

The Browse Selected Objects plugin

Plugins to simplify editing a set of filtered objects in Sibelius

Bob Zawalich July 7, 2018; updated July 18, 2025

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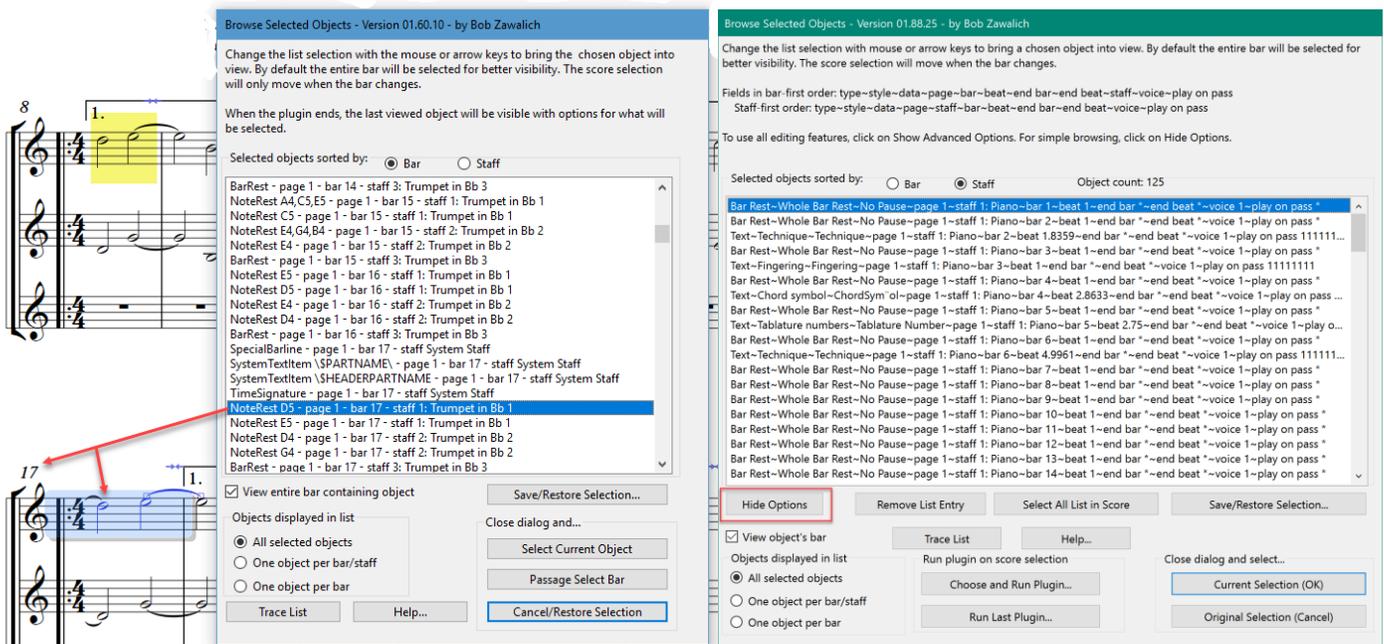
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Update notice:

This document shows dialogs from an earlier version of **Browse Selected Objects**, before there was a “simple” dialog version. The document describes what is now the **Advanced Options** form of Browse Selected Objects, and the original and current dialogs are shown here. The procedures described here still work the same way they did before, though there are now additional features in the **Advanced Options** dialog.



The “simple” view is designed to work well for simple browsing of selected objects. You can bring each selected object into view and close the plugin with the last viewed object selected.

Browse Selected Objects - Version 01.88.28 - by Bob Zawalich

Change the list selection with mouse or arrow keys to bring a chosen object into view. By default the entire bar will be selected for better visibility. The score selection will move when the bar changes.

Fields in bar-first order: type~style~data~page~bar~beat~end bar~end beat~staff~voice~play on pass
Staff-first order: type~style~data~page~staff~bar~beat~end bar~end beat~voice~play on pass

To use all editing features, click on Show Advanced Options. For simple browsing, click on Hide Options.

Selected objects sorted by: Bar Staff Object count: 6

Text~Chord symbol~ChordSym~ol~page 1~staff 1: Piano~bar 4~beat 2.8633~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass 1111111

Text~Tablature numbers~Tablature Number~page 1~staff 1: Piano~bar 5~beat 2.75~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass 1111...

Text~Expression~Expression~page 1~staff 2: Piano~bar 1~beat 1~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass 1111111

Text~Expression User Variant~Expression user ~page 1~staff 2: Piano~bar 2~beat 3.7891~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass...

Text~Tablature letters~Tablature Letter~page 1~staff 2: Piano~bar 4~beat 4.9961~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass 111111...

Text~Chord diagram fret~Guitar-Frame-Fre~page 1~staff 2: Piano~bar 5~beat 3.3242~end bar *~end beat *~voice 1~play on pass 11...

"Simple" dialog

View object's bar

Using Browse Selected Objects

Sometimes you run a filter that selects a large number of objects which may be scattered throughout a score. It can be difficult to find them, and if you click on an object to change it you will lose the rest of the selection. The document describes some plugins intended to make it easier to find and edit the members of such a group of objects.

An example of this process

You have a large orchestral score, say 60 staves, 250 or so pages, and 3000-odd bars. When there are notes that are tied across system breaks or page breaks, you feel there is often not enough space allocated for the ties, so you want to add more space where appropriate. There are a lot of places you will need to review, and it will be easy to miss some if you are reviewing them manually.

Plugins to use

The plugins that work together to browse a filtered score are:

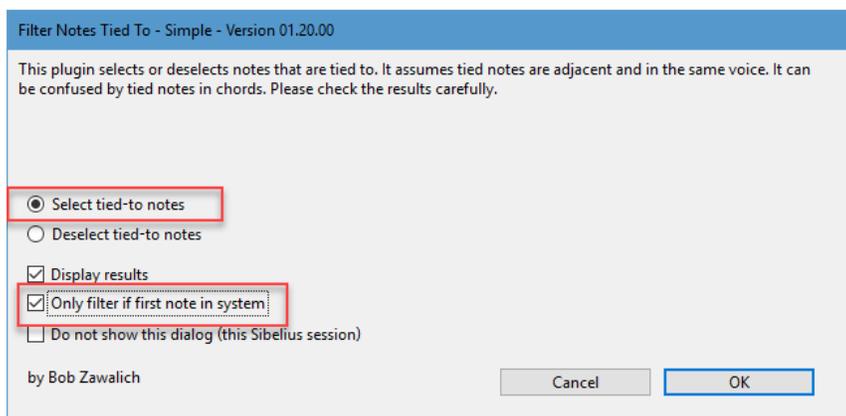
- **Browse Selected Objects** (category Navigation)
- **Save Or Restore Selection** (category Selection)

The plugins used to filter the score and process the results before browsing the objects are:

- **Filter Notes Tied To-Simple** (category Filter and Find)
- **Set Space Before First Note In Bar** (category Engravers' Tools)

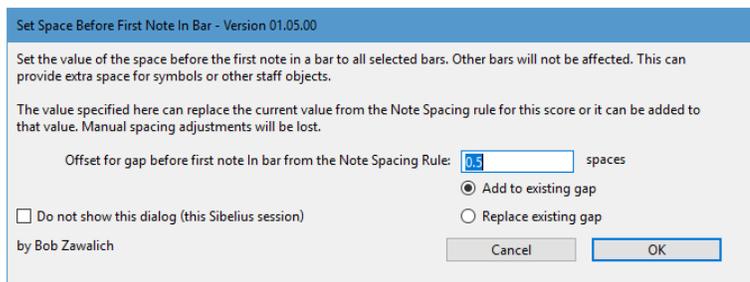
The process: setup

With the entire score selected, run **Filter Notes Tied To-Simple** with the option to select only the notes that are in the first bar of a system. This should select all the bars with tied-to notes across system and page breaks. **Filter Notes Tied To-Simple** can only make intelligent guesses about which notes are tied-to, so you should assume there may be some false positives or negatives. It is still the best tool I know of to filter these kinds of notes.



You can then use **Set Space Before First Note In Bar** to add extra space around the bars in the selection. Try an extra .75 or .5 spaces. You could do this for all the selected bars at once, if you are comfortable that one

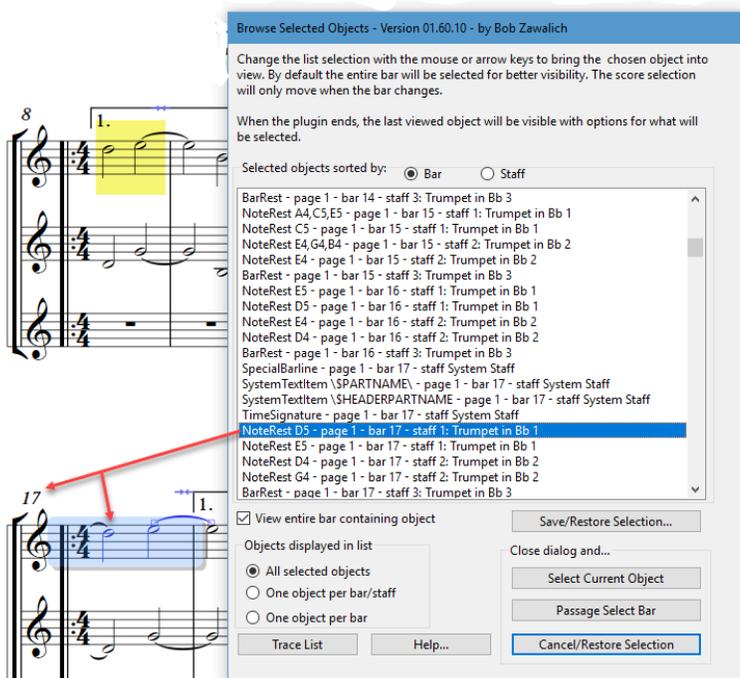
setting will work for most bars, or you could examine each bar and run **Set Space Before First Note In Bar** only where you think appropriate. If the adjustment works most of the time, it would be faster to apply it to all bars and then fix the ones that are not right, and that is the process I describe here.



The process: examining the filtered objects

To examine the selected objects, run **Browse Selected Objects**, which will give you a list of all the objects in the selection, showing all the staves for each bar, or all the bars for each staves depending on the **Selected objects sorted by** option. When you change the selection in the list box with the mouse or arrow keys, the objects represented by the list entry will move into view (the bar containing the object will be passage-selected by default, which makes it more visible). You should be able to examine each bar while the plugin is up, or if you need to look more closely you can close the dialog and examine it in the score.

Note that while it would be desirable to be able to click in the score to edit it, then go back to the dialog to continue browsing, plugins cannot work that way. Plugin dialogs are “modal”, which means they keep the focus and you cannot click outside the dialog while it is up. The plugin is able to position the score under itself, but in order to make edits in the score you need to close the dialog, edit the score, and then run the dialog again. This plugin tries to make it seem as close to editing while the dialog is up as it can. It is very helpful to have this plugin assigned to a keystroke, or to use one of the mechanisms described in the Appendix, so you can quickly restart the plugin after an edit.



Here is where the **Save or Restore Selection** plugin can come in very handy. If it is installed, the Save/Restore Selection button is enabled, and the first time **Browse Selected Objects** runs in a Sibelius

session it will ask you if you want to save the selection. At this time the selection will likely be all the filtered objects, and it is a good time to save it.

If you save it you will be able to restore it quickly later without needing to rerun a filter. If you really want to cut down on keystrokes, you can have **Save or Restore Selection** hide its dialog, and just do a restore when it is run. Be aware, though, that if a restore fails or you want to save a different selection, you will need to run **Save or Restore Selection** on a different score that has a selection, then turn off the checkbox for hiding, then run it on your score again, or close and restart Sibelius to get the dialog to appear again.

Here are 2 things to do that will make the process of navigating the filtered objects in a large score much more efficient and pleasant:

- Save the selection the first time you run the plugin on a new filtered selection so you can restore that selection later.
- Turn on **View > Invisibles > Bar Numbers** so it is easier to tell which bar and staff you are looking at while the dialog is up.

Customizing the objects viewed in the list box

When using **Browse Selected Objects** to look through the bars, there are several ways you can change what is shown in the list box and what is selected in the score as it is displayed.

- If **View entire bar containing object** is checked (the default), the bar containing the object will be passage selected in the score, and for a system object like Title text, the entire system will be selected. This makes it much easier to see what has been selected. You can turn this off, and then only one object will be selected.
- Using the radio buttons labeled **Objects displayed in list**, the list box will include:
 - All the objects in the selection for **All selected objects** (the default)
 - The first object found in each bar/staff combination for **One object per bar/staff**
 - The first object found in each bar, regardless of the staff, for **One object per bar**

The second and third options will let you move around more quickly. You can change the option at any point if you want to see more detail.

Click on a list box entry, use the up and down arrow keys, or type the start of a list entry to change the selection in the list box and bring the corresponding score object into view. You may need to move the dialog box at times if it covers up the object you want to see.

If you see a bar in the score that needs adjustment, click on one of the **Close dialog** buttons, which will return you to the score at the location you were last viewing. **Passage Select Bar** would be a good choice because it will make your destination obvious, even if there are a lot of staves. Make your changes, and then you can run the plugin again. Make sure you have something selected (any selection will work) or the plugin will not run. Once run, you can restore a selection if you had saved one earlier and continue where you left off. Restoring the selection will refill the list box with all the selected objects and will try to choose the last list box entry you had looked at.

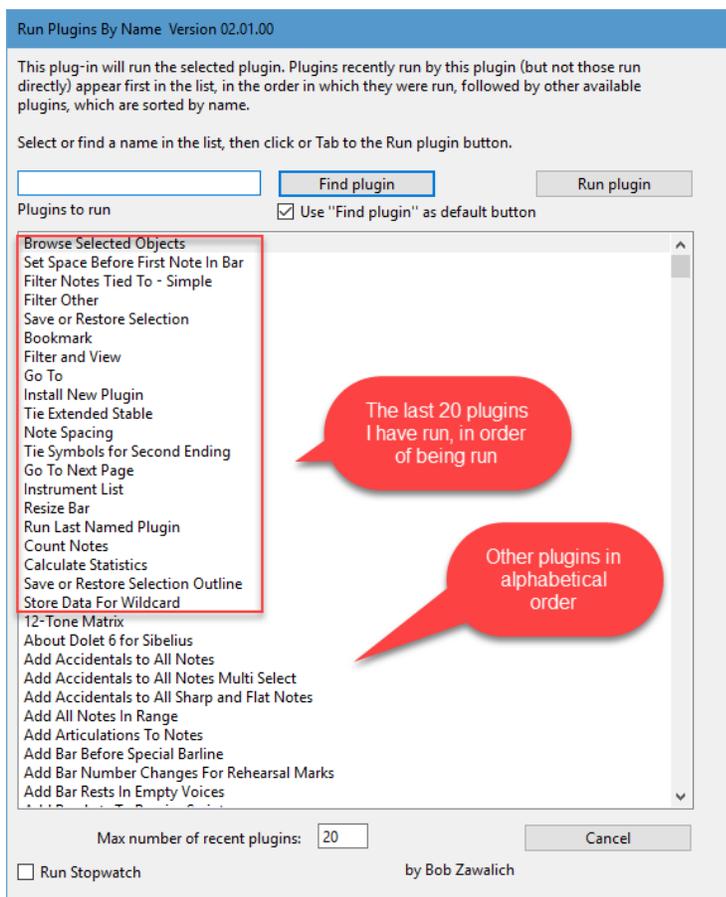
These plugins should make the process of examining and changing a set of filtered objects faster, simpler, and more reliable.

Appendix: Managing multiple plugins in a workflow

Running each plugin from its menu is pretty tedious. You could assign a shortcut to each plugin but that is also tedious. Here are 2 schemes for managing multiple plugins.

1. Use **Run Plugins By Name** and **Run Last Named Plugin** (category Other). **Run Last Named Plugin** will be installed automatically when you install **Run Plugins By Name**. I personally have keyboard shortcuts assigned to these 2 plugins at all times. This requires no setup, and works very well if the plugins you run change a lot.

Run Plugins By Name shows an alphabetical list of all the plugins installed on your machine, and has a Find button where you can enter part of the name and it will find the plugin. When you run a plugin from this plugin its name will be moved to the top of the list so you can find it quickly later. Typically the last several plugins you have run will hang around at the top of the list, and you will be able to access them with a few clicks. **Run Last Named Plugin** immediately runs the last plugin run through **Run Plugins By Name**. If you have a shortcut assigned to it, it is very easy to keep rerunning the same plugin.



2. Use **My Plugins** (category Other)

My Plugins also presents a list of installed plugins, but it is a smaller list, and you need to add the plugins to the list. Once added, each plugin has a single-number or single-letter shortcut inside the plugin listbox. You can assign a shortcut to it and set up the plugins you will be using, then run the plugin, type the shortcut number or letter, and choose **Run Plugin**.

This requires more setup than **Run Plugin By Name** but if you use the same plugins often, it is very easy to run the plugins you have in your list (up to 35 plugins), plus the internal shortcuts are stable and only change if you move plugins around. If you set **Run Plugin if list box changes**, then clicking on a plugin

name will run it immediately. One faster way to fill the **My Plugins** list is to create a text file containing plugin names and import them all at once into **My Plugins**.

My Plugins

Plugins to run

- 1 - Browse Selected Objects
- 2 - Save or Restore Selection
- 3 - Set Space Before First Note In Bar
- 4 - Filter Notes Tied To - Simple
- 5 - Add Fingering To Notes
- 6 - Change Split Point
- 7 - Combine Tied Notes and Rests
- 8 - Double Note Values
- 9 - Draw Free Rhythm Barline
- A - Find and Replace Text
- B - Halve Note Values
- C - Harmonics Playback
- D - Realize Chord Symbols
- E - Rehearsal Recordings
- F - Renotate Performance
- G - Scales and Arpeggios
- H - Simplify Accidentals
- I - What Is Where

Run the plug-in selected in the list. Add plugins or reorder the list in Customize.

Type the first number or letter in a list entry, or select it with the mouse, then click Run or type Enter.

"Run plugin if list box changes" runs a plugin if you click, arrow, or type in the list box. It requires Sibelius 7.1.3 or later.

Run plugin if list box changes

by Bob Zawalich Version 02.00.00

Customize...

Cancel Run plugin

My Plugins

Add entries from the "Available Plugins" list to the "Plugins in current set" list, then move or delete entries in the destination list.

You can add up to 35 total plugins. The shortcuts in the main dialog (1 - 9 and A - Z) will be generated according to the position in the list.

If you are running Sibelius 6, you will need to click in or tab to the list box to reset the focus after the main dialog returns.

Available plugins

- Filter Half Rests In 34 Time
- Filter Harp Pedal Changes
- Filter Harp Pedal Diagrams
- Filter Hidden Objects
- Filter Note Arpeggios Jazz Artic
- Filter Notes And Rests
- Filter Notes By String
- Filter Notes Tied To - Simple
- Filter Objects In Bar
- Filter Other
- Filter Slurred Notes - Simple
- Filter Stem Direction
- Filter System Objects
- Filter Text
- Filter Text By Length
- Filter What Was Chosen

Plugins in current set

- Browse Selected Objects
- Save or Restore Selection
- Set Space Before First Note In Bar
- Filter Notes Tied To - Simple
- Add Fingering To Notes
- Change Split Point
- Combine Tied Notes and Rests
- Double Note Values
- Draw Free Rhythm Barline
- Find and Replace Text
- Halve Note Values
- Harmonics Playback
- Realize Chord Symbols
- Rehearsal Recordings
- Renotate Performance
- Scales and Arpeggios
- Simplify Accidentals

Add >

Remove >

Move

Up >

Down >

< Trace List

< Sort List

< Clear List

< Trace List

Import plugins into list:

From file of plugin names...

Useful shipping plugins

Importing clears existing list

Importing sorts existing list

by Bob Zawalich Version 02.00.00

Cancel OK