ChordInk Cheat Sheet

Header

The header takes the following elements

- @pages → declares the number of pages. If not specified the file will contain one page.
  Es. @pages:2
- @title → self explanatory. Es. @title:Yesterday
- @author → self explanatory. Es. @author:Beatles
- @style → this could take on a number of functions, it's a breif description in parenthesis before the actual song starts, could give info on style, genre, speed, etc.
  Es. @style:Ballad

  Here's a full header example:

  @pages:2
  @title:Yesterday
  @author:Beatles
  @style:Ballad

Barlines & Line Break

A simple "|" acts as barline es. |G |F |

Different types of barline can be achieved by adding a number before the right barline of the measure. There are 5 different kinds of barline:

- "|" simple barline → self explanatory
- "2|" double barline → self explanatory |F |G 2|
- "3|" end barline → last barline of the piece |F |G 3|
- "4|" left repeat barline → **even though this will add an opening repeat barline to the left, the syntax always takes the number on the right barline of the measure**
- "5|" right repeat line → this closes the repeated section
  es. |C 4|G 5|
- Following any type of barline with a lower case "b" will result in a line break. Line breaks are not automatic, **they must be set manually**
  es. |C |F 2|b

Time Signature

The time signature must be written inside the song measures. The first one written declares the global time signature, but it can be changed by just adding a new one inside the changing measure.
it takes the function @time. Es. |@time:4/4 G D |C |

Chord Input

The chord input works by declaring the root note of a chord, followed by chord quality symbols.

- If you write just the root note it will display the chord as major
- To write a minor chord just put the letter "m" next to the root note (es. Gm). **The signs + or - are not recognized as valid chord qualifiers**
- Seven chords work with a maj7 qualifier for major and m7 for minor (es. Cmaj7 Gm7). The maj7 will be displayed with a delta sign (Cmaj7 → CΔ)
- m7b5 will result in a half-dimished symbol (es. Gm7b5 → Gø)
- dim will result in a dimished symbol (es. Gdim → Go or Gdim7 → Go7)
- Any numeral extension works the same as the seventh. (es. Gm9, C69, D13 etc.)
- Altered extensions take # and b sign (es. G7#11, D7b9). Plus and minus signs do not work as qualifiers.
- Any chord that requires word qualifiers just get written adding it after the root note (es. Cadd9, Fsus4 etc.)
- Slash chords are just written with root note, a slash and the bass note (es.F/G)
- Inside any measure, inserting a comma will result in a rhytmh bar that behaves like a chord space wise.
  Es. | C , , G | F |
  In this case we will have a C on one, rhythm bars on two and three, G on four. |C / / G |F |

Spacing & Staves

As already indicated, a "|b" will cause a line break
Line breaks, space breaks and spacing between rows are **set manually**.

- @space creates a space between chord rows. It's useful to avoid collisions between text and markers elements (see below) or to separate the song's sections.
- @pagebreak causes a pagebreak. In order to work **at least two pages must be set on the header.**

  The use of staves and tabs work the same as spacing functions.

The app does not support writing on staves and tabs, but you can add them if you need to note a short melody or riff by hand, either after printing or with a e-pen.

- @staff adds a blank staff
- @gtab adds a 6 line guitar tab
- @btab adds a 4 line bass tab

These elements can be stacked if you need more than one line.

Text Elements

There are 5 different text elements to mimic the experience of writing a chord sheet by hand. They are:

- @txtR → takes the form @txtR:* content * → creates a text aligned to the right of the current measure
- @txtL → takes the form @txtL:* content * → creates a text aligned to the left of the current measure
- @txtC → takes the form @txtC:* content * → creates a text aligned to the center of the current measure
- @mrk → takes the form @mrk:* content * → creates a squared marker that names sections of the song
- @box → takes the form @box:
  The box is used to add text outside of the chords rows. It takes the line breaks as you write them. You can use this space to add the lyrics of a song or if you need larger explanations. As an added function, if you put text into square brackets, it will show them as a marker. **You can list markers to display the structure of a song**.

  Es.
  @box: [Verse]
  [Pre-Chorus]
  [Chorus]
  [Solo] On chorus changes

  If you write text next to the markers it will appear as regular text, so, as it's shown in the example, you can add comments to the section's markers.

  @txtR, @txtL and @txtC take some special characters:
- /coda gives a coda symbol
- /fermata gives a fermata symbol

- /segno gives a segno symbol
  In addition, if you use square brackets inside the @txtL function it will appear as an ending:
  |@txtL:* [1.] * C D |@txtL:* [2.] * C G |

Transposition

To the right of your chord sheet you will always see the following buttons:


These are the controls for the transposition function.

- If you use the "#" button it will transpose up a semitone for each step and adopt sharps as note alterations
- If you use the "*b*" button it will transpose down a semitone for each step and adopt flats as note alterations
- If you need just some of the chords to change alterations, you can select the single chords you need to change and just reach the same pitch from the other side.
- This is a fast and straight forward system, but it lacks some nuance, since there's no B# or Cb, so, for example, a it's necessary to use a B in the Gb key, instead of Cb.

Chord Positioning

Below the transposition buttons we have two more buttons:


These buttons are used, **once you select a chord or multiple ones**, to move them slightly left or right. This is useful when we have some rhythm notation (see below) and we need to align chords with the rhythm.

Rhythm Notation

The app is able to display simple rhythm notation under the chord rows, in order to add some accents or chord displacements.
It works by adding the rhythm syntax inside a measure using curly brackets.
| C D {4+r8+8+r2} |
It works by uploading prerendered images, so you'll have to add every single element separeted by a "+" sign. The elements are as divided into basic ones and compound ones.
Basics are:

- 1 → whole note
- 2 → half note

- 4 → quarter note
- 8 → eight note
- 16 → sixteen note

  Rests are achieved by adding a lower case "r" before the number (es. r1, r8, etc)
  Dotted notes are achieved by adding a period after the number (es. 4., 8., etc)
  Tied notes are achieved by adding a "t" after the number (es. 4t, 8t, etc)
  Dots and ties can be used togheter, with the period preceeding the "t" (es. 4.t, 8.t, etc)
  The example already shown demonstrate this process:
  | C D {4+r8+8+r2} |
  

The compound one are basically all the beamed figures, and they work by putting the basic notes side by side, without the plus sign, creating a new number:
Here's few examples

- 88 → two beamed eight notes
- 81616 → an eight note followe by two sixteen notes
- 168. → a sixteen note followed by a dotted eight note
- 16161616 → 4 sixteen notes
- 16168t → two sixteen notes followed by an eight note and tied to the next note
- 1616+r16+16 two beamed sixteen notes, followed by a 16 rest and a single sixteen note

|C D {16168t+4+r8+8+168.}|


As you may already see, the combinations are many, try some out or refer to the videos for more.
Last, but not least, you can add triplets by inscribing the elements inside parenthesis, preceeded by the number 3.
|C D {16168t+4+r8+8+3(888)}|


> This feature is useful for simple rhythm, and it's not by any means complete, so if you need more, it's advised to maybe add a staff under the chord row and handwrite what you need, or use a proper notation software.

> Last important feature is being aware that changing the **time signature** changes the spacing of the rhythm accordingly. So, if you need any, make sure of having the correct time signature written at the start of the piece. If you change time signature mid song, spacing will change consequently.