CHORD Setup and Manual

Chord is a composition and performance tool that can send MIDI messages to your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).

It is designed so that, whilst instantly useful and playable for a producer with limited music theory knowledge, it will aid the learning and development of how notes can come together to make harmonies.

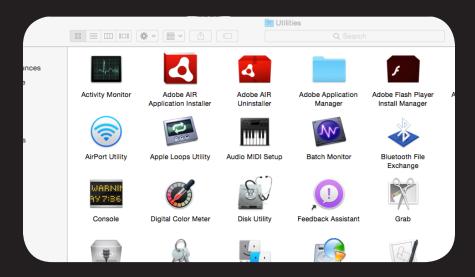
Its design is based on a circle of fifths diagram, that has had lots of useful detail added to it. These details, and how they can help you write music, will be explained below.

CHORD requires the use of a built-in mac feature called the IAC Driver. This is already installed on most mac computers, but requires some setting up to work with CHORD. Please follow the setup instructions before attempting to use this tool.

CHORD Setup

1

Locate Audio MIDI Setup in Utilities



2

Go to Window - Show MIDI Studio



CHORD Setup

Select IAC Driver

3



In the IAC Driver Menu

4



Make sure "Device is online" is ticked

The port selected should be called "Bus 1"

The interface

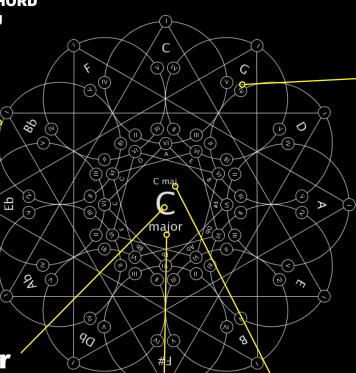
Chord is controlled by the cursor position (from your mouse) and various keys on your computer keyboard.

NB. Mouse-clicks have no function in this tool, so don't be confused when you find that clicking your mouse doesn't do anything!

When you first open CHORD you will see something like this.

Keyrings

These are used to select the key you are in. Hover the cursor over one to change into that key



Chordrings

These indicate chords I to VI in the selected key. The VII chordring will also pop up when it is played or Suggested

Key indicator

The big letter in the middle shows which key you are in

Chord indicator

The small chord name above the Key indicator shows the name of the most recent chord played

Major/Minor Indicator

This shows whether you are in Major or Minor mode. (Toggled by the M key on your keyboard)

OR D Manual

Playing CHORD

Simply select a key (by placing the cursor over the desired keyring) and then use buttons 1 to 7 on your computer keyboard to trigger chords I to VII in that key.

Here 2 has been pressed. This triggers chord II, which has now been highlighted in white. We can tell it is a D minor chord because the indicator is showing D min, and also the II is close to the "D" on the inner circle.



C

(1) (V)

D min

major

(1) (b)

C

(Z)

(2)

 \bigcirc

٤

(2)

89

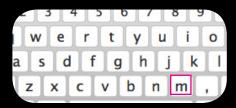
(1)

90

Notice how VII and V are now highlighted in green. This is because CHORD is suggesting them based on the most recent chord played

(Since we are in Major mode, the outer circle is Major and the inner circle shows minors, if we were in minor mode this would be reversed)

The big coloured rings indicte the notes that make up the chord that was most 0 recently played. The root of the chord is shown light blue, Here it is a D. The other notes depend whether the chord is Major, Minor or Diminished. Here we have a Minor chord so there is the 5th (A) and the minor 3rd(F).



Remember: the M key switches between Major and Minor.