

MTremoloMB



Easy screen vs. Edit screen

The plugin provides 2 user interfaces - an **easy screen** and an **edit screen**. Use the Edit button to switch between the two.

By default most plugins open on the **easy screen** (edit button released). This screen is a simplified view of the plugin which provides just a few controls. On the left hand side of the plugin you can see the list of available **devices / instruments** (previously called 'active presets'), that is, presets with controls. These controls are actually nothing more than multiparameters (single knobs that can control one or more of the plug-in's parameters and sometimes known as Macro controls in other plug-ins) and are described in more detail later. Each device may provide different controls and usually is intended for a specific purpose. The easy screen is designed for you to be able to perform common tasks, quickly and easily, without the need to use the advanced settings (that is, those available on the Edit screen).

In most cases the devices are highlighted using different text colors. In some cases the colors only mark different types of processing, but in most cases the general rule is that **black/white devices** are the essential ones designed for general use. **Green devices** are designed for a specific task or audio materials, e.g. de-essing or processing vocals in a compressor plugin. **Red devices** usually provide some very special processing or some extreme or creative settings. In a distortion plugin, for example, these may produce an extremely distorted output. **Blue devices** require an additional input, a side-chain or MIDI input usually. Without these additional inputs these **Blue** presets usually do not function as intended. Please check your host's documentation about routing side-chain and MIDI into an effect plugin.

To the right of the controls are the meters or time-graphs for the plugin; the standard plugin Toolbar may be to the right of these or at the bottom of the plugin.

By clicking the **Edit button** you can switch the plugin to **edit mode** (edit button pushed). This mode provides all the of the features that the plugin offers. You lose no settings by toggling between edit mode and the easy screen unless you actually change something. This way you can easily check what is "under the hood" for each device, or start with an device and then tweak the plugin settings further.

Devices are factory specified and cannot be modified directly by users, however you can still make your own and store them as normal presets. To do so, configure the plugin as desired, then define each multiparameter and specify its name in its settings. You can then switch to the easy screen and check the user interface that you have created. Once you are satisfied with it, save it as a normal preset while you are on the easy screen. Although your preset will not be displayed or selected in the list of available devices, the functionality will be exactly the same. For more information about multiparameters and devices please check the **online video tutorials**.

If you are an advanced designer, you can also view both the easy and edit screens at the same time. To do that, hold **Ctrl** key and press the Edit button.

Edit mode



Presets

Presets

Presets button shows a window with all available presets. A preset can be loaded from the preset window by double-clicking on it, selecting via the buttons or by using your keyboard. You can also manage the directory structure, store new presets, replace existing ones etc. Presets are global, so a preset saved from one project, can easily be used in another. The arrow buttons next to the preset button can be used to switch between presets easily.

Holding **Ctrl** while pressing the button loads a random preset. There must be some presets for this feature to work of course.

Presets can be backed up by 3 different methods:

A) Using "Backup" and "Restore" buttons in each preset window, which produces a single archive of all presets on the computer.

B) Using "Export/Import" buttons, which export a single folder of presets for one plugin.

C) By saving the actual preset files, which are found in the following directories (not recommended):

Windows: C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\MeldaProduction

Mac OS X: /Library/Application support/MeldaProduction

Files are named based on the name of the plugin like this: "{pluginname}.presets", so for example MAutopan.presets or MDynamics.presets. If the directory cannot be found on your computer for some reason, you can just search for the particular file.

Please note that prior to version 16 a different format was used and the naming was "{pluginname}presets.xml". *The plugin also supports an online preset exchange. If the computer is connected to the internet, the plugin connects to our server once a week, submits your presets and downloads new ones if available. This feature is manually maintained in order to remove generally unusable presets, so it may take some time before any submitted presets become available. This feature relies on each user so we strongly advise that any submitted presets be named and organised in the same way as the factory presets, otherwise they will be removed.*



Left arrow

Left arrow button loads the previous preset.



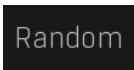
Right arrow

Right arrow button loads the next preset.



Randomize

Randomize button loads a random preset.



Randomize

Randomize button (with the text 'Random') generates random settings. Generally, randomization in plug-ins works by selecting random values for all parameters, but rarely achieves satisfactory results, as the more parameters that change the more likely one will cause an unwanted effect. Our plugins employ a smart randomization engine that learns which settings are suitable for randomization (using the existing presets) and so is much more likely to create successful changes.

In addition, there are some mouse modifiers that assist this process. The smart randomization engine is used by default if no modifier keys are held.

Holding **Ctrl** while clicking the button constrains the randomization engine so that parameters are only modified slightly rather than completely randomized. This is suitable to create small variations of existing interesting settings.

Holding **Alt** while clicking the button will force the engine to use full randomization, which sets random values for all reasonable automatable parameters. This can often result in "extreme" settings. Please note that some parameters cannot be randomized this way.



Panic

Panic button resets the plugin state. You can use it to force the plugin to report latency to the host again and to avoid any audio problems. For example, some plugins, having a look-ahead feature, report the size of the look-ahead delay as latency, but it is inconvenient to do that every time the look-ahead changes as it usually causes the playback to stop. After you tweak the latency to the correct value, just click this button to sync the track in time with the others, minimizing phasing artifacts caused by the look-ahead delay mixing with undelayed audio signals in your host. It may also be necessary to restart playback in your host.

Another example is if some malfunctioning plugin generates extremely high values for the input of this plugin. A potential filter may start generating very high values as well and as a result the playback will stop. You can just click this button to reset the plugin and the playback will start again.

Settings

Settings

Settings button shows a menu with additional settings of the plugin. Here is a brief description of the separate items.

Licence manager lets you activate/deactivate the plugins and manage subscriptions. While you can simply drag & drop a licence file onto the plugin, in some cases there may be a faster way. For instance, you can enter your user account name and password and the plugin will do all the activating for you.

There are 4 groups of settings, each section has its own detailed help information: **GUI & Style** enables you to pick the GUI style for the plug-in and the main colours used for the background, the title bars of the windows and panels, the text and graphs area and the highlighting (used for enabled buttons, sliders, knobs etc).

Advanced settings configures several processing options for the plug-in.

Global system settings contains some settings for all MeldaProduction plugins. Once you change any of them, restart your DAW if needed, and it will affect all MeldaProduction plugins.

Dry/Wet affects determines, for Multiband plug-ins, which multiband parameters are affected by the Global dry/wet control.

Smart interpolation adjusts the interpolation algorithm used when changing parameter values; the higher the setting the higher the audio quality and the lower the chance of zippering noise, but more CPU will be used.



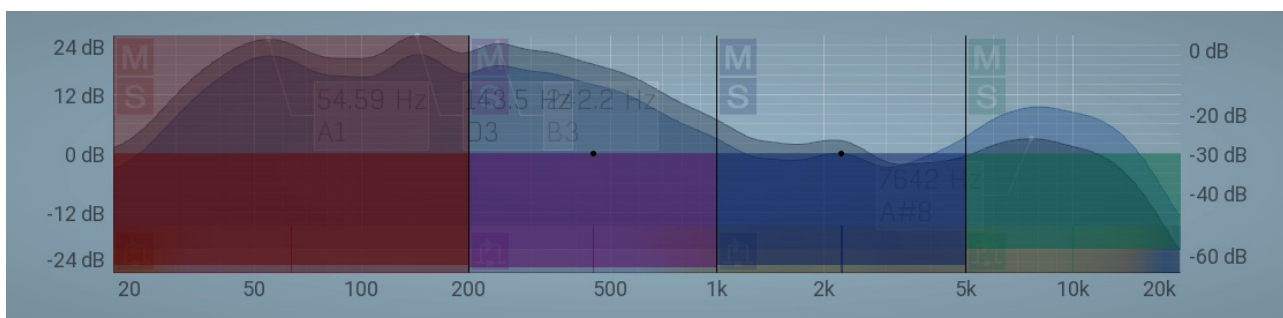
WWW

WWW button shows a menu with additional information about the plugin. You can check for updates, get easy access to support, MeldaProduction web page, video tutorials, Facebook/Twitter/YouTube channels and more.

Sleeping

Sleep indicator

Sleep indicator informs whether the plugin is currently active or in sleep mode. The plugin can automatically switch itself off to save CPU, when there is no input signal and the plugin knows it cannot produce any signal on its own and it generally makes sense. You can disable this in Settings / **Intelligent sleep on silence** both for individual instances and globally for all plugins on the system.



editor

Band editor displays the available frequency bands, the crossover frequencies delimiting them, and the input gains and panoramic positions.

Use the left mouse button to drag the band boundaries (the vertical lines between bands), the band itself (the central dot in each band) and the input gains (the horizontal bars in each band). The short vertical bars in the bottom of each band control the input panoramic positions (when L+R Channel Mode is selected) or the input Widths (when M+S Channel Mode is selected).

Use the right mouse button to open the **Band Configuration** window where you can manage the bands and crossover filters and the appearance of the analyzer waveforms in the band editor.

Buttons to the left-hand side of each band let you mute, solo and bypass the processing in each band. Please note that the **Mute** and **Solo** buttons act on the output for each band, that is after the actual band processing.

The Collapse button to the right of the Band Editor minimises the editor, releasing space for other editors in the plug-in.

Band menu

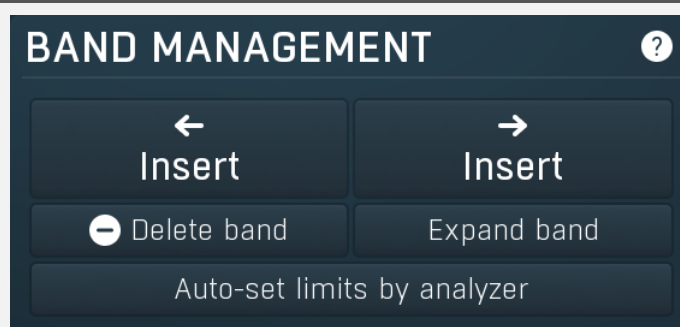


Band menu provides features to control the set of bands and copy & paste band settings (**Band management** section), reset band input gain & panorama (**Band gain & panorama** section), and to select and customize the crossover (**Crossover** section) and analyzer options.

You can display this menu by **right-clicking** on the band editor.

One of the essential things to control in the band menu is the number of bands. The plugin can either operate as a single bundle plugin. In this case there is no crossover employed of any kind and the first and only band receives all MIDI data if the plugin makes use of it somehow. If there are 2 or more bands however, the plugin somehow produces signals for each band using the crossover, based on the spectrum or level for example, and there's a change in MIDI behaviour as well - 1st band receives only MIDI channel 1, 2nd receives only MIDI channel 2 etc.

Band management panel

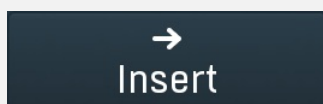


Band management panel contains basic features to create, delete and manipulate bands.



Insert left

Insert left button inserts a new band to the left of the currently-selected band (the last one that you clicked on).



Insert right

Insert right button inserts a new band to the right of the currently-selected band (the last one that you clicked on).



Delete

Delete button deletes the currently-selected band (the last one that you clicked on).

Expand band

Expand band

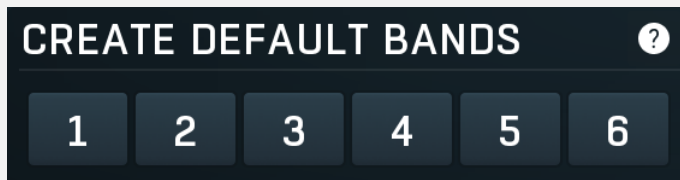
Expand band button solos (or unsolos) the band that you clicked on and disables the crossover temporarily, so that you can audition what the settings of this band would do to the entire signal, without any of the other bands having any affect.

Auto-set limits by analyzer

Auto-set limits by analyzer

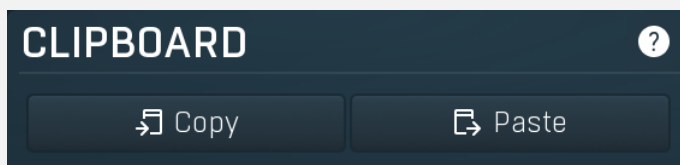
Auto-set limits by analyzer button adjusts the band limits using the current analyzer state, so that there's approximately the same signal level in each band. It is often useful to increase the averaging in the analyzer settings, so that the analysis doesn't 'jump' that quickly.

Create default bands panel



Create default bands panel lets you easily create a predefined set of bands. This is the easiest way to say create default plugin settings with 4 bands.

Clipboard panel



Clipboard panel contains features to transfer band settings via the system clipboard. Note that as always you can paste the settings as text into an email or forum post for example.



Copy

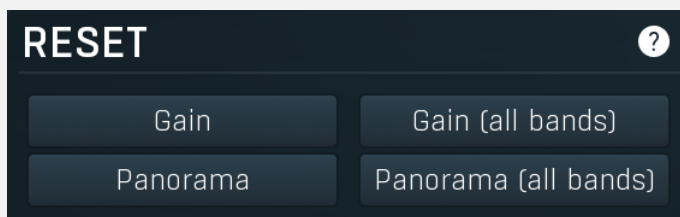
Copy button copies the band settings into the system clipboard. Note that the plugin band parameter settings are not copied; only the band limits, gains and panoramas.



Paste

Paste button loads the band settings from the system clipboard. Note that the plugin band parameter settings are not pasted; only band limits, gains and panoramas.

Reset panel



Reset panel lets you reset some band parameters.



Gain

Gain button resets the input gain of the currently-selected band (the last one that you clicked on) to 0dB.

Gain (all bands)

Gain (all bands)

Gain (all bands) button resets the input gain of all bands to 0dB.

Panorama

Panorama

Panorama button resets the input panorama of the currently-selected band (the last one that you clicked on) to center.

Panorama (all bands)

Panorama (all bands)

Panorama (all bands) button resets the input panorama of all bands to center.

Crossover panel

CROSSOVER

Analog

Analog LP

Linear-phase

Hybrid

Level

Panorama

Mid/Side

Parallel

Spectrum

Tonal/Transient

Serial

Slope

6dB/oct A 6dB/oct B 12dB/oct
24dB/oct 48dB/oct 72dB/oct
96dB/oct 120dB/oct

Level

silence

Level slope

50.0%

Transient release

50 ms

Transient resolution

50 ms

Smoothing

0.00%

Tone

0.00 dB

Spectral resolution

50.0%

Process side-chain

Crossover panel contains configuration of the crossover used to separate the signals for each band. **Crossover** is a technical term for an algorithm or device which splits a signal into multiple bands (or signals), which when mixed back together recreate the original signal (meaning that the crossover is transparent). The plugin provides several types of crossover with a flat (or nearly flat) response, which means that whichever crossover you choose and whatever signal you send into the plugin, the output levels of each frequency, after the bands are mixed back together to get the output signal, will be (almost) exactly the same, unless there is some processing applied in the bands themselves. Most of the available crossover types produce bands with different frequency ranges; however there are also a few more creative ones.

Analog crossovers have no latency, but they exhibit a phase-shift. That is usually irrelevant unless you are going to mix the output with the input later on. Analog crossovers are based on the classic analog components that you can find in speaker systems for example, however they are perfectly accurate and their slope (band separation) ranges from 6dB/octave to a very steep 120dB/octave. The higher the slope is, the more separated is each band (that is, there is less overlap between bands), but also the bigger is the phase shift. That can reach such an extent that some bassy materials become severely phasey, which may or may not be a good thing. An exception to the rule is the 6dB/oct crossover, which is zero-phase naturally. Its disadvantage is that the separation between bands is rather low, 6dB/oct is often not enough.

Analog LP crossover is a linear-phase equivalent to the **Analog** crossover. It introduces latency as does any linear-phase filter, but it does not cause a phase-shift. This may be especially advantageous for higher filter slopes, which, with classic analog crossovers, would cause severe transient smearing. Please note that the crossover type may not be 100% transparent, especially with small bands in bass spectrum and high slopes.

Linear-phase crossover is a fully digital crossover with a high slope (frequency-dependent), which introduces latency, but

exhibits no phase-shift. This crossover mode is designed specifically for mastering.

Hybrid crossover is linear-phase as well, hence it introduces latency, but no phase-shift. However, its slope is more similar to the slopes of the analog crossovers.

Level crossover is a very specialized tool, which doesn't filter the input signal at all (hence it is not only linear-phase, but also zero-phase). Instead of filtering, it simply performs a gain on each band in such a way that when all the bands are mixed back together, the output is the original signal again. When you select this crossover, the spectrum analyzer graph disappears and the X axis in the band editor changes from frequencies to dB levels. So the band limits are not frequencies anymore, but rather sound levels.

The current level displayed in the graph area is controlled by the **Level** value below and you are likely to use a modulator, most likely in **Follower** mode, to control this latter value. The crossover then applies gain to each band depending on how much the current level fits into the band. The **Slope** parameter controls how quickly each band fades into the adjacent one. This crossover effectively turns the plugin into a very advanced dynamics processor; using a Follower Modulator the band used to process the input audio depends on the audio level.

There are many possibilities for this crossover. But the basic principle is to select a spare Modulator, configure it as a Follower and select the Global parameter "Crossover Level value" as its target, with a "Full range" range mode. After configuring the Modulator, you will be able to see the detected value curve in the Modulator's Level graph. Then if the input signal is strongest, the right most band is processed etc. So if you for example use a delay with 2 bands and set the band limit high enough, the 2nd band will be processing only the loud parts of the signal and vice versa.

Panorama crossover is another specialized tool, similar to the level crossover; it splits the signal into bands according to the panorama. If, for example, you create 3 evenly spaced bands (100%L to 33%L, 33%L to 33%R, 33%R to 100%R), then the leftmost band will contain mainly the signals located in the left speaker, the rightmost band will contain mainly signals from the right speaker and the middle band will contain centred signals. Please note that this doesn't mean the crossover attempts to analyze the space the signals are coming from and send them to the respective bands, which is probably what your brain would attempt.

This crossover is useful only when processing stereophonic (or surround, in which case the channels from 3 upwards are kept intact) signals and can be used for all kinds of mixing and creative processing. For example, using a multiband compressor with this crossover can be used to effectively control the stereo image as each band would be processing a different part of the stereo image. To mention another example, a multiband delay or reverb can be used to produce a different ambience for different parts of the stereo image.

Mid/side crossover is similar to panorama crossover, but it splits the signal according to their position in mid/side location. In other words, the more to the left a band, the more centred is the signal in it. Similarly the more to the right a band, the more "to the side" is the signal in it. You can think of it as the panorama view folded back on itself, around the center position. If, for example, you create 3 evenly spaced bands (centre to 33% L or R, 33% L or R to 67% L or R, 67% L or R to 100% L or R), then the leftmost band will contain the centred signal, the rightmost band will contain the signals to the extreme left or right and the middle band will contain signals in between. It can be used for similar tasks as the panorama crossover.

Parallel crossover is not a crossover actually, it simply disables the crossover and as a result each band processes the full input signal. In practice this "not really crossover" mode lets you process multiple streams of the input audio signal in parallel. As a consequence there is likely to be an increase in output level, so take care and turn down the output level first. For example, if you use a compressor, this in effect produces an extreme parallel compression. As another example, you can use a reverb to produce several rooms in parallel, potentially leading to a fuller space for example.

Spectrum crossover is the first of the spectral crossovers. It splits the signal into individual frequencies, analyzes their levels and sends the frequencies with the highest level into the highest band etc. It marks each frequency with its level (as you can see on the dB scale on the X axis in the crossover band editor) and puts it into the appropriate band. The crossover is linear-phase and fully transparent.

It provides a huge (not only) creative potential as it lets you process the dominant and weak parts of the signal individually. For instance, by compressing the dominant frequencies using MDynamicsMB you can bring more attention to the unsubstantial frequencies in the signal and in a way stabilize it without disrupting the silent parts of it. Note that this is NOT the same thing as using a normal compressor, because this way it treats only the loud frequencies even if the weak frequencies are present at the same time. Another example could be using MDelayMB to generate echoes only to the dominant parts of the signal, such as snare and bass drums in a drum loop.

Transient crossover is also a spectral crossover. It splits the signal into individual frequencies and sends the transient parts for each of them into the highest band etc. It marks each frequency with its "current transientness" (defined by the percentage scale that you can see on the X axis in the crossover band editor) and puts it into the appropriate band. The crossover is linear-phase and fully transparent.

It provides a huge (not only) creative potential as it lets you process split the signal into tonal and transient parts (and anything in between) and treat each individually. For instance, by compressing the transients using MDynamicsMB you can easily control the attack of drums. Note that this is NOT the same thing as using a normal compressor, because this way you can treat only the attacks in an already mixed signal without affecting the remaining part of the signal. Another example could be using MDelayMB to generate echoes only for the attacks of each drum.

Serial crossover is not a crossover actually, it simply disables the crossover and processes all bands in series. For instance a multiband compressor can be exploited to perform multiple compressions in series, which is often considered better sounding compared to a single compressor driven hard. Please note that if each band has a latency, the latencies will add up.

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Slope | 6dB/oct A | 6dB/oct B | 12dB/oct |
| | 24dB/oct | 48dB/oct | 72dB/oct |
| | 96dB/oct | 120dB/oct | |

Slope

Slope defines the slope of each band transition and is used only by analog crossovers (including the linear-phase versions). It essentially controls the separation between the bands - the higher the slope, the lower the overlap between bands. Higher slopes require more CPU power and exhibit higher phase shift, which may be a problem especially when percussive materials. In these cases it may be necessary to switch to a linear-phase version.

Interesting exception to the classic rule are the 6dB/oct crossovers, which are linear-phase by nature (while still being zero latency), because the bands compensate for each other's phase shift. A side-effect of this is that the signal level in each band is much higher than using other crossovers, so you may expect these crossovers sound considerably different to the other modes.

| | |
|-------|---------|
| Level | silence |
|-------|---------|

Level value

Level value is used only with **Level crossover** and controls the level at which the signal is split into each band. You will probably want to attach this parameter to a modulator in Follower mode for instance.

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Level slope | 50.0% |
|-------------|-------|

Level slope

Level slope is used only with some crossover modes (Level, Spectrum and Tonal/Transient) and controls how quickly each band fades into the next one. It's similar to the **Slope** parameter used with analog crossovers.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Transient release | 50 ms |
|-------------------|-------|

Transient release

Transient release is only used by the **Tonal/Transient** crossover and controls the release time of each transient. The transients detected by the crossover are naturally very short, so this provides a way to make them longer, hence send more signal to the higher bands of the crossover (receiving transients) and less to the lower bands (receiving the remaining part of the signal).

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Transient resolution | 50 ms |
|----------------------|-------|

Transient resolution

Transient resolution is only used by the **Tonal/Transient** crossover and controls the behaviour of the spectral transient detector. You can use it to adjust the crossover to your audio material and we would recommend a simple trial-and-error approach.

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Smoothing | 0.00% |
|-----------|-------|

Smoothing

Smoothing is only used by spectral crossovers and controls how frequencies affect their surroundings. Without smoothing the individual bands may sound a bit artificial, because human brain general dislikes separated frequencies. It usually doesn't matter unless you audition the bands separately, but sometimes when more "brutal" processing is used on each band, it may become audible, which is where the smoothing can provide a solution at the cost of additional CPU and lower separation between bands, because it naturally makes the frequencies "more alike".

| | |
|------|---------|
| Tone | 0.00 dB |
|------|---------|

Tone

Tone is only used by spectral crossovers and controls the spectral slope applied by the detector. It is exactly the same feature as the **Slope** in analyzers and the crossover uses it to determine how to spread the frequencies between the bands. Higher slope gives more energy to higher frequencies and vice versa. Note that whatever the settings are, the crossover still produces signals that perfectly sum to the original input signal, meaning that it is perfectly transparent and unless the bands are actually doing something, you won't be able to hear a difference when changing this parameter.

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Spectral resolution | 50.0% |
|---------------------|-------|

Spectral resolution

Spectral resolution is only used by spectral crossovers and controls the spectral transformation settings. The higher the value is, the higher FFT size and overlap size is used, and therefore more CPU is usually required as well. Whether higher/lower value is good or not depends on the actual signal, the default 50% should work well with most audio materials. Higher values will generally provide better frequency resolution (usually good for less percussive sounds), lower values will provide better time resolution (usually good for more percussive sounds), eventually it is always about a compromise.

| |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process side-chain |
|--|

Process side-chain

Process side-chain option makes sure the side-chain is processed by the crossover as well as the main input. If you disable this option, main input will be processed of course, but side-chain will not. This may be handy e.g. in a multiband dynamics processor, which should react to the entire signal, but process each bands individually.

Analyzer panel

ANALYZER ?

☒ Analyzer

☐ Fill

☐ Sonogram

☐ Pause

☒ Normalize

 Settings

Analyzer panel lets you configure the fully featured integrated analyzer and sonogram.

 Settings

Settings

Settings button shows the settings of the spectrum analyzer and the spectrum sonogram.



Collapse

Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.

Band panel



Band panel contains parameters of a particular band. You can select a band using the band editor above, just click on the band in the graph.



Presets

Presets button shows a window with all available presets. A preset can be loaded from the preset window by double-clicking on it, selecting via the buttons or by using your keyboard. You can also manage the directory structure, store new presets, replace existing ones etc. Presets are global, so a preset saved from one project, can easily be used in another. The arrow buttons next to the preset button can be used to switch between presets easily.

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Left arrow

Left arrow button loads the previous preset.



Right arrow

Right arrow button loads the next preset.



Randomize

Randomize button loads a random preset.



Copy

Copy button copies the settings onto the system clipboard.



Paste

Paste button loads the settings from the system clipboard.

Random

Randomize

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Reset

Reset

Reset button loads the default settings.

Link

Link

Link button enables parameter linking between bands. Every parameter change performed with this enabled changes that parameter in all bands. Please note that some more rare parameters, which are not available for assignment and automation, may not be changed. But **Pasting** settings from the system clipboard does not change the other bands.



Left

Left button selects the previous band. If this is the first band, it selects the last one instead. This way you can easily cycle between the bands if selecting them in the band editor is hard because they are modulated for example.



Right

Right button selects the next band. If this is the last band, it selects the first one instead. This way you can easily cycle between the bands if selecting them in the band editor is hard because they are modulated for example.



DEPTH

50.0%

Depth

Depth defines how powerful the effect is, thus this is the ratio between the dry and wet signals.

Range: 0.00% to 100.0%, default 50.0%



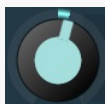
RATE

4.897 Hz

Rate

Rate defines the speed of the low frequency oscillator. This is available only when synchronization to host is disabled.

Range: 0.0100 Hz to 20.00 Hz, default 4.000 Hz



WIDTH

36° (10.0%)

Width

Width defines the phase difference between particular channels. This is very simple and often practical way to accomplish a kind of stereo expansion.

Range: -360° (-100.0%) to 360° (100.0%), default 0° (0%)

LFO override

Off

LFO override

LFO override lets you override the LFO and control the modulation value directly. This feature may offer several creative possibilities.

You can then either automate it or even better, use the modulators (if the plugin provides any) to follow the input level, pitch, randomize etc. Set this below -1 to disable this feature. Please note that since there is only one parameter, by using it you will lose the possibility of having different values for each channel, hence potential stereoizing capabilities will not be available.

Range: Off to 100.0%, default Off

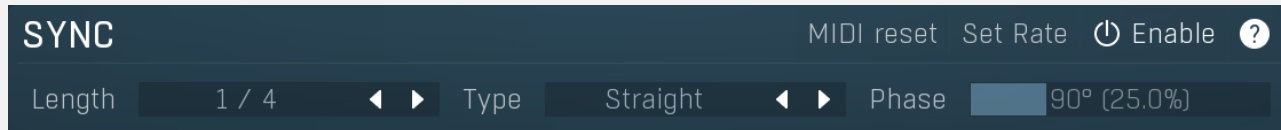


Invert tremolo phase

Invert tremolo phase

Invert tremolo phase inverts the resulting shape.

Synchronization panel



Synchronization panel contains parameters for the to-host synchronization.

MIDI reset **MIDI reset**

MIDI reset button displays the settings for the MIDI reset feature, which can reset the LFO based on incoming MIDI notes.

Set Rate **Set Rate**

Set Rate button sets the **Rate** parameter used when sync is disabled according to current sync speed. This is useful when you want to leave the oscillator unsynchronized, however you want to start with the current synced speed.

Length **Length**

Length defines the note length to be used.

Type **Type**

Type defines the note type, such as straight notes or triplets, to be used. Together the **Length** and **Type** determine the actual time/delay.

Example: '1/4 Straight' at 120 bpm = a delay of 500 ms, '1/4 Triplet' at 160 bpm = a delay of 281.25 ms.

Phase **Phase**

Phase defines the phase offset of the to-host synchronization.

Range: 0° (0%) to 360° (100.0%), default 90° (25.0%)

Signal graph



Signal graph defines the low frequency oscillator shape. Signal-generator is an incredibly versatile generator of low & high frequency signals. It offers 2 distinct modes - Normal and Harmonics.

Normal mode is appropriate for low-frequency oscillators, where the graphical shape is relevant and is used to drive some form of modulation. For example, a tremolo uses this modulation to change the actual signal level in time. Frequencies for such oscillators usually do not exceed 20Hz as this is a sort of limit above which the frequencies become audible.

Harmonics mode is designed for high-frequency oscillators, where the actual shape is not as important as the harmonic content of the resulting signal, hence it is especially useful for actual audio signals. Please note that since a shape can contain more harmonics than those available from the harmonic generator, the results may not be exactly the same. As an example, a rectangular wave in normal mode may sound fuller than when converted to the harmonic mode.

Use the arrow-down button to switch from normal mode to harmonics mode or click the **Normal** and **Harmonics** buttons

Normal mode

The generator first uses a set of predefined signal shapes (sine, triangle, rectangle...), which you can select directly by right-clicking on the editor and choosing the requested shape from the menu. This menu also provides a link to the modulator shapes preset manager, normalization and randomization. You can also use the **Main shape** parameter, which generates a combination of adjacent signals to provide a nearly inexhaustible number of basic shapes.

The engine then combines the predefined shape with a **Custom shape**, which may be anything you can draw using the advanced envelope engine, depending on the level set by the **Custom shape** control. Use the **Edit** button to edit the custom shape.

You can also combine those results with a fully featured step sequencer, with variable number of steps and several shapes for each of them, depending on the level set by the **Step sequencer** control. Use the lower **Edit** button to edit the step sequence.

Those results may be mixed with a custom sample, which is available from the advanced settings, accessed by clicking the **Advanced** button.

Smoothness softens any abrupt edges, generated by the step sequencer for example.

Finally there are **Advanced** features providing more complex transformations, adding harmonics etc. or you can click the **Randomize** button in the top-left corner to generate a random, but reasonable, modulator shape.

Harmonics mode

Harmonics mode represents the signal as a series of harmonics (that is, multiples of the base frequency). For example, when your oscillator has a frequency of 2Hz (set in the **Rate** panel), then the harmonics are 2Hz, 4Hz, 6Hz, 8Hz etc. In theory, any signal can be created by mixing a potentially infinite number of these harmonics.

The harmonics mode lets you control the levels and phases of each harmonic. The top graph controls the levels of individual harmonics, while the bottom one controls their phases. Use the left-mouse button to change the values in each graph, the right-mouse button sets the default for the harmonics - 0% level and 0% phase. In both graphs the harmonics of power 2 (that is octaves) are highlighted. Other harmonics may actually sound disharmonic, despite their names.

For example, if you reset all harmonics to the defaults and increase only the first one, you will get a simple sine wave. By adding further harmonics you make the output signal more complex.

Harmonics controls the number of generated harmonics. The higher the number is, the richer the output signal is (unless the levels are 0% of course). This is useful to make the sound cleaner. For example, if you transform a saw-tooth wave to harmonics, it would not sound like a typical saw-tooth wave anymore, but more like a low-passed version of one. The more harmonics you use, the closer you get to the original saw-tooth wave.

Generator is a powerful tool for generating the harmonics, which are otherwise rather clumsy to edit. The generator provides several parameters based upon which it creates the entire series of harmonic levels and phases. These parameters are usually easier to understand than the harmonics themselves. Part of the generator is the randomizer available via the **Random seed** button, which smartly generates random settings for the generator. This makes the process of getting new sounds as simple as possible.

Signal generation fundamentals

The signal generator produces a periodic signal with specified wave shape. This means that the signal is repeating over and over again. As a result it can only contain multiples of the fundamental frequency. For example, if the generator is producing 100Hz signal, then it can contain 100Hz (fundamental or 1st harmonic), 200Hz (2nd harmonic), 300Hz (3rd harmonic), 400Hz (4th harmonic) etc. However, it can never produce 110Hz. You can then control the level of each harmonic and their relative phases. It does not matter whether you use the normal mode using oscillator shapes, or harmonics mode where you can control the harmonics directly. If both modes result in the same wave shape (such as sine wave vs. 1st harmonic only), then the result is exactly the same.

Sine wave is the simplest of all as it contains the fundamental frequency only. The "sharper" the signal shape is, the more harmonics it contains. The biggest source of higher harmonics is a "discontinuity", which you can see in both rectangle and saw waves. In theory, these signals have an infinite number of harmonics. However since our hearing is highly limited to less than 20kHz, the number of harmonics which are relevant is actually pretty small. If you generate a 50Hz signal, which is very low, and assuming that you have extremely good ears and you actually hear 20kHz, then the number of harmonics audible for you is $20000 / 50 = 400$.

What happens above 20kHz?

Consider the example above again, what happens with harmonics above 400? These either stay there and simply are not audible, disappear if anti-aliasing is used, or get aliased back under 20kHz in which case you get the typical digital dirt.

When you convert a rectangle wave to harmonics mode, only the first 256 harmonics are used, so it basically works like an infinitely steep low-pass filter. What is the limit then? $50 \text{ Hz} * 256 = 12.8\text{kHz}$. The harmonic mode will not produce anything above this limit if

you are generating a 50Hz signal. Most people do not hear anything above 15kHz, so this is usually enough, but if not, you may need to use the normal mode where you get the "infinite" number of harmonics.

What you see is not always what you get!

Say you want a rectangle wave and play a 440Hz tone(A4). You would expect the output signal to be a really quick rectangle wave, right? Wrong! If you would do that, and actually most synthesizers on the market do that, you would get the infinite number of harmonics. And, since you are working in say 48kHz sampling rate, the maximum frequency that can actually exist in your signal is 24kHz. So everything above it would get aliased below 24kHz, and there would be a lot of aliased dirt.

The "good" synthesizers perform a so-called anti-aliasing. There are several methods, most of them require quite a lot of CPU or have other limitations. The goal is to remove all frequencies above the 24kHz in our case or in reality, it is more about removing all aliased frequencies above 20kHz - this means, that we do not care about frequencies above 20kHz, because we do not hear them anyway. But we will keep it simple. Let's say we remove everything above 20kHz. You already know that the rectangle wave can be created using an infinite number of harmonics or sine waves. We removed everything above the 45th harmonic ($20000 / 440$) so our rectangle wave is trying to be formed using just 45 harmonics, so it will not really look like a rectangle wave.

After some additional filtering (like DC removal), the rectangle wave may look completely different than a true rectangle wave, yet it would sound the same! Does it matter? Not really. You simply edit the shape as a rectangle wave and let the synthesizer do the ugly stuff for you. But do not check the output, because it may be very different than what you would expect ;).

How can I generate non-harmonic frequencies?

Ok, so now you are playing a 440Hz (A4) saw wave, it contains 440Hz, 880Hz, 1320Hz etc. Anything generated using the signal generator can contain only these frequencies, the only difference is the levels and phases of each of them. What if you want to make the signal dirty by adding say 500Hz? Well, that is not that simple! Here we are getting into audio synthesizer stuff, so let us just give you a few hints.

The traditional way is to use modulation. One particular method is called frequency modulation (FM). Instead of generating a 440Hz saw wave with your generator, you change the pitch, up and down. You are modulating the frequency, that's why FM. It is basically a vibrato, but as you increase the speed of the vibrato, it gets so quick that you stop noticing the pitch changes (that's very simplified but it serves the purpose) and instead it starts producing a very complex spectrum. Will the 500Hz be there? Well, if setup correctly, yes, but there will also be lots of other non-harmonic frequencies.

Another way is possible without any other tools. Let's say you do not want 440Hz, but 660Hz. Then you may generate 220Hz instead of 440Hz (which is one octave below it) and voila, 660Hz is the 3rd harmonic (3×220 is 660)! But you need to shift the saw wave one octave above. Fortunately it is not that hard here - go to the normal mode, select saw tooth, click advanced, and use the harmonics panel to remove the fundamental and leave just the 2nd harmonic, then convert it to harmonic mode. Well, it's not that hard, but it's not exactly simple either...

The only way is, of course, additive synthesis. In that case you do not use one oscillator, but many of them. It lets you generate just about anything. But there is a catch, actually many of them. First, you need to say "ok I want this frequency and that frequency...", the setup is actually infinitely hard as there may be an infinite number of frequencies :). And the second is, of course, CPU requirements.

So is there some ultimate solution? Nope, sorry. The good thing is, you will not probably need it, because while what you see is not always what you get, also what you want is often not what you really want to hear :).

Normal

Normal

Normal button switches the generator into the normal mode, which lets you edit the shape of the oscillator. This is especially advantageous for low-frequency oscillators, where the shape matters even though it doesn't have any physical meaning.



Convert

Convert button converts the current shape into harmonic-based representation. Please note that since the number of harmonics is limited, the result will not perfectly resemble the original shape.

Harmonics

Harmonics

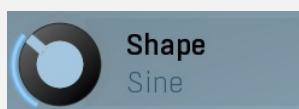
Harmonics button switches the generator into the harmonics mode, which lets you edit the levels and phases of individual

harmonics. This is especially advantageous for high-frequency oscillators, hence sound generators.

Signal generator in Normal mode

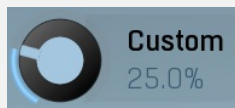


Signal generator in Normal mode works by generating the oscillator shape using a combination of several curves - a predefined set of standard curves, custom shape, step sequencer and custom sample. It also post-processes the shape using several filters including smoothing to custom transformations. This is especially useful when using the oscillator as an LFO (low-frequency-oscillator), where the harmonic contents does not really matter, but the shape does.



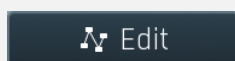
Shape

Shape controls the main shape used by the signal generator. There are several predefined shapes: exponential, triangle, sine power 8, sine power 4, sine square, sine, harmonics, more harmonics, disharmonics, sine square root, sine 4 root, rectangle, rect-saw, saw, noise and mess. You can choose any of them or interpolate between any 2 adjacent shapes using this control.



Custom

Custom controls the amount of the custom shape that is blended into the main shape.



Edit

Edit button shows the custom shape editor.



Step

Step controls the amount of the step sequencer shape that is blended into the main shape (which has already been blended with the custom shape).



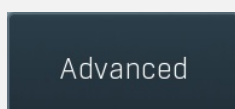
Edit

Edit button shows the step sequencer editor.



Smooth

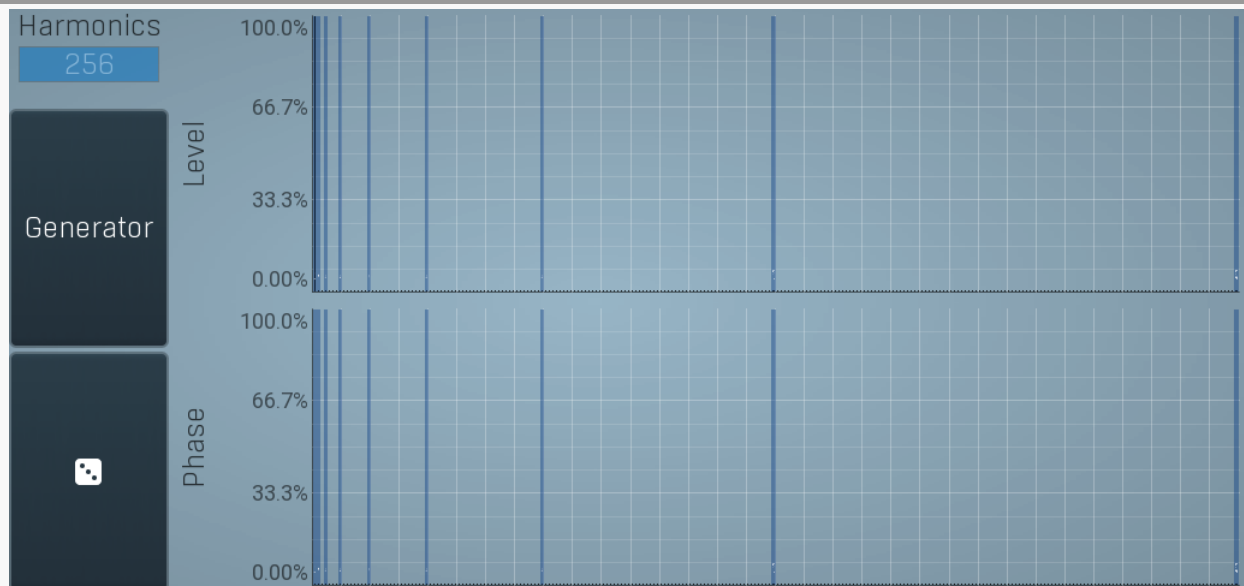
Smooth controls the amount of smoothing. Many shapes, especially those produced by the step sequencer, have rough jagged edges, which may be advantageous, but when used to modulate certain parameters, the output may be clicking or causing other artifacts. Smoothness helps it by smoothing the whole signal shape out and removing these rough edges.



Advanced

Advanced button displays an additional window with more advanced settings for post-processing the signal shape, such as harmonics or custom transformations.

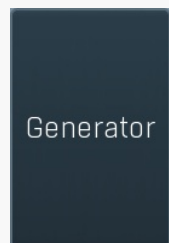
Signal generator in Harmonics mode



Signal generator in Harmonics mode works by generating the oscillator shape using individual harmonics. Essentially a harmonic is a sine wave. The first harmonic, known as the fundamental, fits once in the oscillator time period, hence it is the same as selecting sine wave in the **Normal mode**. The second harmonic fits twice, the third three times etc. In theory, any shape you create in normal mode can be converted into harmonics. However, this approach to signal generation needs an enormous number of harmonics, which is both inefficient to calculate and mostly hard to edit. Therefore, the harmonic mode can process up to 256 harmonics, which is enough for very complex spectrums, however it is still not enough to generate an accurate square wave for example. If your goal is to create basic shapes, it is better to use the normal mode.

It is nearly impossible to say how a particular curve will sound when used as a high-frequency oscillator in a synthesizer, just by looking at its shape. Harmonics mode, on the other hand, is directly related to human hearing and makes this process very simple. In general, the more harmonics you add, the richer the sound will be. The higher the harmonic, the higher the tone. Usually, one leaves the first harmonic enabled too, as this is the fundamental tone, however you may experiment with more dissonant sounds without it.

Editing harmonics can be time consuming unless you hear what you want, so a signal generator is also available. This great tool lets you generate a random spectrum by a single click. You can also open the **Generator** settings and edit its parameters, which basically control the audio properties in a more natural way - using parameters such as complexity, harmonicity etc.



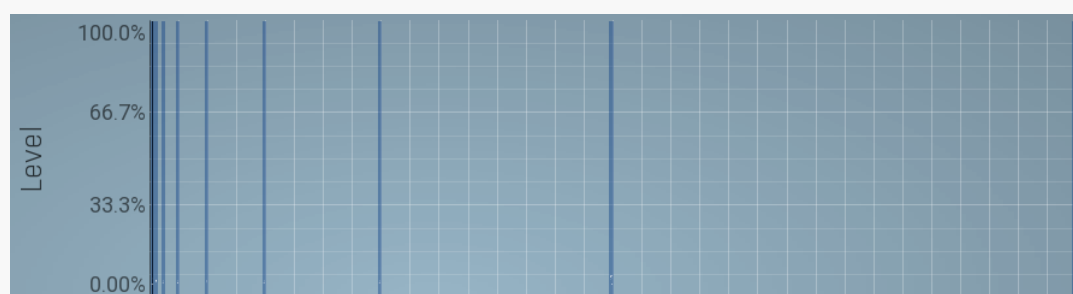
Generator

Generator button shows a powerful harmonics generator, which can create unlimited number of various timbres and even analyze a sample and extract harmonics from it.



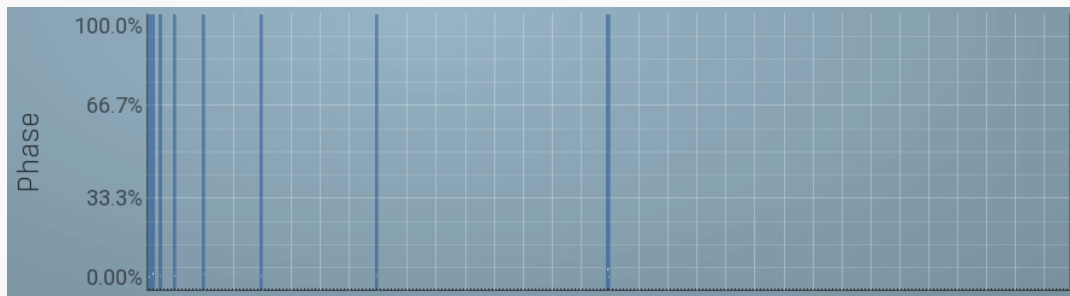
Randomize

Randomize button selects random parameters for the harmonics generator, so you can use it to get a random sound character instantly. Hold **Ctrl** to slightly modify existing generator settings instead of completely changing them.



Magnitudes graph

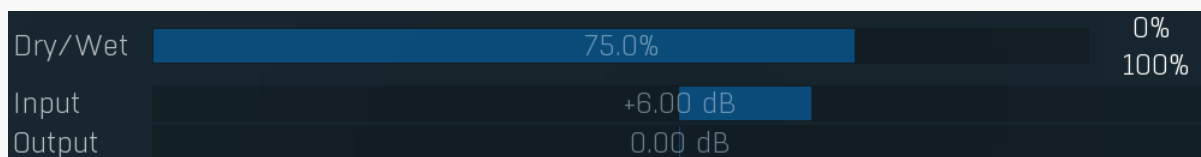
Magnitudes graph contains the levels of the individual harmonics. The highlighted bars are octaves, thus the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 8th harmonic etc.



Phases graph

Phases graph contains the phases of the individual harmonics. The highlighted bars are octaves, thus the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 8th harmonic etc.

Global parameters panel



Global parameters panel contains global controls, which are usually relevant to global processing performed either before the signal reaches the crossover and gets split into bands, or after the signals are processed and summed back to the master signal.



Dry/Wet defines the ratio between dry and wet signals. 100% means fully processed, 0% means no processing at all.

0%

0% button makes the **Dry/Wet** virtually 0%. You can use it for comparison.

100%

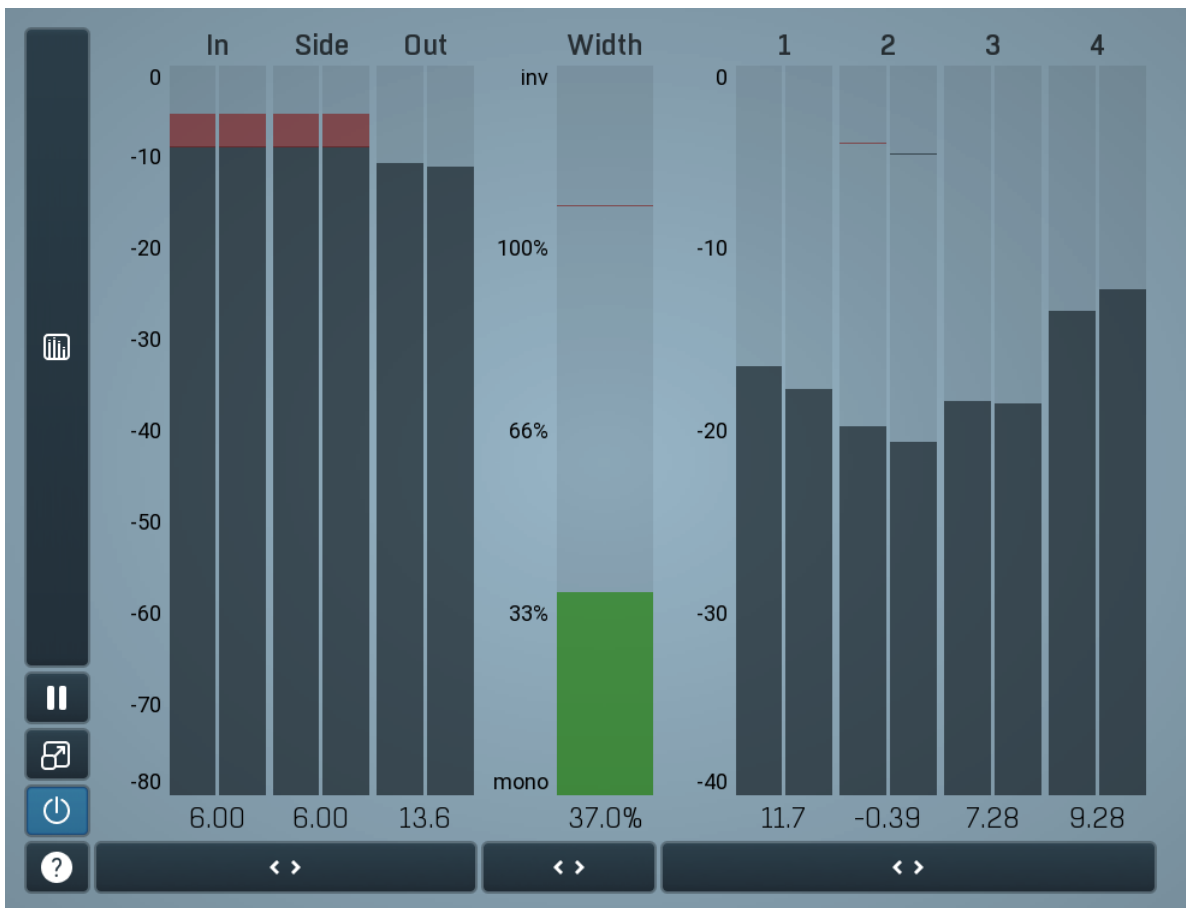
100% button makes the **Dry/Wet** virtually 100%. You can use it for comparison.



Input gain defines the power modification applied to the incoming signal, before it is split into bands.



Output gain defines the power modification applied to the output signal, right after it is summed from the bands.



Global meter

view

Global meter view provides a powerful metering system. If you do not see it in the plug-in, click the **Meters** or **Meters & Utilities** button to the right of the main controls. The display can work as either a classical level indicator or, in time graph mode, show one or more values in time. Use the first button to the left of the display to switch between the 2 modes and to control additional settings, including pause, disable and pop up the display into a floating window. The meter always shows the actual channels being processed, thus in M/S mode, it shows mid and side channels.

In the classical level indicators mode each of the meters also shows the recent maximum value. Click on any one of these values boxes to reset them all.

Numbered band meters display the input levels for each band.

In meter indicates the total input level. The input meter shows the audio level before any specific processing (except potential oversampling and other pre-processing). It is always recommended to keep the input level under 0dB. You may need to adjust the previous processing plugins, track levels or gain stages to ensure that it is achieved.

As the levels approach 0dB, that part of the meters is displayed with **red** bars. And recent peak levels are indicated by single bars.

Out meter indicates the total output level. The output meter is the last item in the processing chain (except potential downsampling and other post-processing). It is always recommended to keep the output under 0dB.

As the levels approach 0dB, that part of the meters is displayed with **red** bars. And recent peak levels are indicated by single bars.

Width meter shows the stereo width at the output stage. This meter requires at least 2 channels and therefore does not work in mono mode. Stereo width meter basically shows the difference between the mid and side channels.

When the value is **0%**, the output is monophonic. From 0% to 66% there is a green range, where most audio materials should remain.

From 66% to 100% the audio is very stereophonic and the phase coherence may start causing problems. This range is colored blue. You may still want to use this range for wide materials, such as background pads. It is pretty common for mastered tracks to lie on the edge of green and blue zones.

Above 100% the side signal exceeds the mid signal, therefore it is too monophonic or the signal is out of phase. This is marked using red color. In this case you should consider rotating the phase of the left or right channels or lowering the side signal, otherwise the audio will be highly mono-incompatible and can cause fatigue even when played back in stereo.

For most audio sources the width is fluctuating quickly, so the meter shows a 400ms average. It also shows the temporary maximum above it as a single coloured bar.

If you right click on the meter, you can enable/disable loudness pre-filtering, which uses EBU standard filters to simulate human perception. This may be useful to get a more realistic idea about stereo width. However, since humans perceive the bass spectrum as lower than the treble, this may hide phase problems in that bass spectrum.



Time graph

Time graph button switches between the metering view and the time-graphs. The metering view provides an immediate view of the current values including a text representation. The time-graphs provide the same information over a period of time. Since different time-graphs often need different units, only the most important units are provided.



Pause

Pause button pauses the processing.



Popup

Popup button shows a pop-up window and moves the whole metering / time-graph system into it. This is especially useful in cases where you cannot enlarge the meters within the main window or such a task is too complicated. The pop-up window can be arbitrarily resized. In metering mode it is useful for easier reading from a distance for example. In time-graph mode it is useful for getting higher accuracy and a longer time perspective.



Enable

Enable button enables or disables the metering system. You can disable it to save system resources.



Collapse

Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.



Collapse

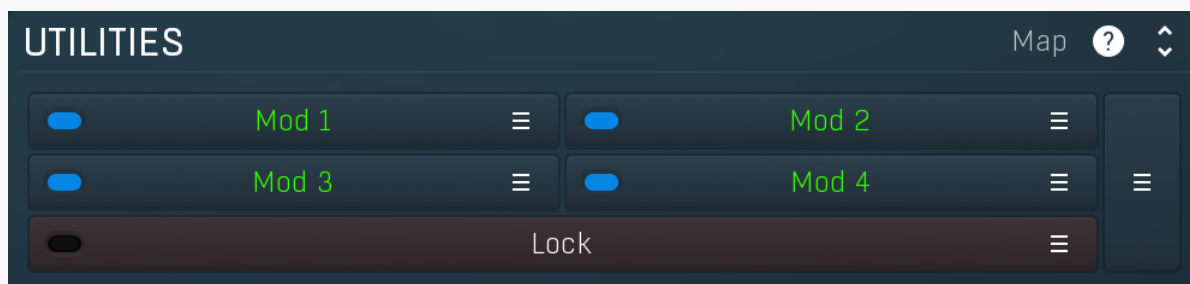
Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.



Collapse

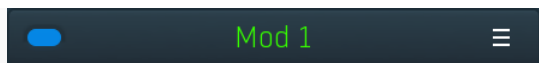
Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.

Utilities



Map

Map button displays all current mappings of modulators, multiparameters and MIDI (whichever subsystems the plugin provides).



Mod 1



Modulator

Modulator button displays settings of the modulator. It also contains a checkbox, to the left, which you can use to enable or disable the modulator. Click on it using your right mouse button or use the **menu button** to display an additional menu with learning capabilities - as described below.



Menu

Menu button shows the **smart learn** menu. You can also use the right mouse button anywhere on the modulator button.

Learn activates the learning mode and displays "REC" on the button as a reminder, **Clear & Learn** deletes all parameters currently associated with the modulator, then activates the learning mode as above. After that every parameter you touch will be associated to the modulator along with the range that the parameter was changed. Learning mode is ended by clicking the button again.

In smart learn mode the modulator does not operate but rather records your actions. You can still adjust every automatable parameter and use it normally. When you change a parameter, the plugin associates that parameter with the modulator and also records the range of values that you set.

For example, to associate a frequency slider and make a modulator control it from 100Hz to 1KHz, just enable the smart learn mode, click the slider then move it from 100Hz to 1KHz (you can also edit the range later in the modulator window too). Then disable the learning mode by clicking on the button.



Menu

Menu button displays additional menu containing features for modulator presets and randomization.



Lock



Lock

Lock button displays the settings of the global parameter lock. Click on it using your left mouse button to open the Global Parameter Lock window, listing all those parameters that are currently able to be locked.

Click on it using your right mouse button or use the **menu button** to display the menu with learning capabilities - **Learn** activates the learning mode, **Clear & Learn** deletes all currently-lockable parameters and then activates the learning mode. After that, every parameter you touch will be added to the lock. Learning mode is ended by clicking the button again.

The On/Off button built into the Lock button enables or disables the active locks.



Collapse

Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.

1 : Dry / wet

75.0%



Multiparameter

Multiparameter button displays settings of the multiparameter. The multiparameter value can be adjusted by dragging it or by pressing Shift and clicking it to enter a new value from the virtual keyboard or from your computer keyboard.

Click on the button using your left mouse button to open the **Multiparameter** window where all the details of the multiparameter can be set. Click on it using your right mouse button or click on the **menu button** to the right to display an additional menu with learning capabilities - as described below.



Menu

Menu button shows the **smart learn** menu. You can also use the right mouse button anywhere on the multiparameter button.

Learn attaches any parameters, including ranges. Click this, then move any parameters through the ranges that you want and click the multiparameter button again to finish. While learning is active, "REC" is displayed on the multiparameter button and learning mode is ended by clicking the button again.

Clear & Learn clears any parameters currently in the list then attaches any parameters, including ranges. Click this, then move any parameters through the ranges that you want and click the multiparameter button again to finish. While learning is active, "REC" is displayed on the multiparameter button and learning mode is ended by clicking the button again.

Reset resets all multiparameter settings to defaults.

Quick Learn clears any parameters currently in the list, attaches one parameter, including its range and assigns its name to the multiparameter. Click this, then move one parameter through the range that you want.

Attach MIDI Controller opens the MIDI Settings window, selects a unused parameter and activates MIDI learn. Click this then move the MIDI controller that you want to assign.

Reorder to ... lets you change the order of the multiparameters. This can be useful when creating active-presets. Please note that this feature can cause problems when one multiparameter controls other multiparameters, as these associations will not be preserved and they

will need to be rebuilt.

In learning mode the multiparameter does not operate but rather records your actions. You can still adjust every automatable parameter and use it normally. When you change a parameter, the plugin associates that parameter with the multiparameter and also records the range of values that you set.

For example, to associate a frequency slider and make a multiparameter control it from 100Hz to 1KHz, just enable the smart learn mode, click the slider then move it from 100Hz to 1KHz (you can also edit the range later in the Multiparameter window too). Then disable the learning mode by clicking on the button.



Collapse button minimizes or enlarges the panel to release space for other editors.

