

AC-1 Manual v1.2.2

Saturator and Downsampler. Warm up or cool down whatever you put through it.



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1. INTRODUCTION

AC-1 is a tone-shaping plugin that blends smooth analog-style saturation with characterful digital downsampling. Turn the big Temperature knob to the right for warmth and drive, or to the left for icy filters and nostalgic lo-fi flavor.

Why AC-1

- Warm to cold on a single control
- Analog-style saturation plus lo-fi digital textures
- Simple layout that encourages quick decisions
- Great on drums, synths, guitars, vocals, and more

2. COMPATIBILITY

Plugin Formats: VST3, AU, AAX (64-bit)

Platforms: macOS 10.11 and up (Apple Silicon native), Windows 10 and newer

DAWs: Compatible with all major DAWs — Ableton Live, Pro Tools, Logic Pro, GarageBand, FL Studio, Cubase, Studio One, Reaper, Bitwig, Reason, and more.

3. INSTALLATION

macOS

1. Extract the ZIP archive.
2. Double-click the PKG installer.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions.

Windows

1. Extract the ZIP archive.
2. Double-click the EXE installer.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions.

4. INSTALL LOCATIONS

macOS

- AU: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/`
- VST3: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/`
- AAX: `/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/`
- Presets: `/Users/Shared/AC-1`

Windows

- VST3: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\`
- AAX: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\`
- Presets: `C:\Users\Public\Public Documents\AC-1`

5. DEMO AND AUTHORIZATION

After purchase, you will receive a license key by email. You can also access it from your Audio Hertz account.

Enter the license key in the authorization window the first time you open AC-1.

Demo Mode: The demo outputs 5 seconds of silence every 60 seconds. Purchase the full version at audiohertz.com/ac1 to remove demo limitations.

6. QUICK START

1. Insert AC-1 on a track or bus.
2. Turn **Temperature** right for warmth and saturation, or left for cold downsampling and filters.
3. Raise **Intensity** to increase the effect strength. Lower it for subtle color.
4. Enable **Recirculate** for an extra saturation stage when you want more density.
5. Choose a **Flow** setting to apply an additional filter that shapes the tone.
6. Use the **A/C Button** to increase the high-pass slope in the cold section.
7. Trim levels with **Input** and **Output** so the processed signal matches the bypassed level.

7. CONTROLS

Temperature

Primary tone control. Turning right makes things warmer with saturation. Turning left makes things colder with downsampling and filters.

Intensity

Adjusts dry/wet balance.

Recirculate

Engages an additional saturation circuit for extra warmth and harmonic build-up.

Flow

Each setting adds a different filter to help shape the sound. Use alongside Temperature to fine-tune tone.

A/C Button

Increases the slope of the high-pass filter in the cold section. Helpful for cleaning lows when using more extreme cooling.

Audio Hertz Logo

Opens the Info screen with version and credits.

8. PRESETS AND TOP BAR

- **Preset Drawer** — Browse factory and user presets.
- **Save Preset** — Save or overwrite the current preset.
- **Delete Preset** — Delete the current preset.
- **Input Trim** — Adjusts input level, ± 9 dB.
- **Output Trim** — Adjusts output level, ± 9 dB.

9. CREDITS

- **Concept:** David Silverstein (Audio Hertz)
- **Code + DSP:** Yuriy Ivantsov

AUDIO HERTZ AC-1

INTENSITY - THIS CONTROLS THE WET/DRY BALANCE.

TEMPERATURE - TURNING THIS KNOB TO THE RIGHT MAKES THINGS **WARMER** WITH SATURATION. TURNING THIS KNOB TO THE LEFT MAKES THINGS **COLDER** WITH DOWNSAMPLING AND FILTERS.



RECIRCULATE - ENGAGES AN ADDITIONAL SATURATION CIRCUIT FOR EVEN MORE WARMTH.

FLOW - EACH SETTING OFFERS AN ADDITIONAL FILTER TO HELP SHAPE THE SOUND.

A/C BUTTON - INCREASES THE SLOPE OF THE HIGH PASS FILTER IN THE COLD SECTION.