



Frequently Asked Questions

Meet the Skoog

[Q. What is a Skoog?](#)

[Q. Why do we need another musical instrument?](#)

[Q. So this is predominantly for people with disabilities?](#)

[Q. What is innovative about it?](#)

[Q. What about the research behind it?](#)

[Q. So how does it work?](#)

[Q. How do you use a Skoog?](#)

[Q. So, can you record and create your own tunes?](#)

[Q. Why is the Skoog also relevant to professional musicians?](#)

[Q. How does playing a Skoog compare to a conventional instrument?](#)

[Q. Do I have to know how to play a musical instrument?](#)

The Business

[Q. How much does it cost?](#)

[Q. That seems expensive?](#)

[Q. What do I get for £499?](#)

[Q. Is the Skoog only available in the UK?](#)

[Q. How did Skoogmusic and the Skoog come into being?](#)

[Q. How did the Apple Store opportunity come about?](#)

[Q. Why did Apple decide to put the Skoog on the Apple Store?](#)

[Q. How much is the Apple Store channel worth to Skoogmusic?](#)

[Q. What about the United States?](#)

[Q. How is Skoogmusic funded?](#)

[Q. What is next for Skoogmusic?](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

The Technical Stuff

[Q. Can I only get a Skoog if I have a Mac?](#)

[Q. Can I use it with my iPhone and iPad?](#)

[Q. Can I use the Skoog wirelessly?](#)

[Q. Can I play along to songs I like?](#)

[Q. Does having only five musical notes available limit my musical choices?](#)

[Q. How easy is it to start using the Skoog in a classroom setting?](#)

[Q. Does it break/rip easily?](#)

[Q. How many Skoogs can be played at the same time?](#)

Meet the Skoog

Q. What is a Skoog?

A. The Skoog is an easy to play musical instrument. It is a soft, tactile cube shaped instrument that invites you to play, connecting to a software platform that supports a wide range of music making activities.

Q. Why do we need another musical instrument?

A. Not everyone can play traditional musical instruments. The Skoog was developed at the University of Edinburgh with the goal of making a musical instrument that would be playable by as wide a range of people as possible, including those with physical or learning difficulties.

Q. So this is predominantly for people with disabilities?

A. No, but in developing the Skoog we wanted to address the problems and impracticalities that people with disabilities often face with traditional musical instruments. Adopting the philosophy of Universal Design, the Skoog is a highly adaptable product designed to be used by anyone interested in making music.

Q. What is innovative about it?

A. The Skoog enables a high level of musical control through a simple interface.

Q: What about the research behind the Skoog?

A. The Skoog is the product of a several streams of research coming together in a groundbreaking participatory design project supported by NESTA. You can read about the research in these three articles in the Times Educational Supplement. The idea (<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=2244168>), the research (<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=2568027>) and the result (<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6008393>).

Q. So how does it work?

Skoog uses patented multi-dimensional tactile sensing technology to dynamically render the players every touch and movement into musical sound. The soft, resilient Skoog connects to the Physical Modelling Synthesis engine in our software and allows the player to physically mould and sculpt their sound. Just as when playing any traditional instrument, the player can vary their technique for real musical expression.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do you use a Skoog?

A. Simply touch the Skoog to play. It is a soft, hand-sized cube that plugs into the USB port on your Mac or PC to communicate with specialised music-making software installed on your computer. The flexibility of our software means that your music-making experience can be as simple or sophisticated as you want it to be. You can either take advantage of its advanced audio features (including physical modelling synthesis, sampling, looping or MIDI) or just have fun with music even without any previous musical knowledge or instrumental skill.

Q. So, can you record and create your own tunes?

A. Yes! With the Skoog's software, users can easily create their own musical compositions using its sampling, looping and layering features.

Q. Why is the Skoog also relevant to professional musicians?

A. Skoog uses patented multi-dimensional tactile sensing technology to dynamically render the players every touch and movement into musical sound. This offers the professional musician new ways to create and control sound, either using the in-built physical modelling synthesis and easy to use sampling scrubber, or simply using it as a tactile, intuitive MIDI controller, so you can use it with just about any other MIDI tech.

Q. How does playing a Skoog compare to a conventional instrument?

A. The Skoog is a very personal musical instrument. It provides a versatile interface that can be customised to respond to individual requirements and playing preferences, meaning that users can experiment with different playing techniques and develop their musicianship. Another really cool thing about the software is that it mimics the behaviour of conventional musical instruments using physical modelling synthesis to create a direct correlation between the gestures a player makes and the sound that is produced.

Q. Do I have to know how to play a musical instrument?

A. No. The Skoog is really easy to learn and helps people new to playing music to learn about music and sound as they experiment with musical expression - from pitch, timbre and dynamics through to scales, instruments, recording and editing.

The Business

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Price As listed on reseller Site/Catalogue. (UK - £499 including UK VAT)

Q. That seems expensive?

A. The Skoog is a specialised device. It delivers a pro-audio quality experience through its comprehensive and easy to use music making platform that has been designed to be playable by as wide a range of people as possible, including those with physical or learning difficulties.

While it can be used in similar ways to other MIDI controllers, the Skoog offers a new kind of interface that provides a significantly greater degree of tactile feedback. We believe that this affords a more naturally expressive musical experience and offers a cost effective option for users of all abilities.

Q. What do I get?

A. The purchase price includes one Skoog musical device, Skoogmusic software (for Mac or Windows), online support, tools and resources including tutorial videos and webinars, and a roaming software license that allows you to install on multiple computers at once.

Q. Is the Skoog available internationally?

A. Yes.. The Skoog is available in over 25 countries. Skoogmusic software is now available in English, French, Italian ,German, Spanish and Portuguese with further localisation in development to accommodate market interest. Our software user manual is already available in Arabic, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Hungarian, Norwegian, Polish, Russian and Swedish.

Q. How did Skoogmusic and the Skoog come into being?

A. In 2006, the University of Edinburgh engaged in a research project with the goal of making a musical instrument that would be playable by as wide a range of people as possible, including those with physical or learning difficulties. This work built upon previous research that demonstrated the benefits of music in education, and the absence of an appropriate instrument

The project was led by Dr. David **Sk**ulina and Dr. Ben Sch**ög**ler (**Sk + ög** hence Skoog) at the University of Edinburgh and, in response to the hugely positive response from teachers and pupils, Skoogmusic was formed in 2009

to make the Skoog available to a wider audience.

Today, the Skoog is widely used in the UK and around the world for music education and performance. We are delighted that the Skoog is now being included by UK Local Education Authorities and Music Hubs as part of their SEN and mainstream music curriculum and that it features in an increasing number of public performances. See, for example, the Skoog being used as part of Technophonia at the 20x12 Cultural Olympiad:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqoDBLz-eig>

Q. How did the Apple Store opportunity come about?

A. Apple heard about us through our work in education and invited us to London to see the Skoog for themselves. Their response was immediately positive and we were offered the opportunity for the Skoog to feature on the Apple Store in 21 countries.

Q. Why did Apple decide to put the Skoog on the Apple Store?

A. That's a question for Apple, but we like to think it's because they like the versatility of the Skoog as a music-making device that would appeal to their customers. They also recognise the Skoog's success in bringing a highly accessible music technology into educational and special needs environments.

Q. How much is the Apple Store channel worth to Skoogmusic?

A. This is a hugely positive endorsement for the Skoog. Being included on the Apple Store is an amazing opportunity for a small company like Skoogmusic and allows us to reach a much wider audience through such an iconic and prestigious channel. The Skoog is now listed on the Apple Store across 21 countries across Europe and the Middle East. The potential is enormous.

Q. What about the United States?

A. Skoog is currently available in North America through our resale partners (<http://www.skoogmusic.com/wheretobuyskoog>).

Q. How is Skoogmusic funded?

A. Skoogmusic received seed investment from Barwell PLC, Daedalus Ventures, Old College Capital and the Scottish Enterprise Co-investment Fund.

Q. What is next for Skoogmusic?

A. We are constantly looking for new ways to make music easier. We are currently developing new technologies and resources to offer additional features and functionality that are accessible to all.



Frequently Asked Questions



Frequently Asked Questions

The Technical Stuff

Q. Can I only get a Skoog if I have a Mac?

A. No. The Skoog software is available in both Mac and Windows versions.

Q. Can I use it with my iPhone and iPad?

A. The Skoog connects to a computer or laptop via USB and currently runs on Mac OSX and Windows only. We are developing new technologies to deliver software and devices that are accessible to all.

Q. Can I use the Skoog wirelessly?

A. The Skoog connects to a computer or laptop via USB and currently runs on Mac OSX and Windows only. We are developing new technologies to deliver software and devices that are accessible to all.

Q. Can I play along to songs I like?

A. Absolutely. You can tune the Skoog to any musical key so it's in perfect harmony with your selected music or song.

Q. Does having only five musical notes available limit my musical choices?

A. Skoog allows you to play any five notes at a time and you can add and change notes or key as and when desired. Five is the minimum viable number of notes that allows the user to play along with the majority of musical styles. When presented in the Skoog's simple geometric form, it is cognitively very simple and frees the player to concentrate on dynamics, timing and expression. By choosing a pentatonic scale that is in the appropriate key for the musical context you are working with, there is no risk of hitting a note that sounds "bad".

Q. How easy is it to start using the Skoog in a classroom setting?

A. Extremely easy. The Skoog is designed to be plug-and-play, just download the software to your classroom computer and connect to the USB port. The soft, tactile interface is highly engaging and because students can quickly achieve results, they eager to participate. Fun to play, the flexibility and range of features available in the Skoog mean that it can make an impactful contribution towards the music education curriculum, even for non-music teachers.

Q. Does it break/rip easily?

A. The Skoog is safe, non-toxic, durable and wipe-clean. Biting should be avoided, as should the use of sharp implements.

Q. How many Skoogs can be played at the same time?



Frequently Asked Questions

A. Up to two devices can be connected to a single computer at once and each can be customised to individual user preference.