INDEPENDENT AUDIO SOFTWARE

LYNCH Keyboard Player

One key. A harmony worth following.



Turn a single trigger into a chord, a rhythmic accompaniment or a rule-based pianist phrase. Choose the harmony and playing style, shape the touch and route the MIDI to the instrument whose sound belongs in your arrangement.

Complete colour user guide · version 0.3.0 · Apple Silicon Mac AU · macOS 12+

Contents

Start with the part 3

Inside the sound 3

Quick Start 4

Init / Straight Chord 4

Pianist Performance 4

Harmony 5

Flavor — Color Your Chosen Style 5

Performance 6

Playing And Sustain 6

Playable Keyboard And Chord Display 7

Pattern 7

Genres 7

Chord Groups 8

Automation, Controllers And Window 8

Install and choose the right host slot 9

Trial and permanent licensing 9

Save, recall and automate 9

Troubleshooting and support 10

About this guide 10

Start with the part

Turn a single trigger into a chord, a rhythmic accompaniment or a rule-based pianist phrase. Choose the harmony and playing style, shape the touch and route the MIDI to the instrument whose sound belongs in your arrangement.

01 / In Logic, insert Keyboard Player in a software instrument channel's MIDI FX slot, before your piano, synth, strings, pad or other MIDI instrument. Play one key: the player sends the complete chord to the instrument. This plugin produces MIDI, not audio. It has no built-in sound library. The instrument after it makes the sound.

02 / Choose a genre and instrument role in the preset menu. There are 100 starting points in 20 genres × Piano / Synth / Strings / Pad / Bass, plus Init. The left/right arrows move through them. Set Key to match your song; factory changes preserve the current Key. Save and Load use standard .aupreset files; Logic also saves settings with the session. Init uses the current Key; choose C to return to a complete C-major starting point.

03 / In Logic, insert Keyboard Player in a software instrument channel's MIDI FX slot, before your piano, synth, strings, pad or other MIDI instrument.

04 / Choose a genre and instrument role in the preset menu.

Inside the sound

Quick Start

In Logic, insert Keyboard Player in a software instrument channel's MIDI FX slot, before your piano, synth, strings, pad or other MIDI instrument.

Init / Straight Chord

The dedicated Init button and Init / Straight Chord preset play an immediate, simultaneous diatonic triad while you hold one key.

Pianist Performance

The five new styles are musical arrangers with separate lower-hand accompaniment and upper-hand chord/melodic parts.

Harmony

In Key snaps your played root to the nearest scale note (ties go lower) and builds diatonic triads, sevenths, ninths, elevenths, thirteenths, suspensions or open fifths.

Flavor — Color Your Chosen Style

Natural leaves your base settings untouched.

Performance

23 styles: Held Chord; Soft Entry; Roll Up; Roll Down; Alternating Roll; Chord Pulse; Arp Up; Arp Down; Arp Up / Down; Random Arp; Broken Chord; Alberti Bass; Octave Ostinato; Bass + Chord; Walking Bass; 6/8 Flow; Euclidean; Octave Chords; Session Pianist; Soul Keyboardist; Indie Pianist; Ambient Pianist; Concert Virtuoso.

Quick Start

In Logic, insert Keyboard Player in a software instrument channel's MIDI FX slot, before your piano, synth, strings, pad or other MIDI instrument. Play one key: the player sends the complete chord to the instrument. This plugin produces MIDI, not audio. It has no built-in sound library. The instrument after it makes the sound.

Choose a genre and instrument role in the preset menu. There are 100 starting points in 20 genres × Piano / Synth / Strings / Pad / Bass, plus Init. The left/right arrows move through them. Set Key to match your song; factory changes preserve the current Key. Save and Load use standard .aupreset files; Logic also saves settings with the session. Init uses the current Key; choose C to return to a complete C-major starting point.

Init / Straight Chord

The dedicated Init button and Init / Straight Chord preset play an immediate, simultaneous diatonic triad while you hold one key. Natural Flavor, no voice leading, bass doubling, roll, human timing, velocity variation or accent. C4 at velocity 93 produces C4/E4/G4 together at velocity 93. Release your trigger to release all three notes. Init preserves Key but resets Scale to Major. It does not start an automatic pianist phrase.

Pianist Performance

The five new styles are musical arrangers with separate lower-hand accompaniment and upper-hand chord/melodic parts. Session Pianist supports pop with bass foundations, comping and connecting fills. Soul Keyboardist uses syncopated comping and bass answers; select Jazzy/Soulful for swing and richer harmony. Indie Pianist mixes open chords with picked upper notes. Ambient Pianist leaves space with sustained voicings and high answers. Concert Virtuoso creates denser connected runs and chord arrivals; its factory Neo Classical / Piano start uses 1/16.

Phrase Length chooses a 2-, 4- or 8-bar phrase at the selected Rate, counting four quarter-note beats per bar. Motifs vary at phrase boundaries, develop through a dynamic arch, resolve and leave a short breath. Low Bass enables or disables the pianist left hand. Activity controls optional bass/chord/fill density. Expression shapes phrase dynamics, balance between hands and small chord touch offsets. Dynamics adds velocity variation; Humanize adds positive timing offsets. Roll sets chord-note stagger in pianist styles; Gate scales note duration. The 16-step mask still applies. Phrase position continues across

chord/root changes and key releases; Panic/reset restarts it. Rate changes retain phrase step position and begin a new timing grid.

Piano-role factory starts now use these pianist styles; other instrument roles keep their original playing styles. Voice Leading moves the right hand between nearby registers. Pianist modes distribute your harmony between two hands rather than reproducing an exact static Voicing/Inversion; choose Held Chord when exact simultaneous voicing is needed. They create supporting melody and accompaniment from the selected harmony, not a separately authored song melody. For Fixed/Custom chords, melodic notes use chord pitch classes. In Key can add scale passing tones in Concert Virtuoso. Narrow output ranges reduce hand separation.

These are original rule-based musical phrases, not a trained AI pianist, recorded human performance, score follower or imitation of a specific artist. A performance still depends on your chord changes, tempo, selected sound and musical judgement. MIDI-only output cannot itself create instrument-dependent pedalling/resonance or audio tone.

Harmony

In Key snaps your played root to the nearest scale note (ties go lower) and builds diatonic triads, sevenths, ninths, elevenths, thirteenths, suspensions or open fifths. Scales: Major, Natural Minor, Dorian, Mixolydian, Lydian, Phrygian, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Major Pentatonic, Minor Pentatonic and Chromatic. Pentatonic/Chromatic stacks follow those scales; they are not standard seven-note-scale chord qualities.

Fixed Chord keeps the exact incoming root and uses one of 32 chord types. Key and Scale are then inactive. Custom uses up to eight enabled semitone intervals, from -24 to +36 relative to the incoming root. Open Custom Chord..., choose intervals and press Use Custom Chord. At least one interval stays enabled. Disable Voice Leading when checking an exact custom voicing.

Close, Open, Drop 2, Drop 3, Wide and Rootless voicings rearrange notes. Inversion moves lower tones upward. Octave transposes the part ±2 octaves. Low Bass adds a root one octave down where space permits. Voice Leading selects a nearby inversion/octave from the previous chord, so it can override the explicit inversion to reduce motion. This is deterministic nearest-voicing movement, not AI composition or musical analysis.

Flavor — Color Your Chosen Style

Natural leaves your base settings untouched. Jazzy adds diatonic ninths or richer fixed chords, gentle swing, dynamics and close voice movement. Indie adds ninth/add-nine color, open voicing and loose timing. Virtuoso enriches harmonies, speeds legacy rhythmic patterns and gives more articulation; pianist modes gain activity without changing their Rate. Held chords stay held. Beginner reduces standard harmonies to triads, uses close root-position voicing, straight timing and a full step pattern. Soulful adds seventh chords, warm swing and dynamics. Dreamy uses wide extended chords, longer gates and gentle rolls. Your chosen genre/playing style remains the foundation.

Flavor is an overlay: controls display the editable BASE values while the actual played notes/timing include Flavor. Changes revoice the current chord safely. Factory genre/role selections retain Flavor and Key; Init resets Flavor to Natural. Save/Load and host state save the choice. Explicit custom intervals stay yours in every Flavor; Flavor can still affect their voicing/timing. Very wide range folding can reduce the difference between voicings. The seven flavors are musical rules, not artist impersonations or AI performances.

Performance

23 styles: Held Chord; Soft Entry; Roll Up; Roll Down; Alternating Roll; Chord Pulse; Arp Up; Arp Down; Arp Up / Down; Random Arp; Broken Chord; Alberti Bass; Octave Ostinato; Bass + Chord; Walking Bass; 6/8 Flow; Euclidean; Octave Chords; Session Pianist; Soul Keyboardist; Indie Pianist; Ambient Pianist; Concert Virtuoso.

Soft Entry spaces notes at least 35 ms apart; it does not add an audio volume fade. Your instrument controls its envelopes. Roll is spacing between successive tones (ms). Held and rolled styles sustain until you release the trigger. The step mask is inactive for held and rolled styles.

Rate is the length of one pattern step, from 1 bar to 1/32, including dotted and triplet divisions. One bar means four quarter-note beats. 6/8 Flow is a six-step note grouping: select a triplet rate for a compound feel. Gate sets length as a percentage of the step, 5–200%. Above 100% overlaps different notes; the same note is released before retrigger. Swing alternately lengthens and shortens steps. Humanize adds up to 18 ms of positive timing variation. Dynamics varies velocity around your played velocity. Accent emphasizes the four-step grouping. Variation Seed appears in the host parameter list for reproducible random variation; Panic, reset and transport changes restart the deterministic generator from that seed.

Host Sync follows available host tempo. Tempo is the fallback or manual tempo when Host Sync is off. On Note starts the pattern on your trigger; Host Grid aligns to the next selected rate division. While stopped, live playing uses an internal clock, because the host beat can stay stationary. Manual tempo is sampled per render block. Transport stop, start, seek and reset release sounding and scheduled notes; trigger again afterwards. No lookahead, negative timing or audio latency is added; rolled/humanized notes are intentionally delayed.

Playing And Sustain

Each MIDI channel has one active chord: the last pressed key wins. Hold several triggers and releasing the newest returns to the previous held key. Input velocity controls generated velocities. This is a one-finger/last-note player, not simultaneous independent chords on several keys in one channel. The 16 MIDI channels stay separate.

Sustain pedal CC64 holds the current trigger after key release. Pedal MIDI is consumed, so downstream pedal sustain does not override generated rhythmic gates. Latch holds the latest chord after release. Turn Latch off or use Panic to release it. Panic also cancels delayed notes. Bypass passes channel MIDI directly through; switching bypass releases previously generated or passed notes. Pitch bend, mod wheel, expression, volume, program changes and other channel messages pass through. SysEx is filtered; this is

not a general MIDI router.

Input Low / High decide which notes trigger chords. Notes outside can pass through or be ignored. Output Low / High fold chord notes by octaves into your instrument’s range. Narrow ranges can merge notes. Crossed range limits use the lower limit as the upper limit. Range folding occurs after voicing. Low Bass is within that range, so choose a sufficiently low Output Low.

Playable Keyboard And Chord Display

The bottom keyboard covers C1–C7. Click or drag to play a trigger at velocity 100, or play your external MIDI keyboard for full velocity control. These keys follow the same Input Range / Outside Range rules as external MIDI. Mouse release, dragging outside the keyboard or losing window focus releases the mouse trigger. Latch and sustain still apply; use Panic to release a latched chord.

Teal keys show the selected chord's actual voiced notes. Amber keys show generated notes sounding right now, including pianist bass and melodic notes. The dot marks the input trigger. The chord window spells the harmony in English, such as C Major Seventh or A Minor Ninth, with voiced note/octave names underneath. Input note and MIDI channel are shown separately. The most recently triggered active channel supplies the chord display; amber notes include all active channels. Notes beyond C1–C7 are sent normally but are outside the visible keyboard. The display refreshes at 20 Hz; it is a musical overview, not a sample-accurate MIDI event log.

Chord names describe the selected underlying harmony independently of its inversion. Pianist passing notes do not rename the harmony on every step. Fixed chords keep their full selected names. Familiar custom pitch sets are named where recognised; otherwise the window says Custom Chord and lists its notes. Unusual diatonic scale stacks can say Scale Chord. The keyboard and chord display are visual/control additions, not new sound parameters.

Pattern

Open Pattern… to toggle the 16 numbered steps and adjust Rotation. The pattern stays in its own compact panel, leaving the main window for the playable keyboard. Rotation shifts which steps are read. Euclidean Hits is active only in Euclidean mode; its evenly distributed pulses intersect the 16-step mask. The light below a step in that panel shows the last displayed pattern position. Octave Chords alternates complete chords with the octave above, within the output range. Other rhythmic styles also respect this mask.

Genres

Pop, Rock, Ambient, Indie, Soul, R&B, Jazz, Funk, House, Techno, Cinematic, Neo Classical, Gospel, Latin, Disco, Lo-Fi, Synthwave, Drum & Bass, Tribal and Experimental. These are editable musical starting points, not automatic genre recognition. Musical approval remains listening-based; native AU and automated tests do not prove superiority to commercial products.

Chord Groups

48 original curated four-chord groups in six folders: Warm Pop, Soul & Jazz, Indie & Folk, Dreamy Ambient, Minor & Cinematic, Gospel & Classic. Includes triads, suspended/add9/6/7/9/13 colors, borrowed chords, turnarounds and minor cadences. These are selectable harmonic palettes, not recordings or guarantees that every jump between unrelated groups is seamless.

Choose Starting Points > Chord Groups > folder > group, or open Groups… and choose a group. Use Chord Group enables Harmony: Chord Groups, Held Chord, Natural Flavor, Voice Leading and zero Humanize/Dynamics/Roll/Accent. The Key control sets the tonic (minor groups use that tonic as minor). Your chosen Key and Natural Strum amount stay when using the panel button; factory group presets start at Strum zero.

C D E F trigger group chords 1 2 3 4, in every octave. G A B repeat 1 2 3; black keys repeat the white key immediately below. Changing octave moves the requested chord register; Output Range and Voice Leading can fold or rearrange notes. Small numbers on the keyboard identify these trigger slots. The chord window shows the full chord name; the Groups… panel shows all four names and highlights the latest trigger. Chords stay held until key release; Latch and sustain work as elsewhere. No rhythm, automatic progression advance or pianist melodic fills in Held Chord. Input Range still applies.

Groups… contains Natural Strum (0–100), corresponding to a total chord spread of 0–180 ms, and Up / Down / Alternating. Small bounded timing variations make spacing less rigid. With Humanize zero, the first tone is immediate. At zero, all notes are simultaneous when Humanize is zero. Strum applies only to Held Chord; existing Roll/pianist modes use their existing Roll control. Releasing or changing the chord cancels unplayed delayed tones. Changing Strum amount/direction affects the next trigger; selecting a different group reharmonizes a held trigger safely.

The bank also works with existing playing styles if you choose one manually. Group harmonies keep their explicit selected qualities; Flavor can still change voicing/touch, rather than replacing their chord types. Group, Natural Strum and Strum Direction are host-automatable IDs45–47. IDs0–44 and factory IDs0–100 retain their identity; group starts are appended101–148. Old42/45-parameter saved states reset appended controls to defaults; full48 states retain them.

Automation, Controllers And Window

All 48 documented host parameters are automatable, including custom intervals, pattern bitmask, Group, Natural Strum and Strum Direction. Offset/ramped automation is supported; indexed choices change discretely. Harmony/style edits safely release and rebuild the current chord. In Logic, use Controller Assignments Learn, move the plug-in control, then the hardware control. There is no internal MIDI Learn menu.

Click ? to turn hover explanations on; click again to switch them off. Hover a control to read its explanation. Choose 75%, 90%, 100%, 110% or 125% to resize the native editor; an AU host can also resize it. The Guide button opens this document. Save files are yours to name and place. Your DAW can record the resulting MIDI using its MIDI routing/recording features; the player itself has no MIDI-file export or drag-and-drop recording button in this version.

Install and choose the right host slot

Apple Silicon Mac, macOS 12 or later. Audio Unit only; no Intel Mac, Windows, VST3 or standalone application is included. Use a MIDI-FX-compatible host and a receiving instrument. This plug-in produces MIDI, not audio.

Save your session before installation. Use the verified current installer and follow its installation prompts, then restart the host if the newly installed AU is not listed. Select the product under Lynch Audio Lab in the appropriate slot.

Trial and permanent licensing

Download the trial installer shown on the product page; the same installer is used for trial and purchase. No card is needed for the trial.

Open the plug-in, click Trial & Activation at the bottom and press Start trial to begin its full 14 days. Installing, opening a preset or downloading a guide does not start a new trial. Each product has its own trial. There is no subscription, automatic charge or periodic noise burst.

For a permanent purchase, use the exact Buy link on the product page. Lemon Squeezy supplies a license key in the receipt. Connect this Mac to the internet, click Trial & Activation at the bottom, paste the receipt key for this exact product and choose Activate. A permanent license allows a maximum of three computers. After successful activation, work offline.

To free a Mac’s activation, connect it to the internet, open Trial & Activation and choose Deactivate this Mac. This releases that computer without renewing or resetting trial dates. Presets, project settings and updates do not renew the trial and retain settings.

The login Keychain stores trial and license-key records separately from presets. If it is locked, unlock it normally and press Refresh in Trial & Activation. Keep the system date correct.

At expiry, audio effects return latency-aligned dry audio with normal reported latency; instruments are silent; MIDI tools stop output and release held notes. Presets and project settings remain. Purchase activation restores licensed processing rather than a new trial.

Save, recall and automate

Save the host project to retain the AU instance. Use the product-specific preset operations described in the control chapters for reusable sounds. Preset files, complete project state and controller assignments can have different scopes; do not treat them as interchangeable.

When using host automation, choose an exposed sound parameter, record a short test pass and replay from before the first change. Check module enables, routing and output level. Only use product-local MIDI Learn when this manual explicitly documents it; otherwise use the host’s controller-assignment workflow.

Troubleshooting and support

If the AU is missing, save your session, install the current package and restart the AU-compatible host. Check the required macOS version and Apple Silicon architecture, then review the host's plug-in manager. Do not delete a working production project to troubleshoot an insert.

For no sound or no processing, first check the correct slot, track input/output, incoming audio or MIDI, bypass/mute, module enables, mix/return amounts and trial or activation status. Test a simple documented starting point before adding a complex chain.

If the sound is too loud or distorted, reduce drive or output and inspect later inserts and the host master. Sample-peak protection does not guarantee intersample peaks. Source clipping cannot be repaired simply by lowering a later trim.

For dropouts, reduce active polyphony, unison, long returns or dense processing where applicable, or use the host's freeze/bounce workflow. A larger buffer can help scheduling; it cannot cure sustained processing overload.

For activation trouble, check the internet connection and use the key for this exact product from the Lemon Squeezy receipt. For help, contact info@lynchaudiolab.com with product version, macOS version, AU host and a short description. Never send your private license key publicly.

About this guide

Lynch Audio Lab · Music records a brighter tomorrow. This guide describes the released Audio Unit package. The control chapters preserve the supplied public operating documentation, with current-operation addenda integrated and obsolete private-test release labels removed. Images show the real product interface; some original panel lettering may predate the current package version. Original TXT documentation remains available separately.

Original Lynch designs are not measured hardware replicas or equipment-maker endorsements. Listen in context, maintain headroom and check the final deliverable after downstream processing. Support: info@lynchaudiolab.com.