

NoteWarp - User Manual



Version 1.0.0





► Welcome

NoteWarp generates MIDI variations from your input. Record a melody, pick an algorithm, get fresh ideas. That's it.

We've all been there. 2 AM, deadline tomorrow, and your melody sounds like a ringtone from 2005. NoteWarp is here to help you escape that creative black hole.

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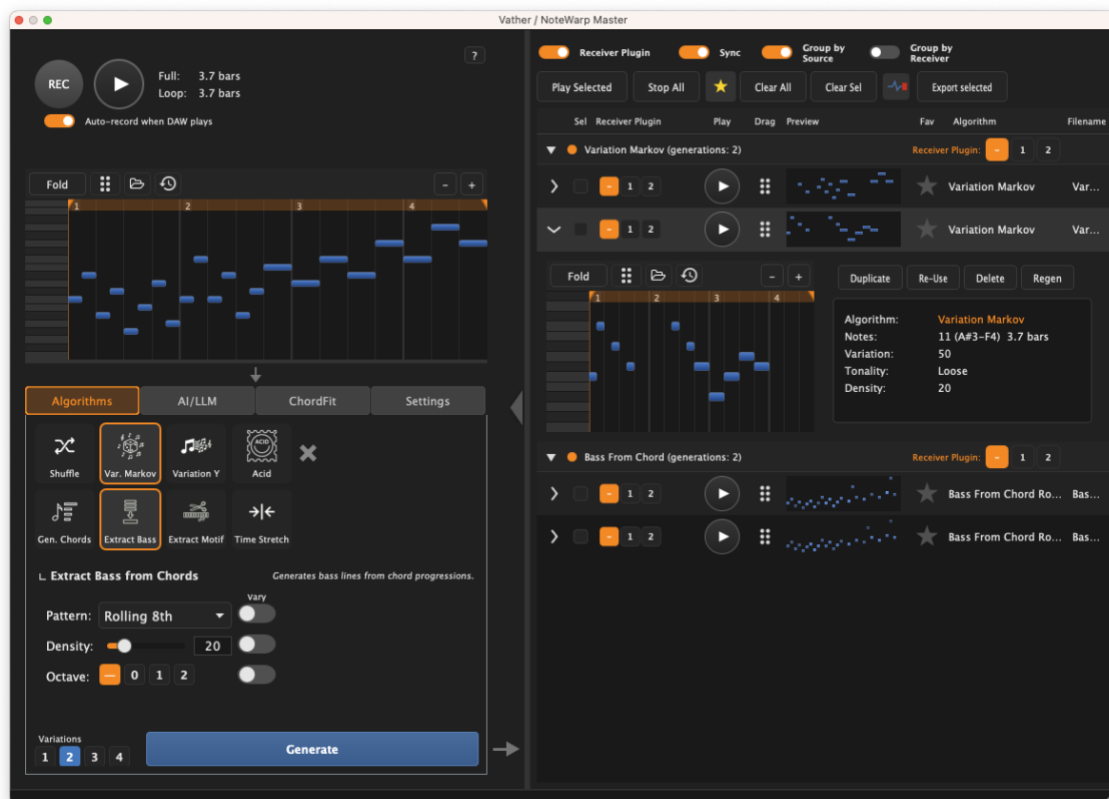
Quick Start

Your first variation in 30 seconds:

1. **Record** - Hit the red button and play something into your DAW
2. **Generate** - Pick an algorithm and click "Generate"
3. **Use it** - Drag the result into your DAW or hit Play to preview

That's the whole workflow. Everything else is just seasoning.

> **Pro tip:** Enable "Auto-Record" and NoteWarp starts recording automatically when your DAW plays. No more "wait, was I recording?"



► Recording

► MIDI Recording

The big red button. You know what it does.

- **Manual mode:** Click to start, click to stop

- **Auto-Record:** Toggle it on, and recording starts automatically when your DAW plays. Stops when the DAW stops. Magic.

The piano roll shows what you recorded. If it looks wrong, you probably played it wrong. (Just kidding. Mostly.)

► Audio Transcription

NoteWarp can also listen to audio and convert it to MIDI notes. This is experimental - think of it as your AI intern who's trying their best.



Works well for:

- Simple melodies
- Monophonic lines
- Beatboxing (yes, really)

Works less well for:

- Full mixes
- Complex polyphony
- Your roommate's cat walking on the keyboard

► The Piano Roll

Your MIDI in all its glory. The piano roll is where you see what you recorded - and where you can fix that one note that ruined everything.

The Basics

- Piano keys on the left show pitch
- Notes are the rectangles (the longer ones aren't mistakes, they're "sustained")
- Loop markers (those yellow triangles) define what gets sent to the algorithms

Zoom & View

- +/- buttons zoom in and out. Use them.
- Fold/Unfold button collapses the view to show only pitches that have notes. Great for when your 3-note melody is drowning in empty space.

Loop Region

The yellow markers define your loop region - the part of your recording that gets processed.

Moving markers:

- Drag them left/right to adjust
- Double-click to mark whole canvas

Pro move: Drag the area between the markers to move the whole loop region at once.

Fixing Mistakes (a.k.a. "Creative Editing")

We've all hit a wrong note. The audio transcription AI has definitely hit some wrong notes. Here's how to fix them:

Selecting notes:

- Click a note to select it
- Shift + Click to add more notes to your selection
- Click + Drag on empty space to marquee select (rubber band style)
- Cmd + A (Mac) / Ctrl + A (Win) to select all notes

Deleting notes:

- Select the offending notes
- Hit Delete or Backspace
- Note gone. Problem solved.

Undo & Reset:

- Undo 1x button - brings back your last deleted note(s). One chance, use it wisely.
- Reset button - restores ALL deleted notes. For when you realize you were the problem, not the notes.

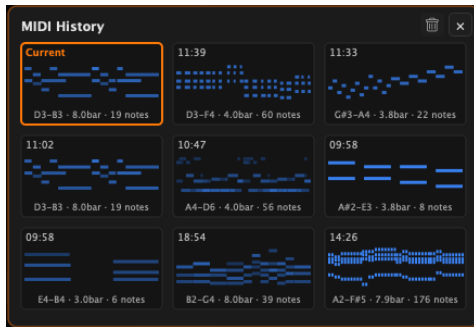
> **Pro tip:** The audio-to-MIDI transcription is good, but it's not perfect. Use note deletion to clean up phantom notes before generating variations. Garbage in, garbage out - but slightly less garbage in equals pretty good out.

Drag to DAW

See that little drag handle button (::)? Grab it and drag to your DAW to export the current loop region as a MIDI file. Works with deleted notes excluded - so clean up first, export second.

History Button

Shows recent recorded or loaded MIDI-files.



► Algorithms

Here's where the magic happens. Each algorithm takes your input and transforms it into something new.

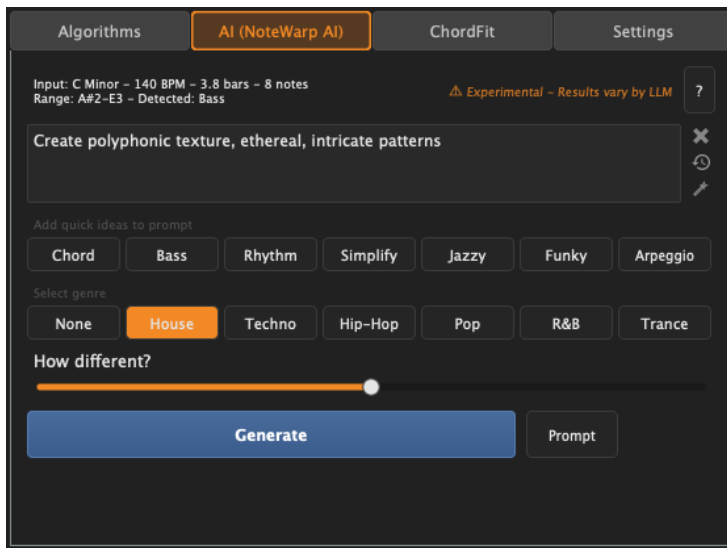
Algorithm	What it does	When to use it
Shuffle	Shuffles chord-melody relationships	When things need to get weird
Melody Variation (Markov)	AI-based melodic variation	When you want "similar but different"
Melody Variation Y	Alternative variation with controls	When you need more control over the chaos
Acid	Squelchy 303-style patterns	When you want that squelchy 303 energy
Generate Chords	Creates chord progressions	When you're tired of the same four chords
Extract Bass	Generates bass lines from chords or melodies	When your low end needs love
Extract Motif	Extracts and arranges motifs	When you've got gold buried in your MIDI
Time Stretch	Scales your melody up or down	When you need the same vibe, different size

A Word on Algorithms

Don't overthink it. Pick one, generate a few variations, see what sticks. The "wrong" algorithm might give you the best results. That's not a bug - that's creativity.

► AI Generation

This is the "I have no idea what I want" button.



⚙️ How It Works

- Type what you want in plain English: "funky bass line in E minor"
- Click Generate
- Watch the AI try its best

The "**How Different?**" slider controls creativity:

- **Low:** Safe, predictable variations
- **High:** Wild, experimental, possibly cursed

> **Pro tip:** If your AI generations sound weird, that's not a bug - that's jazz.

► Setting Up Your AI

NoteWarp needs an AI provider to generate from prompts. You have following options

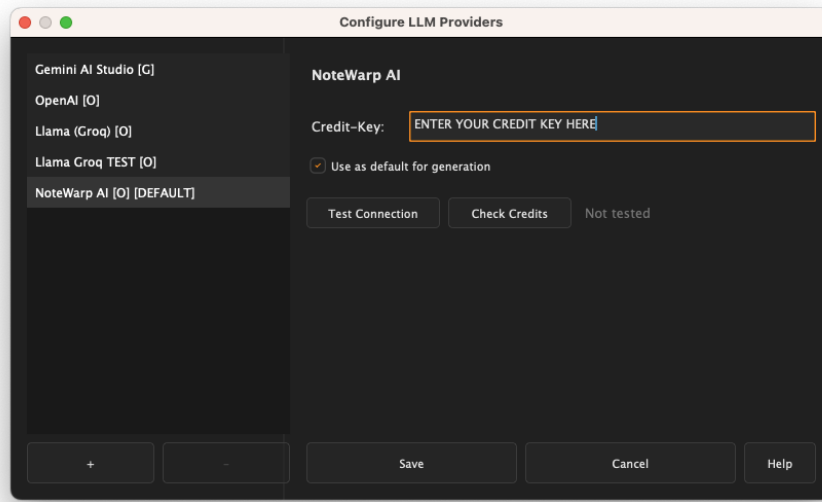
Option 1: Buy AI Credits

You can buy AI credits on the homepage www.notewarp.de. That is the easiest option.

To enter the key in NoteWarp:

- Copy the AI credit key from the email from purchase, looks like this:
AB1AB1A-AB1B-1BAB-AAB1-A1B1A111BA1
- In NoteWarp -> Tab "Settings" -> button "Configure"
- In window "Configure LLM Providers", choose entry "NoteWarp AI"
- In field next to "Credit-Key", paste the AI credit key.
- Click button "Save", click button "Test Connection"

- Button “Check Credits” will tell you how many credits (=generations) are left.



Option 2: Configure own providers

Create an account at a provide and create/get an API key. Then enter following information:

Groq https://console.groq.com They offer a free tier.	Name: <free> Type: OpenAI-Compatible Endpoint: https://api.groq.com/openai/v1/chat/completions Model: llama-3.3-70b-versatile API-Key: <Paste your API key>
Google Gemini https://aistudio.google.com free, but Google's quota system can be... temperamental	Name: <free> Type: Gemini Endpoint: https://generativelanguage.googleapis.com/v1/models Model: gemini-2.0-flash API-Key: <Paste your API key>
OpenAI (ChatGPT) https://platform.openai.com Paid, requires billing	Name: <free> Type: OpenAI-Compatible Endpoint: https://api.openai.com/v1/chat/completions Model: gpt-4 API-Key:<Paste your API key>
Local LLM Models (LM Studio, Ollama...) No costs, but maybe slow and setup hustle...	Name: <free> Type: OpenAI-Compatible Endpoint: http://localhost:1234/v1/chat/completions (your special endpoint) Model: <Name of your loaded model> API-Key:<free>

> **Heads up:** If Gemini says "quota exceeded" on a fresh key, that's a known Google issue. Try Groq instead, or wait a few minutes and try again.

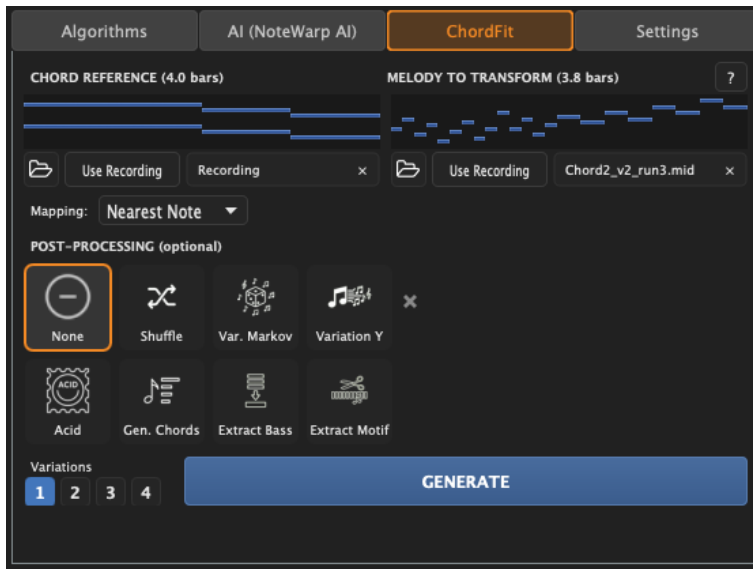
Works? You're golden. Doesn't work? See Troubleshooting.

Privacy Notice for AI Generation

When using AI generation features, only MIDI note data (pitch, timing, duration, velocity) is sent to external AI services. No personal information is transmitted.

All data is transmitted encrypted (TLS). If you prefer not to send data to external servers, you can use local AI models, e.g. Ollama, instead.

Chord Fit



Autotune for your melodies. Chord Fit takes a melody and snaps it to fit a chord progression - musically and harmonically. No more notes that clash with your chords.

How It Works

You need two things:

- **CHORD REFERENCE** (left area)
 - Click load button or "use recording" to use your current recording from piano roll, or - Drag & drop a MIDI file with chords
- **MELODY TO TRANSFORM** (right area)
 - same as above

Fitting Modes

- **Nearest:** Moves each note to the closest chord tone. Subtle, keeps the original feel.
- **Root:** Snaps notes to the root of each chord. More dramatic, very "in key."

► Chain with Algorithms

Here's where it gets fun: after fitting, you can run additional algorithms on the result. Fit your melody to the chords, then generate variations of that fitted melody. Layer the creativity.

> **Pro tip:** Record a random melody, fit it to your chord progression, then run Melody Variation. Instant "I meant to do that" moments.

► Your Generations (right panel)

The right side of the screen shows everything you've generated. It's your idea graveyard - except some of these ideas are actually good.

► Multi-Selection

Need to work with multiple generations at once? Hold **Cmd** (Mac) or **Ctrl** (Windows) and click to select several.

What you can do with multiple selections:

- **Play simultaneously** - Hit Play and hear all selected generations at once. Great for checking how parts layer together.
- **Export as MIDI files** - Click the Export button to save all selected generations as separate MIDI files. Way faster than dragging one by one.

> **Workflow tip:** Generate 10 bass variations, select the 3 best ones, export them all, drop them into your DAW, pick the winner in context.

> **Hot take:** Generate 10 variations, star the good ones, delete your memory of the bad ones. This is the way.

► NoteWarp Receiver

NoteWarp comes as two plugins: **NoteWarp Master** (the main one) and **NoteWarp Receiver**.

► Why Two Plugins?

The main NoteWarp Master plugin is where all the magic happens - recording, generating, the whole deal. But what if you want to send your generated MIDI to multiple instruments at once? That's where the Receiver comes in.

► Setting It Up

- Load **NoteWarp Master** on one track (your "master" track)
- Load **NoteWarp Receiver** on other tracks with different instruments
- In the right panel, enable "Connect to Receivers"
- Assign Receiver plugins (by number, e.g., 1, 2, 3, ...) to your generations or to a group of generation (toggle "Group by Source")

► Receiver Numbers & Channels

Each Receiver has a **number** (1, 2, 3, etc.). In the main NoteWarp, you can choose which Receivers receive which content.

Example setup:

Track	Plugin	Number	Instrument
Master	NoteWarp	-	-
Bass	NoteWarp Receiver	1	Sub bass synth
Piano	NoteWarp Receiver	2	Electric piano
Strings	NoteWarp Receiver	3	String ensemble

Now you can send your bass variations to Receiver 1, piano parts to Receiver 2, and so on. Or send the same melody to all of them and hear instant layering.

► Use Cases

- **Layering:** Same melody on piano, strings, and synth simultaneously
- **Splitting parts:** Bass to one Receiver, melody to another
- **Live jamming:** Trigger variations across your entire arrangement
- **Sound design:** Hear how the same MIDI sounds on different instruments instantly

> **Think of it like this:** NoteWarp is the DJ, the Receivers are the speakers in different rooms. One source, many destinations.

🔗 Installation / DAW Setup

"Why Is This an Audio Plugin?"

Good question. NoteWarp is a weird one.

Most plugins fit neatly into categories: instruments make sound from MIDI, effects process audio, MIDI effects process MIDI. NoteWarp does... all of it? It needs audio input (for transcription), MIDI input (for recording), AND MIDI output (for sending variations to your synths).

That combination doesn't exist in any standard plugin type. So DAWs get confused and file it under "Audio Effects." This is technically correct - and also annoying.

TL;DR: If you find NoteWarp under "Audio Effects" instead of "MIDI Effects," that's normal. It still works.

The Routing Hustle

Here's the deal: NoteWarp generates MIDI, but some DAWs don't know how to route MIDI from an "audio effect." The solution? NoteWarp Receiver.

NoteWarp Receiver is a tiny companion plugin that:

- Appears under MIDI Effects (where DAWs expect MIDI stuff)
- Catches MIDI from the main NoteWarp plugin
- Feeds it to your synth

Think of it like a translator. NoteWarp speaks MIDI, your DAW doesn't understand, Receiver translates.

Quick Setup by DAW

Ableton Live - Find in Audio Effects, use Receiver on synth track

Bitwig Studio - Find in Audio FX, Note Receiver works natively

FL Studio - Find in Effects, use port routing or Receiver

Logic Pro - Find in Audio FX (AU), use IAC Driver or Receiver

Cubase - Find in Audio Inserts, Receiver required

Reaper - Find in FX, works directly (Reaper is chill)

Studio One - Find in Effects, use Receiver on instrument track

More details on www.midibro.de

The Universal Pattern

If your DAW is weird (they all are, in their own way):

1. Track 1: Load NoteWarp Master as an audio effect
2. Track 2: Load NoteWarp Receiver as a MIDI effect, then your synth
3. Both tracks armed/monitored
4. Done.

Track 1: NoteWarp Master

(records, transcribes, generates)

|

v internal magic

Track 2: NoteWarp Receiver → Your Synth → Audio Out

(receives MIDI)

When You Don't Need Receiver

Some DAWs handle MIDI routing like adults:

- Reaper - just works
- Bitwig - just works
- Your DAW with manual MIDI routing configured - works if you know what you're doing

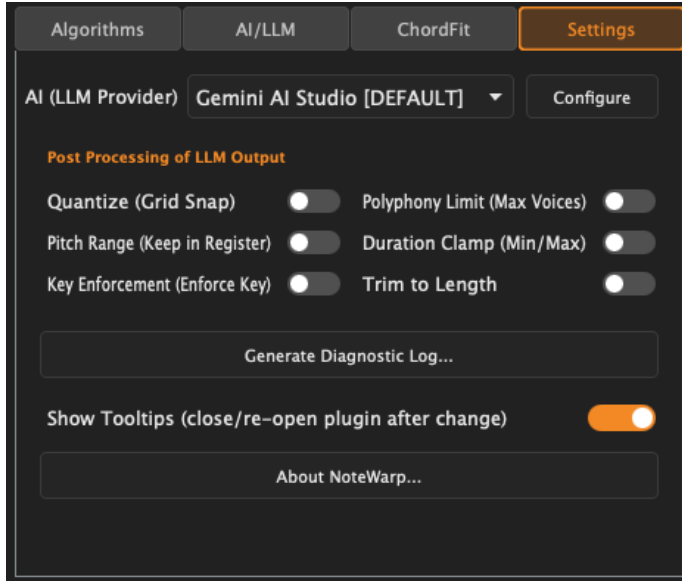
If you can route NoteWarp's MIDI output directly to your synth, skip the Receiver. fewer plugins = fewer problems.

> Pro Tips

- VST3 over AU on Mac - Better MIDI routing support
- Buffer size 128-256 - Good balance for live playing
- Can't find the plugin? - Rescan plugins in your DAW settings
- No sound? - Check that Track 2 (with the synth) is armed/monitored

The "it's not a bug" disclaimer: If your DAW shows NoteWarp as an audio plugin and you panic - don't. Load it anyway. It works. Promise.

Settings & Troubleshooting



► Registration

NoteWarp runs in demo mode until you register. Demo mode is fully functional - it just reminds you to pay for your crimes occasionally.

To register:

- Buy a license at <https://www.notewarp.de>
- Enter your serial number in Settings → About → Registration
- Done. Thank you for supporting indie developers.

► The Panic Button

See that button with the heartbeat icon? That's the **Panic Button**.

It sends an "all notes off" message to stop any stuck MIDI notes. For when everything goes full Aphex Twin and you need silence. NOW.

► It's Not Working!

AI Generation fails:

- Check your API key (copy-paste errors are real)
- Try Groq instead of Gemini (Google's API has quota issues)
- Check the log file: `~/Library/notewarp/Logs/NoteWarp.Log`

No sound when playing:

- Is your DAW's MIDI routing set up correctly?
- Is NoteWarp receiving MIDI? (Watch the input meter)
- Did you accidentally mute the track? (We've all done it)

Plugin doesn't show up in DAW:

- Rescan your plugins
- Check if it's in the right folder (~/*Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/* on Mac)
- Windows: *C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3*

Contact me: ivo@notewarp.de

► Final Words

NoteWarp won't write your hit song for you. But it might give you the idea that becomes one.

A note on perfection: NoteWarp is still young - like a new producer: knows some tricks but still learning. If you find bugs, have feature requests, or just want to say hi, reach out via www.notewarp.de.

Now stop reading manuals and go make some music.

NoteWarp - Made with caffeine and questionable sleep schedules

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Built with JUCE Framework

Audio-to-MIDI powered by Basic Pitch (Spotify)

Neural network inference via ONNX Runtime (Microsoft)

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