

Changing default dialog settings in Sibelius plug-ins

Some Sibelius plug-ins remember their dialog settings across Sibelius sessions, but at the start of each Sibelius session most revert to the defaults that are stored in the plug-in file.

I have discussed how plug-ins save defaults in more detail in this post in Robert Puff's **Of Note** blog: http://www.rpmseattle.com/of_note/how-sibelius-plugins-store-their-settings-for-user-data/.

If the plug-in you are using retains its settings across Sibelius sessions, then you only need to set the values you want when you run the plug-in.

If the dialog settings revert to the original values the first time you run the plug-in in a Sibelius session, you can usually change the default by running the plug-in and setting the values you want as default in the plug-in dialog, then editing the plug-in in the Sibelius plug-in editor.

Warnings!

Editing the plug-in changes the file that contains the plug-in code. It is possible to accidentally corrupt the plug-in file. If the plug-in no longer runs after it is edited, see the instructions below for restoring the original plug-in.

It is best edit only downloadable plug-ins, rather than those that ship with Sibelius. You can change defaults for shipping plug-ins as well, but see the information below on shipping plug-ins before you edit them.

Changing the plug-in defaults has 2 steps:

1. Run the plug-in, and when the dialog comes up, change the settings to be the defaults you want. Hit OK if possible, since some plug-ins restore dialog settings when you Cancel. Run the plug-in again to ensure that the settings you want are still there, then choose Cancel.
2. Edit the plug-in in the plug-in editor. When the plug-in editor comes up do not change any methods, data, or dialogs, but simply click the OK button.

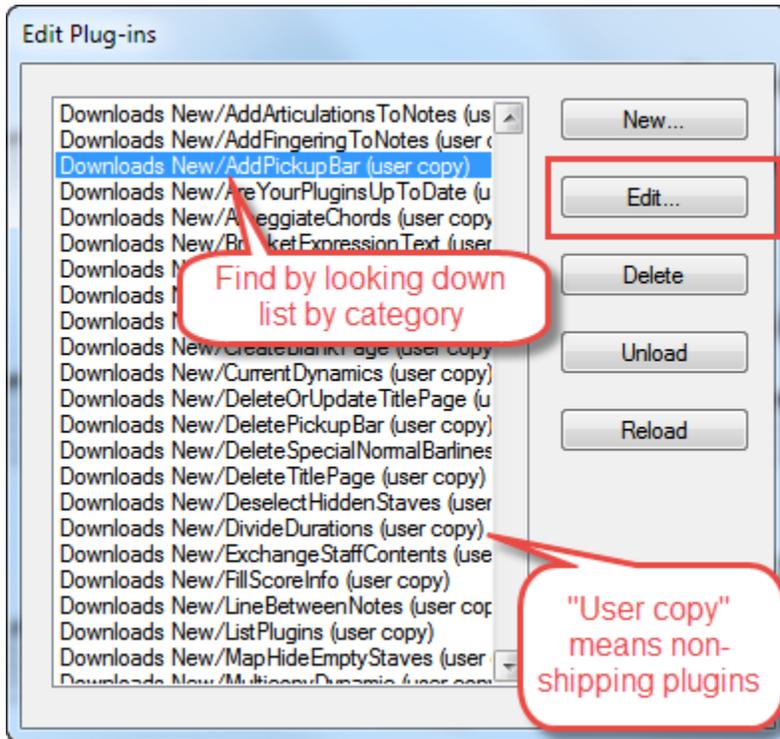
After this, the plug-in should come up with the values you have chosen the first time you run the plug-in in a Sibelius session. To test this, close and restart Sibelius and run the plug-in. If the defaults have not changed see the troubleshooting section below.

How to use the plug-in editor to change defaults

The appearance of the plug-in editor has changed since Sibelius 7, but once you have found the plug-in to edit, the process will be the same. In all versions of

Sibelius downloadable plug-ins or edited shipping plug-ins will have “(user copy)” next to the plug-in name, and unedited shipping plug-ins will not.

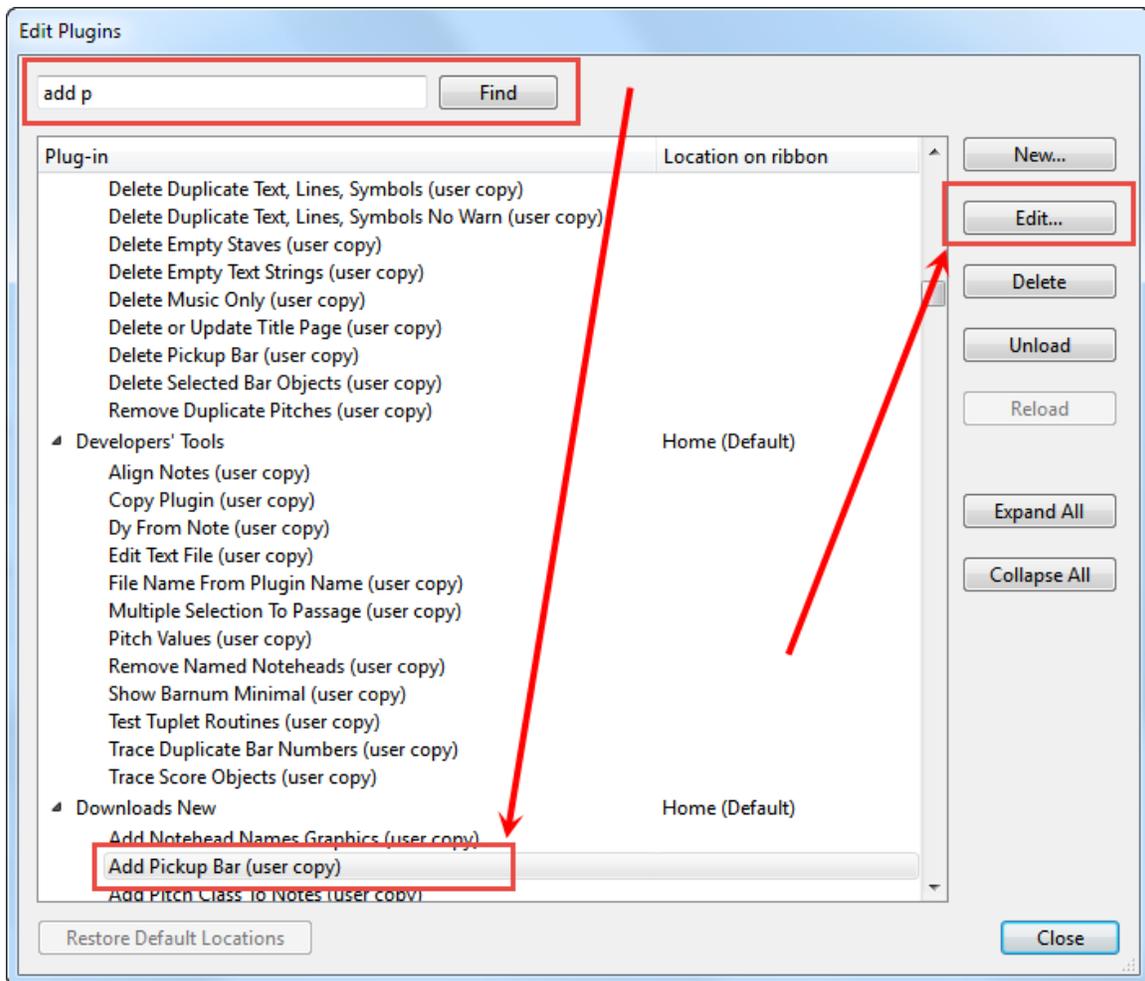
Prior to Sibelius 7, you invoke the plug-in editor using Plug-ins > Edit Plug-ins (default shortcut F9). You will see a dialog like this:



You can find the plug-in you want by scrolling down the list and finding the plug-in in its category. This list is sorted by plug-in name within category, so it is useful to know the category of the plug-in on your machine.

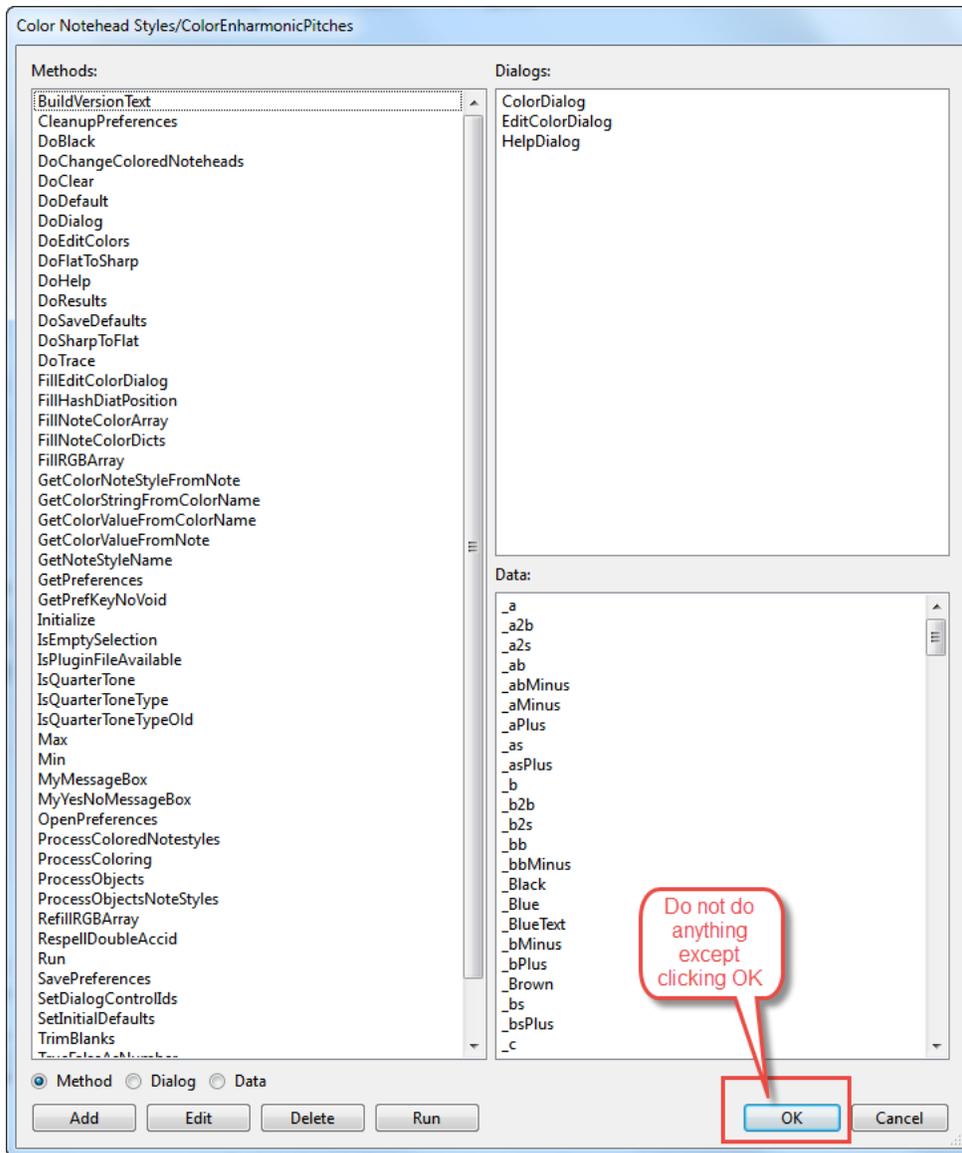
Once the plug-in you want is selected, click on the Edit... button.

In Sibelius 7 and later use File > Plug-ins > Edit Plug-ins (default shortcut F9), and you will see this dialog:



You can find the plug-in you want by scrolling down the list, and finding the plug-in in its category, or you can use the **Find** box, and type in the plug-in menu name or part of it, and click on Find. Find is case insensitive and will find any name that matches the bit of text you have typed. In the dialog above I typed “add p”, then clicked on Find a couple of times to get to **Add Pickup Bar**. (Do not hit Return to use Find; that will just close the dialog). Once the plug-in you want is selected, click on the Edit... button.

The plug-in editor itself will show a dialog like this:



For our purposes, **do not click any button except OK**. Click OK and Sibelius will rewrite the plug-in file, and will make the current dialog settings permanent.

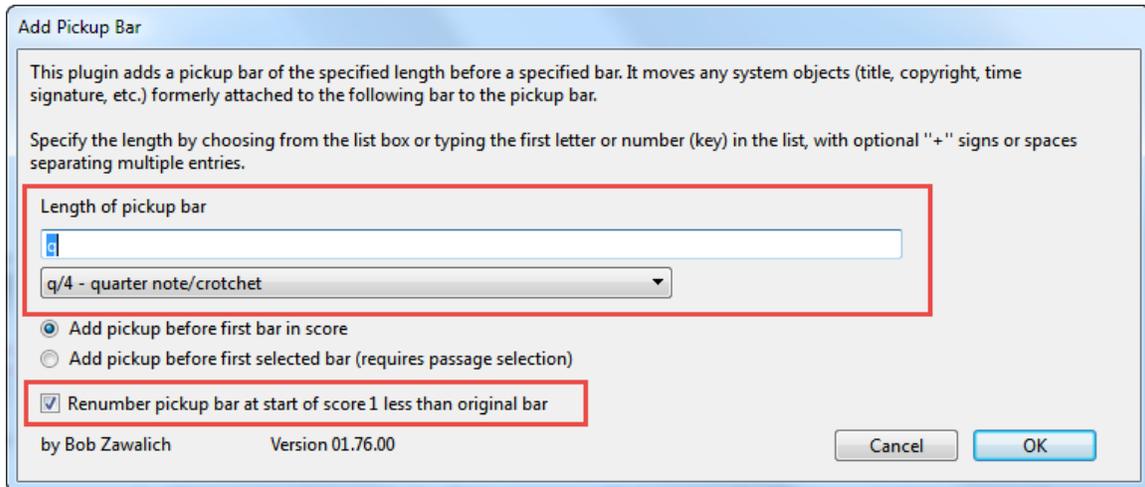
To test, close and restart Sibelius, then run your plug-in. Your new settings should appear in the dialog.

Example: Editing Add Pickup Bar

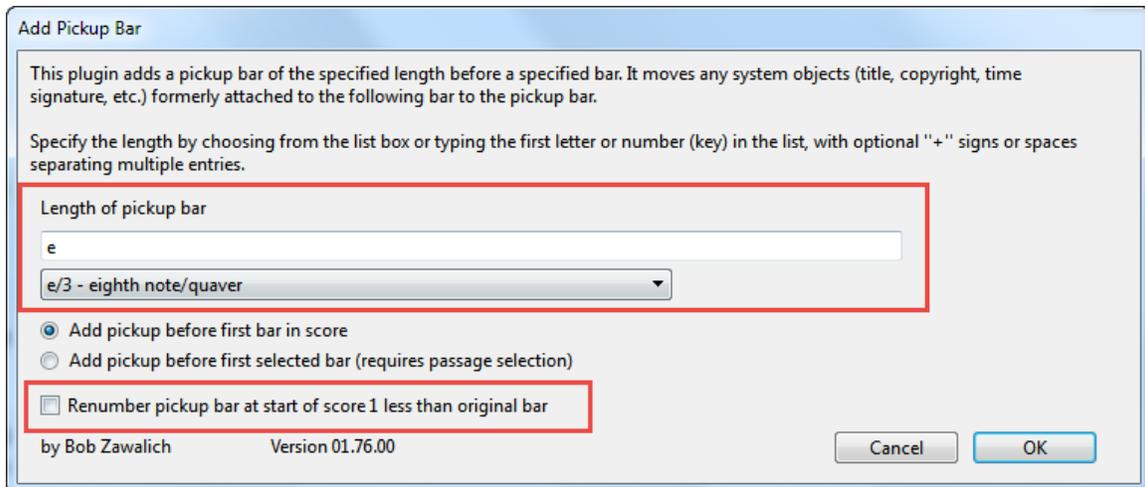
The downloadable plug-in **Add Pickup Bar** can be installed in Sibelius 7 or later in the plug-in installer from category **Composing Tools**, or it can be downloaded, unzipped and installed in Sibelius 6 or earlier from <http://www.sibelius.com/download/plugins/index.html?plugin=168>. You will

need to close and restart Sibelius to use the plug-in unless you used the plug-in installer.

When you first run the plug-in, its dialog will look like this:



For this example, let us say you would like the plug-in to come up with an 8th note pickup, and not have it renumber the bars. The first step is to run the plug-in and change the settings.

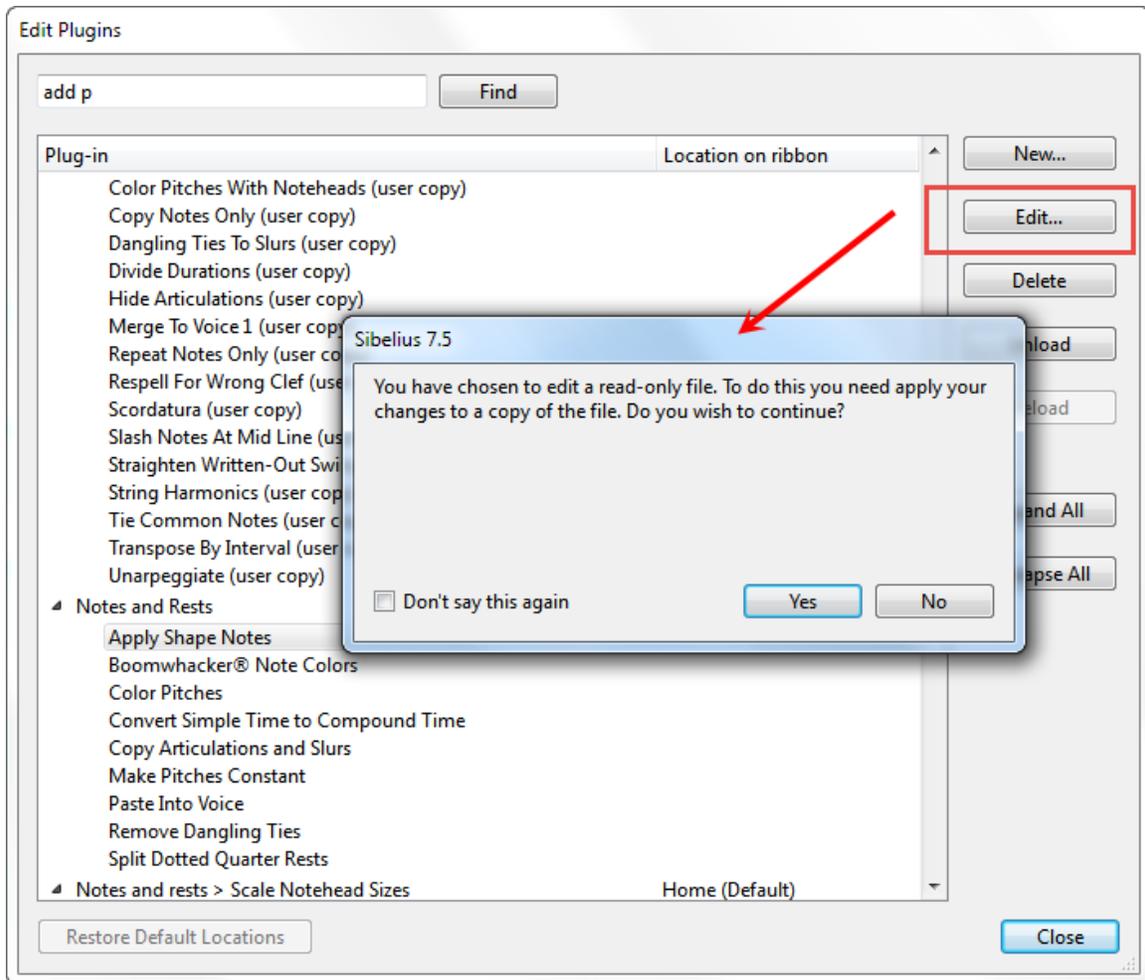


I suggest clicking on OK to ensure the settings are set, and then use Undo to remove the added pickup bar.

Now run the plug-in editor, find **Add Pickup Bar** and edit it, hitting only the OK button. Close and restart Sibelius and check that the defaults in the dialog are what you wanted.

Editing shipping plug-ins

If the plugin does not say “(user copy)” in the plug-in editor, then it is one of the plug-ins that ship with Sibelius. You should not change the files that are installed by Sibelius, but they provided a mechanism to let us make changes to shipping plug-ins, House Styles, or Manuscript Papers. If you edit a shipping plugin it will tell you that you are editing a read-only file as shown below. If you say “Yes”, then a copy of the plug-in file is made in a user plug-in folder with the same name as the shipping plug-in folder, and any changes will be made to the copy of the file. When Sibelius runs plug-ins, it looks first for a user copy of the plug-in, and if it finds one it will run it rather than running the shipping file.



When you update to a new version of Sibelius, it is good to check if you have any user copies of shipping plug-ins. If so, consider deleting them, and re-making your changes to the current shipping version of those plug-ins. That way you will get any changes that were made to the plugin for the new version.

The downloadable plugin **Restore Edited Shipping Files** (category Developers' Tools) can be used to show you if you have changed any shipping files.

Troubleshooting

If you edit the plug-in, and after a restart the defaults have not changed, it might be worth following the steps again. If it still has not changed, then most likely the plug-in is forcing the dialog settings to be the same every time, and you would have to change the plug-in code in a more complex way. If the plug-in author is known, it might be worth emailing to see if anything can be done.

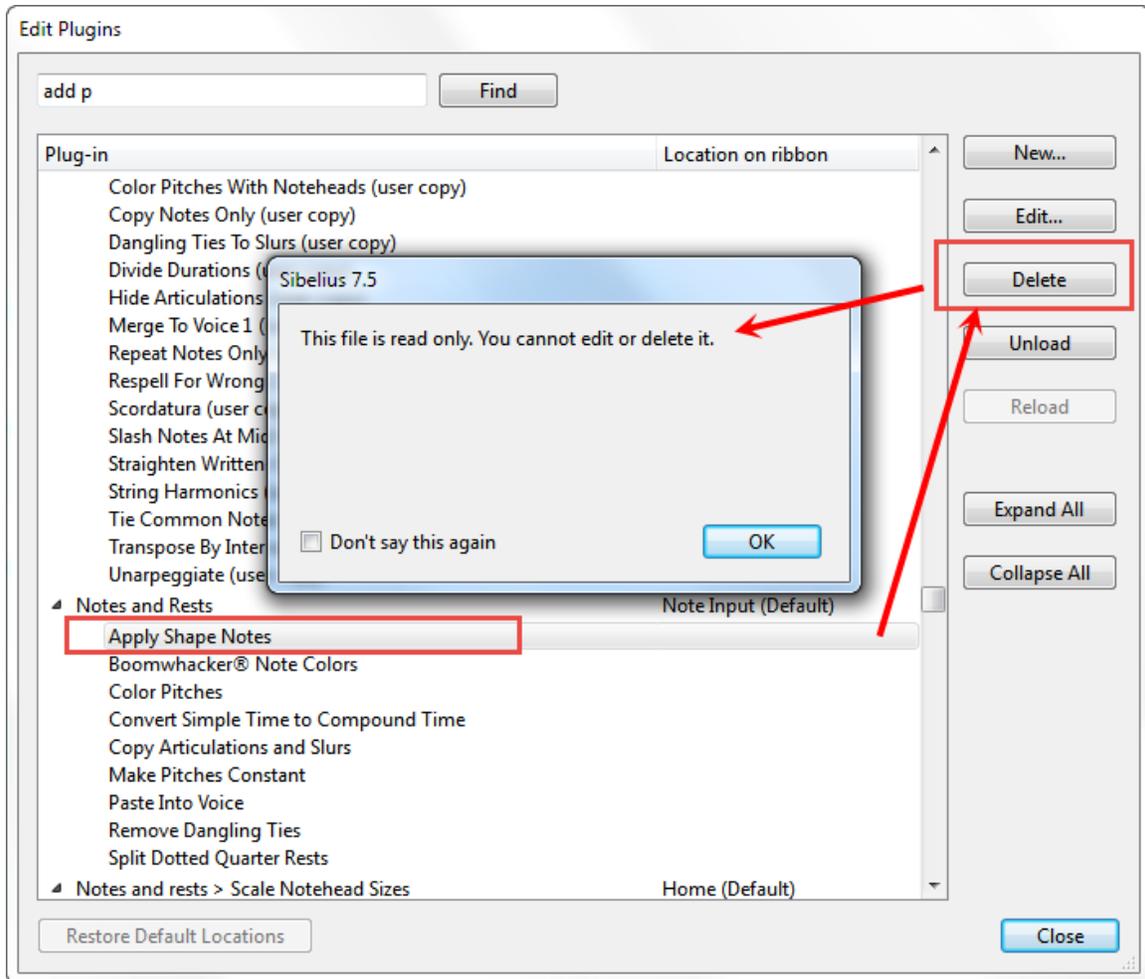
If the plug-in does not run at all, see the section on restoring a file.

Restoring corrupted plug-in files

If there is a serious problem with the edited plug-in, restore the original file. If the plug-in had been downloaded from the download page or you had gotten it from the plug-in author, reinstall the plug-in to the same location, then close and restart Sibelius and you should be back where you started.

If the plug-in had been a shipping plug-in, open the plug-in editor again and find the plug-in as described above. Even though the name is that of a shipping plug-in, editing it made a copy so you should see “(user copy)” next to the name. Now, instead of clicking on “Edit...” click on “Delete”, and the copy will be deleted, and Sibelius will revert to using the plug-in file for the shipping plug-in.

If the plug-in is not a user copy, Sibelius will not let you delete it, so you are in no danger of deleting the actual shipping file.



Once you have removed the corrupted file, you can try the whole process again, if you wish, being especially careful to not click on any buttons but “OK” in the plug-in editor.

If you are careful, this is a very good way to make a simple customization to a plug-in to better fit your workflow.