Instachord

MIDI Processor Plug-in

Manual

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1. Introduction

Instachord is a MIDI Processor Plug-In that helps you play chords and chord progressions in an easy way. Set up to 24 chords at a time, use fretting keys to choose one and play it by picking keys. You can hit the whole chord or strum it with one key or play its individual notes using different picking keys.

Chords on keyboards and guitars are voiced a bit differently due to the string tuning and their orders. Instachord includes different chord voicing modes and right now keyboard and guitar modes are available.

If the key of the song changes, you can use the transpose buttons to move all the chords up or down. You can also bypass the process if you need to play the target instrument in a normal way.

Features:

- A long list of common chords to choose from (maj, min, sus, etc.).
- All chords come with different voicing.
- 24 fretting keys to set and choose chords.
- 24 picking keys to set and play chords.
- Hit the chords with only one key or play their notes separately.

- Transpose all the chords up or down at once.
- Customizable mapping for fretting and picking keys.

2. Installation

Installation guide: Run the installer and follow the steps. In case instead of a installer only plug-in files are included in the package extract the archive and copy the version you need in to the plug-in folder used by your host.

WIN example:

VST 32bit. C:\Program Files (x86)\vstplugins
VST 64bit. C:\Program Files\vstplugins

OSX example:

VST2: ~Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST
AU: ~Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

Note that OSX have different Library folders. Make sure you're copying the files in the right folder.

Tip: Navigating to the root library folder:

To reveal the root Library folder open Finder. On the menu bar, select Go to reveal the drop-down menu and then hold down the Option key (marked ALT) and you will see the ~/Library folder appear. You may now select this ~/Library folder.

Note: AU Version is not an instrument like VST version. It's a MIDI effect and can be used in hosts like Logic Pro that supports this type of effect. In hosts like Live and Reaper that support both AU and VST, use the VST version instead.

Demo Version Limitations

In demo mode only Major chords are available.

Authorization

If you have purchased the plug-in and finished the payment through, your serial number will be sent to you within few hours.

On the about page (click on the Instachord logo on the interface) and enter the serial number you have received and hit the 'Authorize' button.

3. Reference

Interface Overview

1. Octave. Main octave menu.

2. Transpose. Use these buttons to shift all the chords up or down. This is handy when you want to transpose the current chord progression to another key.

3. Hold mode. In **pick** mode to sustain a note picking key needs to be held down. But in **Fret** mode the fretting key sustains the notes. So it's more like playing guitar.

4. MIDI process mode. Switch between process and pass through modes. This is useful when you want to play the instrument normally.

5. C1. Note names may vary from one host to another. For example, FL Studio names MIDI Note #0,C (0), and Logic Pro names it C(-2). Use this parameter to match the names on the plug-in with your DAW and eliminate the confusion.

> * If your piano roll starts from C(-2), then set the C1 to 36 and if it starts from C0 set it to 12.

6. Menu. Save or load presets and access about page. You can also switch to about page by clicking on the Instachord logo.

7. Fretting keys. There are 12 set of menus for each chord group and they are ordered from bottom (C) to top (B) like the piano roll from your host. Each set has 4 menus and they can be used to set the chords.

- **a:** Chord root (C, C#, etc.).
- **b:** Chord mode (major, minor, etc.).
- **c:** Chord voicing. Here you can select a voicing mode for chords. These modes have the same notes but in slightly different orders.
- **d:** Chord octave.
- **e**: Use the LED switch to select the chord by mouse.

8. Picking keys. This is where you can set the action for picking keys. Like the chord groups these menus are ordered from bottom to top representing an octave for each pick group. The options are:

- **Hit:** Plays all the notes of the chord at once. You can choose any combination of the 6 notes of the chord.
- **Strum:** These actions will strum the chords up or down with different speeds and any combination of the six notes.
- **Bass:** Plays the root note of the chord but one octave lower than the rest.
- **1st,6th notes:** These keys play individual notes of the chord. Depending on the voicing mode they may have different values but the first note is usually the root. You can see the notes on the keyboard and display panel.
- **Octave -/+:** Use these keys to shift the octave up or down using MIDI notes.
- **Transpose -/+:**Use these keys to transpose the chords up or down.
- **All notes off:** It does what it says. Sends off message for all the notes.

9. Mapping menus. Where fretting and picking keys are placed on the controller can be changed using these menus so they could suit your playing style better.

10. Output Keyboard and Display panel. Here you can see the current chord and its notes. These notes are painted blue on the keyboard too, they turn green while playing. You can also use the mouse to play.

11. Input Keyboard. You can see the mapping and status of the input keys including chord and pick groups, labeled and highlighted in a slightly different colors.
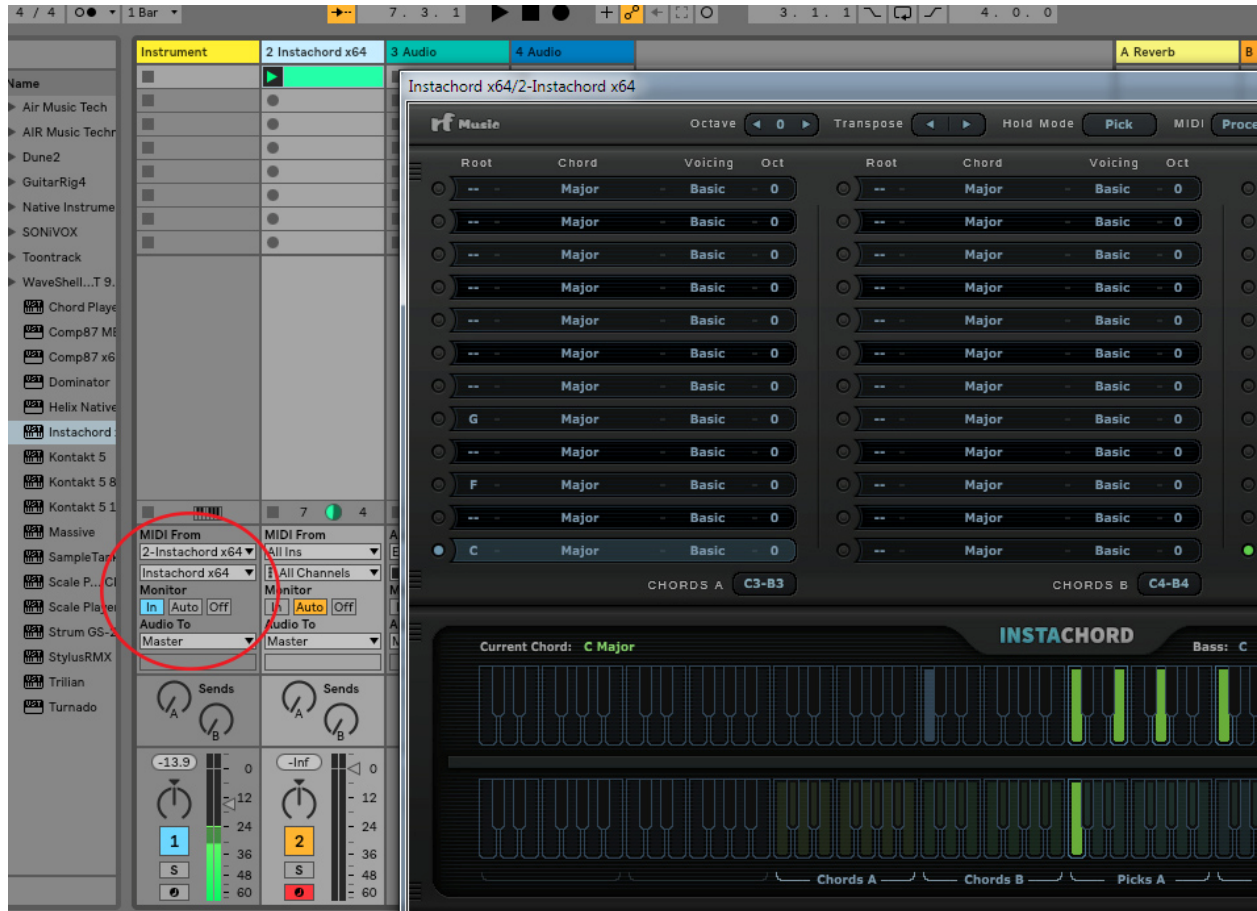
Using Instachord

Setting up

The details of connecting the plug-in depends on the host application you're using but basically you need to insert the Instachord VST as an instrument plug-in, and route its MIDI output to the instrument you want to play.

AU version is a bit different and it can only be used in hosts like Logic Pro X that supports AU Midi effect (Processor) type.
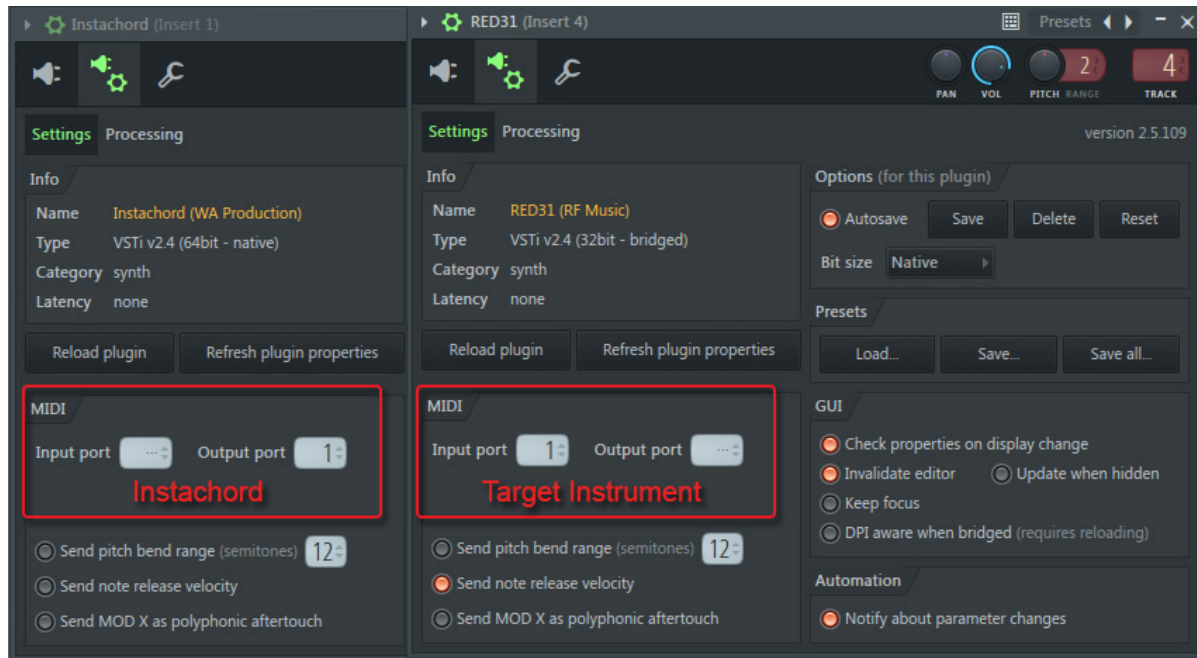
On the following pages there are some exapmles of using Instachord in different hosts and setting the MIDI routings.

Example1 - Ableton Live

Insert instachord as a new instrument and change the MIDI input option on the target instrument as shown in the picture.
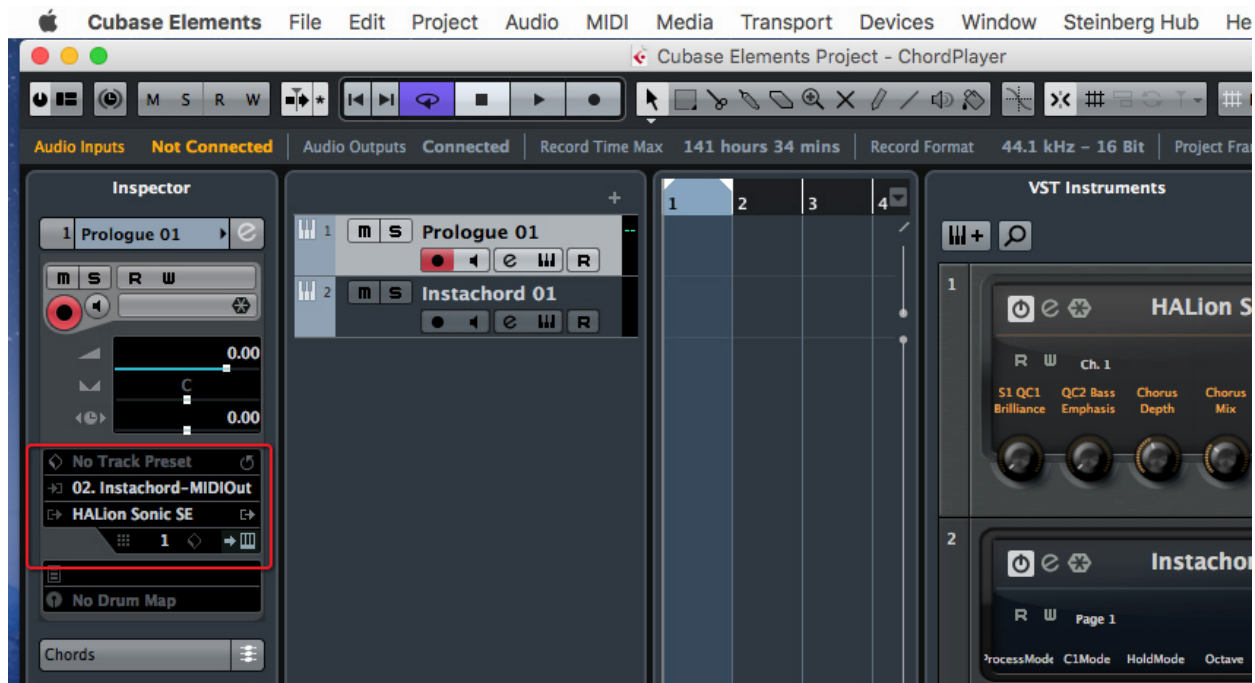
Example2 - FL Studio

Insert instachord as a new instrument and change the MIDI routing for both Instachord and target instrument to pair up as shown in the picture.
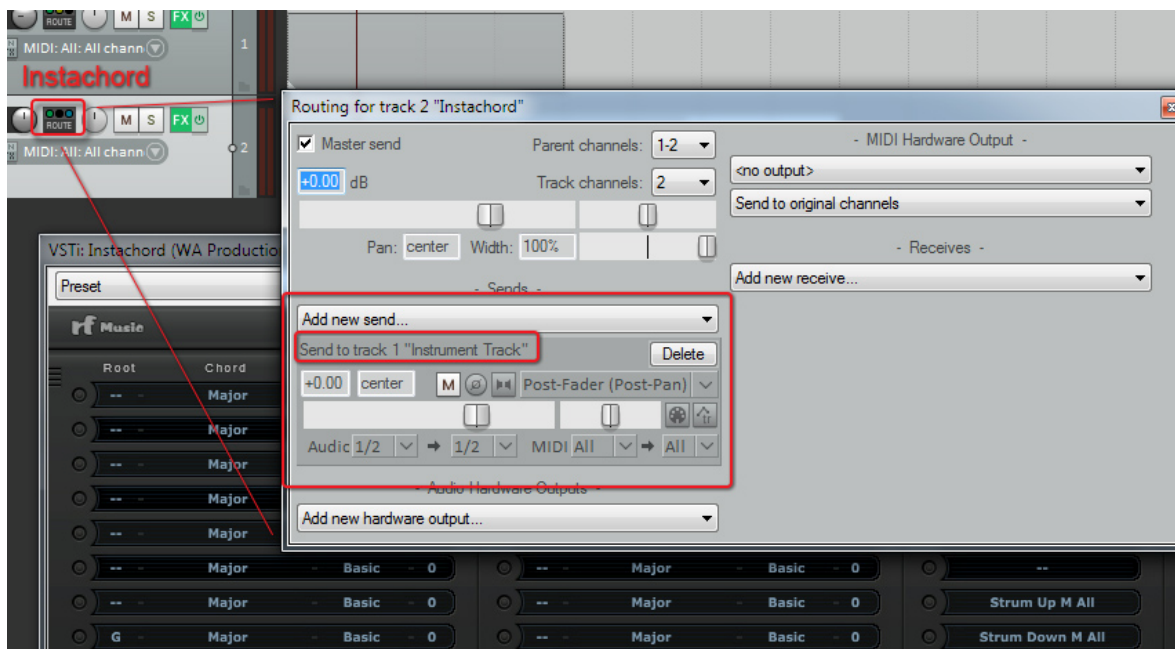
Example 3 - Logic Pro X

Insert instachord as MIDI effect on your target instrument channel.

Example 4 - Cubase

Insert instachord as a new instrument and change the MIDI input option on the target instrument as shown in the picture.
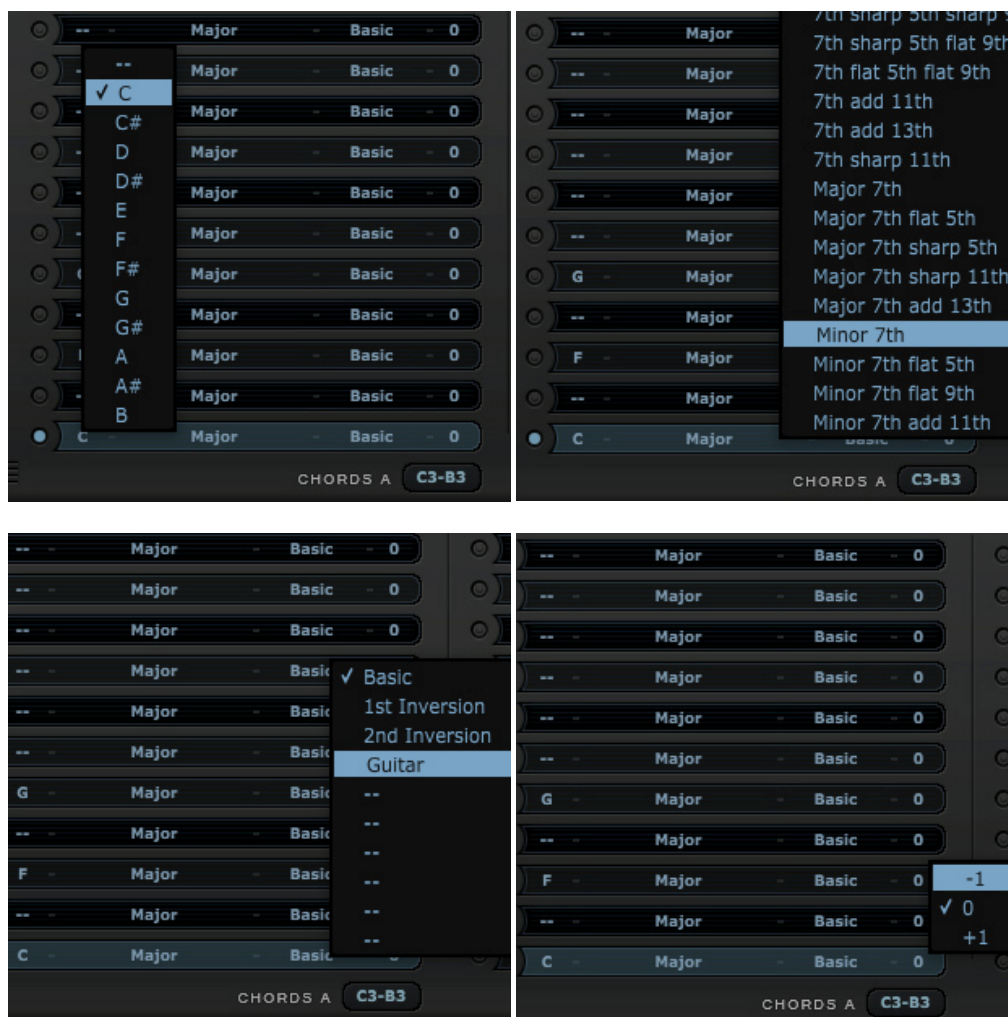
Example 5 - Reaper

Insert instachord as a new instrument and change the MIDI send option on Instachord or MIDI receive option on target instrument as shown in the picture.
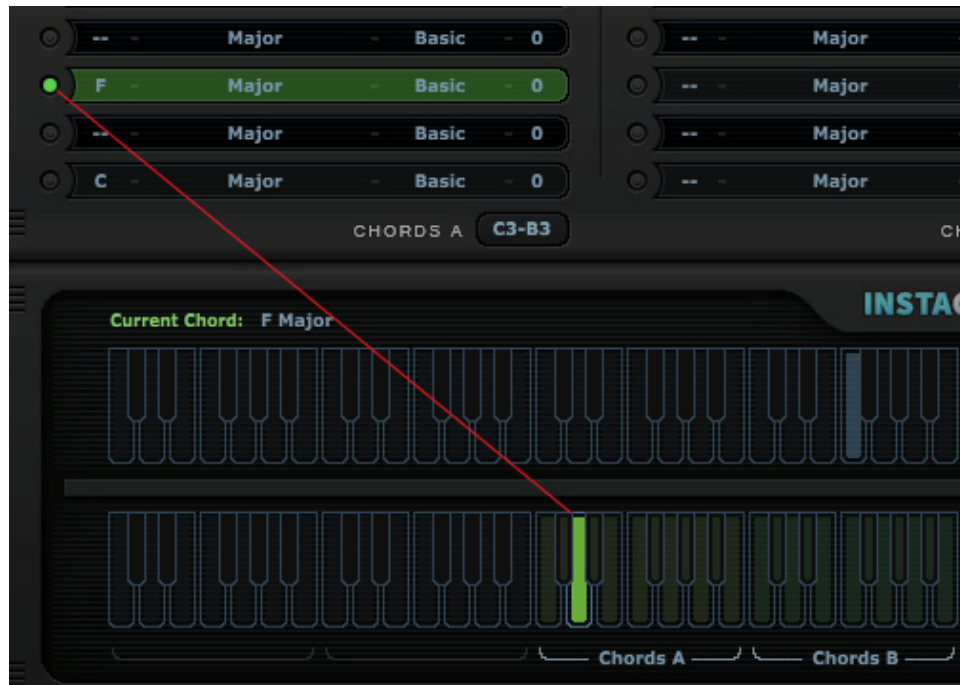
Setting chords and playing

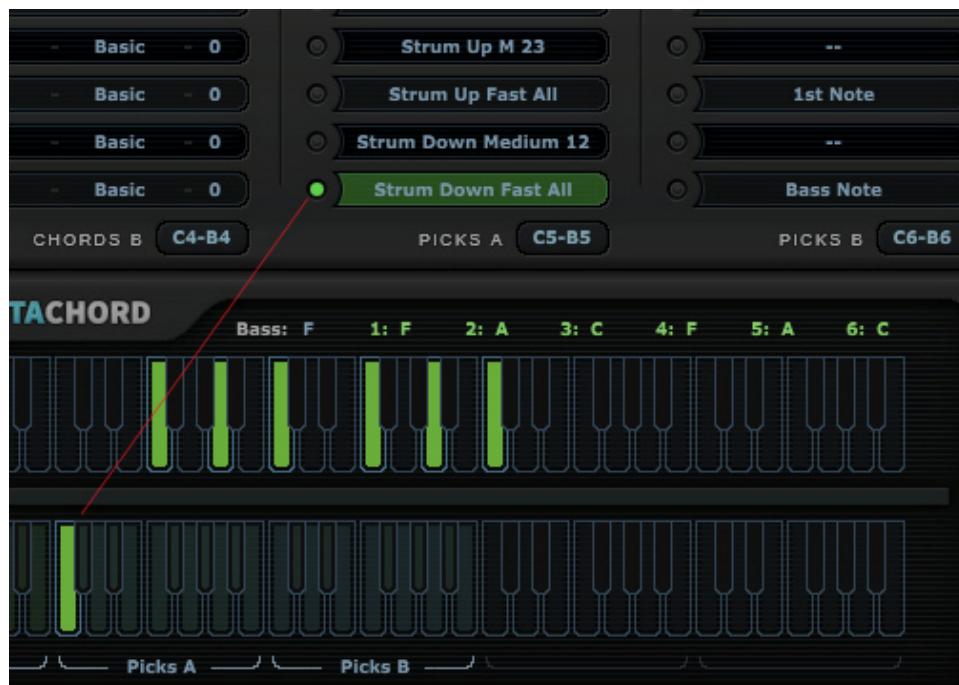1. Set the root, chord type, voicing mode and octave.

2. Set the picking key action. This will determine how and what notes this key plays.

3. After setting your chord progression and assigning them to your desired chord keys, you can set the current chord to any of them using these keys:
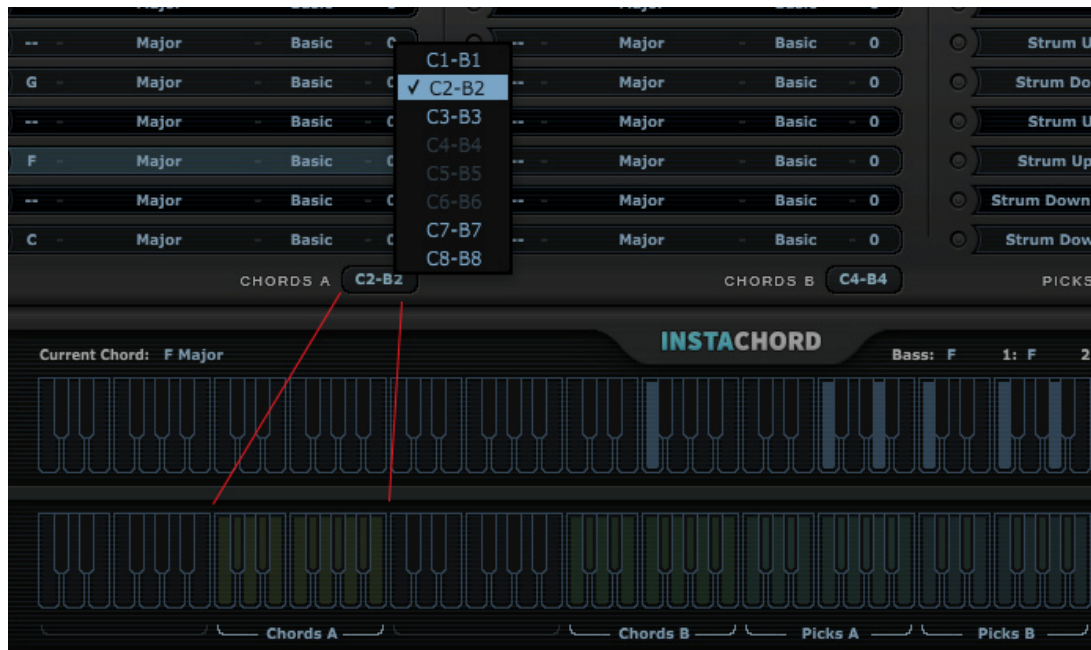

3. Now you can use the picking keys to play the current chord:

Note 1: If you have set the hold mode to fret, then just like a guitar you have to hold down the chord key then pick it to ring out the chord. Release it to stop and send the note off messege.

Note 2: You can change the mapping and move the chord and pick groups around on your keyboard using the mapping menus:

Credits

Developing, Coding and GUI design by Rahman Fotouhi (rfmusic.net).

Visit **waproduction.com**for latest updates and news.

Contact **info@waproduction.com**for support.

We hope Instachord helps you in your future projects and brings you more creative ideas.