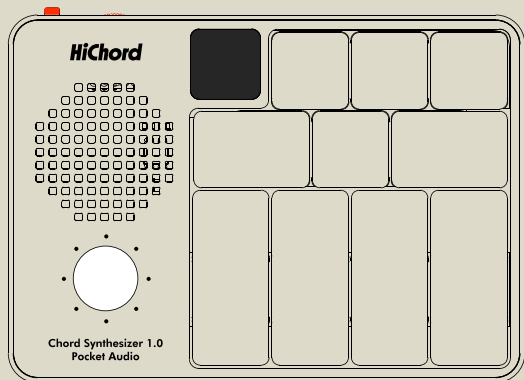


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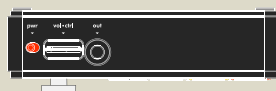
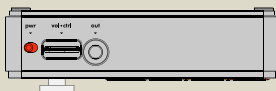
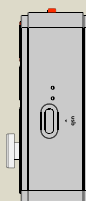
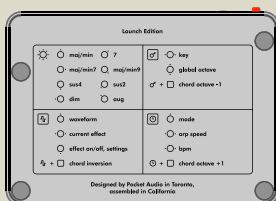
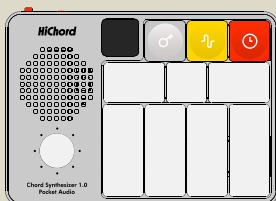
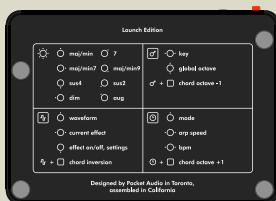
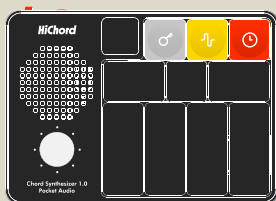
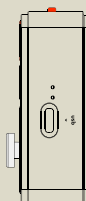
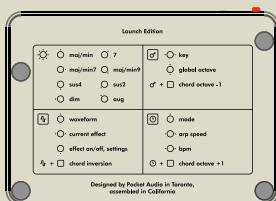
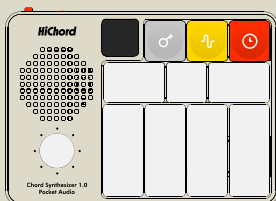
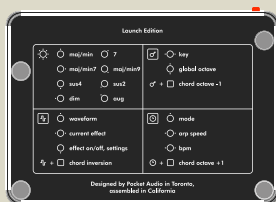
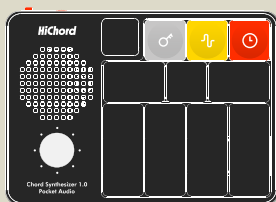
# HiChord

DIRECTORY

HiChord Manual  
Firmware Rev1.4



START



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HOW IT WORKS

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# HOW IT WORKS

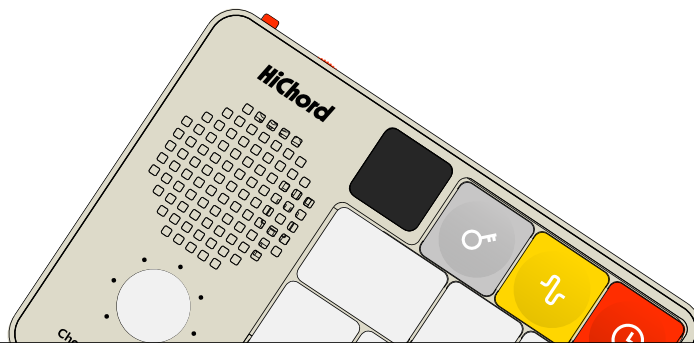
DIRECTORY

HiChord is built to simplify and accelerate harmonic exploration.

It has seven chord buttons that are automatically mapped to play chords that naturally work together in the current key.

The Chord Modification Joystick lets you alter chord qualities on the fly—major, minor, sevenths, suspended voicings, and beyond—while three menu buttons give you streamlined access to keys, octaves, waveforms, effects, and rhythmic patterns.

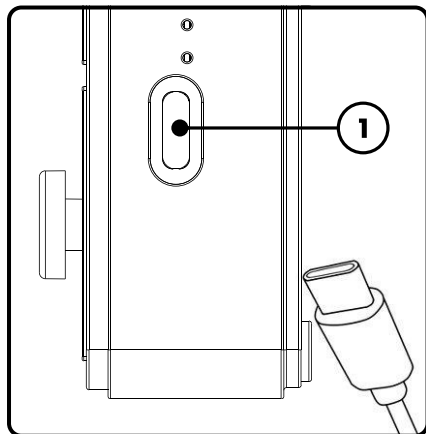
BACK



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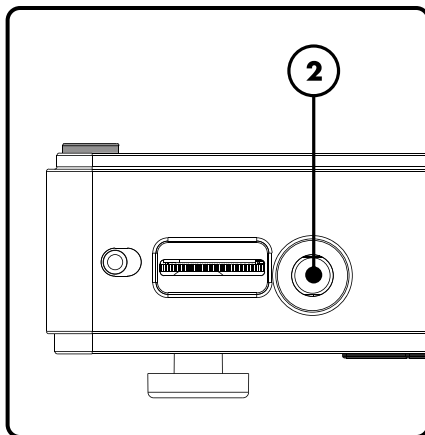
# GETTING STARTED

DIRECTORY



## 1. charge via USB-C.

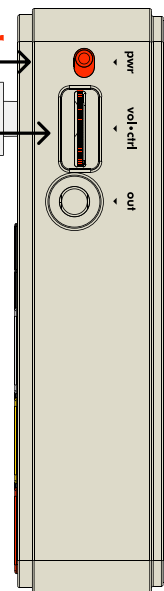
There is a USB-C to USB-C cable provided in the HiChord box :)



## 2. plug into Headphones, speaker, or recording device using 3.5 mm audio output (AUX). Or use built-in speaker.

## 3. Turn ON with **Power Switch**

## 4. Adjust volume using wheel



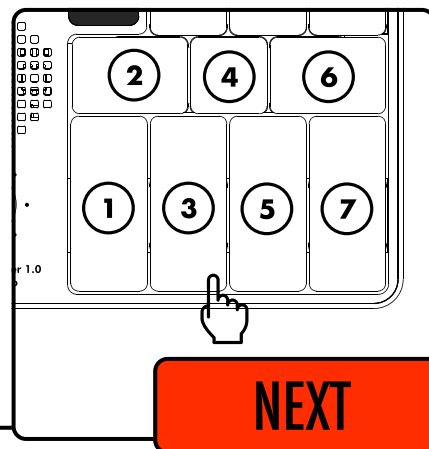
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# CHORD BUTTONS

HiChord features 7 Chord Buttons mapped according to the **Nashville Number System**, allowing for easy transposition and chord progressions. Each button plays a chord that naturally fits with the others in the set, so no matter which buttons you press, the chords will always sound good together. These chords correspond to the diatonic chords of a major scale, making it easy to stay in key.

- Button 1: Tonic (I) (MAJOR)
- Button 2: Supertonic (II) (MINOR)
- Button 3: Mediant (III) (MINOR)
- Button 4: Subdominant (IV) (MAJOR)
- Button 5: Dominant (V) (MAJOR)
- Button 6: Submediant (VI) (MINOR)
- Button 7: Leading Tone (VII) (DIMINISHED)



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# NASHVILLE NUMBER SYSTEM

The Nashville Number System simplifies chord playing by using numbers (1-7) to represent the diatonic chords in a scale. Each number corresponds to a chord function, which remains consistent no matter the key. This allows instant key changes while maintaining familiar chord relationships.

The Nashville Number System ensures chords sound natural together and simplifies switching between keys, making it ideal for live play and composition.

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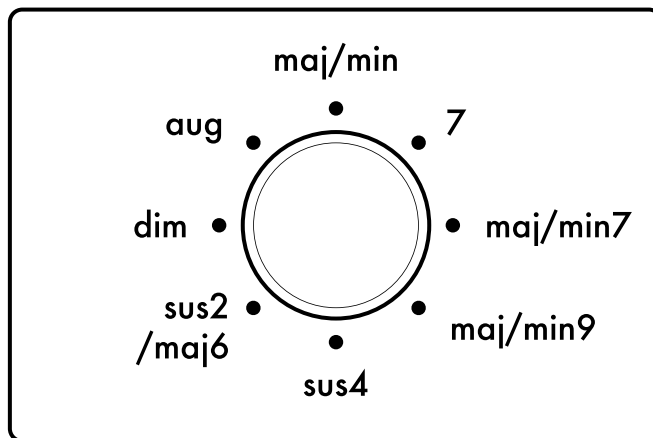
NEXT

# CHORD MODIFYING JOYSTICK

DIRECTORY

Use the Chord Modifying Joystick to transform the character of any chord in real-time. Simply hold a Chord Button, then tilt the joystick to select your desired chord quality—major, minor, seventh, suspended, augmented, diminished, and more.

As you move the joystick, HiChord instantly reshapes the chord.



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NEXT

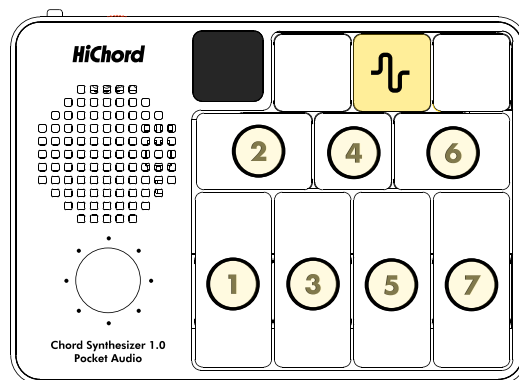
# CHORD INVERSIONS

DIRECTORY

Chord inversions let you rearrange a chord's notes to create smoother transitions, more resonant voicings, and subtler changes in musical character. Simply hold a Chord Button and press the  $\text{↵}$  key to cycle through available inversions.

## INVERSION

press chord button  
+  $\text{↵}$  to invert




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NEXT



# CHANGE KEY

DIRECTORY

Press  and scroll Left (←) or Right (→) to select a new key. This instantly transposes all chords to the new key.



# CHANGE OCTAVE



change key  
change octave

Press  and scroll Up (↑) to raise or Down (↓) to lower the overall octave.

# CHORD BUTTON OCTAVE

Set each chord's buttons octave independently. Hold a Chord Button and press  to lower its octave, or  to raise it.

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NEXT

# CHANGE BPM

DIRECTORY



← → select bpm

Press  and use the Left (←) and Right (→) controls to select a faster or slower tempo (BPM).

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NEXT

# CHANGE SOUND

Press  and  to select a waveform/sound.

Select from various **waveforms**—such as sine, saw, square, triangle, and more expressive instrument-inspired tones—and fine-tune the overall character using onboard filters and **effects**.

Experiment with different **voice counts** and waveform combinations to craft your own signature sonic textures. Each chord can use 2 oscillators per voice, up to 10 Oscillators per chord.

Press  and  to create a new randomize all variables to create a new sound.

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NEXT

# WAVEFORMS

DIRECTORY



change sound / waveform

## SAW

Bright and buzzy, the saw wave is rich in harmonics. Perfect for lush pads and cutting leads.

## SINE

Pure, round, and fundamental. Ideal for mellow basslines, gentle melodies, or layering subtle warmth.

## SQUARE

Hollow and woody, the square wave offers a balanced tone. Great for classic chiptune sounds, warm leads, and rhythmic pulses.

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NEXT

# WAVEFORMS

## DIRECTORY

### TRIANGLE

Soft and smooth, a triangle wave provides a gentle quality suitable for flutes, pads, and delicate melodies.

### WURLI

Evocative of a Wurlitzer electric piano, this waveform adds a vintage, soulful character and gentle keys-like timbre.

### PIANO

Modeled after acoustic piano overtones, this waveform offers a percussive attack with warm harmonic resonance.

### RANDOMIZE

Let HiChord surprise you! Automatically generate a new waveform and tonal setup for fresh inspiration.

Press  and  to create a new randomize all variables to create a new sound.

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NEXT

# EFFECTS

Press  to open the Sounds & Effects menu.

Use the Joystick Left/Right (←/→) to cycle through different effects.

The currently selected effect is shown on the display as < EFFECT NAME >.

**Use Joystick Down (↓) to turn the currently selected effect On/Off** or cycle through its available modes or presets.

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NEXT

# EFFECTS

DIRECTORY



select effect  
effect on/of

## ADSR

Shapes how chords start, hold, and fade by adjusting Attack, Decay, Sustain, and Release.  
Press Joystick Down to cycle through: LONG, SHORT, SWELL, PLUCK, TOUCH, SUSTAIN.

## LFO

Adds subtle or dramatic periodic modulation to pitch.  
Press Joystick Down to switch between: LOW, MED, HIGH, OFF.

## GLIDE

Smoothly transitions pitch when changing chords.  
Press Joystick Down to toggle: ON, OFF.

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NEXT

# EFFECTS

## DIRECTORY

### VERB

Adds space and depth, simulating different acoustic environments.

Press Joystick Down to toggle: ON, OFF.

### TREMOLO

Produces a rhythmic volume pulsing effect.

Press Joystick Down to choose rate: 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/16T, 1/32, OFF.

### FLANGER

Adds a sweeping, jet-like modulation to your sound.

Press Joystick Down to toggle: ON, OFF.

### FILTER

Rolls off higher frequencies for a warmer tone.

Press Joystick Down to toggle: ON, OFF.

**When ON, use the Volume Knob adjusts cutoff.**

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NEXT



# EFFECTS

## DIRECTORY

### DELAY

Creates echoes and repeats for spatial or rhythmic effects.  
Press Joystick Down to cycle through rates: 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/16T, 1/32, OFF.

### STEREO

Expands or narrows the sound's stereo field.  
Press Joystick Down to toggle: STEREO, MONO.

### BASS

Adds a dedicated sub-bass oscillator set, one octave below the chord root, to enhance low-end frequencies.

- When ON: A sine wave sub-oscillator is added to the mix, creating a deeper and fuller tone.
- When OFF: The standard oscillators remain unchanged.

### VOICES

Adjusts how many oscillators form each chord.

Press Joystick Down to cycle: 1 OSC (monophonic lead), 2 OSC (light layer), 4 OSC (thicker chords), 8 OSC (lush stack).

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NEXT

# MIDI

Connect HiChord to DAWs, hardware synths, and other MIDI-compatible devices via USB-C to send real-time note, chord, and rhythm data.

**MIDI OUTPUT can be turned on in the EFFECTS menu. Press  and scroll Left or Right (←/→) until you see <MIDI>.**

**Use Joystick Down (↓) to toggle MIDI On and Off.**

- Chord Mode: Sends the full chord as a MIDI note group.
- Arpeggio Mode: Outputs individual notes of the arpeggio pattern in sequence.
- Repeat Mode: Sends repeated chord triggers at the set rhythm rate.

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NEXT

# MODES

DIRECTORY



change mode

## MODE: PLAY

The default mode for playing full chords. Press the chord buttons to trigger harmonies instantly. Perfect for live playing or songwriting.


Press  +  to cycle through modes until **MODE: PLAY** is displayed.


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NEXT

# MODE: ARP

Automatically arpeggiates chords, playing the notes one at a time in patterns.

Press  and then  $\uparrow$  to cycle through modes until MODE: ARP is displayed.

Press  and then  $\downarrow$  to cycle through the arpeggio rhythm rates: 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, Swing and Triplet variations.


Press  and then  to generate a Random Arpeggio Pattern.


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NEXT

# MODE: REPEAT

Plays chords repeatedly at a set rhythm rate. Adjust the tempo and note rate to match your performance. Ideal for rhythmic chord playback.

Press  and then  $\uparrow$  to cycle through modes until MODE: REPEAT is displayed.

Press  and then  $\downarrow$  to cycle through the rhythm rates: 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, Swing and Triplet variations.

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NEXT

# MODE: DRUM

Turns HiChord into a drum trigger, mapping percussion sounds to chord buttons for live play.

Press  and then ↑ to cycle through modes until MODE: DRUM is displayed.

- Chord Button 1: Kick Drum
- Chord Button 2: Snare Drum
- Chord Button 3: Closed Hi-Hat
- Chord Button 4: Open Hi-Hat
- Chord Button 5: Tom 1 (High Tom)
- Chord Button 6: Tom 2 (Mid Tom)
- Chord Button 7: Crash Cymbal

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NEXT

# MODE: AUTODRUM

Automatically triggers drum rhythms in sync with your set tempo, playing kick, snare, tom, crash and hi-hat sounds.

Press  and then ↑ to cycle through modes until MODE: AUTODRUM is displayed.

Drum sounds follow the rhythm rate and swing timing set for the current tempo.

Press  and then ↓ to cycle through the rhythm rates: 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32, Swing and Triplet variations.

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NEXT

# RANDOMIZER

DIRECTORY

## RANDOMIZE SOUND

press  then 

Randomly adjusts oscillator settings, effects, and envelopes to create fresh, unexpected tones.

## RANDOMIZE PATTERN

press  then 

Generates a brand new arpeggio pattern, shuffling notes, timing and placement.

## RANDOMIZE ALL

press  then 

Randomizes all variables including key, BPM, inversions, waveforms, effects, and arpeggio patterns.

For instant magic, go to ARP Mode and try RANDOMIZE ALL.

BACK




NEXT



# LOOPER

rec loop:   
play loop: 

Records and loops your chord progressions or drums for seamless playback and live layering.

- Record: Press Joystick Click (when not in a menu screen) to start recording. 
- Stop/Play: Press Joystick Click again to stop recording and begin loop playback. 
- Clear: Press Joystick Click again to stop playback and clear the loop. 



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NEXT

# RESET SETTINGS

hold ♂ + ⌚ for  
5 sec

Returns HiChord to its default settings. Perfect for troubleshooting or starting fresh.

- Hold: Press and hold  +  or 5 seconds.
- Confirmation: HiChord will restart to confirm reset.

All settings, including modes, effects, and mappings, will be restored to factory defaults.



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NEXT

# UPDATE FIRMWARE

Keep your HiChord up-to-date with new features, improvements, and fixes.

## How to Update:

1. Enter DFU Mode: Hold  +  + together for 5 seconds.
2. Connect: Use the included USB-C cable to connect HiChord to your computer.
3. Update:
  - Go to <https://hichord.github.io/Programmer/>
  - Click "Connect" and select "DFU in FS Mode".
  - Click "Update Firmware" and wait for confirmation.

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NEXT

# TECH SPECS.

- Audio Output: Stereo 3.5mm jack
- Power Supply: USB-C 5V DC
- Dimensions: 160mm x 90mm x 30mm
- Weight: 250g
- Waveforms: Sine, Saw, Square, Triangle,
- Effects: Reverb, Delay, Flanger, Tremolo, Lowpass Filter, LFO, Glide, Bass Boost
- Polyphony: Up to 8 oscillators
- Sampling Rate: 48kHz
- Display: OLED screen for settings and feedback
- Controls: 7 Chord Buttons, 3 Menu Buttons, Joystick with Click, Volume/Filter Knob

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NEXT

# WARRANTY

HiChord includes a 1-year limited warranty for manufacturing defects.

- What's Covered: Faulty components, material defects, or manufacturing errors.
- What's Not Covered: Accidental damage, misuse, unauthorized modifications, or wear and tear.

For claims:

- Contact support at [hello@hichord.shop](mailto:hello@hichord.shop)
- Provide your proof of purchase and a brief issue description.

BACK

NEXT

# DoC (EU)

## DIRECTORY



(EU) Declaration of Conformity  
Pocket Audio Corporation

Andrew Oliver 226-449-3841 hello@hichord.shop

This Declaration of Conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the Manufacturer. I hereby declare that the product listed below has been designed, constructed with the appropriate conformity assessment requirements and, found in compliance with the following Standards and Directives:

Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive: 2014/30/EU, (EMC).

Standards: EN55032: 2015 + A11:2020,  
EN55035: 2017 + A11:2020,  
EN55103-1:2009 + A1: 2012,  
EN55103-2:2009

ROHS2 Directive: 2011/65/EU.

WEEE Directive: 2012/19/EU.

List of Products: Portable Musical Synthesizer.

The object of the declaration described above is in conformity with the relevant Union Harmonization Legislation, with a list of the applicable CE marking directives and regulations the product complies with.

Manufacturer / Authorized Representative.

Name: Pocket Audio Corporation / Andrew Oliver

**BACK**

**NEXT**

# DoC (US)

DIRECTORY

Date: Aug 20, 2024



(FCC) Suppliers Declaration of Conformity  
Pocket Audio Corporation  
Andrew Oliver 226-449-3841  
hello@hichord.shop

I hereby declare that the following list of products has been tested and inspected and, are found to be in compliance with:

FCC Title 47, Part 15: 107 and 109: Unintentional Radiators: CISPR 32.

List of Products:

HiChord - Portable Chord Synthesizer

Supplier:

Pocket Audio Corporation

Toronto, ON, Canada

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