

EASY QUICKSTART GUIDE

GUITAR SHED²

FOR MACINTOSH & WINDOWS



astoundit

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Welcome : What's New In This Version?

If you're new to Guitar Shed, we'd like to welcome you to the best suite of software guitar tools available! Previous users of Guitar Shed will notice a large number of new features, vast improvements upon past versions of the software, and major enhancements across the board.

Although the name, "Guitar Shed" sounds like it's for guitarists-only - that's a thing of the past. This software is also extremely useful to musicians of any type and instrument. Our customers consist of banjo players, sitar players, bouzouki players, bass players, horn players, even pianists and celloists...and of course, guitar players!

Major New Features In Guitar Shed 2

When starting Guitar Shed 2, you'll instantly recognize the wealth of information and features available at your fingertips. Here's a list of just *some* of the new features available in this release...

- Input-sensitive, listening chromatic tuner! This was the #1 requested feature by previous users of Guitar Shed. (Note: This feature is only available in the Macintosh version)
- Gig Manager tracks your rehearsals, shows, performances, practices...and more. With an integrated calendar.
- Web Manager keeps track of your important websites.
- Integrated version checking makes sure you always have the latest version.
- Many alternate tunings have been added to the tone (ear) tuner; including many separate instruments such as the Banjo and Bouzouki. There's also a new "Strum" feature to listen to the complete chord.
- Tab Organizer now has full printing ability. There's also a remote control for the Jam Machine (So you can listen to songs while looking at your tablature). Tab can now be sorted by either Artist or Song! Plus, we've built in a special align feature to help view messier tabs...easier.
- Chord Library has been expanded with new chords.
- Jam Machine has been completely rewritten. You can now play extremely versatile background tracks (In various styles), turn on a virtual crowd (We know you'll love that one), and more. Also included in this module is a new fully-adjustable Metronome. Tempo, instrument, time signature, and even computer accuracy can be adjusted.
- Song Jam has also been rewritten to enable much smoother playback, and easier looping (repeat) controls. There are now 3 levels of fast-forward and rewind to make navigating each song quick and painless.
- Hotkeys make it easy to quickly change modules with one-hand.
- Numerous other features have been added to this release, as well as major speed improvements. Get ready to experience Guitar Shed like you've never seen it before...

CHAPTER 1 : Welcome To Guitar Shed 2

Welcome to Guitar Shed 2, the ultimate guitar companion.

Guitar Shed is compatible with both Windows and Macintosh computers. We recommend the following minimum system requirements:

Macintosh

G4 or faster computer recommended (May also work with earlier models)

OS X 10.2 or later

QuickTime 6 or later

32 MB RAM

20 MB Hard Disk Space

Windows

Pentium 4 or faster computer recommended (May also work with earlier models)

Windows 95, 98, 98SE, 2000, XP

QuickTime 6 or later

32 MB RAM

20 MB Hard Disk Space



If you do not already have the latest version of QuickTime installed, please download it for free on the Apple Computer® website: <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download>

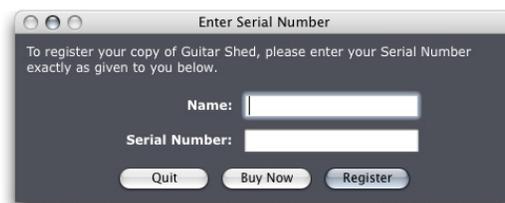
Starting Guitar Shed For The First Time

The first time you start Guitar Shed, you will be shown the “UNREGISTERED” screen. You can test out Guitar Shed before purchasing, and may start it up 10 times without registering. If you wish to continue using this software, you must purchase a serial number.

To purchase a serial number, click on the “Buy Now” button to visit our online store. To continue using the demonstration, click on the button “Continue Demo”.



Once you have purchased a serial number, just click on the “Enter Registration” button, which will then allow you to type in your name and unique serial number. Make sure to type in your serial number exactly as it was sent to you. Once registered, Guitar Shed will startup immediately, and you won't see this screen again.



QuickTime and the QuickTime Logo are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

CHAPTER 2 : The Rack

When you start Guitar Shed on your computer, you will see the main control “Rack”. From here, you can easily access any of Guitar Shed’s features by clicking on the text for that unit. Guitar Shed has 8 major modules...



Chromatic Tuner

The “listening” tuner. This module allows you to quickly, easily, and accurately tune your guitar by listening to its frequency through your computer’s microphone (or other sound input). Functions much like a standard tuner that you can purchase in a music store. Note: This feature is only available in the Macintosh version.

Tone Tuner

This tuner, often referred to as the “ear” tuner, offers you the ability to tune your guitar by listening to reference notes. You can store customized alternate tunings, as well as tune many other instruments like a Banjo. In newer styles of music, many guitarists will “tune down” their guitar - which is also very easy to do.

Tablature

The tablature module gives you an easy place to store ALL of your guitar tablature and music notation. Sort all of your tablature by artist or song, automatically scroll through the tab as you play along, and even control the integrated Song Jam unit by remote control. Finding new tablature is a snap thanks to the integrated tab-finder, and printing tab is quick and easy.

Chord Library

The chord library shows you the fingering of various chords, and how to play them. You can also listen to any chord using a variety of instruments. The “simple” mode lets you see chord fingerings from longer distances so you can always see that perfect chord when practicing across the room.

Web Manager

The Internet offers guitarists an extremely powerful resource. Guitar Shed’s new Web Manager will help you store and organize all of your most-frequently visited websites for fast and easy access anytime.

Gig Manager

For guitarists on the road, in the studio, or just practicing anywhere - the Gig Manager is a valuable tool to help remind you of upcoming events. Store the venue, date, time, and notes of your upcoming gigs - including a fully-integrated calendar to ensure you’re always on time, and that your gigs don’t overlap.

Jam Machine

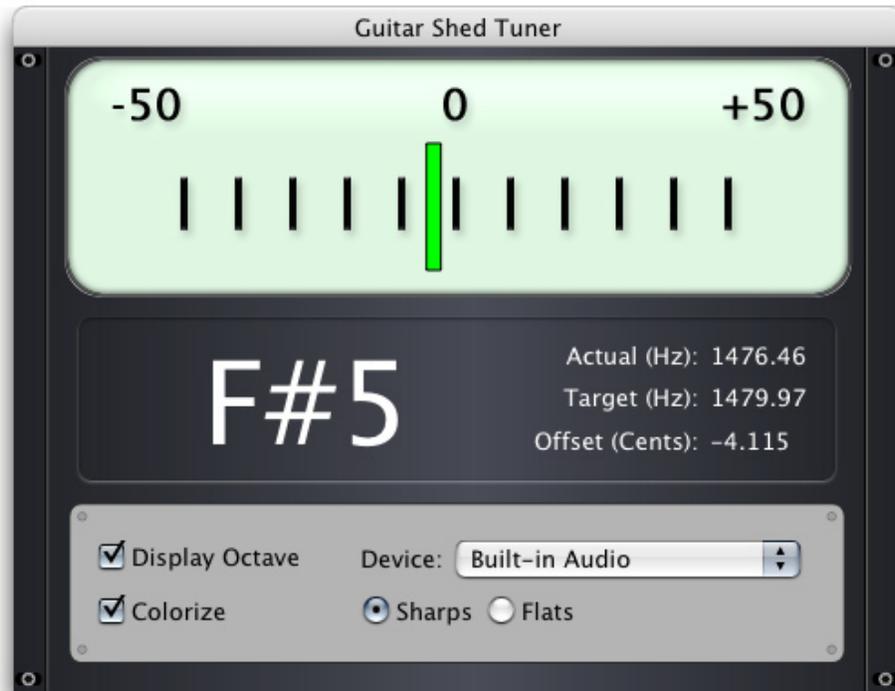
“Jamming” is an essential practicing technique for any guitarist. You can now play along to professionally-recorded “jam tracks” exclusively in Guitar Shed! There’s also an adjustable Metronome to practice your timing (Including odd-time signatures).

Song Jam

It’s easy to learn or transcribe songs when using Guitar Shed. The Song Jam module lets you adjust the playback speed of your songs (Including MP3’s!), and loop specific sections of the song - which allows you to efficiently learn that tough riff.

CHAPTER 3 : Chromatic Tuner

The Chromatic Tuner, also called the “listening” tuner allows you to accurately tune your guitar (or other instrument) to a specific note using the microphone (and many other supported inputs) on your computer. This feature is only available in the Macintosh version of Guitar Shed due to restrictions in the Windows operating system.



How To Tune Your Guitar

The Chromatic Tuner is highly accurate. When it's started, just play any string on your guitar (or other instrument), and its current note will be displayed in big letters - on the example above, the current note is “F#5”. For more experienced users, the Actual Hz, Target Hz, and Offset is displayed.

Options

From the “Device” pop-up menu, you can choose your computer's sound input. This is usually the “Built-in Audio” (Which lets you use your Macintosh's built-in sound port, also referred to as the microphone port). Although currently unsupported, Apple iSight® users should also be able to use their iSight camera's microphone as well.

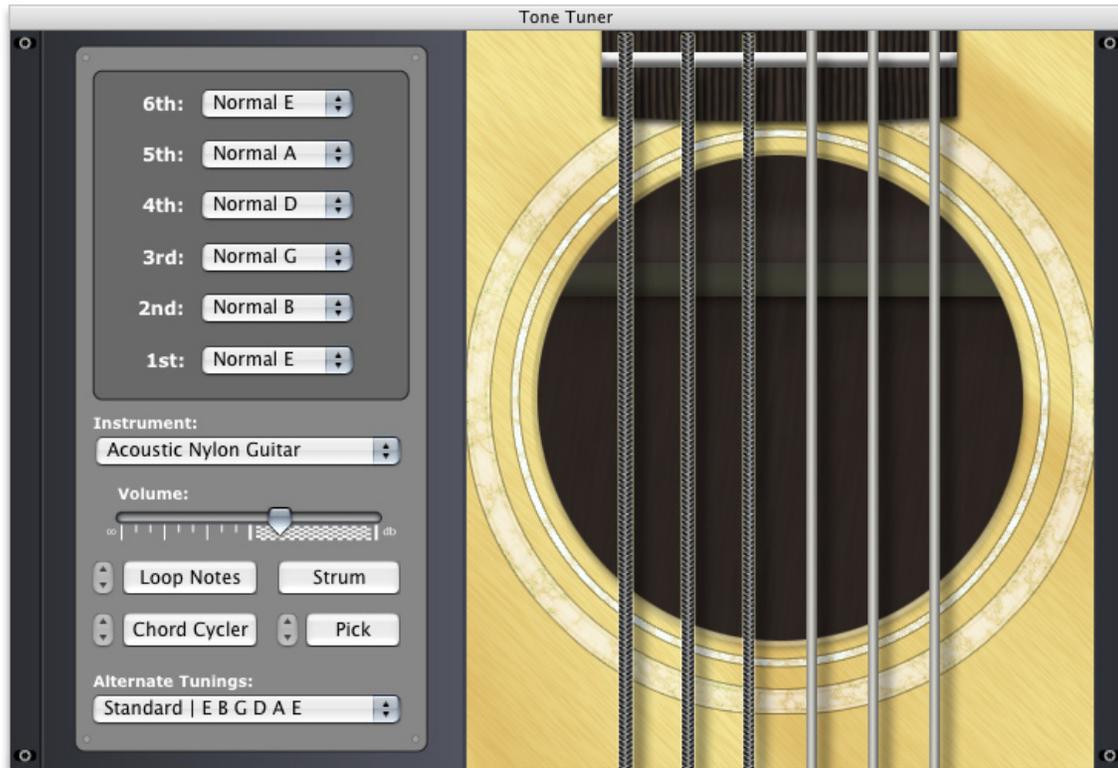
The “Display Octave” option shows which octave your instrument is tuned to. This is a very helpful feature for advanced players, and users of instruments other than the guitar.

The “Colorize” option helps you quickly tell if your instrument is “sharp” (high) or “flat” (low) of the target frequency (tuning). When you play a string, if the display turns a light-green color - your string is flat; if the display turns a red color - your instrument is sharp. This option is very helpful when trying to tune your guitar from a distance - such as on the opposite side of your rehearsal space or studio.

You also have the option to display either “Sharps” or “Flats”; choose whichever option is easiest for you to view/use.

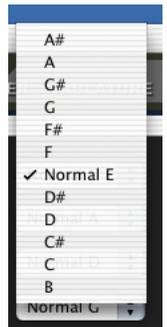
CHAPTER 4 : Tone Tuner

Guitar Shed's easy-to-use guitar tone tuner comes with many presets and alternative tunings. You also have the option to create your own tunings, and customize them at anytime.



How To Tune Your Guitar

Click on any string to hear the exact pitch of the string you wish to tune your guitar to. If you wish to use an alternate tuning, just choose any from the pop-up menu (Or create your own as shown below). You can also change the note of each individual string in the pop-up menu next to each string label. For guitar players, the thickest string (The 6th string) is normally tuned to “E”.



Options

Easily adjust the volume using the slider, or pick a different instrument - many people prefer to tune their guitars to a piano note; making Guitar Shed the ultimate flexible tuning tool available. Also in the “Instrument” pop-up menu, you can choose “HOLD NOTE” to have the current note (Whichever string you click on) held until you stop it.

Clicking on the “Loop Notes” button makes things easier by looping the current note (Just click on any string) automatically.

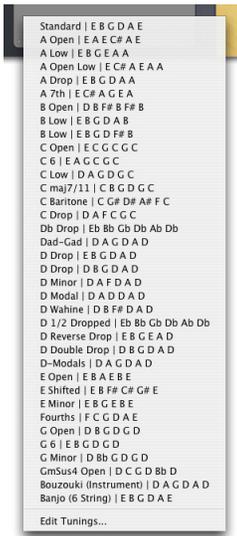
The “Chord Cycler” button will automatically play each string, as it steps through all of your alternative tunings (Including any custom tunings you’ve added).

The “Pick” button will play each note of the current tuning, while the “Strum” button lets you hear all of the notes played at once. This is helpful to quickly tune your guitar, or hear custom chords.

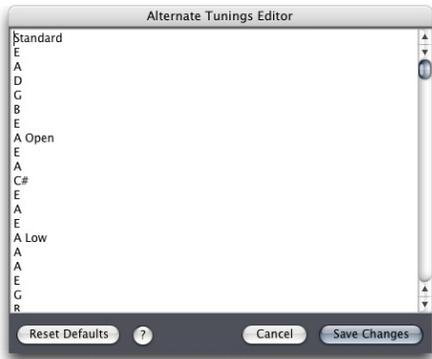
How To Create/Edit Alternate Tunings

Many guitarists have created their own special tunings. Guitar Shed can be customized with any tuning you specify, and will keep them always available in the same pop-up menu for easy access at anytime.

In the “Alternate Tunings” menu, choose “Edit Tunings...”



You’ll then see a new window appear that shows a listing of the current alternate tunings available. You may edit this list at anytime. If you wish to revert the list to the defaults, just click on the button “Reset Defaults” (Note: When choosing this option, it will erase any custom tunings you have entered).



How To Type Your Alternate Tunings

The alternate tuning list must follow the following format (The text in red is for example only, it is not typed):

Standard (The name of the tuning - anything you choose to remember it)

E String 6 - The Thickest One

A

D

G

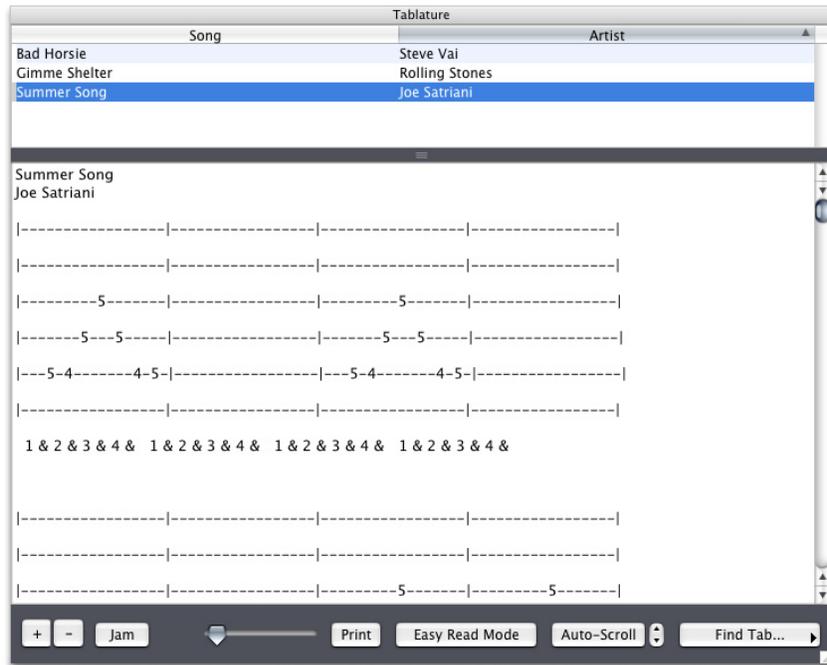
B

E String 1 - The Thinnest One

Enter as many tunings as needed. Make sure that each tuning has a total of 6 strings defined. When you’re finished, click the “Save Changes” button.

CHAPTER 5 : Tablature

Guitar Shed's tablature library offers an easy way to store all of your guitar tablature. With the Internet, you can easily search and use millions of pre-made tablature, find your favorite songs, or create your own. This module lets you store and keep track of all your tab and notation in a single, organized place.



To Add New Tablature

Click on the “+” button. Then, just enter a unique song title, band/artist, and the tablature. You can also easily copy/paste the tablature from the Internet, a text file, e-mail, and more. If you already have some tablature files on your computer, Guitar Shed can easily import them into its own easy-to-use library. Just click on the “Import From Text File...” button in the “Add Tab” window (Supported formats include text, .txt, .tab, .crd, and chord files).

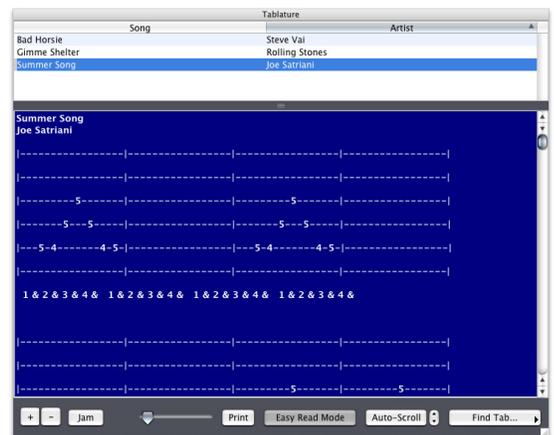
To Delete Tablature

Select the tab you want to delete in the top section, then click on the “-” button. This will permanently remove the selected tab from your library.

Options

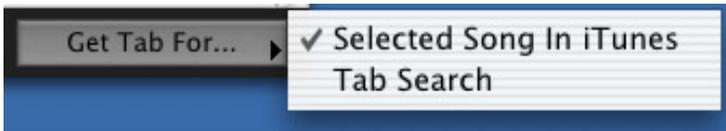
Click on “Scroll Tab Automatically” to scroll the tablature as you play. You can speed up or slow down the scroll rate by clicking on the small arrows next to this button.

Click on the “Easy Read Mode” button to change the background to an eye-friendly blue with white text. Many players find this mode much easier to view, especially at farther distances.



Tablature Searching

Guitar Shed also offers an easy way to find tablature using a variety of effective tools (Note: The following features require an Internet connection). Click on the “Get Tab For...” button to access the following tools:



“Selected Song In iTunes” (Macintosh-Only Feature)

By selecting this option, Guitar Shed will attempt to find the tablature for whatever song you have selected in iTunes. Make sure that you have iTunes open before selecting this option. Note: This feature is only available in the Macintosh version of Guitar Shed.

“Tab Search”

Just type any song or artist/band in the field, choose a source to search (In the pop-up menu), and click the “Find Tab” button. Guitar Shed will then attempt to find the tablature best related to your entry.



Printing Tablature

Click on the “Print” button to instantly print the selected tab.

Song Jam Remote

If you’re trying to learn a song, you can easily listen to it via the Guitar Shed Song Jam module at the same time. Either click “Play” to load in a new song, or listen to the song you currently have loaded into the Song Jam module at anytime. This special remote window will also float on top of all other programs on your computer for easy always-available access.



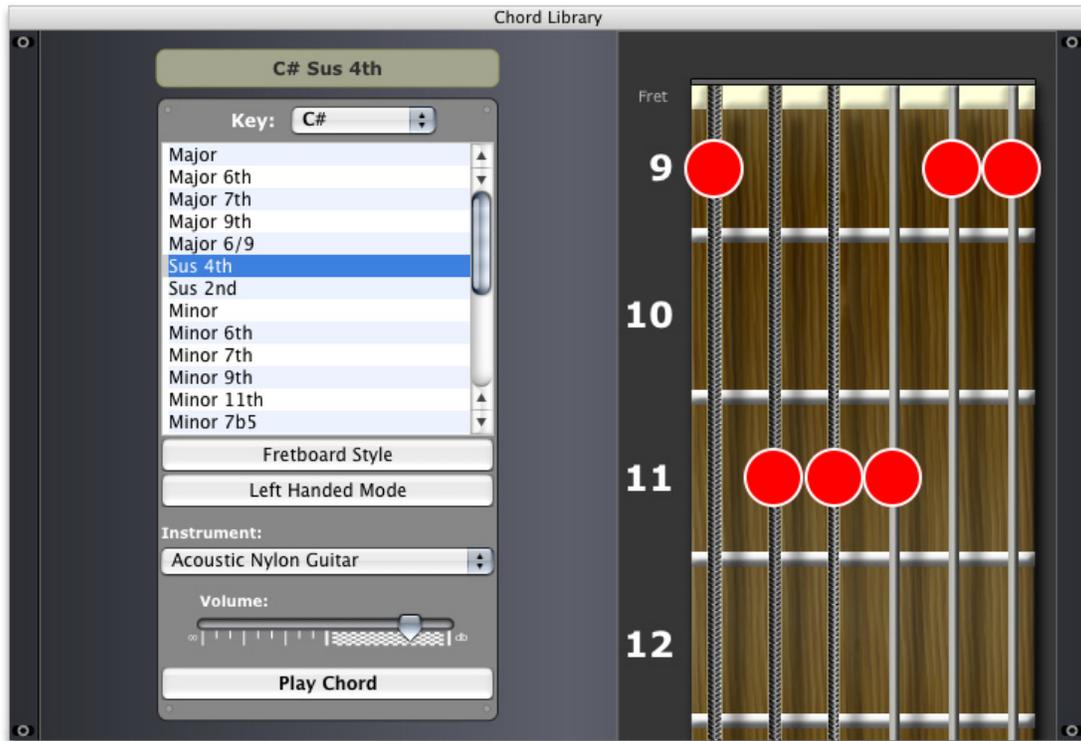
Tablature Sorting/View

Click on either column (“Song” or “Artist”) to sort your tab list.



CHAPTER 6 : Chord Library

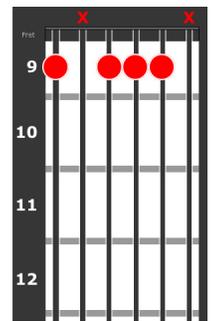
The Chord Library helps you find and finger hundreds of guitar chords. You can also listen to each chord using a variety of instruments.



Options

The “Fretboard Style” button toggles the fretboard from ‘realistic mode’ to ‘simple mode’, which some players prefer and is easier to view at farther distances.

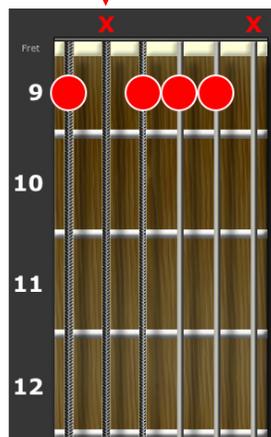
Use the “Left Handed Mode” button to reverse the chords for left-handed players.



Chord Reading Guide...

Do NOT Play String If It Has An "X" Over It

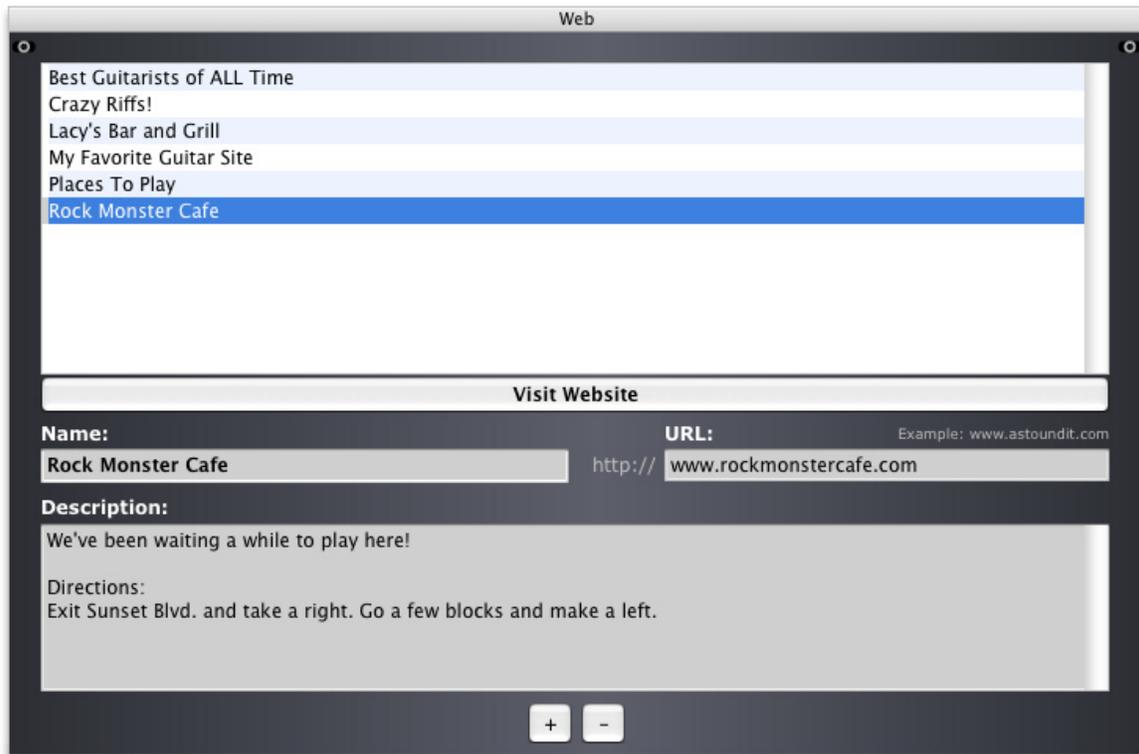
This Number Is The Starting Fret Number
Example: "9" Means That The Top Fret Is The
9th Fret On Your Guitar



Fret And Play Each String With A Dot ● On It

CHAPTER 7 : Web Manager

The Web Manager helps keep track of your important websites, URLs, and favorite online destinations.



To Add A New Website

Enter the name, URL (website address), and description of the website you'd like to add. Then, just click on the "+" button.

To Delete A Website

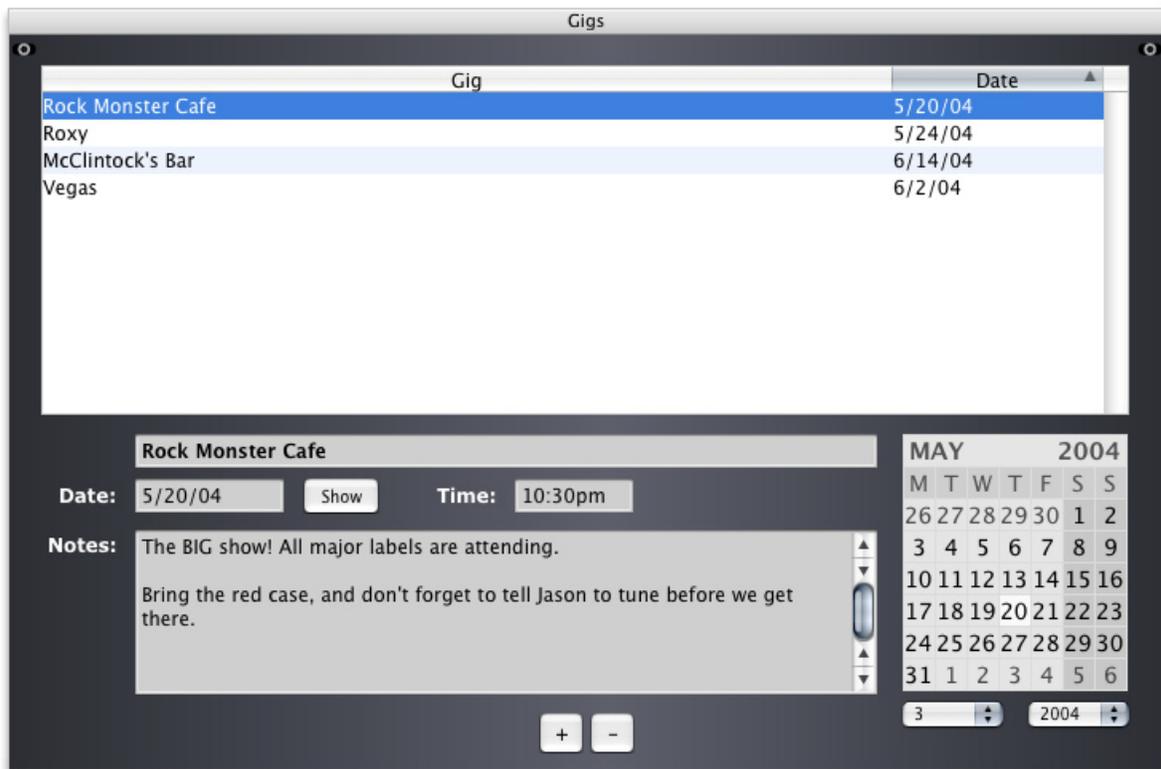
Select the website you'd like to delete, and click on the "-" button. This will permanently remove the selected website.

To Visit A Website

Select the website you'd like to visit, and click on the "Visit Website" button (right under the list of websites). Your web browser should be automatically opened, and sent to the website you chose.

CHAPTER 8 : Gig Manager

The Gig Manager keeps track of your performances, gigs, rehearsals, and other important dates.



To Add A New Gig

Enter the venue name (or location), date, time, and any notes for the gig you want to add. Then just click on the “+” button.

To Delete A Gig

Select the gig you’d like to delete, and click on the “-” button. This will permanently remove the selected gig.

To View More Information About A Gig

Select a gig from the list. Any additional information you entered will be shown.

To View A Date On The Calendar

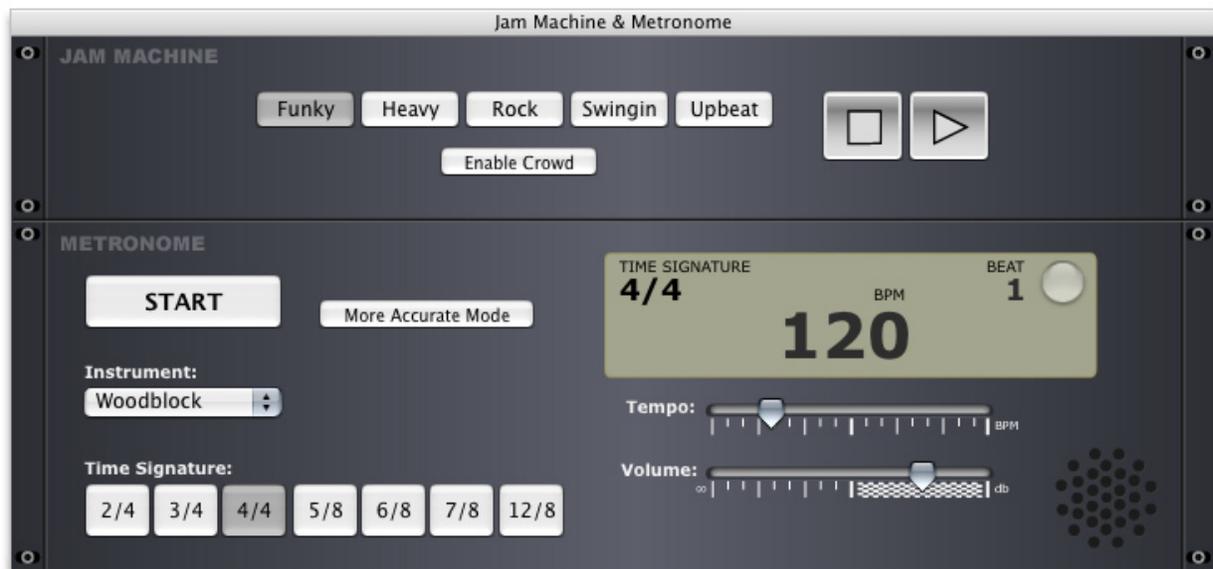
Use the pop-ups to show any date on the interactive calendar. Today’s date will always be shown in red.

To View The Selected Gig’s Date

Select the gig you’d like to view the date for, and click on the “Show” button. The calendar will then show the date of that gig.

CHAPTER 9 : Jam Machine & Metronome

Guitar Shed's built-in Jam Machine gives you a flexible, powerful tool to practice along to professional background tracks. There's also a highly-accurate, fully-adjustable metronome.



Jam Machine

Choose a style from the presets (buttons), and click the play button (The right-facing arrow). This will start playing a background track to play along with, making an excellent practice tool.

Crowd Roar

Click on the "Enable Crowd" to hear the crowd roar. This is always a hit with guitarists, and sure to give you that extra sense of confidence for those solos!

Metronome

Click on the "Start" button to enable the metronome.

Options

Use the sliders to adjust the tempo (speed), and volume of the metronome. The instrument can also be chosen using the pop-up menu.

Time Signature

The Guitar Shed Metronome is capable of playing many different time signatures to help with almost any timing imaginable. From 2/4 to 12/8 - choose whichever option you'd like to practice with. The display allows you to view the current beat (count), BPM (beats-per-minute), and time signature. The light will glow on the first count (always on 1 [one]) to help you easily stay on time - a big help for odd time signatures.

More Accurate Mode

If the metronome playback is not consistent, your computer may need extra help to keep it steady. Choose the "More Accurate Mode" option. When the metronome is started, a window will now show during playback. When you wish to stop it, press "Command - period" (On Macintosh) or "Esc" (On Windows). The metronome will be extremely accurate when using this option, and often helps it play better on slower computers.

CHAPTER 10 : Song Jam

The Song Jam module lets you jam along to your favorite tunes. For extra practicing help, the playback speed can be adjusted, and specific sections of a song can be looped automatically.



Load A Song To Play

Click on the “Load Song...” button, and choose a song from your computer to play. Guitar Shed supports all major sound and music formats, including MP3, AIFF, WAV, MOV, MP2, MPG4, AAC, and many others. Note: Please make sure to have the latest version of QuickTime installed on your computer for the best compatibility.

Adjust The Sound

Move the sliders to change the default settings for volume, treble, bass, and balance. If you add more treble, you can hear higher-frequencies better (Such as some singing, guitar solos, etc.). If you add more bass, you will hear more low-frequencies (Such as bass, backing drums, etc.).

Navigate...Quickly!

Guitar Shed’s Song Jam makes it easy to find that special part in your songs. With 3 speeds of rewind, 3 speeds of fast-forward, play, and stop - it’s easy to locate a section in any-length song. The buttons function just like on your normal stereo or VCR.

Play Rate

Adjust the “Play Rate” slider to change the speed of the song. This is especially useful to help learn fast sections such as solos. There are 4 separate speeds available.

Loop-Repeat Control

One of the best features in Guitar Shed is the ability to automatically loop sections of your songs. This allows you to quickly learn just about anything, hands-free, without having to manually rewind the tape/CD each time. Here's how to use it...



Step 1:

When any song is playing, click on the “Mark Start” button just before the song reaches the section you want to repeat. This will be the starting point of the loop.

Step 2:

After you hear the section end that you want to repeat, click on the “Mark End” button. This will be the ending point of the loop.

The song will now automatically loop from the start time, to the end time. When you're done repeating that section, just turn off the repeating mode (Click the “Play Loop Only” button so that it is not enabled), which will let the song continue playing, without looping.

If at any time you wish to repeat that section again, just turn back on the repeat mode (Enable the “Play Loop Only” button). Or, choose a new start/end time to loop a different section.

APPENDIX : About Astoundit Software

How To Contact Astoundit Software

Please use the following information to contact us. To keep our retail product prices as low as possible, we do not provide phone support; for fastest service please contact us via our online technical support “ticket system” (fastest and preferred method), or by e-mail. We can usually respond to you within 24 - 48 hours during normal business hours. Our website also offers technical support for many of your most common questions.

Business Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm PST

Website: www.astoundit.com

Technical Support Website: www.astoundit.com/support

E-Mail: support@astoundit.com

Mailing Address: Astoundit Software
2060-E Avenida de los Arboles, #D 362
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Technical Support Questions

I have a question or problem with my software, how do I get help?

The easiest way to get immediate help with the most common issues is to visit our support website, which can provide you with immediate answers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (www.astoundit.com/support). We've also provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to help you with the most common problems. If you have an issue that is not answered on our website, please contact our support team by using our fast and easy “ticket” system that will assign your question a unique “ticket” number. This will allow us to respond as quickly as possible - this is the preferred method of technical support communication.

Direct technical support is only available to registered users. For fastest responses, please give us as much detail about your problem that you can, including your operating system (Macintosh or Windows). The more details you can provide about your issue, the quicker and easier we will be able to help you find a solution.

We would like to thank you for supporting Guitar Shed, and hope that you find it to be an essential part of your music toolbox.

- Astoundit Software's Development Team

Easy Quickstart Guide and Documentation Guitar Shed 2

Astoundit Software

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Find us on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.astoundit.com>
To report errors, please send a note to info@astoundit.com

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