



## Introduction

This manual contains complete documentation for FabFilter Micro in printer-friendly format. All information in this manual is also accessible via the Help button in FabFilter Micro's user interface.

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## About FabFilter Micro

FabFilter Micro is the ultimate lightweight filter plug-in, making the classic FabFilter sound affordable for everyone. With just one filter and an envelope follower to modulate its frequency, it can be used for simple filtering tasks, sound coloring and creative filtering effects.



Key feature of FabFilter Micro is its unique resonating, screaming and saturating filter that we first created for the FabFilter One synthesizer. It features both LP and HP filter shapes and an adjustable envelope follower to modulate the filter frequency according to the incoming audio signal. Furthermore, independent input and output gain controls enable you to saturate the filter more or less depending on your distortion needs!

Of course, we also included the common FabFilter goodies such as amazingly easy-to-use MIDI learn, Smart Parameter Interpolation for smooth parameter changes, undo and redo features, a flexible preset system, and a complete help file including interactive help hints.

FabFilter Micro is available in VST, VST3, AU, RTAS, AS and AAX formats for Mac OS X and Windows.

Windows requirements:	Mac OS X requirements:
32-bit: Windows 7, Vista or XP	32-bit: OS X 10.4 or higher
64-bit: Windows 7 or Vista (x64)	64-bit: OS X 10.6 or higher
VST 2/3 host or Pro Tools	AU or VST 2/3 host or Pro Tools
SSE-capable processor	Intel or G4/G5 processor

Next: [Quick start](#)

See Also  
[Using FabFilter Micro](#)

## Quick start

The installer will copy the FabFilter Micro plug-in into the common VST, VST 3, AU (OS X only) and Pro Tools plug-in folders on your computer. On Mac OS X, the global plug-in folders in /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins are used.

In most cases, your host will then recognize the plugin automatically. However, if the instructions below do not work, see [Manual installation](#) instead.

- **Cubase**  
Choose an empty insert slot, for example in the Mixer, and select FabFilter Micro from the menu that appears. To use the MIDI features in Micro, create a new MIDI track and set its output to the Micro instance you have just created. (The VST 3 version of Micro can be found in the Filter section.)
- **Logic Pro**  
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select FabFilter Micro from the pop-up menu. You will find FabFilter Micro in the *Audio Units* -> *FabFilter* section (named FF Micro).
- **Ableton Live**  
In Session view, select the track you would like to place FabFilter Micro on, for example by clicking the track name. At the left top of Ableton Live's interface, click on the Plug-in Device Browser icon (third icon from the top). From the plug-ins list, double-click FabFilter/FabFilter Micro, or drag it onto the track.
- **Pro Tools**  
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select FabFilter Micro from the pop-up menu in the Effect section.

To begin, just open the plug-in and drag the filter curve around. Enjoy!

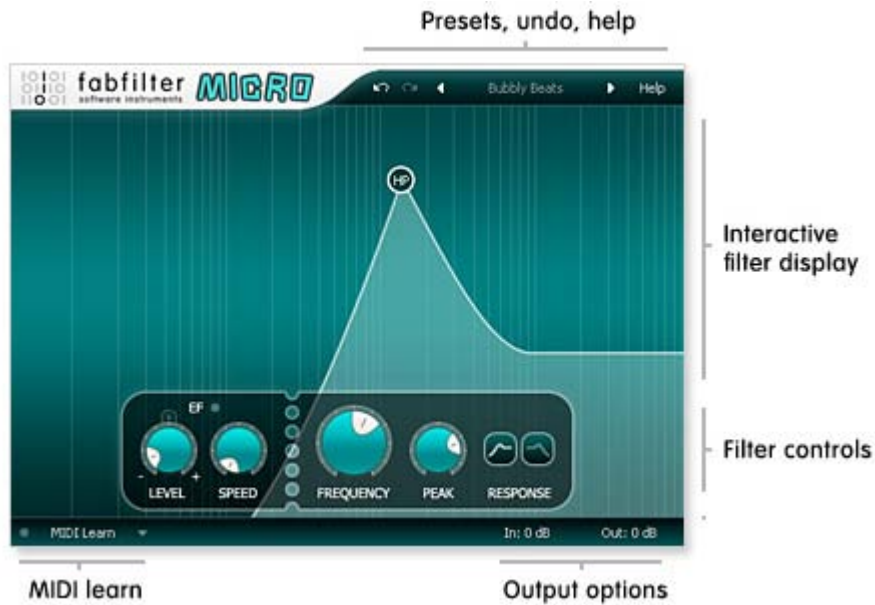
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Next: [FabFilter Micro overview](#)

See Also  
[Overview](#)

## Overview

The interface of FabFilter Micro mainly consists of a big filter display that lets you tweak the filter interactively.



- Interactive filter display  
The filter display lets you tweak the frequency and peak of the filter just by dragging the peak around. See [Interactive filter display](#).
- Filter controls  
The filter controls at the bottom of the display provide full access to all filter parameters. See [Filter controls](#).
- Output options  
The input and output controls on the right of the bottom bar enable you to adjust the gain before and after filtering. See [Output options](#).
- MIDI learn  
MIDI Learn lets you easily associate any MIDI controller with any plug-in parameter. See [MIDI Learn](#).
- Presets, undo and redo, help  
With the preset buttons, you can easily browse through the factory presets or save your own settings so you can re-use them in other songs. The Undo and Redo buttons at the top of the plug-in interface enable you to easily undo your changes. Finally, the Help menu provides access to help and version information. See [Loading presets](#) and [Undo and redo](#).

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Next: [Knobs](#)

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## Knobs

It is easy to control FabFilter Micro's parameters with the large round knobs. They will light up when you move the mouse cursor around to indicate that you can adjust them. The moment you move the mouse cursor over a knob, a parameter value display will pop up, which shows the name and the current value of the parameter.



All knobs support four ways of control:

1. Vertical mode  
Click on the center area of a knob and drag up or down to rotate it. The knob reacts to the speed with which you are dragging, so if you move the mouse slowly, you make precise adjustments.
2. Rotate mode  
Grab the arrow of the knob and drag it around. By moving the mouse cursor further away from the knob while dragging it, you can make precise adjustments.
3. Mouse wheel mode  
Perhaps the easiest way to make adjustments is by using the mouse wheel when you hover over a knob. This mode works for all the knobs and possible panning rings. (On Windows, you might need to click in the plug-in interface first to make sure it is the active window.)
4. Text entry mode  
Double-click on a knob to enter the value exactly using the keyboard.

### Tips

- To reset a knob to its default position, hold down the *Ctrl* key (Windows) or *Command* key (Mac OS X) and click the knob once.
- To fine-tune a value when using vertical drag mode or the mouse wheel, hold down the *Shift* key while dragging or moving the mouse wheel.
- In text entry mode, there are several handy shortcuts. With frequency values, you can type e.g. '1k' to set the value to 1000 Hz. With dB values, you can type e.g. '2x' to get +6 dB (the value that corresponds to two times louder). With all values, you can also type a percentage (e.g. '50%' will put a knob exactly in the middle position).
- Pro Tools note: the RTAS/AS and AAX versions of our plug-ins implement the default Pro Tools keyboard shortcuts for fine tune (*Ctrl*+drag on Windows, *Command*+drag on Mac OS X) and reset to default (*Alt*+click).
- Sometimes, knobs in our plug-in interfaces are linked: these be adjusted simultaneously by holding down the *Alt* key while dragging on one of them. For example, an output level and input level setting of a plug-in could be adjusted simultaneously (in the opposite direction) this way.

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Next: [Filter controls](#)

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[Overview](#)

## Filter controls

The filter controls provide full access to all of FabFilter Micro's filter parameters.



- **Frequency**  
The Frequency knob sets the cut-off frequency of the filter over the entire audio range.
- **Peak**  
The Peak knob adjusts the resonance of the filter. A little resonance will cause the filter to create warmer and more characteristic tones. At maximum resonance, the filter will self-oscillate at the center frequency.
- **Response**  
The Response buttons select between low-pass and high-pass filter shapes. FabFilter Micro's filter always has a 12 dB/octave steepness.
- **EF Level**  
At the far left, the Level knob sets the amount of filter frequency modulation with the built-in envelope follower. You can set both negative and positive modulation. In the center position, no modulation will take place. The little reset button at the top of the level knob lets you easily turn off modulation altogether.
- **EF Speed**  
The Speed knob adjusts how quickly the envelope follower reacts to changes in the input signal. When turned all the way to the left, the envelope follower reacts quickly and aggressively to changes. When turned all the way to the right, the response to changes is very slow and smooth. The default position in the center provides a good overall behavior.

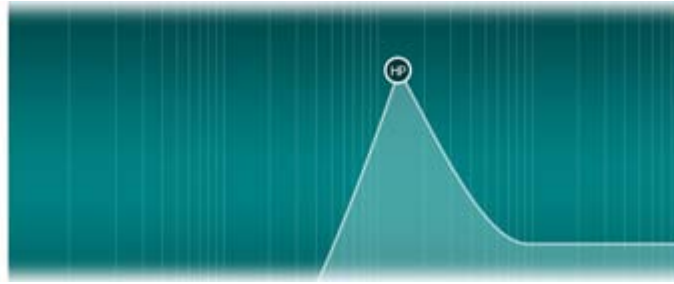
Tip: the EF light above the envelope follower controls shows you how much filter frequency modulation is currently taking place.

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Next: [Interactive filter display](#)

See Also  
[Overview](#)

## Interactive filter display



The interactive filter display gives an overview of the filter parameters and makes it very easy to adjust multiple filter parameters simultaneously. The vertical lines in the background represent a logarithmic scale that correspond to the actual filter frequencies.

- Drag the filter peak to adjust the *Frequency* and *Peak* parameters for that filter.
- *Ctrl*+click (Command+click on Mac) the filter peak to toggle between the low-pass and high-pass filter responses.

Tip: Of course, all changes made in the filter display can be automated!

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Next: [Output controls](#)

See Also

[Filter controls](#)

[Overview](#)

## Output options

At the righthand side of the bottom bar in the interface, FabFilter Micro contains independent input and output gain parameters.



- The Input Gain parameter sets the gain that is applied before the signal enters the filter. You can use this to amplify the signal so it saturates the filter more or less, adjusting the amount of distortion.
- The Output Gain parameter sets the gain that is applied after the filter. If you have amplified the incoming signal with the Input Gain parameter, you can use the Output Gain to attenuate it again to obtain a reasonable output level.

### Tips

- Hold down the *Alt* key while dragging to adjust both levels simultaneously, but in reverse direction. This lets you easily change the distortion level in one step.
- You can directly adjust the output gain by clicking and dragging the output button vertically, so there is no need to click it first to view the output knobs. All keyboard modifiers that work on knobs also apply here. See [Knobs](#) for more information.
- When the output knobs are visible, you can double-click them to be able to enter a value directly using the keyboard.

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Next: [MIDI learn](#)

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## MIDI Learn

Controlling FabFilter Micro's parameters directly with MIDI is very easy using the MIDI Learn feature. With MIDI Learn, you can associate any MIDI controller with any parameter.



Click the MIDI Learn button in the bottom bar to enter MIDI Learn mode. The interface dims and the parameters that can be controlled are highlighted. Each parameter has a small text balloon that displays the associated controller number. Now do the following to associate a controller number with a parameter:

1. Touch the control of the desired parameter in the interface that you wish to control. A red square will mark the chosen parameter.
2. Adjust the slider or knob on your MIDI keyboard or MIDI controller that you want to associate with that parameter.

That's it! The parameter will now be controlled with the MIDI controller. You can now go back to step 1 to associate a different parameter. Note that there is no warning when you associate a different knob with a controller number that is already used. It will just be replaced.

To exit MIDI Learn mode, click the MIDI Learn button again, or click Close at the top of the interface.

Click the small menu drop-down button next to the MIDI Learn button to access the MIDI Learn menu:

- Disable/Enable MIDI  
This globally turns MIDI control of parameters on or off: useful in hosts that automatically send all MIDI events on a track to all effect plug-ins associated with that track as well.
- Clear  
This submenu shows all parameter associations and lets you delete individual associations or clear all associations in one step.
- Revert  
Reverts to the last saved MIDI mapping (or the state when the plug-in was started).
- Save  
Saves the current MIDI mapping so Revert will go back to this state. The current mapping is automatically saved when closing the plug-in.

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Next: [Undo and redo](#)

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## Undo and redo

The Undo and Redo buttons at the top of the FabFilter Micro interface enable you to easily undo changes you made to the plug-in.



- The Undo button at the left will undo the last change. Every change to the plug-in (such as dragging a knob or selecting a new preset) creates a new state in the undo history. The Undo button steps back through the history to restore the previous states of the plug-in.
- The Redo button cancels the last undo command. It steps forward through the history until you are back at the most recent plug-in state.

### Notes

- If the plug-in parameters are changed without using the plug-in interface, for example with MIDI or automation, no new undo states are recorded.
- The Undo and Redo buttons will disable themselves if there is nothing to undo or redo.

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*Next:* [Loading presets](#)

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## Loading presets

FabFilter Micro comes with a small set of basic presets, giving a good idea of what you can do.

- To load a preset, click the preset button. The presets menu will appear with all available presets. Click a menu item to load that preset. The currently selected preset is highlighted with check marks.
- To explore the presets one by one, click on the little arrow buttons to the left and right of the main preset button. This will load the previous or next preset in the menu.

The preset button shows the name of the current preset. If you have changed the preset by adjusting one or more parameters, the name is dimmed to indicate that this is not the original preset anymore.

### Tips

- The Default Setting preset is loaded automatically when FabFilter Micro is started. To change the default settings, simply overwrite this preset by clicking Options > Save As Default in the presets menu.
  - If somehow the factory presets are lost or not installed properly, click Options > Restore Factory Presets in the preset menu to restore them.
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## MIDI Program Change and Bank Select

Loading a presets can also be done via MIDI, using Bank Select and Program Change messages. Click Options > View Bank/Program Numbers in the preset menu to enable or disable the display of bank/program numbers (for example: *(2/65) My Preset*). This means that you can load that preset by first sending a Bank Select message to select bank 2 and then sending a Program Change message to select program 65.

Important: All the presets in your preset folder are numbered automatically, starting with bank 0 and program 0. This way, you are able to access any of the presets via MIDI. However, this also means that when you add new presets to the menu, bank/program numbers of other presets might change. Be aware of this when recording program changes in a song!

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Next: [Saving presets](#)

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## Saving presets

You can easily extend the included presets with new settings to build your own library of presets for FabFilter Micro that you can reuse in various projects. This is also a good way to copy settings across multiple instances of FabFilter Micro in a session.

To save the current setting as a preset, click the preset button, and then click *Save As*. A standard Save dialog will appear. Type a name for the new preset and click *Save* to finish.

In the Save dialog, you can also rename and delete existing presets and create a new folder to store presets in. New folders will show up as new categories in the preset menu. (On Mac OS X, this should be done with the Finder.)

See [How presets are stored](#) to determine the preset folder location and learn more about factory presets.

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*Next:* [How presets are stored](#)

See Also

[Loading presets](#)

[Overview](#)

## How presets are stored

Presets for FabFilter Micro are stored in separate files with the .ffp extension (for FabFilter Preset). All presets reside in subfolders in the main preset folder. The subfolders will show up as separate categories in the preset menu. You can also further divide the subfolders into categories.

You can manage the preset files just like other files on your computer. The easiest way to do this is in the Save dialog that appears if you are saving a preset. The preset menu will automatically reload itself with the changes when the dialog is closed.

Furthermore it is very easy to share your newly created presets with other users since FabFilter presets use the same file format on both Windows and Mac OS X.

The default location of the main preset folder is *My Documents\FabFilter\Micro* for Windows, and *~/Library/Audio/Presets/FabFilter/FabFilter Micro* for Mac OS X. To change this location, first copy all presets to the desired new location, and then click Options > Change Preset Folder in the preset menu and select the new folder.

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## Restoring factory presets

If you have accidentally lost the factory presets, you can easily restore them by clicking Options > Restore Factory Presets in the preset menu. This will install all factory presets again.

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Next: [Purchasing FabFilter Micro](#)

See Also

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## Purchasing FabFilter Micro

Once you have downloaded and installed the evaluation copy of the FabFilter Micro, you may evaluate it during 30 days. Every time you start the plug-in, you will see the following dialog:




While there are still days left, you can click Evaluate to start working with the plugin. If you want to keep using FabFilter Micro after the evaluation period, you must buy a copy in the online FabFilter Shop by clicking the Buy Now button in the evaluation dialog.

- [Go to the FabFilter Shop and purchase FabFilter Micro now](#) 

We accept credit cards from all major companies, check payments, wire payments, and PayPal. The FabFilter Shop uses secure connections and encryption: therefore your personal information is completely safe.

Within a few minutes after you have purchased your copy, you will receive an e-mail containing your personal license key. You use this license key to turn the evaluation copy into a fully registered version without the evaluation dialog and the 30-day trial restriction.

Note: If the evaluation period has expired but you didn't have the chance to properly evaluate the plug-in, you can request a new evaluation period by contacting us at [info@fabfilter.com](mailto:info@fabfilter.com) .

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Next: [Entering your license key](#)

See Also

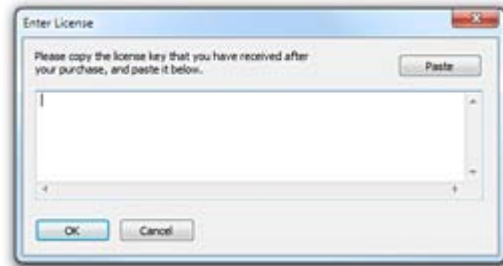
[Support](#)

[License agreement](#)

## Entering your license key

After you have purchased FabFilter Micro in the online [FabFilter Shop](#), you will immediately receive an e-mail containing your personal license key. This license key will turn the evaluation version into a fully registered plug-in.

- Start FabFilter Micro and click Enter License in the evaluation dialog, or click Enter License on the Help menu if the plug-in is already running.
- Copy the license information from the e-mail you have received and paste it into the text field. Make sure that you are copying the entire license key including the *Product* and *Licensee* lines! If you are not sure what text to copy, just copy and paste the whole e-mail.



After you have entered your license information, you will need to restart the plug-in host, so make sure you save your settings if needed. From now on, you will be able to use FabFilter Micro for an unlimited period of time with full support via e-mail.

### Tips

- After your purchase, you can always retrieve your license key again by logging into your [personal FabFilter account](#). Here you can also keep track of all your orders and take advantage of great discounts when buying other FabFilter plug-ins!
- To deauthorize your license key and remove it from the computer, click Deauthorize on the Help menu. If you temporarily needed to install your license on another computer, or if you have transferred your license to someone else, this is the way to deinstall your personal license key safely.

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Next: [Support](#)

See Also

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## Support


If you need help with problems or questions, and the help file does not provide an answer, please visit the support pages on our web site.

- [Go to FabFilter Support](#) 

From here, you have direct access to the customer support forum, very useful tutorial videos for all FabFilter plug-ins, online and PDF versions of all our help files, and a section with extra downloads (such as presets, controller templates, older plug-in versions).

For sales questions and technical support, you can also contact FabFilter directly at [info@fabfilter.com](mailto:info@fabfilter.com).

### Reporting a bug

If you have encountered a bug in FabFilter Micro, first of all make sure that you are using the latest version of the plug-in, which you can find at [www.fabfilter.com/download](http://www.fabfilter.com/download) . You can check the version of your plug-in by opening an instance in your host, open the plug-ins help menu via the Help button at the right top of the interface, and choose About. If the bug is still present in the latest version, please send us an e-mail at [info@fabfilter.com](mailto:info@fabfilter.com) and include as much technical information as possible: operation system and version, host software and version, steps to reproduce the bug, etc. Thanks in advance!

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*Next:* [Manual installation](#)

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## Manual installation

When installing FabFilter Micro, the installation program will try to copy the plug-in into the appropriate plug-ins folders, and in most cases you host will recognize FabFilter Micro automatically. Otherwise, please follow these instructions:

### Windows


On Windows, most hosts have their own VST plug-ins folder. So if you are using Windows and your host does not recognize FabFilter Micro, you need to locate the proper plug-ins folder for your host first (it is usually shown in the Preferences or similar dialog). Then, copy the file *FabFilter Micro.dll* from *C:\Program Files\FabFilter\Micro* (or *C:\Program Files (x86)\FabFilter\Micro* if you are using a 32-bit host on 64-bit Windows) to the plug-ins folder that you have found and restart the host so it can reload all its plug-ins. If you are using the RTAS or AAX version of Micro, copy the *FabFilter Micro.dpm* or *FabFilter Micro.aaxplugin* -and- *FabFilter Micro.dpm.rsr* files to the Pro Tools plug-in directory on your computer.

### OS X

On OS X, plug-ins are installed in the standard plug-in folders in the system Library folder. These are the *only* possible correct locations:

- Audio Units: */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components*
- VST/VST3: */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST* and */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3*
- RTAS: */Library/Application Support/Digidesign/Plug-Ins*
- AAX: */Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins*

Note: AU and VST/VST3 plug-in may also be placed in the user's Library folders under *~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins* as well.

If you still have problems, contact [FabFilter Support](#) .

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## VST plug-in versions

FabFilter Micro is available in both VST 2 and the new VST 3 formats. They can be installed and used both at the same time. The VST 3 format can only be used by hosts that support it, for example Steinberg's Cubase 5. At this moment, the VST 2 format is compatible with more different hosts and it has more thorough MIDI support.

### VST 2

For the VST 2 format, there are two versions of the FabFilter Micro plug-in, a mono and a stereo one:

- *FabFilter Micro*: Stereo version of the plug-in
- *FabFilter Micro (Mono)*: Mono version of the plug-in

Note: The VST 3 version of the plug-in can be used as both mono and stereo plug-in.

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Next: [License agreement](#)

See Also

[Quick start](#)

[Manual installation](#)

## FabFilter Software License Agreement

### 1. Disclaimer

FABFILTER, FREDERIK SLIJKERMAN AND FLORIS KLINKERT, AUTHORS OF THIS FABFILTER PRODUCT, SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL FABFILTER, FREDERIK SLIJKERMAN AND FLORIS KLINKERT, BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE A FABFILTER PRODUCT MAY CAUSE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR OTHER DAMAGES.

### 2. Terms of Use

You may use an evaluation copy of this FabFilter product for an period of up to 30 days. Once the evaluation period has ended, you must either purchase your copy, or remove it from your computer. If you have purchased your copy of this FabFilter product, you may continue to use your evaluation copy beyond the end of the 30-day evaluation period until your license key arrives.

We encourage you to distribute the evaluation copy and give copies to friends, as long as there is no payment involved.

You may not reverse engineer, reverse compile, or disassemble any of the files in the distribution.

You are not allowed to distribute or copy the full version of any FabFilter product. The license key that you receive when purchasing it is personal and confidential and may not be disclosed. The full version is a commercial program. It is a violation of international copyright laws to give copies to other people. You may give them the evaluation copy, so they can purchase the program on their own.

### 3. VST plugin technology

VST is a trademark of Steinberg Soft- und Hardware GmbH.

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*Next:* [About FabFilter](#)

See Also

[Purchase FabFilter Micro Support](#)

## About FabFilter

FabFilter Software Instruments was founded in 2002 by Frederik Slijkerman MSc and Floris Klinkert MSc, and is based in the center of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In their roles as professional musicians and studio engineers, Floris Klinkert and Frederik Slijkerman have always loved the sound of old analog gear but also kept up with new software synthesis developments. However, none of the available software effects and instruments met their high quality standards.

Many plug-in developers try to emulate old analog gear, or stuff their plug-ins with as many features and (often mediocre) effects as possible, diverting you from the real issue: the sound. Both also being professional software engineers, Frederik Slijkerman and Floris Klinkert decided to do things differently and create the audio effects and instruments they dreamed of, resulting in the release of FabFilter One in early 2004, followed by FabFilter Volcano, Twin, Timeless, Simplon, Pro-C, Volcano 2, Twin 2, Timeless 2, Pro-Q, Micro, Pro-L and Pro-G.

To accomplish their goals, a lot of effort has been put into developing highly advanced filtering, EQ'ing and dynamics algorithms, superb digital oscillators, and highly innovative user interface solutions. The highly optimized FabFilter plug-in design results in very little CPU requirements. FabFilter strongly believes that musicians don't just need more knobs, faders or options on plug-ins: they need better sound quality and usability. That is why FabFilter creates easy-to-use yet powerful plug-ins, with innovative interfaces and superb sound quality, for a reasonable price.

FabFilter will expand their range of plug-ins in the future, supporting both Mac OS X and Windows, providing the best possible sound quality and filter designs. We hope that you will enjoy our products. Please feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions!

The FabFilter team

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See Also

[Support](#)

[FabFilter web site](#) 