

ampkit

Ready to play?

Follow these quick steps to get you up and running. Remember, AmpKit is modeled after real-world amplifiers. Like any real amp, you'll want to make a few adjustments to be sure you get the best quality sound

Install from Muse Hub

AmpKit is available as a VST3 and Audio Unit (AU) plug-in for use with your favourite DAW or Audio Editor. It can also be used as a standalone app if you're just looking to plug-in and rock out.

First, grab AmpKit from Muse Hub, which you can download at musehub.com

Find AmpKit, click GET and let it install.

Now, open your DAW or Editor - for example, Audacity. It should scan for new plug-ins and recognise AmpKit.

If it doesn't, you can try a few things:

- Some apps and editors have an option to manually scan for plug-ins.
- Ensure that your app is referencing the regular VST3 or AU folders.
 - On macOS, this is `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins`
 - On Windows, this is often `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3`

Next step is to create an audio track and assign AmpKit as an audio effect.

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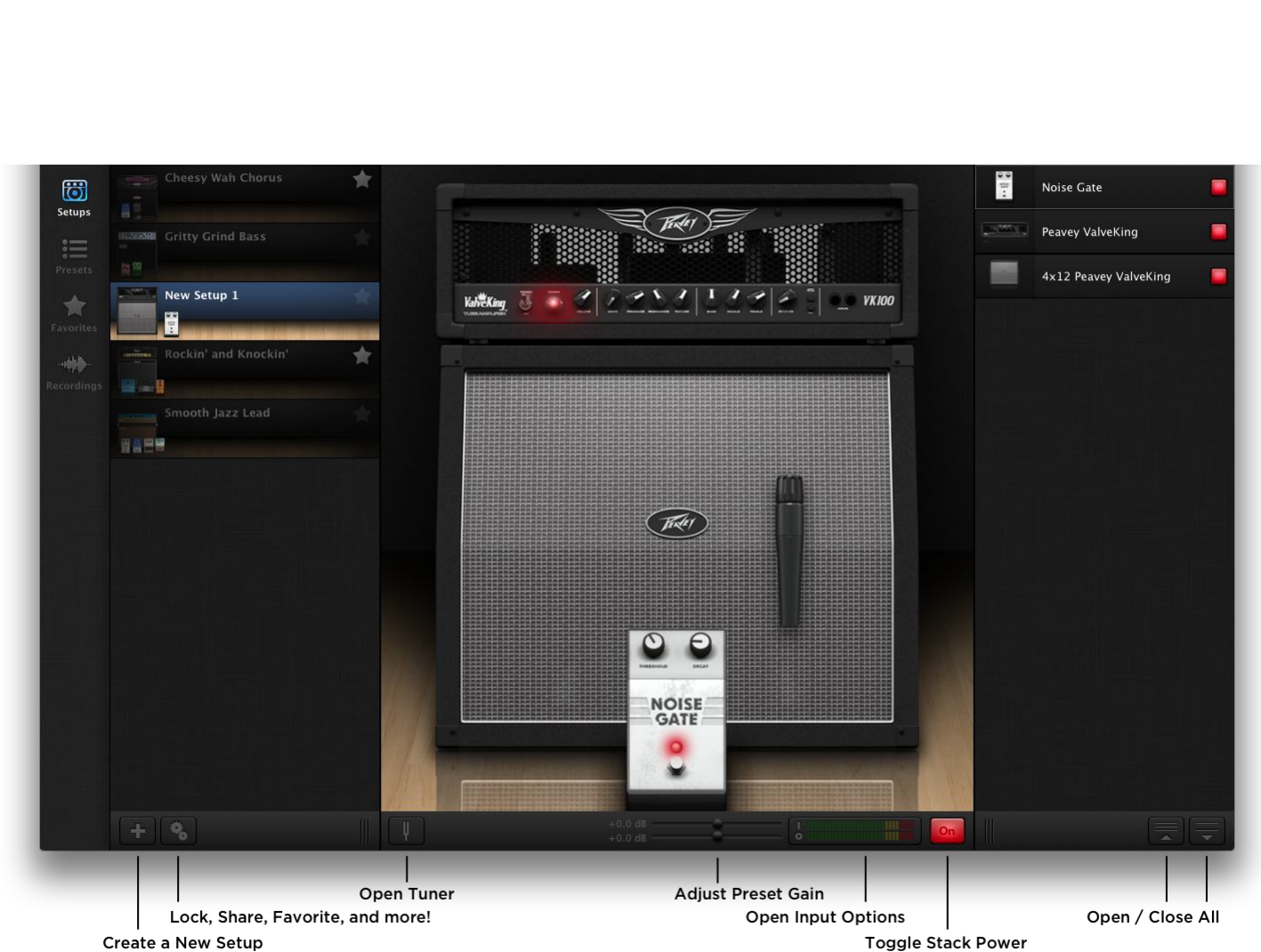
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Getting Started

- Select an available Preset, or one of the default Setups from the Presets or Setups tabs at the left.
- Adjust the Input and Output Device Gain sliders until your loudest guitar playing isn't causing the red bars to appear.*
- Keep playing loudly, and adjust the Preset Input and Output Gain sliders to ensure the strumming stays out of the red bars.†
- If you want to crank your amplifier's volume for a more saturated sound, or dial it back for a more pure clean tone, remember to adjust the Preset Output Gain control accordingly, bearing our recommendations in mind.
- To go back to your amp, just click outside of the input options window (or push ⌘O again), and start rockin'!
- If you want to try a distorted sound, slide open the Peavey ValveKing amplifier's parameters (by clicking on the Peavey ValveKing in the Stack Sidebar at the far right of AmpKit's window), then click to change the Channel to Lead.

Setups

Collections of an amp, cabinet, and pedals that you or another AmpKit user have created are known as Setups. All of your Setups are stored in their own tab on the tab bar, accessed by clicking Setups at the far left of the AmpKit window, or by pushing \mathbb{K} 1. This section of the guide will give you the lowdown on creating your own Setups.



Setups

To create a new Setup:

- Click on the + icon at the bottom left of the screen beside the Preset Actions button, or push ⌘N.
- A default Setup called New Setup will be created in the Setups list to the left of the large amplifier and cabinet. Click on the New Setup in the list to load its components into the Stack (the main portion of the AmpKit window, with the large amplifier, cabinet, and pedals), where you can begin modifying your settings. Note that when first launching AmpKit, a selection of default Setups will be created for you by default, so feel free to use any of these as your first rig, or follow the instructions above to create a blank New Setup.

Selecting Amplifiers, Speaker Cabinets, and Effects Pedals

There are many ways to select an amplifier and speaker cabinet to use in your Setup. To browse available equipment, click the button with the pedal in the toolbar at the upper-right of the screen, or push ⌘G. Doing so will open the Gear panel, which has tabs to show all AmpKit's available amplifiers, cabinets, and pedals. To replace your amp or cab, you can:

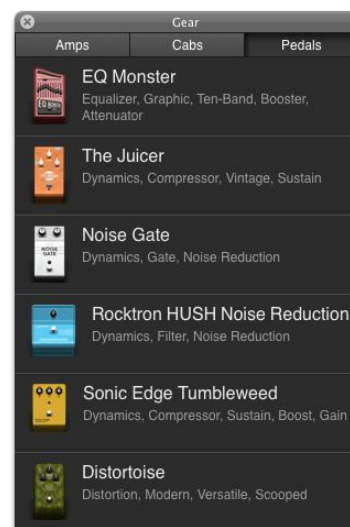
- Click and drag any piece of gear out from the Gear panel onto the Stack, or the Stack Sidebar.
- Double-click a piece of gear in the Stack Sidebar to load it. It'll pop right into place, and you'll be jammin' through it right away; no changing cables or risking a hernia!
- Click on the amp or cab, ensure that it is selected in the Stack Sidebar (indicated by a blue highlight), and push ⌘← or ⌘→ to cycle through available gear. The global shortcuts and will cycle backward and forward through available amplifiers, while ⌘← ⌘→ will cycle through available speaker cabinets. These shortcuts provide a quick and easy way to cycle through gear to hear immediate changes in your rig.
- Right-click on your amplifier or cabinet, and choose Change Amplifier or Change Cabinet, which will show a list of all available replacement amps or cabs.

Setups

Adding a new effects pedal is achieved in the same way. If you drag the new pedal directly onto the Stack, you'll be able to replace an existing one by dragging it on top of it until you see a blue highlight.

You can add it as a new pedal by dragging it to either side of the existing effects to insert it at that position in the effects chain. If you want to place it between two existing effects, they'll slide apart before you release the mouse button, so you can be sure of where the effect will go.

Feel free to close the Gear panel by clicking on the cross, or hitting ⌘G. Alternatively, leave it open for more quick switches later! Getting to know all of your components is a key part of mastering your tone in AmpKit, so make sure to explore all of the components available!



Setups

Selecting Microphones

To change the microphone attached to your Setup:

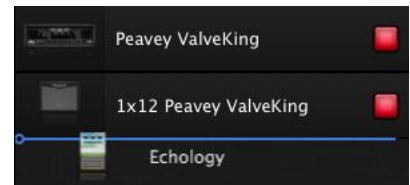
- Click on your speaker cabinet to slide open its parameters in the Stack Sidebar at the right of the AmpKit window.
- Use the left and right buttons beside Mic Model to cycle through the available microphones. You can also click on the Mic Model parameter and use ← and → to cycle through them.

You can also change the microphone's position by using the left and right buttons beside Mic Position. On-axis microphones are positioned directly on the cone of the loudspeaker inside the cabinet, giving a sound with richer transients, more bite and attack, and slightly more volume. Off-axis microphones are positioned off to one side, resulting in more of the simulated room's natural resonance being captured, as well as providing additional lower and mid-range content to give a more solid, thick sound. You can also click on the Mic Position parameter and use ← and → to cycle through them.

We recommend starting out by using the dynamic Workhorse 57 (modeled on the SHURE® SM57), which is a perfect partner for guitar rigs due to its contoured frequency response and additional presence boost. If you're a bassist or would prefer a richer, deeper sound, the Germann 87 condenser (modeled on the Neumann® U87) is a more subtle and nuanced microphone modeled after a world-leading design, which is a great model to use for both bass and guitar rigs thanks to its enhanced warmth and naturally balanced response. Six other microphones are available, so be sure to try them all! The American Acoustic 2x8 cabinet is a specific case in that it does not use a microphone. This cabinet is modeled as your ear would hear it, instead of as a microphone would capture it – think of it more like a PA output. Since this cab is designed for acoustic guitars, you may experience undesirable effects when pairing it with high-gain amp heads. That same design makes it a great partner for an electro-acoustic guitar, or a conventional electric guitar with the Acoustic8 acoustic simulator pedal attached!

Setups

Managing your Pedals



Changing the order of your effects pedals is a crucial piece of the tone puzzle, and a great way to make wide-ranging changes to your tone. In AmpKit, pedals are ordered from left to right on your Stack, and from top to bottom in the Stack Sidebar. To re-order your pedals, grab one with your cursor, and drag it into the new position. You'll see it attach to your cursor so you know which one you're moving. You can do this in either in the Stack (where you'll need to drag the pedal from left to right across the screen), or in the Stack Sidebar at the right of the screen (where you'll need to drag it up and down in the list).

You can place pedals anywhere you like, even in places you couldn't in real life like after the speaker cabinet! The order of effects is very important and has a heavy impact on your tone, so try lots of different combinations until you find the one you're happiest with. Each piece of gear has a detailed gear page which details information about the gear, tips and tricks for using it effectively and creatively, and recipes to get you started with specific pedals. You can access this content in a variety of ways:

- Right-clicking a piece of gear on the Stack or Stack Sidebar, or in the Gear panel, and choosing Get Info.
- Selecting the piece of gear you would like to learn about and pushing ⌘I.
- Tapping with three fingers on the relevant piece of gear on a Multi-Touch surface.
- Returning to the main menu of this help file and selecting AmpKit Gear (or clicking [here](#) to jump straight there).

To remove a pedal from your Setup, simply grab it, and drag it off either the Stack or the Stack Sidebar! You'll see a small puff of smoke icon to let you know that it'll be removed once you release the button. You can also remove a pedal with the keyboard by clicking on the pedal and pushing $\uparrow \text{⌘} \langle \text{X} \rangle$, or by right-clicking on it and choosing Delete.

To replace an existing pedal with a new one, right-click on it and scroll to Change Pedal. From here, a list of all available pedals will open, allowing you to quickly switch effects. You can also cycle through your pedals by clicking on the one you would like to replace, and using the keyboard shortcuts $\text{⌘} \leftarrow$ and $\text{⌘} \rightarrow$.

Setups

Don't worry about ever losing any of your gear. If you remove a pedal from a Setup, you will always have the option to add that pedal back to your Setup later via the Gear panel, or by right-clicking and selecting Add New Pedal Before or Add New Pedal After.

Virtual Pedalboard Mode

AmpKit supports a pedals-only mode, which is perfect for connecting AmpKit to your own guitar amplifier and speaker cabinet. If you want to connect AmpKit to your own gear, you should switch off the amplifier and cabinet in your Setup, to avoid applying two levels of amp and cab modeling in tandem. To do so, you can click on the red square Power button next to your piece of gear in the Stack Sidebar to switch it off. You can also click on any piece of gear and push the Spacebar to toggle power to that component.

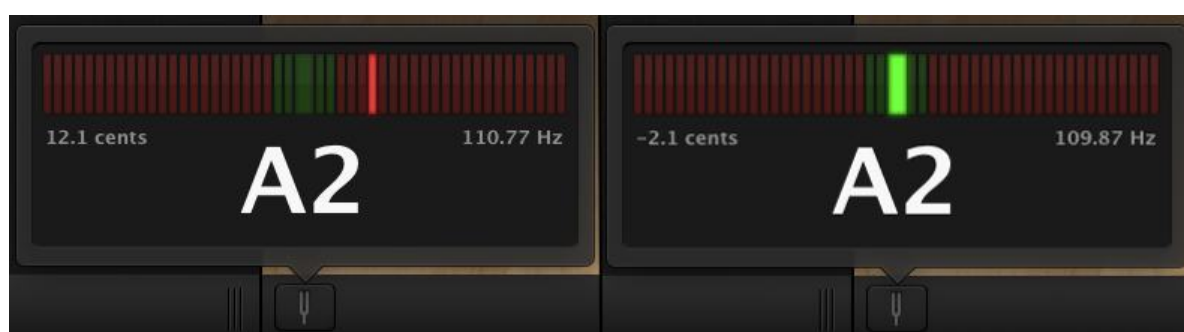
If both the amplifier and cabinet are switched off, your guitar signal will be passed directly to the pedal effects and straight out again, making it perfect to feed straight from your Mac into your amp's guitar input. For more information on the best way to physically connect AmpKit to your own gear, see the [Help With Interfaces](#) section of this help file.

AmpKit Tools

Tuner

Click the Tuner icon at the bottom left of the Stack (or push ⌘T) to open the Tuner panel. Pluck a string on your instrument and you will see the resulting note and its frequency displayed. The large note shows the closest pitch to the note played, which unless you're a long way out of tune will be the correct note! The number of cents above or below that note is also displayed.* You should tune your guitar often, to make sure you're not sharp or flat! Adjust your instrument's tuning until a plucked open string falls entirely within the green area of the needle display. The tuner will continue to respond even if you have turned your rig off by using the red On/Off button in the lower-right of the screen, making it equally perfect for silent tuning.

* A cent is one one-hundredth of a semitone. The human ear is unable to perceive differences of a few cents, so if you're showing green on the tuner needle, don't worry if you're not on exactly 0.0 cents!



AmpKit Tools

Metronome

To open the Metronome panel, click the Metronome button in the toolbar at the upper-right of the AmpKit window, or push ⌘E. The Metronome will give you a constant, reliable beat to jam against, or even to inspire you! You can use the plus and minus buttons (or the ← and → keys) to set the tempo of the metronome. To start and stop the metronome, click on the button with the tempo written on it, or push the Spacebar.

You can select from a variety of time signatures and rhythms by clicking on the left dropdown menu and choosing whichever you'd like. You can also choose one of a range of sound themes for the click sound, each of which includes an accented and an unaccented beat. To select a sound theme, use the right dropdown menu. To adjust the volume of the metronome (without altering your Setup's volume), click on the speaker icon, and drag the slider. The metronome will continue to sound even if you close the panel.



Instrument Tips

Instrument Tips

To make the most of AmpKit, you need to make sure the guitar that you're playing is configured optimally in the AmpKit application. A wide range of instruments are available, with an even wider range of pickups. Making sure AmpKit and your guitar are in perfect sync is the best way to create any kind of tone you'd like with AmpKit's wide range of amplifiers, speaker cabinets, microphones and effects pedals. This section of the guide helps you, your guitar, and AmpKit stay in perfect sync, to help you achieve the best quality single possible.

Pickup Types

Electric guitars come in a range of shapes and sizes, but the vast majority use one of two types of pickup: humbuckers, and single coil pickups. Many guitars also feature one or more of each of these types of pickup, allowing you to switch between them on the fly. Since humbucking pickups use two coils and single coil pickups use one, the volume output from humbucking pickups is usually somewhat higher, meaning that you will need to make some adjustments to AmpKit's gain settings to compensate for your instrument. Other factors can influence your guitar's output level, such as whether or not it uses active pickups (those which require separate battery power).

Input Gain Calibration

If your guitar or bass outputs a higher-powered signal and you notice that your Setups and AmpKit's built-in Presets are clipping (that is, the input meters are hitting the red area often), the easiest way to compensate is by adjusting your Device Gain settings. To do so, launch AmpKit and click on the Input/Output meters at the lower-right of the window. You can also open this panel with the keyboard shortcut ⌘O. Next, click and drag the Input Gain slider under Device Gain down by a couple of decibels.

Play your guitar, and see whether your signal is still hitting the red area. If so, drag the slider down a little further, and try again. Keep doing so until your hardest strumming is safely below the red bars.