

Version 2018 for Windows®



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Chapter 1: Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of Band-in-a-Box® 2018 for Windows®!

This documentation covers the new features in Band-in-a-Box 2018. The *Help* menu has a link to the full manual.

Band-in-a-Box 2018 for Windows is here!

We've been busy and added **over 50 new features** and **an amazing collection of new content**, including **RealTracks, MIDI SuperTracks, Instrumental Studies, Loops, Artist Performances, Amplitude presets and associated styles, 12-Key RealTracks, and Hi-Q Guitar Notation!** We've added **202 new RealTracks**, double the 101 that we've often released in the past! Now introducing **Video RealTracks (40 available in Country, Pop, and Jazz)**, which work just like RealTracks, but also include videos of the musician's performance! We've also made a new **Xtra Styles PAK 4 with 160 new Xtra Styles**. (Xtra Styles are styles based on previously released RealTracks). There are over **200 new RealStyles** for our new RealTracks including Americana, Klezmer, Top-40, Jazz Strings Pads, Vocals (oohs and aahs), New Crooner "Shout" BigBand styles, and more! We have a **Bonus 49-PAK with 40 additional new unreleased RealTracks** on top of the 202 above, so in total an amazing 242 new RealTracks are available! The Bonus 49-PAK also includes **Video RealTracks Set 1 and 2, 32 new MIDI SuperTracks, 108 new Instrumental Studies, 52 Loops, and 8 Artist Performances.**

Band-in-a-Box 2018 Features and Additions

There are over **50 exciting new features** in Band-in-a-Box 2018! We're introducing **"Video RealTracks,"** which work like RealTracks, but also include videos of the musician's performance. You can make a video of a single musician or a band video, optionally with a chord sheet or notation, and you can even add own videos to the final mix. We've added a new audio driver system (**Windows Audio Session**) **that has ultra-low latency** (< 25 ms on a typical Windows PC). This means that audio operations like playing or sending out information via MIDI happen with no noticeable delay. The **Audio Chord Wizard has been redesigned** and is now built into Band-in-a-Box. The **Audio Harmonies feature has been enhanced** with **Audio Transcription**, which converts a monophonic audio track to MIDI (notation), **Fix Tuning** to fix an out-of-tune audio recording, and more. We've **redesigned the BB folder so it is "clean"** with only a few files needed and other files organized in folders. You can **save the Notation window to a video** in sync with the audio track playback. We've added **notation support for time signatures like 12/8, 6/8, and 9/8**. The **Toolbar** has been enhanced with **skins and more customization**. You can **open or save ABC notation files**, which are very common song files on the internet with chords and melody. Songs can now be **saved as MP3 files in high resolution**. **M4A song saving has been enhanced** and is faster. The popular **Song Titles Browser is enhanced** with more songs (now 10,000), filters, and the ability to show titles that work with a specific style. **StylePicker enhancements** include a mixer-like control allowing clear display and style customization. The **RealDrums Picker has been enhanced** with the option to find similar RealDrums. The **Audio Edit window is redesigned** with new a GUI and features. And many more!

Additional New Content Available for Band-in-a-Box 2018

- 40 New Video RealTracks
- 202 more RealTracks
- 32 New MIDI SuperTracks
- 108 New Instrumental Studies
- 8 New Artist Performances
- 52 New Loops
- 40 Amplitude presets and 37 associated styles
- 2018 Bonus 49-PAK
- New Xtra Styles PAK 4

40 New Video RealTracks

We have a new and exciting category of RealTracks - Video RealTracks! Have you ever listened to your favorite RealTracks guitar solo or RealDrums drum fill and wondered exactly how the player did it? Now, you can see actual footage of the musician playing along with your song! And that's not all. You can also stack these videos in several configurations to create a video of a full band!

Video RealTracks are available in six sets:

- **Video RealTracks Set 1: Pop Ballad Band** - Guitar (Brent Mason), Bass (Byron House), Drums (Shannon Forrest), Piano (Mike Rojas), and Pedal Steel (Eddy Dunlap)
- **Video RealTracks Set 2: Country TrainBeat Band** - Guitar (Brent Mason), Bass (Byron House), Drums (Shannon Forrest), Piano (Mike Rojas), and Pedal Steel (Eddy Dunlap)
- **Video RealTracks Set 3: Jazz Guitar with Oliver Gannon**
- **Video RealTracks Set 4: Pop, and Country Drums with Shannon Forrest**
- **Video RealTracks Set 5: Gypsy Jazz Guitar, and Blues Piano with Quinn Bachand, and Mike Rojas**
- **Video RealTracks Set 6: Celtic Guitar with Quinn Bachand**

202 more RealTracks with great new Pop, Rock, World, Jazz, Blues, Latin, Country, Americana, and Celtic styles. These include:

- **74 Country, Americana and Celtic RealTracks (Sets 278-285)**

This collection features an array of newly requested styles and additions to classic sets, as well as a Band-in-a-Box “first” **Background Vocals** (10 RealTracks)! Our new Vocal Oohs & Aahs set features a 3-part vocal arrangement with 2 male voices and 1 female voice, each doubled for a total of a 6-voice ensemble. **Americana** has been one of the biggest user requests, and we’ve added twenty Americana grooves, with acoustic bass, amazing electric guitar from **Brent Mason** and **Colin Linden**, vintage electric piano, and sweet fiddle. There are also Country Singer-Songwriter RealTracks, with more acoustic guitars by **Brent Mason** and **Colin Linden**. We also have new **12-key** Country guitars, pedal steel, bass, and piano. There are six new harmonica styles from “**Jelly-Roll**” **Johnson**, which sound fantastic over classic country grooves. And we have new “**Canadiana**” RealTracks complete with old time guitar, banjo, and foot stomps. Eleven new Celtic Piano & Harp styles, featuring Scottish pianist **Dave Milligan**, will fit perfectly with Celtic ensembles from previous years.

- **68 Pop, Rock and World RealTracks (Sets 286-293)**

RealTracks Sets 286-293 feature amazing new **Pop, Rock, Klezmer, and European** styles! Five new Pop & Rock guitars from **Brent Mason** and **Joe Robinson** range from funky to folky with both acoustic rhythm and electric soloist styles. The extremely popular Band-in-a-Box **Pop Songwriter** toolkit now has eleven new acoustic **songwriter** guitar styles from **Brent Mason**, **Colin Linden**, **Quinn Bachand**, and **Fintan O’Brien**. Seven new soulful Southern Pop Drums styles from top session drummer **Land Richards** have been added. Accent these new drums with eight new Pop **Percussion** Singles, including congas, cowbell, tambourine, shaker, woodblocks, and afuche-cabasa. The Fretless Bass, Pop Keys & Punk Drums set boasts a versatile line of fretless electric bass, acoustic piano, organ, and hard-edged drum styles. Eight **Modern Dancehall** RealTracks are a Modern-Pop must-have, featuring percussive synth basses, pads, and electronic drums. A set of spirited **Klezmer** styles feature world-champion accordionist **Cory Pesaturo** accompanied by **Neil Swainson** on acoustic bass and **Quinn Bachand** on guitar, with matching RealDrums by **Terry Clarke**. Cory also features alongside Neil and Quinn with fourteen new **French, Italian, and Swedish** World Styles.

- **60 Jazz, Blues, and Latin RealTracks (Sets 294-300)**

We’ve added to our extremely popular “**Crooner**” **Big Band** styles with exciting new “**Shout**” Soloist RealTracks. A “**Shout**” **Soloist** is a big Band arrangement where all the instruments are playing harmonized solos! These tracks feature an 11-part arrangement of trumpets, saxophones, and flute that can be used as an ensemble or selected as groups of individual soloists. We also have other great new jazz styles in the “**Jazz Potpourri**” set, including new 12-key Bossa and Waltz Guitar, Jazz Ballad Strings, Soul Jazz Piano from **Mike Rojas** (CMA Musician of the Year), as well as a variety of Jazz Percussion Singles such as bongos, congas, and triangle. The new **Modern Jazz** set includes four **Neil Swainson** acoustic **modern jazz** basses and six corresponding **modern jazz** drum styles from the legendary **Terry Clarke**. New additions to our **Smooth Jazz & Fusion** catalogue include acoustic basses, Latin & Slow 16ths electric piano from **Jeff Lorber**, brushes drums, and lush mark tree fills. Building upon the traditional Latin RealTracks from last year, we have seven new **Mariachi** styles! The set features a 6/8 style and a waltz, with the authentic instrumentation of Guitar, Vihuela, Guitarron (7). Three new **Rootsy Blues** guitars and pianos are included from **Brent Mason**, **Colin Linden**, and **Mike Rojas**. Seven Smokin’ **Fast Jazz Basses** allow for smooth, fluent bass tempos up to 350 bpm!

32 New MIDI SuperTracks

We have 32 new MIDI SuperTracks with Killer Accordion (15), Country and Folk Piano (9), and Celtic Piano (8). Because these are MIDI, you can pick whatever patches or synths you want to generate the sound, giving you complete control over the final product!

108 New Instrumental Studies

We introduced the idea of “Instrumental Studies” two years ago with guitar, and last year we added additional Instrumental Studies with piano, bass, guitar, and sax. This year we added new Instrumental Studies with electric guitar!

New Artist Performances Set 8: Traditional songs sung by Béatrix Méthé.

With Artist Performance Set 8, you’ll be delighted to hear eight well-known folk songs, sung in beautiful harmony by professional singer Béatrix Méthé. These songs date back hundreds of years, and are popular all over the world. You’re sure to recognize more than a few, with origins spanning America, Ireland, Canada, and France. Each song has a handpicked Band-in-a-Box style, with the lyrics and singing professionally transcribed, so you can use the notation window, tempo stretching, and all the other Band-in-a-Box features to make sure you’re well versed in each song. In addition to the melody, each song has one or two harmony parts sung by Béatrix! We hope you will enjoy listening and learning each of these timeless songs.

52 New Loops - Percussion FX (22), “Classic Beats” Rock/Pop (10), “Classic Beats” Jazz (10), and “Classic Beats” Country (10).

40 Amplitube presets and 37 associated styles

It’s been a few years since we offered a new collection of Amplitube presets and styles, so we thought we would treat you to something special. Volume 2 of our Amplitube presets and styles will give you all kinds of killer guitar tones, from clean and mellow jazz sounds to screaming rock leads and even an acoustic bass enhancer. We threw in some pedal steel presets that you can use with DI pedal steel RealTracks too. You’ll also find some vintage tones that incorporate some of your favorite effects like spring reverb and tape delay. And of course, we’ve included 37 RealStyles to accompany the 40 new Amplitube presets so that you can easily hear the new sounds at work.

Our “2018 Bonus 49-PAK” contains great additional content!

- **Video RealTracks Set 1: Pop Ballad Band** - Guitar (Brent Mason), Bass (Byron House), Drums (Shannon Forrest), Piano (Mike Rojas), and Pedal Steel (Eddy Dunlap)
- **Video RealTracks Set 2: Country TrainBeat Band** - Guitar (Brent Mason), Bass (Byron House), Drums (Shannon Forrest), Piano (Mike Rojas), Pedal Steel (Eddy Dunlap)
- **40 additional unreleased RealTracks** - The Band-in-a-Box 2018 Bonus RealTracks collection features an exciting variety of RealTracks and RealDrums, including Singer-Songwriter styles, Klezmer styles, World Accordion, Latin Percussion, and more Drum Kit & Percussion styles! The Klezmer RealTracks make up twelve RealTracks/RealDrums, with Neil Swainson acoustic bass, Cory Pesaturo (world champion accordionist), Quinn Bachand guitars, and jazz legend Terry Clarke on drums. We add to our already huge collection of singer-songwriter styles with guitars by Brent Mason, Quinn Bachand, and Fintan O’Brien, as well as piano by Mike Rojas. In addition, we have cool new percussion styles, most notably Washboard Bluegrass! And more RealDrums from top studio musicians Terry Clarke, and Land Richard.

Xtra Styles PAKs

- **Xtra Styles PAK 4 (Released December 2017)** - This brings you great Country, Rock/Pop, and Jazz RealStyles with the addition of the first ever “Folk and Beyond.” This amazing collection encompasses everything from modern trends in music to classic reimaginings and eclectic genre combinations. Many of the great RealTracks from the 2017 release have been used in new and unique ways that are beyond their original scope. All these styles are meticulously mixed and thoughtfully arranged to save you time!
- **Xtra Styles PAK 3 (Released June 2017)** - 160 RealStyles for Jazz, Rock-Pop, Country, and Americana.
- **Xtra Styles PAK 2 (Released December 2016)** - 161 RealStyles for Jazz, Country, Rock-Pop, and Bluegrass & World.
- **Xtra Styles PAK 1 (Released August 2017)** - 164 RealStyles for Jazz, Country, Rock-Pop, and Singer/Songwriter.

Chapter 2: Summary of New Features

We've added over 50 new features to Band-in-a-Box 2018, including...

Video RealTracks

The video RealTracks is a brand new feature to Band-in-a-Box. We have over 2,500 available *audio* RealTracks, and now we have 40 available *video* RealTracks including two full video bands - Country and Pop Ballad. When you load a video RealTracks, you can use it just like an audio RealTracks, but you can also generate a video, which will display the musician playing your song exactly as you hear it. If you load one of the video RealTracks bands, you will have video RealTracks on 5 tracks, and you can make a video of 1-5 musicians. You can also include a chord sheet or notation in the video.

Windows Audio Session

Band-in-a-Box now supports Windows Audio Session audio driver, an alternative to ASIO (a driver with low latency, but usually can be used by one program at a time) or MME (an older driver with worse latency). The Windows Audio Session driver has ultra-low latency (< 25 ms on a typical Windows PC), so audio operations like playing or sending out information via MIDI happen with no noticeable delay.

Built-in Audio Chord Wizard

The Audio Chord Wizard has been redesigned and is now built into Band-in-a-Box. Previously, the Audio Chord Wizard was a separate app and not tightly integrated into Band-in-a-Box. This app is still available from the [Audio Chord Wizard] toolbar button, but the improved built-in Audio Chord Wizard can be accessed from the Audio Edit window.

Audio Harmonies Feature Enhancements

Harmonize the Audio track with up to 4 voices with the new Audio Harmony dialog. You can choose one of the 4 harmonizing modes.

- The "Chords" mode will harmonize the audio based on the chords in your song. Choose a type of harmony from the "Harmony type" option. Choose either the intelligent mode, which allows you to select the number of voices, or one of the Band-in-a-Box harmony presets.
- The "Melody track" mode will add voices (up to 4 voices) to the audio, based on melodies in the Melody track.
- The "Soloist track" mode will add voices (up to 4 voices) to the audio, based on melodies in the Soloist track.
- The "Fix Tuning" mode will analyze the Audio track and correct out-of-tune notes in the selected region according to the key of your song.

The Fix Tuning feature analyzes the Audio track and correct out-of-tune notes in the selected region according to the key of your song. For example, in the key of C, if a C# is detected, then it will be transposed down to C or up to D depending on which one is closer.

You can use the Auto-Transcribe feature to transcribe the audio data to the Melody or Soloist track as MIDI data.

Cleaned-up BB Folder

The Band-in-a-Box folder (usually C:\bb) has become full of lots of files over the years. Up to 10,000 files are present in the folder on a full install of the UltraPAK. With version 2018, we've fixed this and put the files into various folders. This is done with a cleanup routine. The cleanup normally happens automatically during installation, but you can run it manually by selecting the main menu *Help / Utilities / Run Cleanup routine*.

Save Notation Window as a Video

With previous versions of Band-in-a-Box, you could make a video of the Chord Sheet, showing the highlighted bars as the song is playing. Now, you can make a video of the Notation window. This is helpful if you have a melody or a RealChart (notation for RealTracks) that you would like to see on a video.

Improved GUI

The Toolbar has been enhanced with skins support, and the Display Options dialog has more customizable color items.

Improved Mixer

Soloing/Muting functions are improved. Now you can change the solo and the mute status of other tracks by right-clicking on a blue mute button.

The floating Mixer window now has opacity controls. Left-click on them to change the opacity by a significant amount, or right-click on them to change it by a small amount.

Support for ABC Notation Format

ABC notation is the simple text-based notation system used by musicians worldwide to store chords, melody, and lyrics of songs. Now you can open and save songs in ABC notation format. You can find out more information about the songs and ABC notation at abcnotation.com.

Song Titles Brower Enhancements

We've added 2,000 new song titles including requests from users, so there are now over 10,000 titles!

You can now filter the list by genres, time signature, feel, tempo, and decades.

The dialog can list song titles that will work with the current style.

Subgenres have been added for most song titles. Searching by a subgenre name in the text filter will display song titles in that subgenre.

Recommendation of styles has been improved. When you select a song title and press the [OK - Find Matching Styles] button, the StylePicker dialog will open and show only styles that will work with that song title. This feature has been improved so that subgenres are also considered, so the style recommendations are more accurate.

StylePicker Enhancements

Mixer-like control allows style customization within the StylePicker. This shows what tracks are used in the highlighted style in the list, and color-codes them according to the track types (MIDI/RealTracks/MIDI SuperTracks). There is also a menu button on each track, which allows you to change the instrument, disable/enable the track, or perform other track actions.

A [Save as .STY] button has been added. When you have customized a style, you might want to save it so that it is added to the StylePicker list, and can be used easily. For example, you might add/remove a RealTracks, and save that as a new style.

Recommendations of styles is improved when using the [Find Titles] button at the top right of the dialog. This also displays subgenres and makes it easier to find styles for a certain popular song.

New user categories have been added, including Americana; Bebop and Fast Jazz; Bluegrass, Train, and Old Time; Dixieland, Gypsy, and Old Jazz; Fingerstyle Guitar; Funk, RnB, and Soul; Heavy Rock; Singer-Songwriter; and World.

The buttons to copy the styles list to the clipboard, set the dialog options, and reset the dialog to defaults have been moved to the [Action] button menu.

The two buttons to rebuild a complete or partial styles list have been combined into a single button.

Rebuilding the styles list also rebuilds lists in the RealTracks and RealDrums Picker dialogs.

The option to change the font size of the text in the styles list has been moved to the StylePicker Options dialog.

Renewed Render to Audio File Dialog

The dialog now has a simpler look and is easier to use.

Songs can now be saved as MP3 files in high resolution

Band-in-a-Box will render songs to MP3 files in the highest resolution available (320 kilobits per second).

M4A song saving has been enhanced and is faster

This uses Windows functions instead of Apple® QuickTime® Library for Windows®.

RealDrums Picker Enhancements

You can now demo individual variations of the RealDrums at the tempo closest to your current song by double-clicking on them.

The “#” column shows “VideoFound” if the video RealDrums is installed. “VideoNA” means that a video is available but not installed.

RealDrums QuickList

There is now a simpler dialog for choosing RealDrums, an alternative to the RealDrums Picker. It displays all available RealDrums in a simple list, which can be easily filtered by genre, time signature, feel, and more. The list

can be set to show only RealDrums that are compatible with the current style of the song. You can also set the highlighted RealDrums as a prototype RealDrums to find alternates to that RealDrums.

Audio Edit Window Enhancements

The Audio Edit window now has a nicer looking GUI, with a dedicated settings button and a Marker Mode button. When you select the Audio Chord Wizard or UserTracks for the marker mode, the markers will be visible and editable.

Editing features can now apply to the entire track. Before version 2018, you had to highlight a region to use editing features, but now if no region is highlighted, then they will apply to the entire track.

There are some items added to the [Edit] button menu.

Guitar Window Enhancements

Clicking on the black area to the left of the zero fret notes in the Guitar window will delete the notes on just the channel of that string on the current notation time line rather than all notes at that time line.

Clicking on a note will delete the note from the Notation window if the note is currently highlighted. If no notes are highlighted in red, then clicking on a note will first delete any notes on the current notation timeline and channel before inserting a new note.

Big Piano Window Enhancements

Clicking on the black area to the left of the piano will delete highlighted red notes from the Notation window. If no notes are highlighted in red, then clicking to the left of the piano will delete any note on the current notation timeline.

Clicking on a note will delete the note from the Notation window if the note is currently highlighted in red.

Notation Window Enhancements

Notation supports 12/8, 9/8, and 6/8 time signatures. Previous versions of Band-in-a-Box only supported 3/4 or 4/4 notation. Now you can also select 12/8, 9/8, or 6/8. This is done by pressing the new button in the Notation window and selecting one of the time signatures from the list

Duplicate previous group of notes lets you quickly duplicate the previous chord (a group of notes on the same location) without having to reenter it. This is a menu option added to the context menu in the Notation window.

Delete highlighted Red Notes lets you delete all notes that are currently highlighted in red. This command is also added to the context menu in the Notation window.

The Staff Roll mode now has a context menu.

You can now enter Section Numbers. Previously, you could enter letters (A-Z) only, but now you can also enter numbers (1-9).

The vertical position of a dot of a dotted rest has been adjusted. A dot used to be drawn a staff line, but it is now drawn between staff lines.

When loading a MusicXML file, if more than 20% of notes are triplet notes, then the overall beat resolution will be automatically set to 3 in the Notation window.

Improved algorithms are now used for drawing slurs. A slur will be drawn with a Bezier curve, which is especially helpful for notes being very close together.

Enhanced Flash Messages

Flash messages are now brighter for clarity. They also have a close button, which is useful for closing green flash messages without performing the action. Up to 4 messages can be on the screen at once. (Previously, only 2 messages could be shown.)

And more!

Chapter 3: Introduction to Band-in-a-Box 2018

Let's take a closer look at the great new features in Band-in-a-Box 2018!

Video RealTracks

The video RealTracks is a brand new feature to Band-in-a-Box. We have 2,500 available *audio* RealTracks, and now we have 40 available *video* RealTracks including two full video bands - Country and Pop Ballad. When you load a video RealTrack, you can use it just like an audio RealTracks, but you can also generate a video, which will display the musician playing your song exactly as you hear it. If you load one of the video RealTracks bands, you will have video RealTracks on 5 tracks, and you can make a video of 1-5 musicians. You can also include a chord sheet or notation in the video.

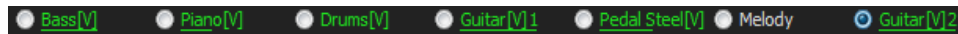
You can easily find the video RealTracks in the RealTracks or RealDrums Picker. The "Set" column will show "VideoFound" if the video RealTracks is installed.

Name	Type	Feel	Tempo	Genre	#	N/A	Set*
Guitar, Electric, Rhythm BossaCompOlly12-key Ev 110	Rhythm	Ev	110	Jazz	2826		videoFound300
Guitar, Electric, Rhythm JazzWaltzCompOlly12-key Sw 110	Rhythm	Sw	110	Jazz	2827		videoFound300
Piano, Acoustic, Rhythm BluesStraightMike12-key Ev 085	Rhythm	Ev	85	Blues	2881		videoNA299
Piano, Acoustic, Rhythm CountryPopMike12-key Ev 085	Rhythm	Ev	85	Country	2825		videoFound281
Guitar, Electric, Rhythm CountryPopBrent12-key Ev 085	Rhythm	Ev	85	Country,Pop	2911		videoFound281

RealDrums Style Name	^	Genre	Ge...	/4	Ev	8	Lo	Hi	x	Artist	#*
PopSyncSw16^	^	Pop	Rock		Sw	16	060	120		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound277
Rock8ths^	^	Rock	Pop		Ev	8	150	190	x	Shannon Forrest	VideoFound277
DrivingPop8ths^	^	Pop	Rock		Ev	8	090	130		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound262
ModCountry16ths^	^	Country	Rock		Ev	16	070	110		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound262

Note: The "Set" column will show "VideoNA" if a video is available but not installed. Not all video RealTracks/RealDrums are included with a regular Band-in-a-Box package, so seeing "VideoNA" is normal unless you have purchased add-ons.

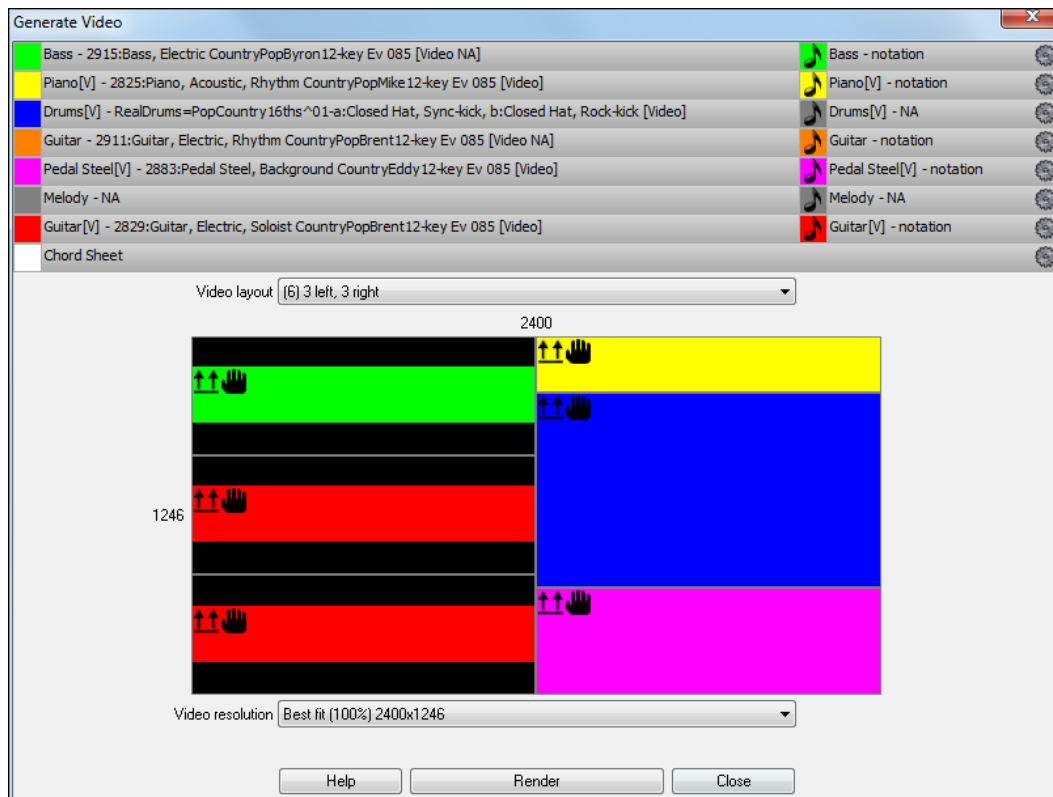
When you select video RealTracks, [V] will show at the track buttons.



Render Video(s)

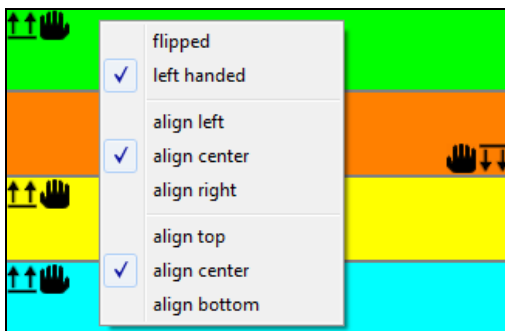
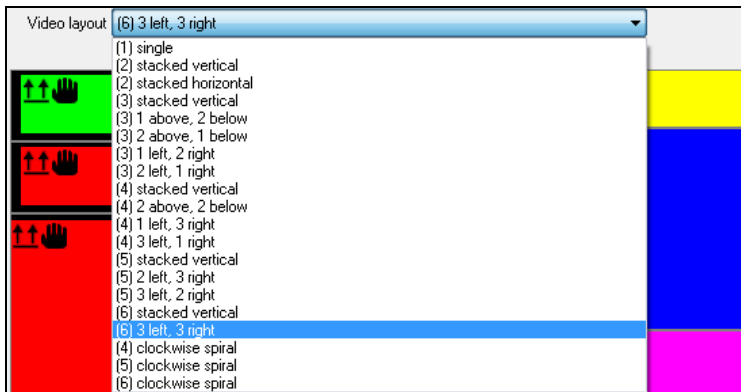
To make a video, click on the [Video] toolbar button and select *Render Video(s)* from the menu.

This will open the **Generate Video** dialog.

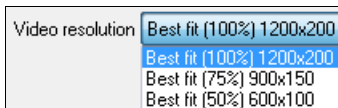


Drag one of the available tracks listed at the top of the dialog and drop it onto the layout selector below. You can also drag and drop the chord sheet or notation (if available). You can even drag a video file (.mp4 files and some .avi files) from Windows Explorer and drop it onto the video layout selector.

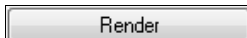
If you are making a video of multiple tracks, you can choose a track layout. For example, you can stack 3 tracks vertically for a 3-track video, or 3 tracks on the left and 2 tracks on the right for a 5-track video.



Right-clicking on the layout selector will show you a menu with options to flip a video, make a video for the left handed, or select alignment for each video.



You can select the resolution for the video. The aspect ratio is determined by which tracks are included and how they are arranged, but this allows you to make the final video smaller if you want.



When you are ready, press this button and select the name and location for the video.

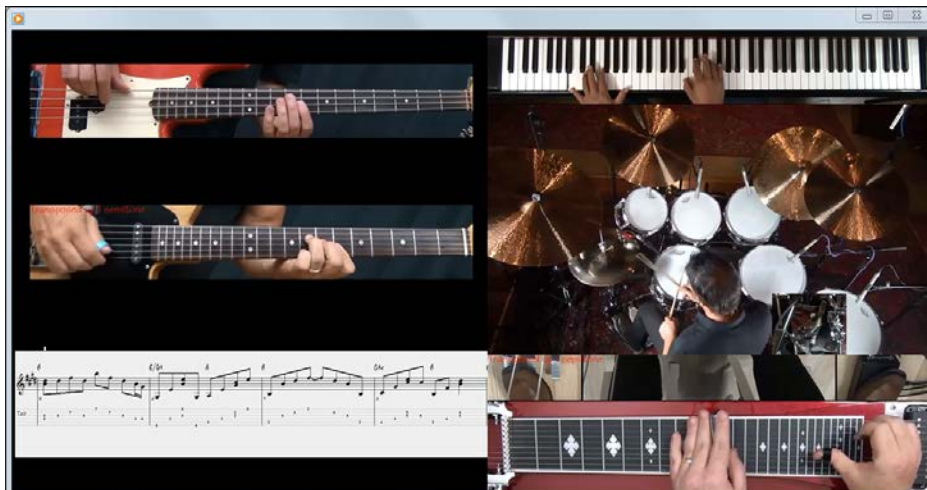


While the video is being rendered, you can close the dialog and use other features in Band-in-a-Box.



When the video has been rendered, you can click on the .mp4 file on the Windows Explorer to play the video.

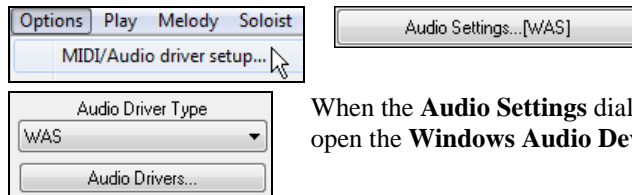
Here is an example of a video for a modern country band (electric bass, electric guitar, piano, drums, and pedal steel).



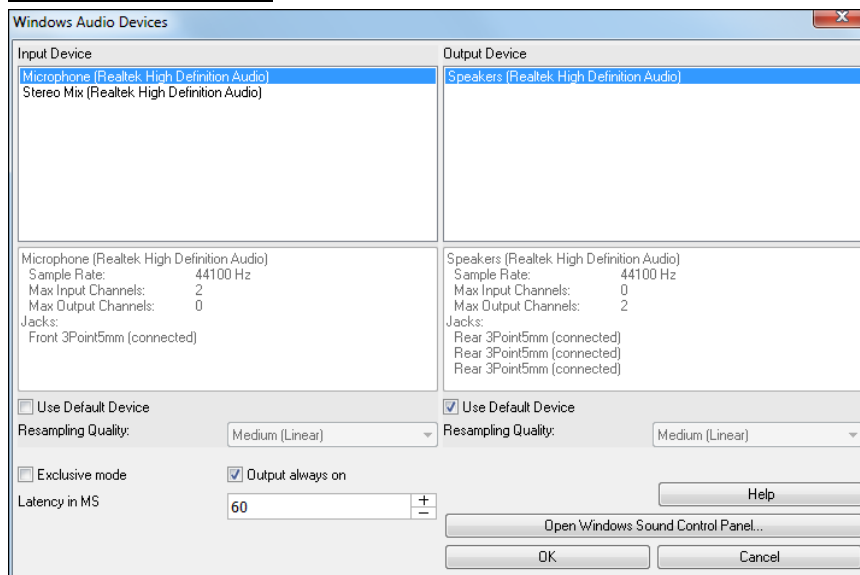
Windows Audio Session (WAS)

Band-in-a-Box now supports Windows Audio Session audio driver, an alternative to ASIO (a driver with low latency, but usually can be used by one program at a time) or MME (an older driver with worse latency). The Windows Audio Session driver has ultra-low latency (< 25 ms on a typical Windows PC), so audio operations like playing or sending out information via MIDI happen with no noticeable delay.

When you boot up Band-in-a-Box, it will be already set to use this driver without any action from you, but if you want to change the settings, go to the menu *Options / MIDI/Audio Driver Setup* and press the **[Audio Settings WAS]]** button.



When the **Audio Settings** dialog opens, click on the **[Audio Drivers]** button. This will open the **Windows Audio Devices** dialog.



Input Device

This is the audio input device that will be used for recording a voice or an instrument. If you have multiple devices installed in your system, you can choose a device from the list.

Output Device

This is the audio output device that will be used for playing sound. If you have multiple devices installed in your system, you can choose a device from the list.

Use Default Device

When this option is enabled, the playback or recording device selected as the default device in your Windows Sound Control Panel will be used.

Exclusive mode

Use the exclusive mode if you want Band-in-a-Box to take full control over the audio device(s). In this mode, other applications might not be able to use the audio devices, so we recommend you do not use this mode.

Output always on

If this is enabled, sound will always be sent to the device. If this is disabled, sound will be sent to the device only when the song is playing. Enable this option if you want MIDI plugins to work when the song is not playing.

Resampling Quality

You can choose a quality level for resampling. “Low” will improve performance if necessary, but “High” will sound best.

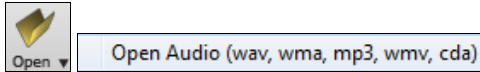
[Open Windows Sound Control Panel]

This button will open the Windows Sound Control Panel. You can change your device settings by clicking on [Properties] > [Advanced]. For the “Default Format,” a setting of 16 bit, 44100 Hz is best for Band-in-a-Box.

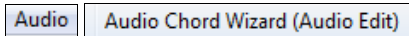
Built-in Audio Chord Wizard

The Audio Chord Wizard has been redesigned and is now built into Band-in-a-Box. Previously, the Audio Chord Wizard was a separate app and not tightly integrated into Band-in-a-Box. This app is still available from the **[Audio Chord Wizard]** toolbar button, but the improved built-in Audio Chord Wizard can be accessed from the Audio Edit window.

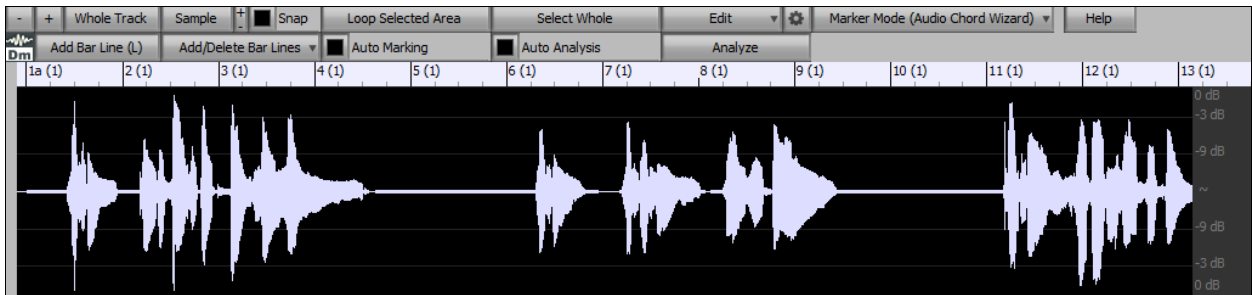
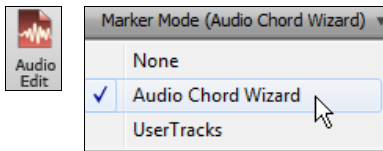
First, open an audio file with the *Open Audio* menu item in the **[Open]** button.



Next, go to the main menu *Audio* and select *Audio Chord Wizard (Audio Edit)*. This will open the **Audio Edit** window with the Audio Chord Window marker mode selected.



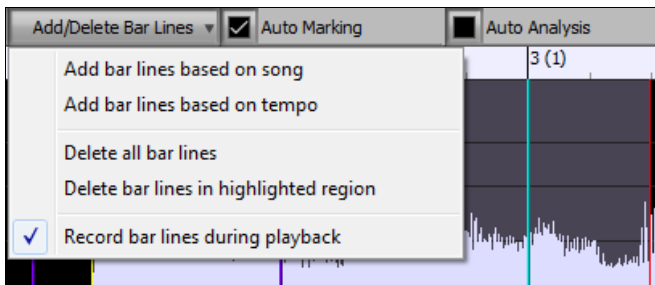
Alternatively, you can press the **[Audio Edit]** button, and when the **Audio Edit** window opens, press the **[Marker Mode]** button on its toolbar and select *Audio Chord Wizard* from the menu.



The first task is to locate bar lines in the audio so that the Audio Chord Wizard can detect chords accurately and the audio will play in sync with the Band-in-a-Box song.

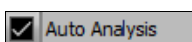
Add Bar Line (L) You can add bar lines with the **[Add Bar Line]** button or with the **[L]** key on your keyboard. A bar line will be placed at the audio edit cursor or at the playback cursor if the song is currently playing.

Add/Delete Bar Lines The **[Add/Delete Bar Lines]** button menu has options to add bar lines based on your song structure or tempo. You can delete all the existing bar lines or only the ones within the highlighted region.



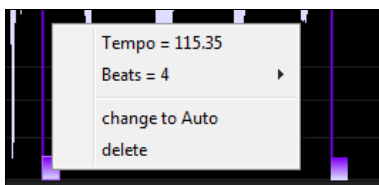
Auto Marking If “**Auto Marking**” is enabled, then Band-in-a-Box will automatically add and arrange bar lines based on the bar lines you have added manually. The “auto” bar lines will show in light blue, and the “user” bar lines will show in purple. You can change these colors in the **Audio Edit Settings** dialog if you want.





If “**Auto Analysis**” is enabled, then Band-in-a-Box will re-analyze the chords in the audio whenever you add or move a bar line, or when you edit the audio data. Keep this setting disabled if you prefer to set all bar lines first (i.e. establishing tempo), and then analyze the chords when you are done.

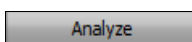
Bar lines can be moved with the mouse. Just click and drag the thumb control at the bottom. If you move an “auto” bar line, it will become a “user” bar line.



You can also right-click on the thumb control to get a context menu with options to switch a marker type (“user” or “auto”), delete the bar line, or set the time signature for the bar. The menu also shows you the tempo of the bar, based on the time signature of the bar and the position of the next bar line.

When you add or move bar lines, Band-in-a-Box will automatically make a tempo map, so your song will play in sync with the audio.

Any changes you make in the Audio Chord Wizard mode are undo-able. This was previously not possible with the stand-alone Audio Chord Wizard.



Use the [**Analyze**] button to analyze the chords in the audio. The chords detected in the audio will be written into the Chord Sheet. You don’t need to do this if you have “Auto Analysis” enabled, but you might want to if you have erased or made changes to the chords in the Chord Sheet.

When you open the Chord Sheet, you will see that the Audio Chord Wizard has entered the chords and the tempo map.

1a <u>F#</u>	2 <u>F#</u>	3 <u>A</u>	4 <u>F#</u>
5 <u>D</u>	6 <u>D</u>	7 <u>C#</u>	8 <u>F#</u>
9 <u>D/F#</u>	10 <u>F#</u>	11 <u>B/D#</u>	12 <u>F#</u>

Audio Harmonies Feature Enhancements

Harmonize the Audio track with up to 4 voices with the new Audio Harmony dialog

To access this feature, first open an audio file (WAV/WMA/MP3/M4A) or a Band-in-a-Box song file with audio. Then, go to the menu *Audio* or *Harmony*, and select *Audio Harmonies*, *Pitch Tracking*, *Fix Tuning (Audio Edit)*.



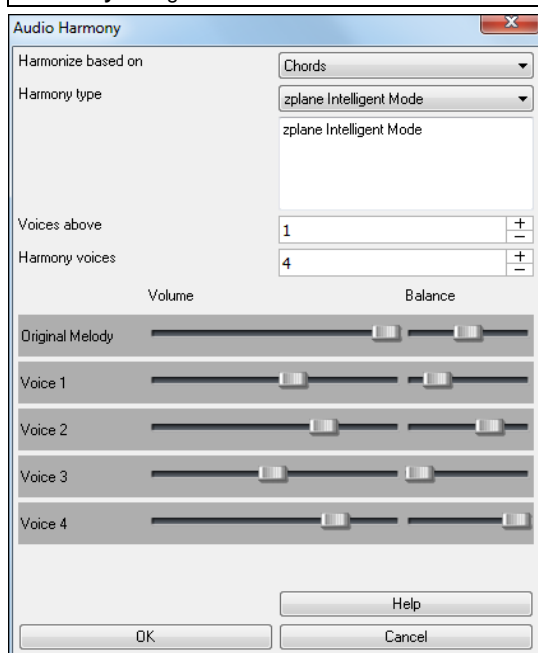
or



Audio Harmonies, Pitch Tracking, Fix Tuning... (Audio Edit)

This will open the **Audio Edit** window and the new **Audio Harmony** dialog.

Tip: If the **Audio Edit** window is already open, press the [**Edit**] button on its toolbar and select *Harmonize* to open the **Audio Harmony** dialog.



Choose one of the 4 harmonizing modes.

Harmonize based on	Chords
Harmony type	Chords Melody track Soloist track Auto Tuning

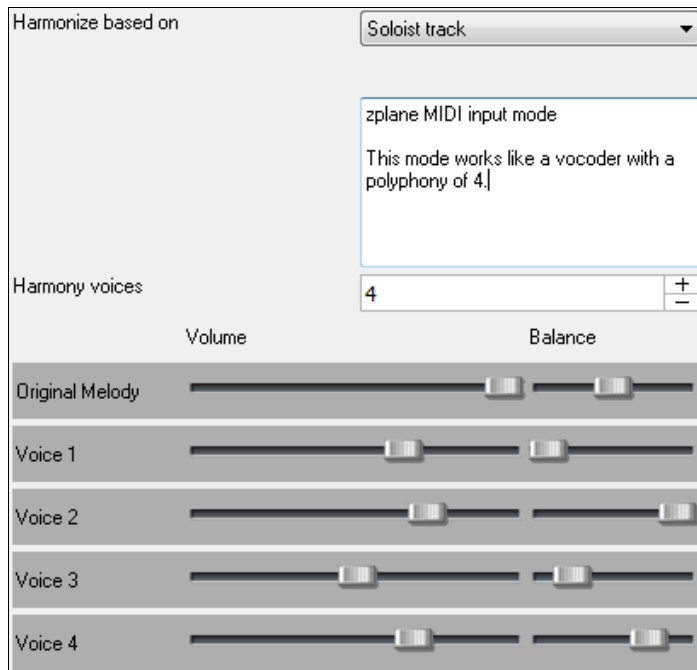
1) The “Chords” mode will harmonize the audio based on the chords in your song. Choose a type of harmony from the “Harmony type” option. Choose either the intelligent mode, which allows you to select the number of voices, or one of the Band-in-a-Box harmony presets. You can also select the volume and the stereo balance of each voice in the harmony.

Harmonize based on	Chords
Harmony type	zplane Intelligent Mode zplane Intelligent Mode 1 Country Guitar 3 part 2 Nashville Saxes (3) 3 Electric Piano in 3rds 4 Nashville Piano (3Pt) 5 Piano (double octaves) 6 Wes Montgomery 7 Jimmy Smith (organ) 8 Paul Shaffer 9 Nashville 3 voices 10 Singer's Unlimited 11 Trumpet / trombone (6ths) 12 Clarinet / Sax (3rds) 13 Trumpet / Sax (3rds) 14 Trumpet / trombone (3rds) 15 3 part Japanese 16 Shearing Piano 17 SuperSax (4+1) 18 SuperBrass(4+1) 19 Trombones (4) 20 George Shearing Quint 21 Big Band Brass 5 part (8va) 22 Super Sax - 5 part (8va) 23 Glen Miller 24 Clarinet/saxes and guitar 25 Les Paul Harmony Guitars
Voices above	
Harmony voices	
Volume	
Original Melody	
Voice 1	
Voice 2	
Voice 3	
Voice 4	

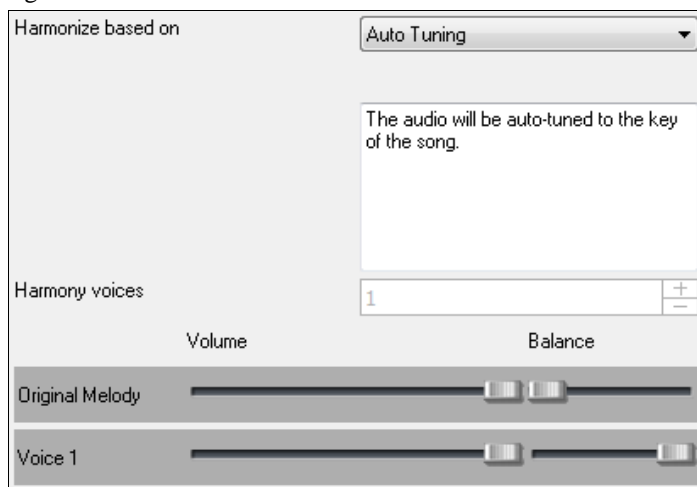
2) The “Melody track” mode will add voices to the audio, based on melodies in the Melody track. You can choose the number of voices (up to 4 voices), and the volume and the stereo balance of each voice.

Harmonize based on	Melody track
zplane MIDI input mode This mode works like a vocoder with a polyphony of 4.	
Harmony voices	4
Volume	Balance
Original Melody	
Voice 1	
Voice 2	
Voice 3	
Voice 4	

3) The “Soloist track” mode will add voices to the audio, based on melodies in the Soloist track. You can choose the number of voices (up to 4 voices), and the volume and the stereo balance of each voice.

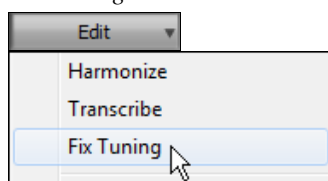


4) The “Fix Tuning” mode will analyze the Audio track and correct out-of-tune notes in the selected region according to the key of your song. Normally, you do not want to keep out-of-tune notes after the fix tuning is done, but you can mix the original voice with the fixed one by moving the volume slider for “Original Melody” to the right.



Fix Tuning for Audio track

This feature analyzes the Audio track and correct out-of-tune notes in the selected region according to the key of your song. For example, in the key of C, if a C# is detected, then it will be transposed down to C or up to D depending on which one is closer. To use this feature, press the **[Edit]** button in the **Audio Edit** window and select *Fix Tuning* from the menu.

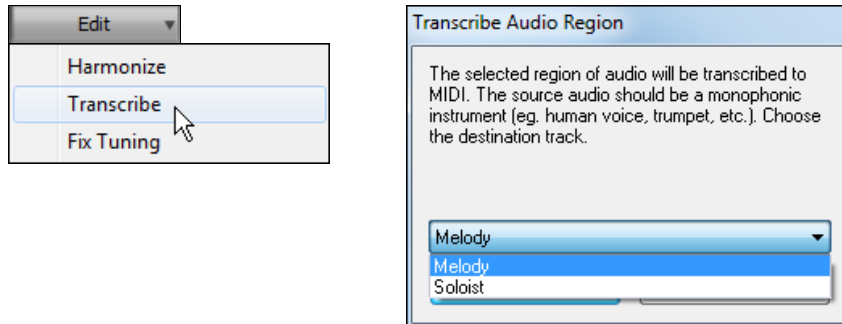


Auto-Transcribe of Audio track to notation (MIDI)

This will transcribe the audio data to the Melody or Soloist track as MIDI data.

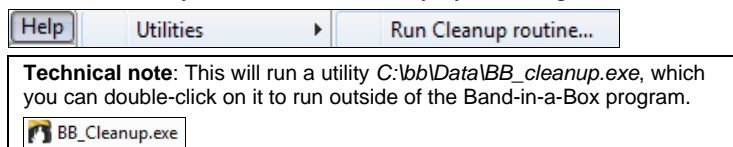
Note: The Audio track should have been recorded by a monophonic instrument (e.g. vocal, saxophone).

To access this feature, press the **[Edit]** button in the **Audio Edit** window and select *Transcribe* from the menu. You can then select the destination track.



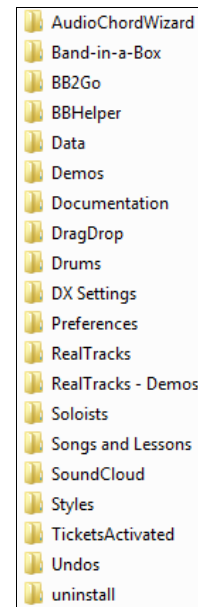
Cleaned-up BB Folder

The Band-in-a-Box folder (usually *C:\bb*) has become full of lots of files over the years. Up to 10,000 files are present in the folder on a full install of the UltraPAK. With version 2018, we have fixed this and put the files into various folders. This is done with a cleanup routine. The cleanup normally happens automatically during installation, but you can run it manually by selecting the main menu *Help / Utilities / Run Cleanup routine*.



The cleanup routine does the following.

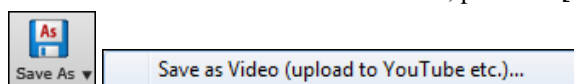
- Moves Styles files (.STY/.STX) from *C:\bb* to *C:\bb\Styles*.
- Moves Soloists files (.ST2/.XT2) from *C:\bb* to *C:\bb\Soloists*.
- Moves various Demo folders to *C:\Demos*.
- Moves various songs and lessons folders to *C:\bb\Songs and Lessons*.
- Moves various files essential for running Band-in-a-Box to *C:\bb\Data* and *C:\bb\Data\Lib*.
- Moves various preferences files to *C:\bb\Preferences*.
- Moves tutorial demo songs, program manuals (.pdf), and the help file (.chm) to *C:\bb\Documentation*.



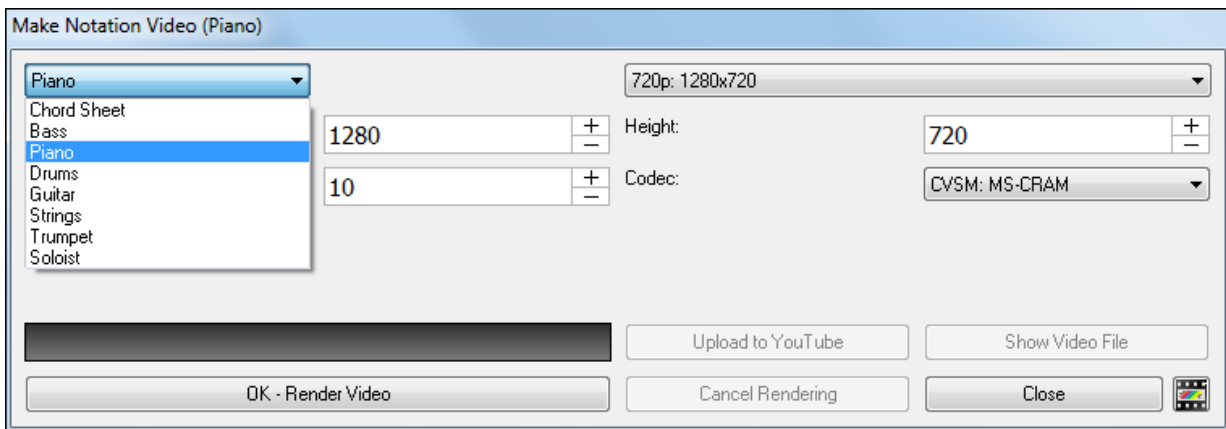
Save Notation Window as a Video

With previous versions of Band-in-a-Box, you could make a video of the Chord Sheet, showing the highlighted bars as the song is playing. Now, you can make a video of the Notation window. This is helpful if you have a melody or a RealChart (notation for RealTracks) that you would like to see on a video.

To make a video of the Notation window, press the **[Save As]** button and select *Save as Video* from the menu.



In the **Make Notation Video** dialog, select a track at the upper left corner. (**Note:** The dialog title says “Make Chord Sheet Video” until you select a track.)



You can also set the dimension (width/height) of the video, and select the number of frames per second and a specific codec.

Press the **[OK - Render Video]** button to start rendering the video.

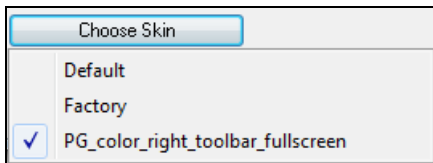
Note: A special use of this feature is to combine a video RealTracks with the corresponding notation in a single video. This creates an educational video, which shows the actual performance with notation/tab, playing over your chord progression! To do this, right-click on the Master button or one of the track buttons at the top of the main screen and select *Render Video(s)* from the menu.

Improved GUI

The Toolbar has been enhanced with skins support. Previously, the smaller toolbar buttons were black and white, but now there are various skin options for the buttons.

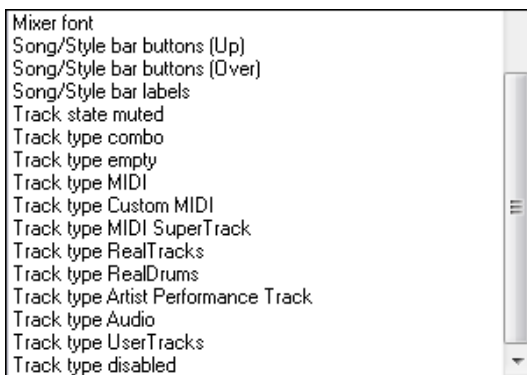


To choose a skin, open the **Display Options** dialog by clicking on the Chord Sheet and selecting the *Display Options* menu item, and press the **[Choose Skin]** button.



Technical Note: To examine or create your own skins, look in the `C:\bb\Data\CustomSkins` folder.

The Display Options dialog has more customizable color items: Mixer font, Song/Style bar buttons (Up), Song/Style bar buttons (Over), Song/Style bar labels, Track state muted, Track type combo, Track type empty, Track type MIDI, Track type Custom MIDI, Track type MIDI SuperTrack, Track type RealTracks, Track type RealDrums, Track type Artist Performance Track, Track type Audio, Track type UserTracks, and Track type disabled.



Improved Mixer

Soloing/Muting functions are improved.

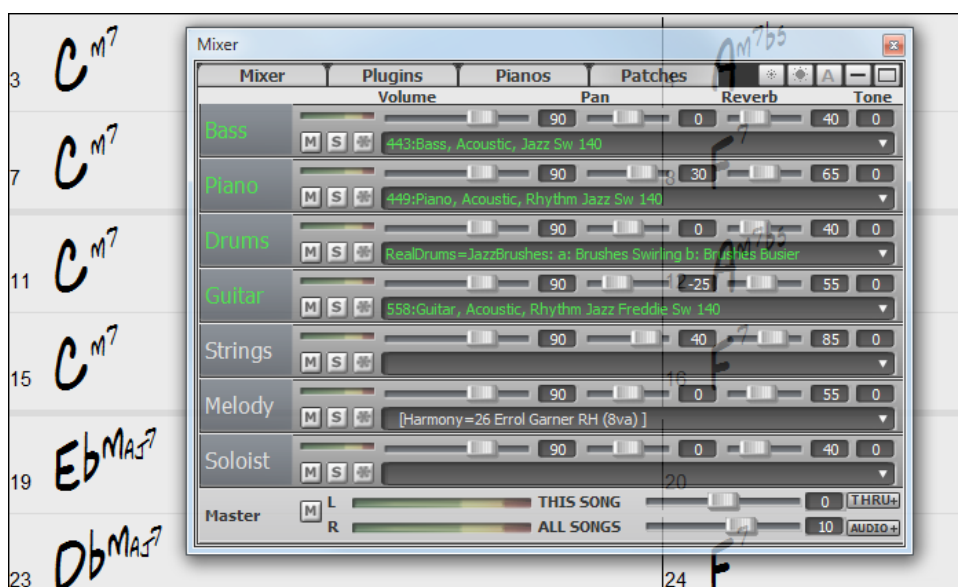
Now you can change the solo and the mute status of other tracks by right-clicking on a blue mute button.



For example, if the Guitar track is in the solo status, when you right-click on the blue mute button on the Drums track, the Drums track will be unmuted AND the Guitar track will be un-soloed.

The floating Mixer window now has opacity controls.

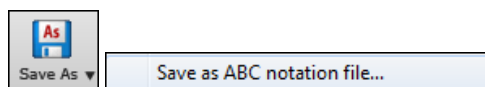
Left-click on the buttons at the top right to change the opacity by a significant amount, or right-click on them to change it by a small amount.

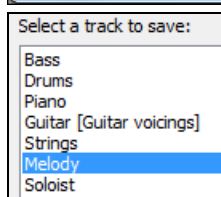
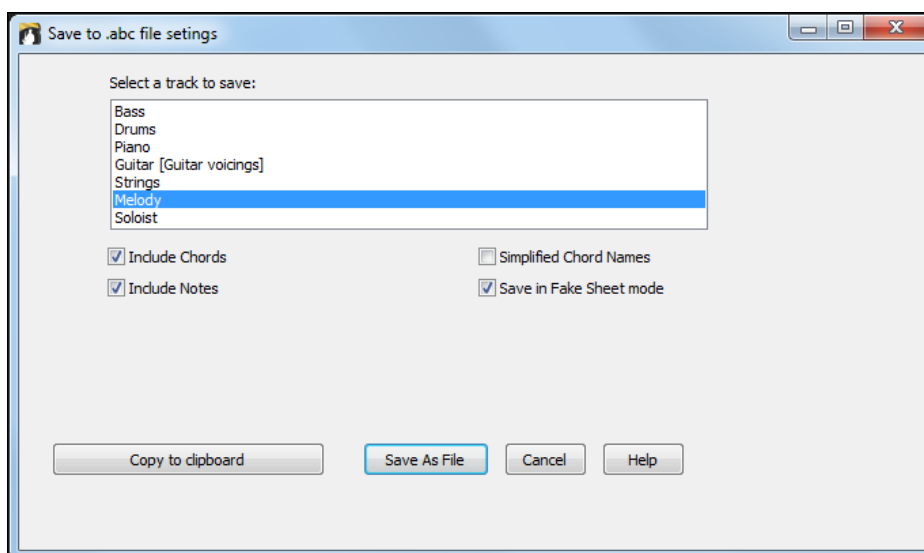


Support for ABC Notation Format

ABC notation is the simple text-based notation system used by musicians worldwide to store chords, melody, and lyrics of songs. Now you can open and save songs in ABC notation format. You can find out more information about the songs and ABC notation at abcnotation.com.

To save the song in ABC notation format, press the **[Save As]** toolbar button and choose *Save as ABC notation file* from the menu.





Select a track that you want to save in the file.

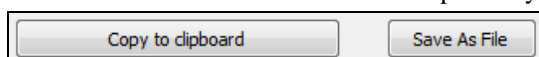


Enable “Include Chords” to save chords in the file.

When “Include Notes” is checked, notes on the selected track will be saved.

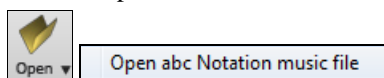
When “Simplified Chord Names” is enabled, complicated chords will be written as simplified names. For example, D7#5#9 will be written as D7.

Enable the “Save in Fake Sheet mode” option if you want to save repeats and endings in the file.

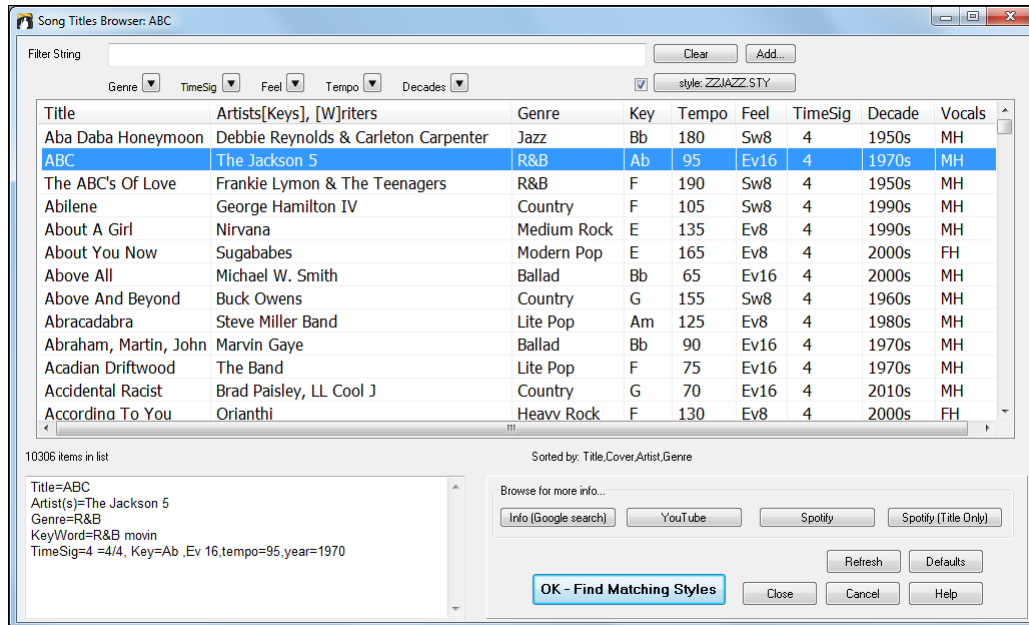


The **[Copy to clipboard]** button will copy the file to the clipboard. You can then paste it into other programs. The **[Save as File]** button will let you type a name and select the destination in your hard drive.

You can open an ABC notation file with the **[Open]** toolbar button.



Song Titles Brower Enhancements

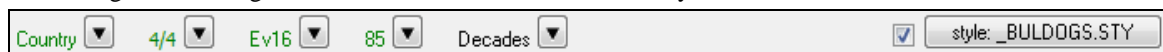


We've added 2,000 new song titles including requests from users, so there are now over 10,000 songs!

You can now filter the list by genres, time signature, feel, tempo, and decades.

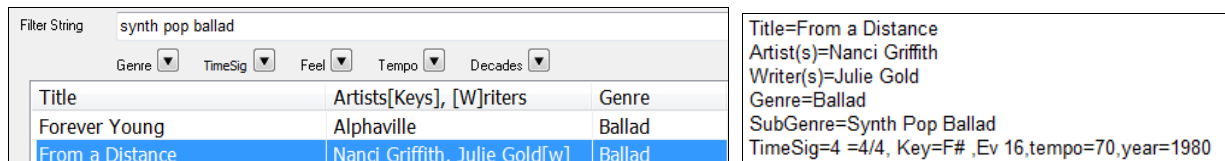


The dialog can list song titles that will work with the current style.



Press the **[style:]** button to filter the list by the genre, time signature, feel, and tempo of the current style. If the checkbox to the left of this button is enabled, then when you open the dialog, the list will be automatically filtered to show song titles that are similar to the current style.

Subgenres have been added for most song titles. Searching by a subgenre name in the text filter will display song titles in that subgenre.



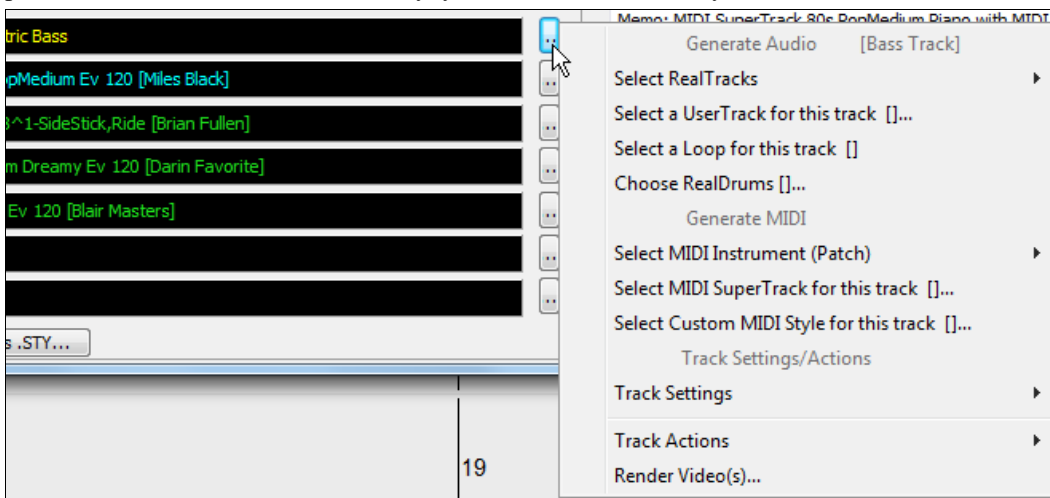
Recommendation of styles has been improved. When you select a song title and press the **[OK - Find Matching Styles]** button, the StylePicker dialog will open and show only styles that will work with that song title. This feature has been improved so that subgenres are also considered, so the style recommendations are more accurate.

StylePicker Enhancements

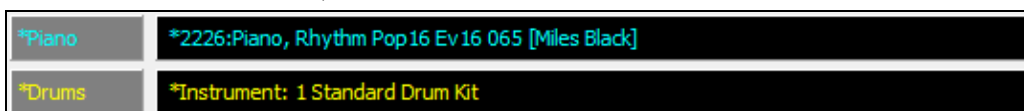
Mixer-like control shows what tracks and instruments are used in the currently selected style in the list, and color-codes them according to the track types (MIDI, MIDI SuperTracks, or RealTracks).



For each track, there is a menu button, which allows you to change the instrument, disable/enable the track, or perform other track actions. Previously, you had to close to the StylePicker window to do these.



When the track is customized, an asterisk will be added to the name.

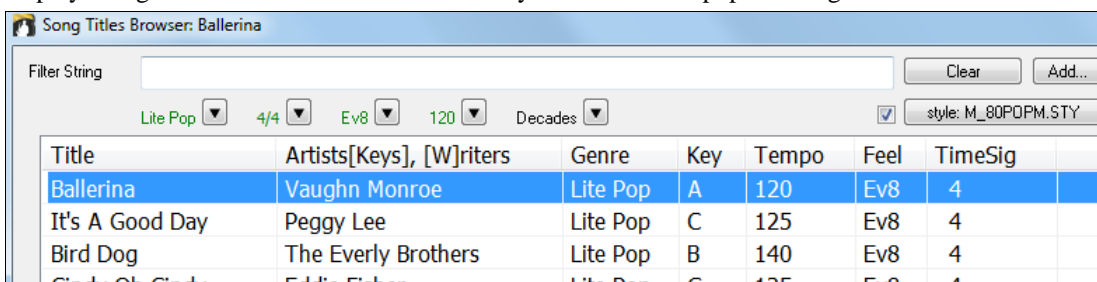


When the “Custom” option is checked, the tracks of the currently selected style will be overridden with the choices you have made.

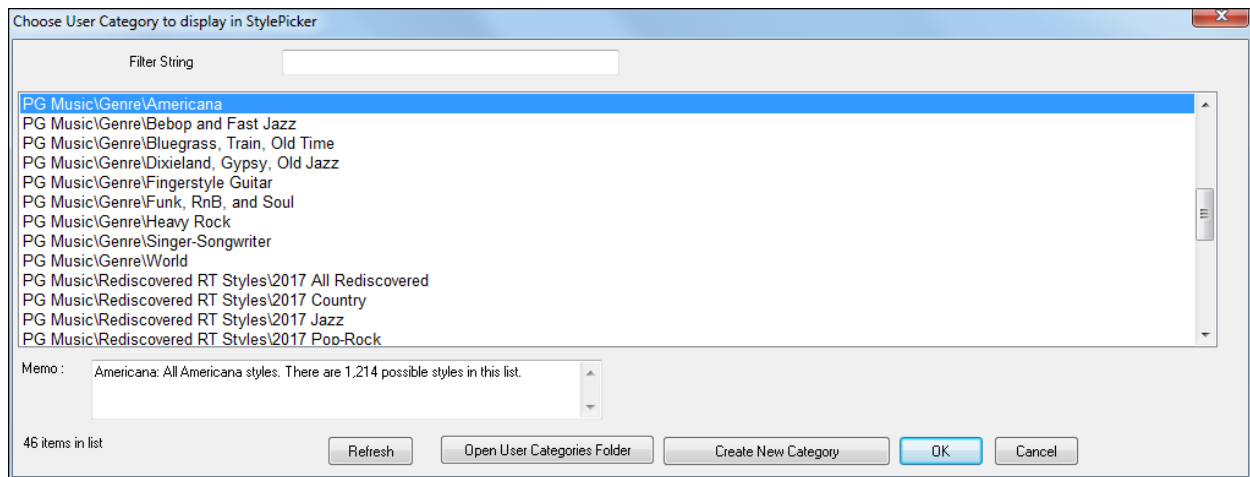
The [Clear] button will clear any customized settings.

Press the [Save as .STY] button to save the style that you have customized. When you save the style, it will be added to the StylePicker list.

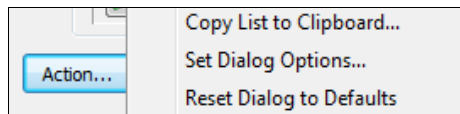
Recommendation of styles is improved when using the [Find Titles] button at the top right of the dialog. This also displays subgenres and makes it easier to find styles for a certain popular song.



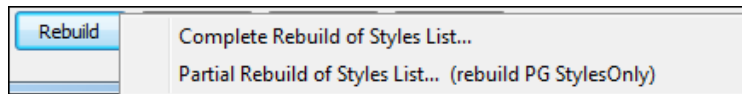
New user categories have been added, including Americana; Bebop and Fast Jazz; Bluegrass, Train, and Old Time; Dixieland, Gypsy, and Old Jazz; Fingerstyle Guitar; Funk, RnB, and Soul; Heavy Rock; Singer-Songwriter; and World.



The buttons to copy the styles list to the clipboard, set the dialog options, and reset the dialog to defaults have been moved to the **[Action]** button menu.

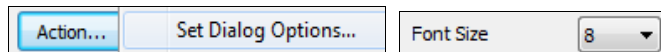


The buttons to rebuild a complete or partial styles list have been combined into a single button.



Rebuilding the styles list also rebuilds lists in the RealTracks and RealDrums Picker dialogs.

The option to change the font size of the text in the styles list has been moved to the **StylePicker Options** dialog.

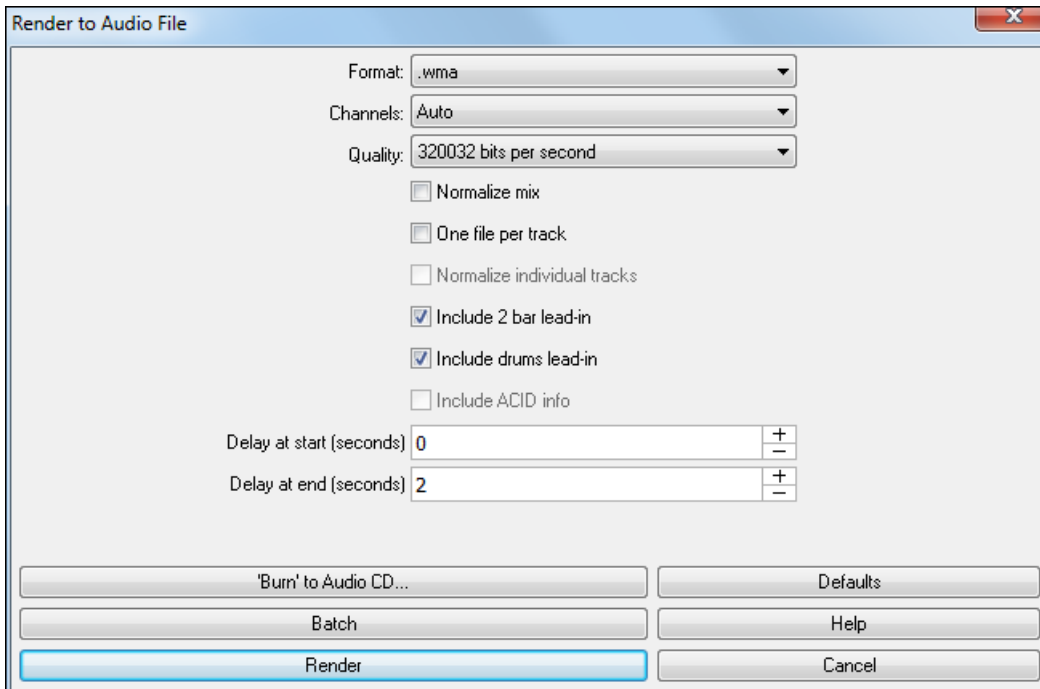


Renewed Render to Audio File Dialog

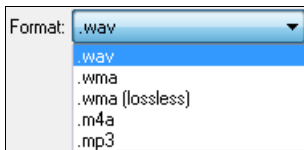
The dialog now has a simpler look and is easier to use.



You can open the dialog by selecting the *Export Song as Audio File* menu item from the [.WAV] toolbar button.



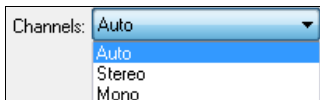
Format



Select the format of the audio file: WAV, WMA, WMA (lossless), M4A, or MP3.

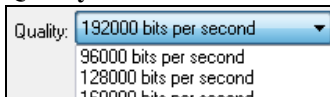
Note: If you are using Windows XP or Vista, the M4A option requires Apple® QuickTime® Library for Windows®, available from www.apple.com.

Channels



When “Auto” is selected, individual tracks will be rendered as either mono or stereo, depending on the original source. You can also force to render all tracks as stereo or mono.

Quality



The bit rate selection is available for compressed audio files (WMA, M4A, and MP3).

Normalize mix

Enable this option if you want the audio file normalized. Normalizing boosts the volume to a maximum level without distortion, but it takes longer to render.

One file per track

If this option is enabled, you will get separate audio files, one for each track.

Normalize individual tracks

Enable this option if you want each track normalized individually. This applies if the “One file per track” option is enabled or when you drag and drop an individual track out of Band-in-a-Box.

Include 2 bar lead-in

If this option is disabled and there is no lead-in in the Melody track, the lead-in will be skipped in the rendered file.

Include drums lead-in

Enable this if you want to include the drum count-in the rendered file.

Include ACID info

If you are rendering to a WAV audio file, you can include ACID information such as tempo, key, and time signature. The ACID information can be read by many DAW programs.

Delay at start (seconds)

This allows you to add silence in seconds at the start of the audio file.

Delay at end (seconds)

You can also add silence in seconds at the end of the audio file.

[Burn to Audio CD]

This button will open the MiniBurn program, which allows you to burn your own CD.

[Batch]

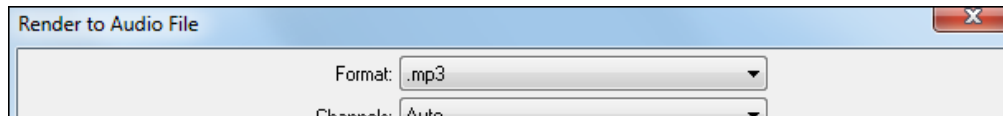
This button allows you to render all songs in a folder to audio files.

[Render]

To render the song, press this button and select the name and destination for the audio file.

High Resolution MP3 Audio Rendering

Band-in-a-Box will render songs to MP3 files in the highest resolution available (320 kilobits per second).

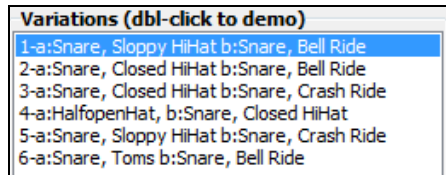


Enhanced and Faster M4A Audio Rendering

This uses Windows functions instead of Apple® QuickTime® Library for Windows®.

RealDrums Picker Enhancements

You can now demo individual variations of the RealDrums at the tempo closest to your current song by double-clicking on them.



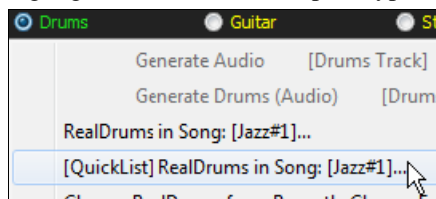
The “#” column shows “VideoFound” if the video RealDrums is installed.

RealDrums Style Name	^	Genre	Ge...	/4	Ev	8	Lo	Hi	x	Artist	#*
PopSyncSw16^	^	Pop	Rock		Sw	16	060	120		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound277
Rock8ths^	^	Rock	Pop		Ev	8	150	190	x	Shannon Forrest	VideoFound277
DrivingPop8ths^	^	Pop	Rock		Ev	8	090	130		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound262
ModCountry16ths^	^	Country	Rock		Ev	16	070	110		Shannon Forrest	VideoFound262

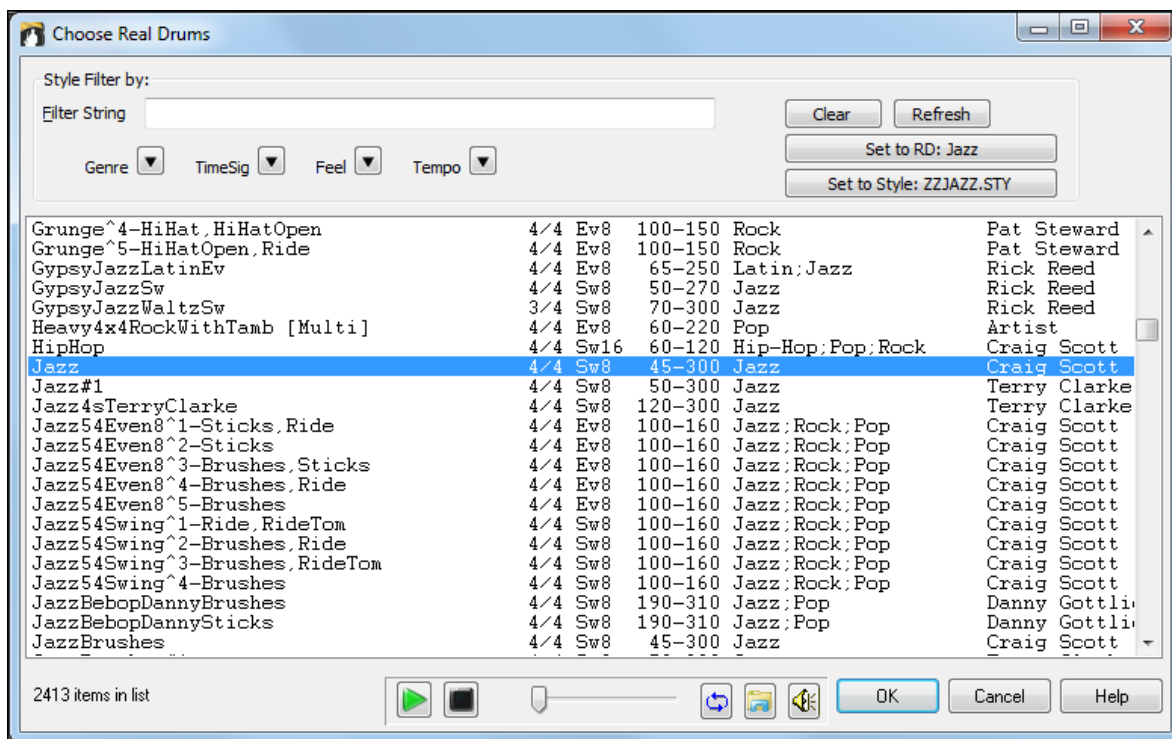
Note: The “#” column will show “VideoNA” if a video is available but not installed. Not all video RealDrums are included with a regular Band-in-a-Box package, so seeing “VideoNA” is normal unless you have purchased add-ons.

RealDrums QuickList

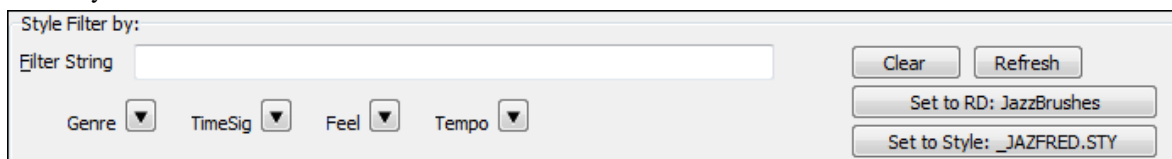
There is now a simpler dialog for choosing RealDrums, an alternative to the RealDrums Picker. It displays all available RealDrums in a simple list, which can be easily filtered by genre, time signature, feel, and more. The list can be set to show only RealDrums that are compatible with the current style of the song. You can also set the highlighted RealDrums as a prototype RealDrums to find alternates to that RealDrums.



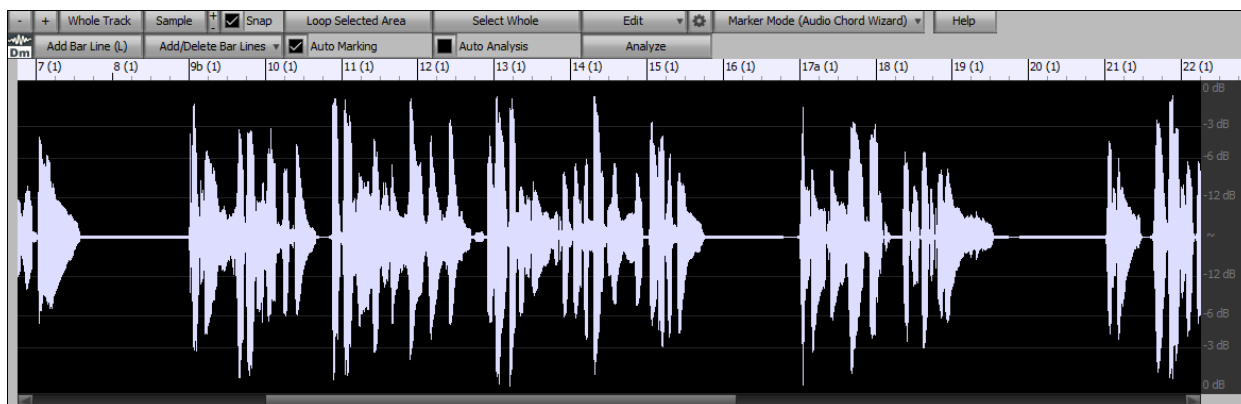
To open the dialog, right-click on the Drums track button, and select [QuickList] RealDrums in Song from the menu.



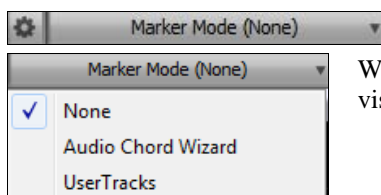
You can filter the list by genre, time signature, feel, tempo, and text. Press the **[Set to Style:]** button to see RealDrums that are compatible with the current style of the song. The **[Set to RD:]** button will set the highlighted RealDrums as a prototype RealDrums so you can find alternates to that RealDrums. Press the **[Clear]** button to clear any filter.



Audio Edit Window Enhancements



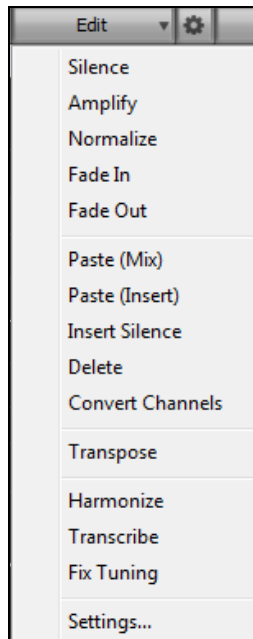
The **Audio Edit** window now has a nicer looking GUI, with a dedicated settings button and a Marker Mode button.



When you select the Audio Chord Wizard or UserTracks mode, the markers will be visible and editable.

Editing features can now apply to the entire track. Before version 2018, you had to highlight a region to use editing features, but now if no region is highlighted, then they will apply to the entire track.

There are some items added to the [Edit] button menu.



Paste (Mix) - This will mix the audio from the clipboard with the existing audio instead of overwriting it. You will be given the option to set the percentage of the existing audio to keep and the pasted audio to mix in.

Paste (Insert) - This will insert the audio from the clipboard to the current location, instead of overwriting the existing audio. The audio to the right of the insertion point will be shifted to make room for the new audio.

Delete - This will delete the selected region of audio.

Insert Silence - This will insert silence at the cursor. The duration of the silence inserted will be equal to the duration of the selected region.

Convert Channels - If the audio is stereo, this will convert it to mono. If it's mono, this will convert it to stereo. You will be given the option to set the percentage of the left and right channels to include.

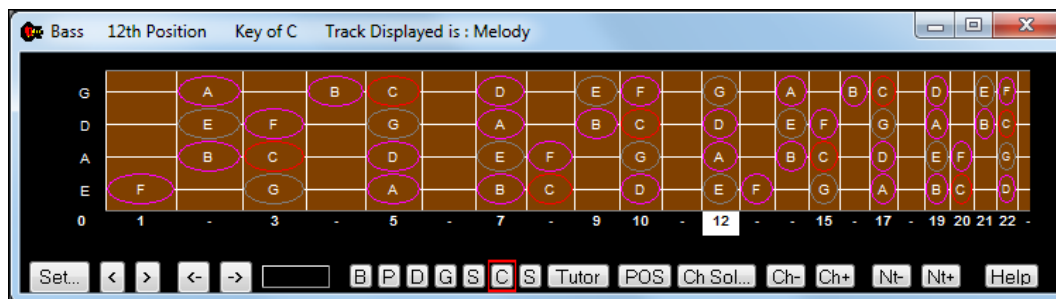
Transpose - This will transpose the audio by a specified number of cents.

Harmonize - This will add harmonies to audio.

Transcribe - This will transcribe the audio to the Melody or Soloist track as MIDI data.

Fix Tuning - This will automatically correct the tuning according to the key of your song. For example, in the key of C, if a C# is detected then it will be transposed down to C or up to D depending on which one is closer.

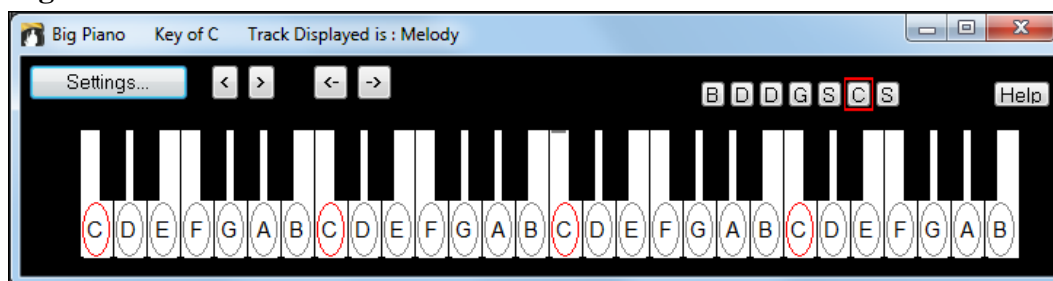
Guitar Window Enhancements



Clicking on the black area to the left of the zero fret notes in the Guitar window will delete the notes on just the channel of that string on the current notation time line rather than all notes at that time line.

Clicking on a note will delete the note from the Notation window if the note is currently highlighted. If no notes are highlighted in red, then clicking on a note will first delete any notes on the current notation timeline and channel before inserting a new note.

Big Piano Window Enhancements

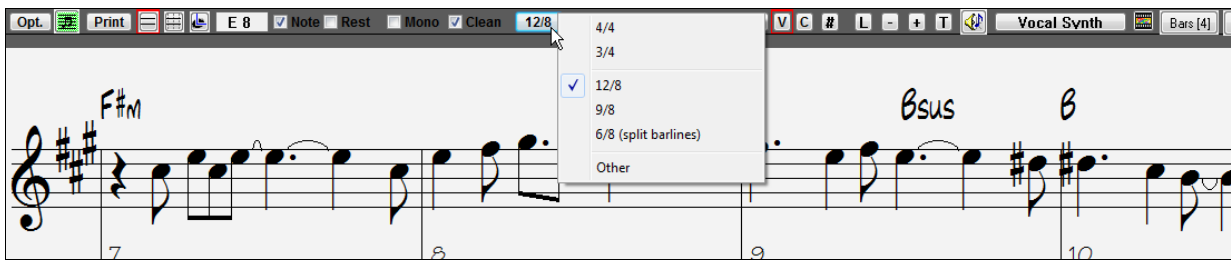


Clicking on the black area to the left of the piano will delete highlighted red notes from the Notation window. If no notes are highlighted in red, then clicking to the left of the piano will delete any note on the current notation timeline.

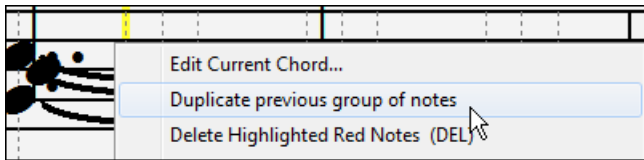
Clicking on a note will delete the note from the Notation window if the note is currently highlighted in red.

Notation Window Enhancements

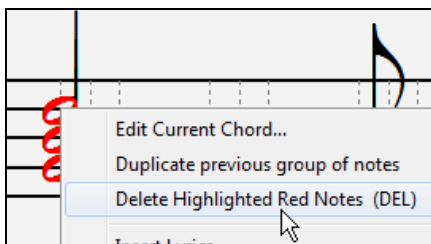
Notation supports 12/8, 9/8, and 6/8 time signatures. Previous versions of Band-in-a-Box only supported 3/4 or 4/4 notation. Now you can also select 12/8, 9/8, or 6/8. This is done by pressing the new button in the Notation window and selecting one of the time signatures from the list.



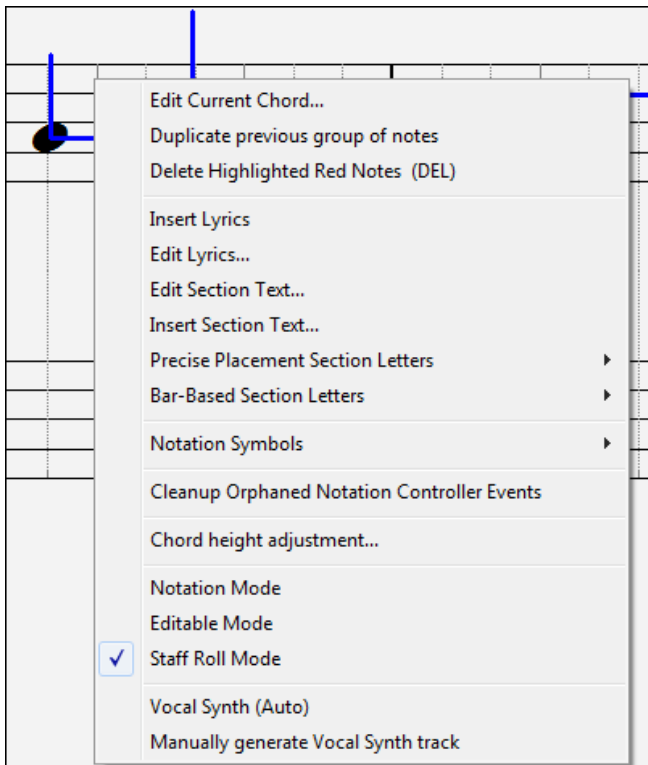
Duplicate previous group of notes lets you quickly duplicate the previous chord (a group of notes on the same location) without having to reenter it. This is a menu option added to the context menu in the Notation window.



Delete highlighted Red Notes lets you delete all notes that are currently highlighted in red. This command is also added to the context menu in the Notation window.



The Staff Roll mode now has a context menu.

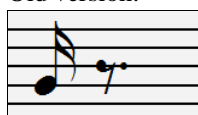


You can now enter Section Numbers. Previously, you could enter letters (A-Z) only, but now you can also enter numbers (1-9).

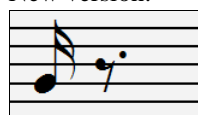
Precise Placement Section Letters			
Bar-Based Section Letters	A	N	1
	B	O	2
	C	P	3
	D	Q	4
	E	R	5
	F	S	6
	G	T	7
	H	U	8
	I	V	9

The vertical position of a dot of a dotted rest has been adjusted. A dot used to be drawn a staff line, but it is now drawn between staff lines.

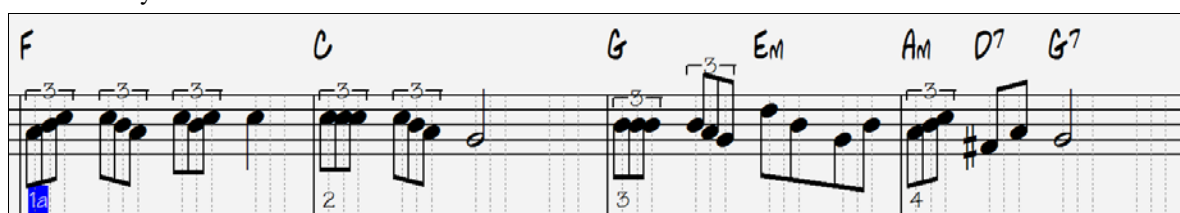
Old version:



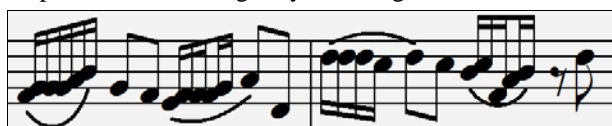
New version:



When loading a MusicXML file, if more than 20% of notes are triplet notes, then the overall beat resolution will be automatically set to 3 in the Notation window.



Improved algorithms are now used for drawing slurs. A slur will be drawn with a Bezier curve, which is especially helpful for notes being very close together.

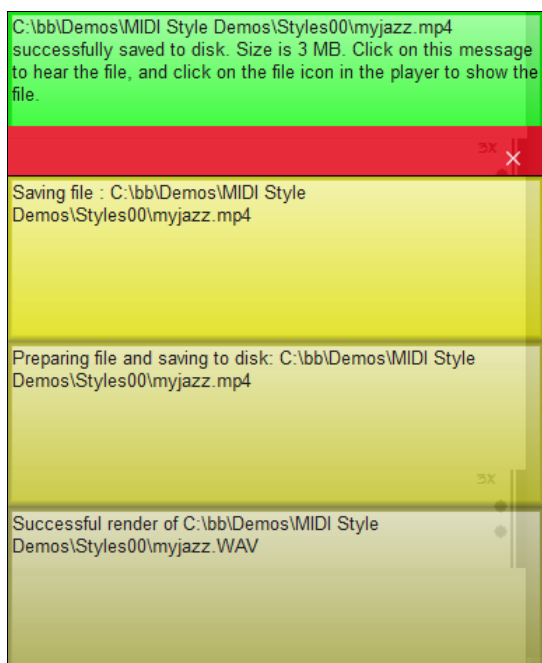


Enhanced Flash Messages

Flash messages are now brighter for clarity.

They also have a close button, which is useful for closing green flash messages without performing the action.

Up to 4 messages can be on the screen at once. Previously, only 2 messages could be shown.



And more!

Thank you for taking the time to read this introduction to Band-in-a-Box 2018!

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