

# CUSTOMSFORGE'S

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #18

### ABOUT US

CustomsForge is a website created in 2014 by the Rocksmith community to make their own songs, communicate more easily and enjoy the game all together

Currently we have more than 40,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 300,000 members.

We welcome thousands more each month



Rocksmith 2014 Remastered logo

### WELCOME

Welcome to CustomsForge's monthly newsletter, where you can find the latest news about CF and Rocksmith 2014 Remastered.

### Git gud

**Making charts is difficult.** It requires time and effort, and lately there has been a rise in CDLC posts due to quarantine and Ubisoft has confirmed the end of DLC scheduled releases, so it seems like this is the perfect time for us to dive deep into what makes a CDLC great!

### **Quality charters and some of their CDLCs**

Firekorn – Mind's eye

Firekorn – Parabol/Parabola

Firekorn – Soft Spoken

Firekorn – Like Crazy

Firekorn – Pisces

bwardapenguin– Use Me

bwardapenguin– I Feel Like I'm Drowning

bwardapenguin–250 Miles

bwardapenguin –Why Don't You Do It

bwardapenguin – Fear Innoculum

Teinashu – Emblas Saga Album

Teinashu – Sunset On The Golden Age

Teinashu – Drink

Teinashu – Njord

JamesPrestonUK – Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me

JamesPrestonUK – The Night Before

JamesPrestonUK – Polk Salad Annie

JamesPrestonUK – Delicious

Bumblebee – Until The End

Bumblebee – The Everlasting

Bumblebee – I'm Alive

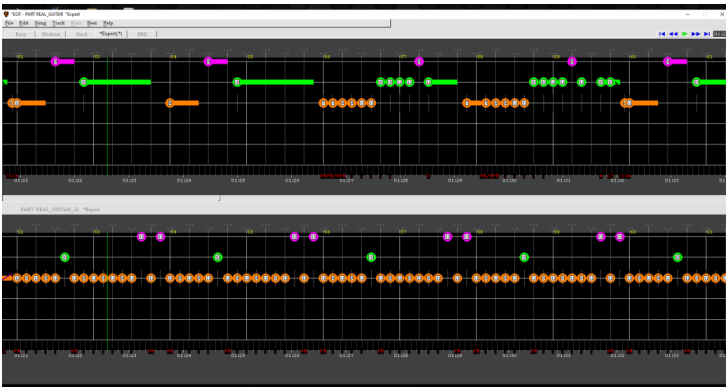
Bumblebee – Brilliant

SnowShovel96 – Are You There

SnowShovel96 – Shimmer On

SnowShovel96 – Deevoted to Dee Artist

***Special thanks to the whole CF staff who greatly helped in the making of this article and, particularly, thanks to ZagatoZee!***



Charting can be fun (Courtesy of: SnowShovel96)

“Keeping your tools updated is crucial when it comes to making CDLCs”

of what each one and what their acronyms are. Keeping your tools updated is crucial when it comes to making quality CDLCs as improvements are always being made.

## The Joy of Charting

**Charters are the heart of this community. This isn't an exaggeration as without them we wouldn't have created this forum, CustomsForge Song Manager and the other tools available to us. As such, today we will look into what makes a CDLC great and how that can help you in your charting journey.**

### Footnotes: A rating system

Before we begin, I'd like to address a little controversy that has been around since the origins of CF. **There is no rating system because that will doom CF.** That's the exact reason why the site everyone used before CF ended in such a low note. People wouldn't rate charts based on their quality but rather if they were about the bands they liked, made by people they liked, and tabbed the way they liked. If you met that criteria you could get some positive reviews, but most of the time they were negative. **It disincentivized people to make charts and the site had to shut down.** That's why there is no rating system in CF and there will never be.

### Part 1: Tools

To make sure we are all on the same page about the tools that will be mentioned in this article here is a summary



CustomsForge Song Managers' logo

- **Editor On Fire (EOF):** This is where the actual charting is done. Originally, it was a companion to Frets On Fire but now it allows for the creation of compatible songs for RS2014, BandFuse, the Guitar Hero games, Phase Shift and Rock Band.
  - **Rocksmith ToolKit (RSTK):** It automates the whole packaging process and creates all of the files that are needed for RockSmith to read the charts. It also has a Dynamic Difficulty Creator (DDC). DDC is mandatory on any new uploads to CF because a lack of DDC causes issues in game.
  - **WWise:** RS uses WEM files for reading and navigating through audio files and this program converts WAV files to the WEM format. RSTK does it all on its own properly but the software is still needed to do the encoding (like you would need the LAME encoder to encode an MP3).
- **Ultra Star Creator (USC):** It makes synchronising vocals easier since they can be roughly synchronized to the audio then imported into EOF right away.
- **Editing tablature software:** While EOF can edit tablatures, many people prefer to use Guitar Pro and similar programs because it is more convenient for them. TuxGuitar and MuseScore are free and perfectly functional alternatives.

## Part 2: Tabs and hand placement

The internet is a vast place that has infinite amounts of information to our disposal with just the click of a mouse. So much, in fact, that a lot of it is misleading and useless. **Many tablatures** fall right in this category because **not only can they be outright wrong, they can be greatly uncomfortable at times**. Tabs generally don't attempt to make songs easier nor more difficult, but **if one starts saying that you should play a chord that stretches your fingers 6 frets of distance, then it's time you actually reconsider if that tab is correctly made**. This is important to have in mind because charters will use them in order to make the CDLC. And if you don't like the available tabs, make some yourself! That's where Guitar Pro and other software come into the equation.

If you have adequate tabs think to yourself: Are these what the artist would have done? Check live video, the artist might have some odd habit that can make what seems right at first sight the "wrong" choice for being "artist accurate" and it can help make a decision about Fret Hand Positions (FHP) and fingering for chords.

## Part 3: Tunings

**There are many ways to play a single song**. For example, some of *Pantera's* songs which were originally in eb were translated into E standard for some official DLCs. Having that in mind, when playing a song think what sounds best in what tuning. If you don't find any real differences between tunings, ask yourself: **Do you want your chart to be Artist Accurate or Easier to Play?**

**If the chart you are making happens to be in Drop B or lower tunings**, chances are it is intended for a baritone or a 7 string guitar. CF allows you to set a flag for a 7 string chart, and they are useable in game, but not by everyone. **A way around this is by using a "drop pedal"**. A lot of users like the idea of having the emulated option in game and others the real deal. This is a case where you can make 2 versions of a song (with fairly minimal effort to alter between the 2) and provide a better custom option for more users.

**Open tunings can be tricky, and dive-bombing streamer Rubber Dave explains why: "I tend to use Floyd Rose guitars so I'm limited somewhat to certain tunings. I do use the Digitech Drop**

**pedal so I'm not totally restricted, but things like Open or True tunings are pretty much off-limits for me"**

**As a final note, be wary about strange tunings.**

Occasionally there is an easier alternative in more common ones, **but don't hide from them. Some songs** like Parabola by Tool **absolutely require them**. Again, it comes down to a choice of - Artist Accurate, or Easier to Play.

## Part 4: (Not) Going Deaf

**Remember, Tone Designer is your friend!** If in doubt, you can always grab a tone from an official song from the same or similar sounding bands and it'll be better than adding a totally hopeless one.

**Great tones can make great charts out of mediocre ones**. For example, tones that are similar to the ones used in the songs help the player get immersed in the song. On the other hand, tones that accentuate the guitarist/bassists playing without overshadowing the actual song are a better option for people who want to improve and actually hear what they are actually playing.

## Part 5: Detective work

In the end, the best way of checking if a CDLC is good is by playing it. However; no one has enough time to play them all, so here are some signs that might indicate a chart isn't as good as it could be:

- **Beware the release date:** Charts last updated before December 2016 will have bugs in Rocksmith 2014 Remastered.
- **Beware the vocals:** They are very easy to add but take time to do so correctly, so no vocals are an early indicator that not much effort may have been put into it.
- **Beware the paths:** Several paths usually mean that some time has been invested in them and it is always a good sign. Charts with only one path don't necessarily have to be bad though, *JamesPrestonUK* has done more than 1600 bass charts of a consistently excellent standard.

**[Find Rubber Dave at:](#)**

**[His YouTube Channel](#)**

**[His Twitter Account](#)**

**[His Twitch Channel, where he streams from 7 PM to 10 PM GMT on Tuesdays and Fridays](#)**



CustomForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

### Meet us in:

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Discord: <http://discord.gg/CF>

Donate: <http://customsforge.com/donate>

### New merch:

<http://bit.ly/MerchCF>



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***Charter's tip of the month:*** "Use audio processing software like Audacity to change the pitch of a song if it isn't at A440 to save players retuning" – **JamesPrestonUK**

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### Website Updates

If you see a dead link, make sure to report it! Please remember that the website depends on donations so donate once in a while, any amount helps!

### CFSongManager

Did you know CustomsForgeSongManager is a tool to (amongst many, many other things) repair older CDLC files and add Dynamic Difficulty to CDLC that may still be missing it?

### PATREONS

An extra special shoutout to all of those who supports us with a couple bucks every month. You may not realize it but your kindness helps us more than you can imagine.

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*Thank you for reading CustomsForge's monthly newsletter. Keep on rockin'!*

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**WANT TO JOIN? APPLY TODAY:** <http://bit.ly/applytoCF>