

## USER'S GUIDE



# Pro Audio Lab<sup>TM</sup>

*Precision Audio Analysis and Sound  
Generation Laboratory*

*Plug-in for Mackie Digital Mixers*  
**MACKIE<sup>®</sup>**

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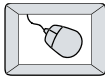
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This icon identifies a description of how to perform an action with the mouse.



This icon will lead you to some further explanations of features and practical tips.



This icon marks information that is very important, so please make sure you have a read.



This icon does not appear in this guide.



**Note:** Any future revisions of this guide will be available for viewing and downloading from: [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com)

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# Introduction

Thank you for purchasing Acuma Labs' Pro Audio Lab. This is a precision audio analysis tool and sound generation software plug-in for the Mackie D8B digital mixer. It offers a broad cross section of sophisticated meters, noise generation devices, and highly accurate instrument tuning references. Pro Audio Lab presents finely calibrated stereo and mono level metering that simultaneously displays Clip, Peak Level, RMS, VU, Loudness Peak and VU, Sum and Difference VU, Correlation, and Loudness Balance meters. The stereo X/Y Phase Meter, Phase Scope, and selectable (10 to 61-band) Spectrum Analyzer are portrayed by simplified and easy-to-read display graphs that let you view and analyze your signal for concise and up-to-date information. The built-in tone generators feature a professional oscillator with selectable waveforms, a Pink and White noise generator, and Slate tone generation with editable frequencies and burst times. Last but not least, Pro Audio Lab provides you with "dead-on" tuning references (down to semi-tones and cents) for guitar, bass, and piano with presets that include alternate tuning presets such as "open G, C, Dobro, capo, and 5 string bass."

## About Acuma Labs

Acuma Labs develops real-time embedded systems for professional audio applications to create high-quality products for the music and pro-audio industries. Acuma specializes in digital audio effects using DSP, real-time operating systems, graphical user interfaces, and digital hardware design.

## About the D8B UFX Card

The Mackie UFX card provides robust processing power for computation-heavy plug-ins. The UFX card is a 4-in/4-out architecture, which means it can support four mono, two mono and one stereo, or two stereo sends simultaneously. Up to four UFX cards can be installed in the D8B, allowing up to sixteen simultaneous single-channel effects, eight stereo plug-ins, or combinations thereof.

## About Pro Audio Lab



*Main Screen (with Levels and Oscillator open)*

The main screen is an overview of the primary analysis meters and tone generation graphs. Each “top level” meter can be selected and enlarged using your mouse to “zoom in” for an easy-to-read view of the selected data. Two fundamental categories, Analysis and Generation, are located at the top of the screen and each has a pull-down menu for choosing individual functions. One screen from each can be open at the same time, for example, figure 1 shows the Levels display from the Analysis drop-down menu, and the Oscillator from the Generation menu.

As with all Mackie plug-ins, Pro Audio Lab can be routed as an “insert” or “auxiliary” connection. Typically, it is recommended that Pro Audio Lab be routed as an auxiliary when monitoring inputs. This also allows monitoring of tone generation via the effects return bank. Inserting is primarily used on the Master Outputs for concise control during mixdown. The tone generator audio returns to the D8B Effects Bank channels that correspond to the card slot number that Pro Audio Lab uses in the Plug-in Configuration Window.

## Requirements

- One or more Mackie UFX cards
- Mackie Real Time OS 3.0 or greater Software
- Plug-in Software

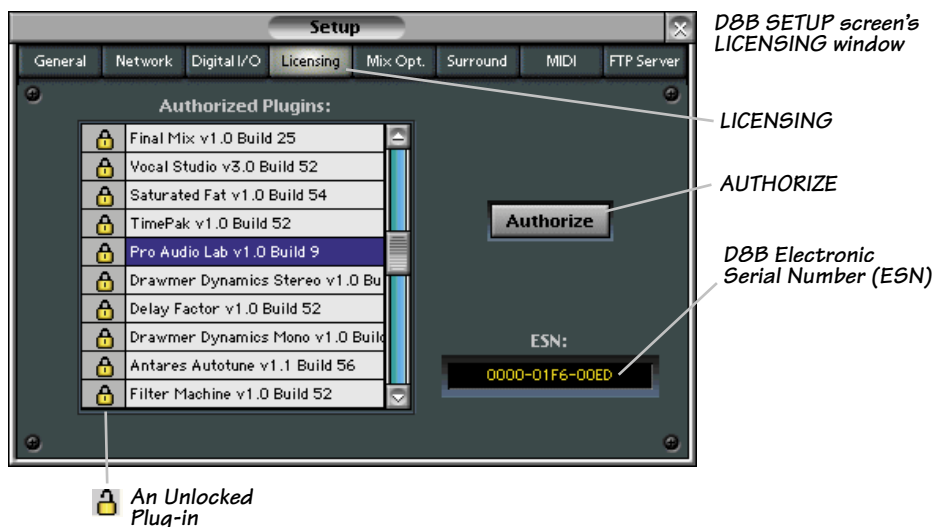
We will assume you have successfully installed a Mackie UFX card and Mackie Real Time OS 3.0 software or greater. If you have encountered problems with the installation of hardware or software, please see their associated user guides or contact Mackie support ([www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com)).

## Obtaining the Plug-In

The plug-in is available from our website: [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com). Carefully follow the instructions on the website, download the plug-in, and load it onto your D8B.

## Unlock Procedure

1. Locate your D8B's Electronic Serial Number (ESN). This is displayed at the bottom of the Licensing window, which is accessed from the Setup screen. The 12-digit ESN is made from numbers 0–9 and letters A–F. It is unique to the D8B processor, and is not the same as the serial number on the rear of the control surface or CPU chassis.



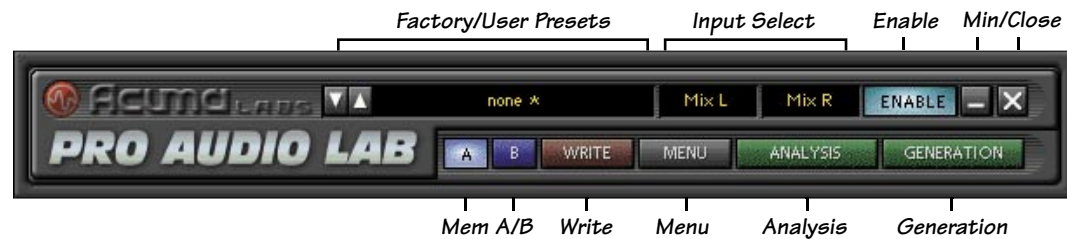
2. You will also need your plug-in's serial number.
3. To obtain the unlock code, have the ESN and plug-in serial number ready. Then you have two options:
  - Log on to the Mackie plug-in authorization web page:  
<http://www.mackie.com/D8Bauthorize.htm>
  - or
  - Telephone Mackie Tech Support at 800-258-6883.
4. When you have obtained an unlock code, open the D8B Setup window, and click **Licensing**.
5. With your plug-in highlighted in the Licensing window, click **Authorize**, and enter your unlock code in the UNLOCK CODE box. Click **Enter**, and enjoy your newly expanded console.





# Using Pro Audio Lab

## The Status Screen



### Factory/User Presets

Toggle the up/down arrows to select Factory Presets, or create your own and save them to User Presets.

### Input Select

Select stereo inputs from any of the D8's pre, post, or auxiliary channels.

### Enable

This switches Pro Audio Lab from the inactive state to active.

### Minimize/Close Button

These buttons minimize Pro Audio Lab to a simplified version for better viewing of the D8B screen. To switch from one screen to another, simply toggle between the buttons to expand and shrink. Selecting X will hide Pro Audio Lab.

### Mem A/Mem B

Memory A and Memory B are two separate storage banks that let you temporarily store your set-ups. This is handy for quick A/B comparison and referencing.

### Write Button:

Write enables the D8B's automation so that all of the changes that you make to the Pro Audio plug-in will be recorded as part of the D8B session. This works in a manner similar to a channel's write button. To record automation for a plug-in, "All" must be turned on in the automation section of the D8B (and automation must be out of Bypass). When the D8B is recording, plug-in parameter edits are recorded only if the plug-in's Write button is ON, or if Auto Touch (in the automation section) is turned on. When you hit stop, the plug-in's Write button turns OFF.

### Menu Button:

This drop-down menu enables familiar functions such as undo, redo, load, save, reset, cut, copy and paste. Saving as "User Preset" saves all parameters of Pro Audio Lab, including customized settings in the Analysis and Generation menus.

### Analysis:

The Analysis button opens a drop-down menu that lets you select from Levels, Spectrum Analyzer, or Phase Analyzer. This is where specific analysis tools can be selected and profiled.

### Generation:

The Generation button opens a drop-down menu that lets you select from a variety of sound generation devices such as Noise, Slate Tones, Oscillator, and the Tuning references: Piano, Guitar, Bass, and A440.

## The Analysis Screens

The Levels, Spectrum Analysis, and Phase Analysis options are selected from the Analysis drop-down menu found in the Status Screen. Only one option can be open at a time. The Levels menu is further expandable by clicking on any of the level meters.

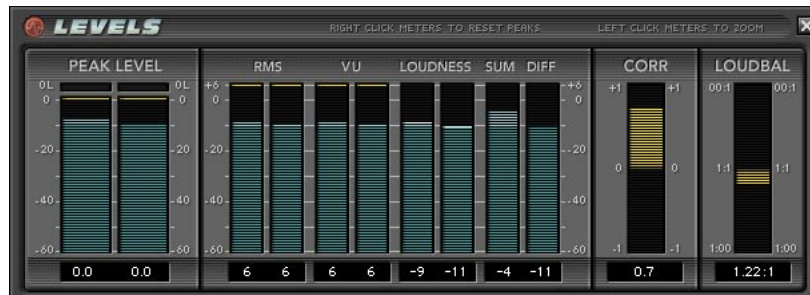
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Analysis

See Page 11

Each Meter is expandable by clicking



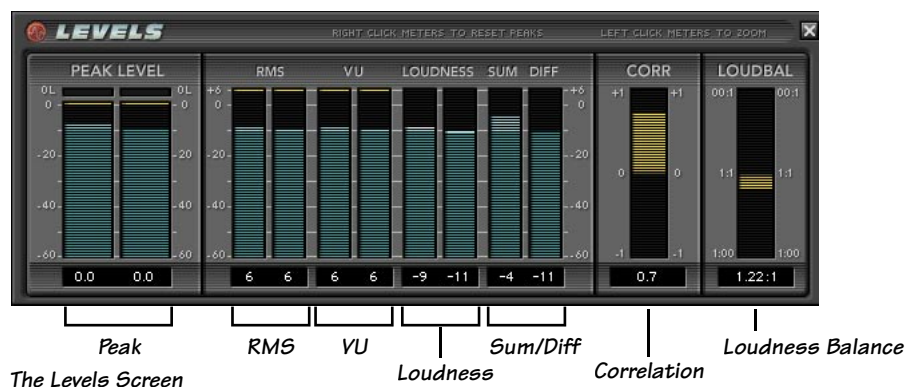
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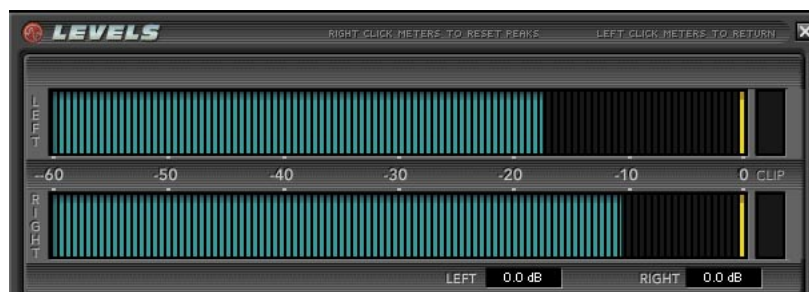


## The Levels Screen



Select the Levels Screen from the Analysis drop-down menu. This shows an overview grouping of the primary meters of the Analysis section. Each meter can be isolated and expanded for a detailed view of the selected audio measurement, by selecting a meter and double-clicking on the display. The expanded meters can be minimized by clicking again. The individual meters are explained in more detail below:

### Peak Level



Peak Level (expanded view)

Peak Level presents a fast-responding peak level with slow decay. Additionally, an Overload LED can detect digital clip. As digital distortion is very unforgiving, this meter is useful in maintaining an optimum peak level from your input signal or as a highly visible guide inserted on the master outputs. Obviously it's crucial to avoid digital clipping, but it's also important to maintain enough level to sample in the best sounding range of the D8B's gain structure. The range is  $-96$  dB to 0 dB.



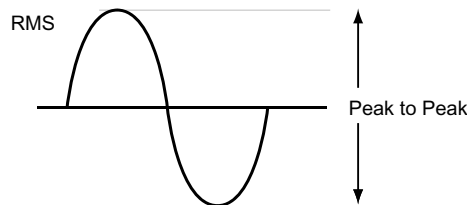
Peak Level Meters, sometimes called PPM (Peak Program Meters) respond to within 1 dB of the actual peak level within 10 ms, and within 4 dB in 3 ms, to capture very fast transients that are ignored by the slow response of an averaging VU or RMS meter. Peak Level does not demonstrate the loudness of your program. The difference between Peak and VU meters can be as much as 12 dB or 4x the apparent volume. Many engineers therefore combine the best of both worlds by using both Peak and VU metering for the best results. The Overload Clip light responds to a single sample of digital clip and remains on for two seconds after the last measured clip.

## RMS Level



RMS (expanded view)

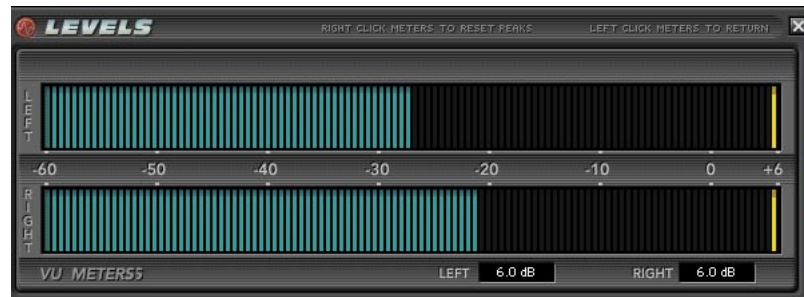
Root Mean Square (RMS) is an audio measurement that correlates signal energy with a reference signal. Neither a peak, nor an average, RMS is derived by squaring all the instantaneous voltages from a waveform, averaging the squared value, and then taking the square root of that value. Thus, RMS is a mathematical measurement devised to characterize the level of a given signal. RMS Level is a measurement that is very helpful in describing the energy of a waveform in RMS values. RMS levels are similar to average values and do not vary much even when high transient peaks are presented. The ratio between the Peak and the RMS is called the crest factor. The meter is calibrated to display 0 dB with a sine wave input at 0 dBFS (Full Scale). These meters are measured in dB and range from -96 to 0 dB. A square wave has a crest factor of 1.0. The RMS meter is calibrated for the crest factor of a sine wave such that a digital peak-to-peak signal (0 dBFS) will report 0 dB.



$$\begin{aligned} \text{RMS} &= \text{Peak} / \sqrt{2} = \text{Peak} \times 0.707 \\ \text{Peak} &= \text{RMS} \times \sqrt{2} = \text{RMS} \times 1.414 \end{aligned}$$

Meter Graph : What the Meters Measure

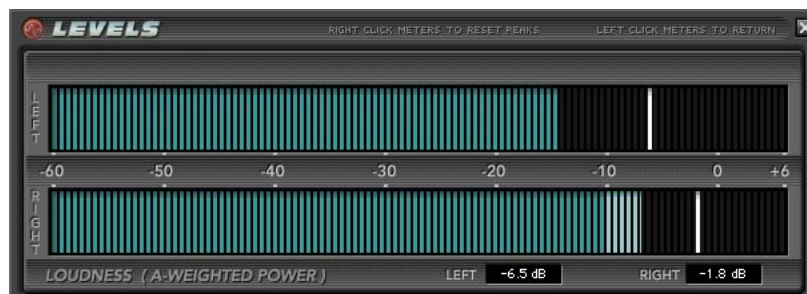
## VU Meter (Volume Unit Meter)



VU Meters (expanded view)

Probably the first audio measurement that many of us learned is the familiar VU meter that we equate with distortion overload. The VU Meter is actually defined by a specific set of attributes and response characteristics known as ballistics, which estimate the loudness of a signal based on the ear's ability to compress intensity differences and downplay transient peaks. The VU meter represents a commonly accepted compromise of what our ear does naturally. Pro Audio Lab's VU meters read average level but ignore the instantaneous peaks that are the job of the Peak Level Meters. The VU meters offer an accurate volume measurement that lets you judge the levels of your program. There is often a 12 dB difference between peak level and the level indicated by the VU meters. A VU meter is designed to have a relatively slow response. It is driven from a full-wave averaging circuit defined to reach 99% full-scale deflection in 300 ms and overshoot not less than 1% and not more than 1.5%. The VU meter is calibrated to display 0 VU for a sine wave at 0 dBFS.

## Loudness (A-Weighted Level)



Loudness /A-Weighted Level (expanded view)

Loudness is a measurement that uses filtering from the A-Weighted curve to create the best average representation of what our ear perceives as loud at different frequencies. The term "A-Weighted" refers to particular plotted curve that ranges from -45 dB to +3 dB with a frequency range of 20 Hz to 10 kHz. This curve is an approximate but accepted standard measurement based on averaging statistics from the equal loudness contour graph. This type of audio measurement is very useful in determining what volume levels need to be applied to two separate mono channels or to the left/right of a stereo channel. For example, say you have two matching guitar parts that have been recorded on separate tracks. Using the Loudness meter, you can clearly see how the two channels compare and where you need to compensate to achieve a loudness balance. Another useful application is using the meters on Master L and R outputs to achieve a desired volume.

**Note:** When using this application on the left and right masters, remember to turn off the enable button in the Pro Audio Lab GUI to disable the Tone Generation, as you simply need to see the meters. The Loudness Meter displays both a VU and a Peak Level meter on the same graph.

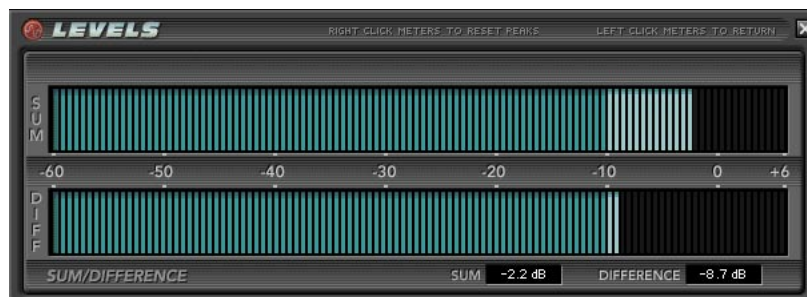


There is no absolute measurement for how the ear hears frequency response and consequently hearing can vary greatly from one person to another. Generally, hearing is much better in the high-midrange and less sensitive toward both extremes. For example, young children can often hear to above 20 kHz while older people often have difficulty hearing above 5 kHz. It is generally accepted that average resonance in the eardrum is most sensitive in the 2.5 kHz to 4 kHz regions. The human ear does not hear frequency response as flat and changes substantially depending on the intensity of the sound presented.



**Very Important:** With every 3 dB increase in output, double the amplifier and speaker power is required. Typically, the upper end of the ear's intensity threshold is 140 dB SPL. This is where damage to the hearing starts to occur even with limited exposure. Sounds above this threshold, such as gunshots, jet planes, machines, and continuous loud monitoring, can be very damaging to the ear.

### Sum/Difference



*Sum/ Difference (expanded view)*

The Sum and Difference meters analyze the sum of two input channels, and the difference between them in dB VU. This meter is useful in determining the association of two separate channels, or a stereo channel that is creating comb filtering caused when a stereo pair is summed to mono.

## Correlation/Loudness Balance



*Correlation (expanded view)*

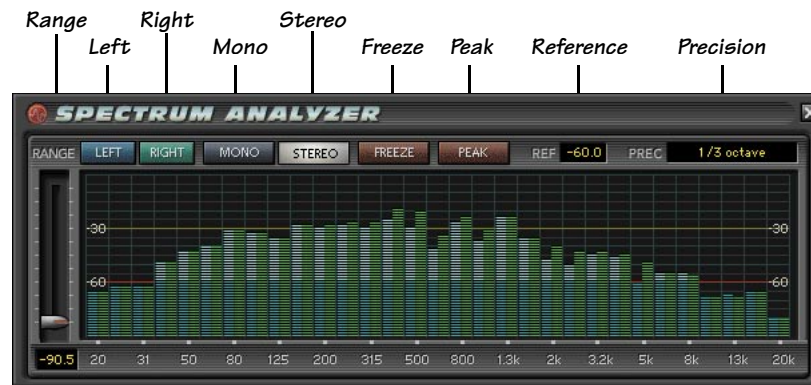
### Correlation

This clear and easy-to-read display is designed to help you understand the complex phase relationship between two signals, and shows how the signals relate to each other. The correlation meter measures the similarities between two signals by displaying a range value of  $-1$  (two signals are  $180^\circ$  out of phase) or  $+1$  (indicating that the signals are perfectly in phase).  $0$  means that the two signals are not correlated. For most stereo applications a large positive number is typically  $0.5$  to  $1.0$ .

### Loudness Balance

This shows the A-weighted VU level relationship between two signals. The meter displays the ratio between these two signals, and plots the ratio from the center outwards. A value less than  $1:1$  (such as  $1:2$ ) indicates higher loudness on the right channel. A value greater than  $1:1$  (such as  $2:1$ ) indicates higher loudness on the left channel.

## Spectrum Analyzer



*Spectrum Analyzer Screen*

Select the Spectrum Analyzer from the Analysis drop-down menu. The graphical representation indicates the level of an audio signal at various frequencies. The analyzer performs a Fast-Fourier Transform (FFT) on the input audio to convert it to frequency information. This is put into individual bands and displayed as a bar graph. A spectrum analyzer designed to indicate the level of audio at 31 different frequencies across the audio range is also known as a 1/3-octave spectrum analyzer. Up to 61 bands (1/6th octave) are supported in mono mode, and up to 31 bands (1/3rd octave) are supported in stereo. 10, 15, and 20 bands are also supported.

### **Range (-96 dB to -30 dB)**

The analyzer range enables you to adjust the viewing range of your signal between -96 dB to -30 dB.

### **Left/Right Buttons**

Select either right or left channel inputs for viewing.

### **Mono**

The mono button enables a mono view.

### **Stereo**

Use to select a stereo view.

### **Freeze**

The freeze button will freeze the current frame to let you take a closer look at your signal in the spectrum graph.

### **Peak**

When the Peak button is enabled, each band's meter displays its own peak, presented as a small individual yellow hash mark at the top of each meter. When a band's peak is reached, a hash mark appears and then gradually decay.

### **Ref**

Reference is a hand reference point represented as a red line on the analyzer graph that can be set anywhere from -60 dB to 0 dB. Use this to maintain a relativity reference that most suits your need.



### Precision

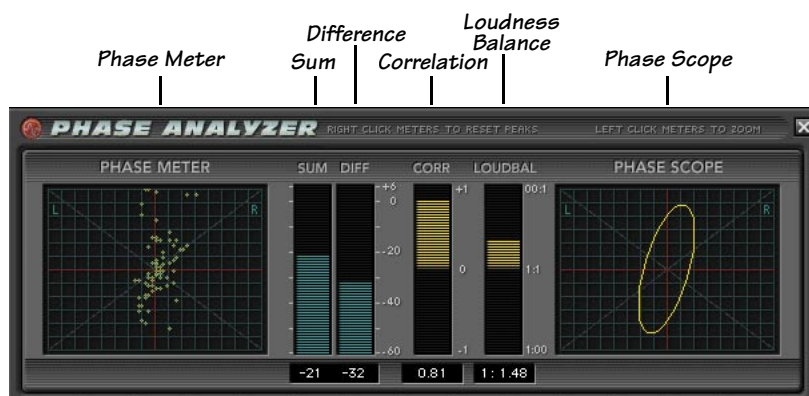
This offers precision viewing ranges from 1 octave to 1/6 octave with additional views in between. Click on the Precision window to open a drop-down menu to choose from 1 octave, 2/3 octave, 1/2 octave and 1/6 octave views. The maximum resolution is 1/6 octave for the mono display, and 1/3 octave for stereo.



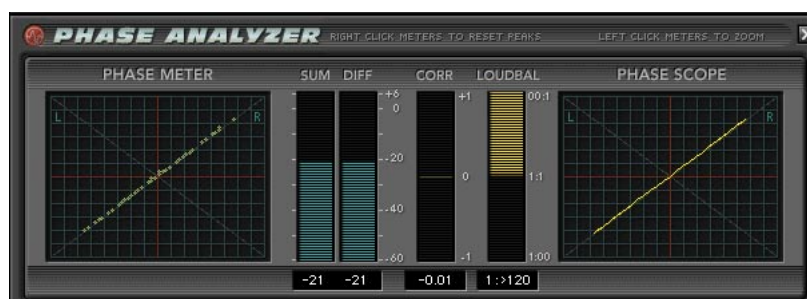
Imperfections in the audio signal caused by audio feedback, room equalization problems, errant filter settings, and many other signal problems can be identified more readily and effectively by looking at the signal with this spectrum analyzer.

**Note:** The spectrum analyzer display has a rather soothing and mesmerizing effect, which may trigger sleep and vivid dream sequences in certain pet hamsters and parakeets. We recommend that any furry animals in your studio are turned away from the screen, or given some distraction, such as a big wheely thing, or a beak full of millet, or both.

## Phase Analyzer



Phase Analyzer Screen (Out of Phase example)



Phase Analyzer Screen (In Phase example)

Select the Phase Analyzer from the Analyzer drop-down menu of the Status Screen.

### Phase Meter

The Phase Meter displays an X/Y plot of a set of raw Left and Right audio samples. This results in a 'swarm of bees' type of display that is useful in visually determining the correlation and left/right power balance, referred to generically as phase. A highly correlated signal such as mono will display all the points in a vertical line. A highly correlated signal such as mono, with a phase inversion on one side, will display all the points in a horizontal line. A signal present on one channel and not the other will display all the points at a 45° angle to the left or right of vertical, depending on which signal is present. A completely uncorrelated signal with equal levels on the left and right will display the points in a 'random' fashion. All other signals will be a combination of these, where the power balance, correlation, and phase determine the width and angle of the swarm of bees.

### Phase Scope

The Phase Scope represents a summary of what can be seen visually on the Phase Meter. It is an ellipse that is mathematically calculated to be the same size, shape, and angle of the Phase Scope data.

### Sum/Difference and Correlation/Loudness Balance

Click on these meters for an expanded view. These are the same meters that are displayed on the Levels Screen, but are duplicated here in the Phase section to assist in the determination of the phase relationships between the left and right channels.

## The Generation Screens

Tone Generator options are selected from the Generation drop-down menu found in the Status Screen. This is where you will find a wide variety of oscillators and tuners to suit any task. Only one option can be open at a time.

See Page 9



Generation

See Page 20



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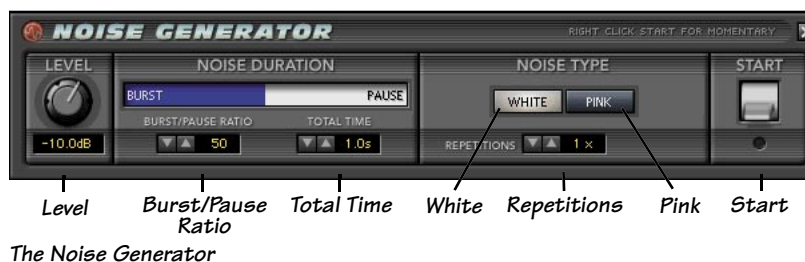
See Page 25



See Page 26



## Noise Generator



This noise generator produces white and pink noise, and has independent burst/pause ratio, total time, and repetitions. White and pink noise are random signals that include all of the audio frequencies. The noise simulates the random thermal motion of electrons. When either white or pink noise is amplified, we perceive the sound as hiss. White noise has a flat linear frequency response, while pink noise has a flat logarithmic frequency response (as shown by a logarithmic Spectrum Analyzer).

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB RMS of a full-scale sine wave. The reference level is based on 0 dB RMS output values generated by the noise generator.

### Noise Duration: Burst/Pause Ratio

This ratio refers to the percentage of burst vs. pause that is applied to the generated noise. This pause interval can be assigned to any increment between 0 seconds (off) and 100 seconds (full). To adjust the ratio, use your mouse to select the up/down arrows, or scroll the numbers in the small window, or grab the blue bar graphic and move it left or right.

### Noise Duration: Total Time

This refers to the combined length of the burst and the pause. This increment can be assigned to any interval between 0 seconds (off) and 60 seconds. Use the mouse to select the up or down arrows or to scroll the digit.

### Repetitions

Repetitions refer to the number of repetitions of the noise bursts. The number of repetitions can be selected to repeat a sequence over any number of times between 1 and infinity.

### Noise Type: White

White noise is unfiltered, unaltered thermal noise just like you hear when you turn your amplifier all the way up to listen to the noise floor.

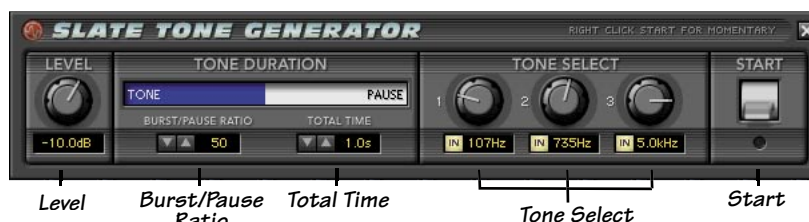
### Noise Type: Pink

Pink noise is white noise that has been filtered with a pinking filter. This is a 3 dB per octave low-pass filter, starting at the lowest frequency band. It produces a 'flat' spectrum when viewed with a logarithmic spectrum analyzer.

### Start

Left-click to start the noise generator, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary noise burst for as long as you hold down the button.

## Slate Tone Generator



*The Slate Tone Generator*

The familiar three-step oscillated tone sequences (like we used to hear at the beginning of cassette albums), are known as Slate Tones. They are used to calibrate faders, buses, and meters between consoles and decks to insure that all input and output levels are set to a single reference point. Our Slate Tone Generator is designed to give you highly flexible signals to help you optimize routing in your system.

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB RMS of a full-scale sine wave. The reference level is based on 0 dB RMS output values generated by the noise generator.

### Tone Duration

Tone duration refers to the amount of tone vs. pause (no sound). These tones have adjustable durations that can be customized to suit your needs. Adjust the duration by grabbing the tone/ pause bar with your mouse.

### Burst/Pause Ratio

The Burst/Pause Ratio refers to the percentage of burst compared to pause that is applied to the generated noise. This pause interval can be assigned to any increment between 0 seconds (off) and 100 seconds (full). To adjust the ratio, use your mouse to select the up/down arrows, or scroll the numbers in the small window, or grab the blue bar graphic and move it left or right.

### Total Time (tone sequence)

Total Time refers to the combined length of tone and pause. Pause can be assigned to any interval between 0 seconds (off) and 60 seconds. Use the mouse to select total time using the up or down arrows or to scroll the digits.

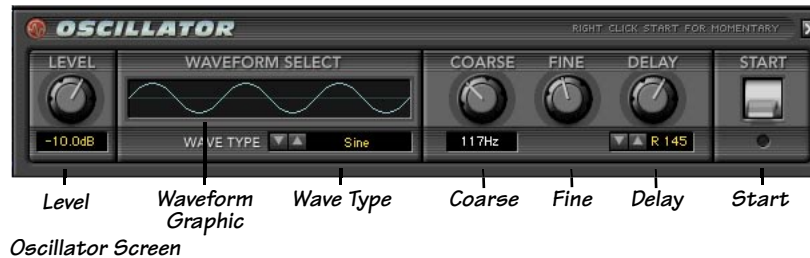
### Tone Select

This lets you choose the frequency of each tone from 16 Hz to 20.0 kHz. Choose from standard three-tone oscillator sequences that are generally accepted as industry standards, or customize your own. You can enable or disable individual tones by pressing the IN buttons to bring them in or out of play.

### Start

Left-click to start the tone generator, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.

## The Oscillator



The oscillator has many uses in sound testing, as it can zero in on a specific frequency and generate a constant steady tone. For example, the sine wave, having no harmonic content, is very useful in determining distortion in a signal that can cause very apparent changes in tone quality.

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB.

### Waveform Type

This lets you select the type of waveform to generate as your audio signal. The oscillator can generate Acuma (three harmonics), sine, saw tooth, inverted saw tooth and three 'square' waveforms. The default is a sine wave, but you can select other waveforms using the up and down arrows, or by grabbing the graphic and moving it left or right.

### Course

With a range of 15.6 Hz to 20.2 kHz, the Course control enables you to “ball-park” a particular frequency range, prior to using the Fine control.

### Fine

Once you have selected a Course frequency range, you can use the Fine control to fine-tune your frequency to an exact setting.

**Tip:** A good way to approach this is to set your Fine control to its default (control/click). Use the Course control to hone in on the frequency, and then use the Fine control to achieve a desired setting. You can save your customized settings using the Save User Preset in the drop-down menu.

### Delay

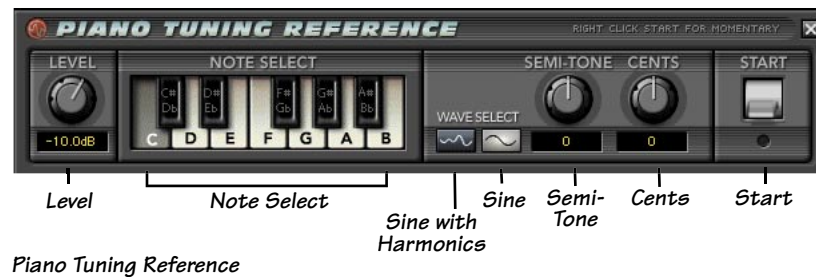
You can offset your signal, one sample at a time, by adjusting the Oscillator Delay to add or subtract samples in the right or left channel of your source. Use your mouse to adjust the Delay knob or use the up/down arrows. This is useful for identifying phase problems in your source signals. Once you have identified how much adjustment is needed, you can correct the phase by make adjustments using the D8B Channel Delay.

**Tip:** Using the Delay feature in Pro Audio Lab does not adjust the delay in your signal. Remember, it's for identifying a problem only. Use the Channel Delay feature in the D8B to make sample changes.

### Start

Left-click to start the Oscillator, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.

## The Piano Tuning Reference



The piano tuning reference is a very convenient tool which is useful for many studio applications. Use your mouse to click a desired note on the keyboard.

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB.

### Note Select

This one-octave keyboard lets you use your mouse to select the note or key to use as a tuning reference.

### Wave Select

This offers two separate waveforms that can be used as the tuning source tone. The squiggly line icon is a sine wave with three harmonics, and the sine wave symbol is a pure sine wave tone. It may be easier for some to tune to a pure sign wave, while the addition of harmonics can often assist in tuning instruments such as bass or the lower two strings of a guitar.

### Semi-Tone

This offers a +/- semi-tone pitch shift to accommodate alternate instrument tunings. Use your mouse to raise or lower the Semi-Tone control or scroll the digits in the window.

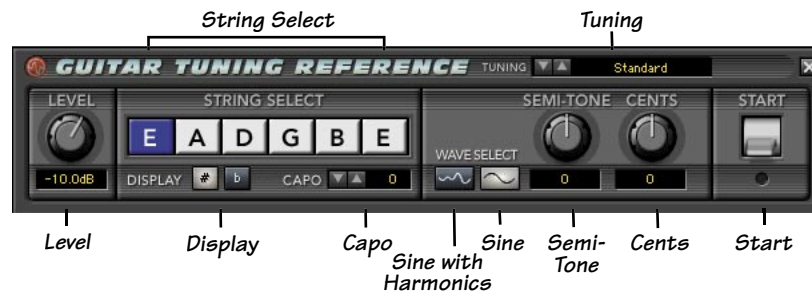
### Cents

This raises or lowers a selected semi-tone up to + or - 50 cents. The default is zero. Combine your mouse and control key to reset to 0.  
(**Note:** A cent is a unit of a pitch interval equivalent to 1/100th of the semi-tone.)

### Start

Left-click to start the tuning reference, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.

## The Guitar Tuning Reference



This offers an easy way to make sure your guitar player is in tune. It's always a good idea to check tuning prior to recording.

### Tuning

Use this to select alternate guitar tunings such as, Open G, Open C, Do Bro, etc. The String Select plays the appropriate tones for the selected tunings. The default is Standard.

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB.

### String Select

Use your mouse to select the required string and it will be highlighted in blue.

### Display

This displays a (viewing only) preference of a pitched semi-tone, as it appears in the individual string windows. This shows the correlation between sharps and flat notes.

### Capo

This offers adjusted string tones for a selected capo position. The tuning (0 to +12) refers to the frets on the guitar neck. For example, if a guitar player is using a capo on the third fret, use the up/down arrows to pitch the tuning up three semi-tones.

### Wave Select

This offers two separate waveforms that can be used as the tuning source tone. The squiggly line icon on the left is a sine wave with three harmonics. The sine wave symbol on the right is a pure sine wave tone. It may be easier for some to tune to a pure sine wave, while the addition of harmonics can often assist in tuning instruments such as bass or the lower two strings of a guitar.

### Semi-Tone

This offers a +/- semi-tone pitch shift to accommodate alternate instrument tunings. Use your mouse to turn the control, or scroll the digits in the window.

### Cents

This raises or lowers a selected semi-tone up to + or - 50 cents. The default is zero. Combine your mouse and control key to reset to 0.

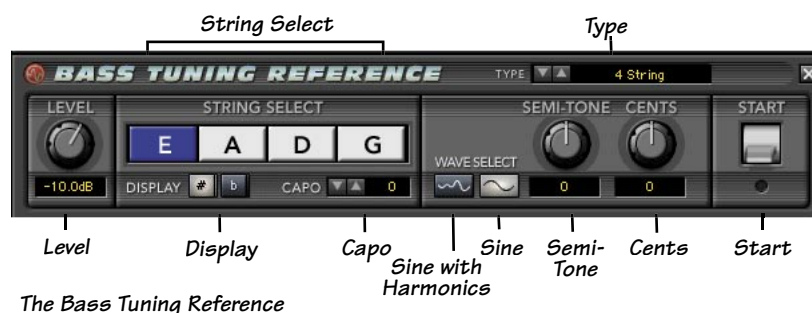
(Note: A cent is a unit of a pitch interval equivalent to 1/100th of the semi-tone.)

### Start

Left-click to start the tuning reference, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.



## The Bass Tuning Reference



This offers an easy way to make sure that your bass player is in tune. It's always a good idea to check tuning prior to recording.

### Type

Use this to select the bass type from 4 string (normal), 5, or 6 string setups. Some bass guitars have alternate tunings to accommodate alternate string configurations. The String Select plays the appropriate tones for the selected tunings.

### Level Pot

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB.

### String Select

Use your mouse to select the required string and it will be highlighted in blue.

### Display

This displays a (viewing only) preference of a pitched semi-tone, as it appears in the individual string windows. This shows the correlation between sharps and flat notes on the scale.

### Capo

Capo adjusts string tones for a selected capo position. The tuning (0 to +12) refers to the frets on the guitar neck

### Wave Select

This offers two separate waveform options that can be used as the tuning source tone. The squiggly line icon is a sine wave with three harmonics, the sine wave symbol is a pure sine wave tone. It may be easier for some to tune to a pure sign wave while the addition of harmonics can often assist in tuning instruments such as bass or the lower two stings of a guitar.

### Semi-Tone

This offers a +/- semi-tone pitch shift to accommodate alternate instrument tunings. Use your mouse to turn the control or scroll the digits in the value window.

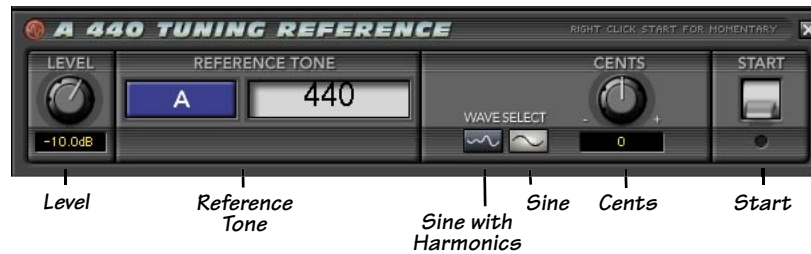
### Cents

Adjusting this control will raise or lower your tone up to + or - 50 cents. The default is zero. Combine your mouse and control key to reset to 0.  
(**Note:** A cent is a unit of a pitch interval equivalent to 1/100th of the semi-tone.)

### Start

Left-click to start the tuning reference, click again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.

## The A440 Tuning Reference



A440 Tuning Reference

### Level

Use your mouse to select an output level ranging from off to 0 dB.

### Reference Tone

The A440 is the accepted standard tuning reference. It's handy to have access to this reference tone to quickly compare an instrument tuning to an A440 reference.

### Wave Select

This offers two separate waveforms that can be used as the tuning source tone. The squiggly line is a sine wave with three harmonics, and the sine wave symbol is a pure sine wave tone.

### Cents

A frequency range can be fine-tuned to zero on a reference tone by adjusting from 415 Hz (100 cents) to 462 Hz (+100 cents).

(**Note:** A cent is a unit of a pitch interval equivalent to 1/100th of the semi-tone.)

### Start

Left-click to start the tuning reference, press it again to stop. Right-click to play a momentary tone burst for as long as you hold down the button.

# Plug-in Configuration and Routing

## Configuring the Plug-In

After installing your UFX card, unlocking the plug-in, and booting up the D8B, all you need to do is put the kettle on, have a cup of tea, and assign the plug-in to the card.

The following instructions are general for most plug-ins. Please note that the graphics may not exactly match the plug-in you have, but the procedures are the same for all plug-ins.

### Assigning the Plug-in to a UFX Card



1. Click the Plugins menu and select **Plugins**, or use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+P.
2. In the Plugin Configuration menu, locate the card slot that contains the UFX card to which you want to assign the plug-in.
3. In the **Mode** column, click a button and set it to mono or stereo, depending on your preference.



4. In the **Plugin Select** column, select the plug-in from the drop-down menu. It should look something like this:



**Note:** A plug-in can also be loaded from the Setup section on the console.

## Assigning an Input Source to the Plug-in

- Click the plug-in's **Input Source** button to select an input source. In the example below, we have chosen the Aux 4 Bus as the input to the plug-in installed in slot 6.



- When a plug-in is fed from an aux bus, its output appears on the FX Return channels by default (faders in the EFFECTS bank). The return channel is determined by the slot number and whether the effect output is mono or stereo. For example, a reverb with a mono input and stereo output that is installed in Slot 5 has its outputs on FX 5 and FX 6.



**Note:** The default state for all FX channels is MUTE. You won't hear the effect until you unmute its FX return channel(s).

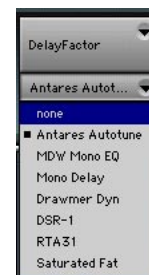
- A plug-in can also receive its input from a channel pre- or post-DSP insert, the main stereo left and right bus, or Bus 1-8. When a plug-in is inserted in this manner, its output is routed directly back into the channel.
- In addition, Plugin Chain can be selected as an Input Source, which allows you to daisy-chain two or more plug-ins in series.
- To combine two or more plug-ins:
  - Assign the Destination (output) for the first plug-in to its default FX Return.
  - Assign the Input Source for the second plug-in to the FX Return that the first plug-in is routed to (Input Source/Plugin Chain/FX 1-16).

## Assigning a Destination for the Plug-in

- Click the plug-in's **Destination** button to select where the plug-in's output should be routed. It can be routed to the FX Returns, a channel pre- or post-DSP insert, the main stereo left and right bus, or Bus 1-8.

## Deactivating the Plug-in

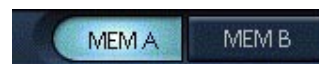
- Select **none** from the associated plug-in drop-down assignment menu.
- Click **OK** in the Alert dialog box.



**Warning:** Deactivating a plug-in erases all automation data for the plug-in.

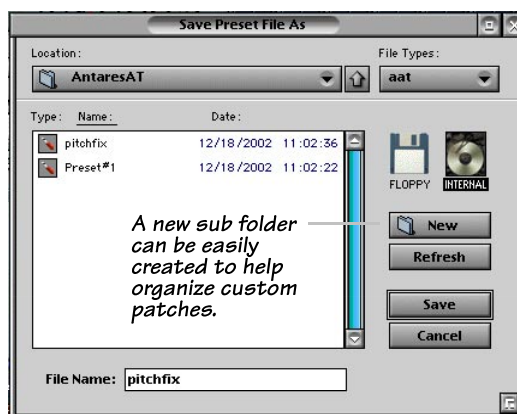
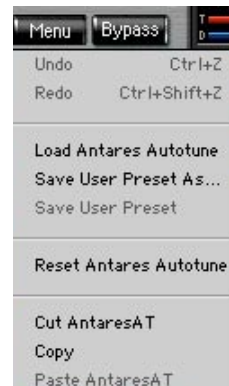
## Saving, Loading, and Resetting a Preset

Plug-in settings can be saved and recalled from the hard drive. You can save and load files to either Memory A or Memory B. Some plug-ins just show these as A or B.



### To Save a Preset:

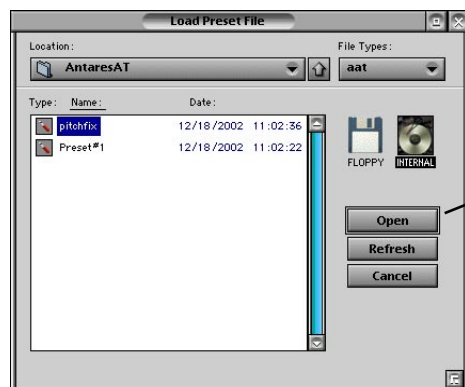
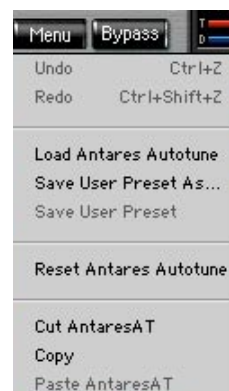
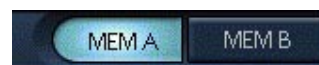
1. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
2. Select **Save User Preset** to overwrite the file currently opened.
3. Select **Save User Preset As** to save to a new file name. The Save Preset File As dialog box appears.



4. A default name for the preset is automatically displayed, such as Preset#1. If you want to rename it, simply type in the name you want, using up to 20 characters.
5. Select **INTERNAL** (default hard drive) or **FLOPPY**.
6. Click **Save** to complete the operation.

### To Load a Preset:

1. Click **Mem A** or **Mem B** to choose the memory location from which to load the file.
2. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
3. Select **Load (Plug-in)** to open a file. The Load Preset File dialog box appears.



4. Click **INTERNAL** if the file is on the internal drive, or click **FLOPPY** if the file is on a floppy disk.
5. Select the preset you want to load.
6. Click **Open** to load the selected preset.



Alternatively, click in the Plug-in's Preset Display to load from the pull-down menu or scroll through presets using the Up/Down buttons.

### To Reset the Plug-in:

Reset will reload the default patch.

1. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
2. Select **Reset (Plug-in)**.

### To Cut Plug-in Settings:

1. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
2. Select **Cut (Plug-in)**.

The current settings are temporarily stored in the clipboard memory in case you want to paste them to a new preset. The plug-in also reverts to its default state (it is reset).

### To Copy Plug-in Settings:

1. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
2. Select **Copy**.

The current settings are temporarily stored in the clipboard memory in case you want to paste them to a new patch.

### To Paste Plug-in Settings:

1. Click and hold the **Menu** button.
2. Select **Paste (Plug-in)**.

The current settings are replaced with the settings in the clipboard memory. Settings can be pasted into MEM A or MEM B.

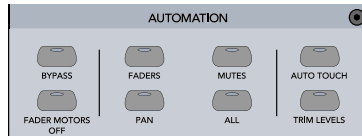


# Automation and Snapshot Control

## Dynamic Real Time

To write automation on a loaded plug-in:

1. Engage **AUTO TOUCH**.



2. Engage **ALL**, disengage **BYPASS**, and send timecode to the console –the **POSITION** readout will change to show time code is being received.
3. Move a parameter or recall a patch (user or factory preset).

Subsequent edits to any recorded automation moves may be performed in the Mix Editor. Enable the channel view by clicking on the **Channel View** button, then choose the plug-in you wish to view from the page drop-down menu. This displays a list of available channel and plug-in parameters.



**Note:** Parameters can be controlled from either the GUI plug-in graphic parameters (using a mouse to modify the parameters) or via the VFD V-Pots and SELECT buttons (with the plug-in parameters called up on the VFD readout).

## Event Based

To automate the loading of a plug-in preset:

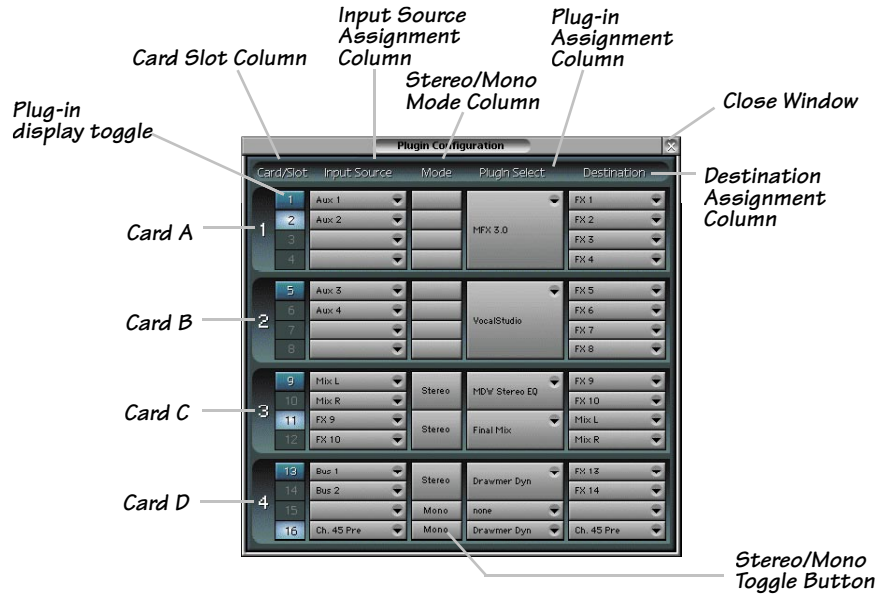
- Use the Event Automation Track, available under the Windows Menu as 'Event Track', to load plug-in user (previously stored), or factory preset patches at a specific time during automation playback.



**General Note:** Plug-in settings are recalled as part of a console Snapshot, but may also be recalled as Presets (patches). If you are recalling snapshots and presets, be aware that one may override the other.

# FX Routing

## The Plug-in Configuration Window



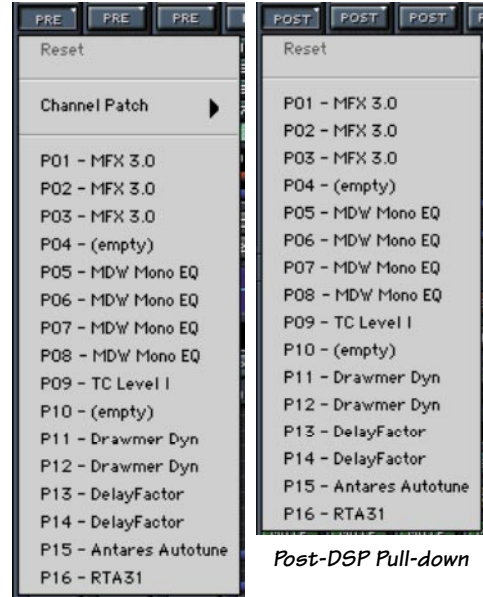
### Inserting a Plug-in into a Channel

A pre- or post-DSP channel insert can also be used as the input source for a plug-in. When a channel insert point is selected, the plug-in output returns to the channel by default. The FX return path is disconnected, although the plug-in output is still displayed on the FX return channel meter.

A plug-in channel insert assignment can be made from the Plugin Configuration window, or from a pull-down menu from the mixer screen.



Plug-in Configuration Window



Pre-DSP Pull-down

Post-DSP Pull-down

This assignment can also be made from the control surface and VFD by holding the desired channel's SELECT button for two seconds, then paging over to Plug Pre or Plug Post, selecting the input source, then selecting the desired plug-in slot from the follow-on menu.



## Using an Aux Send with a Plug-in

- Click the associated **Input Source** button and select an Aux input source. In the example below, we have chosen the Aux 4 Bus.



## Send the Input Signal to the Aux Bus

- Send a signal to a D8B mixer input channel (MIC/LINE or TAPE IN).
- Assign the input channel V-Pot/GUI Control Pot to an aux send. We have chosen AUX 4 according to the example above.



- Use the **AUX 4** control to adjust the input level to the plug-in.



GUI Control Pot Assigned to AUX 4



**Remember:** Select an aux send before using the V-pot or GUI Control Pot on the mixer input channel (MIC/LINE or TAPE IN).

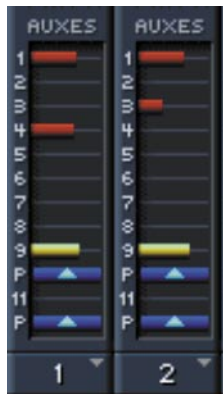
You will see the plug-in's input meter become active as you raise the mixer input channel's aux send.

Set the plug-in input/output signal levels as you would with any effect, so the meter reaches its upper-most range every so often (always trust your ears first). This can be accomplished from the console or GUI.

## Pre-Fader and Post-Fader Auxiliary Sends

Normally, effect sends are post-fader, so the signal sent to the effect follows the program level in the mix. Occasionally you may wish to feed an effect from a pre-fader source so that the signal level from the aux control is independent of the channel fader position. Aux sends are selectable pre- or post-fader globally (all Aux 1's for instance) from the Mix Options screen in the Setup window, or individually on a channel-by-channel basis either from the channel strip or the Fat Channel.

In the channel strip, Alt-click the Aux Send level indicator to toggle between pre-and post-fader operation. Post-fader is indicated by a red bar, pre-fader is indicated by a yellow bar.



In the Fat Channel, clicking on the **PRE** buttons below the Aux knobs toggles between pre- and post-fader operation. Yellow indicates pre-fader, otherwise the aux is post-fader.



## The FX Return Channel

- Switch the D8B Bank Select to **EFFECTS** (49-72) and bring up faders one and two (channels 49 and 50). You will also see meter activity associated with these channels.

**EFFECTS**

FX Channels 1&2 (channels 49 & 50)

Plugs	Windows	HUI Mod	Ctrl+P
P 1- MFX 3.0			Alt+1
P 2- MFX 3.0			Alt+2
P 3			Alt+3
P 4			Alt+4
P 5- VocalStudio			Alt+5
P 6			Alt+6
P 7			Alt+7
P 8			Alt+8
P 9- MDW Stereo EQ			Alt+9
P10			Alt+0
P11- Final Mix			Alt+Shift+1
P12			Alt+Shift+2
P13- Drawmer Dyn			Alt+Shift+3
P14			Alt+Shift+4
P15			Alt+Shift+5
P16- Drawmer Dyn			Alt+Shift+6

The Plug button toggles between Windows menu buttons and FX buttons (lower left on the D8B mixer screen).

Plugs button opens the Patch Configuration window (or Ctrl+P on the keyboard).

Here the MFX plug-in is selected for display.

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