

fabfilter
software instruments

SIMPLON

Introduction

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

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About FabFilter Simplon

After our first filter plugin FabFilter Volcano, we now offer a more basic way of using our filters. FabFilter Simplon is the answer if you need quality filtering for an affordable price.



FabFilter Simplon provides the best sounding filters in an easy to use setup. It contains the fattest [multi-mode filters](#) which are impressively analogue-sounding with brilliant resonant sweeps and a deep bass end.

- **Multimode filters**
Two independent multimode filters provide low-pass, high-pass, and band-pass responses with 12, 24 and 48 dB/octave slopes. Both filters feature three different high-quality filter characteristics that define the unique sound and overdrive of the filter. They range from smooth and clean to raw, self-oscillating and over-the-top! Since the 2 multi-mode filters work both serially and in parallel you can combine them in any way imaginable.
- **Interactive filter display**
Tweak the filters with the interactive filter display that shows both filter curves and lets you drag them around. You can adjust them separately or both at the same time.
- **MIDI learn**
FabFilter Simplon works with any MIDI keyboard or controller. It is very easy to assign each of Simplon's parameters with any MIDI controller number, just by turning knobs in the user interface and on the external controller.
- **Smart parameter interpolation**
Changes to any of FabFilter Simplon's parameters are interpolated by smart algorithms, ensuring both responsiveness and smooth transitions. There are no unwanted digital clicks and zipper effects, and even MIDI controller changes are handled perfectly smooth.
- **Low CPU usage**
We have taken great care to ensure that FabFilter Simplon uses even less CPU power than Volcano with innovative AltiVec and SSE optimizations. All parameters can be automated and handling of MIDI events and parameter changes is sample accurate.
- **Platform-independent presets**
FabFilter Simplon enables you to create and save your own presets. You can share your settings with other users and the preset files are the same on Windows and Mac OS X.

FabFilter Simplon is available as an RTAS, Audio Units and VST plug-in for Mac OS X (PowerPC and Intel) and as RTAS and VST plugin for Windows.

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See Also
[Using FabFilter Simplon](#)

Quick start

The installation program will copy the FabFilter Simplon plugin into the common VST and RTAS plug-in folders (Windows) or the /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components and VST folder and the /Library/Application Support/Digidesign/Plug-Ins folder (OS X) on your computer. In most cases, your host will then recognize the plugin automatically. If the instructions below do not work, see [Manual installation](#) instead.

- **Cubase SX**
Choose an empty insert slot in the Mixer and select FabFilter Simplon from the pop-up menu. To use Simplon's MIDI Learn feature, create a new MIDI track and set its output to the FabFilter Simplon instance you have just created.
- **Logic Audio**
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select FabFilter Simplon from the pop-up menu. You will find FabFilter Simplon in the *Stereo > Audio Units* (OS X) or *Stereo > VST* (Windows) section.

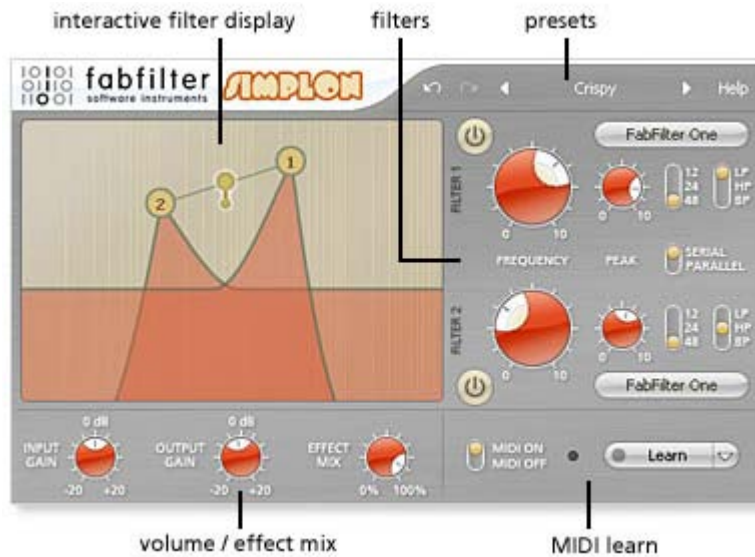
Note: In Logic Audio, effect plug-ins do not receive MIDI by default. If you want to use Simplon's MIDI Learn feature, you have to put Simplon on its own instrument channel as a MIDI effect, and route audio through it with a side-chain.

Next: [Using FabFilter Simplon](#)

See Also
[Presets](#)

Overview

FabFilter Simplon's interface is, as the name suggests, simple and functional. There are three basic components to FabFilter Simplon: the filters itself, the input/output stage and the MIDI learn functions.



- **Interactive filter display**
This is the graphic representation of the filter settings which enables you to drag both filters individually or simultaneously and control the filter settings with key combinations. See [Filters](#).
- **Filter parameters**
The filters offers pretty much everything you would expect, with a choice of low-pass, high-pass and band-pass modes, and a slope variable from two-pole (12dB/octave) all the way up to eight-pole (48dB/octave). For each filter there are three algorithms that offer three different filter characteristics. See [Filters](#).
- **Volume and effect mix**
Here you can control the audio input and output gain. The *Effect Mix* knob controls the mix of the processed and unprocessed audio.
- **MIDI learn**
MIDI Learn offers the possibility to easily associate any MIDI controller with any plug-in parameter. See [MIDI Learn](#).
- **Presets**
With the preset buttons, you can easily browse through the factory presets or save your own sounds so you can re-use them in other songs. See [Presets](#).

Next: [Knobs and switches](#)

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Knobs and switches

It is easy to control the parameters with the large round knobs and switches. 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 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 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.

To change the position of a switch, simply drag the switch thumb up or down, or click at the new position.

Tips

- To reset a knob to its default position, hold down the *Ctrl* key (Windows) or *Command* key (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.
- When adjusting a filter parameter, you can hold down the *Alt* key while dragging to adjust this parameter in all filters in parallel.
- 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 plug-in uses the default Pro Tools keyboard shortcuts for fine tune (*Ctrl*+drag on Windows, *Command*+drag on OS X), reset to default (*Alt*+click) and linked operation (*Shift*+drag).

Next: [Filters](#)

See Also
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Filters

FabFilter Simplon comes with two high quality filters, each featuring various sound characteristics. These multimode filters sound the same as our award winning filters used in the FabFilter One and FabFilter Volcano. You can use them individually or combine filter characteristics to create your own sounds. To get the best out of Simplon, you need to give it something rich in harmonics (synth sounds, distorted guitar and complete mixes are good sources for filtering).



You control each filter with the following settings:

- **Frequency and Peak**
The filter frequency is adjustable from 5 Hz to 75 kHz with variable resonance (yes, it will self-oscillate at maximum resonance!). The *Frequency* knob controls the center frequency of each filter. The *Peak* knob adjusts the filter resonance. A little resonance will cause the filter to create warmer and more characteristic tones. Both knobs can be controlled in real time, either manually or via [external devices](#).
- **Characteristic**
You can choose between three different filter characteristics:
 1. *FabFilter One* is the original filter characteristic taken from our award-winning FabFilter One synthesizer. It's perfect for general usage.
 2. *Gentle*, with a more smooth and clean characteristic.
 3. *Raw* has lots of overdrive and exhibits a character of its own.
- **Response**
The response of each filter can be set to either *Low Pass*, *High Pass*, or *Band Pass*. In Low Pass mode, the filter will pass through frequencies lower than the center frequency. In High Pass mode, frequencies higher than the center frequency will be passed through. In Band Pass mode, only the frequencies around the cut-off frequency will be passed through.
- **Slope**
The slope switch sets the steepness of the filter, which controls how aggressively the frequencies around the center frequency are filtered. You can choose between 12 dB/octave, 24 dB/octave or 48 dB/octave settings. For example, if the response is set to Low Pass, more high frequencies will remain at 12 dB/octave than at 48 dB/octave.
- **Bypass**
The two filters can each be switched on or off with the small buttons left of the characteristics drop-down menu in the filter section. While a filter is bypassed, it will look disabled, but the controls can still be used to adjust the filter. Bypassing the filters is click-free.

Linking the two filters

When you want to change the *Frequency* and the *Peak* setting of both filters simultaneously, just hold down the *Alt* key while turning a knob. For example, you can set them up as dual, resonant band-pass filters and sweep the cutoffs simultaneously. This configuration will give you access to all manner of 'vocal' sounds, as well as even more dramatic formant-based timbres.

To adjust both filters simultaneously, but in the opposite direction hold down the *Ctrl* and *Alt* keys (Windows) or the *Command* and *Alt* keys (Mac) and drag the knob for filter 1 or 2.

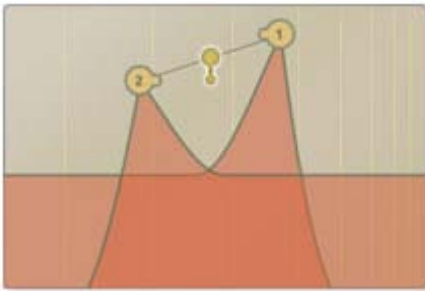
Next: [Interactive filter display](#)

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Interactive filter display

The interactive filter display makes it very easy to adjust the filter parameters.



- Drag the button for filter 1 or 2 to adjust the *Frequency* and the *Peak* value for that filter.
- Drag the center button to adjust both filter parameters in parallel, or hold down the *Alt* key while dragging one of the filter buttons.
- Hold down the *Ctrl* and *Alt* keys (Windows) or the *Command* and *Alt* keys (Mac) and drag the button for filter 1 or 2 to adjust both filters simultaneously, but in the opposite direction.
- *Shift*+click on the button for filter 1 or 2 to toggle the filter slope.
- *Ctrl*+click (*Command*+click on Mac) on the button of filter 1 or 2 to toggle between the different filter responses.

Next: [MIDI Learn](#)

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MIDI Learn

Controlling FabFilter Simplon'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, at the bottom right of the interface, 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:

- 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.

You can enable or disable MIDI for the plug-in with the MIDI On/Off switch. Disabling MIDI events is useful if your host automatically sends MIDI to all effects on a channel.

Next: [Undo and redo](#)

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Undo and redo

The Undo and Redo buttons at the top of the FabFilter Simplon 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.

Next: [Loading presets](#)

See Also
[Overview](#)

Loading presets

The included presets give a great overview of what you can do with FabFilter Simplon. You can either use the presets as they are, or tweak them further to create your own unique sounds.

- To load a preset, click the preset button in the top section. The presets menu will appear with all available presets. Click on a menu item to load that preset.
- 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 Simplon is started. To change the default setting, simply overwrite this preset.
- If somehow the factory presets are lost or not installed properly, click Options > Restore Factory Presets in the preset menu to restore them.

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!

Next: [Saving presets](#)

See Also

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Saving presets

You can easily extend the included presets with new settings to build your own library of sounds that you can reuse in various projects. This is also a good way to copy settings across multiple instances of FabFilter Simplon 2 in a song.

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 a Mac, this should be done with the Finder.)

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

Next: [How presets are stored](#)

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How presets are stored

Presets for FabFilter Simplon 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\Simplon* for Windows, and *~/Library/Audio/Presets/FabFilter/FabFilter Simplon* 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.

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, but without overwriting any existing files.

Next: [Purchasing FabFilter Simplon](#)

See Also

[Saving presets](#)

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Purchasing FabFilter Simplon

Once you have downloaded and installed the evaluation copy of the FabFilter Simplon, you may use it freely for 30 days. Every time you start the plugin, you will see the following dialog:



While there are still days left, you can click Evaluate to start working with the plugin. If the evaluation period has elapsed and you need more time to evaluate the plug-in, [contact us](#) for an evaluation extension.

If you want to keep using FabFilter Simplon 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 to purchase FabFilter Simplon now](#)

We accept credit cards from all major companies, check payments, wire payments, and PayPal. The FabFilter Shop uses secure connections and encryption to safeguard your personal information.

Immediately 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.

Next: [Entering your license key](#)

See Also

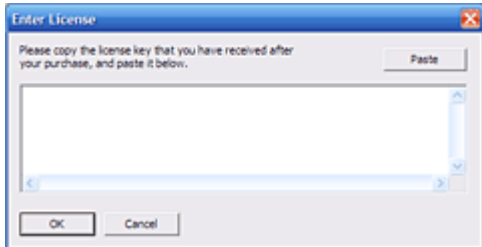
[Support](#)

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Entering your license key

After you have purchased FabFilter Simplon 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 Simplon and click *Enter License* in the evaluation dialog, or click Enter License on the Help menu if the plugin is already running.
- Copy the license information from the e-mail you have received and paste it into the text field.



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 Simplon for an unlimited period of time with full [support](#) via email.

We recommend you to join the [FabFilter mailing list](#) to keep up with the latest updates.

Next: [Support](#)

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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](#)

Here, you will find the latest news and updates on FabFilter products and answers to frequently asked questions. Go to the specialized user forums to ask your questions and get answers from the experts! The support section also contains extra downloads (such as presets) and online and PDF versions of this help file.

For sales questions and technical support, you can also contact FabFilter directly at info@fabfilter.com.

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Manual installation

When installing FabFilter Simplon, the installation program will try to copy the plug-in into the common VST 2, VST 3 and RTAS plug-in folders (Windows) or the */Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components*, *VST*, *VST3*, and the */Library/Application Support/Digidesign/Plug-Ins* folders (OS X) on your computer. In most cases, your favorite host will then find the plug-in right away.

On OS X, this is the only possible location for the Audio Units, VST 2, VST 3 and RTAS plug-ins (although you can install them in the user's Library folders under *~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins* as well).

On Windows, most hosts have their own VST 2 plug-ins folder. So if you are using Windows and your host does not recognize FabFilter Simplon, 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 Simplon.dll* from *C:\Program Files\FabFilter\Simplon* (or *C:\Program Files (x86)\FabFilter\Simplon* 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 version of Simplon, copy the *FabFilter Simplon.dpm* and *FabFilter Simplon.dpm.rsr* files to the Pro Tools plug-in directory on your computer.

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

Next: [License Agreement](#)

See Also

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FabFilter Software License Agreement

1. Disclaimer

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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.

Next: [Acknowledgements](#)

See Also

[Purchase FabFilter Simplon Support](#)

Acknowledgements

Credits go to Gijs van Klooster for writing this help file. You can visit Gijs' web site at www.redhouse.nl .

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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 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 software 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 and Twin 2.

To accomplish their goals, a lot of effort has been put into developing highly advanced filter techniques, superb digital oscillators, smart parameter interpolation methods and 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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