

# **air**

# **Tape Saturator**

**User Guide**

English

Manual Version 1.0

## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the AIR Tape Saturator plugin, a flagship tape saturation that delivers real analog warmth from subtle glue to full character, built for modern MPC and DAW workflows. It includes a wide range of controls to customize your sound, including:

- Four saturation models for different tape characters with saturation amount control.
- Speed control to further color the output.
- Further editing controls including tape condition, noise, tone, auto gain make-up, and clipping type selector.

This user guide explains the features and functions of the plugin effect. For more information on using this plugin with other software, please refer to your software's documentation for adding and using plugin instruments.

## System Requirements & Product Support

AIR Tape Saturator supports VST, VST3, AU, and AAX formats on desktop, and is compatible with MPC and Force standalone devices running v3.5 or later.

For complete system requirements and compatibility information, visit [airmusictech.com](http://airmusictech.com).

For technical support, visit [support.airmusictech.com](http://support.airmusictech.com).

## Installation

### Desktop

#### To install and activate the plugin on your computer:

1. Double-click the **.exe** (Windows) or **.pkg** (macOS) file you downloaded. Follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.
2. Open your digital audio workstation (DAW) of choice. Some DAWs will automatically scan for new plugins when the application is opened. You can also open your software's Preferences, Options, or other menu to scan for AIR Tape Saturator as a new plugin. If needed, consult your DAW's documentation for more information on adding or scanning new plugins.
3. In your project, add AIR Tape Saturator as an insert effect to a track, and then open the plugin window.
4. Click **Sign In** to sign into your inMusic Brands Profile using your Internet browser. If you do not have an inMusic Brands Profile yet, you will be prompted to create one.
5. Once you have signed in, click **Activate** in the plugin window to enter your serial key to unlock the plugin. You can unlock each plugin on up to three devices at a time.
6. If you do not have a serial key, you can click **Try Unlicensed** to explore the plugin with intermittent audio alerts. You can also click **10-Day Trial** to initiate a free, fully featured trial of the plugin for 10 days.

If you would like to purchase a serial key, click the link to purchase a license at [profile.inmusicbrands.com](http://profile.inmusicbrands.com).

**To activate and download the plugin from your standalone MPC or Force device:**

1. Open the **Preferences** menu.
2. You will need a valid internet connection to activate your plugins, so if you are not already connected, use the **Wi-Fi** or **Ethernet** menus to select your network.
3. Tap the **Activations** option on the left side of the screen.
4. Tap the **Log In** button to log into your inMusic Profile. You can scan the QR code with a mobile device or open the URL shown on the page in a browser of your choice. If you do not already have an account, you will be prompted to create one.
5. Once you have been logged in, you can try out plugin instruments through a free trial, or activate your purchases.

**To register a purchase**, use the **Enter Serial** field to enter your serial number and then tap **Register**.

**To refresh the page with your latest purchases or activations**, tap **Refresh**.

**To activate a plugin on your device**, tap the **Activate** button next to its name. Tap **Deactivate** to remove the plugin activation from your device.

**To download a purchase to your device**, first tap the **Change** button at the bottom of the touchscreen to select a Content Download Drive. This can be a connected SATA drive, USB drive, or SD card. Then, tap the **download icon** to begin downloading the plugin to your drive. The download icon will change to show the installation progress. Once the process is complete, you can use your plugin with standalone MPC.

## Operation

### Desktop



### Setup Section

**Note:** This section is not available when using the plugin on standalone MPC devices.



1. **Menu:** Click this icon to open the menu, where you can find the following options:
  - **Scale:** Click here to select a value to scale the plugin window to a new size.
  - **Load Preset:** Click here to load a saved preset.
  - **Save Preset:** Click here to save the current preset.
  - **Open User Guide:** Click here to open this User Guide.
  - **About:** Click here to view plugin version information.
  - **Check For Updates:** Click here to check for available software updates.
  - **Activate/Deactivate:** Click here to activate a plugin to your inMusic Brands Profile with a serial key, or to deactivate a plugin from your device if it has been activated.
2. **Preset:** Click this drop-down menu to view the list of included plugin presets. You can also click the up and down arrows next to this field to move to the previous or next preset.



Parameter	Description	Value Range
Input	Adjusts the gain of the incoming audio signal.	-12.0 – 0.0 – 12.0 dB
Saturation	Adjusts the amount of tape saturation applied.	0–100%
Model	Adjusts the tape saturation model, increasing in character and intensity.	I, II, III, IV
Speed	Adjusts the speed of tape playback. This can introduce subtle filtering and tonal changes depending on the model and audio content.	7.5, 15, 30

Click the **Edit** button to access the following additional controls.



Parameter	Description	Value Range
Condition	Adjusts the age of the tape. The higher the age, the greater the amount of tape degradation features like wow, flutter, and dropouts.	Mint, 1–10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 Years
Noise	Adjusts the amount of tape hiss noise.	0–100%

Parameter	Description	Value Range
Lo Cut	Adjusts the low-frequency cutoff point.	25 Hz – 2.00 kHz
Hi Cut	Adjusts the high-frequency cutoff point.	2.00 – 25.00 kHz
Auto Makeup	Enables or disables the automatic gain makeup feature. This is On by default.	Off, On
Output	Adjusts the output level of the plugin. When <b>Auto Makeup</b> is enabled, this is adjusted automatically as the <b>Input</b> level is adjusted, ensuring perceived loudness remains consistent. When <b>Auto Makeup</b> is disabled, the <b>Output</b> can be controlled independently from the <b>Input</b> level.	-12.0 – 0.0 – 12.0 dB
Clipper	Adjusts the clipping behavior, from deliberate distortion to transparent.	Hard, Warm, Soft, Clean

## Tape Saturator



Parameter	Description	Value Range
Input	Adjusts the gain of the incoming audio signal.	-12.0 – 0.0 – 12.0 dB
Saturation	Adjusts the amount of tape saturation applied.	0–100%
Model	Adjusts the tape saturation model, increasing in character and intensity.	I, II, III, IV
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Clipper	Adjusts the clipping behavior, from deliberate distortion to transparent.	Hard, Warm, Soft, Clean

## Trademarks and Licenses

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