

Mac MacLaren, Software Engineer - CV

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Name Stewart MacLaren (but please call me Mac)
Location St Albans, Herts, UK
Working Status Eligible to work in the UK/Europe (British)

E-mail editor@lemonrock.com
Web www.lemonrock.com

Qualifications **B.Sc. (Hons) Computing and Electronics**
University of Durham

Certificate in Education (Further Education) Middlesex Polytechnic

Scottish Certificate of Education
CSYS: Maths I, Maths II, Physics
Highers: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, English, French
O Grade: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, English, French, Geography, Arithmetic, Music

Edexcel
GCSE: Spanish

Achievements

Lemonrock : iPhone, Web/Mobile, Database Design/Engineering

iPhone **2000-2016** Designed, coded and managed live music gig guide **Lemonrock** (www.lemonrock.com). Site written in PHP5, MySQL5, JavaScript, jQuery, HTML5, CSS and Ajax. Dedicated server, Linux, Apache. Wrote CMS and test tools.

LAMP
HTTP
jQuery
SQLite
E-commerce Integrated with Google Maps, [WorldPay](#) Select Junior (HTTP), [Milonic](#) menu, [IP2Location](#) database, [FPDF](#).

HTML5
email

Designed Lemonrock [iPhone App](#) using Xcode, Objective-C (OO/MVC), iOS, Cocoa Touch, SQLite.

Software Engineering

I have designed and developed many software systems over the years, from embedded microprocessor-based systems, through telecoms stacks, to (literally) all-singing web sites.

I know a lot of things about software, like how to write it badly, and how to write it well. I have learned how good software works by making many, many horrible mistakes along the way, and I'm not afraid to admit it. I am a cautious, thorough, organised, inquisitive engineer with a passion for efficiency and ruthless testing; I am someone who looks both ways on a one-way street, because you simply never know. I even enjoy documenting my own code (if you ask me to, at the start).

I worked for many years writing embedded C for mobile phones (GSM and GPRS, the forerunner of 3G). The most exciting part of this was implementing PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol, the successor to SLIP) from scratch. I was also heavily involved in the Layer 3 protocol stack handset implementation and the creation of the test tools suite.

My favourite software projects to date have been PPP (see above), Windows test tools, a JAVA UDP-based comms stack, designing parsers using Bison (like YACC), and more recently creating Lemonrock.com, the very popular live music gig guide web site.

I am interested in tearing things apart and re-building them properly.

Other Stuff

Although I have made my living from writing and testing software, I have many other interests, including music, recording, food, and foreign languages. If you are looking for someone to write and/or test software for you, please bear in mind these interests as they will help you decide whether or not I might be interested in working with you.

In 1995, newly established on the vibrant St Albans music scene, I co-directed the production of a 19-track CD called [Swell](#), which was a snapshot of the then live bands in the area to show the Music Industry what we could all do. Fabulous fun, fabulous songs, and some of the artistes eventually found commercial success.

In 1996, 1997 and 2004, I recorded my own band, MacLaren Wall, on 3 CDs: "For a Day", "Film", and "A Bit Like Life". You can find them on [Lemonrock](#).

In 2004 I recorded some more original songs, under the name of Dundee Station. This is something I'm still very proud of! Nick Swannell, our original MacLaren Wall producer, did a lovely job. You should [listen to it](#) on Lemonrock.

From 1994 until now (2016) I have been playing live with Melanie Wall, a great singer and frontwoman, and, more recently, with the best rhythm section in Hertfordshire (Paul Davis on bass and Mark Frazer on drums). I play acoustic guitar, which isn't quite as cool as electric guitar but has its advantages! In 2010 I co-created the St Albans based live band Karaoke night for wannabe-singers, called [Pimp My Band](#), and played guitar and sang lead vocals in the band. I now host regular acoustic gigs at my excellent local pub, [The Mermaid](#), under the name of [Mac Holiday Monday](#).

In 2012 I started to learn Spanish, and in 2014 I started a Spanish/English intercambio (language exchange) group in St Albans which still meets every Monday night, with around 15 to 25 people attending each week. I also achieved an A* grade in GCSE Spanish in 2014.

Here's a list of other things that you can get me worked up about (in a good way).

Songwriting, British and American pop and rock music, live music gigs, recording, CD production, software design, software testing, Web design, database design, embedded systems design, valve amps and hi-fi, cooking, house renovation, cycling, table tennis, entertaining, Real Ale, proper vegetarian food, pubs, walking, keep fit, Spanish language.