

Welcome to ircamLab The Snail!

The Snail is a very high-precision frequency-domain analyzer that delivers an intuitive and musical representation of sound.

It offers a new, extremely accurate way of tuning and analyzing an instrument, displaying intonation and visualizing music and sound, in a unique fashion so that anyone can improve their ear and intonation.

Operating System and Computer Requirements

The Snail works for :

- 64bit operating systems
- Mac OS 10.9 and later (including Big Sur and Monterey)
- Windows 7 or later 9
- Intel Mac or PC; ARM Mac (natively).

Environment

The Snail is installed as:

- Standalone application.
- VST3 plugin.
- AAX plugin (for Pro Tools).
- Audio Unit plugin (Mac only).

Installation

- Download and launch the latest version of The Snail, wrapped in a 'zip' file.
For Mac : open the 'dmg' image, double-click the **The Snail Installer.pkg** file.
For Windows : double-click the ircamLab **The Snail Installer.exe** file.
- Launch the installation package (« Standard » installation is recommended.)

Trial period and Registration

Upon the first installation, you are granted with a 15-day trial period, beyond which you must buy a license if you want to keep using the software.

You can purchase a perpetual license at <https://www.ircamlab.com/products/p2242-The-Snail/>

On the next pages are found the cumulative release notes for The Snail.

Release notes for The Snail 1.4.2 (June 2023)

Fixes & Improvements

- With multiple screens, the authorization floating panel could be inaccessible.

Release notes for The Snail 1.4.1 (July 2022)

Fixes & Improvements

- Deeper cleanup of older versions of plugins upon update (Mac)
- Menu keyboard shortcuts (such as Cmnd+Q) could be unresponsive (Mac)
- Transposing Instrument setting was not reflected in Zoomed Tuner View.
- Audio settings could be messed up in some rare configurations (Mac).

New Features

- Tuning reference and transposition are now displayed as overlay (left right corner).

Release notes for The Snail 1.4.0 (June 2022)

New Features & Improvements

- The Snail (app or plugin) now runs natively on Apple ARM machines.

Fixes

- Luminosity slider value was not taken into account immediately (sonagram view)
- Version number was incorrect (about box, Windows).
- A desktop shortcut creation was unreliable (Windows).

Release notes for The Snail 1.3.2 (October 2021)

New Features & Improvements

- Animated spiral upon launching.
- Mac app menu entirely redesigned.
- New menu item: "Go To ircamLab Support".
- macOS 10.9 is now the minimum requirement.
- Authorization text area has better length and character restrictions.

Fixes

- Authorization did not work anymore when offline.
- Advanced settings: font consistency.
- Wrong "revocation" message when authorizing.
- Crash upon authorization revocation.
- Installer background was too dark and hid the installation steps (mac only).

Release notes for The Snail 1.3.1 (September 2021)

New Features & Improvements

- Redesigned gain sliders (using consistent dB representation).
- Redesigned meter (with automatic mono/stereo view).
- "Mic gain" renamed "Input gain".
- "Visual gain" renamed "Visual emphasis".
- New Reduce GPU usage option (advanced settings).
- ASIO support.
- Filter added for all supported audio formats (standalone app, Open Audio File).
- Better preset management and user interface.
- Updated menu structure.
- Documentation update.

Fixes

- The Snail Audio Units plugin did not load in Logic Pro (macOS).
- "in" gain slider (standalone app's main toolbar) was hooked to nothing. It is now the same as the "Input gain" (advanced settings).
- Monitor input was always on no matter the button's state (standalone app).
- Documentation could not be opened from within the app or the plugin (Win).
- Load/Save preset did not work from the menu (macOS).
- Certain UI items could look garbled (Win).
- Buttons could have some intermediary non-deterministic state...
- French note label for Db was wrongly "Do b" (instead of "Ré b").

Release notes for The Snail 1.3.0 (July 2021)

New Features & Improvements

- New Color Grid option.
- New Click and Tune feature.
- New Show Grid option.
- Documentation update.
- Significantly improved performances and optimized file size.
- Updated installers with EULA (mac & windows).
- Updated authorization scheme and UI.
- Updated trial period scheme and UI.
- About panel with new Licence button (click on main icon to display)
- Product name changed: all files (standalone or plugins) now start with "The Snail"
- Improved text upon successful authorization

Fixes

- Undesired background issue
- Installer text issue
- Optimised GPU performance to reduce fan activity
- Flashy background for audio settings dlg
- Brief scratchy sound upon opening.

- OpenGL misc. updates to address reported incompatibilities
- Monophonic audio system (input and/or output) handled more gracefully.
- Fully mac signed and notarized installer for macOS 10.15 and up compatibility.
- Mac compatibility expected from 10.7 (Lion) to 11.1 (including on ARM machines with Rosetta2).

Release notes for The Snail 1.2.11

Fixes & Improvements

- Fix incorrect AAX bundle name issue causing the plugin to not load properly on Windows
- Product Name Change: note that the name has changed to “The Snail” (was previously “Snail Analyser”).
- Active input (standalone only): Input is now active by default when you launch the application. It has a preset fade-in to avoid pops/clicks/feedback.
- Interface Update: MIDI Note Octaves have changed, C4 is now MIDI note 60 (middle C). Previously it was C3. DAW’s have different octave numberings, we thought this the best.
- Hz Information Display
- In Snail, Zoomed Tuner and Sonogram views you will now see the Hz information display box in the top right-hand corner. As you center your mouse pointer on a note/thick blue line, you will see a green blob to indicate you are on that note. If you move away from the center you will see either an up or down arrow to indicate you are sharp ↑ or flat ↓.
- Key commands: In standalone, you can now press the “d” key to turn on/off Auto-Detect.
- Settings Panel Update: the Grid Range has changed (following the MIDI note update) Bb-1 to G9
- Cut Off Frequency Has Been Renamed: Cut Off Frequency is now called “Frequency Tracking”. This parameter sets a +/- range for frequency analysis. For precise tuning analysis, the optimum setting is 2Hz. If you have a sound however with lots of modulation (pitch deviation) happening, raising the frequency setting in conjunction with the Window Size will allow smoother analysis, particularly for low frequency sounds/content.
- Color Mode Order: The Color Modes have been reorganised to match the same as the left-hand panel.