

CUSTOMSFORGE'S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #3

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 are approaching more than 35,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 250,000 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.

What is the saddest day of the year?

Have you ever heard of blue monday? According to psychologist Cliff Arnall, the third Monday of January is the saddest day of the year due to Christmas excesses, not being able to achieve new year's resolutions and a lack of daylight that leaves us all with the blues. You can find more information about it [here](#). We hope that these tunes make you feel better and remember: everyone has the blues once in a while.

Singles

B.B.King – Sky Is Crying
 B.B.King – The Thrill Is Gone
 Albert King – Born Under A Bad Sign
 Gary Moore – Still Got The Blues
 Gary Moore – Walking By Myself
 Gary Moore – Parisienne Walkways
 Jimi Hendrix – Red House
 Stevie Ray Vaughan – Pride And Joy
 Gary Clark Jr. – Bright Lights
 George Thorogood – Bad To The Bone
 Patrick Sweany – Them Shoes
 Muddy Waters – Mannish Boy
 Nina Simone – Feeling Good
 Blues Brothers – Soul Man
 Blues Brothers – Gimme Some Lovin'
 Joe Bonamassa – Tennessee Plates
 Joe Bonamassa – Walk In My Shadows
 Howlin' Wolf – Spoonful
 Howlin' Wolf – Killing Floor
 Howlin' Wolf – Smokestack Lightning

Albums

Gary Moore – Still Got The Blues
 Stevie Ray Vaughan – Texas Flood
 Philip Sayce Group – Peace Machine

Huge thanks to everyone in CF's staff who helped make this list. Couldn't have done it without you.



“I was on Twitch and I saw wr4thTV playing Rocksmith 2014 and I thought: This looks so much fun, I can totally do this.”

INTERVIEW WITH CHAINBRAIN

How did you get into Rocksmith? For a lot of folks, it was a friend who introduced them, or perhaps an advertisement in YouTube. But for many others it was a Canadian man streaming on Twitch a weird Guitar Hero type game, except that he was using a real guitar! Ladies and gentlemen, today *Chainbrain* is in the studio with us. I highly doubt there is someone who hasn't heard of you in CustomsForge, but just to make sure we are all in the same page, can you introduce yourself?

My name is James and I am 29 years old. I stream on Twitch under the name *Chainbrain* and I also have a YouTube channel with the same name. I have been playing guitar since I was 14 and Rocksmith since 2014.

I guess we should start from the beginning. How did you start playing Rocksmith?

So around 2014 I bought the game and I played for a while, but I was having a hard time trying to follow along the layout so eventually I putted it away. Later that same year I bought for Xbox. I stopped playing in 2015 again because of audio delay. I don't remember how –probably was recommended to me- but I was on Twitch and I saw *wr4thTV* playing Rocksmith 2014 and I thought: This looks so much fun, I can totally do this. So the next day I bought a webcam, I redownloaded the game and started streaming.

Out of curiosity, how do you get around copyright on YT? Because from what I have seen it looks mostly like the strike system works at random.

Well, it has come a long way since I started. The algorithm detects when an artist/company's song is being used and then it notifies them. They used to take down videos if that happened but now they put ads in the video and make money from it. Sometimes companies share the revenue with me, but that is very rare and so far has only happened with the bands *Death* and *Animals as Leaders*.

You told me before the interview you have been in the forums since 2014 and I wanted to ask: How has been your experience with CF's community so far?

Incredible. I have met a lot of people through CF and I don't think I have come across someone who wasn't friendly or kind. Probably my favourite thing about CF is that everybody wants other people to improve. There is no competition, not even in the Rocksmith 2014 Championship.

I'm pretty sure you have met a lot of charters in CF and someone wanted to know who you think is the best at making CDLC.

I know who made this question. I'm sure it was Teinashu and to be fair I really like his charts. I also like SheppardOfFire, Firekorn, Albatross213, DarkenedGod, Kosa... I kind of feel like I'm on the spot because there are so many I like that I can't remember all of them.

You have been here for some time so can you tell us about the best and worst moments so far in Rocksmith?

This is going to be kind of memey but for me the worst thing was the *Through the Fire and the Flames* official DLC because Rocksmith is a bigger name than CustomsForge, so know everyone knows about it and when they come into the stream the first thing they say is: "Play Through the Fire and the Flames".

Paradoxically, the best moment was when Herman Li joined my stream and I played TTFATF for him. He was one of my idols when I started playing guitar and playing for him *his* song was just unbelievable.

Would you change anything about the game?

Definitely. I would first improve the tuner because it's just awful. Mainly because it isn't extremely bad, but it is enough so that guitar strings are off. But the issue is far more important than just sounding slightly bad, because RS is designed to teach people how to play guitar and one of the fundamentals is learning how to tune correctly, so if they don't get that correctly from the start it's no good. For some reason it also gives up at some point and just lets you play without really caring about your guitar being in tune or not. But enough ranting about the tuner. If the interface was much more clear I bet more people would be interested in playing the game, specially bends should be made more clear because it's hard sometimes to know how much you should bend a note, specifically when the bend is relatively translucent. They never explain what those are and you just have to figure it out on your own.

Do think it is possible to live off streaming Rocksmith? I mean, it is a small game with even a smaller community of streamers who generally don't have that many viewers, so it seems like making enough money to pay the bills is difficult, not to say impossible.

I can confirm it is possible because currently I am. I am lucky because I live with my girlfriend so that allows us to earn a little less than I did with my previous job. And contrary to what you might think, I believe it's easier to be a RS streamer to be a videogame streamer. Right now most of RS streamers on Twitch list themselves under the Music and Performance category because it gives us a lot of exposure. Generally, people that come into our

streams tend to be an older audience than the one League of Legends streamers have, for example. This means that they are usually more capable of supporting us financially and appreciate what we do, albeit they might be more demanding. We don't make fat cash but I would say it is easier than streaming videogames.

What would you say differentiates you from other RS streamers?

Some old viewers won't like this because they might think I am a sell-out, but I think it's that I have embraced the memes. I am kind of a bridge between the Guitar Hero community and RS, because bOne(r), Soulless and all those memes appeared in Clone Hero and playing them has helped me spread the message about RS, which is just getting people to play guitar. Apart from that, I don't think I'm that different from other streamers.

Have you ever thought about giving up streaming?

A thousand times. I play guitar on Twitch and make enough to live and I don't want to take that from granted, but most people don't see the work that goes behind that. As a streamer it is rough seeing that for some reason you have less viewers than you did yesterday for no particular reason. You just don't know why it happens but it gets into you, not only because you might have done something wrong but because my success depends on my viewers. On a positive note, it really gets me going seeing that sometimes I have more than a hundred people watching me play guitar for them and my subs are still there.

Thank you so much for being with us and thanks to Teinashu for helping us arrange this interview.

I really enjoyed this and hope to be again in the newsletter!

You can find Chainbrain at the following links below:

Twitch.tv/Chainbrain

Twitter.com/xChainbrain

Youtube.com/Chainbrain

Instagram.com/Chainbrain



CustomForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

Visit & Support Us:

Twitter: @CustomsForge

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Patreon: CustomsForge

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

Donate: CustomsForge.com/donate/

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*“We are proud to announce that we have
acquired a partnership with RSplaylist.com
& RockSniffer”*

Tools for streamers

We are proud to announce that we have acquired a partnership with RSPlaylist.com & RockSniffer, two vital tools for rocksmith streamers. This means additional support for both of them and improving direct ignition support. You can find them [here](#).

Staff Updates

New year, new staff! We have welcomed Sarah-MichelleK as our designer and AshesOfOwls as a developer. We are proud to have you here.

Website Updates

Merged both support forums into Rocksmith General.

The reason we did this is that people would post their issues in all three forums regardless if it was the right area.

Maintaining three forums for support is complex, so now we only need to check one forum for support.

Magna Charters forum removed, post merged into Charters

Removed archives forum, merged into Rocksmith General

Updated "creators" discord link on the forums

Background staff forum changes

Added RSPlaylist.com forums w/ links to Rocksniffer as well.

Other various fixes.

We have big things in store for 2019! :) That means a lot of house cleaning to prep for upcoming major upgrades.

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

