



Introduction

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

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About FabFilter Volcano

After the release of our successful software synthesizer FabFilter One, there was just that one request that we heard over and over again. "*Could you please take that amazing filter of FabFilter One and make a filter plug-in out of it?! Please!*". We did just that... and a lot more!

FabFilter Volcano is a versatile yet easy to use filter plug-in. It builds on the state-of-the-art digital filtering technology that we developed for FabFilter One, and adds many new options. Each of the filter characteristics in FabFilter Volcano has its own unique sound and character, from smooth and soft to hard and screaming and everything in between. Just like those analog filter banks that you always wanted!

FabFilter Volcano contains two independent high quality filters with selectable response, slope, and sound characteristics, two MIDI-triggered LFOs, a MIDI/audio-triggered envelope generator, and an interactive filter display. Our new MIDI learn feature lets you control all parameters easily with any MIDI keyboard or controller.

FabFilter Volcano is available as VST plugin for Windows and as Audio Units and VST plug-in for Mac OS X.

Next: [Key features](#)

See Also

[Quick Start](#)

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)

Key features

Best digital filters ever

Volcano has been built using the state-of-the-art digital filtering technology that was developed for FabFilter One. The result is the most natural sound you have ever heard in a filter plug-in.

Filter characteristics

Volcano has two independent [filters](#) with low-pass, high-pass, and band-pass responses, and 12/24/48 dB/octave slopes. You can choose between seven different filter characteristics, from a smooth sounding filter with moderate overdrive to raw self-oscillating over-the-top madness! Of course, the award-winning FabFilter One filter characteristic is also included.

Panning

With the panning setting on both filters, you can adjust the cut-off frequency balance for the left and right audio channels independently, creating stereo filtering effects.

Modulation options

The frequency, peak, and panning settings can be [modulated](#) in any way imaginable with the two MIDI-triggered LFOs and the MIDI/audio-triggered envelope generator. The LFOs have triangle and square wave forms and can be synchronized to the host tempo.

User interface

Tweak the filters with Volcano's [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. The user interface is simple, modern, and easy to use. The [knobs](#) are large and can be dragged up and down as well as turned around for precise adjustments.

MIDI learn

FabFilter Volcano will work with any MIDI keyboard or controller. Within minutes, you can [associate](#) each of Volcano's parameters with any MIDI controller number, just by turning knobs in the user interface and on the controller.

Smart parameter interpolation

Parameter changes are interpolated by smart algorithms, ensuring both responsiveness and smooth transitions without clicks or 'zipper' effects. This is especially important with MIDI controller changes.

Presets

FabFilter Volcano comes with a standard set of dozens of great presets and lets you easily create and save your own [presets](#). You can share your settings with other FabFilter Volcano users and the preset files are the same in the Mac OS X and Windows versions.

Sample accuracy and high sample rates

Naturally, the FabFilter Volcano plug-in handles all parameter changes at sample accuracy and it can be used with arbitrary sample rates.

See Also

[Quick Start](#)

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)

Starting FabFilter Volcano

The installation program will copy FabFilter Volcano into the common VST plugins folder (Windows) or the ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components or VST 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 and select FabFilter Volcano from the pop-up menu. To use Volcano's MIDI Learn feature, create a new MIDI track and set its output to the FabFilter Volcano 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 Volcano from the pop-up menu. You will find FabFilter Volcano in the **Stereo > VST** (Windows) or **Stereo > Audio Units** (OS X) section.

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

Next: [Exploring presets](#)

See Also

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)

Exploring presets

The best way to discover what you can do with the FabFilter Volcano is to explore the standard presets. Find out what a variety of effects you can create, and use them as building blocks for your own unique settings!



- To **open** a preset, click on the presets button. A menu will drop down with all available presets, ordered in categories. Simply click on a menu item to load the preset.
- To quickly move to the **previous** or **next** preset, click the little arrows at the left and right side of the button.

The real fun starts when you begin to tweak the factory presets yourself.

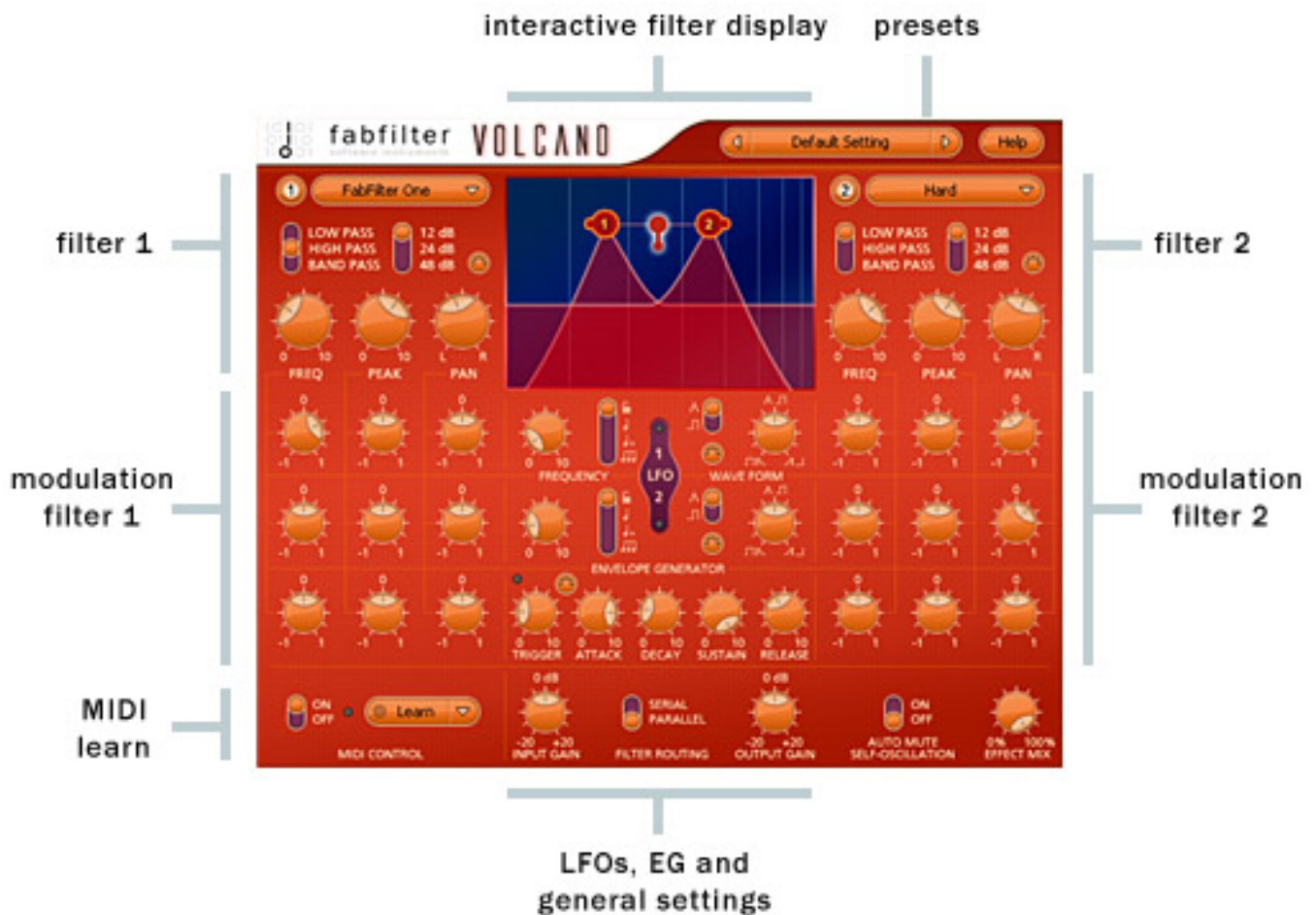
See Also

[Loading Presets](#)

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)

Overview

FabFilter Volcano's interface is divided into several sections.



- **Filters**

Volcano contains two superior filters, which offer the unique feature to select the filter sound characteristic. You can choose from very smooth to raw and over-the-top sounding filters. In addition, both filters have settings for cut-off frequency, peak, panning, response (low pass, high pass and band pass) and slope (12 dB, 24 dB and 48 dB). See [Filters](#).

- **Interactive filter display**

Using the interactive filter display, you can easily adjust the cut-off and peak settings of each filter by dragging the peak buttons. Drag the extra button in the center to change both filters in parallel. See [Interactive filter display](#).

- **LFOs**

Volcano contains two LFOs that can modulate both filters. Each LFO has frequency and wave form settings and can be triggered via MIDI note-on messages. The frequency can be synchronized with the host application. See [Modulation sources](#).

- **Envelope generator**

The triggered envelope generator starts when the input sound signal reaches a threshold level or when a MIDI note-on message is received. It can be used to modulate both filters.

- **Modulation**

Volcano offers the possibility to modulate anything-with-everything. Any

modulation source (LFO1, LFO2 and EG) can be used to modulate any filter setting (cut-off frequency, peak and pan). See [Modulation settings](#).

- **MIDI Learn**

Controlling effect plug-ins via MIDI has never been this easy. With the MIDI learn feature, you can easily associate a MIDI controller number with a parameter, just by turning the knob and changing the controller. See [MIDI Learn](#).

- **General settings**

Volcano offers the general mix, routing, input gain and output gain settings. Volcano's filters can be routed either serial or parallel. See [General settings](#).

- **Presets**

With the preset button, 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](#)

See Also

[Quick start](#)

Knobs and switches

Controlling FabFilter Volcano is easy 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.



Knobs support two click-and-drag modes:

- **Vertical mode**
Click on the center area of a knob and drag up or down to rotate it. This is particularly useful for quick changes.
- **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 very precise adjustments.

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

Tips

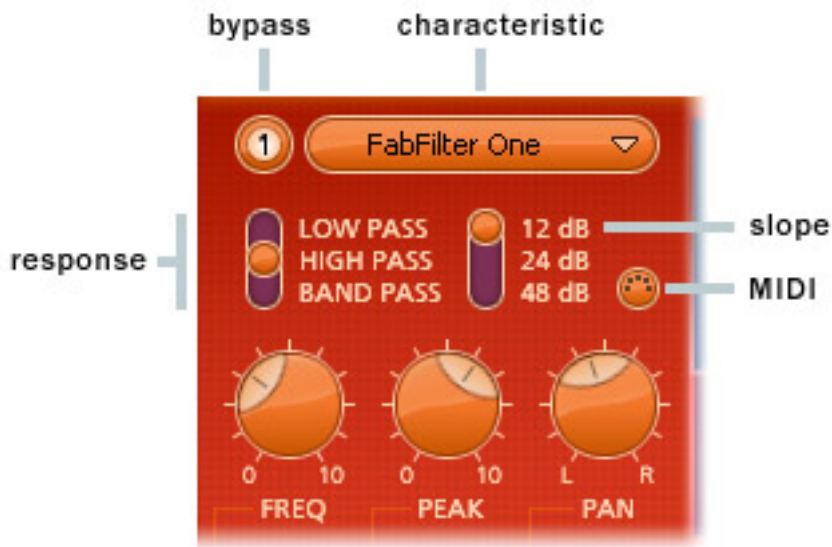
- To reset a knob to its default position, hold down the Ctrl key (Windows) or Command key (OS X) and click the knob once. This is particularly useful for settings such as filter panning where the default position is at the top.

Next: [Filters](#)

See Also
[Overview](#)

Filters

Volcano contains two high quality filters with different unique filter sound characteristics. They have been tuned very carefully, using our state-of-the-art FabFilter filter technology.



- **Characteristic**

FabFilter Volcano offers the unique possibility to choose between seven different filter characteristics, from a smooth sounding filter with moderate overdrive to raw self-oscillating over-the-top madness! The characteristics differ mainly in the way a filter distorts and self-oscillates at higher peak values. To change the characteristic, click on the button at the top of each filter section and click a new characteristic on the menu that pops up.

- **Frequency and Peak**

The Frequency and Peak knobs control the center frequency of each filter and the amount of resonance at the center frequency.

- **Pan**

The Pan knob lets you filter one channel more than the other. It works as a stereo balance setting for the center frequency of the filter. For example, when you turn the Pan knob to the left, the left channel will be filtered with a lower center frequency, and the right channel will be filtered with a higher center frequency. You can use this to create various stereo filtering effects, especially in combination with [modulation](#). **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 bypassed by the small toggle buttons '1' and '2' in the left top corner of each filter section. While a filter is bypassed, it will look disabled, but the controls can still be used to adjust the filter.

- **MIDI triggering**

Using the MIDI button on the right, the filter will use MIDI note-on messages to modulate its cut-off frequency in such a way that it 'follows' the actual notes that are played (relative to the Frequency knob). This way, you can actually play notes with the beautiful self-oscillation of the filter. Because the self-oscillation frequency changes slightly between filter characteristics, you will have to 'tune' the filter with the Frequency knob (use the [rotational drag mode](#) for precise adjustment) to get just the right frequency.

- **Linking the two filters**

When you want to change the frequency, peak or pan setting of both filters at the same time, just hold down the **Alt** key while turning a knob.

Notes

- Depending on the selected filter characteristic, it is possible that the filters keep self-oscillating at extreme peak values, even without any input signal. To prevent this, you can use the Auto Mute Self-Oscillation switch in the [general section](#) to mute the filters if there is no input signal.
- Like any knob, you can reset the Pan knob to its default setting by clicking it once while holding down the **Ctrl** key (Windows) or the **Command** key (Mac).
- The two filters can either work in serial or in parallel mode, depending on the Routing setting in the [general section](#).

Next: [Interactive filter display](#)

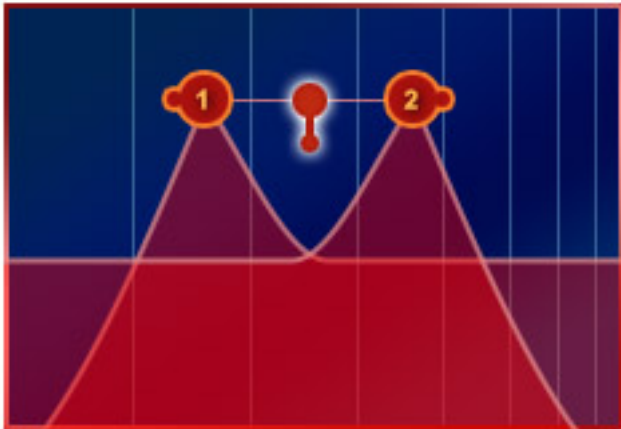
See Also

[Overview](#)

[Quick start](#)

Interactive filter display

The interactive filter display between both [filters](#) makes it easy to adjust the filter settings and also enables you to tweak them in parallel.



- 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 filters in parallel. Holding down the **Alt** key while changing filter **1** or **2** will have the same effect.
- Hold down the **Ctrl** key (Windows) or the **Command** key (Mac) and drag the button for filter **1** or **2** to adjust both filters simultaneously, but in the opposite direction.

If a filter is bypassed with its bypass button, the curve for that filter will be less clearly visible in the filter display to show that it is currently disabled.

Next: [Modulation sources](#)

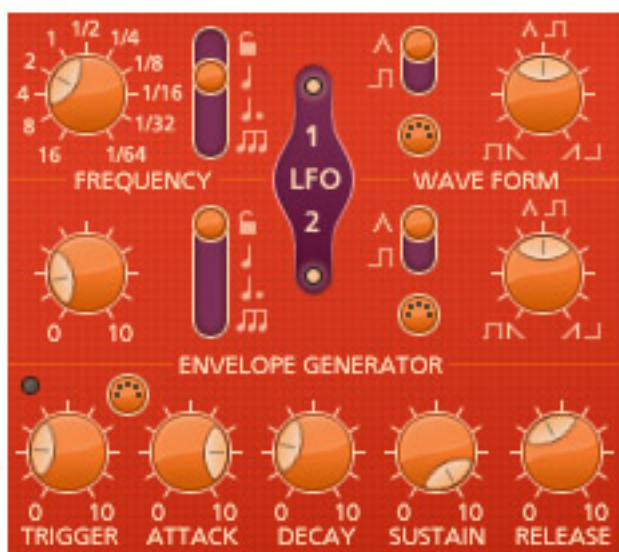
See Also

[Overview](#)

[Filters](#)

Modulation sources

FabFilter Volcano contains two low frequency oscillators (LFO), and a triggered envelope generator (EG) that can all be used to modulate cut-off frequency, peak, and panning of both [filters](#).



An LFO generates a low-frequency square wave or triangle wave. It contains the following settings:

- **Wave form**

The wave form switch selects either a square wave or a triangle wave. The wave form knob adjusts the balance between rising and falling ramps in the wave form. To reset the wave form, hold down the **Ctrl** key (Windows) or **Command** key (Mac) and click the knob once.

- **Sync mode**

The Sync switch chooses between arbitrary frequency settings and synchronizing with the tempo and song position of the plug-in host. You can either synchronize in straight mode, dotted mode (resulting in a frequency that is one and a half times that of straight synchronization) or triplets mode (resulting in two-thirds of the straight frequency).

- **Frequency**

Sets the speed of the wave form that is produced by the LFO. When synchronized to the host's tempo and position (with the sync switch at one of the note symbols), you can choose a 'frequency' in bars, between 16 bars and 1/64 bar. Otherwise, you can set an arbitrary frequency. When set to 0, very slow ramps are produced. At position 10, the LFO operates in audio range which gives interesting modulation effects.

- **MIDI triggering**

When the MIDI toggle button is enabled, the LFO can be triggered by MIDI note-on messages. When triggered, the LFO will start a new phase. If MIDI triggering is combined with frequency synchronization, the LFO will still synchronize the frequency and song position with the host, but the relative position is changed when triggered.

The triggered **envelope generator** offers the common **Attack**, **Decay**, **Sustain** and **Release** settings and enables you to modulate the filters dynamically. A new envelope is

triggered when the sound level rises above the threshold level, which is set with the **Trigger** knob. You need to adjust the threshold level depending on the type of the incoming signal. The **trigger light** next to the Trigger knob lights up while the envelope generator is in the triggered (attack-decay-sustain) state.

When the MIDI toggle button for the envelope generator is enabled, the envelope generator is triggered by MIDI note-on messages instead, and audio triggering is disabled.

Next: [Modulation settings](#)

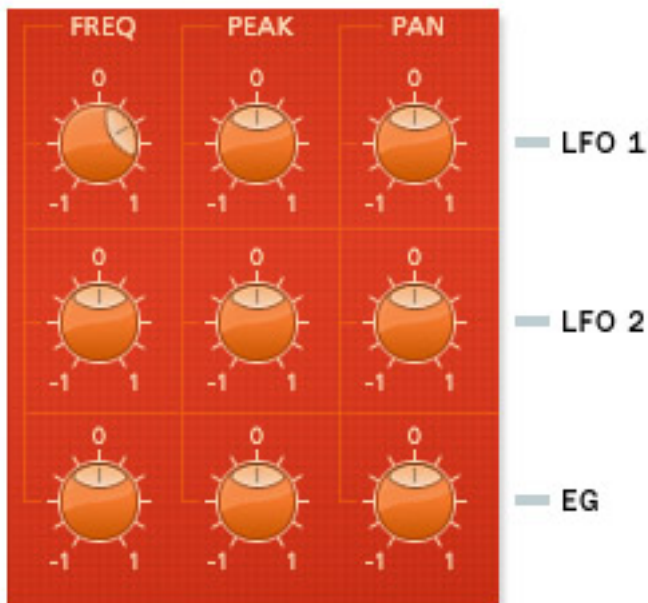
See Also

[Overview](#)

[Quick start](#)

Modulation settings

FabFilter Volcano's [modulation sources](#) can all be used to modulate cut-off frequency, peak and panning of both [filters](#).



The modulation settings of the plugin are grid-based. For example, the settings that determine what is modulated by LFO 1 are right next to the LFO itself, and the settings that determine the modulation of filter 1's cut-off frequency, are right under filter 1's cut-off frequency knob.

Turning a modulation knob to the right, will increase the amount of modulation of a modulation source that is applied to one of the filter settings. Turning the knob to the left will do the same, but with an inverted modulation signal.

Like any knob, you can easily reset a modulation setting knob to its default value by holding down the **Ctrl** key (Windows) or the **Command** key (Mac) and clicking it once.

Next: [MIDI learn](#)

See Also

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MIDI learn

Controlling FabFilter Volcano's parameters with MIDI is very easy using the MIDI learn feature. With MIDI learn, you can associate MIDI controller numbers with any parameter.



Important: Before you start using MIDI learn, check whether the plugin actually receives any MIDI messages. Set the **MIDI switch** to **On** and check if the MIDI light is flashing while MIDI messages are sent to the plug-in. If it is not, you should configure the host application to route MIDI to FabFilter Volcano.

Enable MIDI learn by clicking the **Learn** button so that its light is on. Now do the following to associate a controller number with a parameter:

1. Turn the knob or adjust the switch for the desired parameter in FabFilter Volcano's user interface.
2. Adjust the slider or knob on your MIDI keyboard or MIDI controller that you want to associate with that parameter.

That is all! The parameter will now be controlled by the MIDI controller. The controller number appears in the Learn button to show the association while MIDI learn is on. You can now go back to step 1 to associate a different parameter. If you turn a knob for a parameter that already has an association, the MIDI learn button shows the corresponding controller number.

To see all current parameter associations, click the menu button at the right-hand side of the MIDI Learn button. The menu that pops up enables you to view all settings, clear specific settings or all settings, save all settings and revert to previously saved settings.

The MIDI learn settings will automatically be loaded when opening the plugin and saved when closing it.

Notes

- Any parameter can be learned, apart from the [interactive filter display](#), as it actually changes two or four different parameters at once.
- The **MIDI switch** can be used to disable MIDI on hosts that automatically send MIDI to all effect plug-ins.
- Independent of the MIDI learn feature, you can set the [filters](#), the [LFOs](#), and the [EG](#) to be triggered on MIDI note-on messages with the small round MIDI toggle buttons found throughout the user interface.
- In **Logic Audio**, effect plug-ins on insert slots do not receive MIDI by default. If you want FabFilter Volcano to receive MIDI messages, insert it on an instrument track as 'AU MIDI controlled FX' and route the audio through it with a side-chain.

Next: [General settings](#)

See Also[Overview](#)[Quick start](#)

General settings

The General settings section at the bottom of FabFilter Volcano's interface contains setting for global signal gain and routing.



- The **Input Gain** knob controls the level of the incoming signal before it is distributed to the filters. Because the filters in FabFilter Volcano have a clipping level (depending on the characteristic), this controls the amount of distortion. For example, to get maximum distortion, select the Raw characteristic and set Input Gain to +20 and Output Gain to -10.
- The **Filter Routing** switch controls how the signal flows through both filters. In **Serial** mode, the output of filter 1 is connected to the input of filter 2. In **Parallel** mode, both filters are connected to the input signal and the output is mixed.
- The **Output Gain** knob controls the level of the outgoing signal.
- The **Auto Mute Self-Oscillation** switch controls if [self-oscillation](#) is muted when there is no input signal. Depending on the selected filter characteristic, FabFilter Volcano's filters can self-oscillate with extreme peak settings, even when there is no input signal. If Auto Mute Self-Oscillation is set to **On**, the self-oscillation is muted in that case, to make sure Volcano only produces sound when there is an input signal.
- The **Effect Mix** knob controls the mixture between the input signal and the filtered output signal. At 0%, the filters are completely bypassed. At 100%, the output signal is equal to the filtered signal.

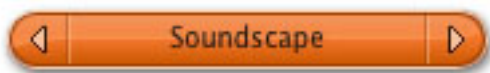
See Also

[Overview](#)

[Quick start](#)

Loading presets

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



- To **load** a preset, click the preset button. The presets menu will appear with all available presets, ordered in categories. 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've changed the preset by adjusting one or more knobs, the name is dimmed to show that this is not the original preset.

The **Default Setting** preset is loaded automatically when FabFilter Volcano is started. To change the default settings, simply [overwrite](#) this preset.

Notes

- Many factory presets use modulation by the [envelope generator](#). You need to adjust the Trigger knob of the envelope generator (depending on the level of the input signal) until you get the best effect.
- You can download additional presets from www.fabfilter.com/support.

Next: [Saving presets](#)

See Also

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)
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Saving presets

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

To **save** the current filter settings 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 presets menu.

To **refresh** the presets menu if you have changed presets externally, just open the Save dialog and then cancel it.

If you have accidentally lost the factory presets, restore them by reinstalling FabFilter Volcano.

Next: [How presets are stored](#)

See Also

[Loading presets](#)

[Using FabFilter Volcano](#)

How presets are stored

Presets for FabFilter Volcano 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, for example to create a Beat > HighpassFX category.

You can move, copy, rename and delete the preset files just like other files. 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.

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

Because FabFilter presets use the same file format on Windows and Mac OS X, you can easily share your newly created presets with other users.

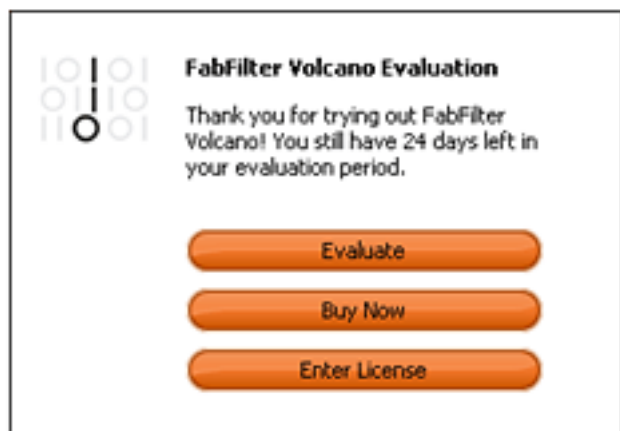
See Also

[Saving presets](#)

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Purchasing FabFilter Volcano

Once you have downloaded and installed the evaluation copy of FabFilter Volcano, you may use it freely for 30 days. Every time you start the plug-in, you will see the following dialog.



While there are still days left, you can click the **Evaluate** button to start working with FabFilter Volcano. To be able to use FabFilter Volcano after the evaluation period, you need to buy a copy in the online FabFilter Shop by clicking the **Buy Now** button.

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

We accept major credit cards, check payments, wire payments, and even PayPal. Your credit card number is safe because the FabFilter Shop uses secure connections and strong encryption.

Immediately after you have purchased your copy, you will receive an e-mail containing your personal license key. Use this license key to turn the evaluation copy into a fully licensed version without the evaluation dialog and the 30-day trial restriction.

Next: [Entering your license key](#)

See Also

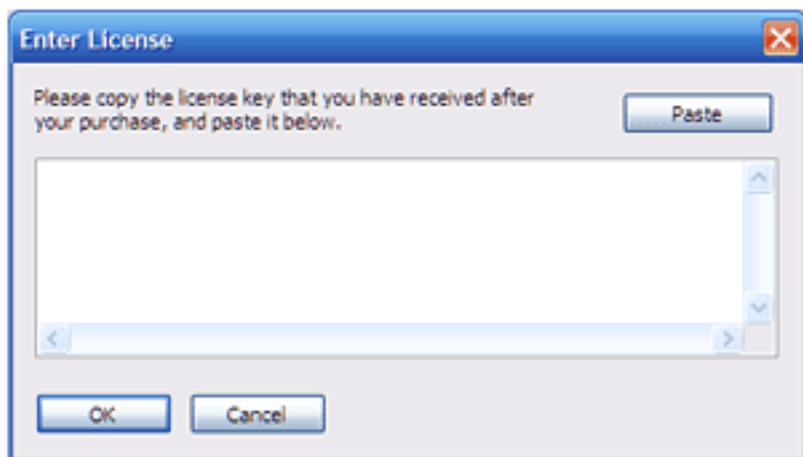
[Support](#)

[License agreement](#)

Entering your license key

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

1. Start **FabFilter Volcano** and click **Enter License** in the evaluation dialog, or click Enter License on the Help menu if the plug-in is already running.
2. 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 sounds if needed. From now on, you will be able to use FabFilter Volcano for an unlimited period of time with full [support](#) via email.

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

See Also

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Support

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

- www.fabfilter.com/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 page also contains additional presets and other goodies.

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

Next: [Manual installation](#)

See Also

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[About FabFilter](#)

Manual installation

When installing FabFilter Volcano, the installation program will try to copy the plugin into the common VST plugins folder (Windows) or the ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components or VST folder (Mac OS X) on your computer. In most cases, your favorite host will then pick up the plug-in right away.

On OS X, this is the only possible location for an Audio Units plug-in, although you can install them in the system-wide folders under /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins as well.

On Windows though, most hosts have their own VST plug-ins folder. So if you are using Windows and your host does not recognize FabFilter Volcano, you need to locate the proper plug-ins folder for your host first (it is usually shown in a Preferences or similar dialog). Then, copy the file **FabFilter Volcano.dll** from **C:\Program Files\FabFilter\Volcano** to the plug-ins folder that you have found and restart the host so it can reload all its plug-ins. If you still have problems, contact [FabFilter Support](#) so we can help you out.

Next: [License agreement](#)

See Also

[Quick start](#)

[Support](#)

FabFilter Software License Agreement

1. Disclaimer

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3. VST plugin technology

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

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[Purchase FabFilter Volcano](#)

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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, The Netherlands. In their roles as professional musicians and studio engineers, they 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 or suited their needs. Most software instrument companies just tried to emulate old analog gear, giving their plugins vintage-look interfaces, or just added tons of features like thousand-voice polyphony and crappy effects, using as many knobs and faders as possible, diverting you from the most important point: the sound.

Both also being professional software engineers, Frederik Slijkerman and Floris Klinkert decided to do things differently and created the software instruments they dreamed of themselves, resulting in the release of the FabFilter One synthesizer in early 2004. To accomplish their goals, a lot of effort has been put into developing highly advanced filter techniques, smart parameter interpolation algorithms and a superb digital oscillator. The highly optimized FabFilter plug-in design also results in very little CPU power requirements.

FabFilter strongly believes that musicians do not need more knobs, faders or options on their synthesizer or effect plug-ins: they need better sound quality. That's why FabFilter creates simple but powerful plugins, with a user-friendly interface and superb sound quality, for a reasonable price.

FabFilter will keep expanding their range of plug-ins in the future, supporting both Windows and Mac OS X platforms, providing the best ever sound quality and filter designs.

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