

REHEARSE AND GIG

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SET MANAGER

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To all those enthusiastic musicians who perform in pubs and clubs and get a great deal of enjoyment from it

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Set Manager user guide. The current version is the result of three years' part time development in between other projects.

I've been playing bass guitar in bands for a long time. In the early days lyrics and chords were scribbled on pieces of paper and learned.Later they were word processed and printed out for band members and still learned.

Now frameworks like Set Manager allow for much more functionality and flexibility in managing songs, set lists and performance. For those of us who no longer retain a memory of song arrangements, Set Manager can support a performance. Keep it in front of you as you perform and foot-switch or autoplay the lyrics and chords then swipe to the next number.

I tried a number of similar apps but none did quite what I wanted, or they were loaded with functionality I didn't need. So I wrote my own. Set Manager is a simple framework to allow you to easily collect your songs in a song library and quickly create sets, re-order and change the key of the numbers. Sure, you can still print them out from the app if you need to.

CHAPTER 1

BUILD THE SONG LIBRARY

Collect your repertoire in whatever is its current format and add it to Set Manager

The first time you enter the Song Library you will see a few sample songs. To add your own song tap “+”. Two options appear, “manual, and “download”. More on “download” later. For now tap ‘Manual’ and type the song title. Tap “Add”.

The title appears in the library. Tap the title to display the song. At the moment the song is empty. Tap the “Edit” button, top right of the app screen, next to the three dots “more” menu. The song can now be entered. Chords and lyrics may be typed directly into the editor with the familiar form of chords above the lyrics, as:

```
C                   G
Happy Birthday to you
                    C
Happy birthday to you
```

Or they can be typed in Chordpro format. They chord keys above the normal screen keyboard will help with fast Chordpro entering and editing.

If you don't want to re-type your songs, and you have access to an online site or service where you can copy and paste into the app, then by all means use it.

Once the song has been pasted or typed you should convert it to a Chordpro format. This will enable you to change the song key when you need to, changing all of the chords to the new key instantly. The Chordpro, key change, button is on the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. Tap it, then "OK" to convert the whole file. You will see that the song now looks quite different in Edit mode. The chords are embedded in the lyrics and {!} Appears at the beginning. These three characters are important as they allow Set Manager to identify a Chordpro file in its database.

Tap the "Done" button at the top right of the app screen to exit edit mode. The song is now displayed in familiar chords and lyric lines.

You can type directly in Chordpro format if you're familiar with it but remember to start with the three characters {!} and use '#' for sharps and 'b' for flats. Alternatively you can use the chord buttons:



Select one of the common chord variants with the bottom row, or change between sharp and flat with the rightmost button. Place the cursor where you want the chord to appear and tap the chord name.

Try changing the Key. The advantage of keeping your songs in this format is that the “key” change button is now active. Tap it and add or subtract the number of semitones you need then tap Apply. How simple is that?

Keep entering songs in the way to build your library.

Songs can be deleted from the library by swiping the title left, more than 50% of the screen width.

IOS and iPadOS

Files can be Airdropped from one device to another.

Android

Files can be QuickShared from one device to another.

All Versions

If the file is in Chordpro format it will be shared with the file extension “.chordpro”. If the song is only in chord and lyric lines then it will be shared with the file extension “.crd”. Set Manager can also import Chordpro files from other apps. The file extensions it accepts are “chordpro”, “chopro”, “cpro” and “pro”. If files with these extensions are attached to a message or email then tapping the attachment will open the it in Files where you have the option to “Open In Set Manager”. Select this and the file is imported into your song library. In some versions of Android you may have to select “Open with”, then choose Set Manager.

The exception to this is WhatsApp. WhatsApp does not handle files attachments in the same way as other apps. When the attachment is tapped, WhatsApp opens it in a viewer with another share button. Tap this and save to files then from the files app tap to import the song.

The song title, by default, is the filename minus the file extension. If, however, while importing, the file is found to contain a Chordpro “{title:}” directive that directive has priority over the filename.

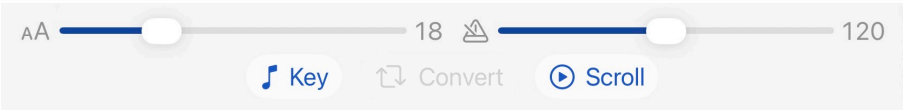
CHAPTER 2

LYRIC DISPLAY

The heart of Set Manager

The lyric display has two modes, Edit and Perform. It is reached both from the song list in the Song Library and from the set list in Sets. The display is performance mode, just chord and lyric lines, by default. To edit the song tap ‘Edit’ at the top right of the display. In performance mode the display is locked and can only be scrolled. In edit mode you can type, delete, cut, copy and paste lyrics and chords.

Performance mode has a toolbar at the bottom of the screen:



— **Lyric** slider, on the left, adjusts the display font size in real time to suit the line length and your eyesight

— **Tempo** slider, on the right, increases or decreases the tempo. This is only relevant if you are using the auto-scroll Play function.

— **Convert** button is active if you have only chord and lyric lines. Tapping it will ask for confirmation to convert the

whole file. OK will convert the file to a subset of the Chordpro format.

— **Scroll** activates auto-scroll. The button changes to ‘waiting’ and the display scroller waits for about half a screen to be sung then it starts to auto-scroll, keeping the current lyric somewhere near the centre of the screen. At this point the button changes to “Pause”. The speed depends on the tempo and the lyric display font size so some experimentation is required.

— **Key** is active only if you have created a Chordpro file. You can add or subtract semitones from the current key then tap ‘Apply’. The chords of the song are adjusted accordingly.

Edit mode replaces the toolbar with a set of shortcut keys for entering chords in Chordpro format. Place the cursor where you want the chord, select the chord variant, then tap the chord name. The chord appears with the cursor just after the closing chord bracket.



The small, double arrow button at the top right of the chord buttons switches between the toolbar and the chord keys, in case you need the tool functions in Edit mode. The button to the right of the chord variants switches between entering sharps and flats. It’s your choice. This is especially useful for entering original songs into Set Manager.

If you have reached the lyric display from a set list you can swipe left and right on the lyric to show the next or previous song in the set. Arrive from the song library and the lyric will not respond to swiping.

The more menu

The lyric display in edit and performance mode has a ‘more’ menu (...) at the top right. The IOS version of the app has 4 options, share, print, camera and photo.

Share shows the usual share options for your device. You can use AirDrop/QuickShare, Message or whatever other messaging app you have installed, or email. Share is available in edit and performance mode and will share Chordpro files if the song is in that format, otherwise a “crd” file, chord and lyric lines, is shared. Songs can be shared with users of either platform

Android users can “share” to their Google drive and give access to others from there. IOS/iPadOS users can do the same if they have Google Drive installed.

Print allows you to produce hard copy chord and lyric lines for band members who are not using Set Manager.

Camera is a developing option. If you have a printed library of songs you can try this. Hold the tablet parallel with the printed sheet, in good light, and take a picture. Set Manager will try to OCR the image and produce chords and lyrics for you. You have to option to add further pages to the song or delete the scan and try again.

Photo does much the same but via your photos. Scan the lyric sheets and add them to your photo library then use the

photo option to OCR the sheets from there. This is likely to be more successful as the scan will be evenly lit and clear. Again you may add further sheets in this way or delete the scan and try again. Android does not yet use photos, but a future version will offer it.

Both of these OCR options are undergoing more development as time permits. Any feedback would be welcome.

CHAPTER 3

MAKE AND USE SET LISTS

Create selections from your song library ready for your next gig

From the home screen select “Sets”. On first use there will be no lists. Tap “+”. Give the set a name and tap “Add”. Now tap the set name. The set will be empty. Tap “+”. The song library will be shown in a popup list with songs already in the set shown lighter. Tap the song title to add it to the set.

When adding songs you needn’t worry about the original order. The list can be easily re-ordered. Long press the song title until it floats then drag it to it’s new position and release.

Songs can be deleted from the set by swiping the title left more than 50% of the screen width. The set list can be shared as a text file or printed via the more menu

Whole sets can be deleted by swiping the set name left. The list can also be printed via the ‘more’ menu.

You can add a set break by creating a song called Set Break, with the lyric ”Swipe left for the next session” and adding it to your set. Or you can create 2 lists, one for each half.

Chapter 4

REHEARSING AND PERFORMING THE SET

On stage or at rehearsals Set Manager will support you

From the home screen, tap Set Lists then the name of the set to be played. Select the first song in the set.

The song display screen shows the song in chord and lyric lines. Set Manager is compatible with many bluetooth foot switches that send ‘page up’ and ‘page down’ codes. If your switch also has ‘page left’ and ‘page right’ Set Manager will translate those codes to ‘page up’ ands ‘page down’. Alternatively there is an auto-scroll, “play”, button on the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. Auto-scroll timing depends on the font size and tempo setting so some experimentation is required.

To move to the next song in the set, swipe left on the lyric display. Swiping right will show the previous song. Make sure you keep over to the right of the screen otherwise you might be taken back to the set list by mistake.

Rehearse and Play Along

If you have mp3 files of the songs you play then they can be played while looking at the chords and lyrics, maybe with scrolling selected. The MP3s should be placed in a folder using the files app. When first selecting play, you will be asked to choose the folder containing the MP3s. Now select Play from the “more” menu. Set Manger will look for an MP3 named exactly as the song lyric currently open in lyric display. So if you’re rehearsing “Happy Birthday”, Set Manager will look for an MP3 file called “Happy Birthday.mp3”. If it’s not found you will see an error message saying just that. If it is found it will play. A draggable control panel appears and you can move it anywhere on screen if it obscures the lyric. You can also pause and drag the time slider back or forward to any position in the MP3 file and it will continue playing from there.

CHAPTER 5

BACKING UP YOUR LIBRARY

Android and IOS/IPadOS

As you are building your song and set library you should backup the database. The Settings screen, see next chapter, has a switch to show or hide the backup and restore buttons. The buttons are on the Home Screen and are ‘on’ by default.

If they are currently hidden, show the buttons in Settings and return to the Home Screen. Tap “BACKUP” and the file save dialog opens. Currently the IOS version opens the Share sheet where save to files can be selected, or the backup can be shared directly from there. This will be in the Android version on the next release.

The backup format is interchangeable between Android and Apple. A backup created on Android can be restored on Apple and vice versa. If this is the first time you have backed up, the save location will probably be Downloads. You can stay in Downloads and save there or switch to your Google Drive, iCloud Drive, or any other cloud storage you use. and save there. The backup file is given the name

“setmanager_backup” plus the date and time. Click Save to create the backup file.

To restore a backup tap “RESTORE”. Backup files will always be merged with your existing library. Select a file and complete the database restore. If you don’t choose a file just return to the app. Your library will still be available

Once a backup has been created it can also be shared with other Set Manager users. Open the files app on your device, navigate to where you saved the backup and select “Share”. Use whatever is your preferred sharing method. The recipient can then “RESTORE” the file, merging it with their existing set and song library.

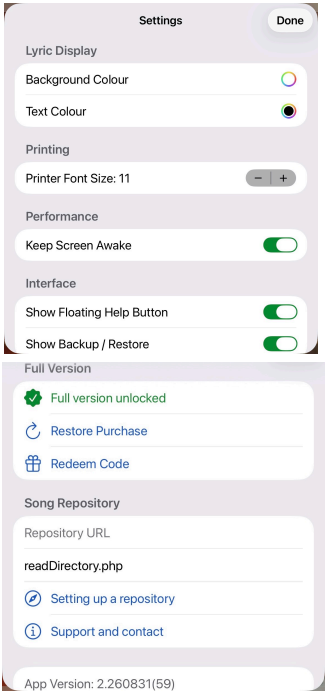
When restoring a shared backup file, in email for example, tapping the attachment may offer Set Manager to open the file. The current version doesn’t restore that way. The shared file should be saved first then opened via the RESTORE button

Chapter 6

SETTINGS

Things that apply to the whole app

- IOS

	Alter the lyric display to suit you. Default is black text on white
	This section doesn't affect printing but it will in a future release
	Stop the song display from sleeping
	Show or hide the help/backup buttons
	App is free to use for 7 days. After that use these options to continue to use indefinitely
	See the repository section, chapter 6, for repository details. Follow these links to the support website
	Please quote your version number if you are contacting support

-Android

Performing Prevent Screen Sleep Prevent the screen from sleeping during play	Stop the song display from sleeping
Lyric Display Mode Set dark mode(white text on black)	Reverse the lyric display colours
Learning App Help turn off floating help	Show or hide the help button (?)
Song Repository Full Repository URL eg. https://somewebsite.com/songs/ Song listing script eg. readDirectory.php	See the repository section, chapter 6, for repository details.
Full Version Unlock Full Version Restore Purchase Redeem Code	In app purchase links to continue using the app indefinitely
Support Show Backup/Restore on main screen	Show backup/restore buttons
☞ See the app web site for code examples ☜	Follow these links to the support website
☞ Get help and contact the developers ☜	
About App Version 2.260906	Please quote your version number if you are contacting support

CHAPTER 7

SONG REPOSITORY SETUP

Set Manager currently supports sharing files in a four ways, AirDrop, messaging, emails and a web repository. To set up a repository you need to have a web site with a hosting company and a domain of your own (or maybe you know someone who has a website). On that site create a folder called, for example, "Songs". This is the repository into which you can upload songs to share. If you have a web site you will already know how to upload files.

Songs in Set Manager, IOS, are kept in the local device database and in your iCloud but they can be exported or saved as files. I suggest you share the Chordpro version if you have already created it. In the song lyric page select edit (pencil icon at the top right of the display). Now select the three dots button next to it. Select "Share" to show the sharing options you have. Choose 'Save to files'.

In the files app create a folder called, for example, "songs". Save into there to keep your song files together. They're much easier to manage in one place. Change the suggested file name to the title of the song.

Most web hosting companies provide a management page which includes the option "file manager" or something similar. Use that route to upload files. Select files from your

local files app by tapping "Choose files", and upload to your song folder.

In Set Manager 'settings', cog wheel on the front screen, add the web address in the space provided as:

> *https://somewebsite.co.uk/songs/*
> or whatever you called the folder on the server

You now need a script to read the contents of the songs folder. The script has to be in the same folder as the songs. I use this, below, and you're welcome to copy and use it too.

```
<?php
$return = "";
$scanned_directory =
  array_diff(scandir('.'),
  array('..', '.', 'readDirectory.php'));
foreach($scanned_directory as $s)
  $return = $return.$s . ",";
echo substr($return, 0, strlen($return)-1);
?>
```

The script assumes it will be called “readDirectory.php”

The script scans the directory, ignoring itself and the default folder names, and creates a comma separated list of filenames which it echoes back to the calling app.

Save the script file and upload it to the same folder as the songs.

You can test the script by uploading to the web site a song file shared to the Files app, then type:

https://somewebsite.co.uk/songs/readDirectory.php into the browser. You should see a comma-separated list of songs with no line breaks.

Now when you run Set Manager you can enter the website folder and script filename into settings. Finally go to the song library and select 'download'. A list of songs available to download shows up on the right of the screen. Tap the name to download it to your song library.

Every song my band has played over the last 4 years is in our private repository. It's been a great backup. If anything happens to your tablet then just go back to the repository and download the entire library again, or restore a previous backup. You did make a backup, didn't you?.

Future versions of Set Manager may use other sharing services but for the moment AirDrop, email, messages and your own repository are all there are. On the Android version you have QuickShare instead of Airdrop. Let me know if there is a service you would like to see integrated into the App via setmanager@roguegroup.co.uk

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The author has been gigging in bands since schooldays, usually on bass. He writes educational, event and data management software and builds AI models for fun. The latest app, Set Manager, has been used by his current band during its two year development. It's time to release it into the wild to see what happens.