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bitshift audio

pHATmatik manual

v 1.1

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What's new in 1.1?

Bug fixes. Hey, everyone makes mistakes... There was a pretty serious timing bug in version 1 that manifested itself on certain platform/host/phase of the moon combinations. We shot the developer responsible and fed his carcass to the vultures. No more bugs. (noteOffset != deltaFrames) ☞

Plus, we added a syncable LFO to modulate the VCF cutoff frequency. pHAT!

Read on and get ready for pHATmatik PRO in February.

Introduction

Welcome to Bitshift Audio's pHATmatik, a FREE REX/pHAT File Player VSTi for Windows and Macintosh.

What is pHATmatik?

pHATmatik can load REX files (**type 1 only**) created by Propellerhead Software's authoring tool, ReCycle, or .pHAT files (you'll just have to wait and see). Each slice of the REX file is essentially a sample in pHATmatik, allowing you to trigger individual transients from the original loop via MIDI note-on messages. pHATmatik can also extract the MIDI timing information from the REX file and save it to a Standard Midi File for import into your VSTi host. pHATmatik also has a few features for munging the sound of the original loop, as we'll see later.

What's a VSTi?

Virtual Studio Technology instrument. The VST standard, authored by Steinberg Media Technologies enables third-party developers to create effects and instruments that can be used in any VST-compatible host, such as Steinberg Cubase, Emagic Logic, FruityLoops, or any of a host of others. This means that pHATmatik, like all VSTi's, requires a host application to run. There are tons of commercial, share- and freeware VST hosts for both Windows and Macintosh. If you'd like to learn more or find a host so you can run pHATmatik, check out <http://www.kvr-vst.com> for a full list. While you're there you can check out all of the other great VSTi's available, read user's reviews, and maybe even leave one yourself for the pHAT.

Okay, what are REX/pHAT files?

REX and .pHAT files contain audio just like a regular .wav or .aiff file (in fact, both are AIFF file types). However, both file types contain additional information about the audio, namely, the precise timing of transient events in the original loop. Tools that support the REX/pHAT format can then load files and playback the original loop at any given tempo *without any change in pitch*. You can also change the pitch of the loop without changing its tempo. The first time you ride the pitch bend wheel over a loop in realtime, you'll see why this is so much fun.

REX can be created with any of a number of third-party tools, and both REX and pHAT files can be created pHATmatik's big brother, pHATmatik PRO.

You don't need to have pHATmatik PRO to use the loops, though. You can get free REX/pHAT loops from our website, <http://www.bitshiftaudio.com> -- baked fresh every couple of days! There are dozens of REX file sample CDs available from several of the large sample houses. Be sure to check out Primesounds at <http://www.primesounds.com> a samplehead's dream come true; an infinitely large sample library for the downloading for a small monthly subscription fee. You know, I think this whole internet thing might really take off.

Getting pHATmatik

Just point your browser at <http://www.bitshiftaudio.com> and download the zip or sit, whichever is appropriate for your platform.

Installation

Installation on Windows

Simply unzip the phatmatik.zip file and place the phatmatik.dll file in your host's VstPlugins directory. **NOTE FOR WINDOWS USERS:** If your host complains that it cannot find MSVCP60.dll (or if your host crashes) when you try to load pHATmatik, download it from <http://www.bitshiftaudio.com/download/msvcp60.dll> and place it in your System32 directory. Thanks, Bill.

Installation on Macintosh

Unstuff the sit file and place the enclosed VST Plugin in your host's VstPlugins directory.

Getting Started

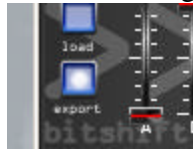
Cubase

Once you've placed the phatmatik library in your VstPlugins directory, start Cubase.

1. Go to Panels->VST Instruments
2. From the VST Instruments window select 'phatmatik' from the drop down
3. Click on 'Edit' in the VST Instruments window next to pHATmatik.
4. Marvel at that sexy interface!
5. Think about how irritating documentation writers are.
6. Click on 'Load' -- Select a REX file in the file dialog.



7. At this point you can play the individual slices via midi. Try It!
8. If you want to get the original groove going, Click on 'Export' and use the File Dialog to save a Standard Midi File of the original groove.



9. Now use Cubase's File->Import->Midi File... menu to import the Midi file you just saved.
10. Set the MIDI track's output to 'phatmatik (V1)'



11. Push play... pHAT!

Logic Audio

(big thanks to Karl Sandin)



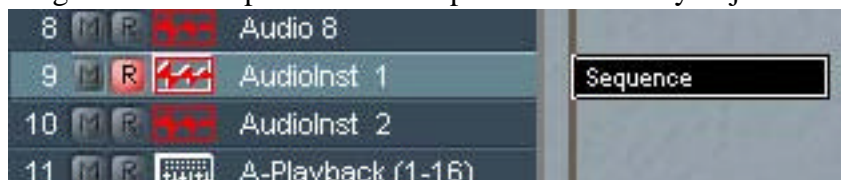
1. Select an audio instrument track (i.e. AudioInst 1)



2. Open up your Track Mixer window or the audio layer of the Environment window.
3. From the AudioInst object select the instrument – ‘Stereo/VST/phantatik’



4. Click on ‘Load’ –Select a REX file. Play the slices via midi.
5. Click on ‘Export’ and use the File Dialog to save a Standard Midi File of the original groove.
6. Use Logic’s File ->Import menu to import the midi file you just saved.



pHATmatik Interface Reference

