iPG-800 Manual

About:

iPG-800 is a MIDI Controller iPad app emulating the functionality of the PG-800, PG-300, PG-200 and PG-1000 Synthesizer Programmers that were built by Roland.
It works with a Roland JX-8P, MKS-70, JX-10 (with Colin Fraser OS or Fred Vecoven OS), Alpha Juno 1+2, MKS-50, HS-80, JX-3P with Organix or Kiwitechnics OS and D-50/D-550.

iPG-800 is a CoreMIDI app and connects to CoreMIDI compatible MIDI-Interfaces that support sysex like the iRig MIDI (e.g. Alesis IO Dock does not work) and to wireless MIDI Network sessions.

Important note: It fully works with a JX-10 that has the new OS by Frédéric Vecoven installed http://www.vecoven.com/superjx/superjx.html, and it works with limitations, like no parameter updates, with the older OS by Colin Fraser.

The Roland JX-8P is a superb sounding 6-voice analog synthesizer, that was built from 1984 on. It can be found for relatively cheap nowadays.

The main reason it is not much sought-after is the lack of sliders and knobs, that are supposed to be on a decent analog synth. Those controls came in the form of the PG-800, which was sold separately and is now, if you can find one, usually more expensive than the synth itself.

The PG-800 is not a MIDI-controller, but connects to the synth by a proprietary jack. However the JX-8P has a very good MIDI implementation, so every PG-800 function can be done with MIDI.

The best thing is, every time a Tone, the Roland term for a sound program, is changed, all the sound parameters are sent out via MIDI. This allows a connected MIDI controller to be perfectly in sync with the synth's settings.

The rarity of the PG-800, the good MIDI implementation and the fact that an iPad is similar in size to a PG-800 were reason enough to develop the iPG-800 iPad app.

Setup Procedure:

You can connect iPG-800 to your synth directly with a hardware MIDI interface or wirelessly using a computer.

Hardware MIDI:

You will need a CoreMIDI compatible MIDI interface that supports sysex messages, like the iRig MIDI or the Line 6 MIDI Mobilizer Version 2. The Alesis IO Dock will not work, it doesn't support sysex.
Alternatively you can use the Camera Connection Kit and a normal USB MIDI interface.

- Connect the MIDI Out of the synth with the MIDI In of your interface.
- Connect the MIDI In of the synth with the MIDI Out of your interface.
- Connect the MIDI interface with the iPad and launch iPG-800.

Wireless MIDI:

You will need a computer on the same wireless network, that has a MIDI interface connected.

- Connect the MIDI Out of the synth with the MIDI In of your interface.
- Connect the MIDI In of the synth with the MIDI Out of your interface.
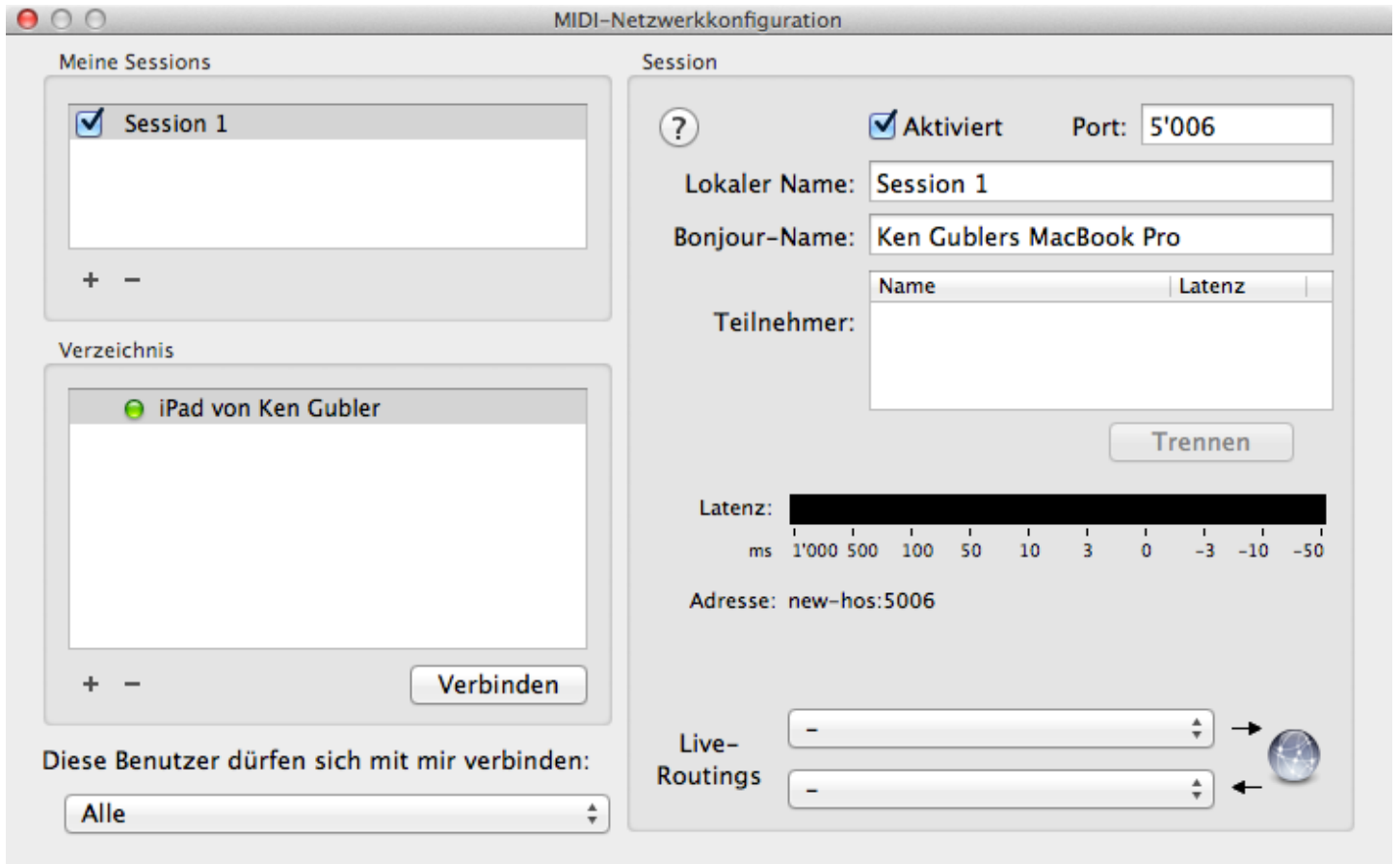- Launch iPG-800

Mac OS:

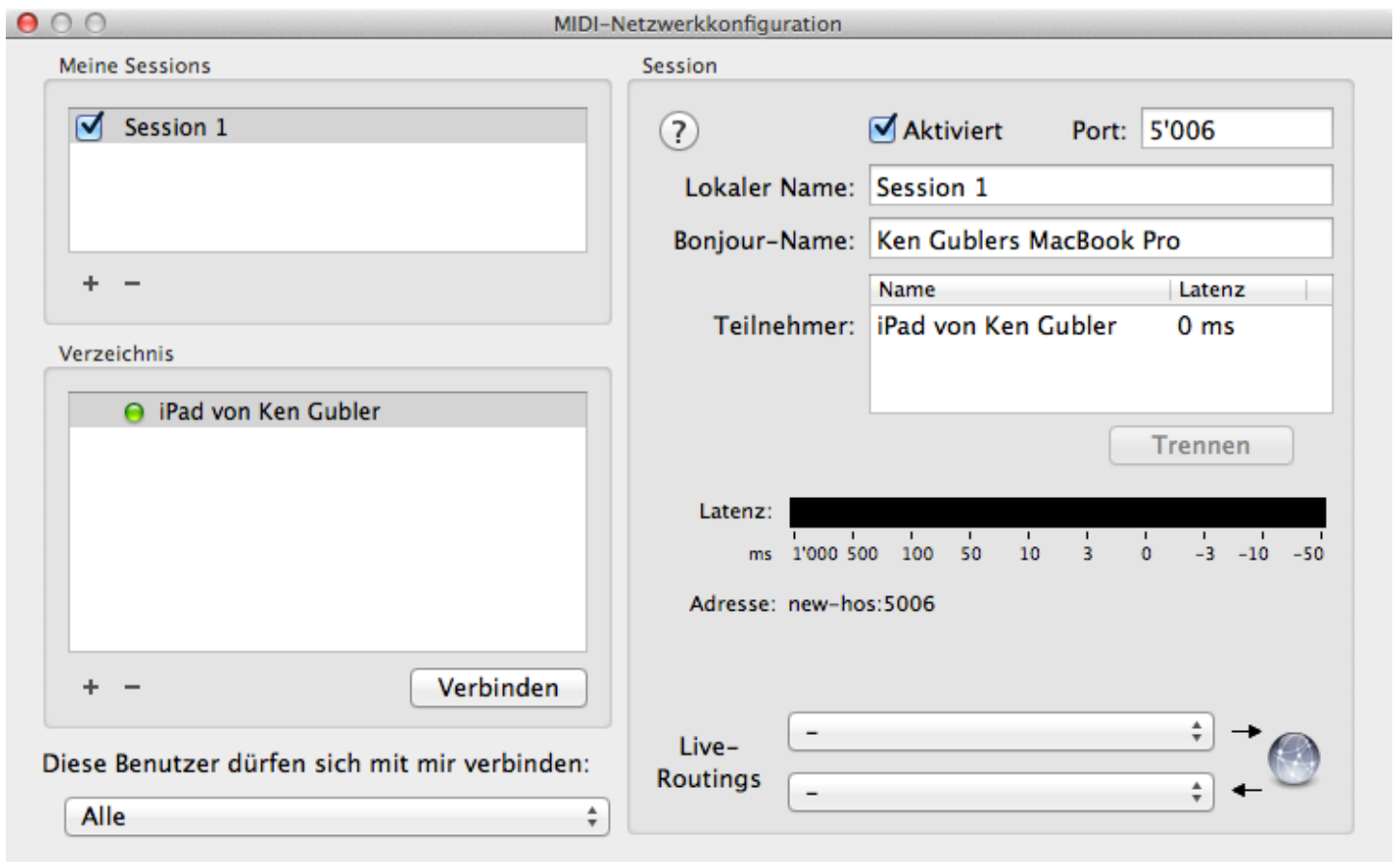Open the Audio-MIDI Setup under Utilities.
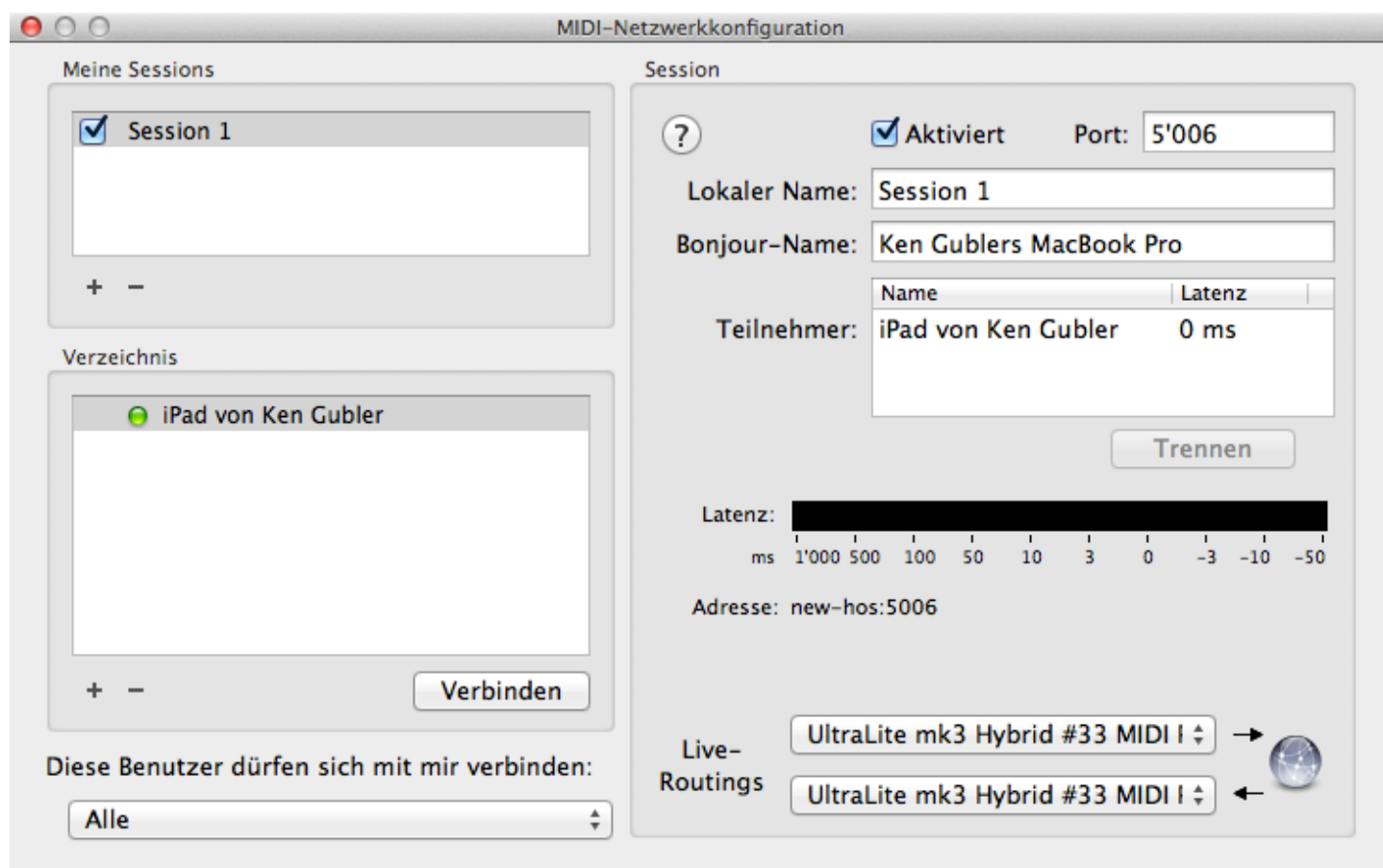In the MIDI-Studio window double click the network icon:

This opens the MIDI network configuration:

Double click your iPad in the directory window:

Your iPad is now connected. Set the MIDI port your synth is connected to under Live Routings to send and receive MIDI messages:

PC:

You need a program called rtpMIDI. Please refer to http://www.tobias-erichsen.de/software/rtpmidi.html for details.

Synth Setup Procedure:

- Check the MIDI Channel(s) (JX-8P: MIDI Menu 11 MKS-70: MIDI Menu 11, 21 and 31)
- Turn PROGRAM CHANGE on (JX-8P: MIDI Menu 12 MKS-70: MIDI Menu 13, 22 and 32)
- Turn SYSTEM EXCLUSIVE on (JX-8P: MIDI Menu 26 MKS-70: MIDI Menu 14)

- For the Alpha Juno push the MIDI button until you get to the respective menus (MIDI CH, MIDI PROG C, MIDI EXCL)
- D-50: Set Exclusive in the MIDI Menu to P-DUMP

iPG-800 Setup Procedure:

- Choose your synth model on the setup page. For the MKS-70 there are two modes. Mode A is the normal one and Mode B is the one for older Firmware (Sends out the whole tone data for every parameter change). If Mode A should not work, select Mode B.

- Set the MIDI Channel(s) according to your synth's setting. To change the control channel for the MKS-70, switch Synth Model to JX-8P and adjust the channel. Similarly MIDI Channel A and B are adjusted by selecting Tone A and B respectively.

- The 3 rotary knobs can be set to react to rotary or vertical moves respectively.

Operation:

Operation is as you would expect. All user controls, i.e. sliders, switches and knobs, send out their commands when changed and you'll hear the effects immediately.
In return, switching tones or patches (MKS-70 only) or changing one of the parameters on the synth, updates the user controls as well. This is the main advantage over the real PG-800. Note: This doesn't work on the JX-10.
The disclosure button in the left upper corner opens a popover, that lets you switch Tones and Patches (MKS-70) only.
Additionally there's a MANUAL button, which sends out the value of all user controls at once. The WRITE Button sends a write command (JX-8P only).

D-50: Handling the sliders by the slider cap sets all the selected values

directly to the value of the sliders position. Touching the sliders elsewhere without moving, displays the respective value first and moving then changes the values relatively (when more than one partial is selected e.g.).
More than one partial can be selected for editing. Therefore the partial whose values correspond to the slider positions is blinking. The common select buttons function similarly.
The sliders can't be moved if no partial nor common button is engaged.
The previous value button displays the tone values that were last received.
The manual button sends out only the partial or common data that is selected by the buttons.

Troubleshooting:

When using a hardware MIDI interface it can happen, that the MIDI input to the app is not working and thus the user interface elements won't get updated when tones are changed. In this case simply disconnect and then reconnect the MIDI interface.

 Note: The MIDI Interface must be **CoreMIDI** compatible and must support MIDI **sysex** messages. The Alesis IO Dock e.g. does not support sysex. The first version of the Line 6 MIDI Mobilizer doesn't work either. It's not CoreMIDI compatible.

iRig MIDI and the Line 6 MIDI Mobilizer II are verified to work with iPG-800.