CO-COMPOSER
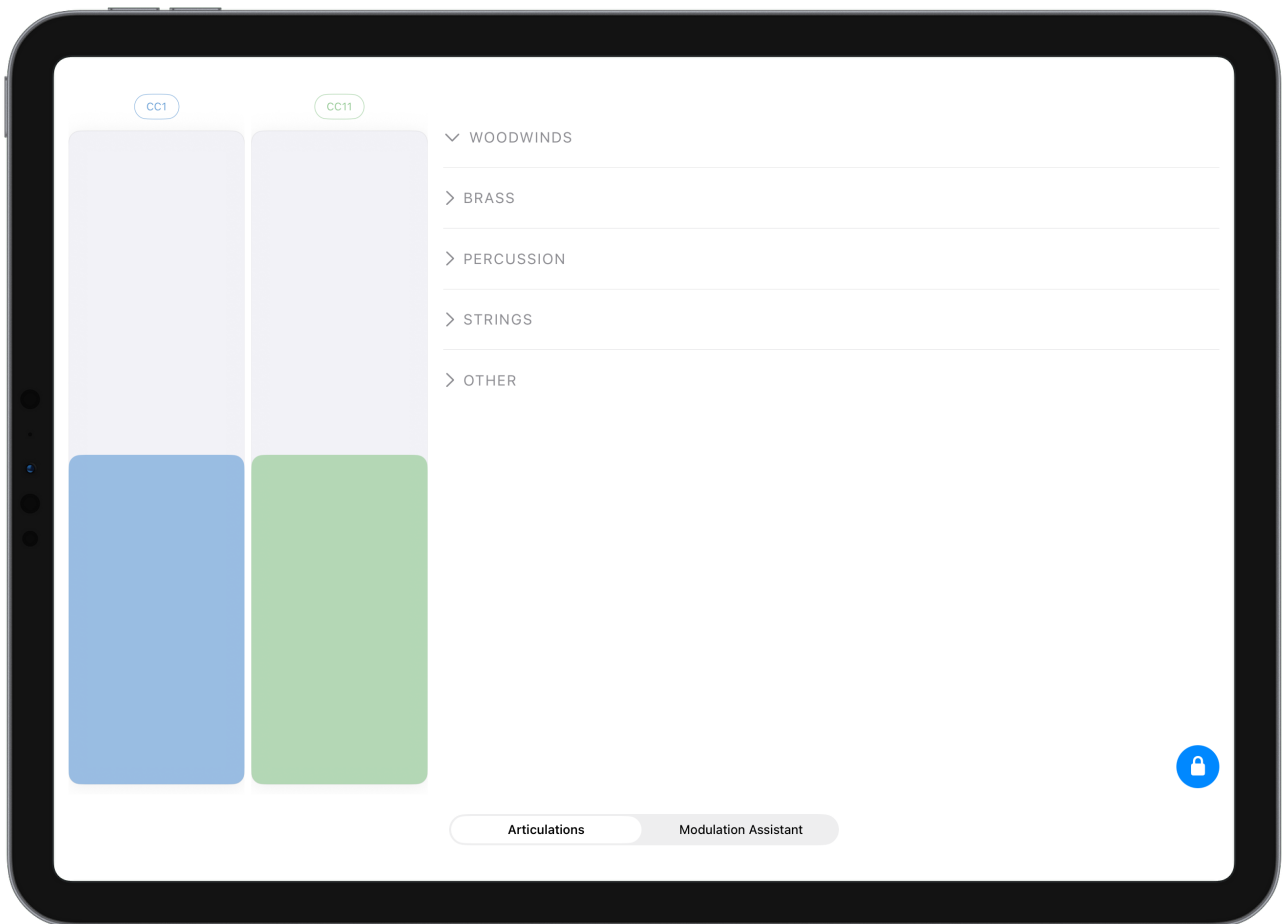
User Guide v1.0

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.

Contents

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 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
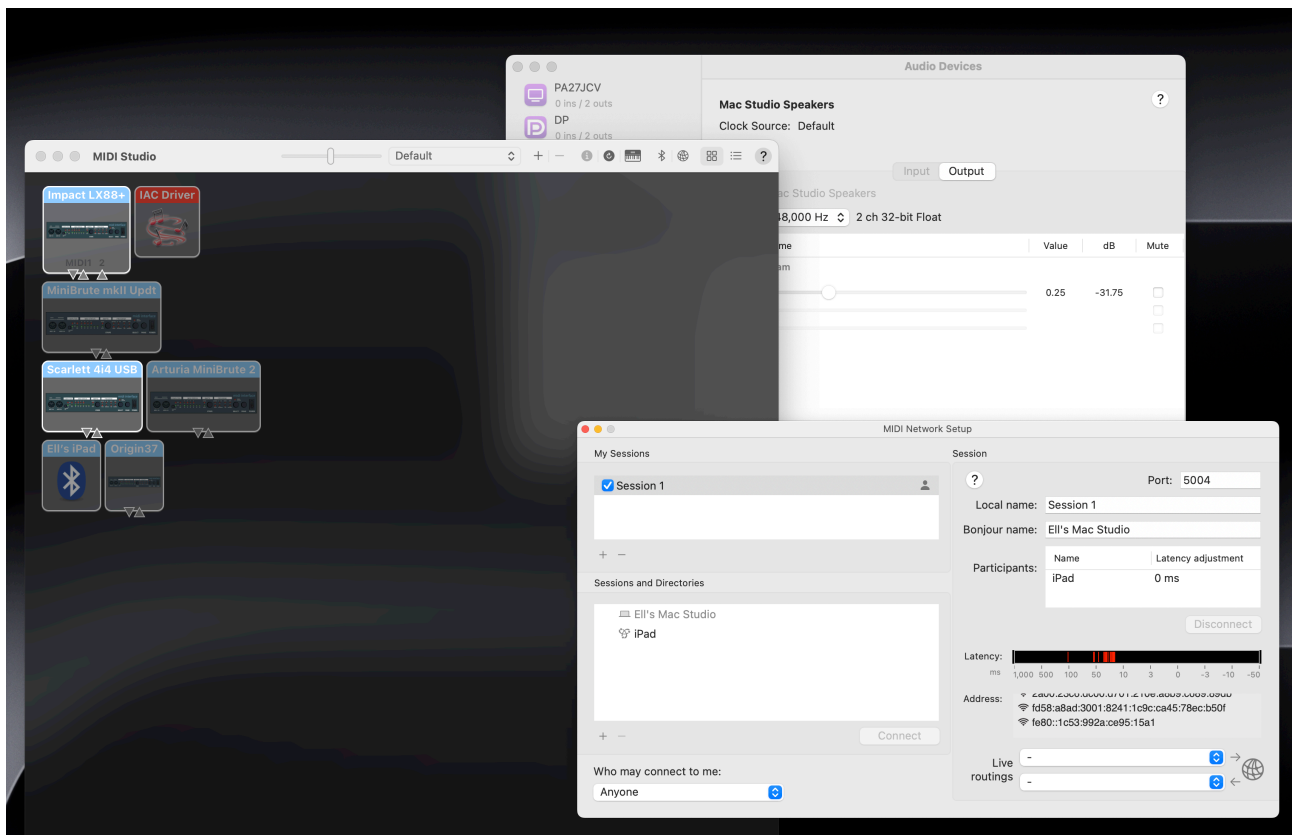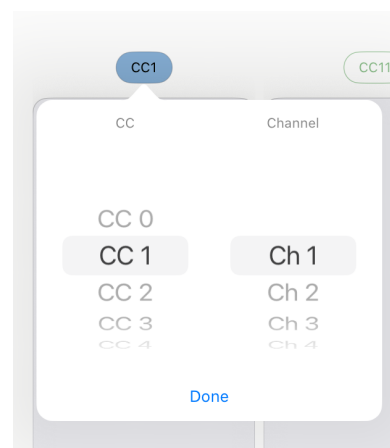
Adding, Removing and changing CC Faders

1. Tap the padlock for 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

Stacks

Stacks are expandable/collapsible "folders" 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.
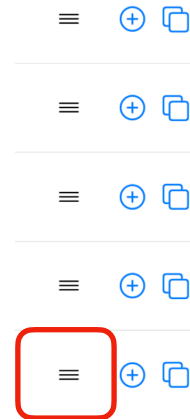
Building a Custom Articulation Bank

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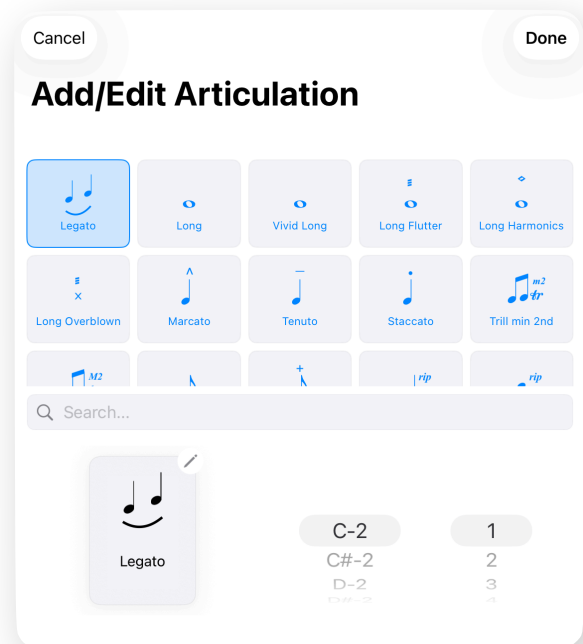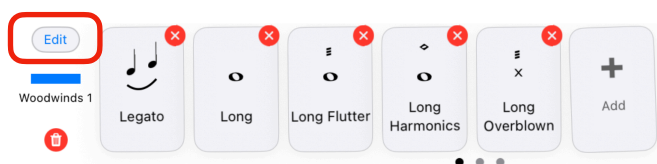
4. In your new Bank, use Add + to add up to 8 more articulations to this page, or start adding on the next page by swiping left on the bank. Tap Edit to edit the Bank's properties.
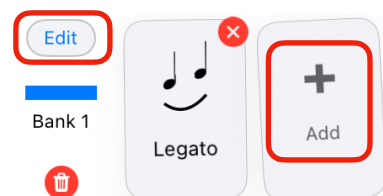
Editing a Bank

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 Edit on your custom Bank

4. Rename and assign a new colour to your Bank

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 assignmnets). 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.
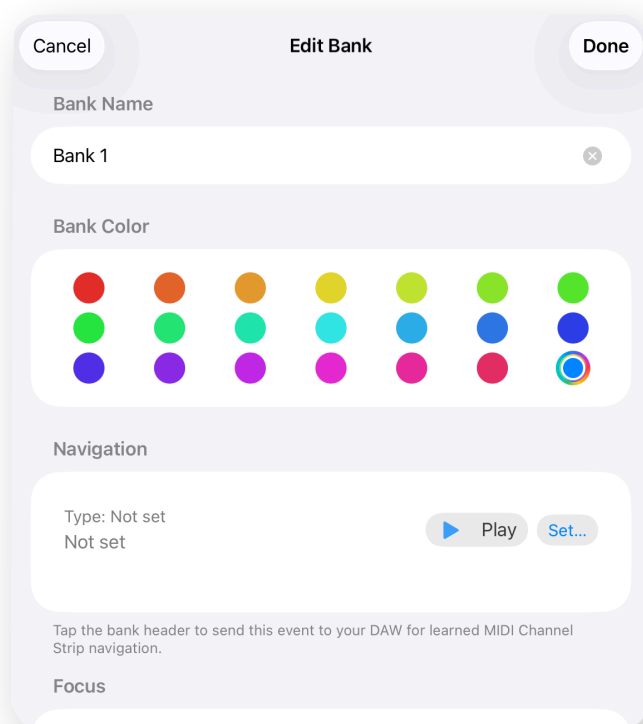
7. Tap Save to Templates to recall this Bank's configuration to your Stacks later from the template browser
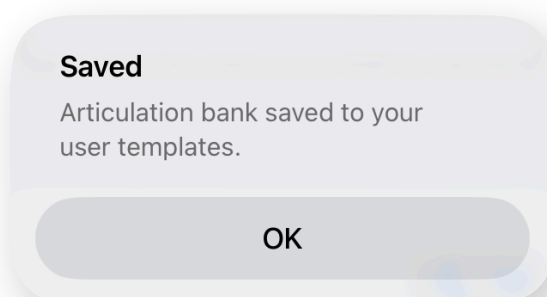
Importing a Template Bank

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.
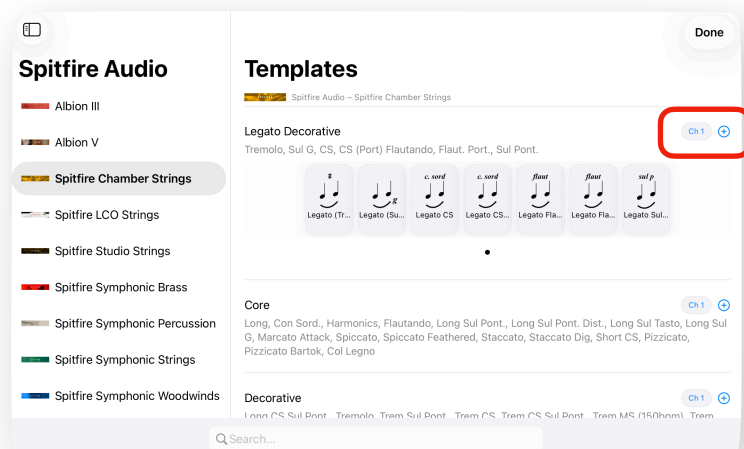
5. MIDI Channel can be changed for template banks after import. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode, and tap the edit bank button in the Bank header area. This will enforce a new midi channel for every articulation button in that articulation Bank.
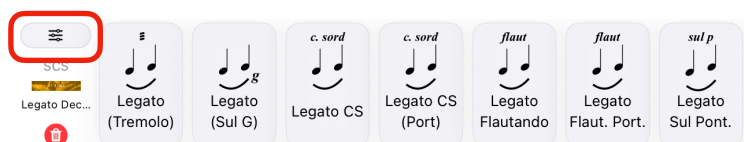
6. For custom Banks you've previously saved as a template, go to User Templates, tap + to add to your Stack, or select multiple to batch import/delete.
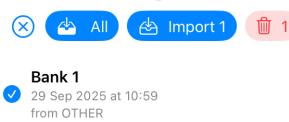
7. Tap the name of the template to see Bank information and audition the Bank's articulation buttons before import.

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

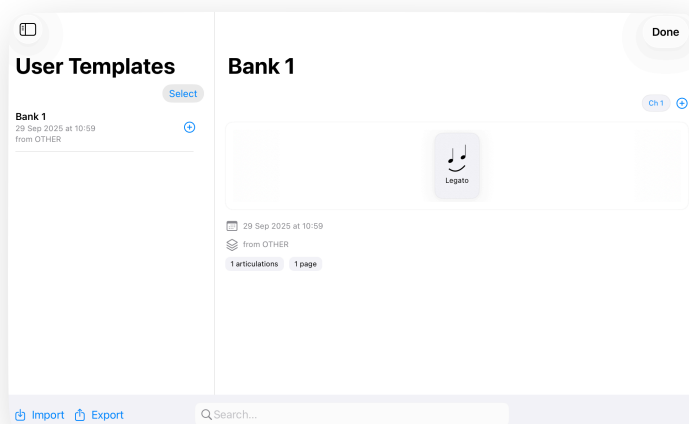To export your Stack workspace configuration (without iCloud)

1. Tap the padlock for Edit Mode

2. Tap the blue export button

3. Navigate to your desired backup location and tap Move
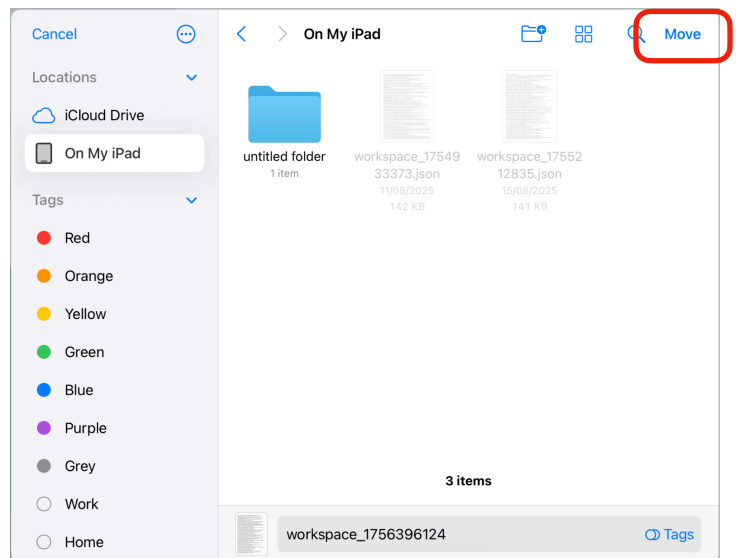
To reimport and **overwrite** the existing Stack workspace, including stack order and the Banks within them:

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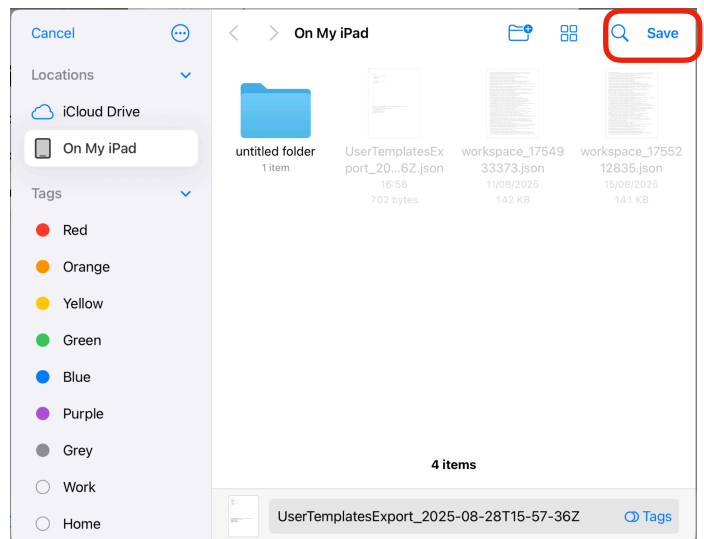
To reimport your full list of User Templates (saved custom articulation Banks) or **to import a Logic Articulation Set .plist file:**

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 #/♭ to spell chords correctly.

⊗	↻	⊗
F7	#VI **G7** >	**Bbmadd9**
F A C D#	G B D F	Bb Db F C

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)

⊖ CHORDS ⊕

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

C O L O U R

- CHROMATICISM +

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)

⊖ OCTAVE ⊕

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

F#		E		Am7
F# A# C#	>	V E G# B	>	A C E G

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

Further Support

hello@elliotnicklin.com

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 original purchase.