ACID PHRASE GENERATOR / SOFTWARE INSTRUMENT

ACID!

v1.0.2 / English Manual

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01 / CONCEPT

What is ACID!

A software instrument for generating large numbers of musical acid phrases and reaching a usable performance with very few operations.

Not unrestricted random

The generator evaluates repetition, variation, repeated notes, rests, syncopation, Accent, Slide, pitch movement, phrase endings, bar relationships and STYLE consistency, then chooses from multiple candidates.

ACID! is the entry point

Choose KEY, SCALE, STYLE, BARS and, if needed, ACID RANGE, then press the central ACID! button. The design prioritizes immediate musical results over detailed sequencer editing.

VST3 AU Standalone Universal Binary MIDI IN / OUT

Quick Start

01 Choose KEY / SCALE / STYLE / BARS - defaults are C / Minor / Classic / 1 Bar.

02 Set ACID RANGE if needed - LOW / HIGH or AUTO.

03 Press ACID! - multiple candidates are generated and evaluated before a phrase is chosen.

04 Shape the sound - Waveform, Filter, ENV, DECAY, DRIVE, MUTANT, DISTORTION, DELAY and VOLUME.

05 Use CC REC if needed - record playback-sound parameter movements for MIDI DRAG.

06 DRAG MIDI -> DAW - place the finished performance as a Standard MIDI File.

07 Switch to MIDI MODE - play the DAW MIDI through the same msk ACID! sound engine.

> **Important**
>
> MIDI does not re-trigger generation actions. MIDI MODE is designed to reproduce the finished PLAY MODE result as closely as possible.

Interface

The image shows the actual v1.0.2 interface. In Standalone, click the BPM display at the top-right to enter a tempo from 20 to 400 BPM. The default VOLUME is 80%.

Generation

KEY / SCALE / STYLE / BARS / ACID RANGE / ACID! / VARIATION

Sound

Waveform / Cutoff / Resonance / ENV / DECAY / DRIVE / MUTANT / DISTORTION / DELAY / VOLUME

Performance / MIDI

PLAY / STOP / CC REC / CLEAR CC / MIDI DRAG / PLAY MODE / MIDI MODE

Phrase Generation

KEY

C through B. Default: C.

SCALE

Minor / Major / Dorian / Phrygian / Chromatic / Acid. Default: Minor.

STYLE

Classic / Rolling / Syncopated / Hypnotic / Aggressive / Melodic / Weird. Weird remains musically constrained.

BARS

1 / 2 / 4 / 8 bars. Default: 1.

ACID!

Generates and evaluates multiple candidates from the current KEY / SCALE / STYLE / BARS / ACID RANGE / ACID Slider settings, then chooses a new phrase.

ACID RANGE / OCTAVE

ACID RANGE

LOW is -1 / 0 and HIGH is 0 / +1. Default: LOW 0 / HIGH 0. Expanding the range still discourages uncontrolled repeated large jumps.

AUTO

Default OFF. When ON, each ACID! press selects LOW / HIGH with STYLE-weighted probabilities. VARIATION and RANDOMIZE do not reroll it.

OCTAVE

Shifts the PLAY MODE phrase by -1 / 0 / +1 octave. Default: 0.

BARS

As phrases get longer, balancing repetition and variation becomes more important.

VARIATION / History

VARIATION

Applies a variation without fully discarding the existing phrase identity.

Previous / Next

Moves backward/forward through phrase history, including results after ACID!, VARIATION, RANDOMIZE, DESTROY and RESET.

> RANDOMIZE and DESTROY are mainly about timbre; VARIATION is mainly about the phrase.

Waveform / Filter

Waveform

PULSE / SAW / SINE / NOISE / FM. CC20.

Cutoff

60 Hz - 18 kHz. Default 720 Hz. CC74.

Resonance

0.0 - 1.0. Default 0.62. CC71.

Filter is central

Large Cutoff and Resonance controls make fast acid timbre changes easy.

08 / TONE

ENV / DECAY / DRIVE / MUTANT / VOLUME

ENV

Filter Envelope Amount. 0.0 - 1.0, default 0.64. CC21.

DECAY

0.04 - 1.60 s, default 0.34 s. CC22.

DRIVE

0.7 - 8.0, default 2.1. CC23.

MUTANT

Macro combining wavefolding, FM-like/ring-mod-like modulation, filter modulation and crusher-style processing. CC24.

DISTORTION / DELAY

DISTORTION 0-128 (CC25). DELAY 0-128, BPM-synced 1/8 note (CC26).

VOLUME

0-100%, default 80%. Internal master output after the sound engine and effects. Independent of the DAW track/mixer fader. CC27.

09 / PERFORMANCE

SWING / Accent / Slide

SWING

0-128, default 0. Delays even-numbered 16th-note steps and writes the actual timing into MIDI DRAG.

ACID Slider

0-128, default 64. Controls the amount/frequency of generated Slide.

Accent

Handled as a stronger performance internally; MIDI uses velocity 94 normally and 122 for Accent.

ACID Slide

Continuous pitch movement to the next note. MIDI uses note overlap + CC65 + CC5.

> Slide Time is derived from BPM and the 16th-note duration. Note overlap remains a fallback even if CC65/CC5 are missing.

RANDOMIZE / DESTROY / RESET

RANDOMIZE

Changes sound parameters, SWING, ACID Slider, DISTORTION and DELAY within practical ranges without changing the phrase. VOLUME is preserved.

UNDO RANDOMIZE

Restores one level of pre-RANDOMIZE parameter state.

DESTROY

Pushes MUTANT, Cutoff, Resonance, Waveform and related sound values into more extreme ranges without changing the phrase.

RESET

Returns all user parameters to startup defaults and clears CC recording, history, undo, voices, Delay tails and temporary MIDI MODE overrides. VOLUME returns to 80%.

v1.0.2

RESET is full initialization. Host DAW BPM and transport remain host-managed and are not changed. In Standalone, click the local BPM display to enter a tempo from 20 to 400 BPM.

PLAY MODE / MIDI MODE

PLAY MODE

Default. The internal sequencer plays ACID!-generated phrases. VST3/AU follows DAW transport.

MIDI MODE

Plays the same sound engine from incoming DAW/external MIDI notes and CC. The internal sequencer does not sound.

PLAY / STOP

PLAY is ON at startup. In PLAY MODE it arms the internal sequencer. STOP silences voices and Delay tails.

Standalone

Standalone runs PLAY MODE from its local clock instead of waiting for a DAW transport. Click the BPM display at the top-right to change it from 20 to 400 BPM. The default value is 128 BPM.

MIDI DRAG

Move the finished PLAY MODE performance into the DAW as a result, not as a re-roll command.

Standard MIDI File

960 PPQ / 4/4 / Tempo Meta Event

Included

Notes, timing, velocity, Accent, Slide, SWING, OCTAVE-applied note numbers, initial sound state, CC REC sound changes and VOLUME.

Not a generation command

Generation settings such as KEY / SCALE / STYLE / ACID RANGE are not written as re-roll commands; the completed result is stored.

01 PLAY MODE

02 CC REC (if needed)

03 DRAG MIDI -> DAW

04 MIDI MODE

CC REC / Snapshot / CLEAR CC

When CC REC is ON, playback-sound parameter movements in PLAY MODE are recorded for MIDI DRAG. The sound at the moment CC REC is enabled becomes the initial snapshot.

Initial snapshot

Waveform / Cutoff / Resonance / ENV / DECAY / DRIVE / MUTANT / DISTORTION / DELAY / VOLUME

Which state is used

With CC REC: the state when recording began.
Without CC REC: the current state at MIDI DRAG time.

CLEAR CC

Clears recorded live CC changes and the initial snapshot. A later MIDI DRAG uses the current sound as the initial state.

MIDI CC Map

MIDI MODE applies the following CC messages to playback. They reproduce the playable state rather than re-running generation actions.

CC	FUNCTION
CC5	Slide Time / Portamento Time
CC20	Waveform
CC21	ENV
CC22	DECAY
CC23	DRIVE
CC24	MUTANT
CC25	DISTORTION
CC26	DELAY
CC27	VOLUME - internal master output
CC65	Portamento ON / OFF
CC71	Resonance
CC74	Cutoff

> ACID! / VARIATION / Previous / Next / RANDOMIZE / UNDO RANDOMIZE / DESTROY / RESET / CLEAR CC are not CC targets.

Transport / BPM / Audio / HELP

BPM

VST3/AU follows host BPM, internally limited to 20-400 BPM. In Standalone, click the top-right display to change BPM from 20 to 400; the default BPM is 128.

Audio Output

Mono / Stereo Main Output. VOLUME is applied at the final internal output stage and remains separate from the DAW fader.

State save

Sound, VOLUME, generation settings, MODE, PLAY, CC REC and related parameters are stored/restored with plug-in state.

HELP

Built-in HELP covers operation, parameters, RESET, VOLUME, the CC map and PLAY MODE -> MIDI MODE recall.

System / Defaults

Version	v1.0.2
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OS	macOS
Format	VST3 / AU / Standalone
CPU	Apple Silicon / Intel
Binary	Universal Binary
Type	Software Instrument
MIDI	Input / Output
Audio	Mono / Stereo
Default KEY	C
Default SCALE	Minor
Default STYLE	Classic
Default BARS	1
Default OCTAVE	0
Default MODE	PLAY MODE
Default PLAY	ON
ACID RANGE	LOW 0 / HIGH 0 / AUTO OFF
Cutoff	720 Hz
Resonance	0.62
ENV	0.64
DECAY	0.34 s
DRIVE	2.1
MUTANT	0
SWING	0
ACID Slider	64
DISTORTION	0
DELAY	0
VOLUME	80% / CC27
Standalone BPM	128 default / 20-400 editable

> This manual is based on the formal msk ACID! v1.0.2 specification.

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