P&M Chainer - User Manual

Plug & Mix is thrilled to announce **P&M Chainer**, a great new way to host P&M Plug-ins and other VST's inside of your DAW. **P&M Chainer** works as a VST Wrapper inside of all major recording host applications and can open up many creative sound layering and effects chaining options. **P&M Chainer** was made with Pro Tools users in mind, as it includes AAX 64bit format plug-in versions that allow you to wrap any VST instrument or effect inside of Pro Tools. In addition to being a versatile audio effect rack, **P&M Chainer** plug-in also doubles as virtual instrument host that can be inserted on any MIDI /Instrument track. With **P&M Chainer** you can merge all of the best production tools in one easy to use plug-in.

Key Features:
- VST plug-in host for use inside of all major DAWs.
- Convenient rack-based effect chaining.
- Multiple effects racks with serial and parallel routing schemes.
- Custom displays for visualizing sound output.
- Includes AAX 64bit version for use inside of Pro Tools... a full featured VST wrapper.
- MIDI enabled plug-in allows for loading virtual instruments as well as audio effects.

Table of Contents

In this manual you will find the following information on how to install, authorize and start using your new plug-ins:

KNOWN ISSUES / COMPATIBILITY ISSUES
        01 - Mac OS X Yosemite : When used with 32bit hosts, P&M Chainer may introduce window flickering.
        02 - Depending the host used, the Analyzer may respond differently and may be slower from host to host.
        03 - Depending on the VST version used, VST plug-ins may crash the Plug-In Manager.
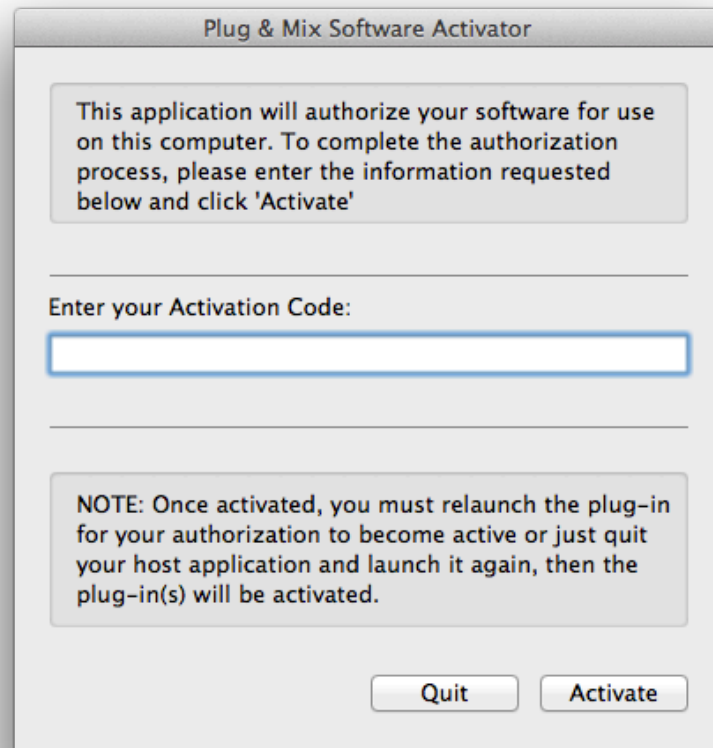
Installation & Authorization

After downloading the **P&M Chainer** installer, launch the Installer.

Go through the installation steps and click install. Once the installer is complete go back to 'Authorize your Software' folder and launch the 'Software Activator'.

Copy/Paste the Activation Code you received via email after purchase into the Software Activator.

Click Activate. You should see a message saying you are now authorized.

WINDOWS VST INSTALL LOCATION

Where should I install the VST plug-ins on my Windows Computer?:

IMPORTANT: Per default the installer will install the VST plug-ins into:

(64 bit system) C:\Program Files\Vstplugins\Plug and Mix
(32 bit system) C:\Program Files (x86)\Vstplugins\Plug and Mix

To change the install location, click the 'Change' button and select another location. (See picture below)

The VST Plug-Ins can be installed to any location on your hard drive. However, every host or sequencer allows the user to set the VST Plug-Ins path in its preferences, so you have to make sure that you install the VST plug-in to the correct location defined in your host in order to use it.

Saving Presets

Saving presets with **P&M Chainer** is easy.

Click on the Preset menu located at the top of the plug-in.

To save a new preset, simply choose Save New Preset As and give the preset a new name. Your new preset can be located in the 00-User Presets folder.

To overwrite the currently loaded preset, Choose Save Current Preset.

VST DEMO MODE:
All VST's loaded into **P&M Chainer** will save their settings with your session. VST plug-in settings can even be recalled when **P&M Chainer** is in demo mode, however, the sound will bypass every 45 seconds until you fully authorize the plug-in. If **P&M Chainer** is not properly authorized, it will display (VST Demo) after the Version number in the bottom right hand corner of the plug-in window:

Plug-in Description

P&M Chainer opens up Pro Tools 11 and other major DAWs to the vast universe of 3rd party VST effects plug-ins. **P&M Chainer** allows up to 64 VST effects plug-ins to be loaded simultaneously per instance. Mix and match your best 3rd party VST effects and save your favorite combinations for later use.

*Note: Plug & Mix recommends you only use as many effects in **P&M Chainer** as your computer's CPU can normally handle. Overloading your session with too many plug-ins can result in crashing and lost work. Always remember to Save your work!

SLOTS

1. To get started, Click the Triangle next to an Empty Chainer Slot:

A drop down menu will appear. From this drop down menu you can:

a. **Choose** from any authorized P&M Plug-in or 3rd party VST Plug-in (audio effect or instrument) in your library.
b. **Remove** the VST Plugin you have loaded in to the Chainer Slot.
c. **Manage VST Plug-ins** (Recommended for first time use of P&M Chainer - scanning can take a long time depending on how many plug-ins you have in your library).

Choosing a Plug-in from the list will load the VST into the Chainer, causing it to illuminate:

2. **Editor** launches the VST's GUI below so you can edit the plug-ins parameters.
3. **IN** engages that Slot's bypass so you can bypass that plug-in in the Chainer.
4. **S** Solo's that particular slot so you can only hear that plug-in in the Chainer.

RACKS

5. Choose from 4 Racks: A, B, C or D. Each rack can load up to 8 VSTs in each slot.
6. Power button for the selected Rack. Bypasses all instruments and effects loaded into the selected rack.
7. Choose from Serial or Parallel Routing. All racks can be processed in order (Serial) or simultaneously (Parallel).
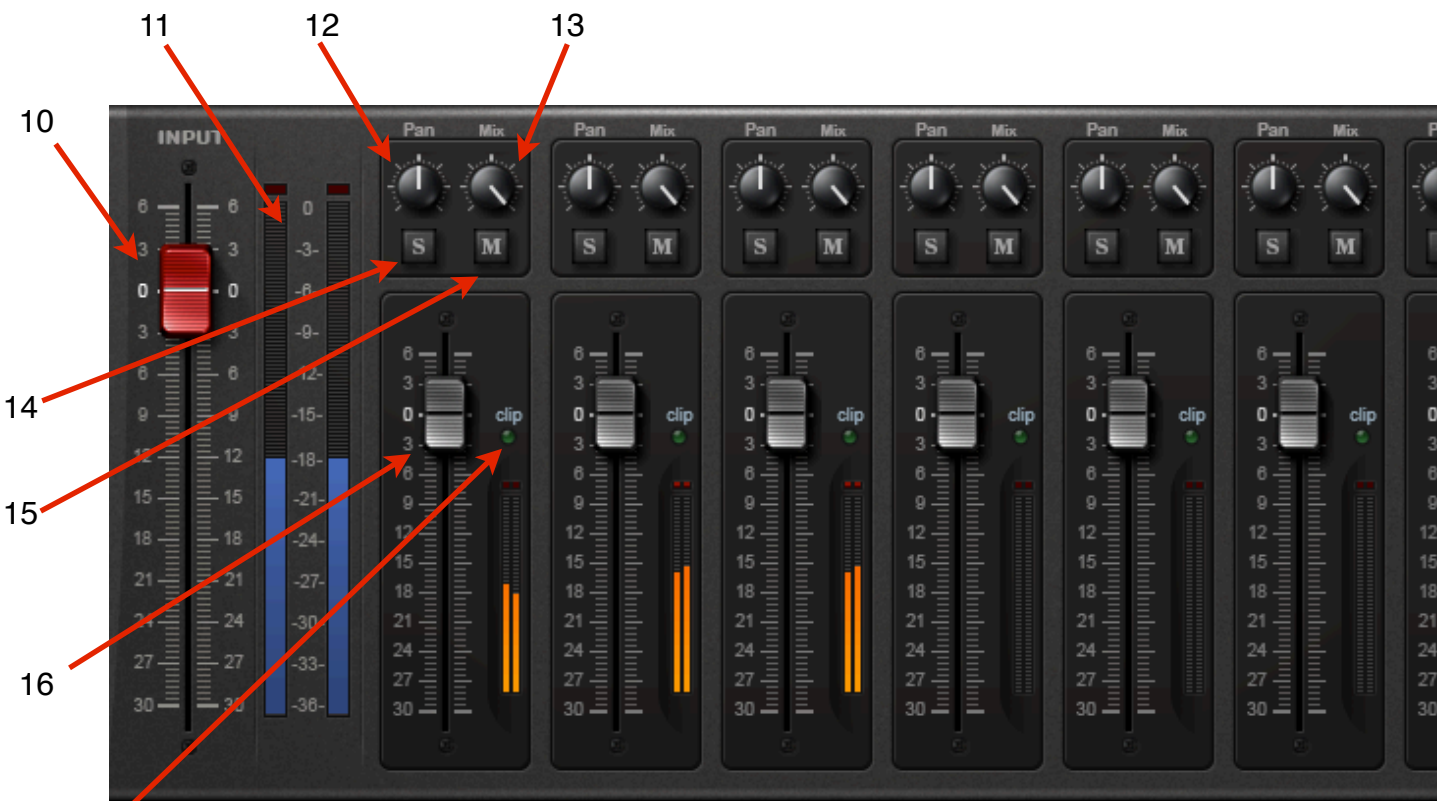

8. Choose between Editor and Mixer view.
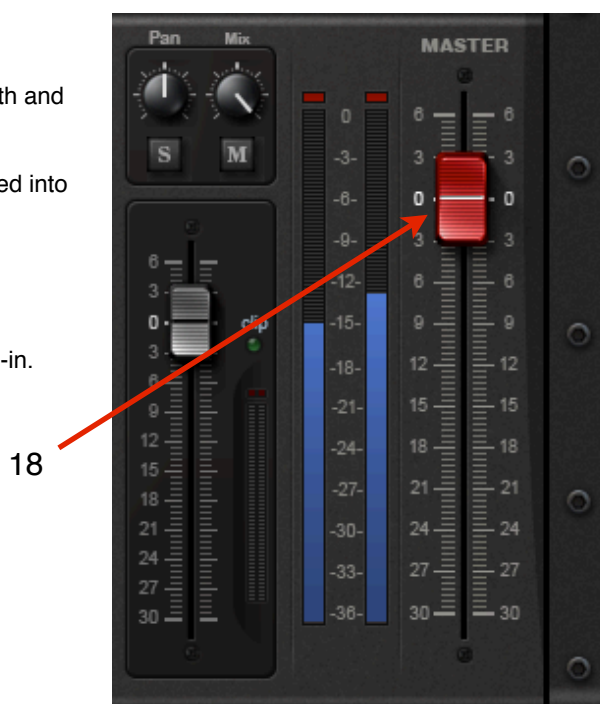9. MIDI Reset: click this if you get a stuck MIDI note.

MIXER

The mixing section below gives you more control over the slots in the selected rack.

10. **Input** sets volume of the incoming signal.
11. **Input Signal Meter** shows you the incoming signal strength and shows if the signal is clipping.
12. **Pan** knob controls the panorama of the slot.
13. **Mix** knob controls the dry/wet mix of the effect that is loaded into the slot.
14. **Solo** button solos the slot.
15. **Mute** button mutes the slot.
16. **Volume** fader controls the level of the slot.
17. **Clip** button turns on a signal clipper for the selected slot.
18. **Master** fader controls the overall volume of the entire plug-in.

Display Mode

P&M Chainer includes several display modes for visualizing your sound output:

SPECTRUM: Shows the EQ spectrum of the signal.

1/3 OCTAVE:

PHASE:

WAVEFORM:

BYPASS: Turns off the display.

<u>DISPLAY PREFERENCE MENU:</u>
Click the arrow next to the display window to choose:
- Hold Peak Information
- Hold Peak Color
- 1/3 Octave Fill
- 1/3 Octave Speed
- FFT Fill
- FFT Size
- FFT Speed

Changing these settings can result in increased CPU performance:

<u>BELOW THE DISPLAY:</u> When Editor mode is selected, a set of controls are made available (below the display window) which give you overall control of the entire plug-in:

IN: Controls input volume of the entire plug-in
OUT: Controls output volume of the entire plug-in
SPREAD: Controls the stereo width of the output signal.
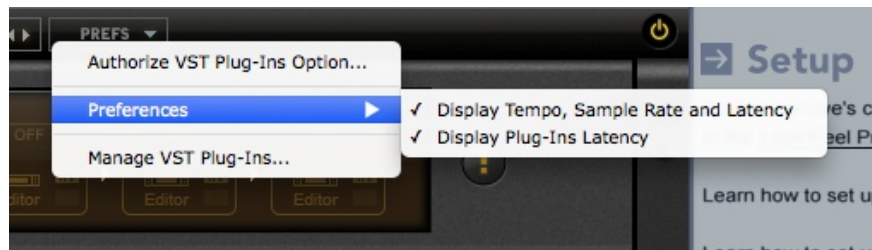CLIPPER: Turns on a Brick Wall limiter to prevent clipping the output.

Preferences & Automation

Preferences and Automation Menus are located at the top of the plug-in:

PREFS Menu: allows you to set the following Preferences:

    a. Display Tempo, Sample Rate and Chainer Latency

    b. Display Plug-ins Latency

    c. Manage VST Plug-ins (We recommend a Full Scan for first time use of P&M Chainer - scanning can take a long time depending on how many plug-ins you have in your VST Library).
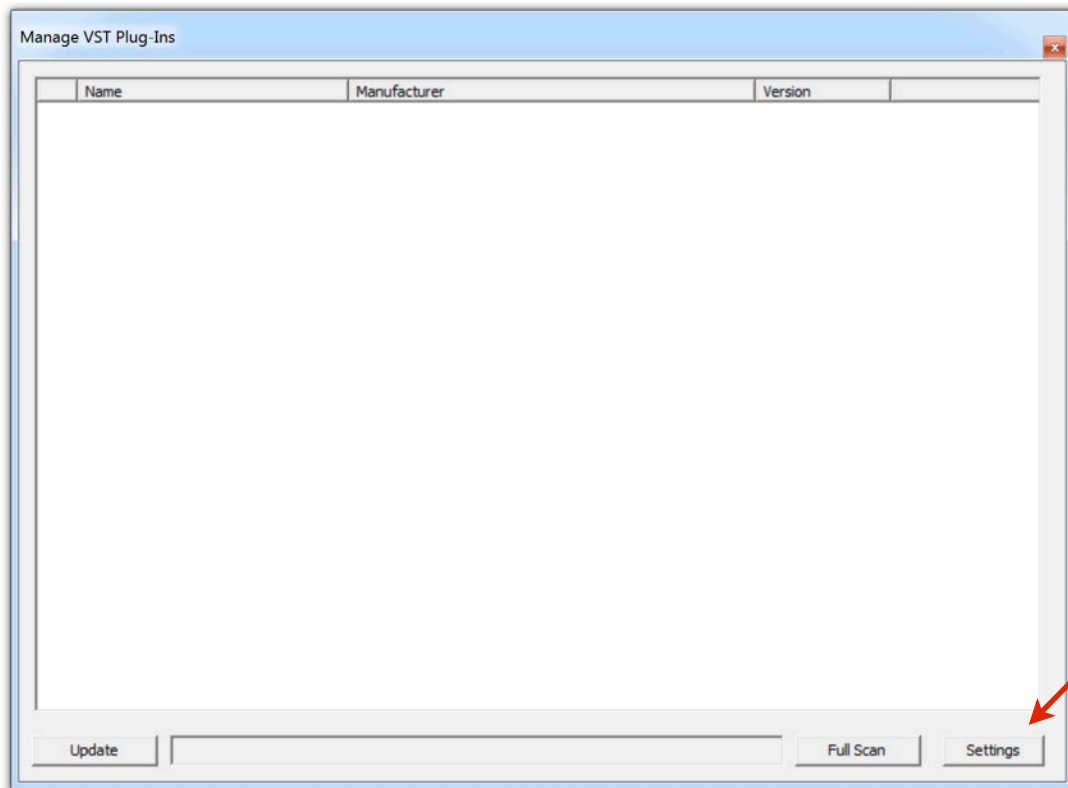

If you use a plug-in that introduces latency, you can view the total latency report in the bottom left hand corner of the plug-in. Each slot will also report the individual plug-in latency as well.
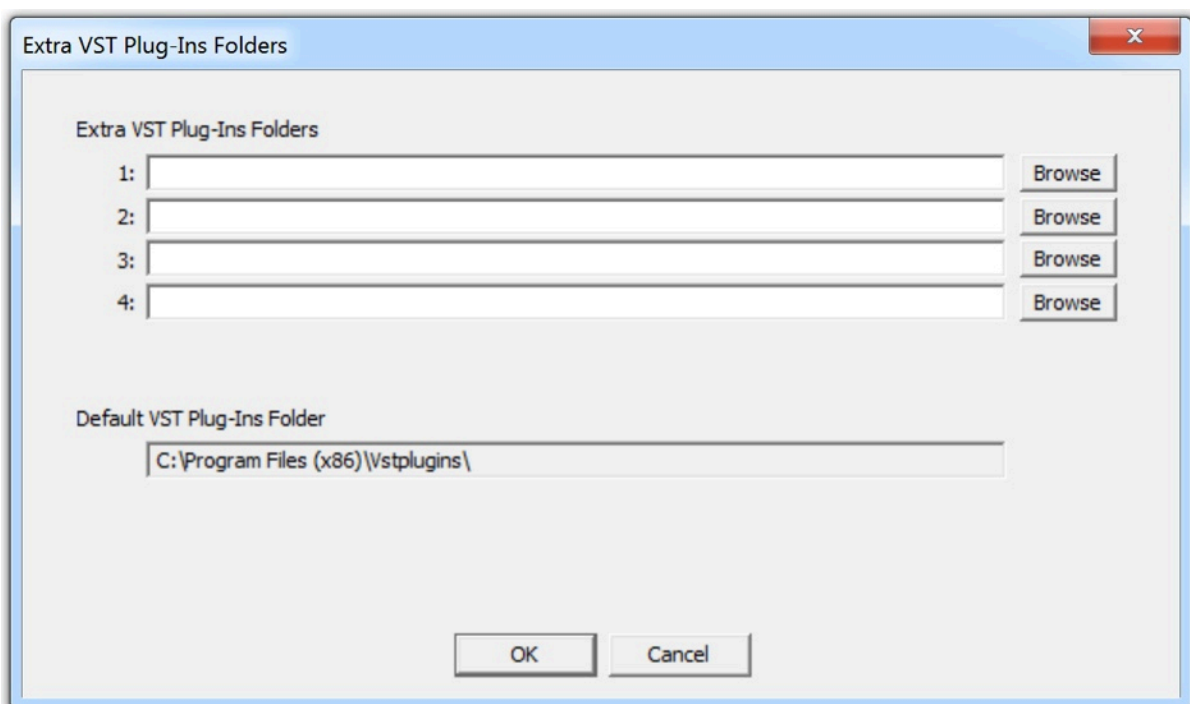
When using P&M Chainer on a WINDOWS System, the **Prefs** gives you an additional option to **Add Extra VST Plug-in Folders**. This will cause an additional window to pop up where you can add additional VST Plug-in folders for P&M Chainer to search.

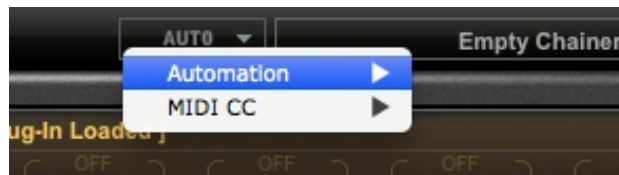In the MANAGE VST PLUG-INS window, click SETTINGS:

The EXTRA VST PLUG-INS FOLDERS window will pop up. Here you can add more VST folders for P&M Chainer to search.

AUTO Menu:
Enables Host Automation and MIDI CC control.
- Automation: Allows you to select the parameter you want to automate within your DAW host.
- MIDI CC: Allows you to map a MIDI controller. Enable a parameter by selecting it from the list and move a knob or slider on your external MIDI controller.
- Right-clicking (or Control-click if you have no mouse) on any parameter in Racks A-D allows you to assign Host Automation and MIDI CC.

Working with a plugin's controls in Rack View:
Right click (or Control-Click if you don't have a mouse) on a knob or slider to display a popup menu. The menu provides a quick alternative for enabling Host Automation, Midi CC and Modulation assignments:
- Quick Enable/Disable host automation
- Quick Enable/Disable Midi CC
- Quick Add/Enable/Disable/Remove Modulations