



## PLUGIN BUDDY (FREE) USER MANUAL

Welcome to Plugin Buddy: Your Ultimate Live Sound Companion

Plugin Buddy is a plugin host, engineered for musicians and producers who demand agility and creativity in their performances. Think of Plugin Buddy as your musical switchblade—effortlessly adapting to your needs, enabling you to craft and perform custom sounds with speed and precision.

With Plugin Buddy, you can seamlessly chain together MIDI effects, virtual instruments, and processing effects, building sophisticated, personalized setups that transcend the capabilities of individual plugins. Whether you're on stage or in the studio, Plugin Buddy empowers you to sculpt complex, dynamic soundscapes that are greater than the sum of their parts.

# Quick Guide (standalone version)

The image shows the Plugin Buddy software interface with several callout boxes pointing to specific features:

- Activation** | **Transport** | **Preset Menu** | **Scan | Settings | Panic**
- Quick Controls 1-4 (Assignable in plugin window)**: Points to the top row of sliders (Octave, OSCI Type, Sub Volume, HPF Freq).
- MIDI FX slots 1-4**: Points to the MIDI FX section with dropdowns (Transpose, Velocity Curve, EON-Arp, MIDI Monitor).
- Instrument Slot**: Points to the 'The Bud Synth' dropdown in the INSTRUMENT section.
- Visualizer & On screen keyboard**: Points to the waveform visualizer and the piano keyboard below it.
- Processing FX slots 1-4**: Points to the bottom row of FX slots (SVF, Clipper, BitFuzzer, Time Oddity Chorus).
- Show About & Plugin Version**: Points to the 'MODALICS' logo in the top right.
- Open Plugin Selection Menu**: Points to the 'SCAN PLUGINS' button.
- Open Plugin Selection Menu**: Points to the 'RANDOM' button.
- Master Volume**: Points to the volume indicator on the far right.

# Technical Specs

## Min Supported System Specs

Intel Core i5 or equivalent AMD CPU, 4 GB RAM (6 GB recommended)

Apple ARM64 (M1, M2, etc..) on Apple Systems

Windows 10 / macOS 10.13

## Installable Formats

Windows (64-bit only) - VST3, AAX & Standalone

macOS (64-bit only) - VST3, AAX, AU & Standalone

## Supported Plugin Formats

Currently Supports Loading VST3 Plugins Only

## Latency

Plugin Buddy itself has 0 latency, once you add plugins to the chain they might add accumulative latency.

## Tested DAWs

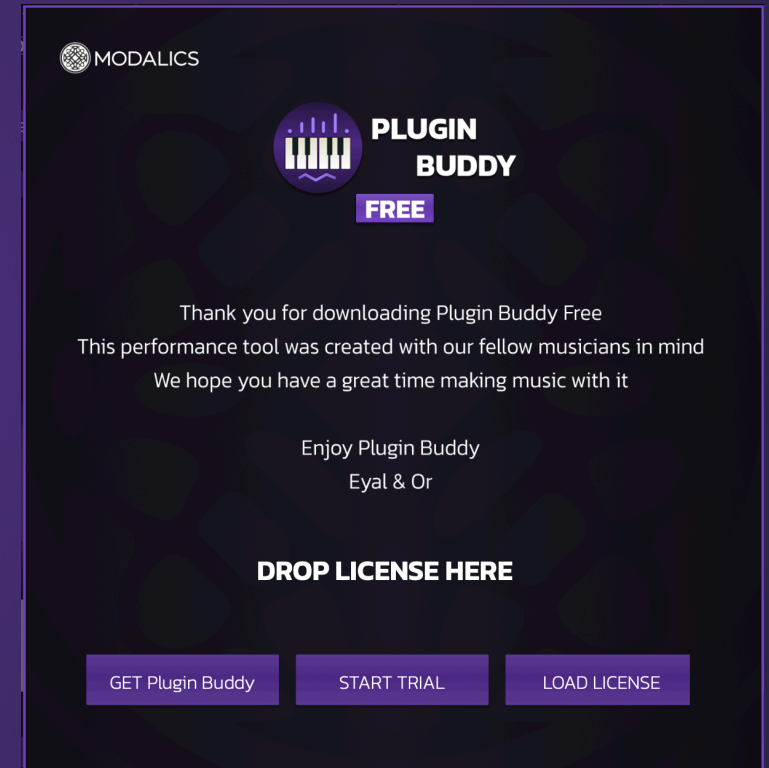
Cubase, Ableton Live, Logic, Pro-Tools, FL Studio, Reaper, Studio One,

Bitwig, Reason, Waveform, Cakewalk, Digital Performer, MainStage & Unify

Plugin Buddy should run on any DAW that supports the formats listed above. if you run into any issues let us know at [info@Modalics.com](mailto:info@Modalics.com)

# Install & Activate

1. Download Plugin Buddy for your OS from the license email you received following your purchase or from [modalics.com/account/my-orders](https://modalics.com/account/my-orders)
2. Start Plugin Buddy inside your DAW of choice or in Standalone.
3. Upon first launch, the license activation prompt will appear.
4. In order to activate Plugin Buddy, simply drag and drop the license file you received onto the activation prompt.
5. You can also start a 7 day free trial by clicking "Start Trial" (Plugin Buddy may be free, but in case you run into any issues with license activation, you can use the trial option so you can start using PB immediately while we work to fix your license issue)
6. Click anywhere to close the activation window and create ingenious effect chains and custom instruments that will resonate with millions of listeners.
7. Each Plugin Buddy license can be activated on up to 3 machines.



# Key Commands

## General Key Commands

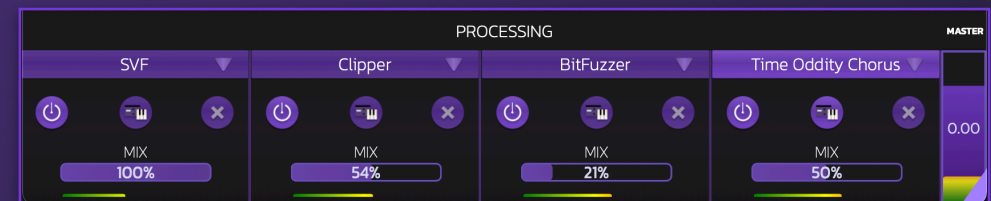
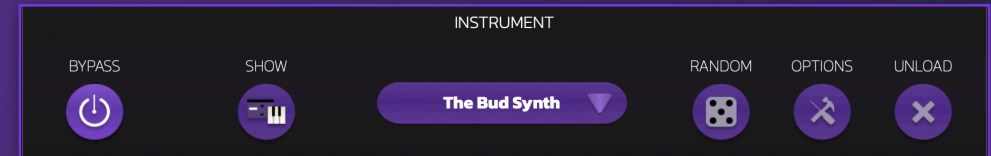
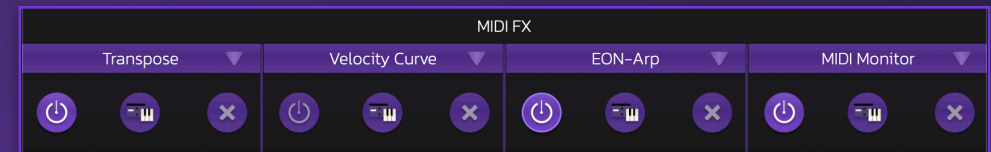
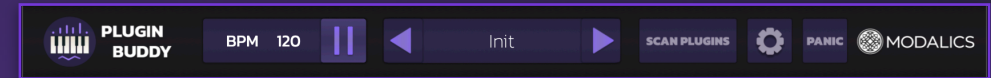
- F1 - Open manual
- F2 - Reset window size
- Alt + Click - Reset parameter
- Double Click - Manually insert value
- Right Click - Open context menu

\*Plugin Buddy is resizable, simply click and drag from the lower right corner to resize

# Introduction

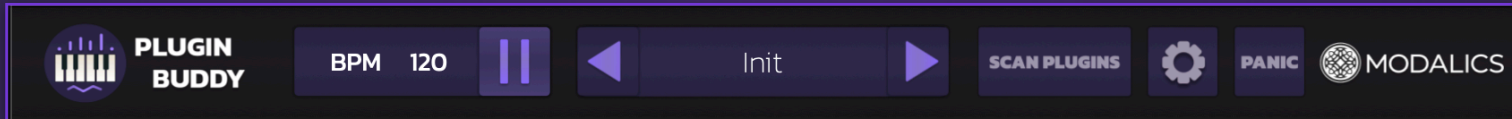
**Plugin Buddy's UI is comprised of 6 modules:**

- 1. Top Toolbar** - Activation, transport (only usable in standalone), presets, scan button, panic and about. The standalone version also shows a settings button to setup audio/MIDI settings
- 2. Global Quick Controls** - 4 assignable quick controls. (Assign using the "MAP" button in the plugin windows)
- 3. MIDI FX** - load up to 4 MIDI effects in series (ordered from left to right) each slot has bypass, show/hide and unload buttons.
- 4. Instrument Slot** - load an instrument after the MIDI effects are applied. There are also buttons to bypass, show/hide, randomize, open the options menu and unload the slot.
- 5. Visualizer** - The visualizer reflects several aspects of Plugin Buddy's MIDI & audio input and output - the keyboard indicates pressed keys (after applying MIDI modifiers), the bars on top indicate the current velocity level for each key while the larger purple curve that appear indicates the frequency range and overall level.
- 6. Processing** - Load up to 4 processing FX in series, ordered from left to right. Each slot has bypass, show/hide and unload controls as well as a mix slider. On the far right is the master volume control.



# Breakdown - Top Toolbar

## Top Toolbar



- 1. Activation** - Click the Plugin Buddy logo to show the activation prompt.
- 2. Transport** - Only usable in Standalone format, when running PB in a DAW it will reflect the tempo and current playback mode of the DAW.
- 3. Preset Menu** - Clicking the preset name opens the preset menu, you can use the arrows to navigate the presets. This menu will also allow saving & loading presets as well as showing your user folder & checking for plugin updates.
- 4. Scan Plugins** - Open the scan window and scan all plugin categories.
- 5. Settings** - Only appears in Standalone version, this will open the audio/MIDI settings.
- 6. Panic** - Sends reset messages and momentarily stops all input into Plugin Buddy.
- 7. About** - Clicking the Modalics logo will open the "About" prompt, where you can visit our socials, website, check your plugin version and enjoy a nice break from creating incredible sounding plugin chains.

# Breakdown - Global Quick Controls

**Global Quick Controls** appear in 2 variations in Plugin Buddy:

- **On the main UI** - here you are able to control the sliders for the controls you assign in the plugin windows.
- **On top of each plugin** hosted by Plugin Buddy you will find the addition of a top toolbar, it will include all 4 global quick controls, along with the "Map" button that will allow you to assign any parameter to the controls.

To assign a parameter, simply click "Map" and then move any parameter, this will automatically assign the moved parameter as well as un-click "Map" so you can resume working without worrying about mapping other parameters by accident.





# Breakdown - MIDI FX

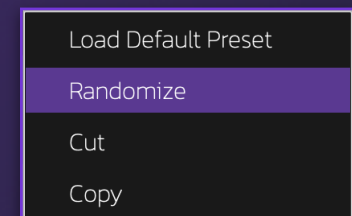
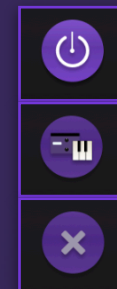
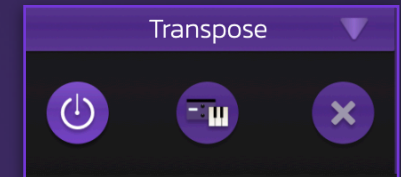


## The MIDI FX section allows loading up to 4 MIDI plugins in series

As with all chains in Plugin Buddy - The MIDI plugins signal flow starts from the left side and goes right from the 1st to the 4th slot.

### Each slot has 4 main controls:

- **Bypass** - Momentarily enable or disable the FX slot
- **Show/Hide** - Reveal the plugin window, clicking the plugin name will also
- **Unload** - Remove the currently loaded plugin and set the slot to "None"
- **Plugin Drop Down Menu** - Open the scanned plugin list, this list will include MIDI plugins, so if you don't see all of your plugins here fear not! Just look for them in the "Instrument" or "Processing" slots. The drop down menu also includes options to "Load from File" and "Rescan Plugins".
- **Context Menu** - Right clicking an empty area on the MIDI FX slot will open the context menu where you can load the default preset of the loaded plugin, randomize all params as well as perform clipboard actions between slots (cut/copy/paste)



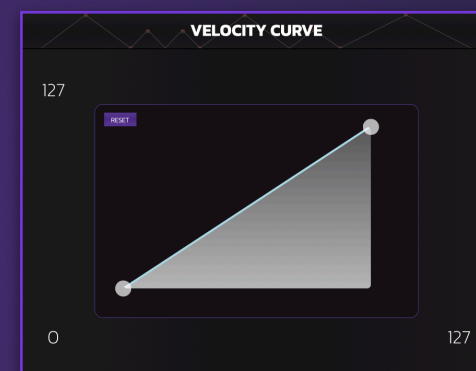
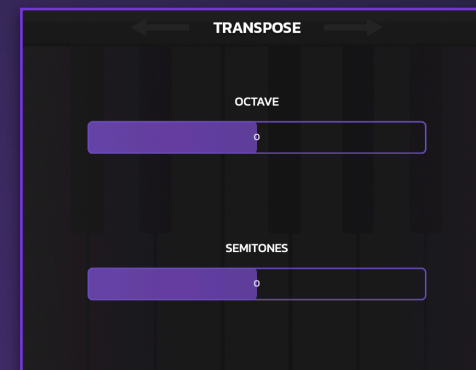
# Breakdown - Internal MIDI FX

## Plugin Buddy also includes a collection of built-in MIDI FX

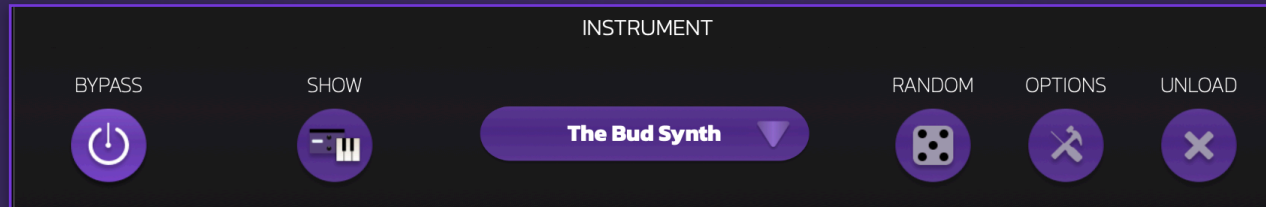
- **Transpose** - Transpose the incoming MIDI input in semitones and octaves.
- **Velocity Curve** - Compress or expand the incoming MIDI input's velocity with a custom curve, double click to add points, click and drag to shape the curve segments.
- **MIDI Monitor** - Get precise information about the MIDI input going into the MIDI Monitor's slot.

## Why do I see my VST3 Instruments in the MIDI FX slots?

- In the VST3 format, the concept of a "pure" MIDI effect doesn't exist, instead, VST3 plugins register themselves as instruments and then they can either output MIDI or not.
- Many popular MIDI FX also output audio in addition to MIDI.
- As a host, we have no way to distinguish between VST3's that output only audio or audio and MIDI - So it's up to YOU to make sure to load the correct format in the right slot according to your specific use case.



# Breakdown - Instrument Slot

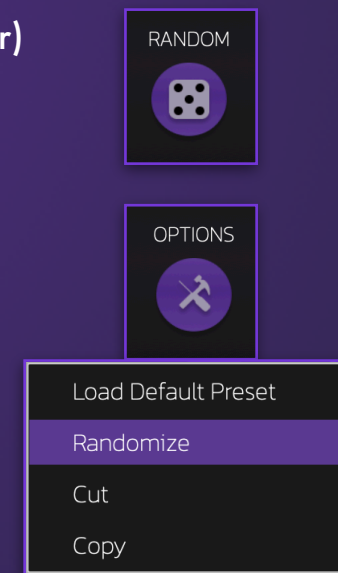


## The Instrument slot allows loading a single Instrument

The instrument receives the MIDI input from the 4th MIDI slot and outputs it's audio to the 1st Processing slot.

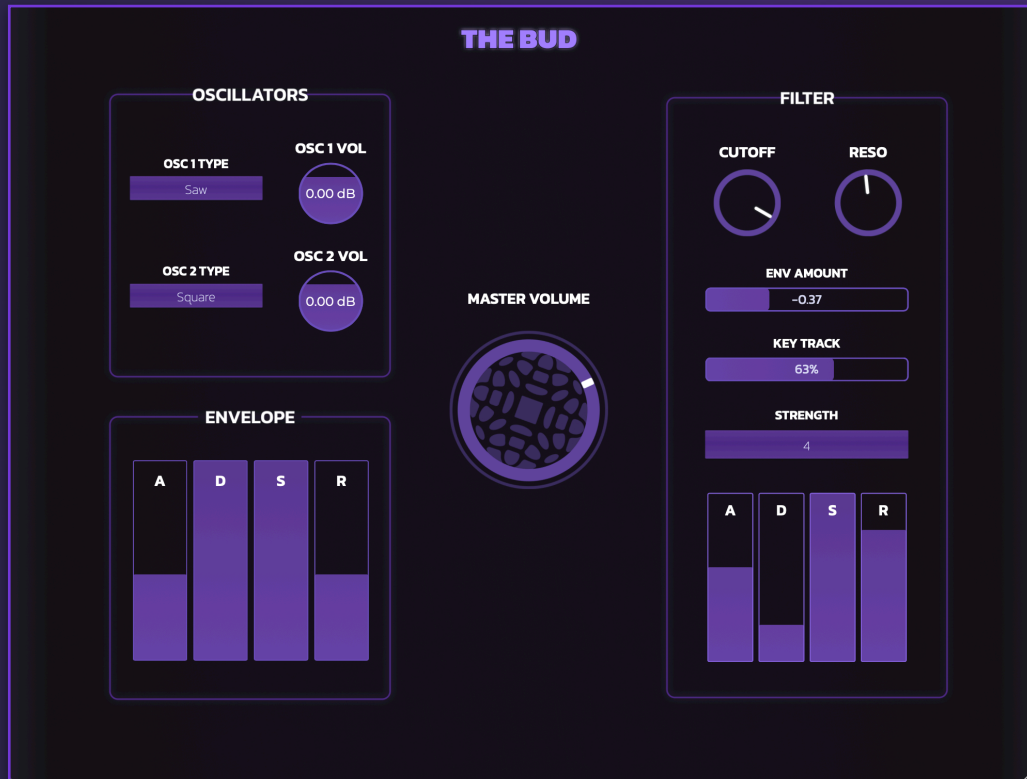
As with any effect slot, the Instrument slot has controls to bypass, show/hide or unload. The additional controls to the Instrument Slot are:

- **Randomize** - Randomize all instrument parameters (and run for cover)
- **Options** - open the context menu for the instrument slot



# Breakdown - The Bud Synth

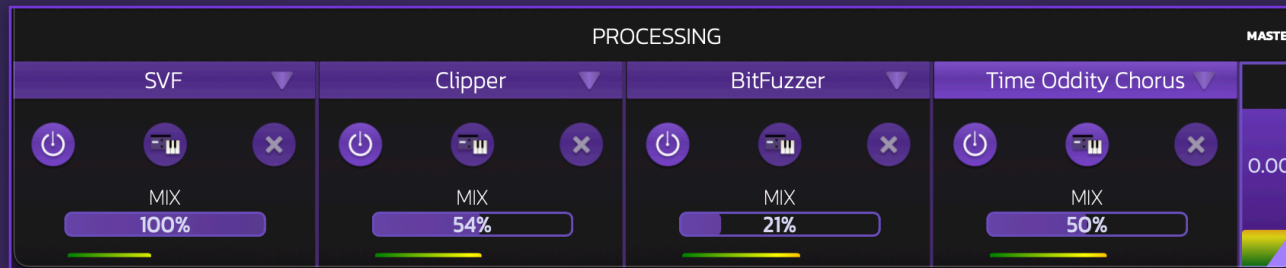
In addition to a collection of MIDI & Processing FX, Plugin Buddy also includes "The Bud" Synth.



The Bud is a simple and effective synth that we included with Plugin Buddy, it contains 3 Modules:

1. Oscillators - 2 Oscillators, you can select between 5 OSC types (Saw, Noise, Square, Triangle & Sine) and set a volume for each one.
2. Envelope - Set attack, decay, sustain and release ratios for the oscillators.
3. Filter - The filter section contains a resonant lo-pass filter, controls for envelope amount, key tracking, filter strength as well as envelope ADSR controls.

## Breakdown - Processing Effects



**Plugin Buddy's processing section contains 4 slots and the master volume control.**

As with the MIDI FX section, the plugins you load here are ordered from left to right and their output is in series, meaning that each slot takes the output of its predecessor. However - each slot also has a Mix slider that lets you blend it with the signal coming from the previous slot.

The processing slots contain exactly the same controls as the MIDI section (Bypass, show/hide, load and unload) except for the mix slider and the audio meter on the bottom part of the slot. The meter is useful to make sure you maintain healthy gain staging when building your custom chains.

You can also right click any empty area on a slot to open the context menu.

## Extra - Plugin Top & All Params View

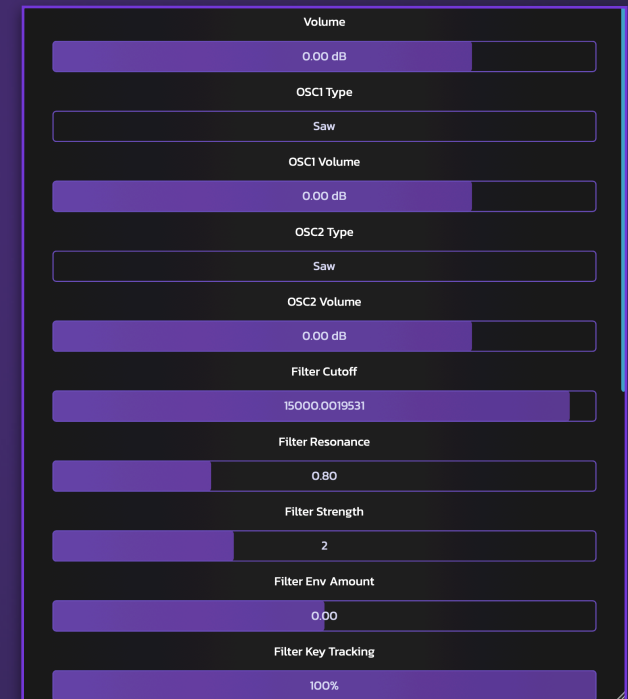


**On top of each plugin you load in Plugin Buddy, you will see PB's top toolbar.**

**The plugin window top toolbar contains the following controls:**

1. Bypass - Bypass the plugin. (Crazy.. I know right?)
2. Hide - Shoo.. go away plugin window!
3. Randomize - Randomize all plugin parameters (including volume, so if everything is suddenly very quiet, look there.)
4. All Params - Open a generic UI for the loaded plugin, containing all of the plugin params in a list.

\*The generic UI is fully resizable and text sizes correlate with the vertical size of the plugin window, if you're having trouble reading the texts simply enlarge the window vertically.



### A Personal Note

As musicians and production enthusiasts ourselves, we've always been driven by the desire to push the boundaries of what's possible with the tools at hand. Plugin Buddy is an expression of our drive to make the most of our gear and to help you get the most out of our products.

Our goal is for Plugin Buddy to evolve into a platform that fosters creative workflows across DAWs, bridging gaps and resolving the challenges you face when using your favorite tools, no matter where you are.

One of the reasons we've made Plugin Buddy free is to give back to our incredible community of sound explorers, groove architects, and sonic adventurers. We wanted to make it accessible to everyone, as well as to allow you to seamlessly integrate our sequencing products with your synths and samplers.

We're excited to see how you'll use Plugin Buddy to create and innovate.

Our gratitude also goes out to our amazing Modalics Discord Server members and beta group for helping us make the best out of our products.

Want to become a tester? Or just talk to us about anything?

[www.facebook.com/modalics](https://www.facebook.com/modalics)

[www.instagram.com/modalics](https://www.instagram.com/modalics)

<https://discord.gg/UR9ns2aUb6>

[www.youtube.com/modalics](https://www.youtube.com/modalics)