



# Mandala Music HD

A New Way to Express Yourself Musically  
BY  
Intelligent Gadgets

The screenshot shows the Mandala Music HD app interface. At the top, it displays "Beat 3 of 4" and "120 beats/minute". Below this are buttons for "-1", "+1", "SLOWER", "FASTER", "RECORD", "LISTEN", and "SHARE". A "Media" label is positioned below the "RECORD", "LISTEN", and "SHARE" buttons. The next row features "Aeolian (Greece)" and "PureToneShort" labels. Below these are buttons for "-SEMI", "<", ">", "+SEMI", "COPY", "<", ">", and "PASTE". The third row includes "MEDIUM", "1:1", "OFF", "NONE", "-1", and "+1" buttons, with labels "Decay", "Freq Ratio", "Mod", "Envelope", and "Octave Shift" below them. The fourth row has buttons for "1", "ON", "OFF", "PLAY", "SOFTER", and "LOUDER", with labels "Track", "Loop", "Quantize", and "Volume" below them. The bottom half of the screen is dominated by a large, intricate mandala graphic with several colored circles (orange, red, purple) overlaid on it. A small "X" icon is visible in the top right corner of the interface. At the very bottom, a text prompt reads: "Tap any text under or over a button for help with that control."

Mandala Music HD provides a new way of expressing yourself musically. Instead of playing a conventional instrument, Mandala Music HD maps the notes of musical scales to pads on the iPad, which are arranged in a circular pattern known as a mandala. Music is pattern and pattern is music. The notes you play emanate like ripples on water. Create multi-track recordings that can be saved, downloaded, or emailed to yourself or friends. Compose a pattern and change the modality from a western major scale to an Egyptian, Arabic, or other scale (33 scales from around the world are provided). Change the tempo, the sound (pitch, harmonics, dynamics), the meter, and even the rhythm.

## MEDIA CONTROLS

**RECORD** – Touch RECORD to begin recording and STOP to end. Mandala Music HD begins and ends your recording with a short fade-in/fade-out.

**LISTEN** – Select and play any of your recordings. Additionally, recordings (.caf files) can be downloaded to your computer via iTunes file sharing (click the Mandala Music HD tab under apps.)

**SHARE** – Email your recordings (a 12 second recording takes about 1 Meg so limit the size of the recordings you send).

## TIMBRE (SOUND) CONTROL BAR

Sounds are produced by an FM synthesizer, nature's most efficient way of producing complex timbres by simply using one sine wave (pure tone) to modulate another.

**Decay** – Changes the decay (length) of the sound.

**Freq Ratio** – Changes the spectrum (timbre) of the sound.

**Mod** – Changes the harmonics (overtones) of the sound.

**Envelope** – Controls how the harmonics change as the sound decays.

**Octave Shift** – Increases/decreases the pitch by an octave.

The patch bar is above the sound controls. '<' and '>' cycle through 16 preset and 12 user-defined sounds. You can COPY the current sound and PASTE it into one of the user-defined settings to change it. All sounds are automatically saved when the app shuts down.

## TRACK CONTROL BAR

Up to four tracks of sound can be created.

**Track** – Selects the current track (1-4).

**Loop** – Turns looping on/off. You must play several notes to start. Looping takes 1-2 measures for the pattern to repeat after you stop playing.

**Quantize** – Adjusts the rhythm. Each tap increases the quantization, which further simplifies the rhythm.

**Volume** – Mute the current track, or increase/decrease the volume level.

## BEAT CONTROL BAR

**Metronome** – The icon below and to the right of the track control bar is a metronome. Tap it to turn it off/on. The tempo (beats per minute) can be increased/decreased using the control bar at the top of the app.

**Beat** – Sets the number of beats in the loop. The default is 4 beats (i.e., 4/4 time) but it can be set to any value less than 128.

## SCALE CONTROLS

**Scale** – Choose one of 33 different scales from around the world. The selected scale is mapped to the pads of the mandala.

**Notes** – Changes the pitches of the notes in the scale that are currently mapped to the mandala up/down by a semi-tone.