

This MIDI guitar is my favorite new way to make music



For many years now, my Stratocaster has been a memento hanging on my wall representing the time before I got a MacBook. I swapped my electric guitar out for a 25-key keyboard controller and a library of virtual instruments once my career headed to podcasting. In Logic Pro or Ableton, the Stratocaster could only sound like a Stratocaster, but the MIDI keyboard could be anything I needed it to be for my music or sound design work.

But recently, I came across a guitar that offers those very same strengths: Jamstik's Classic MIDI Guitar, which has brought my unused fretboard skills back into the digital audio workstation (DAW), with almost as much flexibility as the musical keyboard.

The Jamstik Classic is a fully traditional electric guitar – six strings, quarter-inch jack, and all – but with an added analog-to-MIDI converter you can plug straight into your

computer via USB or Bluetooth to control virtual instruments in real time. Need a trumpet or a violin in your song? Just play it on this USB-C guitar.

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dark: [>a]: shadow-underline-gray-63"> *Plugging right into my iPad Mini with Logic for iPad instantly worked (with a USB-C adapter).*

Jamstik supplies its own library of virtual instruments inside its app, Jamstik Creator, which includes all those synths, guitars, classical instruments, and rhythmic sounds. As a standalone app or as a plug-in in any DAW, you can use the software to view a virtual fretboard that updates with the notes you're playing in real time and lets you change instruments, tune the guitar, and alter effects and settings.