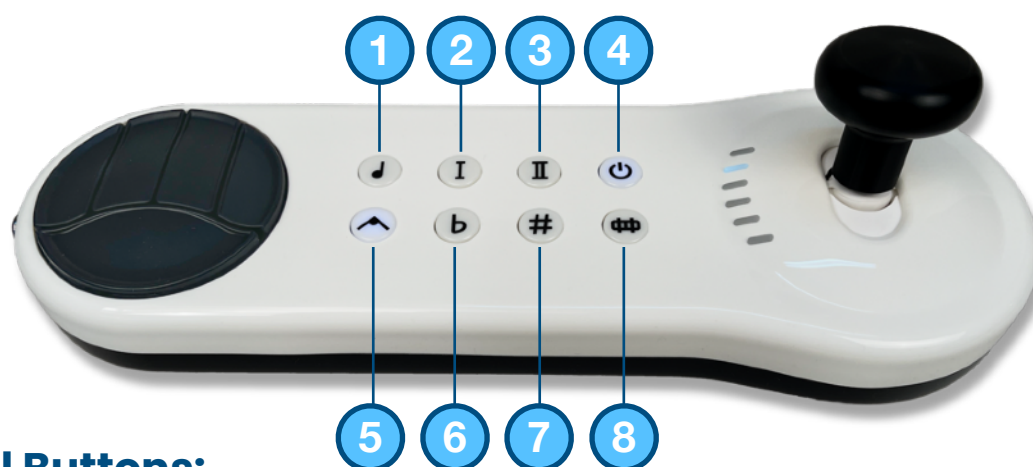


Arcana Strum – 10 Lesson Tutorial

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Buttons Overview

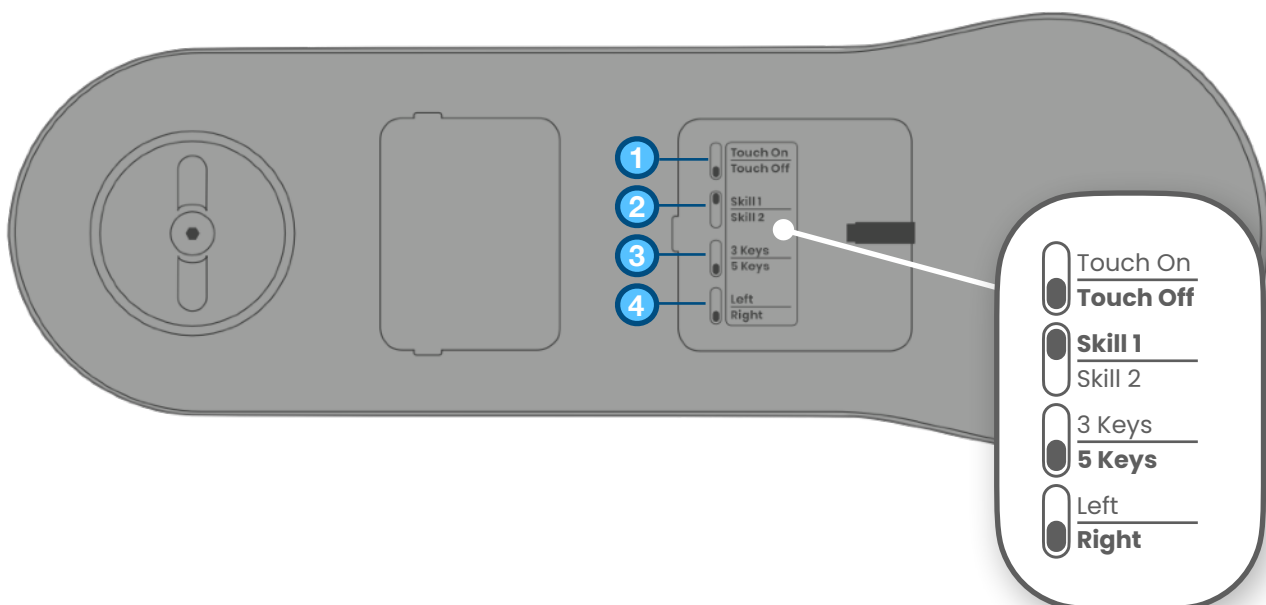


Panel Buttons:

- 1 Harmony / Melody playing mode**
 - Press to switch between Melody and Harmony playing modes.
 - When this button is ON, the instrument is in Melody playing mode for playing separate note, tunes and solos.
 - When this button is OFF, the instrument is in Harmony playing mode for strumming chords.
- 2 Mode I**
 - When the instrument is in Melody playing mode, selecting this button sets the instrument to a fixed Pentatonic scale.
 - When the instrument is in Harmony playing mode, selecting this button arranges the strings like finger-playing arpeggio guitar accompanying styles.
- 3 Mode II**
 - When the instrument is in Melody playing mode, selecting this button sets the instrument to a fixed Blues scale.
 - When the instrument is in Harmony playing mode, this enables open-string strumming, even when keys are not pressed.
- 4 Power**
 - Long press to turn ON or OFF
 - Short press to reset the instrument to Harmony Guitar mode.
 - During pressing of the Power button, battery level is displayed by the Strum stick lights.
- 5 Sustain**
 - Select this for playing long or short notes.
 - When turned ON, notes will have longer duration.
- 6 7 Transpose Down or Up**
 - Each press of the Flat or Sharp buttons transposes the instrument by one semi-tone.
 - A long press, transposes by a full octave.
 - Pressing both buttons simultaneously returns the instrument to its original setting.
- 8 Septa-chord**
 - In Harmony playing mode, selecting this button expands chords beyond basic triads.
 - In Melody playing mode, a minor-harmonic scale is selected.

Configuration switches

- 1 **Touch On/Off** – Dynamic playing. It is recommended to set this to Off for beginners.
- 2 **Skill 1/2** – Skill 1 sets the instrument appropriate for beginners. Skill 2 sets the instrument as a full-range two and a half octave chromatic instrument for individuals who want to take their music playing to a professional level.
- 3 **3/5 Keys** – When installing the 3-Keys accessory, set this switch to access the 3-Key method. Otherwise, this should always be set to 5 Keys.
- 4 **Left/Right** – Set this to correspond to the hand that controls the Strum Stick. When Left is selected, the string arrangement is adjusted to place the bass string closes to the musician.



Connecting to Apple Mac or Windows PC



1

Attach the Strum handle firmly in place. It's OK to apply force while pushing down on the handle.



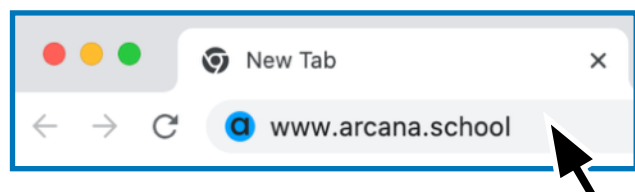
2

Connect the Arcana Strum to a computer with the included USB cable.



3

Open a web browser and go to www.arcana.school
Works on Chrome, Edge or Brave.



If a pop-up message appears asking to confirm a MIDI device, click **Allow**.

4

Power on the Arcana Strum by pressing the Power button for 3 seconds.



5

Move the Strum Stick forward and back while pressing down on any key. You should be hearing the Arcana Strum playing on your computer. Find songs and lessons here www.arcana.school



Connecting to Apple GarageBand on iOS Devices



Introduction

GarageBand is a powerful and user-friendly music creation app available on iOS devices. One of its standout features is the ability to connect MIDI devices, such as keyboards, drum pads, and controllers, via Bluetooth. This tutorial will guide you through the steps required to connect the Arcana Strum to GarageBand on your iOS device.

Requirements

Before you begin, ensure you have an iOS device (iPhone or iPad) running the latest version of GarageBand. GarageBand is available to download for free on the Apple app-store.

Step-by-Step Guide

Click to watch a video tutorial: <https://arcanainstruments.com/connecting-garageband-video>

Step 1: Prepare the Arcana Strum

1. Power On the Arcana Strum:

- Press the Power button until button lights turn on.

Step 2: Enable Bluetooth on Your iOS Device

1. Open Settings:

- On your iOS device, go to “Settings”.

2. Enable Bluetooth:

- Tap “Bluetooth” and ensure it is turned on.

Step 3: Connect Your Arcana Strum to GarageBand

1. Open GarageBand:

- Launch the GarageBand app on your iOS device.

2. Create or Open a Project:

- Create a new project or open an existing one.

3. Access Bluetooth MIDI Devices:

- Tap the “Settings” icon (gear icon) in the upper right corner of the GarageBand interface.

4. Select Bluetooth MIDI Devices:

- Tap “Advanced” and then “Bluetooth MIDI Devices”.

5. Connect your Arcana Strum:

- Your Arcana Strum should appear in the list. Tap on its name to connect. Once connected, you can start using your Strum with GarageBand.

Step 4: Verify the Connection

- Move the strum-stick handle forward and back, while pressing down on any key on the Arcana Strum keypad. You should hear the Arcana Strum playing a musical chord through your Apple iOS device.

To learn more about GarageBand, playing different sounds, recording and editing, visit the official Apple GarageBand support page: <https://support.apple.com/garageband>

Your First Songs



Harmony Mode

Let's play the chorus of "Let it be" by The Beatles

1. Set Arcana Strum to Harmony mode

- A short press of the Power button, sets the Arcana Strum to Harmony Guitar mode.

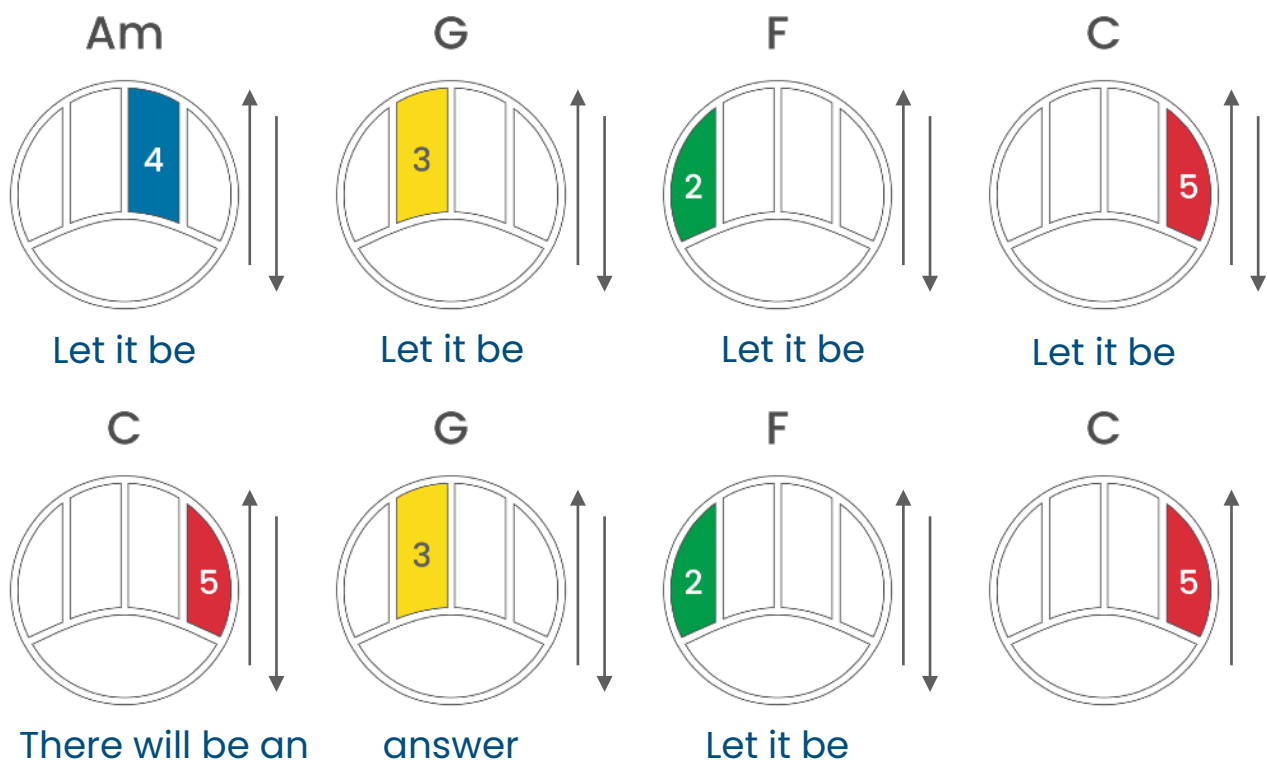


2. Chord strumming

- Press a chord key as shown below, while moving the Strum Stick all the way forward and back.
- For this song, you can use one finger to play chords as shown below.
- Keep in mind to lift your finger up from the keys before playing the next chord. Playing with more than one key pressed will play a different chord than the one intended.



* The numbers indicated on the color-keys are intended to assist visually impaired individuals who have difficulty following the color codes.



[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)



Melody Mode

Let's play Jingle Bells

1. Set Arcana Strum to Melody mode

- Press the Melody button, to set the Arcana Strum to Melody playing mode.



2. Select the second string

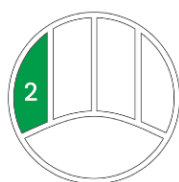
- Place the strum stick on the 2nd string.

3. Play the notes

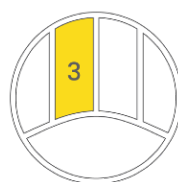
- Press the finger keys one by one corresponding to the colors below.



DO



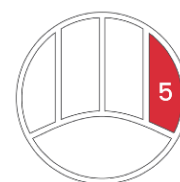
RE



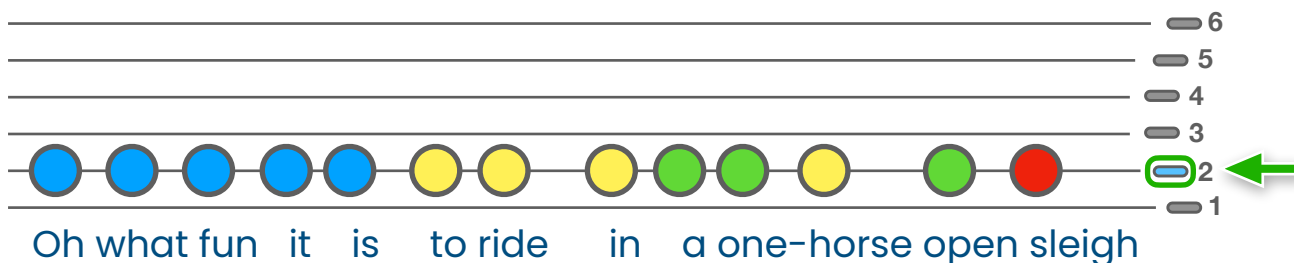
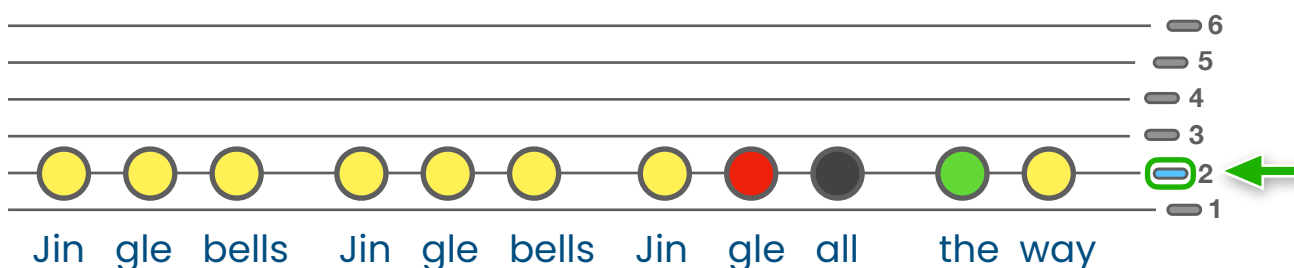
MI



FA



SOL



[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)

Harmony Method



Triad Chords

When the Arcana Strum is set to Harmony mode, it is tuned like an open-chord guitar. Combinations of presses by one or more fingers on the keys create different tuning of the six strings of the strum handle to create triad chords in a range much like those of a guitar.

1. Check instrument configuration

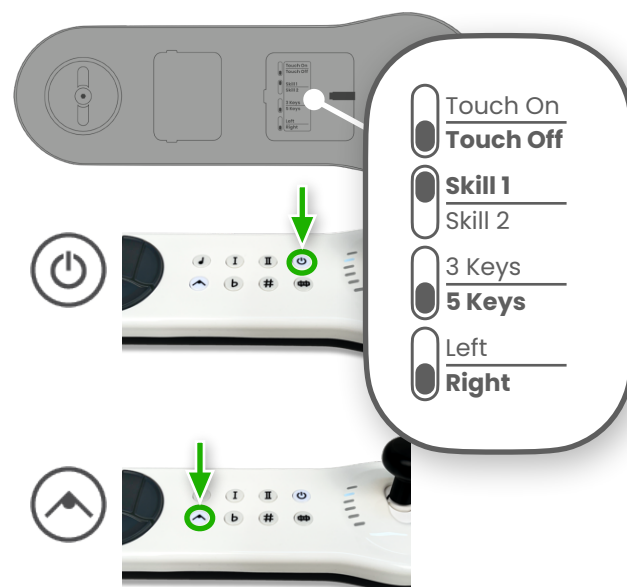
- Confirm that the slide switches on the bottom of the instrument are set to: Touch Off, Skill 1, 5 Keys and Right.

2. Set Arcana Strum to Harmony mode

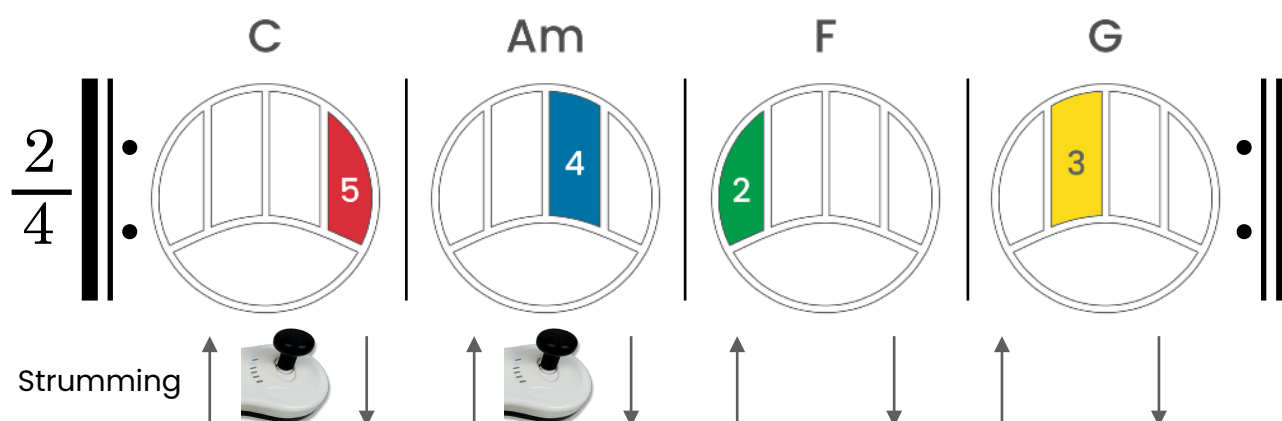
- A short press of the Power button, sets the Arcana Strum to Harmony Guitar mode.

3. Set note duration

- When the Sustain button is On, strummed notes will be played like guitar opened strings. If you play sounds like strings or wind instruments, notes may overlap and sound interfering with the harmony. Experiment with turning Off the duration to fit your style.



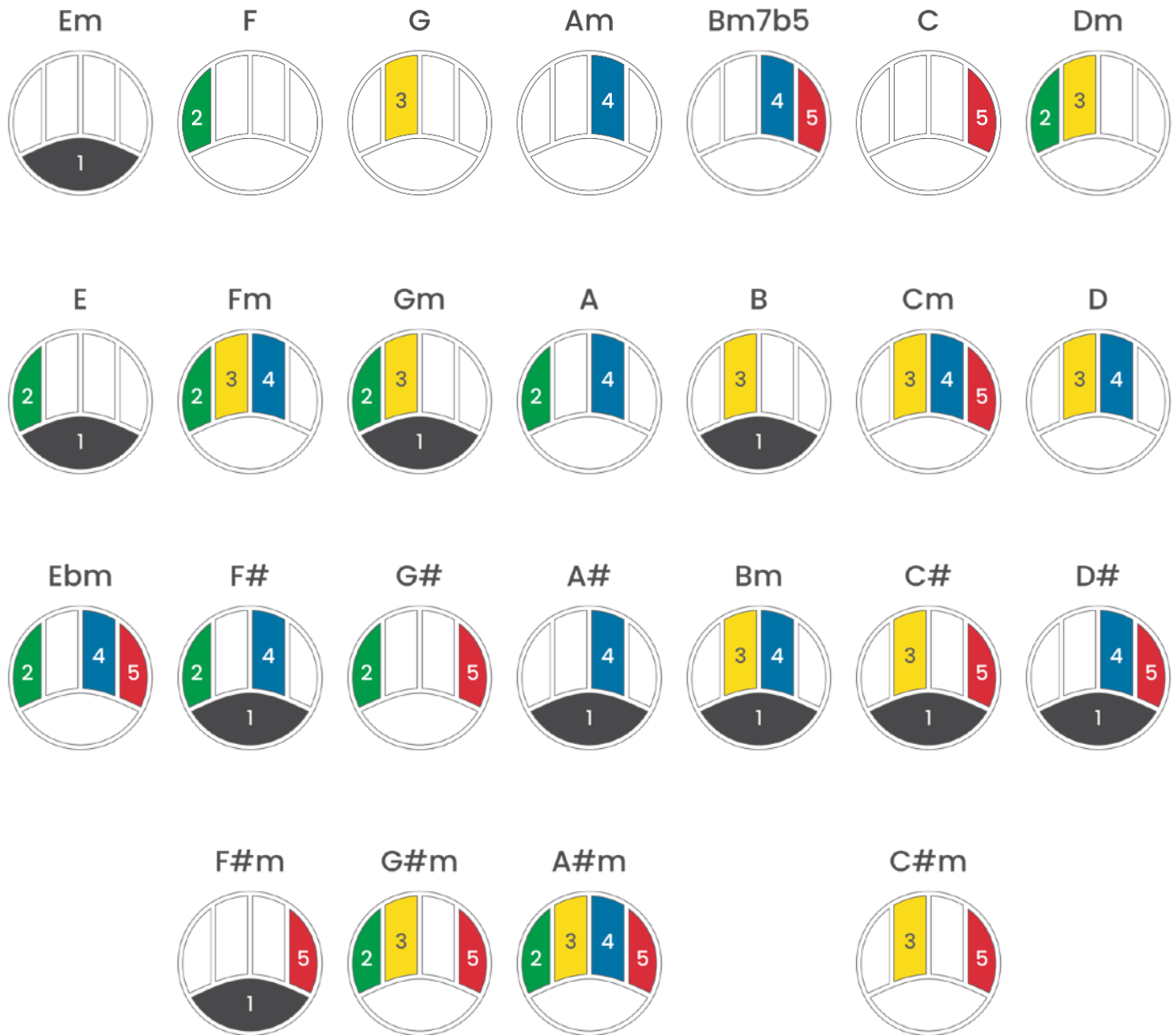
Let's Play Heart & Soul – By Hoagy Carmichael



[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)

Harmony Guitar

Triad Chords





Septa-Chords

When the Septa-chords button is On, the tuning of the strings are set to chords with four different notes. This mode enables playing a variety of genres such as blues and jazz

1. Set Arcana Strum to Harmony mode

- A short press of the Power button, sets the Arcana Strum to Harmony Guitar mode.



2. Turn On Septa-Chords

- Press the Septa-chord button.

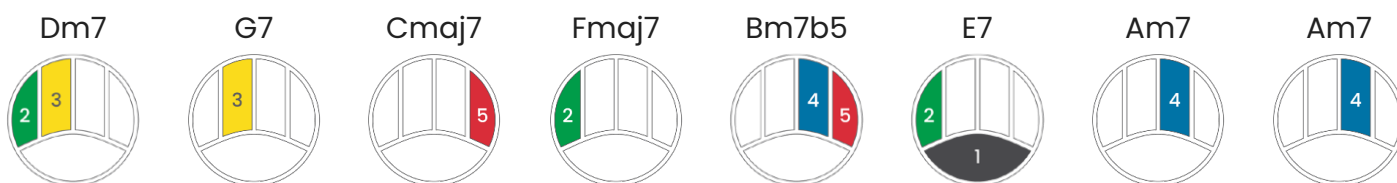


Let's Play Autumn Leaves

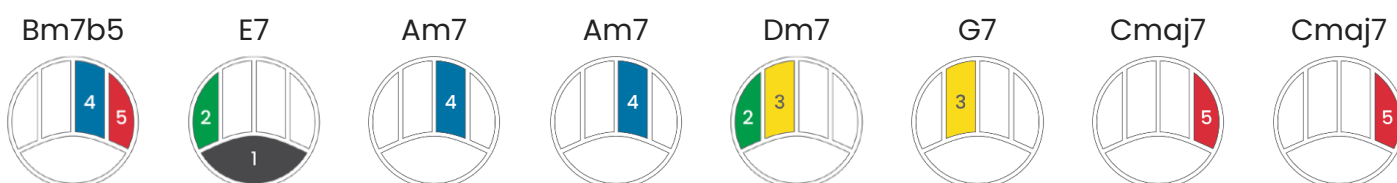
By Jacques Pervert and Joseph Kosma



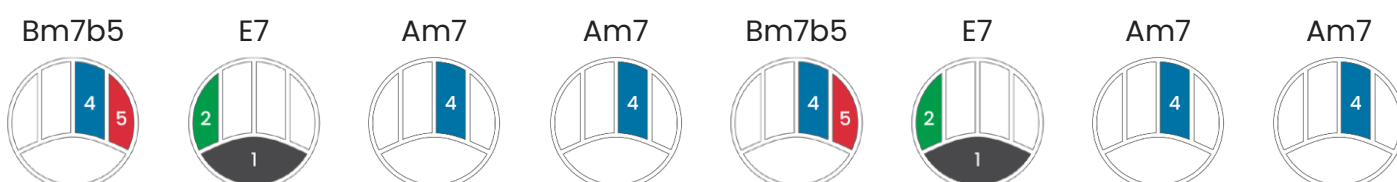
The falling leaves...



I see your lips...



Since you went away...



But I miss you most of all...

[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)

[Click to see more chord options](#)

Melody Method

Melody Playing Mode

When the Arcana Strum is set to Melody mode, you can play separate notes. The Arcana Strum has note tunings for preset scales like Diatonic, Pentatonic and Blues scales, which makes playing easy and fun for beginners. As you progress with your skills, you can set the instrument to Skill 2 and tune the instrument to a full-range two and a half octave chromatic instrument, to play complex melodies beyond fixed scales.

1. Check instrument configuration

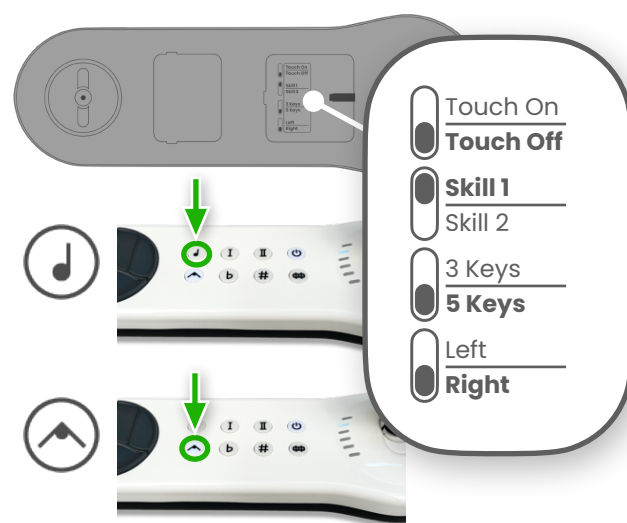
- Confirm that the slide switches on the bottom of the instrument are set to: Touch Off, Skill 1, 5 Keys and Right.

2. Set Arcana Strum to Melody mode

- Press the Melody button to turn it On.

3. Disable note sustain

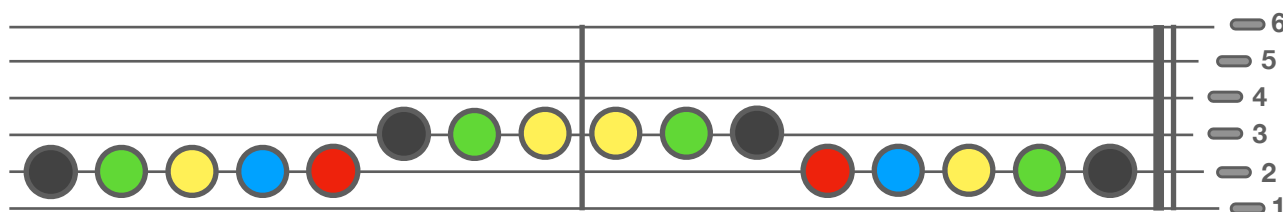
- When playing in Melody mode, turn Off the Sustain button. Duration of notes will continue as long as you press the keys, and will stop when you release your finger from the key.



Diatonic Scale – C Major and A minor Scales

When Skill 1 is set on the bottom of the instrument, the tuning for Melody mode is set as the C Major scale without Flats or Sharps and provides four octaves of melody playing.

Let's play the C Major scale on two strings





Arcana melody notation



Let's play Ode to Joy

Beethoven symphony no. 9

Four staves of Arcana melody notation for 'Ode to Joy' by Beethoven. Each staff has a 6-line grid with a 1-6 scale indicator on the right. The notation uses colored circles and rounded rectangles to represent notes and rests.

Staff 1: Yellow, Yellow, Blue, Red, Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black, Black, Green, Yellow, Yellow, 1/8 note, Green rounded rectangle.

Staff 2: Yellow, Yellow, Blue, Red, Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black, Black, Green, Yellow, Green, 1/8 note, Black rounded rectangle.

Staff 3: Green, Green, Yellow, Black, Green, 1/8 note, Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, 1/8 note, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black, Green, Red rounded rectangle.

Staff 4: Yellow, Yellow, Blue, Red, Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black, Black, Green, Yellow, Green, 1/8 note, Black rounded rectangle.

Let's Play Heart & Soul By Hoagy Carmichael

Two staves of Arcana melody notation for 'Heart & Soul' by Hoagy Carmichael. Each staff has a 6-line grid with a 1-6 scale indicator on the right. The notation uses colored circles and rounded rectangles to represent notes and rests.

Staff 1: Yellow, Yellow, Yellow rounded rectangle, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, Blue, Red, Red, Red rounded rectangle, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, Black.

Staff 2: Green rounded rectangle, Yellow rounded rectangle, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, 1/8 note, Red, Blue, Yellow, 1/8 note, Black, 1/8 note, Red, Blue, 1/8 note, Green, Red.

[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)

The Blues Scale Preset

When the Arcana Strum is set to Melody mode, and Preset Mode II is selected, the instrument melody notes are set to six notes of the blues scale, very popular with Western and American music.

1. Check instrument configuration

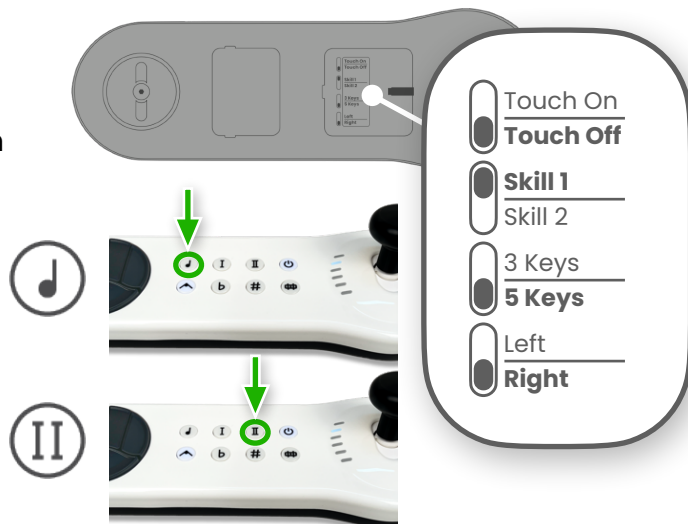
- Confirm that the slide switches on the bottom of the instrument are set to: Touch Off, Skill 1, 5 Keys and Right.

2. Set Arcana Strum to Melody mode

- Press the Melody button to turn it On.

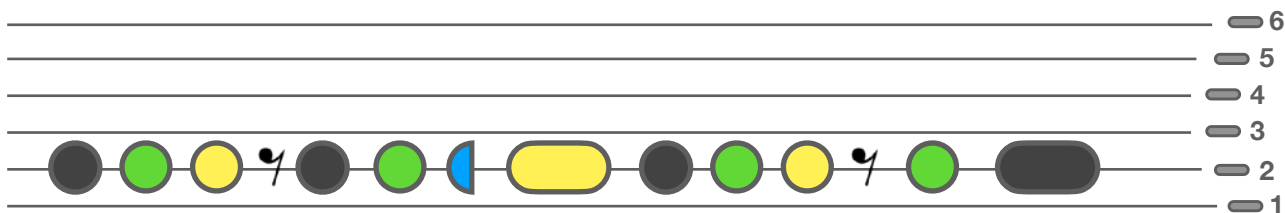
3. Select Preset Mode II

- Turn On Preset Mode II button to set the instrument to a fixed blues scale.



Let's play Smoke on the Water

By Deep Purple



[Click this link to see a video demonstration](#)



[Click to see more playing styles and techniques](#)



[Click to see playing of a chromatic scale like guitar frets](#)

[Click to see more scale options](#)



Accessibility Features



Arcana Strum accessibility features

1. Instrument width

- The Arcana Strum was designed to fit between the handles of a standard wheelchair. It can be rested on an individual's lap.
- A standard guitar strap can be used to keep the instrument from falling.

2. Big function buttons

- Buttons are designed to be controlled by a person's thumb, elbow or fist.

3. High contrast

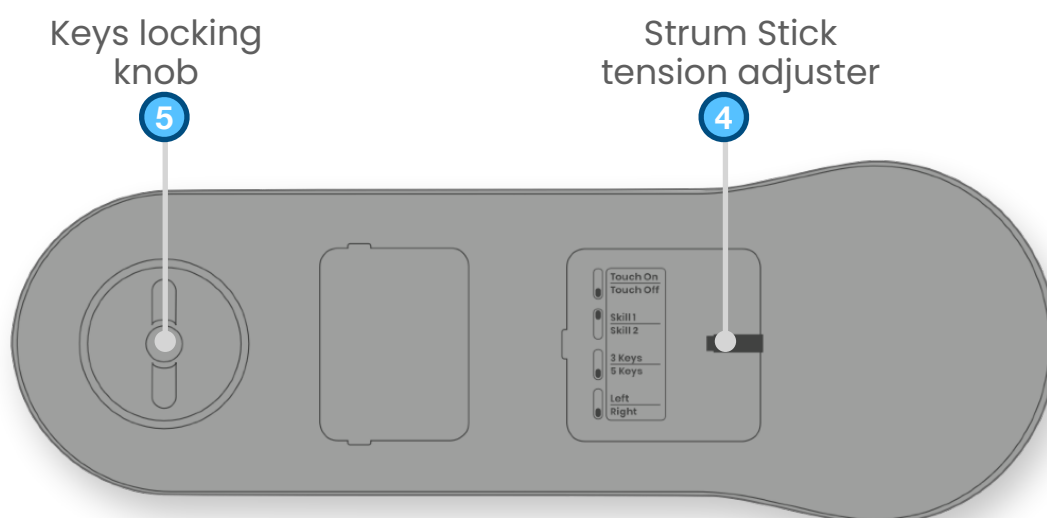
- The high contrast black and white design make the instrument easier to control for people who are visually impaired.

4. Adjustable stick tension

- Turn the Strum Stick tension adjuster clockwise to increase the resistance of the Strum Stick. This assists individuals with involuntary movement to play intended strings.
- Turn the Strum Stick tension adjuster counterclockwise to ease the resistance of the Strum Stick. This makes strumming easier for individuals with low muscle tone.

5. Set keys position

- Turn the key locking knob counterclockwise to enable pivoting of the keys to accommodate different hand positions.
- Pivot the keys 180 degrees to enable left-handed strumming.
- After setting the keys position, turn the key locking knob clockwise to lock its position.



[Click to see animation](#)

Add-On Accessories



Strum Stick Handles

Arcana offers a variety of handles to accommodate different abilities.



Y-Handle
with strap



Flat Handle
with strap



Ball handle



Narrow handle

[Click to see usage examples](#)

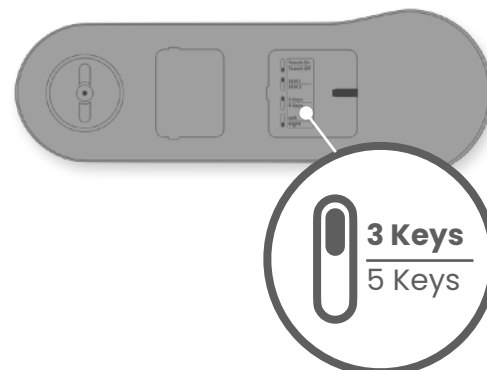


Three Keys

Arcana offers a 3-Keys replacement for the standard keys. This is suitable for individuals who require a bigger key surface and for those who require simpler playing and notation methods.

1. Check instrument configuration

- Confirm that the slide switches on the bottom of the instrument are set to: Touch Off, Skill 1 and Right.



2. Switch to 3-Keys mode

- Set the switch on the bottom of the instrument to 3-Keys.

3. Replace the keys

- The standard keys are held in place by magnets.
- Pull the keys out from the base and insert the Big Keys in place.



4. Set Arcana Strum to Melody mode

- Press the Melody button to turn it On.



[Click to see how to install](#)

Let's play Mary Had a Little Lamb

Yellow	Red	Black	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

6
5
4
3
2
1

Yellow	Red	Black	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Black

6
5
4
3
2
1



E-Box

Connecting external switches and sensors

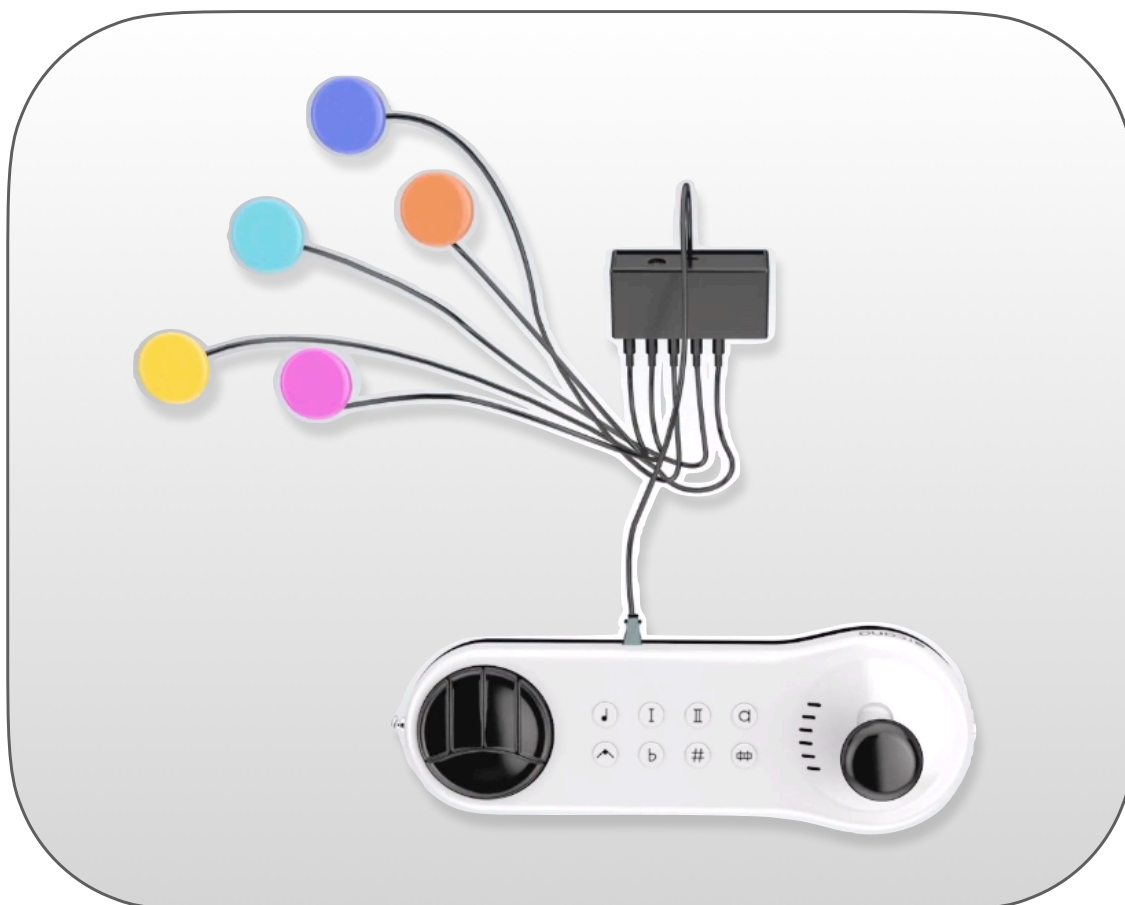
The E-Box enables connecting of standard assistive technology switches and sensors to control the Arcana Strum, making it playable for people with even very limited physical abilities. Switches copy the functionality of the instrument's keys and can be played by head, feet, chin or wherever there is controlled movement.

1. Connect switches to E-Box

- Connect switches' mini-jacks to the E-Box to their corresponding color sockets.

2. Connect E-Box to Strum

- Connect the E-Box to the Arcana Strum with an HDMI cable (included with the accessory).

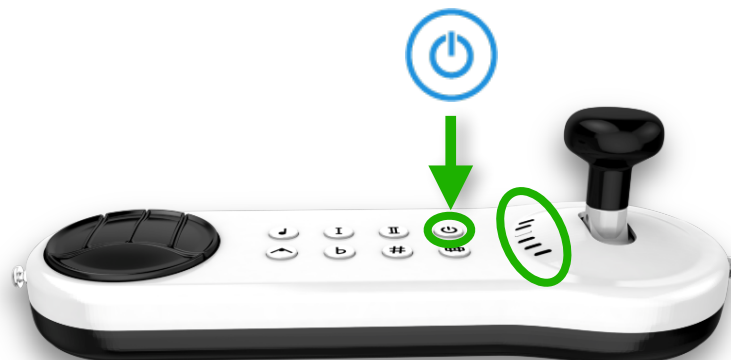


[Click to see a demo of playing with external switches](#)

Advanced Functions

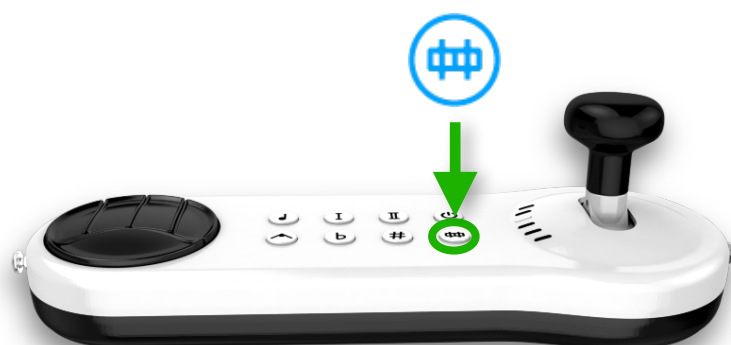
Checking Battery Status

Hold down the Power button for 2 seconds to display the battery level. When all 6 Strum LEDs are on, this indicates that the battery is fully charged.



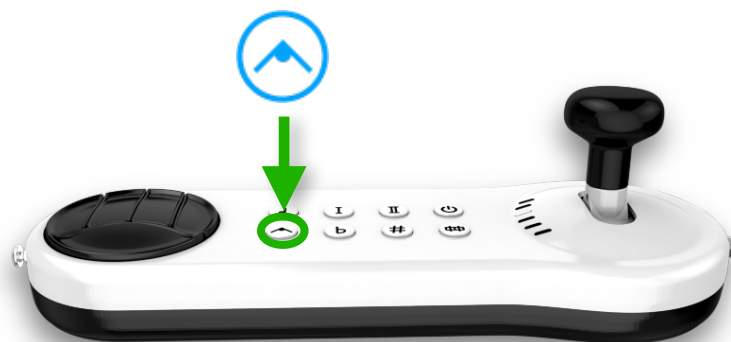
Disable Auto-Off

When not connected to USB power, the Arcana Strum will automatically turn off after 5 minutes of inactivity to conserve battery power. To disable this feature, hold down the Septa-chord button until all buttons light up.



Disable Function Buttons and Lights

If you wish to avoid accidental pressed of buttons or reduce distraction of function button lights, hold down the Sustain button until all button lights turn off. Strum LEDs will still be working. To re-enable buttons and lights, restart the Arcana Strum.

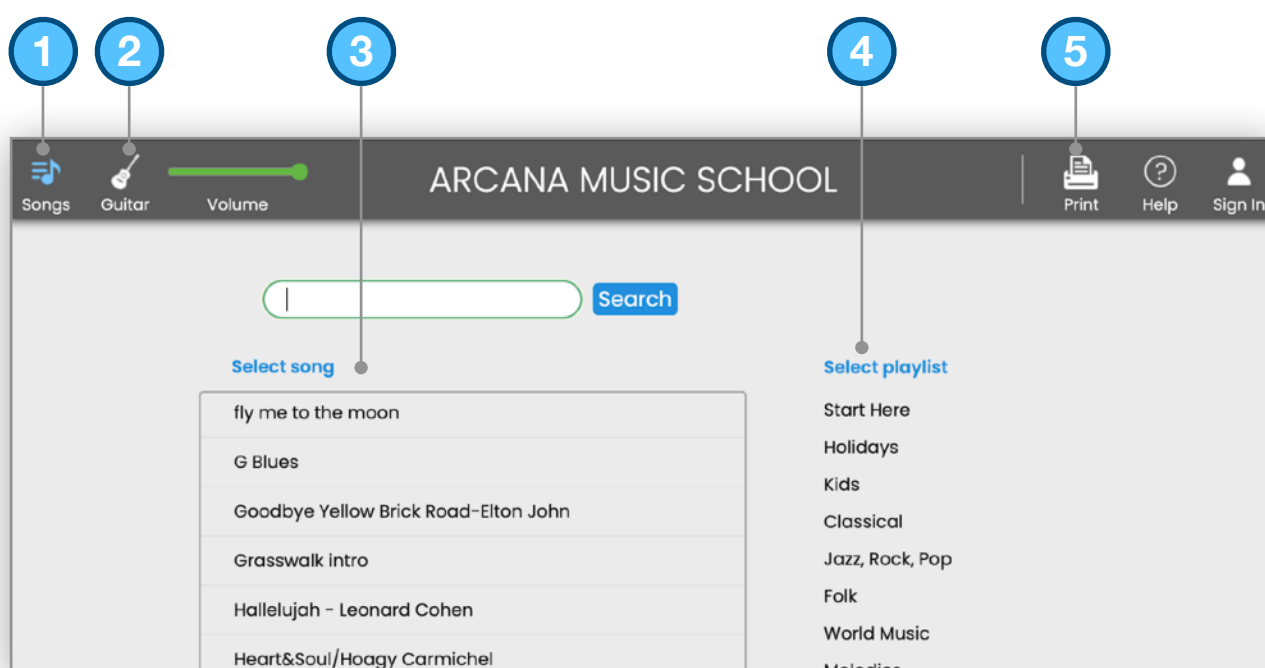


Arcana Online Music School

[HTTPS://WWW.ARCANA.SCHOOL](https://www.arcana.school)

Sheet music and exercises created by a community of teachers

- 1 **Browse the library**
 - List and search for songs.
- 2 **Select an instrument**
 - Choose a guitar, piano flute or cello.
- 3 **Select a song**
 - Search or scroll through the list of songs.
 - Click to select and load the desired song.
 - Pull the keys out from the base and insert the Big Keys in place.
- 4 **Select from playlist**
 - Click a playlist.
 - Select a song from the list.
- 5 **Print song**
 - Print or save as PDF.



Support Resources

We're here to help

1. E-mail

- hello@arcanainstruments.com

2. Website

- <https://www.arcanainstruments.com>

3. Website – Support page

- <https://www.arcanainstruments.com/support>

4. Downloadable manuals

- [Quick Start Guide](#)
- [Musical Guidelines](#)
- [Theory and Song Book](#)
- [Connect to Arcana Music School](#)
- [Advanced Features](#)

5. YouTube channel

- <https://www.youtube.com/@ArcanaInstruments>

6. Instagram DM

- https://www.instagram.com/arcana_instruments/

