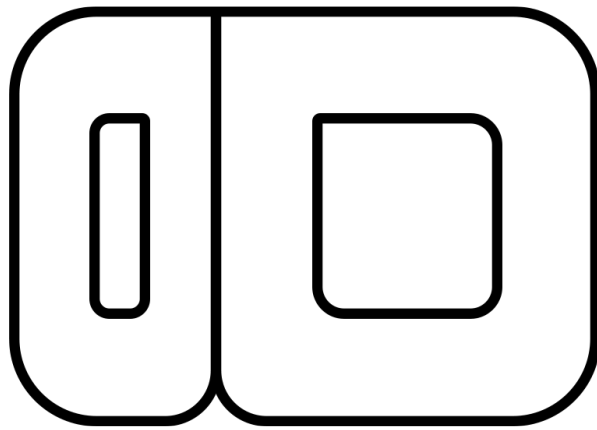




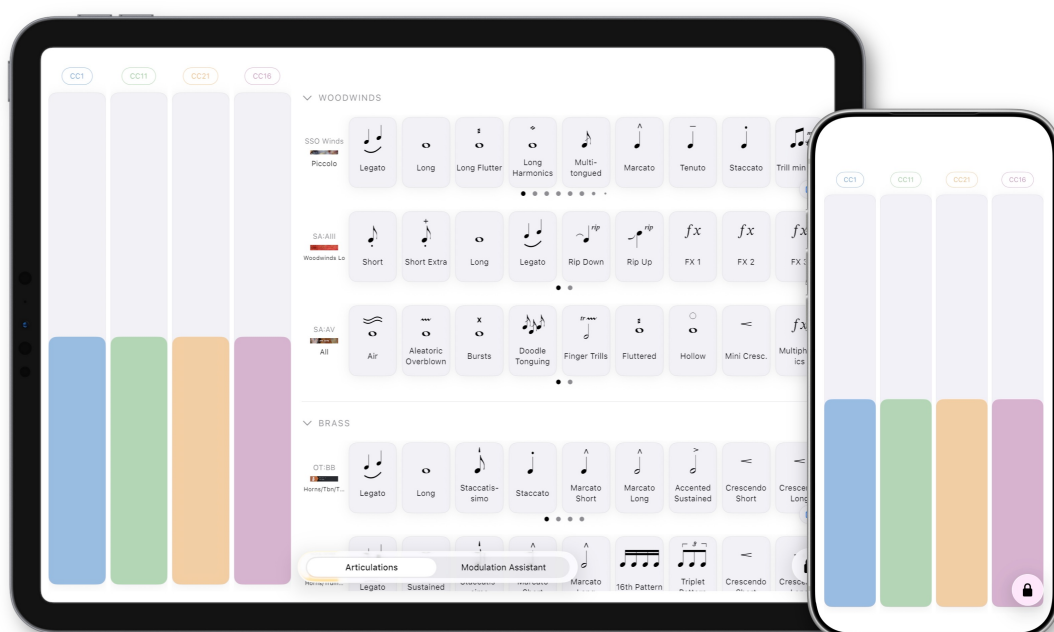
CO-COMPOSER

User Guide v1.2

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Welcome to **Co-Composer**, your iPad companion app for orchestral composing.

This guide will help you set up MIDI, configure faders, create and manage Articulation Banks, save Templates, manage workspaces, and explore harmonic movement with the Modulation Assistant.



A full video run through of v1.2 features is available [here](#)

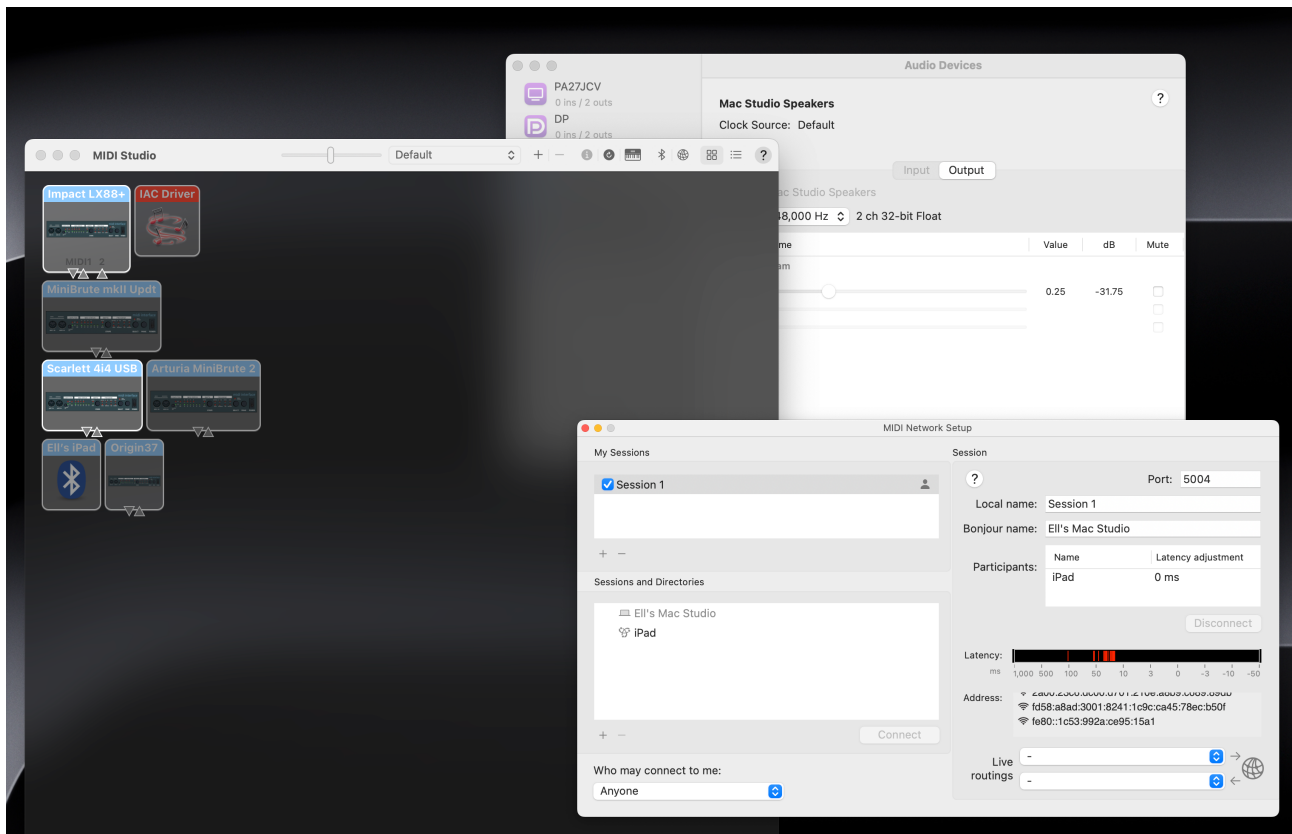
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## Contents

|                                                                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Setting Up Network MIDI                                                                  | 4  |
| Adding, Removing and changing CC Faders                                                  | 5  |
| Stacks                                                                                   | 6  |
| Building a Custom Articulation Bank                                                      | 7  |
| Grouping Banks                                                                           | 8  |
| Editing Banks and Group Banks                                                            | 9  |
| Using Navigation Focus and Focus                                                         | 10 |
| Importing a Template Bank                                                                | 11 |
| Managing User Templates and Workspaces (incl. Logic Pro's Articulation Set .plist files) | 12 |
| Using the Modulation Assistant                                                           | 14 |
| Further Support                                                                          | 16 |
| Disclaimer & Thanks                                                                      | 17 |

## Setting Up Network MIDI

1. On your Mac, open Audio MIDI Setup → Show MIDI Studio (⌘2)
2. Under “MIDI Studio” → Open MIDI Network Setup (🌐)
3. Click + to Create New Session
4. Open Co-Composer on your iPad/iPhone sharing the same network connection as your Mac
5. Under Sessions and Directories, choose iPad and click connect to add it to Participants
6. Move the CC faders to ensure MIDI signal is registered in the Latency bar



7. For non-mac devices, network MIDI can be set up with third party apps like rtpMIDI

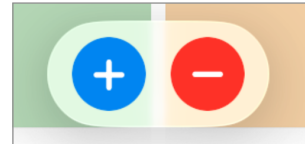
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## Adding, Removing and changing CC Faders

1. Tap the padlock to unlock/Edit Mode



2. Tap + / - to add and remove CC faders



3. Tap the CC number to change to a new MIDI CC value (0-127) or change the midi channel it outputs to (1-16)



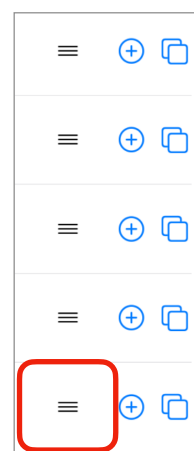
4. Slide the faders up and down to control the chosen midi parameter
5. Fader functionality is available in the iPhone version of Co-Composer

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## Stacks

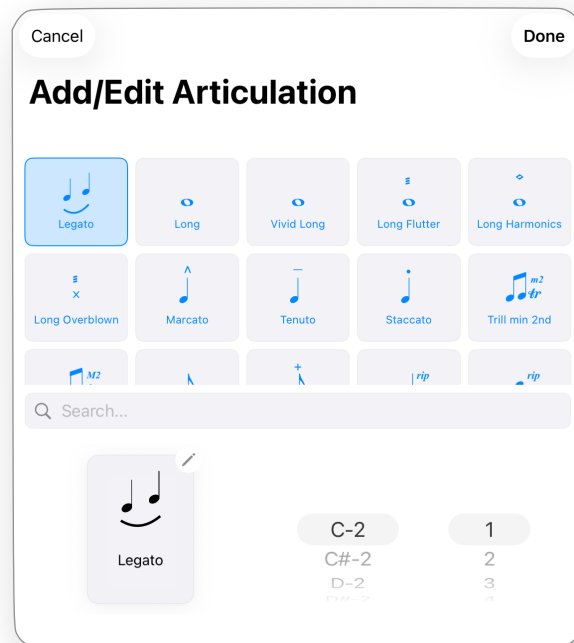
*Stacks are expandable/collapsible “folders/sections” of articulation banks, named for orchestral families. To reorder the stacks:*

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Tap and drag the reorder icon (when expanded or collapsed) to move stacks up and down.

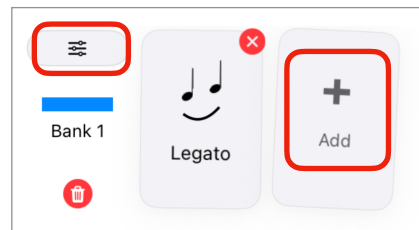


## Building a Custom Articulation Bank

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Tap  on the desired family's Stack
3. Choose or search for an existing articulation (or use its musical symbol to rename in the button preview). Choose the MIDI note and channel this articulation keyswitch will trigger.



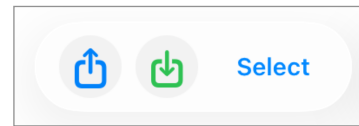
4. In your new Bank, use Add + to add up to 8 more articulations to this page, or start adding on the next page by swiping left on the bank. Tap Edit to edit the Bank's properties.



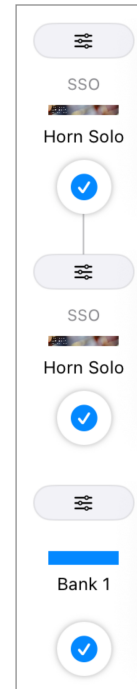
## Grouping Banks

*To save space in the articulations panel, group banks together*

1. In Edit mode, tap Select



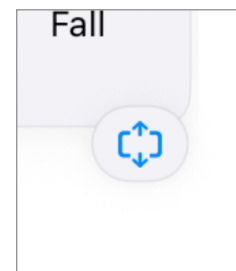
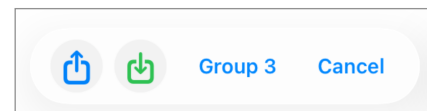
2. Tick the Banks to group in the Bank Header area



3. Tap Group to bind them together

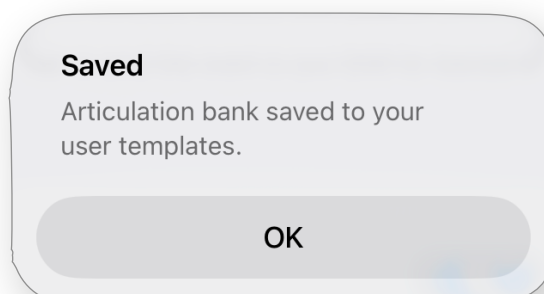
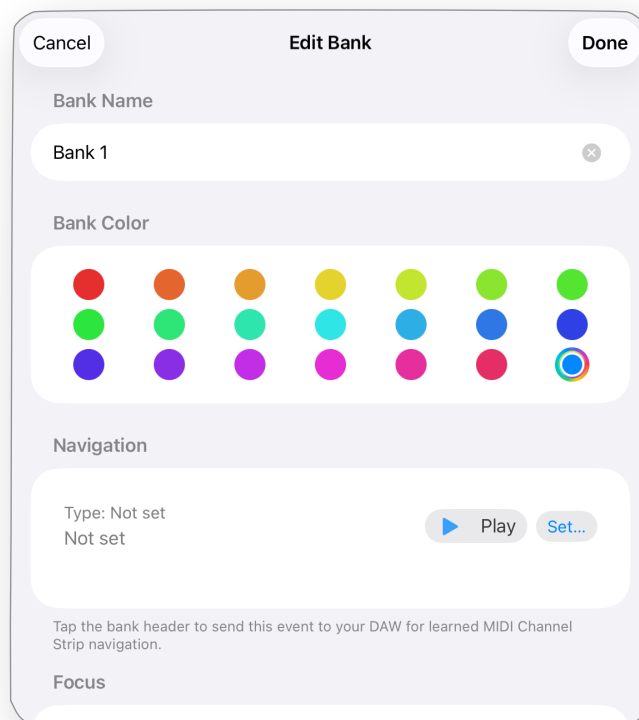
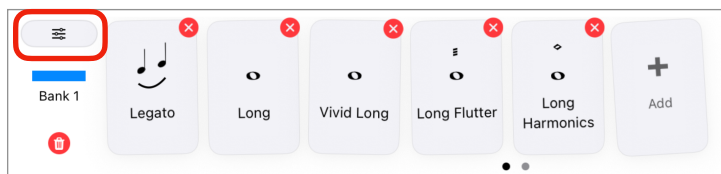
4. Each individual bank becomes a page/ pages in the grouped bank

5. Expand/collapse the grouped bank to see its full contents with the button on the right of the bank



## Editing Banks and Group Banks

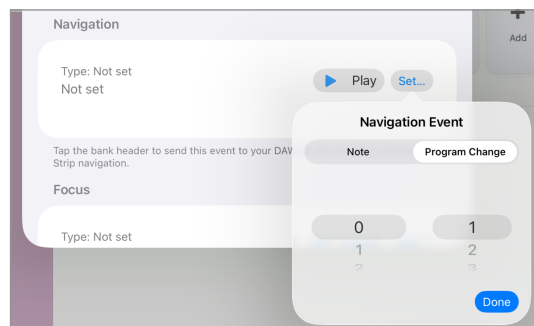
1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Remove individual buttons with the red Xs or remove the whole bank with the Trash icon.
3. Tap the Edit bank button on your Bank/Group
4. Rename and assign a new colour to your Bank/Group
5. Use navigation to set a midi event your DAW will respond to for track navigation. (In Logic Pro this is done in control surface setup/controller assignments). Tap the Bank's header/name area to trigger this event.
6. Use Focus to set a midi event for this bank so Co-Composer can move to and focus on it when received.
7. Tap Save to Templates to recall this Bank's configuration to your Stacks later from the template browser



## Using Navigation Focus and Focus

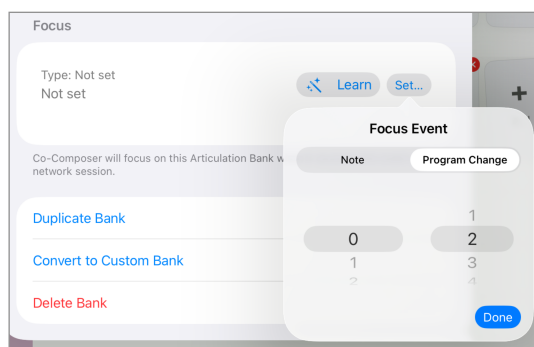
*Navigation allows you to tap the Bank Header/Name area to trigger a MIDI event. Your DAW can respond to this like a control surface to navigate to a track.*

1. In Edit mode, tap Edit Bank/Group
2. Set the desired MIDI event to trigger
3. Tap the Bank Header to trigger the chosen MIDI event



*Focus allows Co-Composer to scroll to and highlight a bank based on a MIDI event it receives. Set up your DAW to trigger a MIDI Note or Program Change upon track selection to your network MIDI session.*

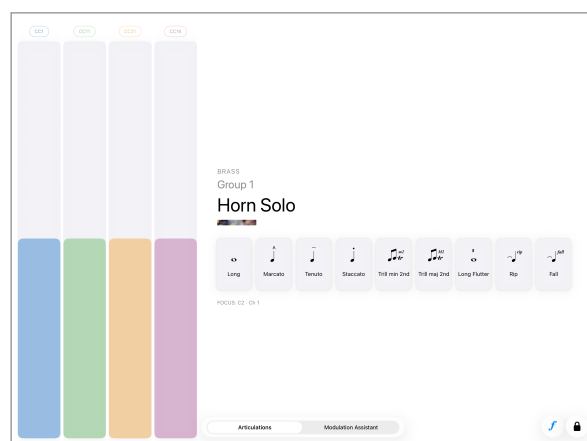
1. In Edit mode, tap Edit Bank/Group
2. Set the desired MIDI event to highlight that bank when it receives the event



3. Trigger the event to highlight the bank

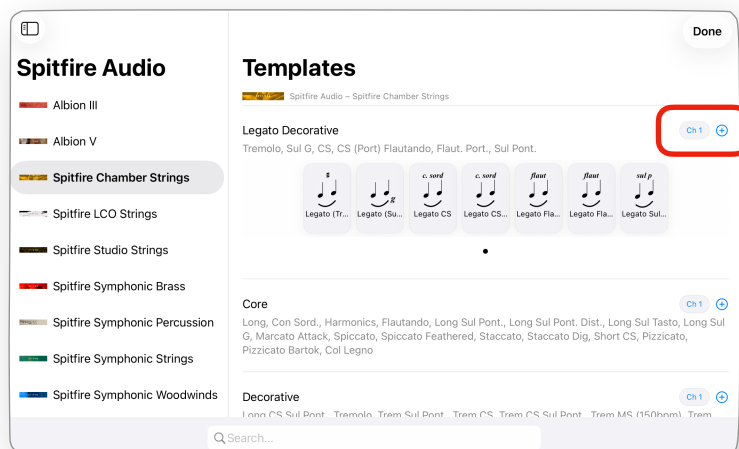


4. In Edit mode, tap the Focus button to see only the most recent focus-triggered Bank/Group

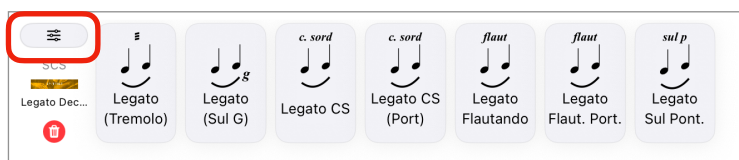


## Importing a Template Bank

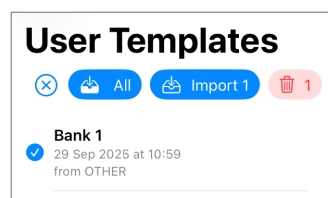
1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Tap Bank from Template  in the desired Stack header
3. Navigate to a Sample Library and tap  on an articulation Bank to import.
4. Use the Channel selector to enforce a new channel for the whole bank upon import to the Stack.



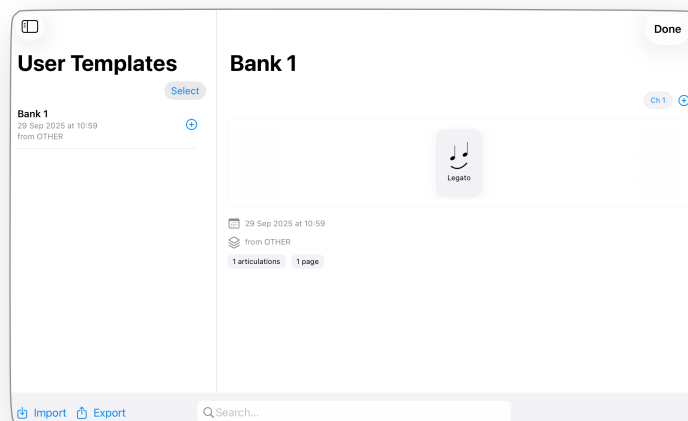
5. In Edit mode, use the Edit Bank button to change MIDI Channel of all buttons or customise individual buttons.



6. For custom Banks you've previously saved as a template, go to User Templates, tap + to add to your Stack, or select multiple to batch import/delete.



7. Tap the name of the template to see Bank information and audition the Bank's articulation buttons before import.



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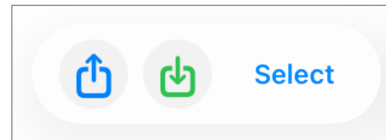
## Managing User Templates and Workspaces (incl. Logic Pro's Articulation Set .plist files)

*By default, templates and workspaces sync via iCloud. Export/import is only needed for manual backup, if iCloud is not used, or if transferring between accounts*

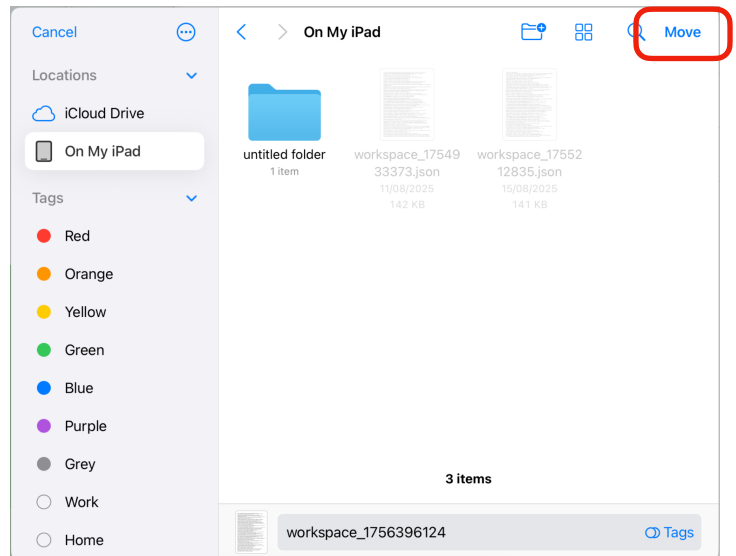
To export your Stack workspace configuration (without iCloud)

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode

2. Tap the blue export button



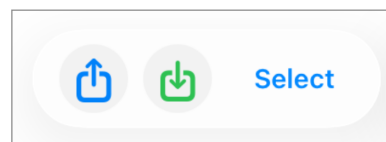
3. Navigate to your desired backup location and tap Move



To reimport and **overwrite** the existing Stack workspace, including stack order and the Banks within them:

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode

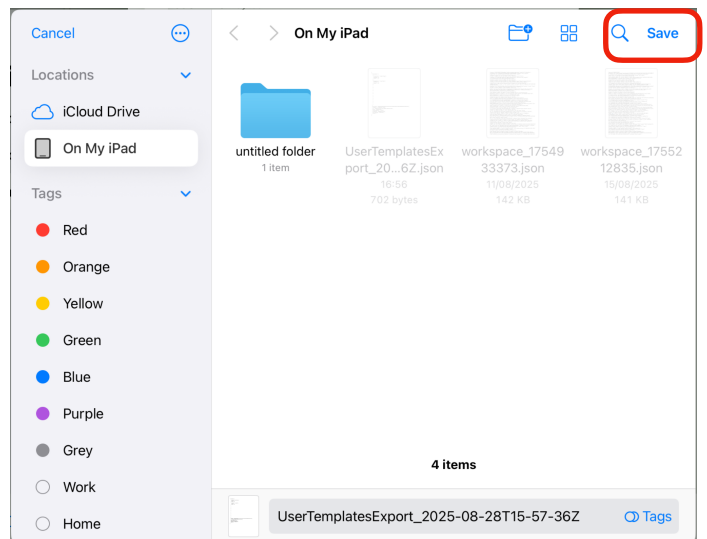
2. Tap the green import button



3. Navigate to your previously-exported workspace json file and tap on it to overwrite both your local and iCloud stack workspace

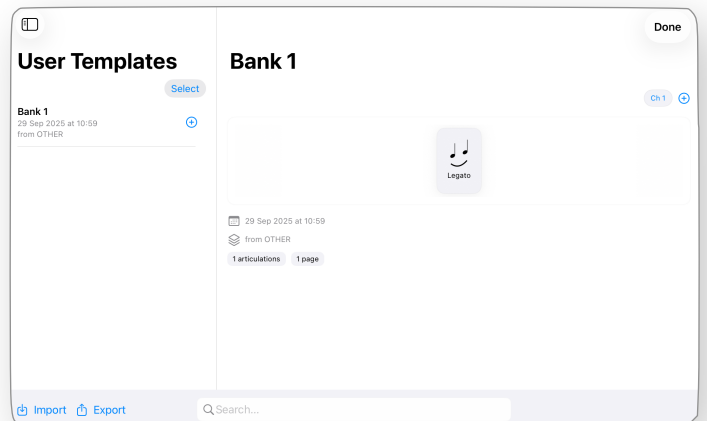
To export your full list of User Templates (saved custom articulation Banks)

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Tap Bank from Template 
3. Tap User Templates, then Export
4. Navigate to your desired backup location and tap Save



To reimport your full list of User Templates (saved custom articulation Banks) or **to import a Logic Articulation Set .plist file:**

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode
2. Tap Bank from Template 
3. Tap User Templates, then Import
4. Navigate to your previously-exported UserTemplates json file or your .plist file and tap on it to add it to user templates
5. Add these User Templates to your stack workspace as usual



## Using the Modulation Assistant

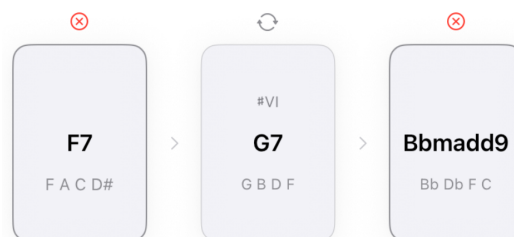
*The modulation assistant uses an algorithm to generate pivot chords between a start and end chord, prioritising either common chord tones, or semitonal neighbours.*

1. Open the Modulation Assistant

Articulations

Modulation Assistant

2. Enter your Start chord by tapping notes on the keyboard in ascending order. Choose #/b to spell chords correctly.

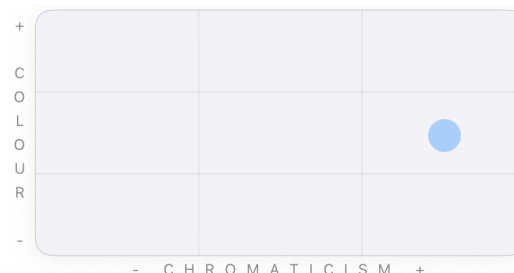


3. Tap End and enter your End chord by tapping notes on the keyboard in ascending order

4. Add more intermediary chords with  
- CHORDS + (up to 4)



5. Use the COLOUR/CHROMATICISM pad to populate blank chord buttons, and explore 9 different flavours of intermediary chords



6. Tap revoice  to explore different inversions of the intermediary chords
7. Tap and hold any of the chord buttons to playback the midi notes through your DAW. Use the CC faders to simultaneously sculpt expression to record from the app

8. Play the chords in a different octave using  
- OCTAVE + (+1/-1)



9. Chord numerals show how each intermediary chord relates to your **End chord**



10. Use results to inspire harmonic movement in your composition, to find your modulation, or for chord progression inspiration

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## Further Support

[hello@elliottnicklin.com](mailto:hello@elliottnicklin.com)

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## Disclaimer & Thanks

Thank you for supporting **Co-Composer**. I'm primarily a composer, and this app began as a passion project — built with the assistance of a large language model — to solve real workflow challenges in my own composing. When I saw the efficiencies it unlocked, I felt compelled to share it in the hope that it helps you too, freeing up more time and energy for creativity.

I'll do my best to support Co-Composer over the long term. However, please note that updates, fixes, and new features are provided on a **best-endeavours basis** and are not guaranteed as part of your purchase.