

Play Along Software:

Band-In-A-Box The cheapest current version is \$129. PC or Mac, PG Music.

This is a computer program designed for accompanying a soloist with chords. Although it's capable of doing much more, its main purpose is to provide a steady chordal rhythm. Type in the chords, pick a backing style (bluegrass, old country, swing, etc.) and you can play along with it. You can change tempos and keys with a simple mouse click.

iReal Pro Macs. \$8 for smart phones, \$20 for Macs.

This is a newer and similar program to Band-In-A-Box that works for smart phones and tablets as well

Slowdown Software

Transcribe! \$40 Computer only, Seventh String

This software can slow down recordings, making it way easier to figure out. It also can change the pitch for older out-of-tune recordings so you can play along with them. Also, you can shift the keys of recordings, if you need to practice singing or & with a song in a different key.

Amazing Slowdowner Roni Music \$50 computer, \$15 Smart phone/Tablet

Pretty much the same as Transcribe! except that it also has phone/tablet versions.

Sound Capture Software:

AllMyMusic Wondershare, PC \$19 or Mac \$29

This captures and makes a sound file from anything your computer plays. You can record a song from YouTube or Spotify onto your computer so you can play it back with any slowdown software.

Sound Flowerbed Mac free

Device driver to allow audio/video capture by re-routing streams

Recording Software:

Garage Band., Apple free, Mac, iPhone, iPad

Audacity: free, Windows or Mac

Use this to make multi track professional sounding recordings. Practice and listen back to your solos, played over your chords. Sing harmonies with yourself or a friend. This is a great way to hear yourself. Requires a USB Mic and headphones.

Song Presentation:

OnSong iPad, iPhone, iPod \$14.99

Allows storage of songs on tablet device. Stores pdf's of music, and a special format for words and chords. Replace your binder with a tablet, and allows you to change keys on the fly (and with Capos)

Chord Pro Buddy Mac only (\$10)

Create and edit Chord Pro files with words and chords

Streaming Services:

Spotify: All devices, will play specific songs on demand. Premium version is \$10/month and allows one to store a large number of songs on any device - no need for internet access.

Pandora: Used more for exploring music. You identify music you like, and it's algorithms finds and plays similar music. Great for folks new to bluegrass or old-time. Paid service (ad free is called Pandora One - \$5/month.

Music Publishing:

TablEdit is for writing out both music and tablature. Mac and Windows: \$60

Metronome:

Tempo: iPhone - \$3, Android - \$1.25

Tuning:

insTunerlight iPhone, Android, Free