

FAKEBASE

USER GUIDE

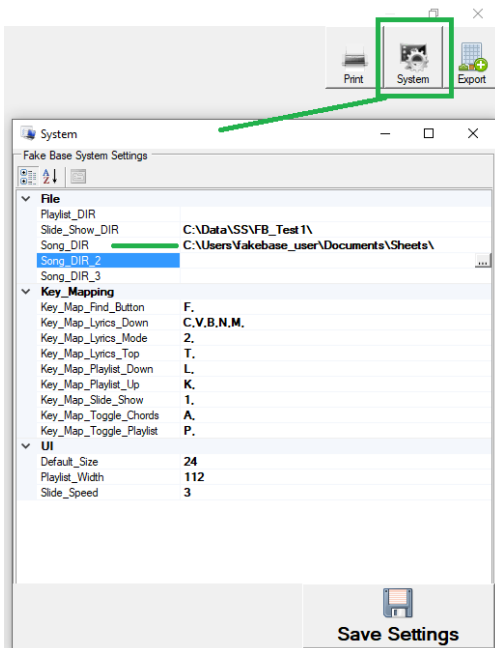
What is Fakebase?

Fakebase is a tool for musicians that provides a quick and easy way of storing musical “charts”. These charts contain chords and lyrics and serve as a guide for your musical performances. The charts are stored in small files and are easily portable from various devices. They can be displayed on any Windows PC or tablet or printed to hard copy.

What’s the difference between a “chart” and sheet music?

Sheet music is very specific and contains all the notes you need to play a song. If you can read music, you can play a song from the sheet without knowing the song (aka sight-reading). All of those notes take up a lot of page space so sheet music can require many pages to complete the song. A “chart” is a rough outline of the song and assumes the player is at least familiar with the song. In a band setting a chart will help the players unfamiliar with the song stay on track. Most of the time, you can fit all you need to perform the song on a single sheet of paper or screen.

Using the Fakebase app - First Things First



The first time you run Fakebase you should setup a directory to store your charts.

Each song that you save will be contained in a data file with the extension “.FKBKDAT”.

When the Fakebase app starts it will build an in-memory index from all these files allowing you to quickly pull up any song from your collection by name or artist.

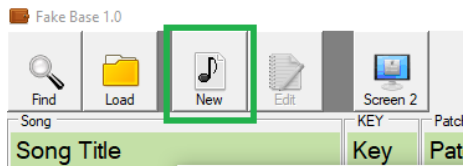
You can also assign key shortcuts and other things that will be covered in some future document.

WALKTHROUGH – Let it Be

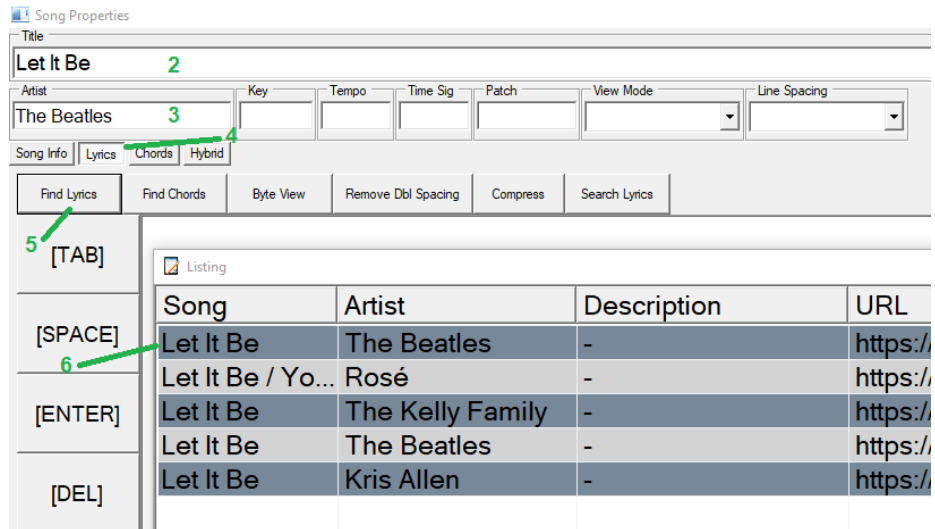
This is one of the first songs I ever learned on the piano. Even so, having the chart in front of me is a good way of ensuring I don’t mess it up. Which is embarrassing...”Seriously, dude?!?!? You messed-up Let it Be?!?!?!”

The five minutes spent preparing this chart will be worth it.

- 1) Click the “New” Button:



- 2) Enter the song name
- 3) Enter the group/band name
- 4) Select the Lyrics tab
- 5) Click “Find Lyrics” – Fakebase will search the internet for the song.
- 6) Select the search result and click “OKAY”



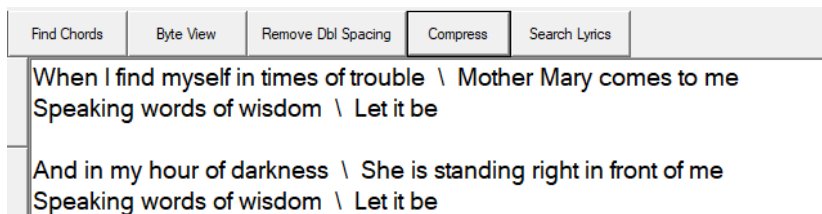
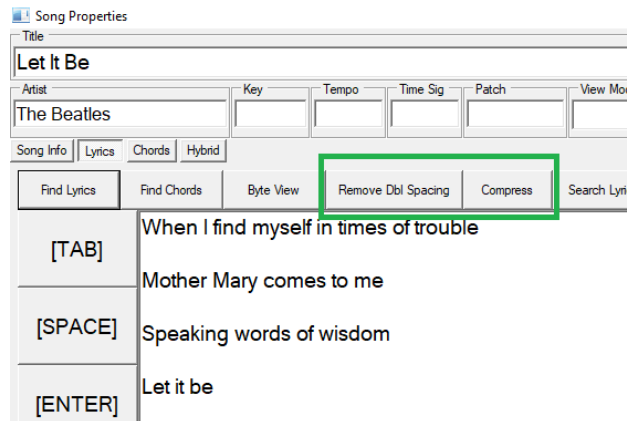
Fakebase will import the lyrics into your lyrics editor. You can modify the text any way you want. In this case, it's too spaced-out for my taste:

CLICK

“Remove Double Spacing”

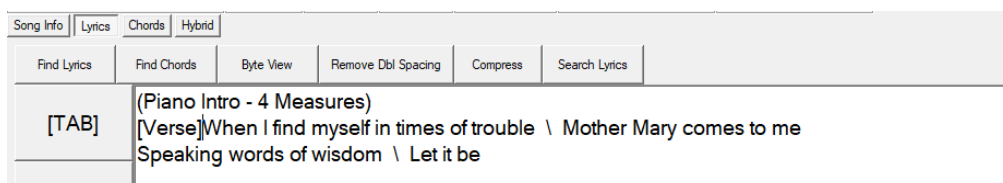
Then CLICK

“Compress”

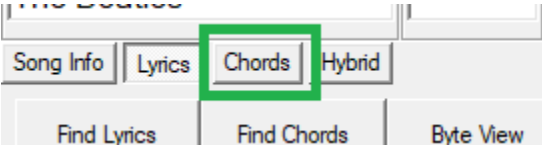


BETTER!

Now I'm going to add some notes:

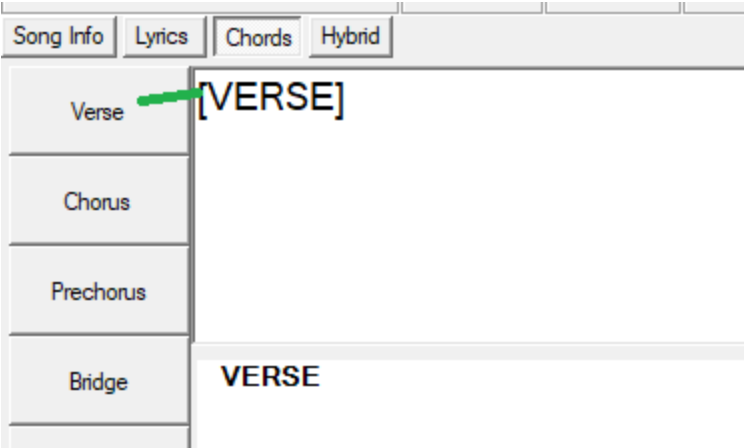


Let's add chords – Click the Chords tab



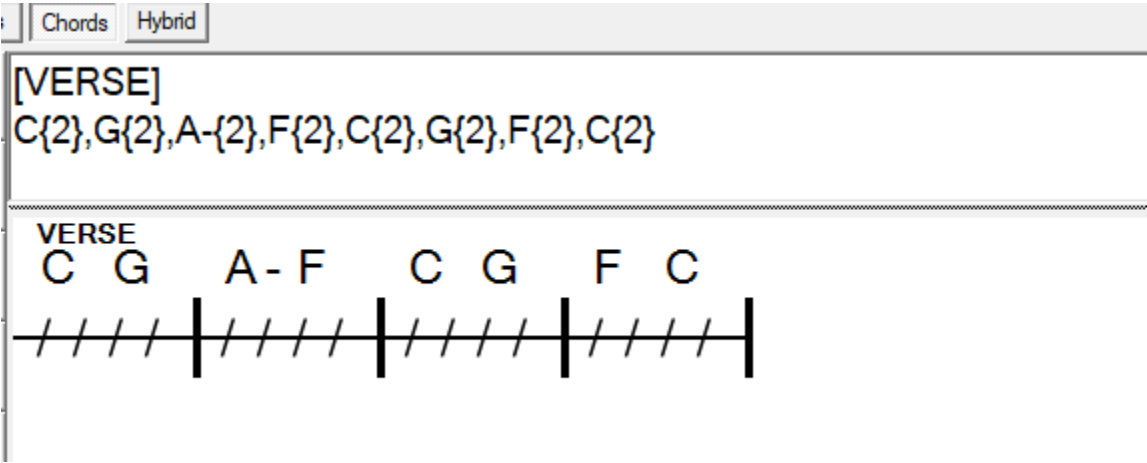
Chords can be defined for your chart by using a simple scripting method (aka markup language) designed for Fakebase by this guy who's really good at programming the computers. The basic syntax of this language is:

[*SECTION-NAME*]
CHORD{*Beats*},*CHORD*{*Beats*}, etc.

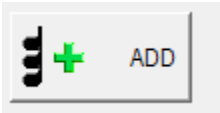


You can use the section button in the left toolbar or you can type it in. The sections can be named anything you want but will not accept spaces. You can use underscores though!

The fastest way to create your chord progression is to type it in: C{2},G{2},A-{2},F{2},C{2},G{2},F{2},C{2}...



If you'd rather click (maybe you're using a tablet?), you can use the Add Chords dialog with this button:



Do it even FASTER!

Most common beat-tags can be entered with a single keystroke:

Beat Tag	Keypress
{2}	[Ctrl]+1
{4}	[Ctrl]+[spacebar]
{8}	[Ctrl]+2

{12}	[Ctrl]+3
{16}	[Ctrl]+4

“What the Heck is A minus?”

If you’re new to chord notation, I have a tutorial planned for later in this doc. Here’s quick rundown:

“b”=flat, “#”=sharp, “-” = minor, “+” augmented, “dim”=diminished (rendered “o”), “7” or “9” or “13” add those wicked extra notes that them jazz cats play.

MOVING ON...

Let’s add the Chorus and that iconic F to C walkdown.

[CHORUS]

A-{2},G{2},F{2},C{4},G{2},F{2},C{2}

[WALKDOWN]

F,E-,D-,C,Bb,A-,G,F,C{4},

“That walkdown isn’t right!”

Well, you caught me. Congrats on your musical knowledge—I rendered 2 bars of music in 3 bars. I think you’ll find the average musician will instinctively follow that just fine. The key is getting the notes on the page and not creating sheet music. And that Bb chord that you know Tommy is gonna miss is now on the chart.

There **are** other ways to denote this lick. Maybe I’ll cover that later.

[VERSE]

C{2},G{2},A-{2},F{2},C{2},G{2},F{2},C{2}

[CHORUS]

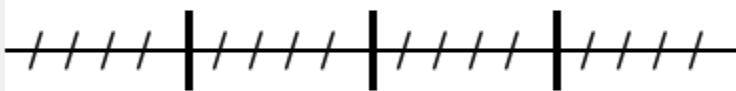
A-{2},G{2},F{2},C{4},G{2},F{2},C{2}

[WALKDOWN]

F,E-,D-,C,Bb,A-,G,F,C{4},

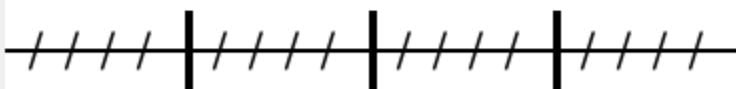
VERSE

C G A - F C G F C



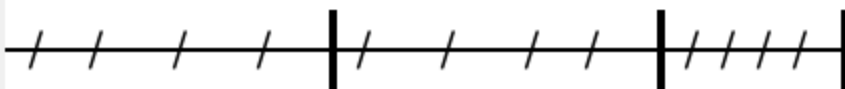
CHORUS

A - G F C G F C



WALKDOWN

F E - D - C B^b A - G F C



Finishing Up

Now I’m going to personalize the lyrics. For one, don’t need to see every word for every repetition of the chorus. Having it there once is enough for me. Second, I want to play this with a band and I’m going to print charts for them with notes.

(Piano Intro - 4 Measures)

[Verse]When I find myself in times of trouble \ Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom \ Let it be

And in my hour of darkness \ She is standing right in front of me

Speaking words of wisdom \ Let it be

[CHR]Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be \ Whisper words of wisdom Let it be

And when the broken-hearted people \ Living in the world agree

There will be an answer \ Let it be

For though they may be parted there is \ Still a chance that they will see

There will be an answer \ Let it be>>CHORUS X3 (Answer, Wisdom,Wisdom)

>>WAKLDOWN >>SOLO - Jake 16 >>SOLO - Wanda 16 >>SOLO - Huumperdoo 16

[Verse]And when the night is cloudy \ There is still a light that shines on me

Shine until tomorrow \ Let it be

I wake up to the sound of music \ Mother Mary comes to me

Speaking words of wisdom \ Let it be >>CHORUS X3 (Answer, Answer,Wisdom)

>>WALKDOWN>>END

Happy with these changes, Click the [OKAY] button (bottom-right) to save your chart.

Song

Let It Be

KEY

C

Patch

Piano

Artist

The Beatles

Tempo

VERSE

C G A- F C G F C

CHORUS

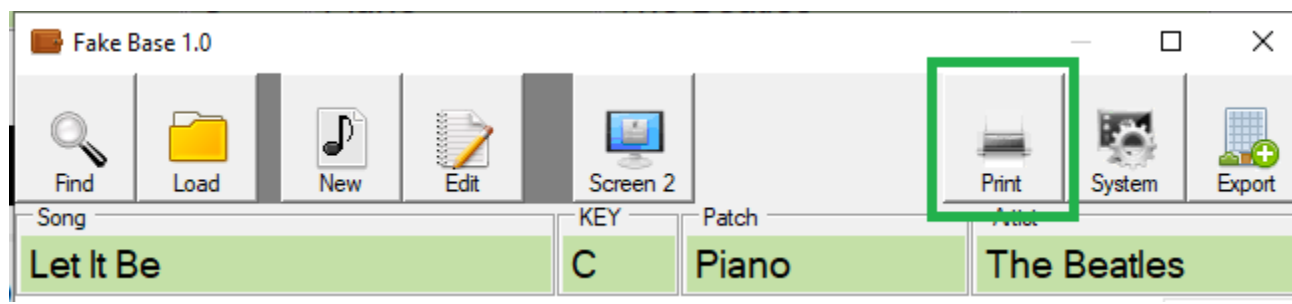
A- G F C G F C

WALKDOWN

F E- D- C B^b A- G F C

(Piano Intro - 4 Measures)	
[Verse]When I find myself in times of trouble	Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom	Let it be
And in my hour of darkness	She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom	Let it be
[CHR]Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be	Whisper words of wisdom Let it be
And when the broken-hearted people	Living in the world agree
There will be an answer	Let it be
For though they may be parted there is	Still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer	Let it be>>CHORUS X3 (Answer, Wisdom,Wisdom)
>>WAKLDOWN >>SOLO - Jake 16 >>SOLO - Wanda 16 >>SOLO - Huumperdoo 16	
[Verse]And when the night is cloudy	There is still a light that shines on me
Shine until tomorrow	Let it be
I wake up to the sound of music	Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom	Let it be >>CHORUS X3 (Answer, Answer,Wisdom)
>>WALKDOWN>>END	

Nice! Everything I need on one screen. For a hard-copy or to generate a PDF, click the Print button.



More Advanced Stuff – CHORDS

There's more we can do in our chord view besides major and minor. We can denote hits, rests and add text. Here's a rundown:

Fancy Chords – Add 7s, 13s, Augmented, Diminished, etc. Here's some examples:

[VERSE]
Adim{4}, A+{4}, A7{4}, Amajb5{4}, A13{4}, A7b5{4}

VERSE
A^o A+ A⁷ A m a j ^b 5 A¹³ A⁷ ^b 5

[VERSE]
Ab-{4}, E, An{3}

Specify a natural with "n"

VERSE
A^b - E Aⁿ

Chord Inversions (aka "Slash Chords") i.e. A minor with an E in the bass.

[VERSE] "When you were young and your heart was an open book..."
G{2}, G/B{2}, C{2}, C-{2}

The second chord here is a G major chord with a B in the bass.

VERSE
G G/B C C-

Rests and Hits

[VERSE]
D{7},C#,C{^},R{3}|

“One of these weary mornings (HIT!) You’re gonna be wiping your weepy eyes...”

Use the hat “^” for hits and Chord “R” for rests.

VERSE
D

C#

C

Comments

[VERSE]
D'One-a-these{7},C#,C'you're-gonna-b{^},R{3},R{4},C9'Horn_Lick-C_Bb_E{16}

VERSE
D

C#

C

C9

Use the apostrophe between the Chord and the beats tag.

Super-Duper Advanced Stuff: Hybrid Scripting

This is still in development at this time, but it is supported by the current release, so I’ll mention it quickly. It allows a more traditional chords over words view.

<A-{2};All through the/All I can >
<D-{2};day, I me/hear, I me>
<G{1};mine, I me>
<E7{1};mine I me>
<A-{2};mine>

A -

D -

G

E 7

A -

A -

D -

G

E 7

A -

D -

In this mode, the chart render will space-out the next chord to fit the words of the previous chord. At the time of this writing, the engine will go into hybrid-render-mode if the first character of the chords setting is “<”. (That may change in future releases).

GETTING READY FOR THE GIG – Managing Songs

So, you want to take your Surface Pro or laptop to the gig? You can buy a clamp that will attach your tablet right to your mic stand. You’ve got 500 of your favorite songs charted out and you’re ready to rock.


“Do you know any Tom Petty?”


Hmm...yeah I’m pretty sure I do... CLICK “Find”


Or Key [F]. Enter petty in the artist field and hit enter (If you’re on a laptop) or touch apply.

🐞 Search DB

Fake Base 1.0

Find

Load

New

Filter By

Title

Artist

Any Field

☒ Filter

☐ Highlight

Apply

Song	Artist	File
American Girl	Tom Petty	
Breakdown	Tom Petty	
Don't Do Me Like That	Tom Petty	
Even The Losers	Tom Petty	
Free Fallin'	Tom Petty	
I Need To Know	Tom Petty	
Into The Great Wide Open	Tom Petty	
Learning To Fly	Tom Petty	
Listen To Her Heart	Tom Petty	
Mary Jane's Last Dance	Tom Petty	
Runnin' Down A Dream	Tom Petty	
Stop Draggin my heart Around	Tom Petty	
The Waiting	Tom Petty	
Won't Back Down	Tom Petty	
Yer So Bad	Tom Petty	
You Got Lucky	Tom Petty	

Double click, or select and touch “OKAY” button lower-right.

Likewise you can search by Title.

CREATING A SETLIST

You can use the Search DB screen to create an easy access playlist available directly from the main view by touch, click or keypress.

Start by pressing the Playlist Button (1).

The screenshot shows a music application window titled "Search DB". It features a search filter section at the top with fields for "Title", "Artist" (containing "Beatles"), and "Any Field". There are radio buttons for "Filter" and "Highlight", and an "Apply" button. A "Playlist" button is labeled with a green "1".

Below the search section is a table with two columns: "Song" and "Artist". The table lists 18 songs, all by "The Beatles". The song "I Saw Her Standing There" is highlighted in blue. A scrollbar on the right indicates there are 77 of 468 songs in total.

On the right side, there is a "Song" list area. Above it are three buttons: a red "X" button, a blue up arrow button, and a blue down arrow button, collectively labeled with a green "3".

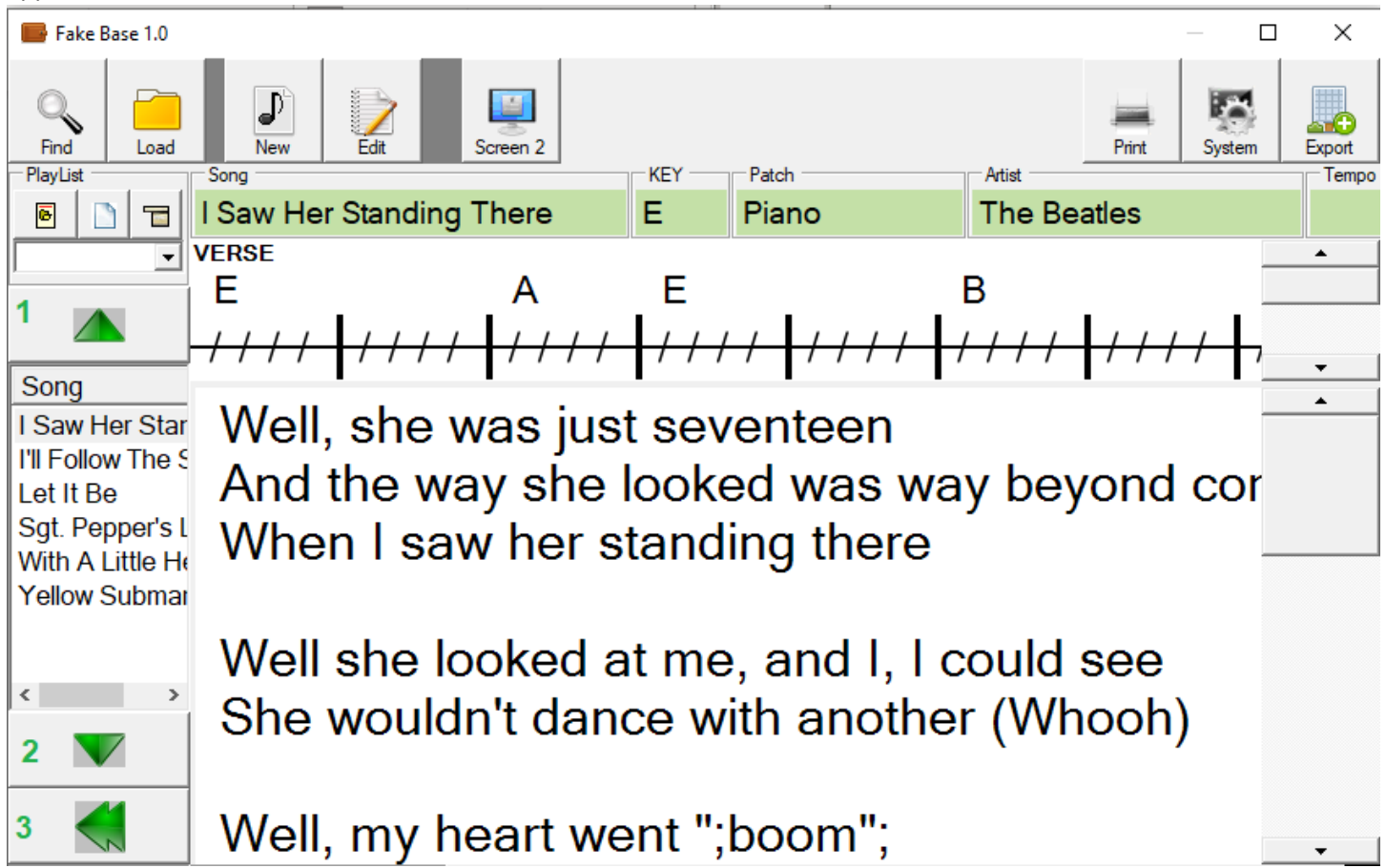
At the bottom, there is a "Delete" button with a trash icon, an "OKAY" button labeled with a green "2", a "Cancel" button, and a "SAVE PLAYLIST" button labeled with a green "4".

Song	Artist
Good Day Sunshine	The Beatles
Got To Get You Into My Life	The Beatles
Help!	The Beatles
Here Come The Sun	The Beatles
Hey Bulldog	The Beatles
Hey Jude	The Beatles
I Me Mine	The Beatles
I Saw Her Standing There	The Beatles
I Want To Hold Your Hand	The Beatles
I Want You (she's So Heavy)	The Beatles
I Will	The Beatles
I'll Follow The Sun	The Beatles
I'm A Loser	The Beatles
I'm Looking Through You	The Beatles
Lady Madonna	The Beatles
Let It Be	The Beatles

Continue selecting songs and pressing the OKAY button (2) after each. You can move and remove playlist items using the playlist queue tool buttons (3).

When you're done, hit "Save Playlist (4).

Fakebase will save a file with the playlist selection in them that you can load in later sessions. For now, the list will appear in the Left-Panel of the main screen.

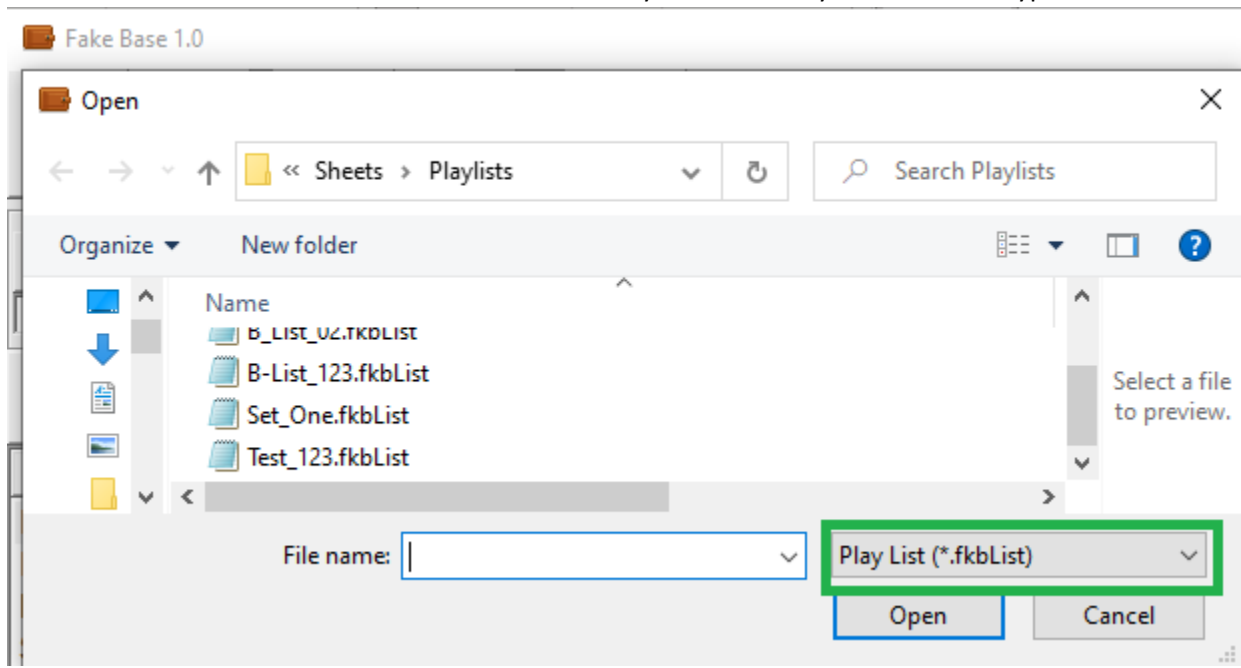


Touch/click any song on the list to skip to that song or use the UP/DOWN buttons (1, 2).

To Hide the playlist panel, hit (3).

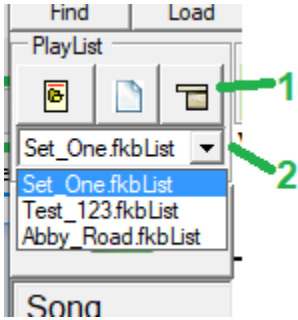
LOADING A SAVED PLAYLIST

Click the Load button in the main toolbar. Make sure you select "Playlist" as the file type.



LOADING MULTIPLE PLAYLISTS

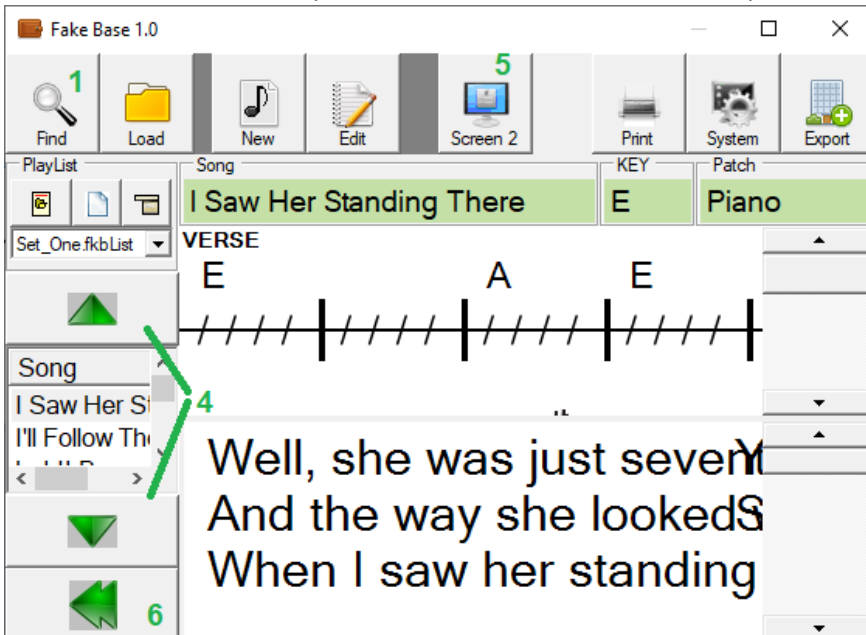
You can have all your playlists ready to go and quickly selectable from the Playlist panel.



Click the playlist menu button (1) and select “Load”. Each one you load is added to the playlist dropdown (2). Selecting any of these will change the current playlist below.

HANDS FREE OPERATION

Your audience doesn’t want to watch you fiddling around with your device. They want to hear you wail-out the next song. The buttons and keystroke mapping in Fakebase allows you to operate with minimal device interaction. Larger buttons and scrollbars help out a lot with tablets. Let’s first explore the key mapping available in the Settings screen.



Key_Mapping	
Key_Map_Find_Button	F.
Key_Map_Lyrics_Down	C,V,B,N,M.
Key_Map_Lyrics_Mode	2.
Key_Map_Lyrics_Top	T.
Key_Map_Playlist_Down	L.
Key_Map_Playlist_Up	K.
Key_Map_Slide_Show	1.
Key_Map_Toggle_Chords	A.
Key_Map_Toggle_Playlist	P.

Find_Button – Default Key “F” – Clicks the Find Button (1).

Lyrics Down – Defaults Keys (C, V, B, N, and M) – Scrolls down (2) the lyrics view 1 page.

Lyrics Top – Scrolls the lyrics view (2) to the top of the song.

Playlist Down – Advances the Playlist to the next song (4).

Playlist up – Moves the Playlist to the previous song (4).

Slide Show – Clicks the Screen 2 Button (5).

Toggle Chords – Makes the chords panel (3) visible/invisible.

Toggle Playlist – Makes the Playlist panel visible/invisible.

“What does this have to do with “hands-free”, you need hands to press keys”.

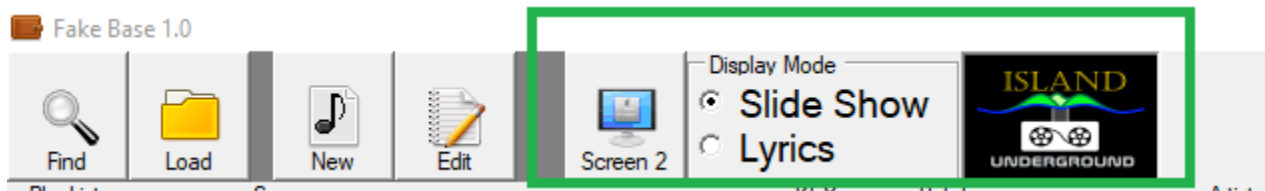
Oh, no you don't. You can use your FEET! There are several available USB footswitches that act like a keyboard for your feet. Hitting these peddles sends a keystroke to your computer which you can map to any of the operations described above.

This is like the one I use:



TAKING YOUR SHOW TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH THE SCREEN 2 SLIDESHOW

Many devices have a HDMI out that allows a second display. Why not use that to feed a screen of video projector and add some visuals to your act?

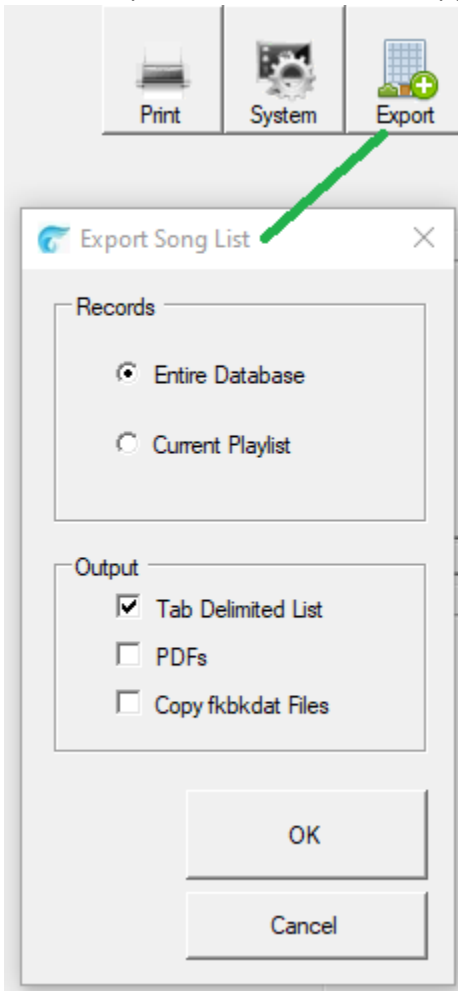


Click the Screen 2 Button to launch your second window and drag that onto your other viewer. It will scroll through any compatible image files (jpg, bmp, png, tif) that it finds in the directory you define in your system settings. Since this view will normally be behind your back while performing, a thumbnail of the current image will appear to the right of the “Display Mode” frame.

Lyrics Mode (not yet operational) will switch the Screen 2 view to display your lyrics. Singalong anyone???

SHARING IS CARING

Use the export button to create a copy of your sheets—either All or just the current playlist.



Tab Delimited

Creates an exported text file that just lists Title, Artist, Key and Patch. These can be loaded in Excel for prettying-up.

PDFs

Sends all of the selected sheets to the Print screen for PDF generation.

Copy fkbkdat files

Creates copies of your sheets. You can of course use File Explorer to do the same thing.