

VST Macro Controls Reference Manual v1.3

for Windows and Mac

Reference Manual by killihu

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Plugins, skins and other resources for computer-based audio production

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This book has been inspired by the Ableton Live Reference Manual, with the aim of making it easier for Ableton Live users to read.

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Main information

1.1 Plugin Overview

VST Macro Controls allow you to control VST plugin parameters in a more advanced way than Live's Effects Rack device.

Unlike the Effects Rack which displays parameter values in a range from 0 to 127, VST Macro Controls displays the real values of VST plugin parameters. It is also possible to configure the controls as knobs or buttons, and the knobs can be configured in bipolar mode.

The device acts on VST plugins loaded in Live. This prevents VST plugin latency misreporting issues that can occur when wrapping VST plugins inside a Max for Live device, and also does not interfere with automation. So projects can be opened in versions of Live that don't have Max for Live.

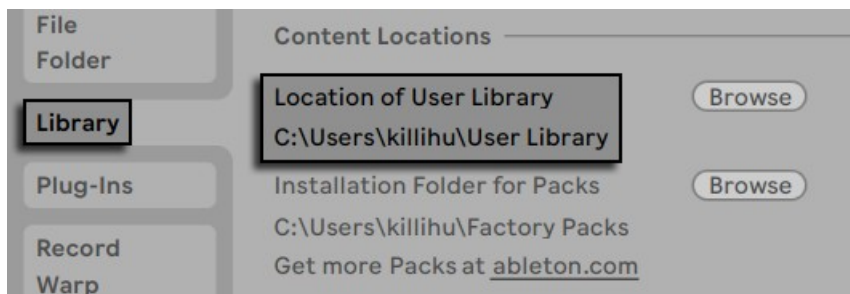
1.2 System Requirements

- Live Version: 10 / 11 / 12 with Max for Live
- Operating System: Windows, Mac

1.3 Installation Instructions

Unzip the ZIP file and copy the plugin amxd file to your User Library folder. There are two ways to find where your User Library is located:

Go to Preferences – Library – Location of User Library



Or [right-click] on the User Library in the Browser – Show in Explorer



Devices for controlling VST/AU effects and VST/AU instruments are included.

VST Macro Controls devices are designed to work with VST plugins on both Windows and Mac.

AU Macro Controls devices are designed to work with AU plugins on Mac. These devices have the option to display as a dropdown menu the controls of the AU plugins that are displayed as dropdowns in the Configure Mode of the plugin rack.

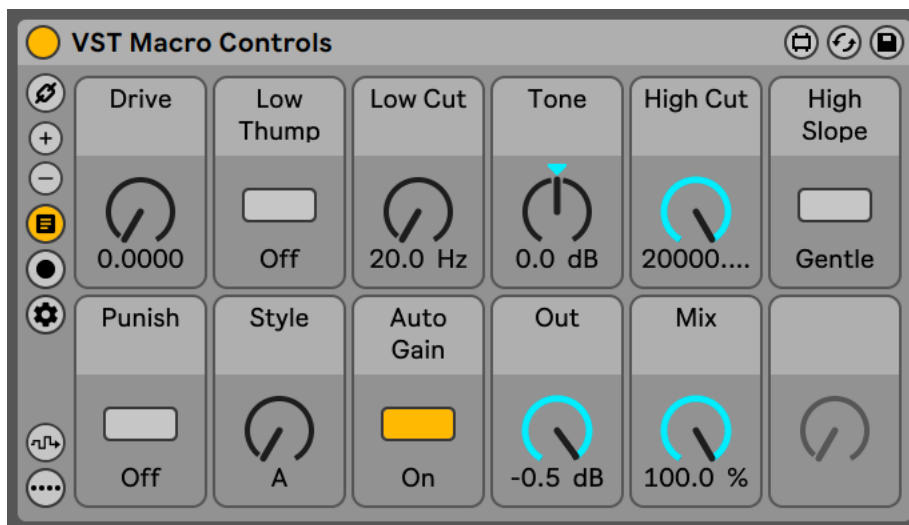
1.4 Usage

The device accesses the controls added to the plugin rack. The first step is to load a VST plugin and use the Configure button to add the parameters that you want to control from the device.

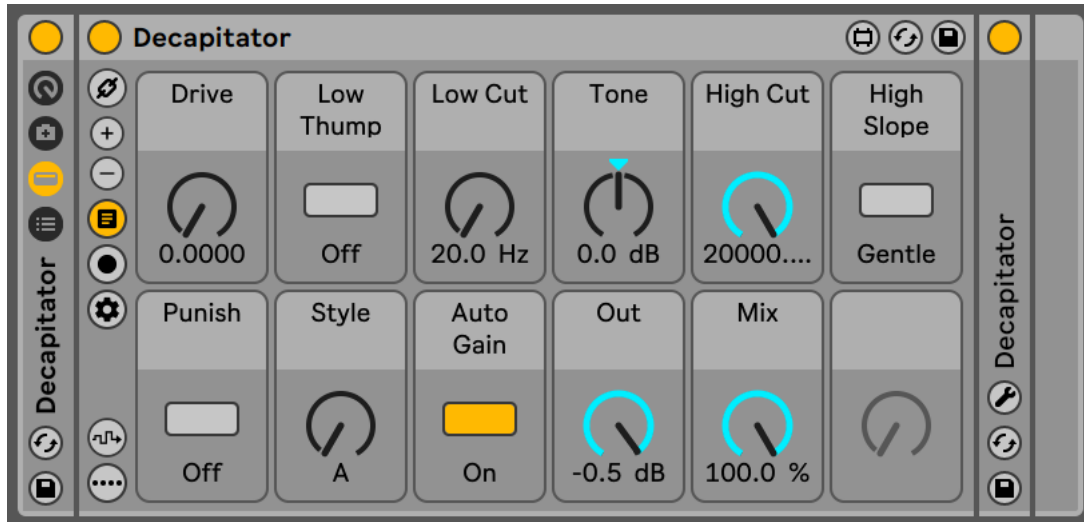


Then simply load the device before the VST plugin and it will automatically link the macro controls of the device with the controls of the VST plugin.

Set the device so that the appearance of the macro controls best matches each control of the VST plugin. Later in this manual it is explained how to do it.



Once you link the device to the VST plugin and configure the appearance of the device's macro controls, you can group them into a Live rack and save a preset for future use.



When using the controls in the floating window of the VST plugin, the device controls move at the same time. When using the device controls, the VST plugin controls also move at the same time.

When changing the preset in the VST plugin the device also updates the controls. This works with most VST plugins. In some VST plugins changing the preset does not update the device controls, this is due to how each VST plugin has been programmed.

1.5 Automation and Remote Control

The device does not take exclusive control of the VST plugin. Live doesn't detect any changes to the device, it detects the changes in the VST plugin, so no extra steps are added to the undo history.

If you want to automate controls do it directly from the VST plugin. If you want to use an external controller put the focus (blue hand) on the VST plugin, not on the device.

This means that the device cannot be controlled remotely and cannot be used with external controllers such as Push. In summary, the remote control of the VST plugin must be done on the VST plugin, the device does not intervene in this process.

Controls

2.1 Link



When the device is loaded, it is linked to the VST plugin located to its right. The Link button performs the same action.

2.2 Number of Controls



Buttons to increase or decrease the number of visible macro controls, a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 16.

2.3 Custom Names



Some plugins display unfriendly parameter names. By activating this control, custom names can be displayed for each macro control.

To change the name of the macro controls activate the Configure control of the device and click on the name of the macro control that you want to change.

The position of the custom names is fixed to each slot of the macro controls. It does not change when the VST plugin Configure Mode parameters are reordered.

2.4 Return to Default



Live's controls return to their default position when you double-click them. On the device this does not work the same way.

Activating this control will show a circular button in each macro control. Clicking the button will return the macro control to its default position.

2.5 Configure



Activating this control will show the configuration of the macro controls. Also when activated it will be possible to rename the custom names of the macro controls.

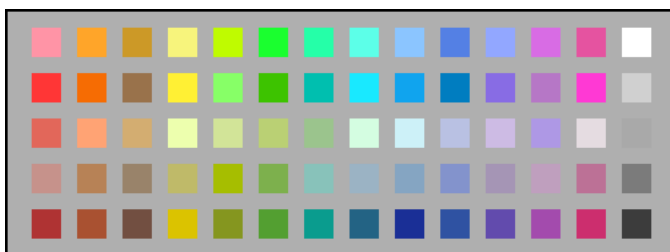


2.5.1 Macro Style

Below each macro control is a menu where you can choose its appearance. The available options are Knob, Knob Bipolar or Button. AU Macro Controls has one more option called Menu to display the controls of the AU plugins that are displayed as dropdowns in the Configure Mode of the plugin rack.

2.5.2 Macro Color

It is possible to set custom colors for each macro control such as for Live's Effects Rack. A small square button is displayed for each macro control. Clicking on it displays the color selection window.



2.6 Randomize



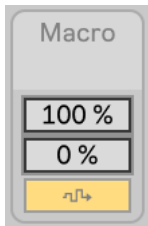
Clicking this button randomizes the values of the macro controls.

2.7 Range Settings



Activating this control shows the range settings of the macro controls.

2.7.1 Range Min/Max



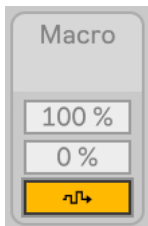
These controls set the range of values sent by the macro control and also the range of values over which the Randomize action will act.

The upper control corresponds to the maximum value and the lower control corresponds to the minimum value.

It is possible to set a maximum value lower than the minimum value to reverse the operation of the macro control.

By using these controls, the position of the VST parameter is instantly modified. This makes it easier to adjust the range of values used in each Macro Control.

2.7.2 Randomize Lock



When this switch is enabled. The Randomize action will act on the macro control.

When this switch is disabled. The Randomize action will not act on the macro Control.