

1 / GET STARTED

Install and open PFS

Set up Piano Fingering Studio for the Mac account you use with MuseScore.

What you need

An Apple Silicon Mac (a Mac with an M-series chip), macOS 14 or later, MuseScore Studio 4.7.5, and a MuseHub account. Install MuseScore separately if you do not already have it.

Piano Fingering Studio, called **PFS** in this guide, adds finger numbers to piano music inside MuseScore. You do not need any extra programming software.

macOS 14 is the compatibility target. This version has been tested on macOS 26.6.2; testing on macOS 14 is still pending.

Piano Fingering Studio is published by **Xylea LLC**. Credits and license details for software included in PFS, including PianoPlayer, come with the product. MuseScore is a separate product.

Install and open PFS

1. Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Download PFS from MuseHub, open the downloaded **.pkg** installer and follow its instructions.

2. Reopen MuseScore and open a piano score. From the **Plugins** menu, choose **Piano Fingering Studio**.

A short Getting Started guide appears after you install or update PFS. Click **Got it** when you are done. It will not appear every time you open MuseScore.

Which Mac account receives PFS?

PFS installs only for the Mac account currently logged in. It does not set up PFS for other accounts on this Mac.

On the Destination Select page, choose **Install for all users of this computer** to continue. This is the system installer's label; PFS still configures only your current Mac account.

This installer requires administrator permission. It does not support the **Install for me only** mode or choosing another installation disk. PFS respects the plugin folder already selected in MuseScore preferences.

2 / ADD FINGERING

Add finger numbers to your score

Let Piano Fingering Studio suggest a starting point. Then make it your own.

Choose the music you want to work on

Highlight the bars you want to add fingerings to. To work on the whole score, make sure nothing is selected.

If you opened a MusicXML file, first use **File > Save As** to save it as a MuseScore file, such as **.mscz**.

Choose your hands and hand size

Hands: choose Both, Right or Left. PFS will only change fingerings for the hands you choose. For music written on just one staff, choose Right or Left.

Player's comfortable reach: choose the widest distance your hand can comfortably stretch on the keyboard. For example, an Octave is the distance from one C to the next C. The choices run from Sixth to Tenth. Tenth includes minor and major tenths with black keys. Reach limits keys held together; it does not limit the distance of a jump after releasing a key. For untied staccato notes, PFS plans release halfway through the written duration. When voices share the same note on one staff, PFS shows the automatic finger number once.

Add the numbers

For a first try, leave **Fingering detail** on Guided and click **Add automatic fingering**. You can change any of the numbers afterwards. Play through the passage to check what feels comfortable.

Save your score when you are done. PFS does not save it for you.

What to expect

PFS suggests a practical starting point. Your existing finger numbers and manual changes are kept.

If a note has several finger numbers or an ornament fingering sequence, PFS preserves those markings. It can still add fingerings to other notes it can safely work with. Read any message for the affected note and reason.

3 / MAKE THE FINGERING YOUR OWN

Change, hide or remove numbers

Edit the numbers directly in MuseScore, just as you would any other fingering.

Choose how many numbers you see

Essential: fewer numbers, focused on places where a fingering choice is useful.

Guided: more reminders to help you follow the passage. This is the starting setting.

Every note: a number on each note PFS can work with. Some unusual ways of writing music need you to add fingerings yourself.

Existing ornament fingering sequences and finger-change markings are preserved. PFS adds fingering to the other notes it can safely handle, including the other hand. Notes sounding or tied together with an unsupported marking may also be left unchanged; the message identifies the exact note and reason.

Keep a number you prefer

If you type a finger number yourself or change one PFS added, PFS keeps your choice the next time you click Add automatic fingering. It also keeps changes you make to how that number looks.

For example, if PFS suggests **3** and you change it to **2**, adding fingerings again will keep your **2**.

Leave a note without a number

If you delete a number, Essential and Guided leave that note without one when you add fingerings again.

Choosing **Every note** asks PFS to fill in missing numbers. That can put a number back on a note where you deleted one. It only does this in the passage and hands you are working on.

Remove numbers PFS added

Select a passage and choose the hands you want to work on, then click **Remove automatic fingering**. To remove numbers throughout the score, first clear the selection.

This removes numbers PFS added that you have not changed yourself. It keeps numbers you entered or changed, and it leaves other passages and hands alone.

Change your mind or change the music

Use MuseScore's **Undo** to undo adding or removing fingerings, changing the detail level, or pasting fingerings. **Redo** brings that change back.

After changing notes, Hands or comfortable reach, click **Add automatic fingering** again. Check the new result before saving.

Keep an editable copy

Save a MuseScore file (**.mscz** or **.mscx**) so PFS can remember your fingering choices when you reopen it. You can also export a PDF to print or share, or MusicXML for another music program, but keep the MuseScore file for working with PFS.

If you want to keep two different fingering versions, use **Save As** to make a separate score file.

4 / COPY AND PASTE

Copy fingerings to another passage

Reuse a fingering you like elsewhere in the same score.

Copy, then choose where to paste

1. Select the passage whose finger numbers you want to copy. Click the green **Copy Fingering** button below Add / Remove.
2. Select the passage you want to paste into, in the **same score**. Keep the Hands setting the same as when you copied.
3. Read the message in PFS. If the passages can be matched, click **Paste Fingering**.

Which passages can be matched?

They must have the same number of notes. Chords must line up and have the same number of notes too: for example, a three-note chord needs another three-note chord.

If the music has separate lines played at the same time (called **voices** in MuseScore), those lines must match too. The pitches and rhythms may be different. PFS tells you if it cannot match the passages.

What happens to numbers that are already there?

An empty space does not erase a number. If a copied note has no finger number and the matching note already has a **3**, that **3** stays.

Your own changes stay unless you allow PFS to replace them. For example, if you typed a **4** and the copied number is **2**, PFS keeps your **4**. If you previously deleted a number, PFS leaves that note empty. Other notes can still receive the copied numbers.

To let the copied numbers replace your choices, select **Replace conflicting manual edits**. In plain English, this means: **"Let the copied numbers replace fingerings I changed or deleted myself."** A copied empty space still will not erase an existing number.

After pasting

Check the new passage at the piano. A fingering that works in one passage may feel different in another. Use **Undo** once to undo the paste.

PFS keeps pasted numbers just like numbers you entered yourself. You can paste the same copied passage again until you close the PFS panel.

When you need to copy the numbers yourself

Copy/paste works with one finger number, **1-5**, on each note. It does not work with tied notes (two notes joined to make one held sound), tiny decorative notes, notes that move between the upper and lower staff, or markings that ask you to change fingers on a held note. PFS will tell you when a selection cannot be used.

5 / EVERYDAY QUESTIONS

Try PFS, buy it and get help

Your score stays yours, including the finger numbers already added to it.

How does the free trial work?

Sign in to MuseHub to start a **three-day free trial**. You can try all PFS features, including Copy/Paste Fingering. After the trial, buy PFS to keep using it. There is no permanently free version.

PFS is a **one-time purchase for the current major version**, not a monthly subscription. For this release, that means version 1. A future major release, such as version 2, may be sold separately.

What happens when the trial ends?

The finger numbers already in your score stay there. You can still change them, save, print, export and use Undo/Redo in MuseScore.

Adding new fingerings, calculating them again and using Paste Fingering require an active trial or a purchased license. MuseHub handles your purchase and access.

Why did PFS leave some notes unchanged?

Some piano writing needs a person to choose the fingering. For example, PFS skips tiny decorative notes and may leave bars with notes moving between the upper and lower staff unchanged. Numbers you entered yourself can also make a passage difficult to finger. Read the message for the affected bars.

For a note held across a tie, you keep holding the same sound. PFS does not add another number just because that held note is written again.

What if a message says the fingering history is full?

Save your work and keep the original score. Email hello@xylea.org; we can help you make a copy that you can continue working on.

This limit applies to that score only. You can keep using PFS with other scores.

Does PFS send my music anywhere?

PFS works on your music on your Mac. It does not upload your score. MuseHub handles your account, purchase and updates.

The **Send feedback** button opens an optional browser form. It includes your PFS version automatically, but does not automatically send your score or files from your computer.

How do I get help?

Choose **Send feedback** in the PFS panel, or email hello@xylea.org. Tell us what you clicked, what happened and any message you saw. Include your PFS, MuseScore and macOS version numbers if you can.

After a generation failure or timeout, a **Diagnostic report** link may appear at the bottom right of the PFS panel. If support asks for it, open the local report and share it yourself. It records timing and status, not your music or account details. It is not uploaded automatically.

Feedback: <https://tally.so/r/ZjpYIA>

Email: hello@xylea.org

6 / WHEN YOU NEED IT

Update or remove PFS on your Mac

These steps leave your saved scores and their finger numbers in place.

Install an update or fix an installation

Save your scores and quit MuseScore. Open the PFS .pkg installer and follow its instructions again. Other MuseScore plugins keep their settings.

If you have changed the plugin folder in MuseScore preferences, remove the old PFS copy before installing in the new folder. If an error mentions that folder, check **MuseScore > Preferences > Folders > Plugins**. Contact hello@xylea.org if you need help.

To remove PFS completely

1. Save and close. Save your scores, close the PFS Getting Started guide if it is showing, and quit MuseScore. Wait for any installation or update to finish.

2. Find the PFS folder. Look at the plugin folder listed in MuseScore's preferences. Inside it, find the folder named **PianoFingeringStudio**. If you changed the plugin folder, look in the previous location. The usual location is:

```
/Users/<your-user-name>/Documents/MuseScore4/Plugins
```

How to use these paths: in Finder, choose **Go > Home**. Use that folder's name in place of **<your-user-name>**. Then choose **Go > Go to Folder...** and paste the path. For example, if your home folder is alex, paths start with **/Users/alex/**.

Save your settings before removing files

3. Open the PianoFingeringStudio folder. If you see a file named **preferences.json**, copy it to this folder:

```
/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/user
```

Create the **user** folder if needed. If it already holds an older preferences.json, replace that older copy with the one you just copied. This keeps your settings for a later reinstallation.

Move these PFS items to the Trash

4. Move the **PianoFingeringStudio** folder to the Trash. Keep the larger Plugins folder and the other plugins inside it. Then remove the following items in order. For a file or app, open the folder containing it and move that item to the Trash. Skip an item if it is not there.

```
/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/LaunchAgents/com.pianofingeringstudio.getting-started.plist  
/Users/<your-user-name>/Applications/Piano Fingering Studio.app  
/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/versions  
/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/onboarding  
/Users/<your-user-name>/Library/Application Support/Piano Fingering Studio/launcher.json
```

Keep your music and saved settings

5. Leave the rest of the Piano Fingering Studio folder in Application Support in place, including the **user** folder you used above. Keep your scores and MuseScore settings. If the PFS guide was waiting to appear, it stops when it detects removal of its installation files.

To use PFS again, run its installer. Your saved PFS settings will be restored. Keep the removed items in the Trash until you have checked that you kept everything you wanted.