

USER MANUAL

FRACTURED STRINGS

SPITFIRE AUDIO

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INTRODUCTION

From AIR Studios, to the edge of the world. We've collaborated with Hans Zimmer's prestigious scoring collective Bleeding Fingers Music (Frozen Planet II, Planet Earth II, Blue Planet II) and London's finest string players to create a new kind of small ensemble library — featured in BBC's Frozen Planet II.

Fractured Strings introduces an innovative approach to articulations that delivers inspirational surprises through intervallic performances, new modal colours, and unparalleled depth and realism. Introducing our brand new Scale Mode technology, these sophisticated, emotive movements and textures are perfect for cellular, ambient, and neoclassical composing that reflects the intricacies, patterns and contrasts found in natural phenomena.

This library's journey has only just begun. Featuring an eight-piece string ensemble and two soloists, these sounds have been brought to life in the unparalleled acoustics of AIR Lyndhurst Hall, complete with 15 signal paths. With infinite intervallic possibilities, you can take these strings anywhere — to places of warmth, grit, darkness or light.

QUICK SPECS

MAC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.13 to OS 12

Minimum: 2.8GHz i5 minimum (quad-core), 8GB RAM.

Recommended: 2.8GHz i7 (six-core), 16GB RAM.

M1 Apple computers are supported and 64 bit DAW required.

(32 bit DAWs not supported)

PC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10 and Windows 11. (latest Service Pack, 64-bit)

Minimum: Intel Core 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core) or AMD Ryzen 5, 8GB RAM

Recommended: Intel 2.8GHz i7 (six-core) or AMD Ryzen 7, 16GB RAM

(32 bit DAWs not supported)

- Download Size 88.1GB
- Dedicated plugin (AU, VST2, VST3, AAX)
- NKS Compatible

WELCOME

REFRACT, BLOOM, SOAR

This is a new kind of chamber string library, designed to infuse warmth, colour, and humanity into the gestures, leaps, and cellular motifs that you compose — as well as to inspire you with surprising intervallic and modal possibilities. These strings refract, bloom and soar across 100+ seventh-reaches, two-note statements, swelling rotations, pizzicato strums, and soaring chord extensions.

NEW SCALE MODE

Introducing our new Scale Mode technology — select from any of the seven diatonic modes or build your own scale by simply clicking the notes you want included. From there, our players will follow your lead, developing their intervallic string techniques, triggering wider intervals at higher velocities for endless inspiration.

AIR LYNDHURST HALL

To capture tiny, intimate moments unfolding across a vast, uncaring landscape, we brought a small section of London's finest string players to the mammoth AIR Lyndhurst Hall, home of blockbuster scores. Together, these eight players, the Bleeding Fingers Music team, and our own collective of composers, conductors, and engineers collaborated to create a vast suite of short leaps, gestures and swells. The resulting sound makes for a sublime companion to other libraries recorded at AIR Studios, including other small string section libraries such as Albion Neo, Chamber Strings, and Olafur Arnalds Chamber Evolutions.

EXTREME SCORING

For Frozen Planet II, Bleeding Fingers Music and the show's composers Hans Zimmer, James Everingham and Adam Lukas were looking for a library that could score not only scenes of frozen silence, but also scenes of action, tension, crisis and drama. Rather than imitate the whispering textures of glacial rivers, Fractured Strings offers a spectrum of sounds and textures that reflect the planet's fuller-voiced, more melodic moments, from microscopic to grand gestures. The result is a library with potential far beyond the world's end.

BLEEDING FINGERS MUSIC

Emmy-winning and BAFTA-nominated Bleeding Fingers Music is an exciting, diverse composer collective, hand-selected and mentored by Hans Zimmer.

They were awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Music Composition for BBC's Primates, Emmy nominations for BBC's Planet Earth II and National Geographic's Being the Queen, plus two Webby awards for the BBC's groundbreaking 13 Minutes To The Moon. Bleeding Fingers has created original music for productions including: National Geographic's Documentary Film Apollo: Missions to the Moon; Around the World in 80 Days (BBC); Blue Planet II (BBC); Planet Earth II (BBC); Seven Worlds; One Planet (BBC); The Simpsons (Fox); Superfly (Sony Pictures); Diana: In Her Own Words (Nat Geo); The Planets (Nat Geo); Savage Kingdom (Nat Geo); Intervention (A&E); Alien Christmas (Netflix)' Earth At Night In Color (Apple TV); The Real Right Stuff (Nat Geo); Prehistoric Planet (Apple TV+); and more.

In recent years they have found innovative ways to bring mainstream musicians into the scoring world, collaborating with artists such as Radiohead, Sia, Muse, Foals, Aurora and X Ambassadors. Hailing from eight countries, the Bleeding Fingers composers embrace and nurture their wide-ranging musical identities to deliver a sonic depth that is second to none. Housed in state-of-the-art studios on Hans Zimmer's world-renowned Santa Monica campus and supported by a best-in-class creative production team, Bleeding Fingers produces music at the very highest standard.

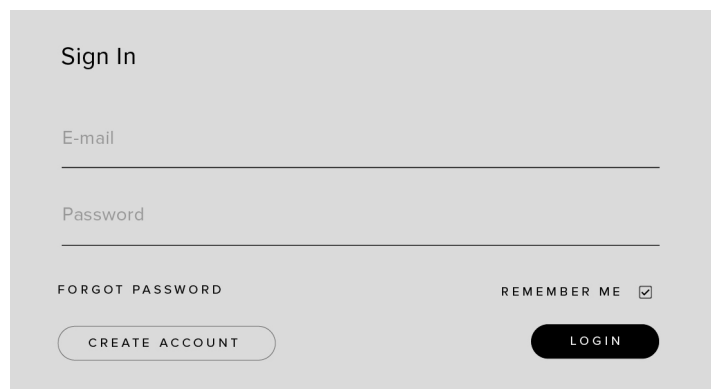
DOWNLOADING & INSTALLING

Thank you for buying Fractured Strings. If you are new to Spitfire Audio you can get up to speed here: <https://www.spitfireaudio.com/about/>

First though, grab the 'Spitfire Audio App' from this link, this app will enable you to download the library: <http://www.spitfireaudio.com/info/library-manager/>

THE SPITFIRE AUDIO APP

When you launch the app you will be prompted to login using the same details you use at our site. Then you'll see the page pictured below:

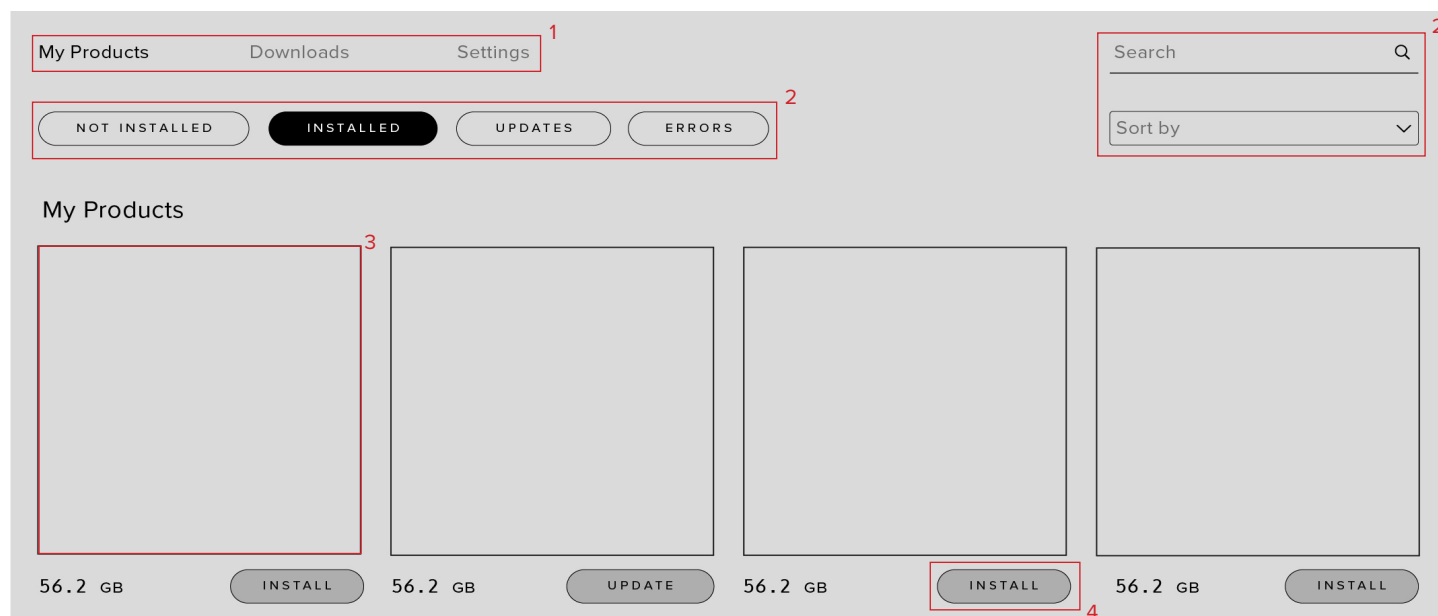
A screenshot of the Spitfire Audio App login screen. It features a 'Sign In' header, an 'E-mail' input field, a 'Password' input field, a 'FORGOT PASSWORD' link, a 'REMEMBER ME' checkbox, a 'CREATE ACCOUNT' button, and a 'LOGIN' button.

1. TABS the default tab is My Products, which shows all of the libraries on your Spitfire Account. Downloads will show currently downloading products.

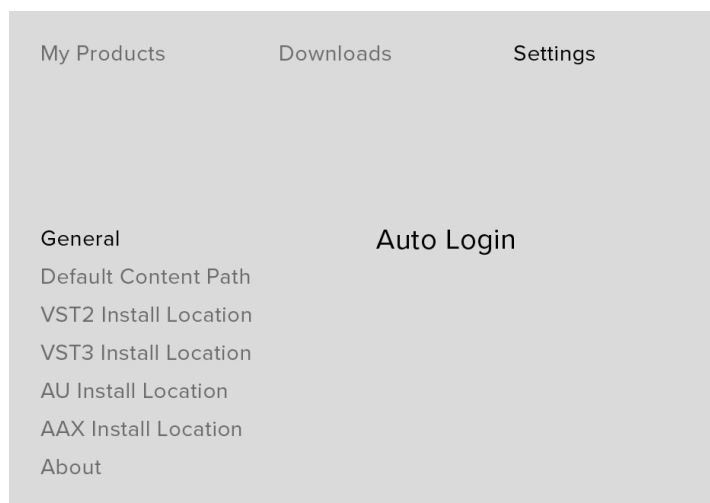
2. FILTERS Clicking these filters will quickly display products you've yet to install, those already installed, and any available updates. Clicking again will remove the filter.

3. LIBRARY All libraries and plugins in your collection will appear with their artwork on the My Products tab. Clicking this artwork will open the product page. This is a great place to find information such as system requirements and instructions as well as Reset and Repair options.

4. INSTALL/UPDATE buttons allow you to quickly start a download directly from the My Products tab, instead of clicking through to the Library. Next to the button the size of the download is shown.

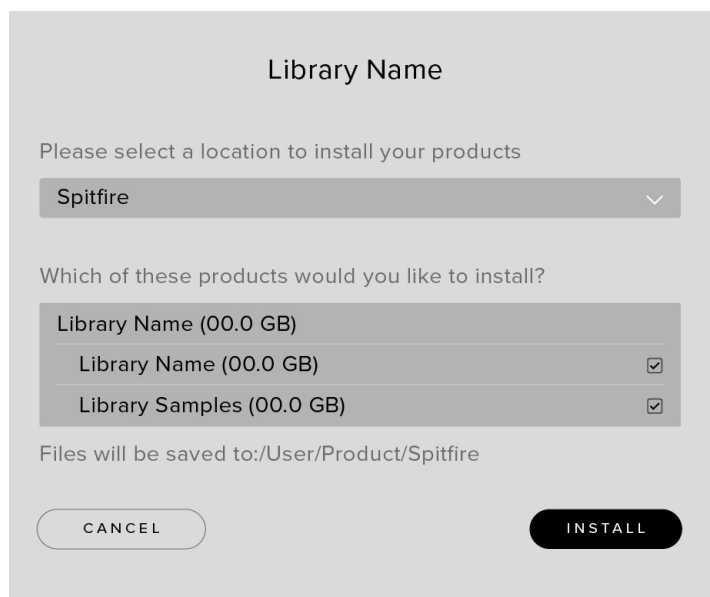
A screenshot of the Spitfire Audio App 'My Products' screen. It shows a top navigation bar with 'My Products', 'Downloads', and 'Settings' tabs. Below this is a filter bar with 'NOT INSTALLED', 'INSTALLED', 'UPDATES', and 'ERRORS' buttons. A search bar and a 'Sort by' dropdown are in the top right. The main area displays four product cards, each with a placeholder image, a size of '56.2 GB', and an 'INSTALL' or 'UPDATE' button. Red boxes and numbers 1 through 4 highlight the tabs, filters, a product card, and an install button respectively.

THE SPITFIRE APP PREFERENCES



If this is your first time using the Spitfire Audio App for a download you may wish to first navigate to the Settings tab. Here you can set the Default Content location for where you wish to download your libraries. You can also you can set the default VST2 install location to the folder where your DAW expects to find VST files.

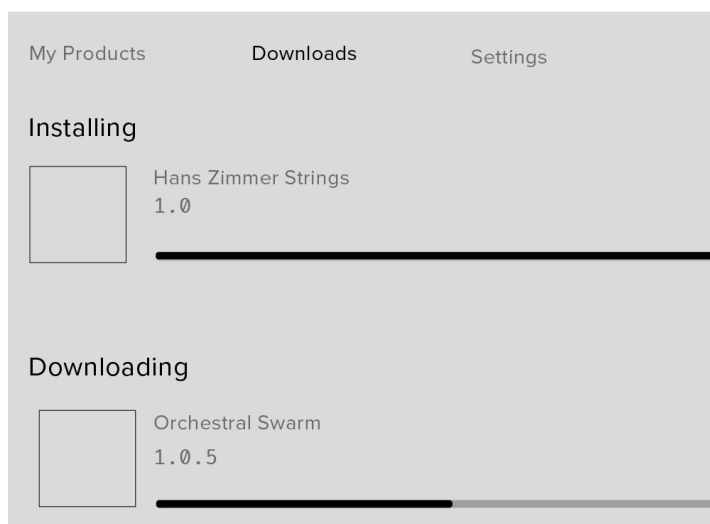
Here you can also enable Auto Login to save time in future.



Once you are happy with your preferences, click the Install button for the library. This is either directly on My Products tab under the library artwork, or it can be found by clicking on the library image and clicking the install button on the page that appears.

Clicking either of these will prompt you for a location, the default content location in your preferences will be suggested but you can select any suitable location. If installing from a hard drive, ensure that you choose the drive as the location.

Once you are happy with the location click Download.



After clicking install you will be directed to the Downloads tab where you can watch the progress if you like. You can of course leave the Downloads tab and start other downloads but at this point you should leave the Spitfire App open until the download completes.

THE DEDICATED PLUGIN

Fractured Strings is its own, self contained plugin built for VST, AU and AAX, so once you've downloaded and installed you're ready to go.

LOGIC PRO X

- On a fresh project, a track dialogue box will automatically pop up
- Choose 'Software Instrument', and then look beneath the 'Instrument' dropdown
- Select AU Instruments > Spitfire Audio > Fractured Strings

CUBASE

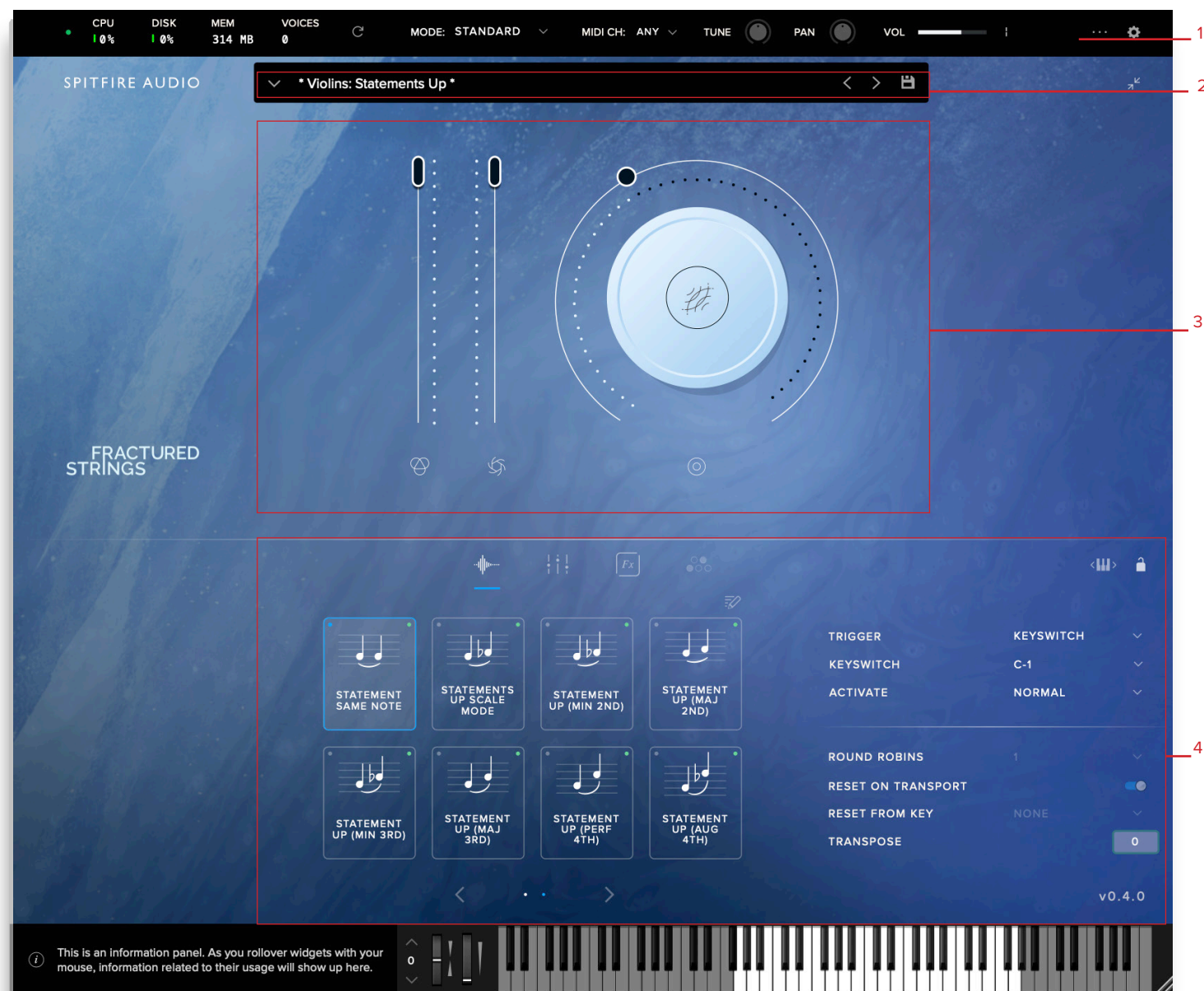
- Right-click the track window and choose 'Add Instrument Track'
- Underneath the 'Instrument' dropdown, choose Fractured Strings
- Select 'Add Track'

PRO TOOLS

- Go to the 'Track' menu at the top of the screen, and select 'New'
- In the pop-up, select Stereo and Instrument Track, and press 'Create'
- In the first Insert slot, select multichannel plug-in and 'Instrument'
- You should see the Fractured Strings available as an option

STANDARD INTERFACE (QUICK LOOK)

THE FRACTURED STRINGS STANDARD INTERFACE



OPENING YOUR FIRST PRESETS

When you first open Fractured Strings, this is what you will see.

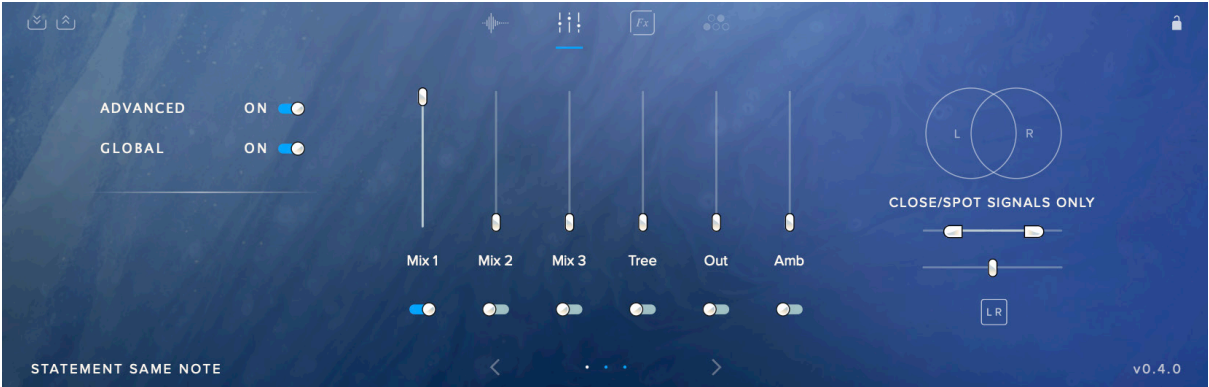
1. TOP MENU

2. PRESET SELECTOR

3. MAIN CONTROLS

4. TECHNIQUE SELECTOR

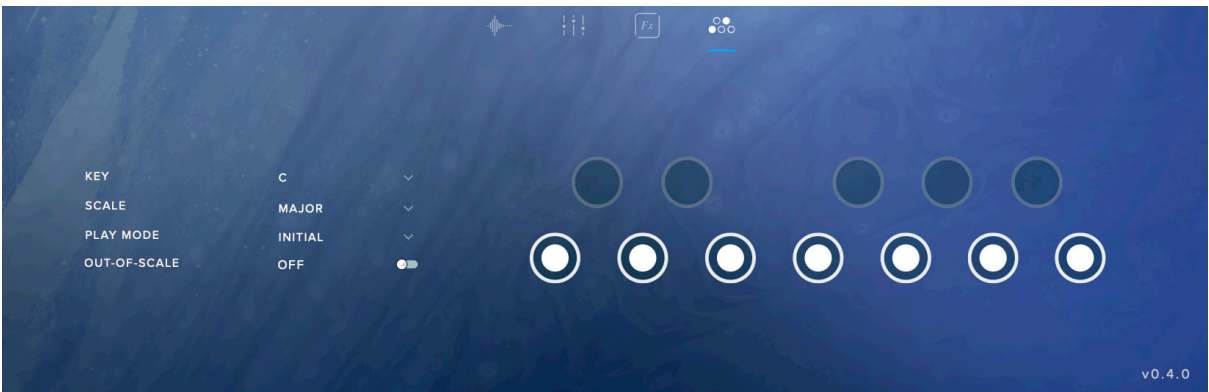
SIGNAL MIXER



CONTROLLERS



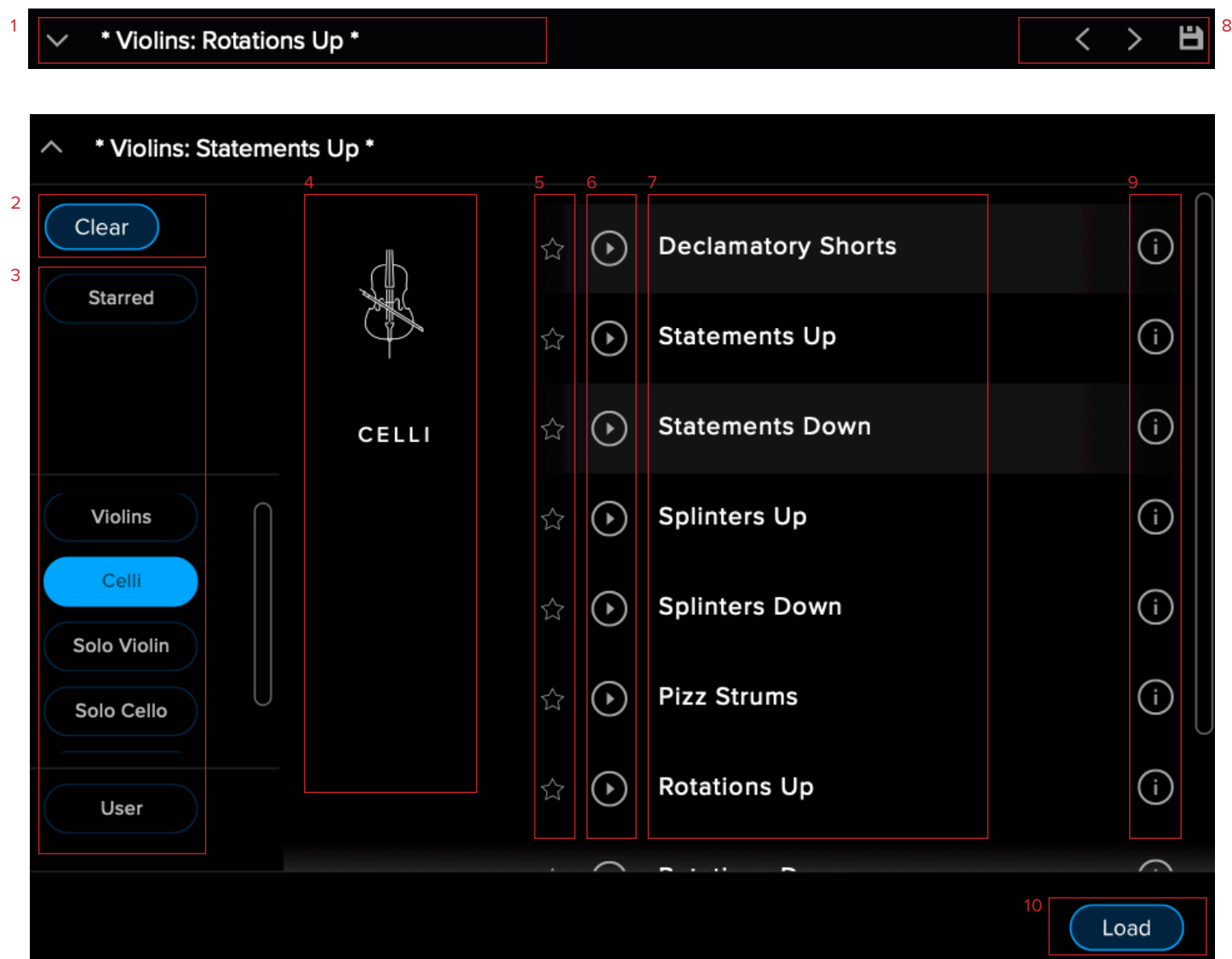
SCALE MODE



KEYBOARD & INFO



PRESET SELECTOR



1. PRESET NAME

Here you can see the currently selected preset.

2. CLEAR FILTERS

Click here to show all instruments at once.

3. FILTERS

Click on a filter to only show those preset grouped by the filter.

4. INSTRUMENT GROUP

As you scroll through the available presets, the instrument group is displayed here.

5. STAR

Favourite to add to the “starred” filter.

6. PREVIEW

Play back a short example of the preset without having to load it. Enormously helpful when choosing a sound.

7. PRESET LIST

Scroll through the list of presets here.
Double-click to load a preset or click the
'Load' button.

8. NEXT, PREVIOUS AND SAVE

With the presets view collapsed, you will
be able to see the Next, Previous and Save
icons.

Next and Previous will send you to the next
available preset - if you have a filter enabled,
you will scroll through the filtered set of
presets.

Save allows you to save your own preset,
click save, name the preset and it will appear
under the "user" filter.

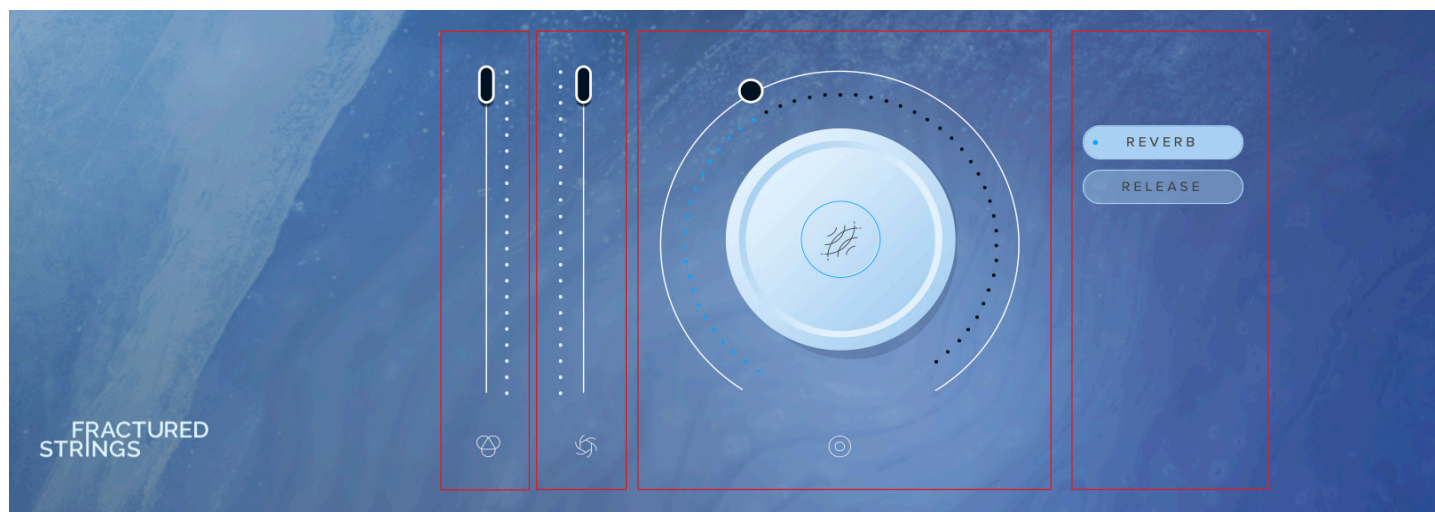
9. INFORMATION

Hover over on the "i" icon to see some
information about the preset.

10. LOAD

Select a preset and then press "load" (or
double-click the preset).

MAIN CONTROLS



1. VOLUME

Often referred to as “Expression” in our Kontakt Libraries, this is a simple level control for you to adjust along with...

2. DYNAMICS

Adjust the dynamic layer that you are playing here, use in conjunction with the volume to make your performances sound so much more musical.

3. KNOB

The configurable knob allows you to control any of the other available parameters for the particular technique.

Hover over the knob and it will turn red.

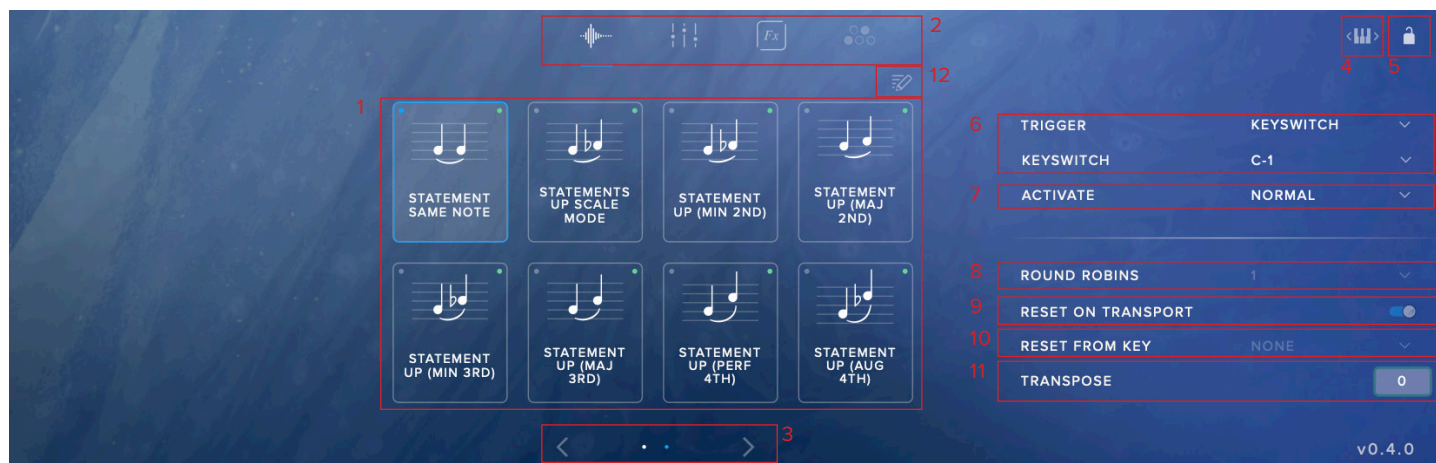
Click and you will be able to assign any of the remaining available controls to the knob (3.1)

Right click on any of these controls to assign them to a MIDI controller. Remember that if you assign a MIDI controller to a parameter via the knob, the MIDI controller will follow the parameter rather than being permanently assigned to the knob.

Reverb - Increase to add reverberation to the sound.

Release - Extend the ends of long articulations to help blur between notes.

TECHNIQUE SELECTOR



1. TECHNIQUE SWITCHER

Click to select a technique. Shift-Click to select multiple techniques. The red dot in the top left shows which technique(s) will play, the black outline shows which technique will be affected by any changes you make to the other options in this page.

2. VIEW SELECT

Choose between the Technique Switcher, Mixer, Effects and the auto arranger. The Technique Switcher, Effects and Auto Arranger are covered in the following chapters of this manual.

3. TECHNIQUE NAVIGATION

This option is visible when more than 8 articulations are available. Click the right arrow to access additional techniques.

4. KEYSWITCH ADJUST

Click and drag to move the keyswitches to the left or right on your keyboard.

5. LOCK

Click here to lock off the technique section and prevent any unwanted changes.

6. TECHNIQUE TRIGGER

With the technique trigger section you can choose to trigger techniques using various parameters:

KEYSWITCH: Pick a key on the keyboard that will select this technique. The selected keys will show up in green for unselected techniques and in orange for selected techniques.

CC RANGE: Choose a CC# and a range of values (or a single value) for the control that you want to trigger this technique.

VEL. RANGE: Switch technique based on how hard you are playing. You might want to trigger longs when playing softly and pizzicato when playing hard.

MIDI CHANNEL: Switch techniques based on the incoming MIDI channel.

SPEED: Switch technique based on the speed of playing. Specify the time interval between notes to switch to a particular technique.

7. ACTIVATE

Choose between “NORMAL” and “LATCH” for your technique switching.

A “normal” keyswitch will change articulation and remain on the changed articulation until the next keyswitch is pressed.

Latch will switch articulation until the keyswitch note is released. On release, the keyswitch returns the original articulation.

8. ROUND ROBINS

Round robins are a way to ensure that repeated notes don't sound robotic and unnatural. We record the same note multiple times and then cycle through them. Here you can choose to reduce the number of round robins that are being used.

9. RESET ON TRANSPORT

If you're worried about the effect of the round robins making each run through of your session sound different, you can choose to reset the round robins using the DAW transport.

10. RESET FROM KEY

You can also reset the round robins using a keyswitch. Choose that keyswitch here.

11. TRANSPOSE

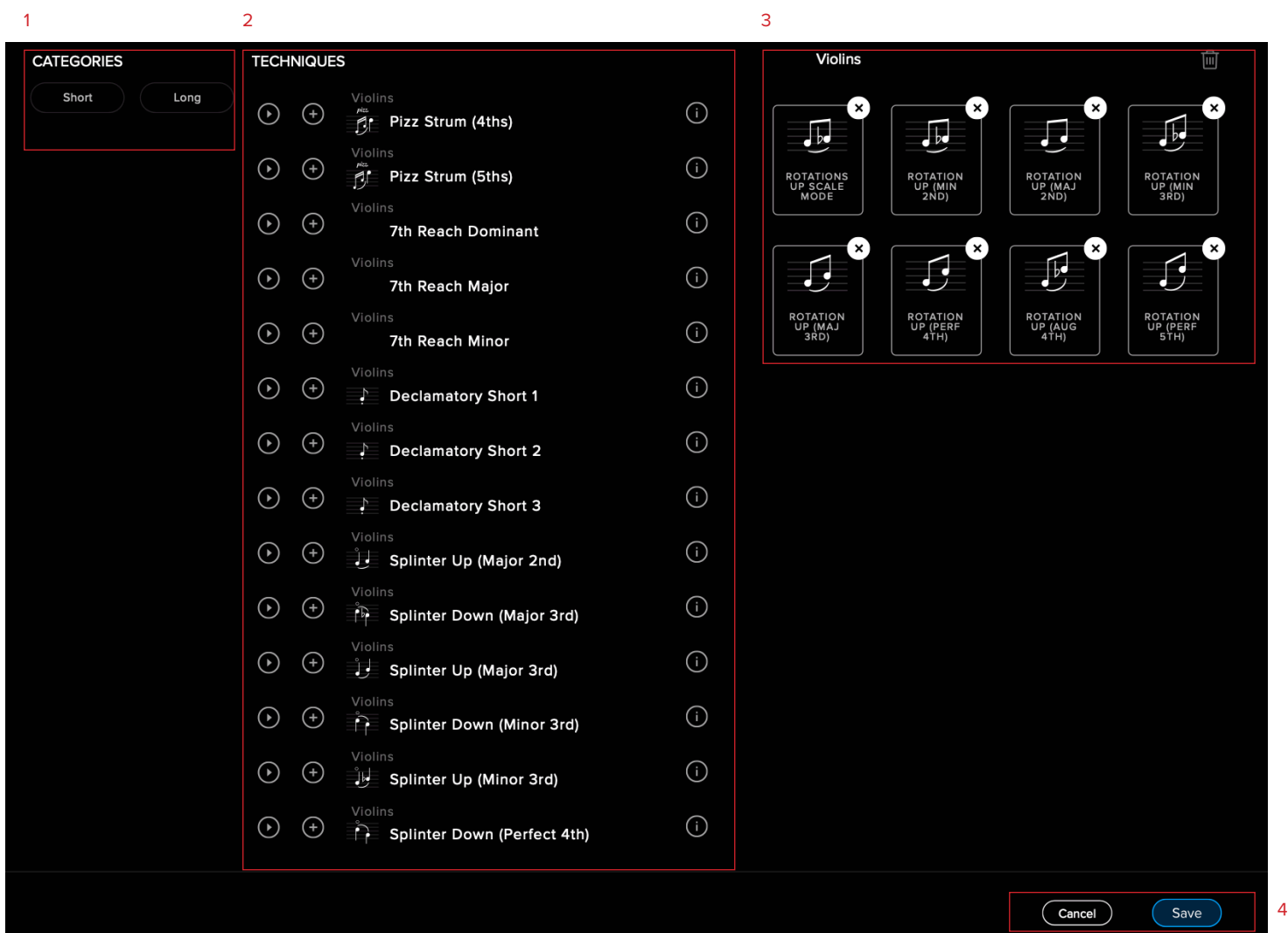
Transpose the instrument up or down in 1 semitone increments. This control does not stretch the samples, but instead transposes the incoming MIDI notes. To adjust samples, use the tune knob explained on page [34](#).

12. TECHNIQUE EDITOR

Opens the Techniques Editor, allowing you to customise and edit your preset (see [pg. 16](#)).

TECHNIQUE EDITOR

In the Technique Editor you can remove and reorder techniques from the current preset.



1. CATEGORIES

The Categories panel allows you to filter between all available techniques for this specific preset.

2. TECHNIQUES

The central 'Techniques' panel shows all available techniques for each preset. Click the '+' to add techniques back into your current preset.

3. TECHNIQUES ARRANGER

The panel on the right is where your current articulations are displayed. Click and drag these to re-arrange the order. Clicking the 'x' in the top right corner deletes the technique. Click the 'trash-can' in the upper corner to remove all techniques completely in a single click.

4. CANCEL / SAVE

Once you're done, click 'Save'. If you have made a mistake and don't want to save, choose 'Cancel' instead to go back to your previous settings.

SIGNAL MIXER



1. MIXER PRESETS

Load and save your own mixer presets here, this is a good way for you to share your mixes across different instruments and presets. Click on the down arrows to save and the up arrows to load.

To rename a preset after saving or delete a preset, browse to Fractured Strings > Presets > Mix in the finder and edit the .mpreset files.

2. GLOBAL

When switched off any changes to mixer will only affect the technique you have selected.

3. TECHNIQUE NAME

4. SIGNAL ON/OFF

Here you can turn signals on or off (you can also turn them on by fading them up). If you turn a signal on, pay attention to the LED in the top left of Fractured Strings, if it is flashing red, it means that the samples are still loading into RAM and you should wait before playing again to avoid glitches.

5. SIGNAL FADER

Adjust the level of each signal here, right-click to learn MIDI cc# automation.

6. VIEW SELECT

Choose between the Technique Switcher, Mixer and Effects.

7. SIGNAL NAVIGATION

Click the right arrow to access additional signals. Unused signals are greyed out.

8. STEREO WIDTH

Adjust the stereo width of the close and vintage signals here. Right-click to assign to a MIDI cc#. Affects Close and Vintage signals only.

9. PAN

Adjust the position of the close and vintage signals within the stereo field. Affects Close and Vintage signals only.

10. INVERT

Click to swap the left and right channels.

11. LOCK

Click to lock the Mixer. This will prevent further changes to the mixer by CC or Mouse.

MAIN FX



1. VIEW SELECT

Choose between the Technique Switcher, Mixer, Effects and the auto arranger. The Technique Switcher, Effects and Auto Arranger are covered in the following chapter of this manual.

2. TECHNIQUE NAME

3. REVERB

You can add additional reverb to the sound here.

Choose from a list of impulse responses using the dropdown menu.

4. RELEASE

Allows you to change the amount of release trigger you hear. This only applies to Long techniques.

SCALE MODE



Scale Mode is a new feature introduced in Fractured Strings.

Scale Mode enables articulations which move between multiple pitches to be mapped across the keyboard according to a user-defined Scale.

A user can define any Scale they like using a 12-tone keyboard UI Element. When a note is played by a user, the Scale Mode will intelligently play a 'valid' interval based on the played note and selected Scale.

1. VIEW SELECT

Choose between The Grid, Mixer, Effects and the Scale Mode.

2. KEY

Dropdown box - with a range of all keys from C, C#, D etc. to B.

3. SCALE

Dropdown box - with a range of scales including Major, Minor and Modes (Dorian, Phrygian as two examples)

4. PLAY MODE

Determines whether the triggered samples begin, or end with the played note.

5. OUT OF SCALE

Toggle switch that when enabled provides the ability to trigger notes out of the selected key, and samples will play which include the played note and other notes which are in the Scale.

6. SCALE BUTTONS

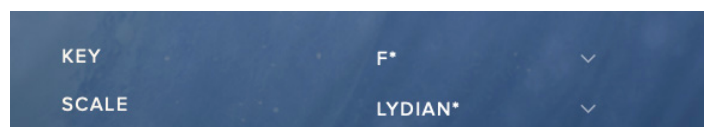
The 12 central toggles can have 3 states as follows:

OFF: the note is not enabled

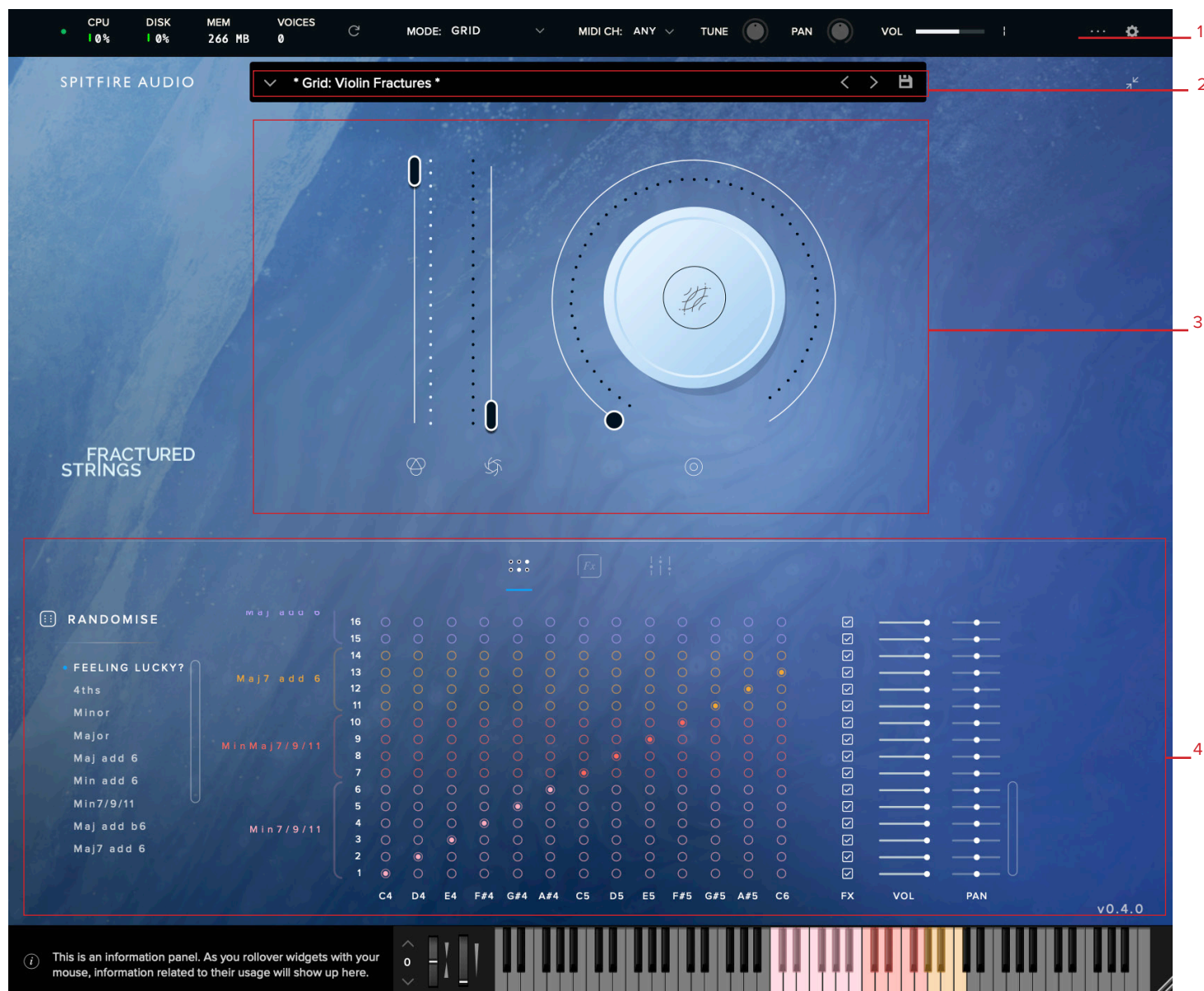
ON: the note is enabled

NO VALID SAMPLES: Peg is greyed out, this note has no samples which fit into the selected scale.

When modifying scale buttons to differ from the chosen scale, this can be identified with asterisk icons next to the Key and Scale controls.



THE GRID INTERFACE (QUICK LOOK)



OPENING YOUR FIRST PRESETS

When you first open Fractured Strings Grid Mode, this is what you will see.

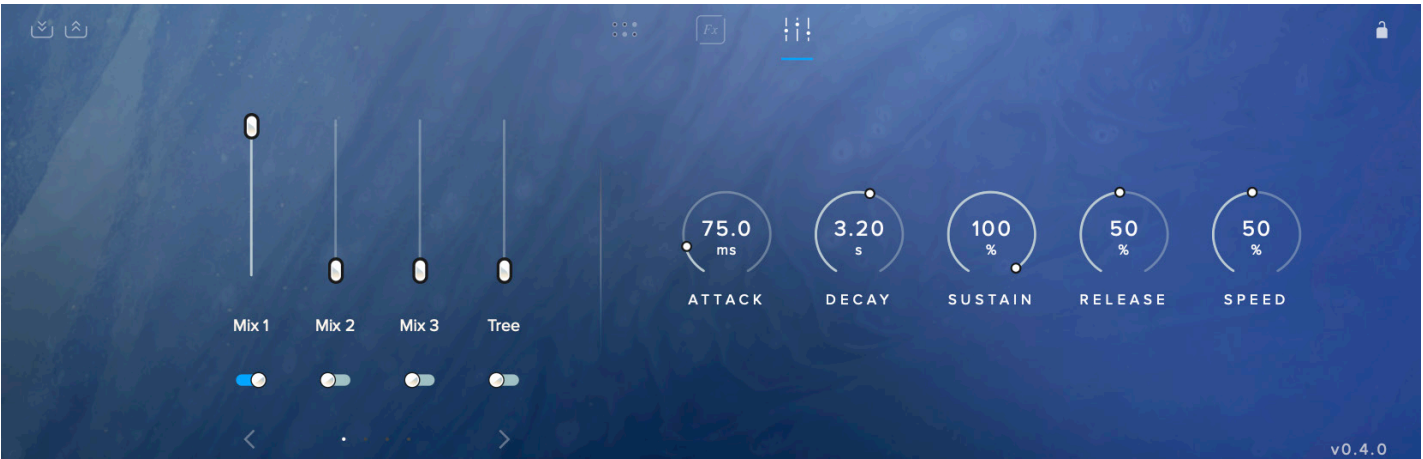
1. TOP MENU

2. PRESET SELECTOR

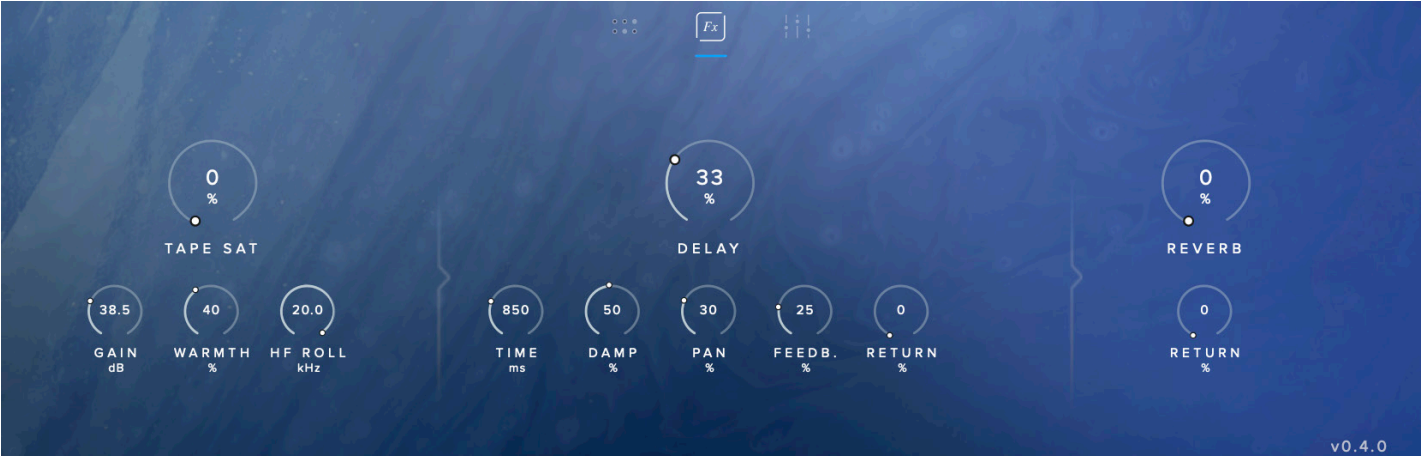
3. MAIN CONTROLS

4. THE GRID

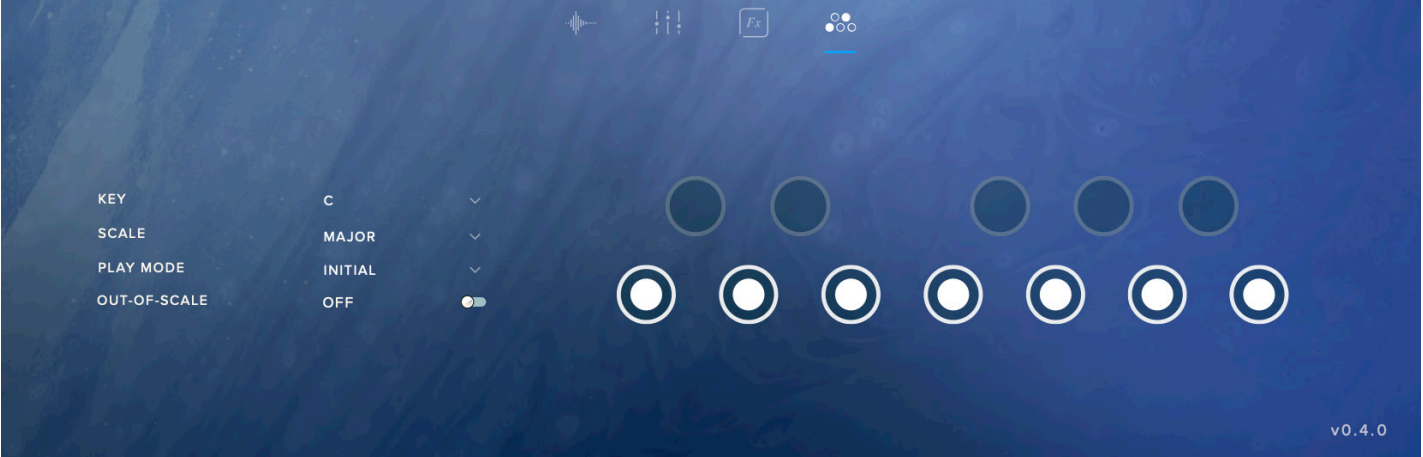
SIGNAL MIXER



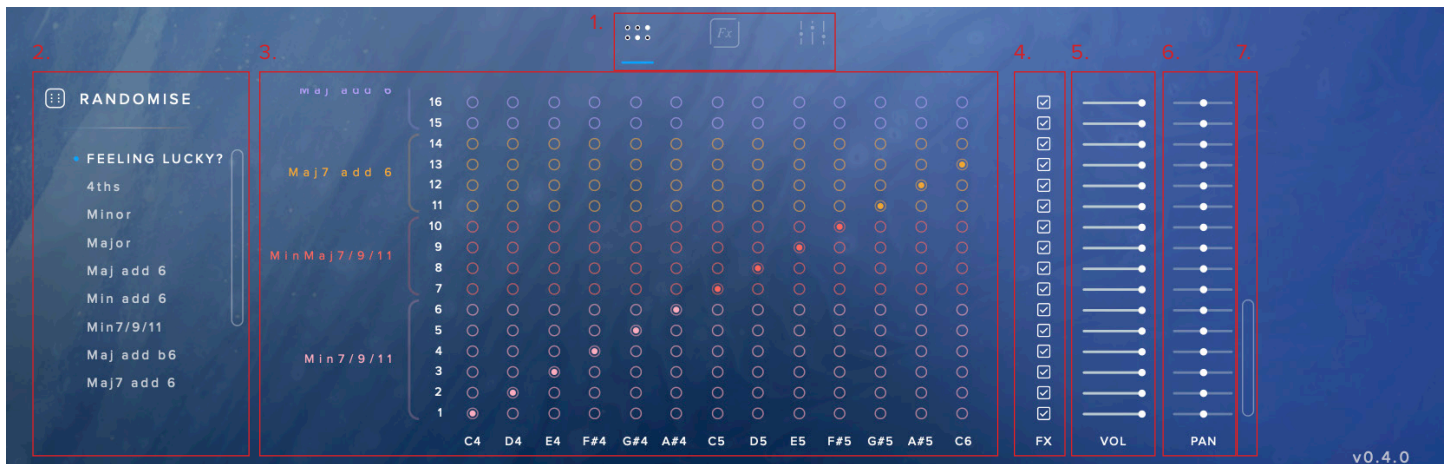
CONTROLLERS



SCALE MODE



THE GRID



1. VIEW SELECT

Choose between The Grid, Mixer, Effects and the Scale Mode.

2. RANDOMISE

Clicking on the options under this heading will assign radomise the techniques you choose

3. THE GRID

Assign techniques to ranges across the keyboard by clicking on circles on the grid. Lit circles (sometimes referred to as pegs) show where the techniques are currently assigned.

The circles behave like toggles - click on them to select a technique and they will automatically disable any circle on the same Y axis. On the X axis are the pitch centres, on the Y axis are the techniques.

The different categories are colour coded, scroll vertically to see more categories. (7)

4. FX ENABLE

These checkboxes toggle whether the technique in this row will be sent to the FX or not.

5. PEG VOLUME

These faders adjust the level of each technique.

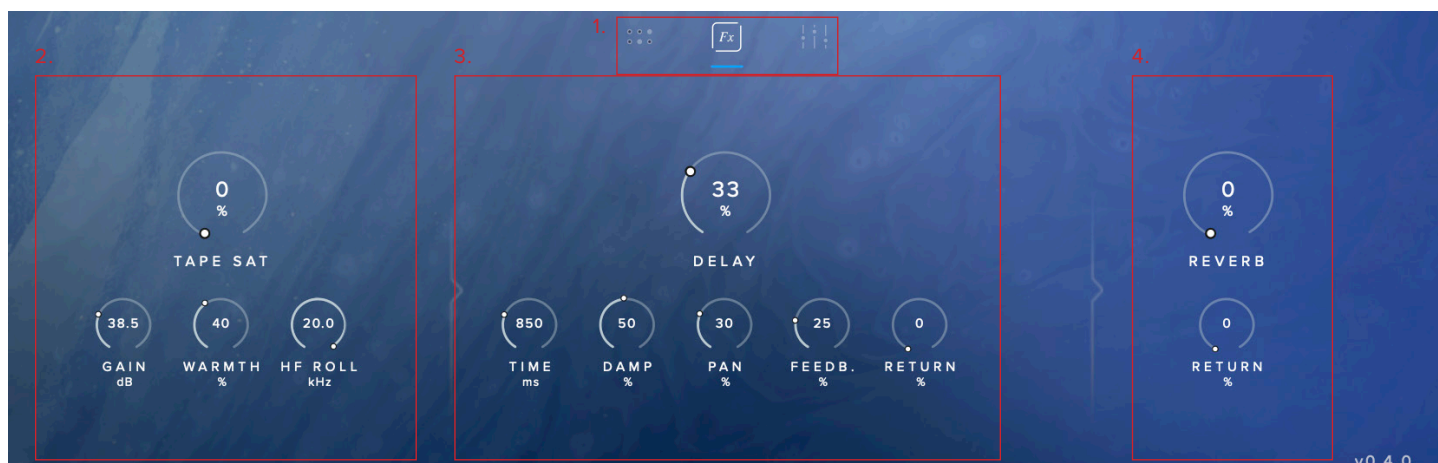
6. PANNING

Pan each technique left or right.

7. SCROLL

Scroll vertically to see more categories. (7)

EFFECTS



1. VIEW SELECT

Choose between The Grid, Mixer, Effects and the Scale Mode.

2. TAPE SATURATION

TAPE SAT: Controls the amount of tape saturation heard on the signal, with 0% being none and 100% being full saturation.

GAIN: Controls the amount of additional gain on the tape saturated signal.

WARMTH: Controls the level of warmth on the tape saturator.

HF ROLL: Controls the point at which high frequencies are attenuated/reduced in volume.

3. DELAY

DELAY: Controls the amount of signal sent to the delay effect.

TIME: Changes the delay time in milliseconds.

DAMP: Changes the dampening of the signal, the more damped the signal is, the more

The high frequencies are reduced on each repeat.

PAN: Adjusts the stereo spread of the delay effect.

FEEDBACK: Control the level sent back through the delay. The higher the level, the more repeated and pronounced the delay affect.

RETURN: Adjust the level of the delay effect in the mix.

4. REVERB

REVERB: Control over the amount of send to the convolution reverb. The reverb is switchable in the IR selector below.

RETURN: Adjust the level of reverb effect in the mix.



1. VIEW SELECT

Choose between The Grid, Mixer, Effects and the Scale Mode.

2. MIXER PRESETS

Load and save your own mixer presets here, this is a good way for you to share your mixes across different instruments and presets. Click on the down arrows to save and the up arrows to load.

To rename a preset after saving or delete a preset, browse to Fractured Strings > Presets > Mix in the finder and edit the .mpreset files.

3. SIGNAL MIXER

Adjust the level of each signal here, right-click to learn MIDI cc# automation.

Use the below toggles to turn signals on or off the signal. (you can also turn them on by fading them up, disable this in settings).

If you turn a signal on, pay attention to the LED in the top left of corner, if it is flashing red, it means that the samples are still loading into RAM and you should wait before playing again to avoid glitches.

4. ADSRS

ATTACK: Control how long it takes the sound to fade in from 0db. Measured in ms.

DECAY: The Decay is the time taken to drops the volume set by the “Sustain” level.

SUSTAIN: Set the overall level of the sounds duration whilst the note is held down.

RELEASE: Set the time it takes the sound to decay to 0dB after a note is released.

SPEED: Controls the speed of interval between notes.

TOP MENU



1. LED

Shows when an instrument is loaded by lighting solid green. If this flashes, your instrument is not fully loaded.

2. CPU METER

An indication of how much your CPU is being taxed, the green flash next to the CPU meter will turn red when you are overloading it.

3. DISK METER

How hard your hard drive is working. If this is close to, or going over 100% it's time to consider a faster drive.

4. MEMORY

This shows how much RAM you are currently using in this instance of Fractured Strings. While the preset is loading, this will show the instrument loading into memory.

5. VOICES

Shows how many voices are being used at any one time.

6. REFRESH

Refresh the instrument, alt-click to refresh the whole plug-in. This can be useful if you have hanging MIDI notes or have moved samples in your file system.

7. MODE SWITCH

Use this dropdown menu to change between the standard interface, and the Grid interface.

8. MIDI CH

Set the MIDI channel that will control the instrument here. If in doubt select "any" so that the instrument will react to any incoming MIDI messages.

9. TUNE

Move this knob to tune in increments of 0.01 of a semitone. CMD/CTRL-click to reset to default.

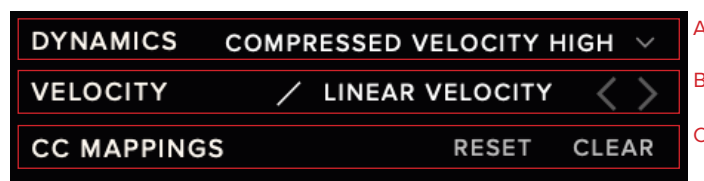
10. PAN

Pan the signal left / right. CMD/CTRL-click to reset.

11. VOLUME

Control the overall volume of the instrument.

12. PRESET SETTINGS



A. VELOCITY MAPPED TO DYNAMICS

Different behaviours for the Dynamics fader.

- 1) Full Velocity Range.
- 2) Velocity Mapped to Dynamics.
- 3) Compressed Velocity High.
- 4) Compressed Velocity Low.

These settings will change how hard you need to hit the keyboard to trigger different layers. Velocity mapped to dynamics will allow you to control short note velocity with the mod wheel.

B. VELOCITY

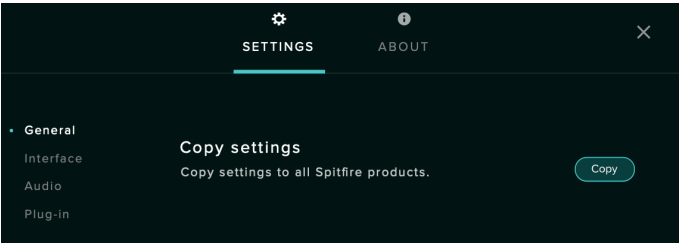
Pick from 4 different velocity curves to suit your controllers touch.

C. RESET AND CLEAR CC MAPPINGS

Clicking reset will set all of the CC mappings for this instrument to the defaults - useful if you’ve got yourself in a mess!

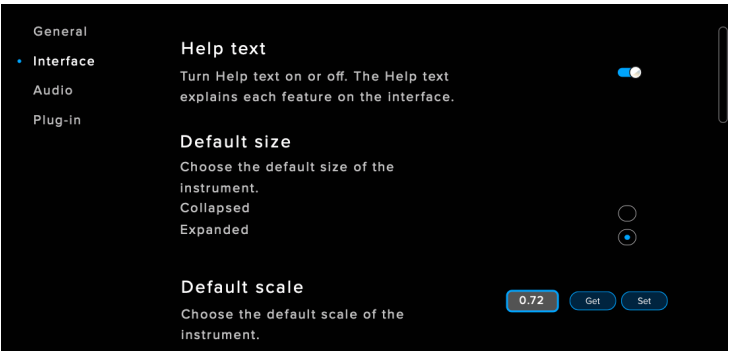
Clear will remove all CC mappings on the plugin.

13. PLUGIN SETTINGS



COPY SETTINGS

Common controller values will copy to other Spitfire plugins.



HELP TEXT

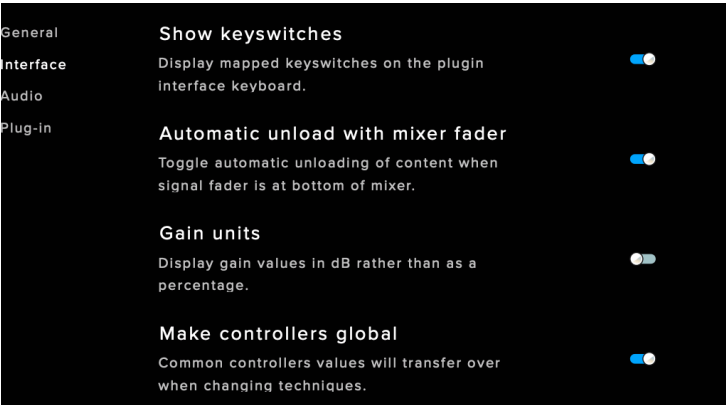
Turn this on to display parameter information in the bottom left corner of the plug in.

DEFAULT SIZE

Set whether the instrument opens up collapsed or expanded by default.

DEFAULT SCALE

How big the plugin UI is when opened. Press “get” to set the current scale or type a value before pressing “Set” and “Save”



SHOW KEYSWITCHES

When this option is on, presets that have multiple techniques will show available keyswitches in red and the currently selected technique(s) in yellow.

UNLOAD WITH MIXER FADER

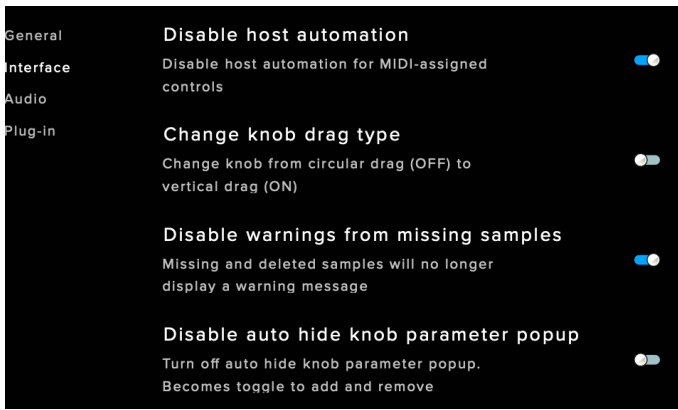
Toggle this to unload data from RAM when fader is pulled down to the bottom.

GAIN UNITS

Toggle this if you want your gain to be displayed in dB instead of as a percentage.

MAKE CONTROLS GLOBAL

Common Controller values will remain when switching techniques.



DISABLE HOST AUTOMATION

Turn this on to enable the Host Automation from the DAW.

CHANGE KNOB DRAG TYPE

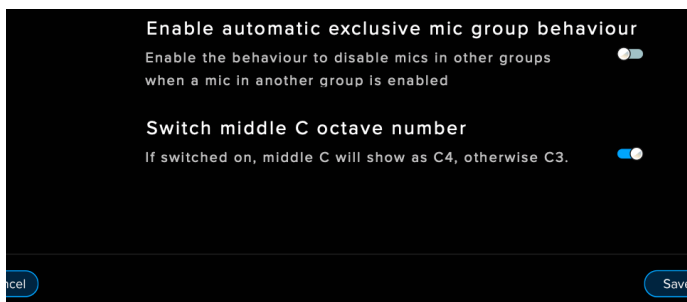
Change the mouse behaviour when dragging the Knob control.

DISABLE WARNINGS FROM MISSING SAMPLES

Hide an error in the plugin top left corner which is visible when the library is missing its content.

DISABLE AUTO HIDE KNOB PARAMETER POPUP

When enabled, clicking the knob will always shows the fx controls menu.



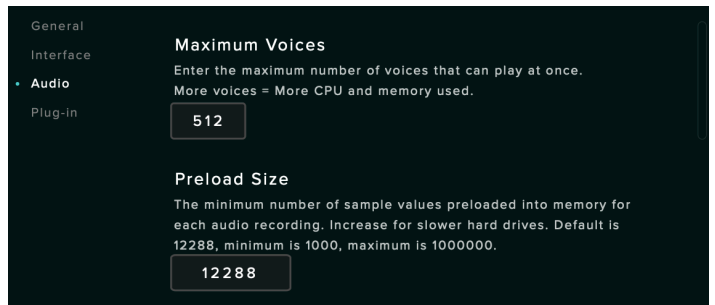
ENABLE AUTOMATIC EXCLUSIVE MIC GROUP BEHAVIOUR

Disable if you want mics to be ungrouped together.

For example, when enabled, enabling the Ambient mic, will disable the Mix Signals.

SWITCH MIDDLE C OCTAVE NUMBER

If turned on, Middle C will show as C4. When turned off, it will be C3.

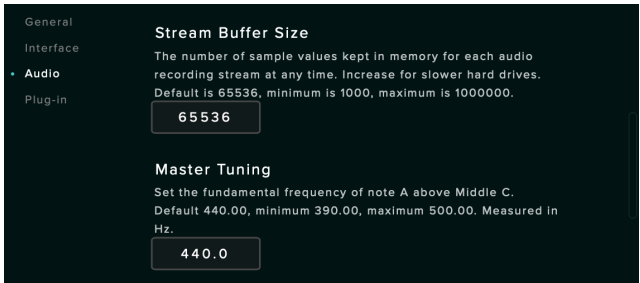


MAXIMUM VOICES

Enter the maximum number of voices that can play at once. More voices = More CPU and memory used.

PRELOAD SIZE

The minimum number of sample values preloaded into memory for each audio recording. Increase for slower hard drives. Default is 12288



STREAM BUFFER SIZE

The number of sample values kept in memory for each audio recording stream. Increase for slower hard drives.

MASTER TUNING

Change the default tuning of the plugin. For example A = 440hz or A = 432 HZ.



PITCH/STRETCH QUALITY

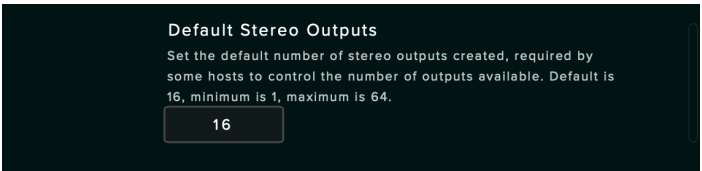
This option allows you to override the default pitch/time quality to improve performance or improve audio quality.

MAXIMUM PITCH VOICES

Limit the number of voices triggered at any one time. Lower values can aid CPU.

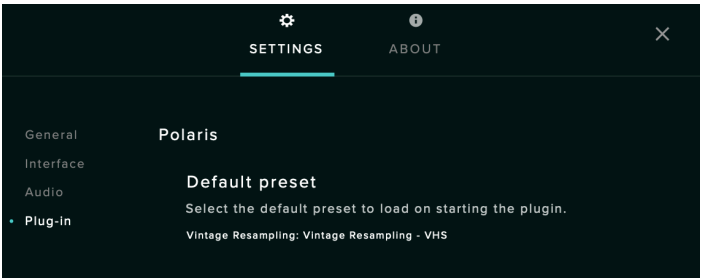
ENABLE MEMORY MAPPING

Turn off for windows machines for better performance



DEFAULT STEREO OUTPUTS

The default number of outputs for the Microphone routings.



PLUGIN

Under this heading you can choose a default preset to load, click on the preset name and choose your preferred preset from the list.

MICROPHONE SIGNALS

MIX 1

A mix formed of the room signals, big and cinematic.

MIX 2

A tighter mix, using rooms and close signals, cinematic but controlled.

MIX 3

A close, more detailed mix - useful for a more intimate sound.

TREE

The traditional Decca Tree arrangement situated high above the conductors head.

This signal gives a strong representation of the hall, whilst maintaining instrument focus.

Often the start point of any mix.

OUTRIGGERS

Two omnidirectional microphones placed midway between the orchestra at the same line as the Decca Tree. These add natural width, and should be used in combination with the Tree to add space to your mix.

AMBIENT

Two omnidirectional microphones placed towards the rear of the room, higher than the Outriggers resulting in a nice room ambience. Great for use in a 5.1 surround mix, or to add more space to a stereo mix.

STEREO SECTION

A stereo pair covering the section, for mid-perspective detail.

STEREO ROOM RIBBON

A stereo pair in the conductors' position, for an open sound.

GALLERIES

Two omnidirectional microphones placed at the very rear of the hall, high up in the balcony.

Also great in a 5.1 surround mix, or for a huge amount of space in a stereo mix.

CLOSE VALVE

The standard close microphones per section, positioned naturally in situ for the best close sound.

This version of the signal uses valve mics.

CLOSE RIBBON

The standard close microphones per section, positioned naturally in situ for the best close sound.

This version of the signal uses ribbon mics.

ULTRA CLOSE

Ultra close mic, for an extra close perspective.

CLOSE VALVE WIDE PAN

Close mic, valve option. Panned across the full soundstage.

CLOSE RIBBON WIDE PAN

Close mic, ribbon option. Panned across the full soundstage.

ULTRA CLOSE WIDE PAN

Ultra close mic. Panned across the full soundstage.

TECHNIQUES

SHORTS

Declamatory Shorts 1 / 2 / 3:

4 x Normale

2 Normale, 1 Sul Pont, 1 Harmonic

3 Sul Pont, 1 Harmonic

STATEMENTS UP / DOWN

Statements Same Note are short phrases which resolve to the same note they started with

Statements Up / Down (x7) are seven short articulations, moving from the centre (played) note as follows:

(MIN 2ND)
(MAJ 2ND)
(MIN 3RD)
(MAJ 3RD)
(PERF 4TH)
(AUG 4TH)
(PERF 5TH)

SPLINTERS UP / DOWN

Natural harmonics played with up and down variations:

(MAJ 2ND (UP ONLY)
(MIN 3RD)
(MAJ 3RD)
(PERF 4TH)
(PERF 5TH)

7TH REACHES

Three Articulations, reaching from root to 7th, with a passing note.

(MAJ)
(MIN)
(DOM)

PIZZ STRUMS

Three note chords extending up in 4ths from the played note.

(4THS)
(5THS)

ROTATIONS UP / DOWN

Seven slow trill articulations, extending up from the centre (played) note, tempo synced to 120 bpm.

(MIN 2ND)
(MAJ 2ND)
(MIN 3RD)
(MAJ 3RD)
(PERF 4TH)
(AUG 4TH)
(PERF 5TH)

Also features a scale mode option.

DISPERSALS

Loose 'aleatoric' trills with varying speed.

(MIN 2ND)
(MAJ 2ND)
(MIN 3RD)
(MAJ 3RD)
(PERF 4TH)
(AUG 4TH)
(PERF 5TH)

Also features a scale mode option.

ARPS

Solo instruments only covering a wide range of chords - tempo synced to 120bpm

(MAJ)
(MAJ WIDE)
(MAJ 7TH)
(MIN)
(MIN WIDE)
(MIN 7TH)
(MIN MAJ 7TH)
(ARP 4THS)
(ARP 5THS)

FRACTURES

Orchestrated Arpeggios

Min7 add 9/11
Min/Maj7 add 9/11
Maj7 add 6
Maj add 6
Min add 6
Maj add #4
Maj add b6
Major
Minor
Sus4

GESTURES

Statement same note
Statements up... (x7)
Statements down (x7)
Rotations up... (x7)
Rotations down... (x7)
Dispersals... (x7)
Pizz Strum 4ths + 5ths

APPENDIX A — FAQS AND TROUBLESHOOTING

Q: WHAT ARE THE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS?

MAC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.13 - OS 12
Minimum: 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core), 8GB RAM

Recommended: 2.8GHz i7 (six-core), 16GB RAM

32 bit is no longer supported. Apple Silicon / ARM is supported.

PC SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10 and Windows 11. (latest Service Pack, 64-bit)

Minimum: Intel Core 2.8GHz i5 (quad-core) or AMD Ryzen 5, 8GB RAM

Recommended: Intel 2.8GHz i7 (six-core) or AMD R7 2700, 16GB RAM

Q: I WANT TO RESET THE PLUGIN SETTINGS TO THE DEFAULT

You can delete the .settings file to reset the settings to default. This is located at:

Users/username/Music/Spitfire Audio - on a Mac

C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\Spitfire Audio - on a PC.

Q: MY LIST OF PRESETS IS EMPTY, HOW DO I SOLVE THIS?

If you have moved your Fractured Strings Library folder, you can solve this problem by using the “Locate Library” feature in the Spitfire Audio App.

If this does not solve the problem, the library likely needs reauthorising, to do this, use the “repair” feature in the Spitfire Audio App.

Q: I SEE A RED EXCLAMATION MARK IN THE TOP LEFT OF FRACTURED STRINGS, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This means that there is an error, you can click the exclamation mark to open a log with further details. It is likely that using the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App will solve the problem but if not, contact our support team at spitfireaudio.com/support and attach the log.

Q: CAN I INSTALL ON MORE THAN ONE COMPUTER?

With our products you have two licenses. This means that you are allowed to download and install on two computers you own, say your main rig and your mobile rig. If you have purchased the library on a hard drive, you should copy the contents of the drive on to the destination machine before completing the download with the Spitfire App. If you downloaded Fractured Strings, you can copy the library folder over to the second machine and then use the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App.

Q: I CAN'T SEE THIS IN THE KONTAKT LIBRARIES PANE AND WHEN I TRY AND LOAD IT INTO KONTAKT IT SAYS NO LIBRARY FOUND

This library does not run in Kontakt, it is a standalone plug-in that you can run in your chosen DAW.

Q: HOW DO I AUTHORIZE FRACTURED STRINGS ON A MACHINE NOT CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET?

It not possible to authorise Fractured Strings on a machine not connected to the internet. Authorisation is done with the Spitfire Audio App and an internet connection is required.

Q: HOW CAN I REDOWNLOAD A PRODUCT?

This can easily be done via your Spitfire Audio App. To reset both your entire library download or the latest update;

- Open up the Spitfire Audio App and log in with your account email and password.
- Select the product artwork you wish to re-download
- On this page is a “cog wheel”. Select this, choose “reset” from the menu. Then “Reset Entire Download” (for a full download) or (Latest Update) for the latest update.

This will reset your latest update ready for install again. You can repeat this process for any of the libraries you own.

Note that there is a limit to how many times you can reset your downloads in a certain time frame. If you do exceed your reset limit please get in touch.

Q: DIFFICULTIES IN DOWNLOADING / INSTALLING

Customers may find that they have some difficulties in the downloading process. If you find that you are having some trouble, please check the list below for possible causes:

- The formatting of your drive, if it is FAT32 this will cause errors, because there is a maximum file size with this format of 4GB and our download files will exceed this limit. To solve this problem, reformat your drive or use a different drive. We recommend NTFS on PC and Mac OS Extended on Mac. Other possible issues:
- Spitfire App freezes in the “Extracting” stage for hours. This may be because our libraries are often very large files, and this is the stage where the compressed files are extracted and placed in their final locations on the hard drive. There could be hundreds of GB of content to unpack, so it really can take hours. If you’re unsure whether it has crashed or is extracting files, visit

the installation folder you chose when you started the install. If everything is working normally you’ll see various files appearing in the folder (or one of its sub-folders).

- If your download gets stuck and is continually cycling and not resuming, please get in touch with us, giving us as much detail as possible about your set up. It would be helpful if you can tell us your operating system, where you are downloading from (your country, and also whether you’re at home or work), your ISP, and whether there are any proxy servers or firewalls between your computer and the internet.

Q: I HAVE FAST INTERNET, WHY IS MY DOWNLOAD SLOW?

We have no direct influence on your actual download speeds, our libraries are hosted on Amazon S3 servers which are normally very quick but it may well be that at certain times of the day when traffic is particularly busy, your ISP may throttle your connection speeds.

We would advise you to leave your download running overnight as speeds should ramp up at less busy times. Our Spitfire App downloader aims to use as much of the available bandwidth as possible to give you the quickest possible speeds, and may take several minutes to reach its peak.

Q: CAN I TRY BEFORE I BUY?

No - it is not currently possible to demo our products.

If you go to our Youtube channel you’ll see many walkthroughs containing detailed info about all our products -- you can hear them being played in real time with no smoke and mirrors!

Q: MY LIBRARIES ARE NOT SHOWING UP IN MY SPITFIRE APP

A handful of customers may find that when they log into their Spitfire App, some of their previously purchased products do not show up in the 'Installed' section or in the 'Download Ready' section either. It may be that you have purchased these under another email address. Checking other possible email addresses for your previous purchases may help to find these missing products. If this is not the case, and these missing products were purchased a few years ago, please create a support ticket telling us your account email address, and any serial numbers you may have to go with these missing products. Our support team can also merge one or more accounts together if you'd like to consolidate all your purchases in one place.

The more information we have, the quicker we can get you back up and running!

Q: HOW DO I UPDATE MY PRODUCTS?

The main premise of downloading our products is that our Spitfire App downloads into the folder you choose, so it is important to choose the folder above where you want the download to go. The best file path for our products is something very simple, a long file path will cause errors as there is a character limit on how far the Spitfire App can read. We advise a file path of something along the lines of: Samples Drive > Spitfire Audio

When it comes to downloading / updating - if you have a folder called 'Spitfire Audio' always point the Spitfire App to the folder Spitfire Audio - never go into this folder and choose the actual library in question.

Q: HOW DO I REDOWNLOAD THE LATEST UPDATE?

With the continuous improvements to our Spitfire Audio App, we have incorporated the ability to reset your own downloads. This can easily be done via your Spitfire Audio App.

Open up the Spitfire Audio App and log in with your account email and password.

- Select the product artwork you wish to re-download
- On this page is a "cog wheel". Select this, choose "reset" from the menu. Then "Reset Entire Download" (for a full download) or (Latest Update) for the latest update.
- This will reset your latest update ready for install again.

You can repeat this process for any other updates you wish.

If you do not see the option to reset your download in your Spitfire Audio App, we would advise to download the latest version of the Spitfire App from spitfireaudio.com/info/library-manager/.

Q: I'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR MY DOWNLOAD LINKS?

We run all our orders through a fraud checking process. The automatic fraud check takes 20 minutes (but can take up to an hour during a very busy period, eg. Black Friday) If your order gets caught at this stage, we run a manual order check, and this can delay the processing of your order for up to 24 hours.

You should however receive an order confirmation email IMMEDIATELY upon placing your order. This confirms that your order has successfully been logged in our system and that your payment was successfully taken. Please check your junk folders before contacting our support.

CAN I DOWNLOAD ON A PC, THEN

TRANSFER TO A MAC OR VICE VERSA?

Yes, you can copy the library folder and plugin files over to the second machine and then use the “Repair” and “Locate Library” features in the Spitfire Audio App. Please note that although the majority of the download can be done on a separate machine, you will always need an internet connection to finish the authorisation process.

Q: HOW DO I DOWNLOAD PRODUCTS ON MAC OSX 10.9?

The version of the Spitfire App needed to install Fractured Strings only supports Mac OSX 10.13 and upwards.

Q: I HAVE FOUND A BUG

In some cases we can’t squash them all and bugs shamefully make their way through. If you think you have found a bug, please contact us with all the relevant information;

- A description of the bug you have found
- A screencast (video) of the bug happening, or an audio example
- The exact preset name (or presets) in question and also the library giving us as much detail as possible will help us get to the bottom of the issue.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REFUNDS / RETURNS POLICY?

If you have NOT completed the download / installation process, and bought within 14 days then we CAN refund / return your product, please contact support with your account email address and order number so we can handle this quickly. If you HAVE completed the installation process (even if you’ve not yet registered your serial number), please see our EULA in regards to why we do not accept refunds and returns. We can refund hard drive orders up until the point when the drive is dispatched from our office. This is usually 1-2 days after you order.

Q: I’VE FORGOTTEN MY PASSWORD?

If you have forgotten your password, please see this link spitfireaudio.com/my-account/login/, and click ‘Forgotten Password’. If at some point in the past you asked us to merge two or more accounts but have since forgotten, you MAY find that the forgotten password isn’t working for the email address you asked us to merge FROM. In this case, please contact support with your name, and any email addresses you think we might know about, and we’ll work out what has happened.

APPENDIX B — TECHNIQUES/MICS/MIXES

TECHNIQUES

VIOLIN ARTICULATIONS

STATEMENTS (UP/DOWN/SAME)
SPLINTERS (UP/DOWN)
ROTATIONS (UP/DOWN)
DISPERSALS
DECLAMATORY SHORTS
PIZZ STRUMS
7TH REACHES

CELLO ARTICULATIONS

STATEMENTS (UP/DOWN/SAME)
SPLINTERS (UP/DOWN)
ROTATIONS (UP/DOWN)
DISPERSALS
DECLAMATORY SHORTS
PIZZ STRUMS

SOLO VIOLIN

ARPEGGIOS

SOLO CELLO

ARPEGGIOS

MICS AND MIXES

MIX 1
MIX 2
MIX 3
TREE
OUTRIGGERS
AMBIENT
STEREO SECTION
STEREO ROOM RIBBON
GALLERIES
CLOSE VALVE
CLOSE RIBBON
ULTRA CLOSE
CLOSE VALVE WIDE PAN
CLOSE RIBBON WIDE PAN
ULTRA CLOSE WIDE PAN

APPENDIX C — DEFAULT CC MAPPINGS

Dynamics	1
Global Gain	7
Global Pan	10
Expression	11
Release	17
Reverb	19

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