

Liquid Notes Opens Harmony To Producers Of Electronic Music

Liquid Notes is the first of a new generation of tools algorithmically supporting creativity that represents the future of music making. It turns you into an expert in harmony, which is the "unused musical weapon", according to Chilly Gonzales, one of the major collaborators to Daft Punk's latest album "Random Access Memories". The software can free your mind within seconds, helping you to freshen up your musical ideas with out-of-the-box thinking and to spice up the ingredients, rather than being stuck with creative stagnation.

A minimalist interface leaves no room for visual distractions. Decisions and changes are made by what you hear, not what you see. This makes it simple to use and a lot of fun.

Few musicians can afford the time and money to acquire enough expertise in harmony, the crucial element in music that dictates so much of what listeners feel, effectively causing the strongest emotional reactions. In addition, millions of young bedroom and up-and-coming producers that really need help in arranging chords and scales.

Liquid Notes opens up an entirely new paradigm of freedom and unlimited creativity in music creation through the use of pioneering technology. It makes harmony accessible to producers.

An Artificial Intelligence capturing the broad spectrum of the theory of harmony (i.e. chords, scales, and harmonic movement) enables the software to read and interpret your songs like a professional composer goes about it. A single window displaying a series of vertical sliders ("controllers") on a timeline representing the chord changes throughout the piece is enough to display your song. Move a controller vertically up or down to obtain new chords, turn it to add more sound color (tension), or change chord functions to build more tension and release in the harmonic movement. Listen to the playback and make decisions and changes based on what you hear, not primarily on what you see.

Liquid Notes is a new and original idea. It combines three important elements in one product:

- (1) AI algorithms replicating human perception for harmony analysis, reharmonization, and melody creation/improvisation
- (2) An intuitive and simple graphical user interface translating even complex harmonic structure into easily manageable building blocks
- (3) Educational qualities to explore harmony and melody, and to extend one's knowledge.

Watch Chilly Gonzales talking about the power and importance of harmony
<http://youtu.be/Kc3I0Ent9Zg>

Press release source: <http://www.redorbit.com/news/general/1112891058/daft-punkinabox-a-musical-playground-for-producers/>

Below is a review of Liquid Notes -

<http://www.musictech.net/2013/05/re-compose-liquid-notes-review/>

Creative stagnation is experienced by all of us at one time or another. Everything we write sounds similar – not necessarily bad, just dull. The reasons behind it vary from person to person, but it's usually a result of travelling down well-worn musical paths that we are comfortable with – phrases, licks and chord sequences that fall under the fingers. The remedy is some out-of-the-box thinking to freshen up our ideas and spice up the ingredients.

Liquid Notes does exactly that by analysing harmonies, substituting chords, altering their function, adding tension, building progressions and delivering suggestions. It works on all platforms and can be used standalone with its own built-in synth or in conjunction with a DAW and external virtual instruments.

All work in Liquid Notes takes place in the realm of MIDI. MIDI files from a DAW or sequencer are first imported into Liquid Notes, where they undergo a process of harmonic analysis. For this to work correctly a composition must contain a harmony track. That might be a piano or guitar track or a specially prepared chord track.

The interface is minimal and all editing takes place in a single window consisting of a series of vertical sliders (controllers) on a timeline. From left to right these controllers represent the chord changes heard throughout the piece. New chords are obtained by sliding the controllers vertically upwards. The higher they go, the more unconventional the substitute chord becomes. A transport bar completes an otherwise minimalist interface – no notation and no piano-roll or other visual distractions. Upon listening to the playback, decisions and changes are made according to what you hear, not what you see.

We're always dubious of any software that claims to help with composition and didn't initially regard Liquid Notes any differently. However, we warmed to it very quickly. It's simple to use and, quite honestly, a lot of fun. One of the demo videos likened it to a musical playground and it's an accurate analogy. It's not perfect, and the constant exporting/importing of MIDI files and configuring settings becomes tedious after a while. Neither can it handle complex music structures, like classical counterpoint and so on. That said, it's an excellent tool for writing electronic music such as house and trance as well as other popular styles.

Verdict

- + Fun to use
- + Great inspirational tool
- + Good for electro styles
- Not suitable for complex styles
- MIDI settings long-winded
- Latency with built-in synth

When you're stuck for ideas, Liquid Notes will get you moving and help you complete your composition. Great fun to use and well suited to electronic pop of all kinds.

Rating - 7/10
Price £139
Contact Best Service +49 (0) 89 45 22 89 224
Web www.re-compose.com

Minimum system requirements

PC Windows XP
Mac OSX 10.6

See a raft of videos introducing you to Liquid Notes here:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LiquidNotesOfficial>

Below is a further review of Liquid Notes -
<http://www.musicradar.com/reviews/tech/re-compose-liquid-notes-582877/>

Re-Compose Liquid Notes - "Songwriting assistant" software
(Computer Music September 10, 2013)

A MIDI-manipulating "songwriting assistant" that works standalone (importing and exporting MIDI files and playing them back using its own built-in synth) but can also be easily coaxed into outputting MIDI to your DAW or soft synths, Liquid Notes uses an intelligent analysis engine to offer a controllable range of alternatives to all the chords and harmonies in an arrangement, be it just a sketch or a full-on track.

Liquid Notes' analysis engine offers a range of alternatives to the chords and harmonies in an arrangement. With your MIDI file loaded (or DAW connected), Liquid Notes instantiates a series of control sliders, representing the progression of chords throughout the piece, with the highlighted sections at the bottom of the controller strips indicating where the chords sound best as determined by the AI.

To change the chord at a given point, simply drag the slider. The further each slider is pushed upwards, the more unconventional its chord becomes, moving progressively further away from its 'balanced tonal centre'.

All of the chords in Liquid Notes are connected, so adjusting one might well change the harmonic context of the next, moving its controller to a new position in order to fit the progression, although not changing the chord itself.

You can add tension notes to chords by holding down Alt while dragging the controllers, and choose between Tonic, Dominant and Sub-dominant chord 'functions', both adding further variation to what is already a pretty expansive system. There's also LN Live mode, in which input MIDI notes (from QWERTY or MIDI keyboard) are snapped to the note grid of the selected Target Scale.

In terms of usable results (and it's easy to get unusable ones if you want to) Liquid Notes doesn't throw out anything particularly complex, although that probably makes it more relevant to the more grounded harmonic approach of electronic music.

It's easy to use, too, considering the fact that it really wants to be a MIDI plugin, which clearly isn't possible given that there's no standard cross-platform format for such things.

Ultimately, with its musical approach and impressive results, Liquid Notes succeeds in enabling deep harmonic manipulation of MIDI arrangements, although the high price will put many potential users off.

MusicRadar Rating - 3.5 stars

Pros - Works brilliantly, particularly with electronic music. Easy to use.

Cons - Price.

Verdict - With its musical approach and impressive results, Liquid Notes succeeds in enabling deep harmonic manipulation of MIDI arrangements.

Below is a further review of Liquid Notes -

<http://www.pluginboutique.com/product/35-Pitch-Shifter/705-Liquid-Notes>

Have a piece analyzed harmonically, at any stage of the composition process. And then rearrange it by substituting chords, altering their function, adding tension, building chord progressions, playing melody lines, improvising, and more. Altogether, this kind of sophisticated deep-level variation and diversification will definitely boost the effect of your music.

Without difficulty, Liquid Notes makes the theory of harmony accessible, pretty much without restriction. And you just use that knowledge in any way you want. The software will not interfere with your style, handwriting, or emotional message. It simply lets you try out new ideas for your compositions within the vast framework of chords and scales. Liquid Notes delivers suggestions, the final outcome is completely up to you.

It is useful for everyone, from professional composers to amateur musicians. Get out of it what you need: ideas, effect, knowledge, or speed. Liquid Notes works on all operating systems and can even route through to the software instruments of the original arrangement in your sequencer.

Just import the MIDI file into Liquid Notes and hit play. Liquid Notes routes the MIDI data back to your sequencer, using all software instruments of your original arrangement. When you have completed the editing process, simply record your music back to your sequencer. Or run it standalone with its built-in synthesizers when you are on the go or want to do some quick prototyping of fresh ideas for new productions.

In The Studio - With its advanced harmony analysis and chord progression algorithms, Liquid Notes will effectively alter chord functions, types, tension, and progressions. Reharmonization has never been easier!

Live Performance - Liquid Notes will correct any wrong notes in a melody played via MIDI keyboard (or even the QWERTY computer keys as used in many sequencer programs). Thanks to its music intelligence you'll never perform live in the wrong key!

Features

- ^ Multi-track control over chord types, functions, and tensions.
- ^ Intelligent harmony progression management.
- ^ LN Live corrects wrong notes as you are playing them.
- ^ Growing selection of music templates in various styles.
- ^ Plays through the software instruments of your preferred sequencer.
- ^ Built-in synthesizers for sequencer-independent operation.
- ^ Standalone application (stay independent from operating system and sequencer type): No VST, AU or RTAS required *
- ^ Works on Windows and Mac OS X
- ^ Connects to any sequencer (Cubase, Logic, Live **, Pro Tools, Sonar, etc.)
- ^ Supports live performance

System Requirements

Java runtime environment 1.6.0.25 or higher.

Win: Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8.

Mac: OS X 10.6 or higher.
