

**Creating Accompaniments Using Band-in-a-Box**  
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**A. Create a chord progression and melody in Band-in-a-Box**

1. Enter the chords by typing or playing on a MIDI keyboard.
  - a. Download TR's Mac or Windows quickstart from [www.tomrudolph.com/handouts](http://www.tomrudolph.com/handouts)
  - b. Number the measures on printed music
  - c. Enter chords using BIAB syntax or enter using the Chord Builder.
  - d. Set the total number of bars and number of repeats
  - e. Select a Style: not just jazz and pop – classical and more.
2. Entering a Melody
  - a. Play live on the keyboard in the BIAB.

Do not attempt to use the step entry options in BIAB!
  - b. Create a melody in Finale or Sibelius.
  - c. Save as a Standard MIDI file
  - d. Import the melody into Band-in-a-Box. Add chords.
3. Import a Standard MIDI file (downloaded from the Web or saved from other music software) into Band-in-a-Box: BIAB will interpret the chords.

**B. Entering a song in 3/4 and with a pick-up bar**

1. Use a 3/4 or Waltz style
2. Entering a song with a pick-up
  - a. Record the pick-up during the drum count-off
  - b. Or create a custom bar with just the correct beats:

Edit > Bar Settings

**C. Creating Harmonizations**

1. Melody and chords entered.
2. Choose a style.
3. From the Harmony menu, select harmony, then Melody Harmony. Choose a melody harmony.
  - a. #76 Four Part, Drop 2
  - b. #18 Superbrass – 4-part Harmony, Trumpet, Alto, Trombone
  - c. #16 Shearing Piano
  - d. others (experiment).

**D. Optional: Add a jazz solo using the Soloist**

1. From the Soloist, choose Generate and Play a Solo

**E. Printing Parts from BIAB and other cool stuff**

1. Click the notation icon
2. Print individual parts as needed
3. Open the Drum set Window – play along
4. Use the Guitar Fretboard display

## **F. Making Accompaniment Files**

1. Mute the parts you do not want to playback or print.  
Mac = Option+Click;  
Windows = Right Click
2. Save the file as a Standard MIDI file: File Menu > Save Standard MIDI
3. Save file to disk – remember where you saved it!
4. Post MIDI files on websites as is.
5. Convert MIDI files to audio in Apple's iTunes
6. Windows can save directly to .wav format in BIAB

## **G. Converting to Notation Open Your Notation Program (Finale or Sibelius)**

1. Create a score for your piece. Copy and paste the parts into the score as needed. From the File menu, choose New
2. From the file menu choose Open and then select the MIDI file you saved.
  - a. Check the Quantization settings – set to allow tuplets and set the lowest note value to an eighth note (in most cases). Finale – Quantization, Sibelius – Options.
3. After the file is open copy and paste the parts from the file into the master score you created. This is much easier than adding and deleting staves.
4. Repeat the above process as needed.

## **H. Copyright considerations (unofficial – TR is not a lawyer)**

1. Do not use software to avoid purchase.
2. Fair use – educational purposes are permitted such as modifying parts for students without changing the nature of the work.
3. Original music and public domain is OK.
4. Chord progressions without melody is not a violation of copyright

## **I. What to purchase (prices from [www.soundtree.com](http://www.soundtree.com)):**

1. BIAB pro - \$79.95 – OK for student stations
2. BIAB megapak - \$195.95 (includes many more styles)
3. Purchase in 5 packs for labs

## **J. Support**

1. Books by Tom Rudolph:
  - a. *Teaching Music With Technology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, GIA publications
  - b. *Finale an Easy Guide*, Berklee Press
  - c. *Sibelius a Comprehensive Guide*, Hal Leonard
2. Courses in music technology offered by TI:ME
  - a. [www.ti-me.org](http://www.ti-me.org) click on Summer Study
3. Take advantage of educational discounts
  - a. [www.soundtree.com](http://www.soundtree.com)