

NOCTURNE

Scales and chords, by moonlight

How to use it

Pick a scale or a chord. Every key that holds it lights from inside.
See the shapes one hand — or two — can hold, hear them,
and let a MIDI controller run it all backwards.

Start here

Nocturne is for someone who is not a pianist but can find their way around a keyboard. It shows where a scale or a chord lives on the keys, which of its shapes a hand can cover, and — with a controller plugged in — what you are actually playing.

1. Setup (top panel): choose Scale or Chord, a root, and a scale or a chord quality. Pick your Keyboard size so the drawn keyboard matches your controller.
2. Scale mode: every degree lights — root amber, the rest moonlight. Below, the chords in the scale with their character written under each; click one to light it inside the scale, or chart it to see its voicings.
3. Chord mode: the chord's tones light in role colours. Pick a voicing type (Close, Drop 2, Drop 3, Shell, Rootless, Two hands) and click a card: it lights on the keyboard with finger numbers.
4. Hear it: Play ▲ ▼ runs the scale or chord; with Sound on, clicking any key plays it.
5. Plug in: Connect a controller (Chrome or Edge). Held keys light on the keyboard; held chords are named; the notes you have played are matched to scales.
6. Keep it: Save PDF guide prints the keyboard with every key named, plus the scale's chords and fingering or the chord's voicings.

Reading the colours

	Root — amber — the only warm colour on the page.
	Scale degree — moonlight — every other note of a scale.
	Third / Fifth / Extension — ice blue, violet, steel — chord tones, and the chord lit inside a scale.
	Bright ring — a key in the focused voicing.
	White ring — a key held on your controller.
	Dimmed key — a scale or chord note outside what is focused.

Reading the keyboard

Every key carries its note name, like a labelled practice keyboard; C keys show their octave (C4 is middle C). Lit keys add their interval above the name — R, 3, 5, $\flat 7$ — unless Note labels is set to names only. In scale mode the octave nearest middle C also shows finger numbers as right hand · left hand (1 is the thumb) for major and minor keys. In chord mode the focused voicing shows L or R plus the finger on each key.

The keyboard scrolls sideways inside its frame when it is wider than the screen, and opens with middle C in view.

Scale mode

- Chords in this scale: the scale stacked in thirds from each degree, as triads or sevenths, with Roman numerals and a character line (home, tense, somber, floating...). Click one to light it inside the scale; Chart this chord → jumps to its voicings.
- Colour from outside: borrowed chords and secondary dominants that work against this scale. Click to chart.
- Standard fingering: the settled right- and left-hand fingerings for the major and minor keys. Other scales show the thumb-under rule instead.

Chord mode and voicings

Close is every tone inside one octave, in each inversion. Drop 2 and Drop 3 drop the second or third note from the top an octave — wide ones split across two hands. Shell is root, third and seventh. Rootless leaves the root to a bass. Two hands puts root and fifth low in the left hand and the colour tones in the right.

A hand holds up to five notes; an octave is comfortable; a ninth or tenth is marked stretch. Fingers: 1 and 5 on the outer notes, 2/3/4 by where the middle notes sit; the left hand is the mirror. Cards past your keyboard's range are dashed.

Listen — MIDI in

Click Connect a controller, allow MIDI, and pick the input. Held keys light with a white ring; hold a chord and the names that fit are listed, closest first (click to chart). Every note played since the last Clear is matched to the scale dictionary — click a scale to chart it. Follow my playing charts a recognised chord as you hold it. Web MIDI works in Chrome and Edge; Safari and Firefox do not have it.

The bars that follow you

Scroll past the setup panel and three things appear: the Helm (top) with the chart, root and scale/chord menus, the notes and the main buttons; the Placard (right) with the chart in big type; the Dock (right, below) with Chart, Keys and MIDI flyouts. On narrow screens the Placard becomes a name rail.

Every control, in one place

What each button and menu does. Hovering any control in the app shows the same thing.

Setup

Chart	Scale or Chord.
Root	The note the scale or chord is built on.
Scale / Mode	Which scale to chart, by family.
Quality / Extension	The chord.
Note labels	Names + intervals, or names only.
Note spelling	Flats or sharps.
Keyboard size	25, 37, 49, 61, 76, 88 keys or a custom range.
MIDI in	Connect a controller; choose the input.

Chart panel

Play ▲ ▼	The scale (one octave) or chord, up or down.
Play chord	Every note at once (chord mode).
Sound	Key-click sound on or off.
Note chips	Click to hear.
Copy notes	To the clipboard.
Triads / Sevenths	Chord size for the scale's chords.
Chord card	Light it in the scale; Chart this chord → for voicings.
Colour from outside	Borrowed chords; click to chart.
Voicing type	Close, Drop 2, Drop 3, Shell, Rootless, Two hands.
Voicing card	Focus it on the keyboard.
Play chord / Arpeggio ▲ ▼ / Clear focus	On the stage.

Keyboard and below

Key	Click to hear it (sound on).
Save PDF guide	Keyboard map plus scale page or voicing sheets.

Listen

Held now	Chord names for what you hold; click to chart.
Notes since clear	Scales holding every note played; click to chart.
Follow my playing	Auto-chart a recognised chord.
Clear notes	Start the scale match over.
Start fresh	Forget the saved session.

When something looks wrong

- Connect a controller does nothing. Web MIDI needs Chrome or Edge. Plug the controller in before clicking; if the browser asked for permission once and you refused, allow it in the site settings.
- No sound. Turn Sound On. Browsers only allow audio after a click.
- Voicing cards are dashed. They extend past the drawn keyboard. Choose a larger keyboard size or a custom range.
- The fingering block says there is no standard fingering. Only the major and minor keys have a settled tradition; other scales show the thumb-under rule.
- The page forgot my settings. Settings live in this browser's storage; another browser or a private window starts fresh.