

BAND-In-A -Box QUICKSTART Tutorial

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This QuickStart should be used in conjunction with the tutorials in the manual or the tutorials found in the on-line help. Both manual and on-line help have graphics that will clarify this guide.

For more advanced information, updates and discussion groups, visit PG Music's web site to <http://www.pgmusic.com>

I. Working with Song Files

Opening files

- A. Select File | Open to open songs by file name
- B. Click on the Song button to open the Song Titles box - this allows you to open songs by title instead of file name
 1. Note that you can also search by title in the Song Titles box
 2. If you want to see the songs titles for a different directory:
 - a. You must first close the Song Titles box
 - b. use File | Open and open any song in the directory you want to use
 - c. go back to the Song Titles box by clicking on the Song button

Starting/stopping

- A. Click on Play to start the song
- B. Use the FROM button to start in a particular bar number
- C. Instead of pressing stop, you may press the HOLD button to pause the song

Playing along

- A. You may play along on the MIDI keyboard at any time
- B. You may also use the computer keyboard:
 1. Turn the "Wizard" on by selecting it from the Play menu
 2. Use the two rows of keys starting with "A" and "Z"
 3. You can also use the "Smart Notes" feature found in the Play menu. This will cause the bottom row of keys to play only "right" notes and the next row to play "wrong" notes. (Try it)

Changing song settings

- A. Changing the instrumentation
 1. Note that any part can play any instrument. The piano part, for example, can be performed by a banjo, etc. Click on the part you want to change and then select the instrument from the instrument box.
- B. Muting instruments
 1. You can mute any number of the parts by clicking your right mouse button over the part name. The name of the part will turn red when it is muted. Click your right mouse button over it again to turn it back on.

- C. Changing the tempo
 - 1. Using numerical values
 - a. You can type a new value in the Tempo box
 - 2. Tapping on the mouse or keyboard
 - a. You can tap on the = key to have BLAB start automatically - tap for our four beats and it will come in at the tempo you tapped. This will also allow you to change the tempo during a song. If you want to tap the tempo without the song starting automatically, use the - key. This can be used for testing your ability to tap certain tempos. The tempo will be indicated in the tempo box after four taps.

- D. Transposing
 - 1. You can transpose the entire worksheet by selecting a new key from the key box, right beside the tempo box.
 - 2. You can transpose part of the your song by selecting the bars you want to affect first.

- E. Changing styles
 - 1. Click on the STY button to see a list of the styles available.

- F. Changing melody harmonies
 - 1. Choose Melody Harmony from the Harmony menu to select a new harmony Note that the Allow Melody Harmonies must be on in the Harmony Menu. (If you don't want harmony, this is where you can turn it off.
 - 2. If your music sounds strange - try changing or turning of the harmony - this is often the cause of strange sounds!

- G. Changing thru harmonies
 - 1. The thru harmony harmonizes what you play on the MIDI keyboard. (The thru instrument determines the instrument played on the MIDI keyboard.)
 - 2. The thru harmony works in the same manner as the melody harmonies

Viewing the Notation

- A. Turning on the notation window
 - 1. You can switch to the notation window by pressing Ctrl-W or by clicking on the first item in the Notation menu

- B. Selecting the part
 - 1. BLAB doesn't allow you to view more than one part at a time, although you export the score to a notation program such as Musicator. To select the part to view, use the B D P G S N1 S buttons above the notation. B is bass, D is drums, etc.

- C. Selecting the Chord view
 - 1. Clicking on the II button will cycle you through the various chord nomenclatures available.

- D. Looping the screen
 - 1. Click on the LoopScn button to have BLAB loop the bars on the screen (you will have to click on PL AY before it will start looping.)

Using the Soloist

- A. Selecting a soloist
 - 1. Click on the SOLO button to try out some of the soloists. BLAB looks at the chord structure for the whole song before building the solo, so it may take a few minutes to build the solo. You can view the solo by clicking on the S button farthest to the right in the notation window.

Printing the Song

- A. View the notation window and switch to the part you want to print
- B. Choose File | Print Song
 - 1. You may change any of the settings before printing
- C. You can switch to any of the parts and repeat this process to print them out.
- D. You can print a fakebook of everything that is on your computer. I wouldn't recommend it, however, since you will get about 1800 songs!

Creating Your Own Song

Choosing the Key/Time Signature

- A. Setting the song information
 - 1. Use Edit | Song Settings to set your song first
 - 2. Use the number of bars settings in order to control how your song is repeated, etc.

Entering Chords

- A. Using chord names
 - 1. You may type in the chords desired onto the chord worksheet. See the online help for a complete list of chords.
 - 2. Using the chord reader
 - a. You can play a chord on the midi keyboard and press ctrl-enter to enter it onto the worksheet.
 - b. Clicking on Options|MIDI Chord Detection gives you more control over how the chords you play get entered
 - 3. Copy/Paste
 - a. You can mark bars and use the cut/copy/ paste features to save time.

Advanced Chord Functions

- A. Entering rests,, shots/holds
 - 1. Click on the C7 button to control rests, shots or holds within the current bar.
 - 2. You may also use the following to control rests, shots or holds:
 - a. C. indicates a C chord that is a rest
 - b. C.. indicates a C chord that is a hold
 - c. C... indicates a CD chord that is a held chord
 - 3. You may exempt instruments by typing the letter of the instrument after the dots:
 - a. For example: C.bd forces all instruments except the bass and drums to rest

Choosing the style/soloist/harmonies

- A. Experiment - use the STY, the SOLO button and the Harmonies menu

Adding a melody

- A. Recording
 - 1. You can record to either the melody or the soloist track. Use the Melody menu or the Soloist menu to find Record.
 - 2. Note that after you have finished recording you have the choice of "taking" the recording.
 - 3. After you have finished recording the melody, you may edit it using the notation window. Please see the manual for more details.
- B. Step entering
 - 1. Please see the manual for more details
- C. Importing from a MIDI file
 - 1. You can import melodies from a MIDI file by choosing Melody import from MIDI file.

In many cases it is more efficient to first record a melody using a sequencing or notation program such as Musicator, Finale or Cakewalk. Save the melody as a MIDI file and then import it to BIAS.

Adding Lyrics

- A. Open the Notation window (Ctrl-W)
- B. Type the lyrics above the music in the beige box between the notation and tie
- C. The lyrics can be printed above or below, depending on the options you choose when printing.

Saving as a MIDI file

- A. Choose File | Make a Standard MIDI File
- B. Choose Save to File and give it a file name
- C. You can now open the file in any notation program for further editing.

Burning to a CD

You can easily create a wave file of your Band in a Box song to burn to a CD.

- A. First, confirm that Windows is set up to record from the SD-90.
 - 1. Go to Start - Control Panel - "Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices", and click on "Sounds and Audio Devices". Go to the "Audio" tab and choose "Edirol SD-90 In" in the Sound Recording section, then hit OK and close the control panel
- B. Then, in Band in a Box, click the ".wav" button, or choose "Record MIDI to Stereo .wav file etc..." from the "Audio" menu
- C. Click the "(Re)-Render to Wave File..." button and it will play through your entire song, while recording a wave file. When it is done, you can click the "Test WAV" to make sure that your recording worked.
 - 1. You may want to clear the "Include 2 bar lead-in" and "Include Drum Count-in Sound" if you aren't creating play along CDs, otherwise, these

- are useful to give them tempo
- D. You can also use this window to burn a CD or convert to WMA for posting on the Internet. Please consult the on-line help or printed documentation for further information.