **Install**.

This will install the **Notation Express for Dorico** plugin in Stream Deck. To confirm, in the Stream Deck desktop app, you should see **Notation Express for Dorico** in the **Custom** list.

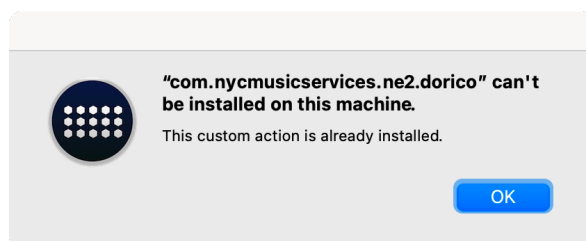You will get a message from Dorico asking to allow the connection from "Notation Express Stream Deck Plugin for Dorico". Click **OK**.

⚠️ If you purchased both Notation Express and Notation Express XL, and/or you wish to install the profile on multiple Stream Decks, you need only install the plugin once.
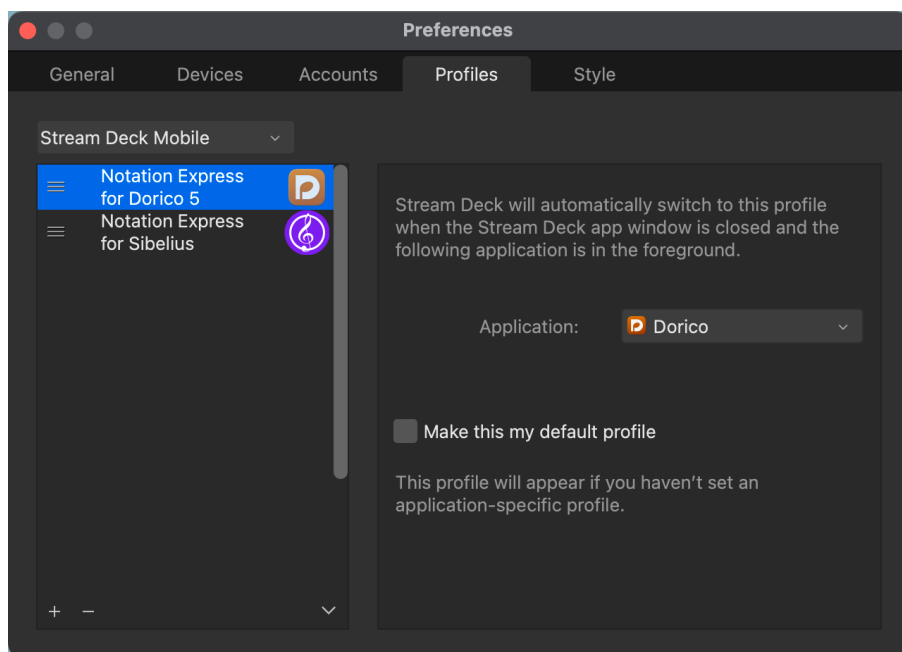
If you attempt to install it again, you will get a message that the plugin is already installed:

2. Install the Notation Express Stream Deck Profile

Double-click the **Notation Express for Dorico 5.streamDeckProfile**
(XL : **Notation Express XL for Dorico 5.streamDeckProfile**) file from the installation
packet you purchased. This will import the Notation Express profile into the Stream Deck
desktop app.

In Stream Deck, **Preferences > Profiles** select the **Notation Express for Dorico 5** profile,
and for **Application:** select **Dorico** so that Stream Deck will automatically switch to **Nota-
tion Express for Dorico 5** when Dorico is in the foreground.

Do this for each device (console or iOS device) you want to use Notation Express with
(keep in mind that your purchase only allows one user per purchase).

⚠️ You may need to quit and relaunch the Stream Deck app once after installing Notation
Express. Do this while Dorico is running, so that it recognizes the connection between
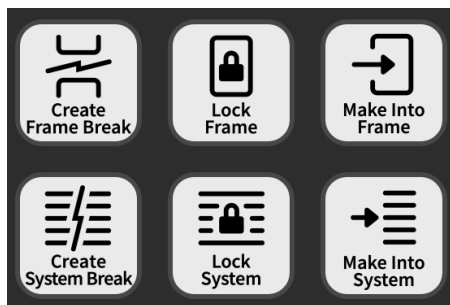Dorico and Stream Deck.

That's it! You can now begin using Notation Express.

What's new in Notation Express for Dorico 5

Notation Express for Dorico 5 adds support for some features introduced in Dorico 4 and Dorico 5. Many icons have also been refreshed, and the profile has been subtly re-organized in certain areas.

15-key and XL versions of Notation Express for Dorico 5: Cosmetic updates

- The main screen folders now have red borders (previously, only subfolders had red borders)
- The popover icons have been refreshed
- Many other icons have been refreshed, and command names updated, especially in the **Formatting** folder

[XL] **New features and buttons in the XL version for Dorico 5:** 50+ new buttons!

- **Voices and Insert** (new folder)
  - **Starts Voice**
  - **Ends Voice Immediately**
  - **Ends Voice After Barline**
  - **Change to Upstem Voice 1**
  - **Change to Downstem Voice 1**
  - **Change to Upstem Voice 2**
  - **Change to Downstem Voice 2**
  - **Change to Upstem Voice 3**
  - **Change to Downstem Voice 3**
  - **Change to Upstem Voice 4**
  - **Change to Downstem Voice 4**
  - **Add Slashed Voice**
  - **Swap Voice Order**
  - **Change to Previous Voice**
  - **Change to Next Voice**
  - **Default Stems Up**
  - **Default Stems Down**

- o Other voice-related buttons copied from **Modify and Arrange folder**
- o **Insert mode** scopes:
  - **Voice**
  - **Player**
  - **Global**
  - **Global Adjustment of Current Bar**
- Playback & Navigation
  - o **Tempo track**
  - o **Marker track**
  - o **Chords track**
  - o **Fixed/Follow Tempo**
  - o **Scrub Playback**
  - o **Decrease Key Editor Grid Resolution**
  - o **Increase Key Editor Grid Resolution**
  - o **Suppress playback** (this is the same as **Mute** in **Noteheads & Harmonics**)
  - o **Unsuppress playback** (this is the same as **Unmute** in **Noteheads & Harmonics**)
- Formatting
  - o **Insert Music Frame**
  - o **Insert Text Frame**
  - o **Insert Graphics Frame**
  - o **Lock Layout**
  - o **Unlock Layout**
  - o **Move to Previous System**
  - o **Move to Next System**
  - o **Insert Frame Break** renamed to **Create Frame Break**
  - o **Insert System Break** renamed to **Create System Break**
- Articulations
  - o **Stressed**
  - o **Unstressed**
  - o **Copy Articulations**
  - o **Paste Articulations**
- Clefs
  - o **Percussion 2** (rectangular)
  - o **After Grace Notes**
  - o **Reset Clef Position**
  - o **Hide**
- Bars, Barlines, Brackets, Repeats
  - o **Create Numbered Bar Region**
- Beaming and Tremolos
  - o **Z on Stem** (Buzz)
  - o **Tremolo with Attack**
  - o **Tremolo with Release**
- Filters
  - o **Repeat Endings**
- Notes > More Notes
  - o **Input pitch: Sounding/Written**
- Modify and Arrange
  - o **Split Flow**
  - o **Trim Flow**

New features and buttons in the 15-key version for Dorico 5: 40 new buttons!

- **Voices** (new folder)
    - o **Change to Upstem Voice 1**
    - o **Change to Downstem Voice 1**
    - o **Change to Upstem Voice 2**
    - o **Change to Downstem Voice 2**
    - o **Merge to Downstem Voice 1**
    - o **Swap Voice Order**
    - o **Change to Previous Voice**
    - o **Change to Next Voice**
    - o The **Delete Upstem Voice 1, Delete Downstem Voice 1, Delete Upstem Voice 2, Delete Downstem Voice 2,** and **Merge to Upstem Voice 1** buttons have been moved here from the **Modify and Arrange** folder
- The **Tempo and System Text** and **Staff Text** folders have been moved into one new main-level **Text** folder, and the following buttons added:
    - o **Curly left apostrophe**
    - o **Curly right apostrophe**
    - o **Curly open quote**
    - o **Curly closed quote**
    - o **Em dash**
    - o **En dash**
    - o Letters with diacriticals: **é**, **è**, **ç**, **ñ**, **ô**, **ü**
- Modify and Arrange
    - o **Normal/Cue Size**
    - o **Hide stems**
    - o **Show stems**
    - o **Slide left**
    - o **Slide right**
- Articulations
    - o **Copy Articulations**
    - o **Paste Articulations**
    - o A new **More** subfolder has been added, containing:
        - ▪ **Plop**
        - ▪ **Doit**
        - ▪ **Scoop**
        - ▪ **Fall**
        - ▪ **Lift (wavy)**
        - ▪ **Plop (wavy)**
        - ▪ **Doit (wavy)**
        - ▪ **Remove jazz articulations**
        - ▪ **Stressed**
        - ▪ **Unstressed**
        - ▪ **Long fermata**, **Short fermata**, and **Staccatissimo** are moved here
        - ▪ **Copy Articulations** and **Paste Articulations** are duplicated here

- Clefs
    - **Percussion 2** (rectangular)
- Beaming and Tremolos
    - **Z on Stem** (Buzz)
- Filters
    - **Repeat Endings**
- Formatting
    - **Insert Frame Break** renamed to **Create Frame Break**
    - **Insert System Break** renamed to **Create System Break**

What was new in Notation Express for Dorico 4

Notation Express for Dorico 4 was completely rebuilt. Every button was been re-programmed to take advantage of Dorico 4's ability to receive commands directly from Stream Deck, instead of relying upon a custom key command profile as the intermediary.

What does this mean?

You may have noticed that earlier versions of Notation Express installed a custom key command (shortcut) profile. In Dorico 4 it is no longer necessary to rely on these commands.

This is a major change for the following reasons:

- **Reclaim your shortcuts** — You can now reclaim all of the keyboard shortcuts for your own use, as you like, without them being reserved by Notation Express
- **Cross-platform support** — One Notation Express profile works for both Mac and Windows, so you can use the same profile on both operating systems (no need to purchase separate versions)
- **Multi-language support** — Notation Express is now supported in all languages, so you don't need to switch to English to use it in Dorico (the icon labels will still only be in English, for now)
- **Faster** — The direct connection to Dorico makes Notation Express significantly more responsive, because it passes commands directly to Dorico instead of invoking a series of macros that may involve opening and typing into a popover, for example
- **Background control** — The direct connection to Dorico means that you can use your Stream Deck to control Dorico even when another application is running in the foreground

Use in Dorico 5

We have found that Notation Express for Dorico 4 works perfectly well in Dorico 5. However, as of this writing we will no longer be updating or supporting Notation Express for Dorico 4, so if you wish to take advantage of newer features introduces in Dorico 4 and Dorico 5, please upgrade to the Notation Express for Dorico 5 profile.

Updating from an earlier version of Notation Express

If you are a customer of Notation Express for Dorico 4 or earlier, first of all, thank you!

Notation Express for those versions of Dorico is no longer officially supported, so we can devote our efforts to making the best of Dorico 5.
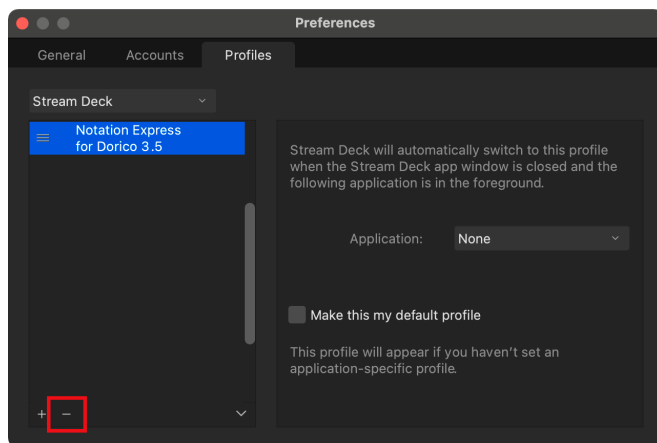
If you still need to work with Dorico 4 or earlier, you can still use the earlier version(s) of Notation Express for as long as you like.

But, if you use Notation Express for Dorico 5, we do recommend that you uninstall Notation Express for Dorico 4, Notation Express for Dorico 3.5, and any other versions of the Notation Express profile that you may have.
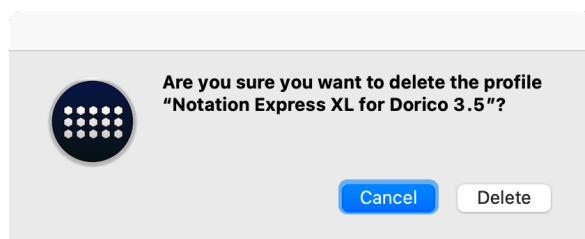
Here's how to do that.

Delete the earlier Notation Express Stream Deck profile

In Stream Deck, **Preferences > Profiles**, select the Notation Express for Dorico 4, Notation Express for Dorico 3.5 (or any other earlier profile you may have), and click the red "minus" button.
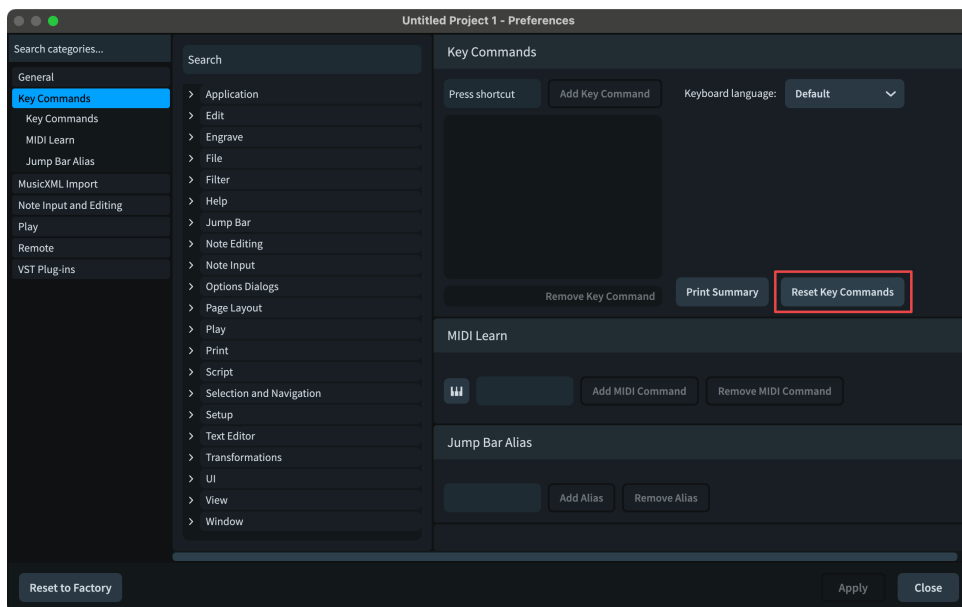

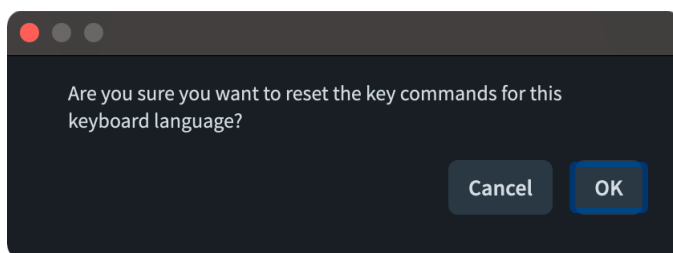When the warning appears, click **Delete**.

Reset your key commands (only if upgrading from Notation Express for Dorico 3.5)

> ⚠️ **It is not necessary or advised to reset your key commands if you are upgrading from Notation Express for Dorico 4.**

In Dorico, **Preferences > Key Commands**, click **Reset Key Commands**.

A warning will appear:

Be aware: This will delete your Notation Express key commands, as well as any additional custom key commands you may have programmed. If you'd rather not delete those, click **Cancel**; Notation Express for Dorico 4 can live happily alongside the existing key commands. Otherwise, to reset the key commands to Dorico's defaults, click **OK**.
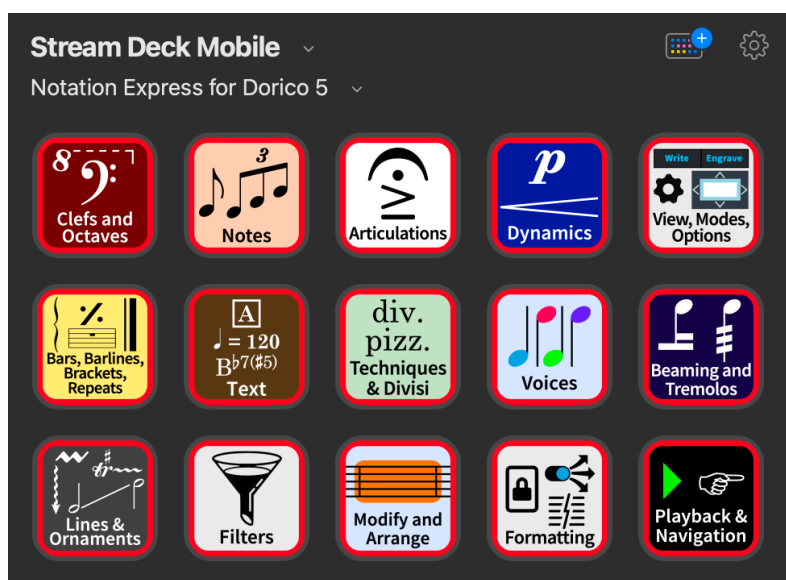
You can now freely assign your own custom key commands in Dorico without interfering with Notation Express.

Using Notation Express

Using Notation Express is as simple as pushing a button, literally!

All of the top-level buttons are folders that contain commands. The commands are generally self-explanatory, but if you have any questions about how they work or what they do, consult the Dorico user manuals at:

https://www.steinberg.help/dorico-manuals/dorico-pro/

Certain folders contain subfolders with even more commands.

Quick tip!

Many sub-folders are arranged at the same position on the screen as the enclosing folder. For instance, to quickly get to **Options & Panels** from the home screen, double-tap on the **View, Modes, Options** button.

Certain other actions are organized similarly: Double-tap on **Techniques & Divisi** to enter **Other Playing Technique**; Double-tap on **Staff text** to enter **Staff text**; Double-tap on **Tempo and System Text** to enter **System text**.
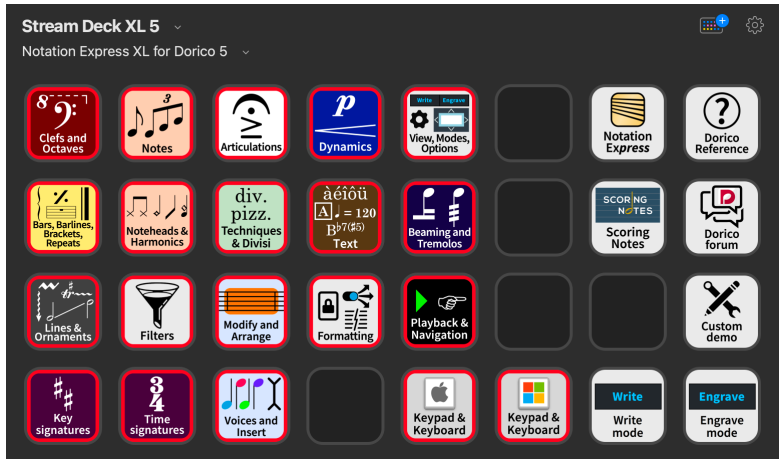
XL In Notation Express XL, the arrangement is different in certain places. For instance, double-tap on the **Notes** button to bring up **More Notes**; Double-tap on **Text** to get to **Characters & Diacritics**.

Here is the folder structure of Notation Express for Dorico:

- Home screen
  - Clefs and Octaves
  - Notes
    - Note Input
    - More notes
  - Articulations
    - More articulations
  - Dynamics
  - View, Modes, Options
    - Options & Panels
  - Bars, Barlines, Brackets, Repeats
    - Repeats & Bracketing
    - Repeat Structures
  - Text
    - Tempo and System Text
    - Staff text
  - Techniques & Divisi
  - Staff text
  - Voices
  - Beaming and Tremolos
    - Fanned, partial, stemlets
  - Lines & Ornaments
  - Filters
    - Others
      - More
    - Dynamics
    - Breaks
    - Tempos
    - Voices
    - Lyrics
    - Notes and Chords
  - Modify and Arrange
    - Dynamics formatting
  - Formatting
  - Playback and Navigation

Folders and subfolders are indicated by a red border around the button.

Filters are indicated by an orange border.

XL Here is the folder structure for Notation Express XL for Dorico:

- Home screen
  - Clefs and Octaves
  - Notes
    - More notes
  - Articulations
  - Dynamics
  - View, Modes, Options
  - Bars, Barlines, Brackets, Repeats
    - Repeat Structures
  - Noteheads & Harmonics
  - Techniques & Divisi
  - Text
    - Characters & Diacritics
  - Beaming and Tremolos
  - Lines & Ornaments
  - Filters
    - Breaks
    - Dynamics
    - Lyrics
    - Notes and Chords
    - Others
    - Voices
    - Tempos
  - Modify and Arrange
  - Formatting
  - Playback and Navigation
  - Key signatures
  - Time signatures
  - Voices and Insert
  - Keypad & Keyboard (separate Mac and Windows versions)

XL The home screen of Notation Express XL also has quick buttons to **Write mode, Engrave mode,** the Dorico Reference, the official Dorico help forum, the Notation Express web site, and the Scoring Notes blog.

There is also a sample "Custom demo" folder to illustrate how you can create a folder comprising your favorite buttons from many folders.

Where's my favorite item/key command?

There are hundreds of actions programmed into Notation Express for Dorico, but the possible permutations available would stretch into the thousands, so many of them are not included.

Of course, you can modify the Notation Express profile to suit your needs and add any commands if you wish.

Can I use my existing key commands with Notation Express?

Yes! Notation Express for Dorico 5 takes full advantage of the latest technology and does not rely on Dorico's key commands. So you can program your own key commands to control Dorico 4 and they will not interfere with Notation Express.

Be aware

Use of the modes

Dorico separates operations into modes. Most Notation Express commands are designed to work in **Write mode**, and many work in **Engrave mode** as well. Others will work in any mode. If a command doesn't seem to have any effect, you may not be in the correct mode.

A few Notation Express commands have been programmed to automatically switch to the correct mode to complete the required action. When this happens, Dorico will not automatically return to the mode in which you were previously working. To return to the desired mode, use the Notation Express buttons in **View, Modes, Options**, or use the Dorico shortcuts (⌘**/Ctrl** + **1** through **5**).

Sometimes Dorico takes a while to switch modes in large scores.

Be aware of the following:

- While in **Write mode**, in order to apply any of the braces or brackets, Notation Express automatically enters **Engrave mode**. Be aware, though, that if **Graphic Editing** had not been selected previously in the **Engrave mode** toolbox, your selection will be lost and the intended action will not occur, because bracketing requires **Graphic Editing** to be active.

- The **Lock Frame, Lock System, Make Into System, Make Into Frame, Create System Break,** and **Create Frame Break** buttons only work in **Engrave mode**. Switch manually to that mode before use.

- **Propagate Properties** propagates only the current mode's properties. You may want to **Propagate Properties** in **Write mode**, then switch to **Engrave mode** and **Propagate Properties** again. Or, better yet, use the **Set Local/Global Properties** button.

- The **Page View** and **Galley View** buttons are not relevant in **Engrave mode**.

- To make a **Page Number Change**, switch to **Engrave mode** and select a page in the right panel before use.

Selections and settings

The **Delete Upstem/Downstem Voice 1/2** buttons apply filters, then delete the notes. Note that if the filtered voice doesn't exist, the selected music may be deleted.

Merge to Upstem Voice 1 and **Merge to Downstem Voice 1** doesn't work if Upstem Voice 1 and Downstem Voice 1, respectively, don't already exist on the selected staff.

The appearance of the trills depends on settings in **Engraving Options > Ornaments**. The descriptions on the buttons describe the intervals involved, not the accidentals you'll necessarily see.

Localization and program version

Notation Express for Dorico 5 works on both Mac and Windows, and in all language setups, with no further configuration necessary. However, on Stream Deck, the button icons and text are only displayed in English, regardless of which language you use in Dorico or on your system.

Notation Express is built for the latest version of Dorico Pro 5. We believe that it will work with Dorico Pro 4, as well as with Dorico Elements 4 and 5, but any features not present in these versions of Dorico will naturally be inoperative, and we do not officially support use of Notation Express in any version except for Dorico Pro 5.
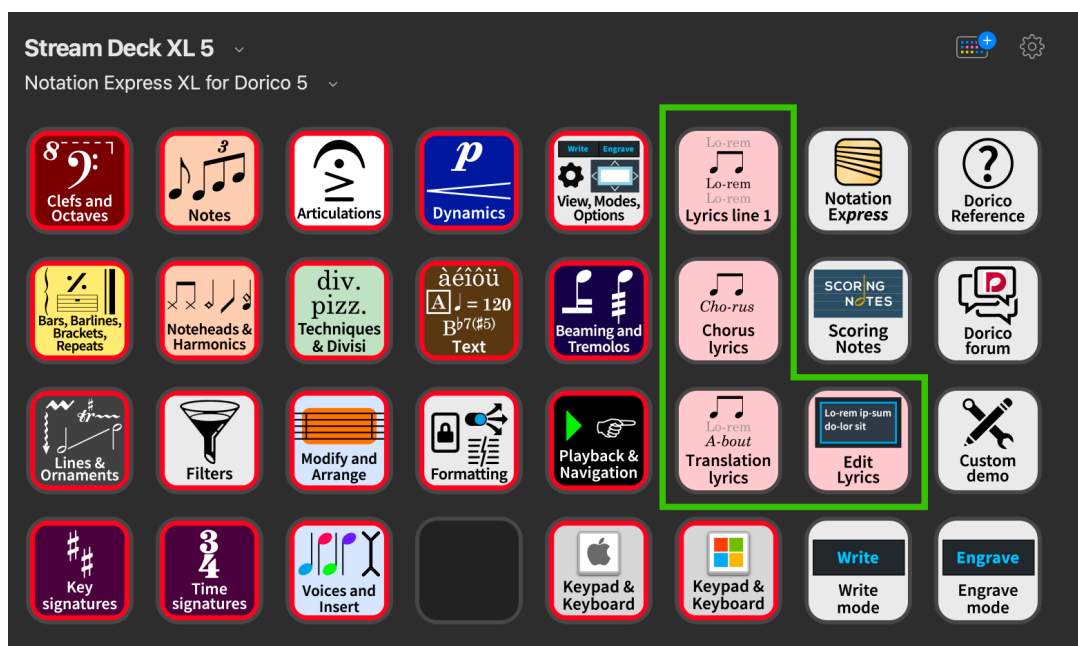
[XL] Notation Express XL usage

There are many functions unique to Notation Express XL. Here are some highlights.

[XL] *Copy, paste, and rearrange icons*

You'll notice several blank buttons on the home screen and in many of the subfolders. This is a feature, not a bug! This way, you can fully customize your home screen with the most frequently used functions, and you can rotate these in and out depending on your project, without disrupting the core Notation Express XL arrangement.

To do this, in the Stream Deck desktop app, simply select the folder or function you wish to copy, press ⌘-**C** on Mac or **Ctrl+C** on Windows to copy the item(s), and press ⌘-**V** on Mac or **Ctrl+V** on Windows to paste the item(s) to the home screen (or wherever else you like).

For instance, if you are working with lyrics a lot, you might want easy access to those buttons on the home page:

A **Custom demo** folder is provided on the Home screen, as an example of a folder set up for a particular project that uses functions from several folders.
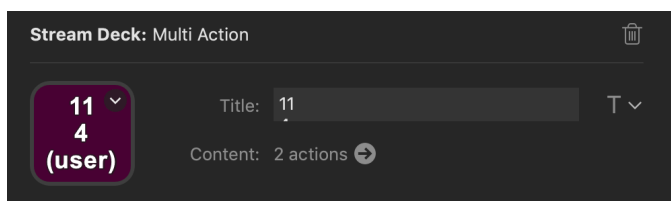
XL *The Filters folder*

The Filters folder duplicates some of the most common filters contained in the enclosing subfolders. You may wish to rearrange or replace these to suit your particular needs. Feel free to do so using the copy/paste method described above.
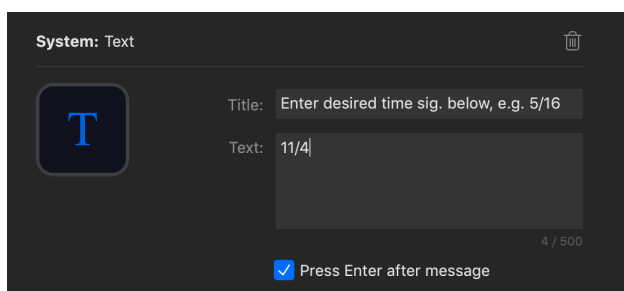

XL *Setting custom time signatures*

Notation Express XL includes the most popular time signatures, but you can easily program many more, using the provided buttons.

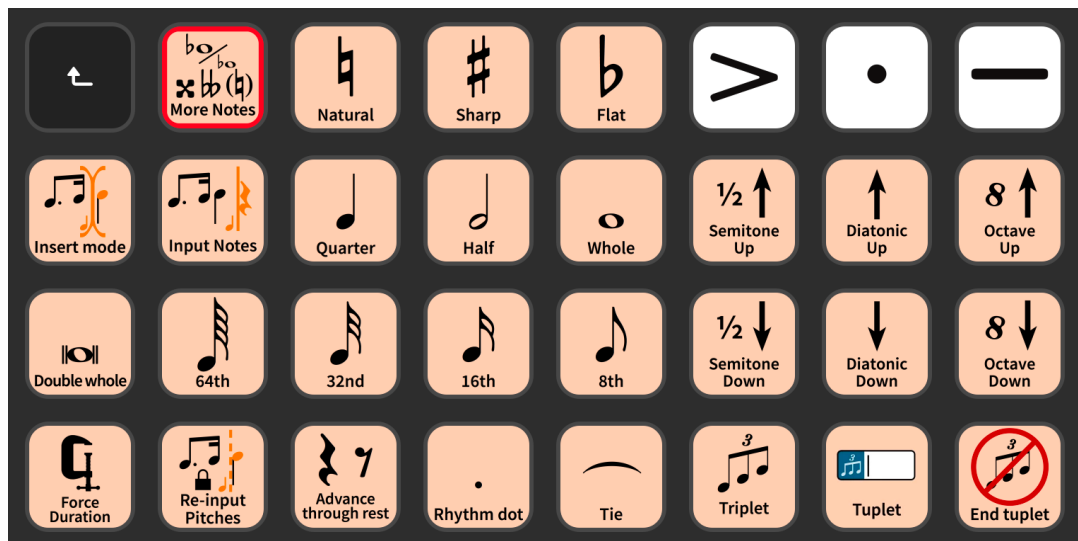To do this, first change the **Title** field to display your desired time signature:

Then click on the right arrow to customize the **Multi Action** sequence. Specifically, enter your desired time signature, replacing the placeholder **X** and **Y** values.

XL *The Notes folder*

The **Notes** folder is significantly different in Notation Express XL. Not only does it include the most common functions used when entering notes, it includes the most common articulations.
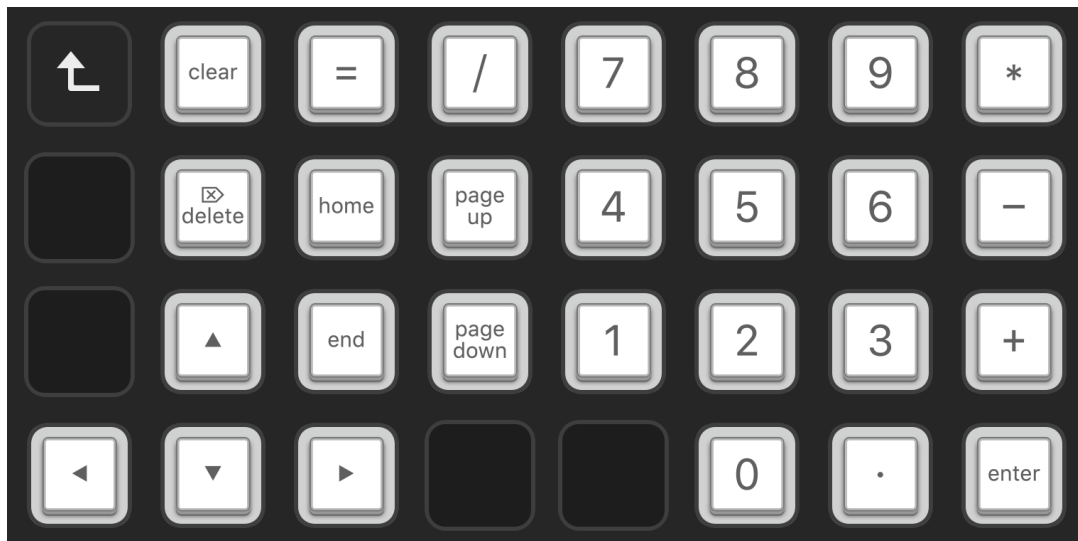

XL *The Voices and Insert folder*

The **Voices and Insert** folder is expanded in Notation Express XL. It includes even more options for working with voices, and also provides support for switching among the four Insert mode scopes: **Voice, Player, Global,** and **Global Adjustment of Current Bar**.

XL **Keypad & Keyboard**

The **Keypad & Keyboard** folder includes a full numeric keypad as well as other keys not easily found on a laptop or small keyboard. This can be useful if you need to use these keys but don't have a full-size keyboard handy. (Separate folders for Mac and Windows)

XL **Write/Engrave mode quick access**

By user request, many of the folders in Notation Express XL include quick access to **Write mode** and **Engrave mode**. These are usually found at the bottom right-most locations on the screen.

XL **Subito dynamic**

The **sub.** button (located in the **Dynamics** folder) works in a unique way compared to the other functions. It is designed to be applied to a dynamic that is already selected. This way, you can, for instance, press the **ff** button to create $\textit{ff}$, then immediately press the **sub.** button to modify that dynamic, creating a singular $\textit{ff}\,sub.$ item in your score. Try it!

Troubleshooting

If the connection is lost between Stream Deck and Dorico, quit and restart the Stream Deck app. If that doesn't work, try disconnecting and reconnecting the Stream Deck to your computer.

[XL] The non-breaking space character in **Text > Characters & Diacritics** is currently inoperative on Windows.

Credits

Philip Rothman created Notation Express.

Leo Nicholson devised the Notation Express and Notation Express XL Dorico layout and key commands, and programmed the original Notation Express and Notation Express XL Stream Deck profiles for Dorico, and contributed to the development of Notation Express.

David MacDonald programmed the Notation Express for Dorico plugin and contributed to the development of Notation Express.

The Dorico Remote Control API is provided by Steinberg.

More information and updates

Notation Express: http://notationexpress.com
Notation Central: https://www.notationcentral.com/product-tag/notation-express/
Stream Deck: https://www.elgato.com/welcome-to-stream-deck
Stream Deck Mobile: https://www.elgato.com/stream-deck-mobile