EASY SEMI HOLLOW

USER MANUAL · CHRISTMAS EDITION

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AT A GLANCE

Easy Semi Hollow is a physically modelled semi-hollow jazz guitar, played for you by the fireplace: press one key and a guitarist strums a whole chord in your key. Every strum sounds a little different, like a real player's hand.

One key, one chord

EASY turns every key into a chord in your key and scale, with JAZZ 7, LOFI 9 or XMAS voicings.

Or play it yourself

FREE turns your own voicings into playable guitar grips and single notes into melody lines.

13 strum modes

From a single down stroke to Charleston, bossa, Travis picking and lazy lofi drags, in time with your DAW.

Modelled, not sampled

Six strings, a resonant body, humbucker or P-90 and a clean jazz amp with spring reverb, calculated as you play.

Formats	Windows 10 or later: VST3 and standalone, 64-bit. macOS 10.15 or later: VST3, Audio Unit and standalone, Apple Silicon and Intel.
Type	Instrument. Put it on an instrument (MIDI) track.
Presets	57 in four categories, all levelled to about -24 LUFS.
Window	Resizable from 60 to 160 %.
Latency	None added by the plug-in.

QUICK START

1 Put Easy Semi Hollow on an instrument track

Arm the track. A new instance opens with Fireside Jazz: EASY chords, C major, LOFI 9, STRUM.

2 Press any C

You hear a Cmaj9, strummed by hand. The chord name and the grip appear on the CHORDS card.

3 Press D, E, F, G, A and B

These are the other chords of the key. The black keys add colour chords.

4 Set KEY to your song

You keep playing the white keys as if everything were in C.

5 Browse the presets

With the arrows next to the preset name, or open the menu: all 57 presets in four columns.



1. **Presets** menu and arrows for the previous and next preset.
2. **NOISE FX** all background noises on or off at once.
3. **EASY | ADVANCED** switches the view, not the sound.
4. **Scene** the strings of the guitar vibrate with what you play.
5. **TONE** WARMTH, AGE / LOFI, PLAYABILITY, LOOSE.
6. **CHORDS** play mode, strum, key, scale, chord style, tempo, chord name and grip.
7. **MIX** ROOM, SPACE and VOLUME.
8. **Keyboard** shows what you play; in EASY every key is labelled with its chord.

FIND IT IN YOUR DAW

Easy Semi Hollow is an instrument plug-in: it opens inside your DAW on an instrument track. After installing, let your DAW look for new plug-ins once. There is also a standalone app if you just want to play.

Ableton Live

Settings → Plug-Ins: turn on **Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders**, then click **Rescan**. Easy Semi Hollow appears under Plug-Ins → Chilled Chilla Records.

FL Studio

Options → Manage plugins → **Find installed plugins**. Then add it to the Channel Rack as an instrument.

Logic Pro

Logic checks new Audio Units when it starts. Create a Software Instrument track and choose AU Instruments → Chilled Chilla Records → Easy Semi Hollow. If it is missing: Settings → Plug-in Manager, **Reset & Rescan Selection**.

Cubase and Nuendo

Studio → VST Plug-in Manager, then **Update Plug-in Information**. Then add an instrument track with Easy Semi Hollow.

Studio One

Studio One scans its plug-in folders when it starts. Drag Easy Semi Hollow from Instruments onto the song.

Reaper

Options → Preferences → Plug-ins → VST → **Re-scan**, then insert it as a virtual instrument.

Bitwig Studio

Bitwig scans new plug-ins when it starts; Easy Semi Hollow is under Instruments.

Where it is installed: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3` on Windows (the app under `C:\Program Files\Chilled Chilla Records\Easy Semi Hollow`); `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3`, `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components` (Audio Unit) and `/Applications` on the Mac.

PLAYING

PLAY MODE on the CHORDS card decides what a key does: EASY plays a whole chord from one key, FREE turns what you play into guitar grips.

EASY: one key, one chord

- **White keys** play the chords of the scale. Choose the key with KEY and major or minor with SCALE; you always play the white keys as if the song were in C.
- **Black keys** play colour chords: passing diminished chords, borrowed chords and secondary dominants.
- **CHORD STYLE** chooses the voicings: JAZZ 7 (seventh chords), LOFI 9 (ninths and lush extensions) or XMAS (the harmony of Christmas standards: 6/9 chords, thirteenths and 7♭9 dominants).
- **The octave** of the key picks the position on the neck.

- The guitarist moves between grips like a real player: short paths, common notes held.

FREE: your own voicings

- Play a chord and the guitarist turns it into a playable grip. Notes no hand could reach are left out.
- Single notes become a melody line. Played legato, small steps become hammer-ons and pull-offs, larger ones slides on the same string.
- With OCTAVES (HANDS tab) single notes become thumb octaves.

Pedal, wheels and expression

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES
Sustain pedal	holds released notes; with FREEZE on it also freezes the hall
Pitch bend	bends all strings by up to ±2 semitones, like a vibrato bar
Mod wheel	adds vibrato to all strings, up to ±20 cents
CC 11 (expression)	volume pedal between guitar and amp
Velocity	how hard the strings are struck: tone, buzz and loudness follow

STRUM MODES AND PATTERNS

STRUM sets how the hand plays. The four strokes play once when you press a key; the nine patterns keep playing in time while you hold a chord. Patterns follow your DAW's tempo (also in 3/4 and 6/8); in the standalone app they follow TEMPO.

MODE	KIND	HOW IT PLAYS
DOWN	stroke	a down stroke
STRUM	stroke	down and up, alternating when you repeat quickly
PICK	stroke	a picking pattern in eighths from the moment you press
BLOCK	stroke	all strings almost at once
COMP	pattern	Freddie Green quarter notes, swing comping
CHARLESTON	pattern	the Charleston rhythm
BOSSA	pattern	bass and fingers, bossa nova
TRAVIS	pattern	alternating thumb, Travis picking
BALLAD	pattern	slow arpeggio
DRAG	pattern	slow, lazy lofi strums
WALK	pattern	walking bass with chord stabs
BELLS	pattern	harmonics, like little bells
CHOP	pattern	strums with muted chops

KNOBS

KNOB	CARD	WHAT IT DOES
WARMTH	TONE	tone knob, picking spot from bridge to neck, pick to thumb, tube warmth
AGE / LOFI	TONE	tape drift and flutter, older strings, lower action with more buzz, cassette bandwidth
PLAYABILITY	TONE	how readily legato playing turns into hammer-ons, pull-offs and slides (with STEEL: how often the bar slides)
LOOSE	TONE	how loose the player is: timing spread, string lifts, squeaks, flubs, vibrato depth
BODY	MIX (ADVANCED)	body resonance and the acoustic air mic
ROOM	MIX	cosy room reverb, and how much spring reverb
SPACE	MIX	a long, dark hall for pads: 0 is off, up to an 18 s tail
STRUM	MIX (ADVANCED)	strum speed, from tight to loose
VOLUME	MIX	output level

Hover over any control in the plug-in for a short explanation.

NOISE FX AND THE TWO VIEWS

NOISE FX in the header switches every background noise on or off at once: fireplace crackle, wind and room tone, ocean waves, breathing and chair, vinyl crackle, tape hiss, amp hum and pickup hum. Green with a burning flame is on, dark with a crossed-out flame and a red OFF is off. The guitar's own sounds stay. Presets do not change NOISE FX, so you can browse in silence.

EASY | ADVANCED switches the view, not the sound. EASY shows what you need to play; ADVANCED adds BODY, STRUM and the 43 switches in five tabs. **MORE IN ADVANCED ›** on the MIX card takes you there. New instances open in EASY.

THE SWITCHES IN ADVANCED

Every switch works on its own, so you can hear exactly what each one adds. Lit switches are on. There are no keyswitches.



ADVANCED: the switches sit in five tabs on the MIX & DETAILS card.

GUITAR – the string and the hand on the instrument

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
NOISE	pick and thumb noise, wood knock, muted-string clicks, finger noise
BUZZ	fret buzz when picking hard
RING	sympathetic ringing of open strings
DRIFT	slow tuning drift of each string
PRESSURE	fretted notes sit slightly sharp, each string with its own small tuning error
DOUBLE	a second take, a little late and detuned, panned against the first
SWELL	every new note fades in like a volume pedal
SUSTAIN	held notes ring about three times as long
NECK / BOTH / BRIDGE	pickup selector
STEEL	OFF, LAP (lap steel in C6 with a bar) or PEDAL (pedals bend single strings into the next chord)
HUMBUCKER / P-90	two hum-cancelling coils, or one wide single coil with more output and bark
FLATWOUND / ROUNDWOUND	smooth, dark jazz strings, or brighter strings with longer treble

HANDS – the player

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
HUMAN	small random variations in timing, picking spot and dynamics
LAID BACK	everything lands about 10 ms behind the beat
GROOVE	timing drifts like a real player, a little behind the beat
PHRASE	dynamics breathe in two-bar phrases
PENDULUM	the strumming hand swings with the host grid, now and then a ghost stroke
CHANGES	fingers lift one by one on chord changes, sometimes a slide in
SQUEAK	finger squeaks on the wound strings when the hand shifts
FLUBS	now and then a muffled, buzzy or missed note (LOOSE sets how often)
VIBRATO	gentle vibrato on held melody notes
ORNAMENT	neo-soul hammer-on into the third of the chord
FEEL	swing feel: downbeats a little behind, offbeats in place
OCTAVES	single notes in FREE mode become thumb octaves

DETAIL – between the notes

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
REGRIP	chord changes as a sequence: common notes stay, the other fingers let go one by one
GHOST	the hand keeps moving after you let go, now and then a muted scratch
RELEASE	a finger leaving the fret: a short, dull plop
PICK	pick contact: scrape on touch, the hand sits a little differently on every stroke
PICKUP HUM	mains hum in the pickup: loud with P-90, quieter with humbuckers
MICROPHONIC	an unpotted pickup: the hollow body and every tap come through
RATTLE	bridge wire and a loose saddle screw buzz on hard notes

ROOM – amp, tape and room

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
AMP	clean jazz combo with a measured speaker response (off: direct signal)
SAG	tube rectifier sag on hard chords
HUM	faint mains hum of the tube amp
TAPE	tape wow, flutter, head bump and hiss
CRACKLE	vinyl crackle
12-BIT	a late-80s 12-bit sampler at 26 kHz

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
WIDE	early room reflections, different left and right
MOVE	the player moves a little
FIRE	crackling fireplace, wind at the window, room tone
PLAYER	breathing, chair creak, clothing rustle
WAVES	ocean waves at night; the waves in the picture move with the sound (beach presets)

SPACE – reverb, echo and pads

SWITCH	WHAT IT DOES
SPRING	the amp's spring reverb (needs AMP); ROOM sets how much
TANK	spring decay: SHORT, MED or LONG
DWELL	how hard the spring tank is driven, 0 to 10; drag sideways, double-click resets
TREM	amp tremolo: OFF, SLOW or FAST (needs AMP)
ECHO	tape echo in time: OFF, 1/8, dotted 1/8, 1/4
SNOW	the hall tail slowly rises an octave (needs SPACE)
FREEZE	the sustain pedal freezes the hall (needs SPACE)
CHORUS	slow, wide bucket-brigade chorus
DRONE	sympathetic drone strings tuned to KEY

PRESETS

57 factory presets in four categories, all levelled to about -24 LUFS. The menu shows one column per category; the arrows step through them in menu order.

CATEGORY	PRESETS	TRY FIRST
Jazz & Swing	19	Fireside Jazz, Snowfall Bossa, Silent Night Chord Melody
Lofi & Chill	11	Snowy Window Lofi, Neo-Soul Cocoa Curls, P-90 Lofi Tape
Pads & Ambient	15	Silent Night Snowfall, Frozen Lake, Chinchilla Dreams
World Christmas	12	Hawaii Christmas, Tokyo Christmas Eve, Shchedryk Bells

The beach

Three presets take you from the living room to a beach at night: Hawaii Christmas, Waikiki Steel Melody and Bondi Beach Steel. The waves break on the sand and WAVES appears under ROOM; in Bondi Beach Steel you switch it on yourself.



Hawaii Christmas: a lap steel by the sea.

RECIPES

In EASY with LOFI 9 in C major the white keys play Cmaj9, Dm9, Em7, Fmaj9, G13, Am9 and Bm7♭5; the black keys D♭maj7, E♭maj7, Fm9, A♭maj7 and B♭9.

Lofi beats

- **Classic loop:** Snowy Window Lofi at 80 BPM, F, E, D, C one bar each. AGE / LOFI up and 12-BIT on for a dusty sampler sound.
- **Lazy drag:** Sleepy Paw Lofi (DRAG). Hold D, G, C, A: the hand keeps strumming slowly in time.
- **Neo-soul:** Neo-Soul Cocoa Curls. ORNAMENT hammers into the third; F♯ (Fm9) before C gives a minor-iv colour.
- **Sit back:** LAID BACK and GROOVE put the guitar behind the drums, DOUBLE widens it, NOISE FX off when the beat has its own vinyl.

Christmas songs

- **Jingle Bells:** Jingle Charleston, hold C, F and G.
- **Silent Night:** Silent Night Chord Melody is in FREE mode: play the melody on top of a chord and the guitarist turns it into chord-melody grips.
- **O Christmas Tree:** Carol Comp, Freddie Green quarters under the tune.
- **Snowy pad:** Silent Night Snowfall or Frozen Lake; in Frozen Lake the sustain pedal freezes the hall.

- **On the beach:** Hawaii Christmas or Waikiki Steel Melody for lap steel lines.

TRY IT IN YOUR BROWSER

On chilledchillarecords.com/easy-semi-hollow you can play Easy Semi Hollow in your browser with the same sound engine: A to L are the white keys, W E T Y U O P the black keys, Space is the sustain pedal, ← and → change the octave. A MIDI keyboard works in Chrome and Edge. To record, use the plug-in in your DAW.

IF SOMETHING DOES NOT WORK

No sound

Check that the track is armed and receives MIDI and that VOLUME is up. If the trial has ended, activate your licence or buy one.

Easy Semi Hollow is not in my DAW

It is an instrument plug-in. Let your DAW scan for new plug-ins: see Find it in your DAW.

Patterns are out of time

Patterns follow the DAW's tempo. In the standalone app, set TEMPO.

Too much background noise

Switch NOISE FX off. The guitar itself stays as it is.

The guitar sounds late

GROOVE, LAID BACK and FEEL place notes behind the beat on purpose; switch them off for tight timing.

High CPU load

The sound engine needs about 7–9 % of one CPU core at 48 kHz. A smaller window lowers the cost of the animated scene.

Everything is too wet

Turn SPACE to 0 and ROOM down; switch off SPRING, ECHO and CHORUS.

The plug-in asks to go online

Easy Semi Hollow confirms its licence online from time to time. Connect to the internet and activate it again, in the Hub or in the plug-in.

TRIAL, LICENCE AND ACTIVATION

The Chilled Chilla Hub takes care of it: it installs Easy Semi Hollow, starts your trial and activates your licence on this computer.

Free trial

7 days with every function. Start it in the Hub under Explore with **Start free trial**, or in the plug-in itself.

Buy

Click **Buy** in the Hub and complete the checkout. Easy Semi Hollow then appears under My products.

Activate

Under My products, **Activate** links this computer to your licence. The plug-in can do the same under **LICENSE** in the top right corner.

Three computers

One licence works on up to three computers at the same time. Moving to a new one? Deactivate the old one first, in the Hub or in the plug-in.

Internet

Starting a trial and activating need an internet connection. After that, Easy Semi Hollow also works offline and confirms its licence online from time to time.

SUPPORT

Questions, problems or ideas? Write to us.

support@chilledchillarecords.com

Please tell us your DAW, your operating system and the version of Easy Semi Hollow (top right of the plug-in window).

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