

ujam

# RETROCRAFT



User guide

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*RETROCRAFT 1.0 User Guide (revA)*

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# Welcome

Congratulations! You've just added a powerful new tool to your virtual studio. Like all UJAM plugins, this effect is designed to follow our philosophy of getting you professional results to make you sound better, while keeping you in the flow and giving you enough control.

At UJAM, we believe in frustration-free creativity. Instead of overwhelming you with an endless number of knobs and switches, we've packed complex studio-grade processors into an intuitive user interface that doesn't overwhelm but gives you almost endless creative options.

## What is Retrocraft?

Retrocraft is a complex multi effects plug-in that combines the character of classic analog equipment—such as tape recorders, vinyl players, radios, and vintage speakers—with a versatile collection of modern effects.

Designed to make lo-fi processing, aging, and sound destruction fast and inspiring, Retrocraft lets you add anything from subtle warmth and tape movement to vinyl degradation, distortion, and experimental textures. 150 presets provide high-quality starting points for adding character to vocals, instruments, and full mixes.

In addition to its vintage pre-amp, playback and speaker models, Retrocraft features six creative effects sections: LoFi, Modulation, Instability, Chop, Delay, and Reverb. Each section offers six modes and macro controls, making it easy to transform sounds from gently colored to completely reimagined.

# Installation & Activation

We've worked to make the "boring stuff" as easy as possible:

## Download

- Get the [UJAM App](#) for your OS. This is your "Backstage" hub that handles downloads, activation, and manages sample content.

## Login

- Launch the UJAM App and sign in with your email and password.
- Check out the Settings in the upper right to configure things like silent install, desired plug-in formats, and more.

## Install

- Use the "My Products" filter or the search field to find it.
- Click *Install* – the app will automatically download the content and put it where it belongs. It will also automatically activate the license on your computer. (Click the sync icon at the top in case the UJAM App doesn't match the products in [your account](#).)

# Quick Start

If you're the type (like many of us) who just likes to jump in and explore, try this after following the prompts to install RETROCRAFT:

1. Open a project in your DAW and click a track's *Effect* slot
2. Select RETROCRAFT
3. Play some audio and step through the Presets at the top
4. Turn the knobs, click the switches, change the options
5. If it sounds good... stop and enjoy it. If not, adjust some more!
6. Click the dice at the top to generate new presets for you - great if you're looking to be surprised.
7. Read on for more in-depth info

# Reference

## User Interface

The RETROCRAFT UI is designed to keep you in the "flow state" with intuitive but powerful controls. While it offers detailed and almost limitless options, it is deliberately designed so there are no "wrong choices." There are four basic sections, horizontally from top to bottom:



The top row of controls are used to load the factory/user settings, randomize settings, resize the window, or see info about the plug-in.

Just below that you'll find the 'hardware' section with options to select and adjust the Amplifier, Player and Speaker.

The bottom half has six effects to recreate the character of older systems, and along the bottom are settings to control levels, mix and tone.

Read on for details about each.

## Presets & Info Section



- **Presets pop-up** allows direct selection of any of the Factory or User presets.
- Use the < or > buttons to step through the presets.
- **Dice icon** is the 'surprise' control which randomizes all settings. Use it to let RETROCRAFT create entirely new presets or starting points for you - instant inspiration!
- Click the **Undo** and **Redo** controls (on either side the the Dice icon) to step back or forward through your changes.
- **Save** writes your changes to a User preset. (If you make changes to a *factory* preset, use *Save As* to create a *user* preset from those new settings.)
- **Save As** creates a new (user) preset. Use this after modifying a factory preset, or if you want to make an alternate copy of a user preset.
- **Bell icon** – This will light up if a new version of the plug-in becomes available.
- **Resize** toggle – Changes the size of the window between maximum and minimum.
- The circled "i" – opens the About page to show things like the installed version as well as links to the product page, the user guide, license agreement, etc.

# Hardware Section



This section lets you build the basic ‘character’ of your sound, making it sound like it is played back using analog equipment such as pre-amps, tapes/vinyl and speakers. Choose a ‘normal’ combination like Solid State+Cassette+Car Stereo or mix them up for new and creative sounds. The **switch** in the upper left turns this section on or off and the Analog Mix knob lets you blend the sound of this section with the unaffected (dry) signal – adjust that anywhere between 0 (dry) and 100% (wet).

The 3 main sections (along with the options for each) are:

- **Amplifier** – Adjust the Drive, Color, Mix and Punish (boost) for the selected type of electronics:
  - **Tube** is vacuum tube commonly used in vintage amps for a ‘warm’ distorted sound.
  - **Solid State** is an electronic device known for a clean (some might say ‘sterile’) sound and rather bright distortion.
  - **Plasma** delivers ultra-high fidelity and exceptional clarity, but might lack a bit in bass response.
  - **Transformer** offers a wide frequency response, with rich harmonic distortion.
  - **Inductor** provides vintage-style coloration with subtle saturation and harmonic richness.

- **Player** – Adjust the Drive, Speed, Noise and Mix for the recording device:
  - **Dictaphone** is the updated (but now also vintage) Microcassette version of the recorder used to capture dictation (and answering machines before voicemail).
  - **Cassette** is a small tape-based cartridge commonly users in cars and boom boxes prior to the introduction of CDs.
  - **Reel-To-Reel** is a more professional version of tape recorder often used in studios prior to the introduction of Digital Audio Workstations.
  - **Shellac** is the old 78 RPM records our grandparents listened to because they didn't have soundcloud.
  - **Vinyl** is a more 'modern' record with improved quality but still that vintage 'crackling' sound we have recreated even though it was an annoyance back in the day.
- **Speaker** – Adjust the Color & Mix and choose your output:
  - **Gramophone** is a physical flaring horn that translates the grooves from those old Shellac records into sound.
  - **Megaphone** lets you sound like you are at a rally (without having to confront anyone).
  - **Telephone** is a classic squashed and frequency limited sound from a speaker that was way too small.
  - **Toy Phone** is the kid's version with even less quality.
  - **Radio** is the sound of a portable boom box (roller skates and headband optional).
  - **Car Stereo** recreates the classic sound of car speakers where many fans listened to their favorite bands (which is why many bands checked their mixes in their cars).

## Effects Section



RETROCRAFT includes six effects that make the 'hardware' more realistic or can be used to create more extreme sounds.

These let you change the quality, character, add echo and ambience, and even create 'sliced up' sounds.

Each effect has an on/off toggle, main control (typically for the amount of effect), one or two additional controls, and 6 different modes to provide a wide range of possibilities.

Your audio passes through these in order from left to right, though there is a "Pre Reverb" option for Chop which swaps those. Try it both ways to decide if you want your reverb sliced up (more dramatic), or want your slices reverberated (more subtle).

## Lo-Fi

- Creatively reduces the audio quality to add harmonics and degradation.
- The **main knob** sets the amount.
- **Frequency** sets the maximum high frequency.
- Modes:
  - Bitcrush – *Reduces bit depth for gritty digital distortion and retro crunch*
  - Lo-Fi – *Adds vintage character with reduced fidelity, warmth, and texture*
  - Static – *Blends in noise and crackle reminiscent of worn analog media*
  - Satellite – *Creates the thin, compressed sound of a distant radio transmission*
  - Inharmonic – *Introduces dissonant overtones and metallic artifacts for experimental textures*
  - Ring Mod – *Multiplies the signal with a carrier tone, producing bell-like and robotic effects*



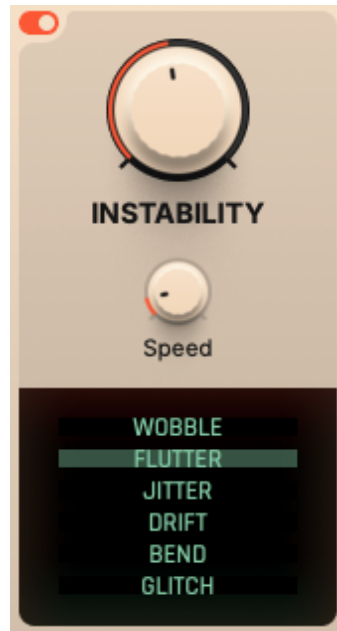
## Mod

- Audio effects that continuously change over time, adding movement, depth, and texture.
- The **main knob** sets the amount.
- **Speed** sets how slow/fast the effect is.
- **Depth** sets the intensity of the effect
- Modes:
  - Chorus – *Thickens the sound by adding subtly detuned, moving copies*
  - Ensemble – *Creates a rich, lush texture known from vintage string machines*
  - Flanger – *Sweeps through the spectrum for a distinctive jet-like effect*
  - Phaser – *Adds smooth, swirling motion with shifting phase cancellation*
  - Env Comb – *adds a comb filter effect - a more distinct flanging - controlled by the input audio level*
  - LFO Filter – *Modulates a synthesizer filter with an LFO for rhythmic tonal movement*



## Instability

- Recreates the timing problems inherent to tape based players, analog voltages and digital converters.
- The **main knob** controls the amount.
- **Speed** controls how fast the effect is.
- Modes:
  - *Wobble – Adds slow, uneven pitch variations for an unstable analog feel*
  - *Flutter – Introduces fast pitch fluctuations reminiscent of tape playback*
  - *Jitter – Creates subtle random pitch and timing inconsistencies*
  - *Drift – Gradually shifts pitch over time for a naturally imperfect character known from analog synth oscillators*
  - *Bend – Applies expressive pitch bends and detuning movements*
  - *Glitch – Produces abrupt pitch jumps and digital-style artifacts*



## Delay

- A variety of analog, digital and creative echo effects.
- The **main knob** controls the level of the delay(s), with **Time** controlling the delay speed (synced to your project) and **Feedback** for the number of repeats.
- Modes:

**Mono** – *Simple center-panned repeats even if the input is stereo (might be a good complement to a wide source)*

**Stereo** – *Wide airy repeats on both sides simultaneously (try this on a mono vocal)*

**Ping-Pong** – *Alternating left and right echoes*

**Grain** – *The delayed signal is softened up by granular synthesis*

**Detuned** – *The echoes are thick and chorused/detuned*

**Filtered** – *Echo gradually darkened by a synth filter with tape-style speed changes*



## Reverb

- An ambient effect that simulates different real and artificial spaces
- The **main knob** controls the amount of reverb. **Time** controls how short or long the reverb lasts.
- Modes:

**Room** – *Short & cozy, when you want it to sound like you're singing in the living room.*

**Plate** – *One of the most common effects which makes vocals and instruments sound bright and shiny.*

**Hall** – *Big, wide, and grand. Think cathedrals, orchestras, and sounding like you're 50 feet away.*

**Gated** – *A huge explosion of sound that gets suddenly choked off. Basically... the "Phil Collins" drum sound.*

**Reverse** – *The sound swells backwards into the note. Great for psychedelic trips or scary transitions.*

**Infinity** – *For a sound that never ends. Turn your vocals, guitars or pads into a giant, beautiful cloud that lasts as long as you want.*



## Chop

- Slices, rearranges, and repeats small segments of audio to create “creative irritation” by new, rhythmic or melodic patterns.
- The **main knob** adjusts the amount of the effect.
- The **Pre Reverb switch** puts the CHOP effect before or after the DELAY and REVERB effects.
- The **Rate knob** controls the timing (and follows the tempo of your project).
- Modes:

**Repeat** – *Simply repeats slices of your audio*

**Reverse** – *Flips the slices to play them backwards*

**Random** – *Repeat, reverse, gate and and re-pitch slices*

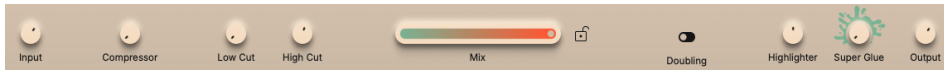
**Gate** – *Apply a pulsing gate / strobe effect*

**Pump** – *classic sidechain compressor effect (great for EDM/Trance)*

**Freeze** – *Spectral sample and hold (AKA “drunk robot”)*



# Audio Controls Section



- Input** Set the level of the audio into the plug-in to avoid clipping or to fix low signal levels.
- Compressor** Compresses the signal (after the Input knob) to keep the level even and makes it a little snappier. Useful on very dynamic, unprocessed signals that might be too loud or quiet in different parts.
- Low Cut** Helps to eliminate rumbling, pops and wind noise. Set between 20 Hz and 2 kHz to eliminate audio *below* that frequency.
- High Cut** Helps to reduce hiss and high-frequency noise. Adjust the frequency between 1 kHz and 25 kHz to eliminate audio *above* that frequency.
- Mix** This is the main balance between RETROCRAFT and your input signal. Set the Mix to 100% if you want to only hear the affected sound (like if you bus other tracks to an Aux track with RETROCRAFT) or somewhere in the middle if you want a blend of the original and processed signals.
- Mix Lock** Lock the Mix slider to keep its setting when changing presets. This is particularly useful with Retrocraft on an aux send where you don't ever want any original signal.
- Doubling** Simulates "double tracking" the signal and panning the two slightly different takes left and right for a wider

sound.

- Highlighter** Complex EQ curves boiled down into a simple tone control that goes from "solid" (-100) to "neutral" (0) to "bright" at maximum (+100).
- Super Glue** A bespoke, exaggerated dynamics processor that's designed to slam and squeeze your signal through the mix, creating very artificial dynamics. In extreme settings, it also creates cool ducking effects when used with delay and reverb present.
- Output** The level of the audio going out of the plug-in. Adjust this to set the level going into the next plug-in or for the level in your mix.

# Presets

RETROCRAFT includes 150 professional and versatile presets which can be used as-is, as 'demonstrations' of some of the possibilities, or as a starting point for your own sounds (use Save As to save your changes as User Presets).

They are creatively named and categorized by type. There's also a "Default" preset with all settings off/zeroed to give you a 'blank' canvas.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1920s HiFi  
Game Of Trons  
Great Depression  
Hissy Tape  
LoFi Piano  
Lunar Pad  
Metallurgy  
Party Next Door  
Punish Comb  
Retro Mix Glue  
Space Blurb  
Space Cowboys  
Tape Eating Echo  
Tube Compressor  
Worn Vinyl Record

## **AGING**

1920s HiFi  
Ancient Sustainer  
Beyond Repair  
Dads Turntable  
First Recording Ever  
Old But Not THAT  
Old  
Old Snappy  
Song I Made In 85  
Tape Eating Echo

Worn Vinyl Record  
Zero Fi

## **AMBIENT**

Berlin School 1964  
Berlin School 1975  
Ensemble Reverb  
First Vocoder  
Game Of Trons  
Infinite Clouds  
Mob Boog  
Space Transmission  
Tesseract  
Whiter Shade Of  
Whale

## **BASIC**

16th Gater  
70s Studio Tape  
8th Chop Freezer  
Basic Compression  
Basic Doubling  
Bitcrush  
Car Stereo  
Cheap Telephone  
Chorus  
Detuned Delay  
Digital Glitch

Digital Jitter  
Drum Beat Repeater  
Drum Beat Reverser  
Electric Piano Phaser  
Ensemble Strings  
Env Bender  
Envelope Flanger  
Filter Sweep  
Filtered Synth Delay  
Flutter  
Gramophone  
Gramophone Horn  
Guitar Flanger  
HiFi Cassette  
In The Air Reverb  
Inharmonic  
Lead Guitar Delay  
LoFi  
Megaphone  
Announcement  
Microcassette  
Nice Drum Room  
Old Spring Reverb  
Old Transformer  
Piano Hall  
Plasma Destroyer  
Radio  
Random Drift Chorus

Random Grain Room  
Randomizer  
Ringmod Slow  
Satellite  
Sidechain Pumper  
Static  
Synth Pad Infinity  
Tape Delay  
Tape Wobble  
Telephone  
Toy Phone  
Transistor Bite  
Tube Overdrive  
Tube Saturation  
Vinyl Drive  
Vocal Plate  
Wide Stereo Delay  
Worn Inductor

#### **DESTRUCTION**

Annoyer  
Badly Digitized  
Choir Of Chainsaws  
Lead Destroyer  
Metallurgy  
Sizzling Fudge  
Talking Head  
Throaty Metal Lead  
Total Destruction  
Ugly Beautiful Reverb  
Wall Of Evil

#### **DRUMS & BEATS**

Break Phattener  
Crish Crash Crush  
Drum Destructor  
Drumloop 1992  
Fattens Even Fat

Ghettoblaster  
Rewind  
LoFi Chopper  
Retro Punch  
Soundcheck Outside  
Hall  
Tapy Slam  
Compressor  
Ultrasqueeze  
Yacht Rock Drums  
**GLITCHY**  
8bit Gamer  
Backup Gone Bad  
Chord Fryer  
Computer Says Boo  
GlitchVerb  
Infinite Hickup  
Modem Times  
Random Echo  
Sequence  
Randomizer

#### **KEYS & GUITARS**

Big Bad Solo  
Clean Strum  
Enhancer  
Crackling Vibrato  
Drunk Capstan  
Experimental Tines  
Fast Rotor Cabinet  
Intimate LoFi Piano  
Punchy Clavinet  
Rhythm Enhancer  
Time Machine  
Warm Chord Butter

#### **RETRO GEAR**

70s Vintage Chorus

Analog Fuzz Pedal  
Cassette 4th  
Overdub  
My First  
Ghettoblaster  
Old 24 Track Hot  
Old Mini Amp  
Pre-Amp Saturation  
Tape Flange  
Tapy Slam  
Compressor  
Tube Compressor

#### **SYNTHS**

Analogifier  
Backlash Phaser  
Delay  
Crunchy Poly Phaser  
Crunchy Synth Bass  
Huge Synth Lead  
Psychedelic Sky  
Pumping Strings  
Retro Warmth Gater  
Stranger Intro Pad  
Super Old String  
Synth  
Synth Cream  
Synth Grit

#### **VOCALS**

Choirifier  
Double Tracked  
Schoolyard  
Solo Widener  
Space Harmonies  
Subtle Character  
The Eagle Has  
Landed  
The Soul Of A.I.

## Support & Community



Stuck? Need a tip? Or just want to show off what you made?

[Submit a Ticket](#) to ask a question, get some help, or share your ideas on improving our products.

See our [RETROCRAFT articles](#) or [search for a topic](#) in our knowledge base.

[Subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) for "How-To" videos.

[Follow us on Instagram](#) to catch announcements and other product info.

Join our community on [Facebook](#) or [Discord](#) to post a question or comment, or even share a track!