



The Orb

User Guide

v2.0

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The Orb

Formant Filter

[The Orb](#) is a formant filter plugin that simulates the characteristics of the human voice. Featuring a set of three band pass filters, The Orb can transform any sound into a vowel-like formant-filtered sound. With the three LFOs you can modulate the Vowel, the Emphasis/Resonance of the formants, and the Drift, which can shift up or down the frequencies of each formant. You can also create your own set of vowels by changing the name and frequency for each vowel/formant.

The Orb is available for macOS, Windows, and Linux (VST, VST3, AU, AAX, CLAP). It's also available on the App Store for iOS and iPadOS (AUv3 and Standalone).

Installation

macOS

- Double click on the DMG archive to extract it
- Right click on the PKG installer and click open
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Windows

- Extract the ZIP archive
- Double click on the setup file (.exe)
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Linux

- Extract the tarball archive
- Run `./install.sh`
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Registration

When you open the plugin for the first time, the activation window will appear automatically. If it does not appear, open it by clicking the ☰ icon next to the bypass button in the top right corner of the plugin.



Online

- If you haven't created an account yet, you can [sign up here](#)
- Enter your email and password and click Log In.

Offline

- Download the license file from your [account](#).
- Drag and drop the license file into the registration window, or click the *offline license file* label below Log In to select the license file.

Parameters

The Orb

Each sector of the Orb represents a **Vowel**. Click the vowel name to change the vowel assigned to that sector.

The distance of the dot from the center controls **Emphasis**, the amount of resonance applied to the vowel's formant filters. Moving the dot farther from the center increases the emphasis.

The angular position of the dot within each sector controls **Drift**. Drift offsets the vowel's formant frequencies by an amount in Hz, shifting them higher or lower from their original values.



Formants

<i>Smooth</i>	Controls the smoothing between changes in vowel, emphasis, and drift. Higher values produce slower, more gradual transitions.
<i>Drift Range</i>	Sets the maximum frequency offset, in Hz, applied by the Drift parameter.
<i>Polarity</i>	Controls the direction of the Drift offset: • + shifts the formants upward. • - shifts the formants downward. • ± allows the formants to shift in both directions.
<i>Formant 1, 2, 3</i>	Controls the level of each of the three formant filters. Use the power button below each slider to enable or disable that formant.

Vowels

<i>Amount</i>	Sets the number of vowel sectors available in the Orb.
<i>Genre</i>	Selects the vowel set: Male, Female, Child, or Custom.
<i>Edit</i>	Opens the Custom Vowels window, where the name and three formant frequencies of each vowel can be edited.
<i>Spread</i>	Adjusts the contrast between vowel sounds. Lower values make vowels more alike; higher values exaggerate their differences.
<i>Size</i>	Shifts all formant frequencies to change the perceived vocal size. Negative values create a larger, deeper character; positive values create a smaller, brighter character.

LFOs

The three LFOs can independently modulate Vowel, Emphasis, and Drift.

<i>Rate</i>	Controls the speed of the LFO.
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	Use the Sync button to synchronize the LFO to the host tempo.
<i>Amount</i>	Controls the depth of the modulation.
<i>Phase</i>	Sets the starting phase of the LFO waveform.

Master

<i>Stereo Width</i>	Controls the stereo width of the processed signal.
<i>Gain</i>	Controls the output level.
<i>Mix</i>	Controls the balance between the dry and processed signals.
<i>Soft Clip</i>	Enables soft clipping at the output to gently limit peaks.

Custom Vowels

Click Edit in the Vowels section to open the Custom Vowels window.

Here you can create your own vowel set by changing the name of each vowel and the frequency of its three formants.

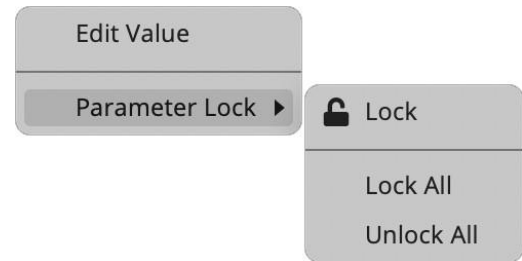
Custom vowel settings are stored with the preset and with the DAW session, allowing you to create and save multiple custom vowel sets. The default Custom set uses the same values as the Male vowel set.

Features

Parameter Lock

If you want to keep the value of one or more parameters while changing presets, or when using the randomizer button, you can use the *Parameter Lock* feature.

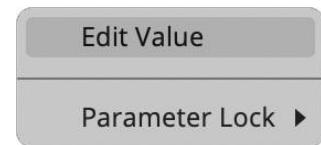
Right click on a parameter and choose *Parameter Lock*.



<i>Lock / Unlock</i>	If locked, the parameter won't be updated when changing presets
<i>Lock All</i>	Locks all parameters
<i>Unlock All</i>	Unlocks all parameters

Edit Value

You can also manually change the value for knobs and sliders. Right click on a parameter and choose *Edit Value*. You can also access this feature with SHIFT + Click.



By clicking on the icon  you can access additional features.

Window Size

You can resize the plugin window using three predefined sizes (*small, standard, big*). You can also resize the plugin window by clicking and dragging the bottom-right corner of the interface. Double clicking will reset to the standard size.

Preset Copy / Paste

You can easily share presets by using this Copy/Paste feature.

Copy to Clipboard The status of all parameters will be saved to the Clipboard

Paste from Clipboard Load a preset from the Clipboard

Enable / Disable Notifications

You can enable or disable the notifications for updates and news (shown by the bell icon). This option is global and it will affect all AudioThing plugins.

Swap Mouse Buttons

If you use the right button as your primary mouse button, the plugin might not recognize it. Use this option to enable it internally in the plugin.

This option is global and it will affect all AudioThing plugins.

GUI Acceleration

You can enable or disable the GUI acceleration supported by your system.

The current and default library is OpenGL.

Graphics Controls

This feature allows you to modify the User Interface's Brightness and Contrast.

End

Where is everything?

The installer will place the plugins, presets, and other data in these folders.

macOS

AU /Library/Audio/Plug-ins/Components/
VST /Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST/
VST3 /Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST3/
CLAP /Library/Audio/Plug-ins/CLAP/
AAX /Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/
Data /Users/Shared/AudioThing/

Windows

VST *custom path from the installer*
VST3 \Program Files\Common Files\VST3\
CLAP \Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\
AAX \Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\
Data \Users\Public\Public Documents\AudioThing\

Linux

VST ~/.vst/
VST3 ~/.vst3/
CLAP ~/.clap/
Data ~/.local/share/AudioThing/

Credits

DSP & Code	<i>Carlo Castellano</i>
Design	<i>John Gordon, Carlo Castellano</i>
QA	<i>David</i>

EULA

Please visit www.audiothing.net/eula/ to review this product's EULA.

Thank You

Thank you for your purchase! We hope you will have as much fun using it as we had making this product.

For support, please visit www.audiothing.net/support/

For further help or any questions, please contact us here: www.audiothing.net/contact/

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