Ableton Live 10 | **Themes Color-Editor** | Free to use | by CHMOD / 10.2019 | <u>www.reloop.net</u>

Introduction:

This little tool helps to customize the colors in Ableton's Live 10 appearance. The live 10 color mappings are described in theme files with the extension .ask.

These theme files are located in the installation folder of Live 10 and further under \ Ressources \ Themes. (usually you'll find these under C: \ ProgramData \ Ableton \ Ressources \ Themes \ xxx.ask) Theme Files from Ableton's Live 8 and 9 can not be edited with this tool, because their file format is not compatible with Ableton Live 10 ,

a .ask file contains the colors for 162 graphic screen elements. These files can be opened and viewed with a text editor. Unfortunately, the color assignments made there with RGB values remain a mystery for the most part.

In order to make color changes, you have to try them out. This little tool will help you.

Incidentally, there are two screenshots of the Ableton interface in the installation folder of this tool. These screenshots can be printed out so that you can enter colour assignments on the paper..

The principle:

Use this editor to select a theme file in the Live 10 installation folder to customize its color.. The name of the current theme file can be found in the Ableton settings

After opening in the editor, you will see all 162 changeable colors with a sequence number and a description. Each displayed color can now be replaced by a new color using a color palette.

To test the new colors, you must always save the color changes in the editor first. In The first time you save, a new theme file prefixed with **my** will be created. This ensures that no original file is changed. So your work file always has a **my** prefix in front of the original name.

You can now select this newly created theme file **my**xxx.ask in the Ableton settings to check your color changes directly on the screen. Leave the Ableton settings open because for each new color change check, you'll also need to reload your theme in Ableton. (i.e. temporarily select any theme, then immediately your newly changed **my**xxx theme)

Before get starting:

The editor avoids overwriting the original theme files. But, there may be carelessness at work.. **Therefore, copy all original theme files (.ask) into a backup folder of your choice before you start.**

Getting started:

Start the Themes Color Editor and use **Open File** to navigate to the theme file you want to change. In a standard installation, this would be the path C:\ProgramData\Ableton\Ressources\Themes\ xxx.ask

Load the original .ask file into the editor. You will now see all 162 customizable colors with the corresponding RGB values, a sequential numbering, and a name that refers to the program interface.

Now change colors by clicking in the corresponding New Color column. A color palette opens from which you can select and place the desired new color. You can undo a new color by clicking on the corresponding Old Color cell.

To see your color changes in Live 10, you must first save them in the Themes Editor: To do this, click **Save Theme** in the editor (the Live 10 Themes folder is already preselected).

The editor is programmed so that it does not overwrite the opened original theme file, but creates a new file with the prefix *my* in front of the old file name (ie my + original filename.ask).

After saving, select your new theme file in the Ableton settings (*my*xxx.ask) and check which color has changed in the look and feel of Ableton Live 10.

After you have saved the new theme file the first time with **Save Theme**, you can speed up the saving process considerably with **Quick Save**. The file will be saved in the background without any queries. The file name (myxxxx.ask) used during the first saving is retained.

Finally:

In the last column, on the far right, the **#** character is used to mark the last changed line. This should help during testing to find the last color change easily again.

The button **Color Table** opens the color table. Here you can select certain desired colors in advance and make them available for later use. By the way, the editor also displays the RGB color values of the old colors. In the *color table* of the editor, colors can also be defined using RGB color values. perfect to change colors only by nuances or if you want to take RGB defined colors from the internet. A website with many color profiles is e.g. http://www.colorexplorer.com/colorlibraries.aspx

The theme files with the extension .ask can be opened and viewed with any text editor. The readability is well structured by tabs (unfortunately not the content). The editor does not use these tabs when saving myxxx.ask files (of course they are still readable)

Tip: The entries **58, 118, 7, 5, 85, 126, 6** in the editor contained the main background colors of Live 10
 Start with these entries if you plan to make major color changes to the appearance of Ableton.

Note: This program may be used without any restrictions. A non-commercial distribution is also allowed.
This program, downloaded from my website, is free of viruses

During the installation no additional functions are installed. There is also no internet connection established.
Under http://www.reloop.net the program can be downloaded as an executable .EXE archive.

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