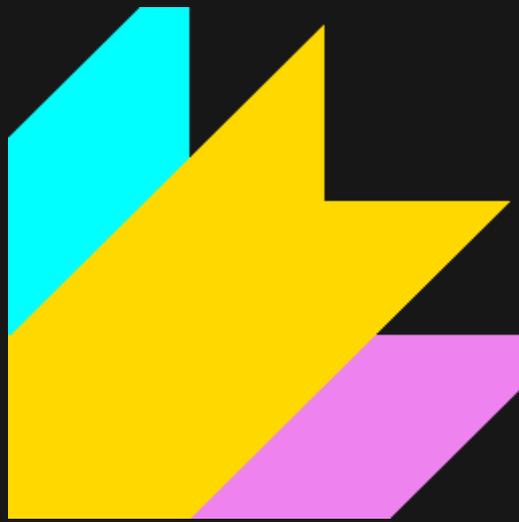


# Chordwatch



# User Guide

# Contents

Introduction

Installation

Activation

Overview

Quick Start

Chord Recognition

TAB Fretboard

Scale Guides & Chords

LivePlay

Settings

Chordwatch with your DAW

# Introduction

Thank you for purchasing Chordwatch.

Chordwatch is the ultimate music theory teaching tool that helps you learn and play with real-time chord recognition, automatic TAB generation, visual scale guides, online collaboration and more.

This document covers all features of Chordwatch, how they work, and how to make best use of them. This is a living document which will be updated as required.

# Installation

There are two different ways to purchase and install Chordwatch - **Steam** and **Gumroad**.

## Steam

**Windows** - After downloading and running for the first time, a prompt will be shown asking to install the 'Loopbel Virtual MIDI' driver. This is optional but recommended. This is important as Windows only allows a MIDI device to be used by a single application at a time. You may wish to skip this step if you already have a virtual MIDI solution.

**macOS** - Simply download and run.

**Linux** - Simply download and run.

## Gumroad

**Windows** - Run the installer, if the 'SmartScreen' prompt shows please choose 'More info' and 'Run anyway'. There is a checkbox to install the 'Loopbel Virtual MIDI' driver. This is optional but recommended. This is important as Windows only allows a MIDI device to be used by a single application at a time.

**macOS** - Run the installer, then drag & drop the App into the presented Applications shortcut. After install the App may need to be run twice.

**Linux** - Extract the AppImage and run. The App may need to be flagged as executable.

# Activation

Chordwatch can be activated and installed on up to three devices.

## Steam

Activation is automatic with no actions required.

## Gumroad

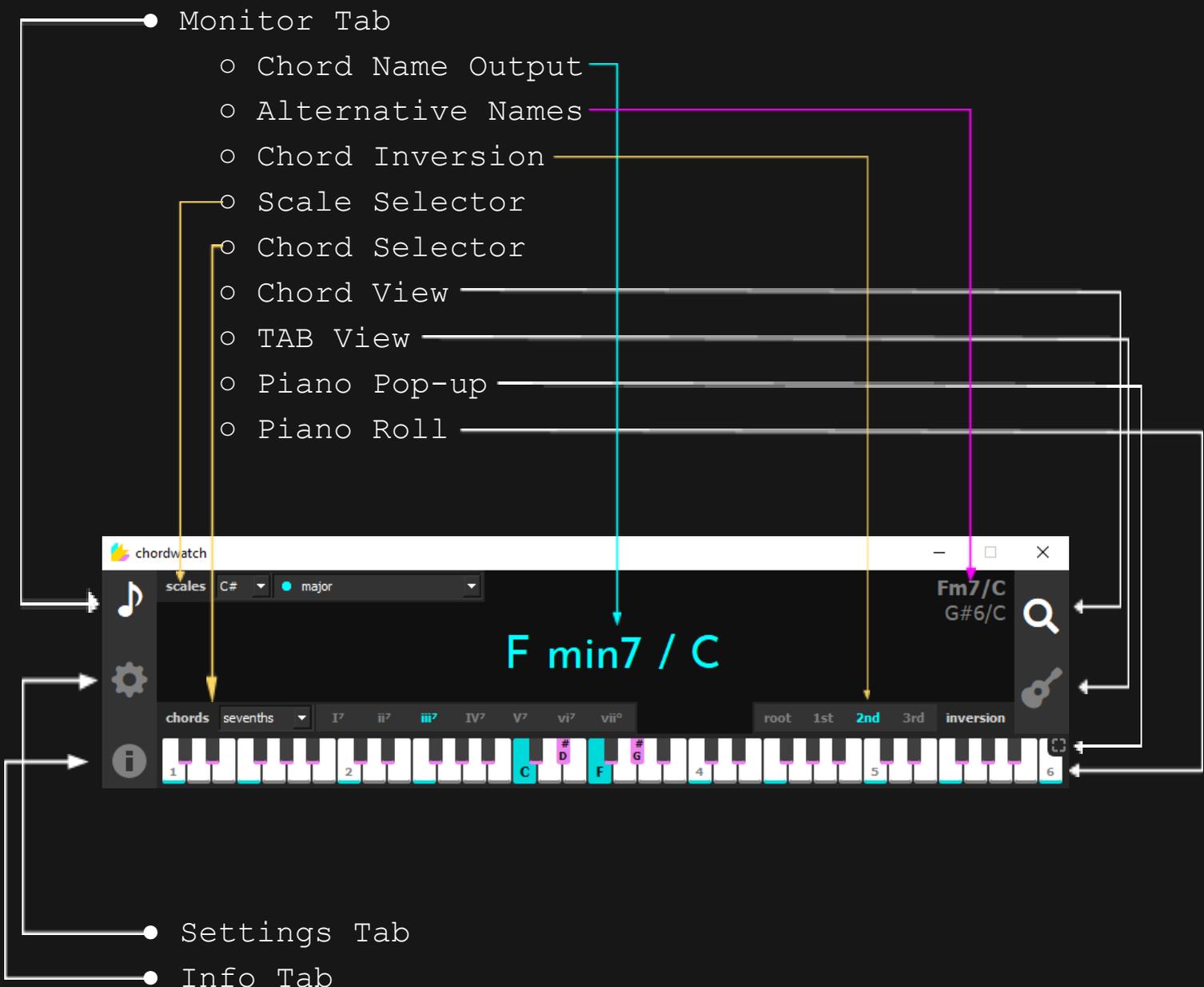
To activate Chordwatch you will require the email address you used at checkout and the licence key which was sent to you, also available on the 'View Content' page on Gumroad.

After running Chordwatch, simply enter your email address and licence key and click 'Activate'.

If activation fails it may mean either the email or key is incorrect, the activation limit is reached or there is a problem connecting to the internet. Please use the contact button to get support.

# Overview

Chordwatch works by monitoring a selected "MIDI input" (or mouse & keyboard) and displaying relevant chord information, with the option to forward the MIDI stream to other apps via "MIDI output", or even to other Chordwatch users online via "LivePlay".



# Quick Start

1. Install Chordwatch on your desired platform.
2. If you wish to use your MIDI instrument, go to the Settings Tab and select from the "midi input" drop-down the device you would like to monitor. Otherwise, set this to "none".
3. If you wish to use Chordwatch with another app, go to the Settings Tab and set the "midi output" drop-down to "LoopBe Internal MIDI" ("*Chordwatch Passthrough*" on macOS/Linux). Otherwise, keep this as "Chordwatch Piano FluidSynth" - built-in synth.
4. Go to the Monitor Tab and start playing your MIDI instrument! You can also use the computer keyboard keys "AWSEDFTGYHUK", or mouse click the piano, with **Ctrl/Cmd** acting as sustain and **Esc** to clear.
5. Congratulations, you're set up! Chordwatch has many features not covered in this quick start. You can learn all about them throughout this guide!

# Chord Recognition

Chordwatch monitors the input midi stream (or mouse & keyboard) and detects any chords that are played and displays the following information:

1. The chord name - at the centre.
2. Alternative chord names - at the top right.
3. The chord inversion - at the bottom right.
4. The chord TAB - in TAB View.
5. The chord symbol - in the system tray icon.

When a valid chord (or interval) is detected, the pressed piano keys will highlight to the 'special key colour' of the current theme, indicating a chord has been played.

## Chord View

The Chord View is the default view, and can be selected by clicking the "magnifying glass" icon.

In this View, the chord inversion and any alternative chord names can be seen, alongside the main chord name.

## TAB View

The TAB View can be selected by clicking the "guitar" icon.

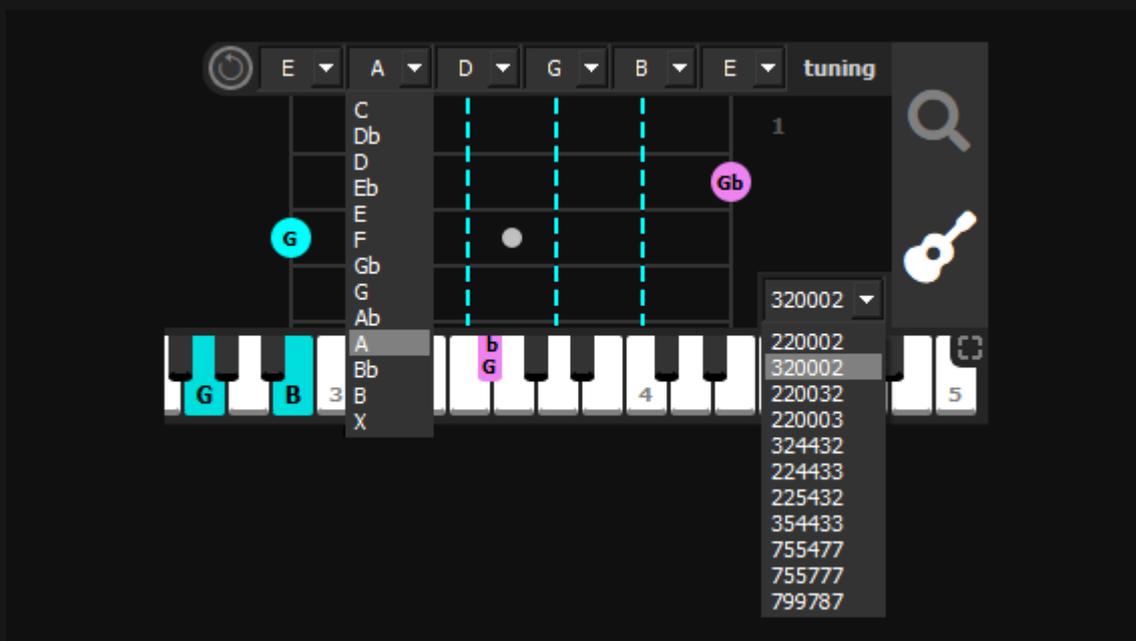
In this View, TAB for the current chord and guitar tuning is generated, alongside the main chord name.

***i** You can preview any inversion of the current chord by hovering your mouse over the inversion numbers at the bottom right, and click to hear it played!*

# TAB Fretboard

When in **TAB View**, Chordwatch will automatically generate multiple TAB options, with respect to the current tuning and display it on the fretboard.

The fret number is displayed on the top right of the fretboard to help you locate where to play the chord. A dashed line represents an open string to be played.



TAB options can be browsed by using the drop-down at the bottom right, clicking an alternative TAB will update the fretboard.

## Custom Tuning

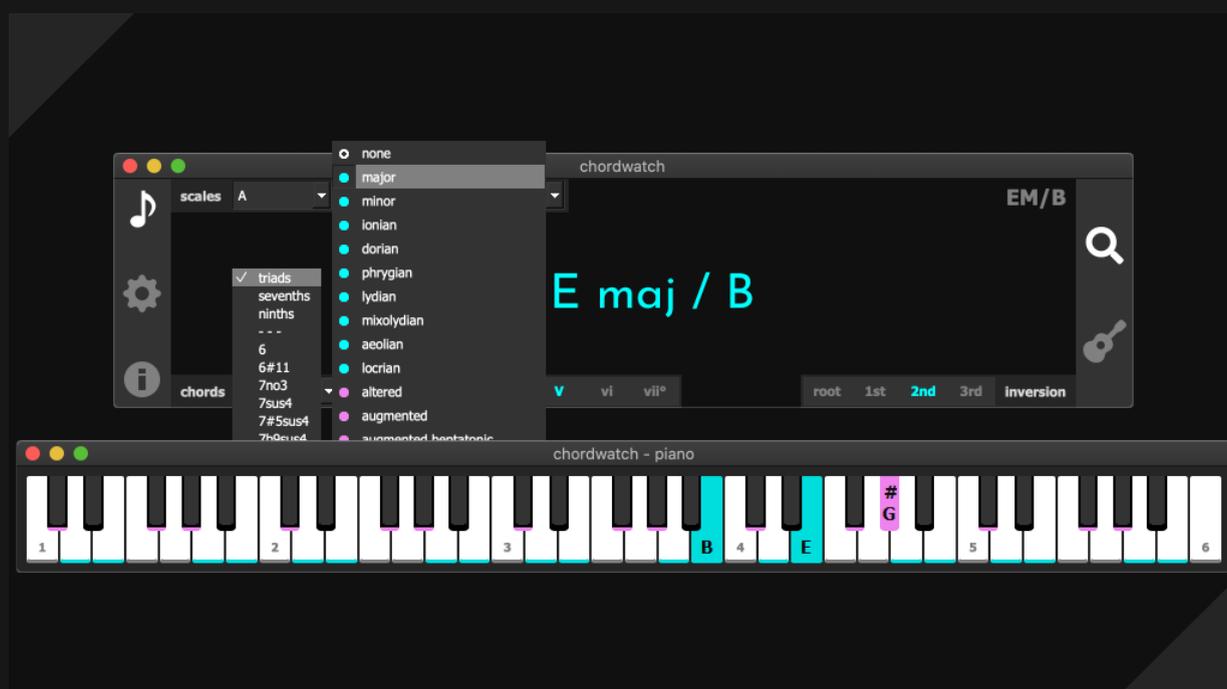
Each string on the fretboard can be tuned to a different note by using the top drop-downs. Doing so will adjust the TAB to respect your tuning.

The custom tuning may be reset to standard tuning by clicking the "rewind arrow" at the top left.

# Scale Guides & Chords

Chordwatch has the ability to highlight scales & modes on the piano roll, and to preview *any diatonic chord* from that scale.

To select a scale, use the two drop-downs on the top left to choose a scale tonic and type.



Once selected, the piano roll will highlight the notes within the scale, and also display the chords menu.

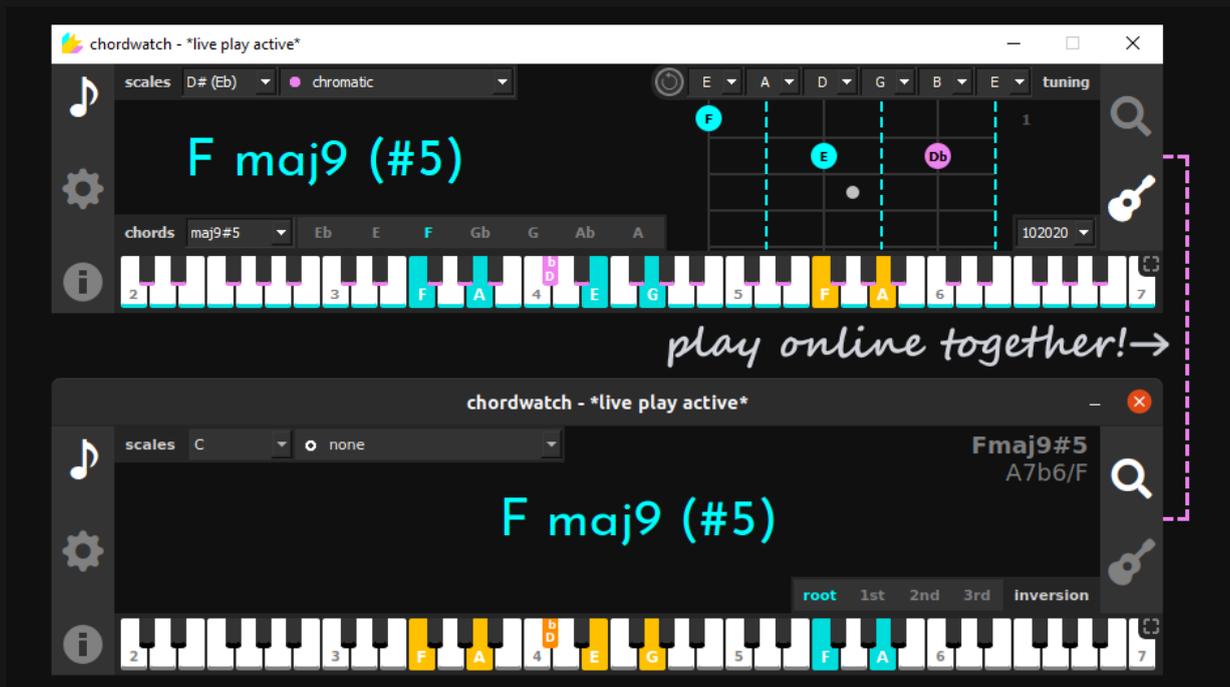
## Chord Previews

With a scale selected, the chords preview menu will be visible. This drop-down lists all fitting chord shapes, as well as **triads**, **sevenths** and **ninths** if a modern diatonic mode is selected.

Hovering your mouse over each chord button will preview it and clicking will play it.

# LivePlay

LivePlay is a unique feature of Chordwatch that allows you to easily play your piano with friends online! All notes and chords are synced in real-time.



To enable LivePlay, simply go to the Settings Tab, click the "LivePlay" button and set a nickname.

## Hosting LivePlay

To host a LivePlay session, just click the "host session" button and copy the "shareID" number. You can then share this with a Chordwatch user.

## Joining LivePlay

To join a LivePlay session, just click the "join session" button and paste your host's "shareID" number. Then click the "connect" button.

When active, the other player's keys will be coloured gold. To stop LivePlay simply press the "x" button.

# Settings

## **midi input**

The midi device for Chordwatch to monitor.

## **midi output**

The midi destination to forward the input midi stream. Use "Chordwatch Piano FluidSynth" for the built-in piano synth. Use "LoopBe Internal MIDI" or (Chordwatch Passthrough) to forward to a DAW.

## **auto-connect midi input**

Automatically connect the first midi input device.

## **mute off-scale notes**

When a scale guide is used, only play notes in the scale and mute the others.

## **sticky chords**

Always keep the last played chord. You can use **Esc** to clear the current chord when in this mode.

## **always show on-top**

Make the Chordwatch window always show on top.

## **dynamic tray icon**

Render the chord symbol as the system tray icon.

## **join beta**

Access the beta build. Only needed for non-Steam.

## **pop-up piano**

Select the key count for the pop-up piano.

## **octave offset**

Adjust the starting octave of the piano roll.

# Chordwatch with your DAW

Chordwatch for Windows includes the Virtual MIDI Driver "LoopBel Internal MIDI" - this is used to get around the Windows limitation of a MIDI device being tied to a single application one time.

For macOS and Linux this *is not needed*. There are **two ways** to use Chordwatch with your DAW on Windows.

## Chordwatch to DAW

This is the most simple and recommended approach. Set Chordwatch MIDI input to your device, then set Chordwatch MIDI output to "LoopBel Internal MIDI".

Inside your DAW, select "LoopBel" as your MIDI input source.

This way, Chordwatch acts as a go-between your MIDI device and your DAW, monitoring the input stream for chords and forwarding the MIDI data to your DAW via LoopBel.

## DAW to Chordwatch

This approach will vary depending on your DAW but the principle remains the same.

Set Chordwatch MIDI input to "LoopBel Internal MIDI". This will only be visible if LoopBel has not been selected for Chordwatch MIDI output.

Connect your MIDI device to your DAW as usual, then, find your DAWs way of outputting MIDI and select "LoopBel".