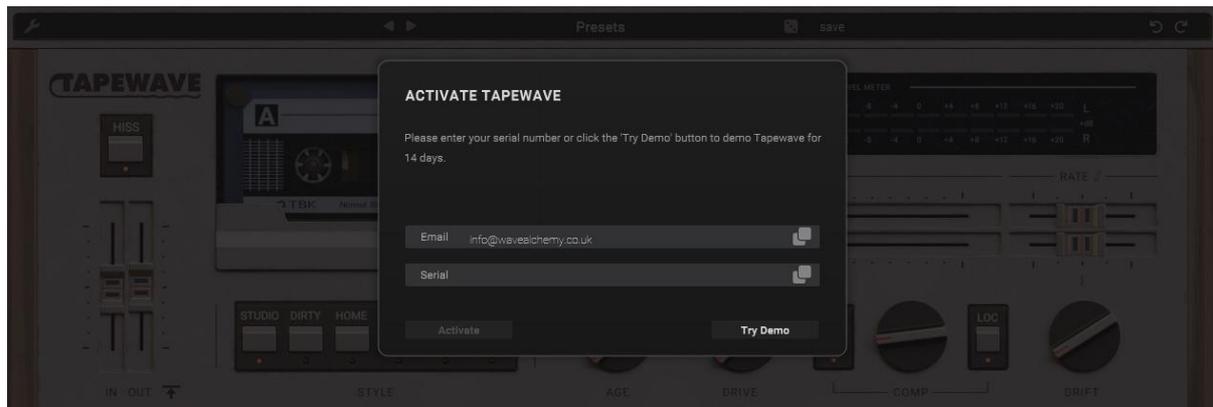# TAPEWAVE

wave
alchemy

Contents

Getting Started

After you have successfully installed Tapewave, you have two options on how you can use it. Either by starting a 14-day free demo or by activating a full license.

The 14-day free demo requires an active internet connection to launch each instance of your plugin.

The full license only requires an active internet connection to authorize once. After your serial has been successfully entered you will no longer need an active internet connection to use the plugin.

When you first open your plugin, you will be greeted with the following activation screen that will allow you to choose one of the following two options:
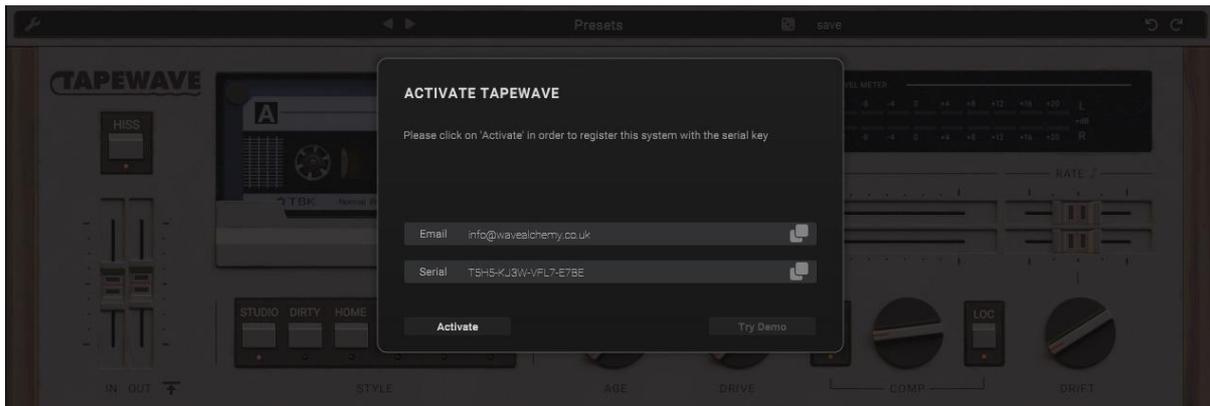

Tapewave: Activation / Try Demo

Activating a demo

To activate a 14-day demo you must do the following:

1. Enter a valid email by clicking in the "Email" field and typing your email address.
2. Press return or click anywhere else on the UI to confirm entering your email.
3. Once you have done this the "Try Demo" button will be highlighted. You can now press it to activate a fully functioning 14-day demo.

Remember that during the demo period an active internet connection will be required to verify your trial status. Once you have purchased a full license this restriction will no longer be present.

Activating your license

Tapewave: Activate

To activate your license, simply open an instance of Tapewave and enter your email address and serial number within the activation screen. Your unique serial number will be available in the 'Downloads' section of your account on our website after purchasing Tapewave.

If you are in demo mode, the activation screen will display each time you open the Tapewave plugin and allow you to either keep demoing the plugin (along with telling you how much time you have left on the demo) or enter a serial to activate Tapewave.

When entering your email address and serial you must press return or click on the background after you have completed filling out each section for your entry to become active. After you have done this, you can press "Activate" to activate your full license.

Full licenses allow you to install your plugin on up to 6 machines simultaneously.

Main Page

Tapewave: Main page

1. Input / Output Section

In - Determines the audio volume coming into the plugin. Increasing the input slider raises the gain into the tape saturation circuit, enabling you to achieve additional saturation if the Drive knob alone isn't enough for your needs Conversely, lowering the input slider helps you achieve gentler tape tones.

Out - Determines the audio volume coming out of the plugin. When the limiter is active (see below), limiting will take place if the output signal surpasses 0dB. The Output slider can be used to adjust the level of limiting applied.

Limiter - Clicking the icon next to the 'Out' label engages the limiter. By design the limiter imparts additional characterful and lets you boost the Output slider to obtain greater loudness.

2. Tape Hiss

Enables / disables authentic tape hiss, modelled from real cassette tapes. Right clicking this button lets you choose from several tape hiss levels, as well as the option to enable / disable a noise gate, and lock the noise on / off when browsing presets.

3. Tape Styles

Tapewave: Tape styles

Switching tapes is one of the simplest ways to achieve a different sound when recording to cassette – some tapes are darker, grittier, cleaner, or purely lo-fi.

Tapewave brings this experience to life by offering six distinct tape styles, each with its own instantly recognizable character, frequency response, and saturation characteristics.

Simply select any of the six tape style buttons to instantly activate that cassette tape. The Studio tape offers the cleanest sound, while the Lo-Fi model delivers the most gritty tone.

4. Age

Take things further with Tape Age, a seamless control that transforms each tape style from pristine to worn-out - and everything in between - capturing a wide range of cassette degradation.

Age is unique for each of the 6 modes, changing both the frequency response, saturation response and in some modes also introducing subtle dropouts and other forms of tape degradation.

5. Drive

Boosting the Drive knob introduces rich, analog-modeled tape saturation, harmonics, and gentle compression. Unlike other plugins that rely on basic waveshaping or soft clipping, Tapewave's tape saturation is meticulously modeled after real tape machines.

6. Compressor

Two unique analog-style compression modes let you crush transients or tame dynamics effortlessly. Turning up the Comp knob introduces analog-style compression whilst automatically compensating the gain.
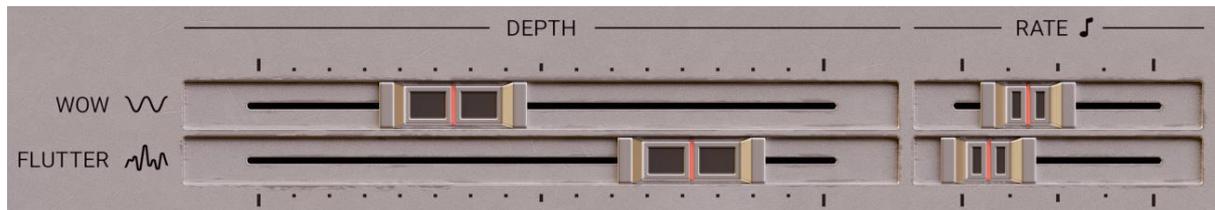
Loc - When Loc mode is activated, the compressor aggressively captures and suppresses transients, producing a distinctly vibey, crushed sound. This compressor mode is closely modeled after the renowned Shure Level Loc. Disabling Loc mode activates a completely different compressor model that delivers a more transparent and snappy response.

Pre - Selects where the compressor is in the signal chain. With the Pre button engaged, compression occurs before (pre) tape saturation. With the button disabled, compression occurs after (post) tape saturation.

7. Wow & Flutter

Tapewave: Wow & Flutter

Anyone who has used real cassette players knows the magic and charm of their unpredictable pitch fluctuations. With Tapewave's Wow & Flutter controls, you can authentically replicate the unstable pitch variations inherent of old analog tape and cassette.

Modulation mode - Clicking the waveform icons next to the Wow and Flutter labels lets you change the modulation shape between a stable cosine-based modulation shape and a custom-tuned Perlin noise curve for authentic, more unstable pitch variation.
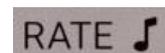
Wow Depth - Sets the intensity of the Wow effect

Flutter Depth - Sets the intensity of the Flutter effect

Wow Rate - Sets the Wow rate in Hz, from 0.03Hz to 3.5Hz
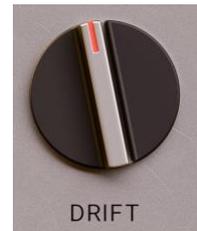
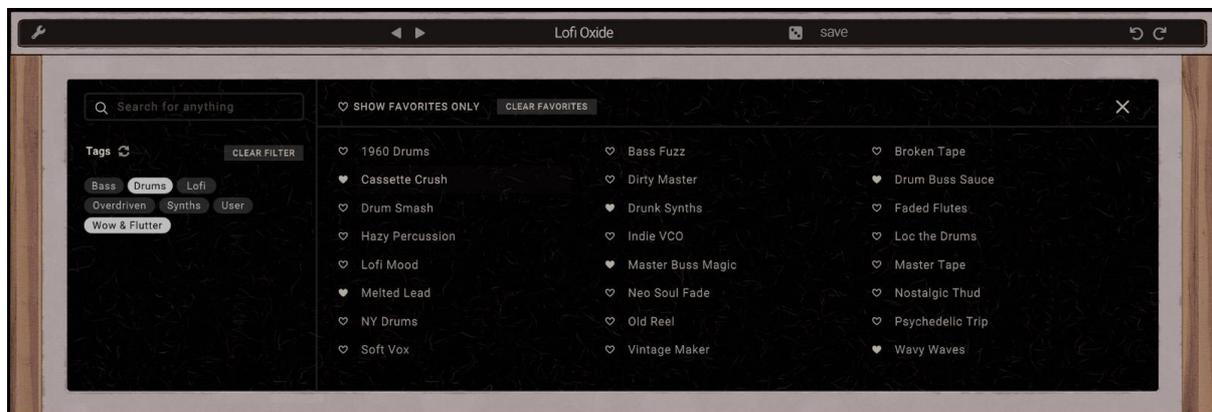**Flutter Rate** - Sets the Flutter rate in Hz, from 2.23Hz to 11Hz

Rate Sync - Clicking the note icon next to the Rate label engages Sync mode. When enabled, Wow & Flutter rate will now be synced to your DAW tempo.

8. Drift

Enhance the unpredictability of Wow & Flutter further with the Drift control. Drift adds random variations by subtly modulating the rate and shape of the Wow & Flutter effects. Note: if both Wow & Flutter Depth sliders are set to zero, the Drift knob becomes inactive, turning grey and unresponsive as a visual cue.

Preset Browser

Tapewave: Preset Browser

1. Search

Search Field - This search field allows you to search the name of presets and will update with each key press.
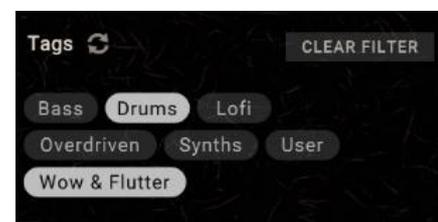

2. Tags

Refresh Icon - Next to the label for "Tags" is a refresh icon that will reload the presets on disk if you have manually adjusted the preset folder.

Clear Filter - When pressed this will reset the search field and any selected tags.

Tags - The tags allow you to quickly filter presets by a descriptive tag. Each preset can belong to a single tag.

Multiple tags can be selected at once by holding shift and clicking a tag.

3. Favourites

Show Favourites Only - When pressed the preset list will be filtered to show only your favourite presets.
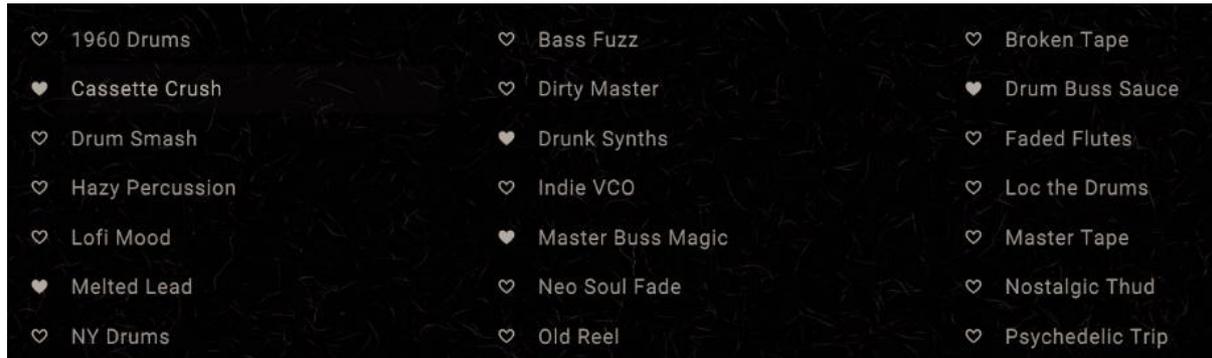
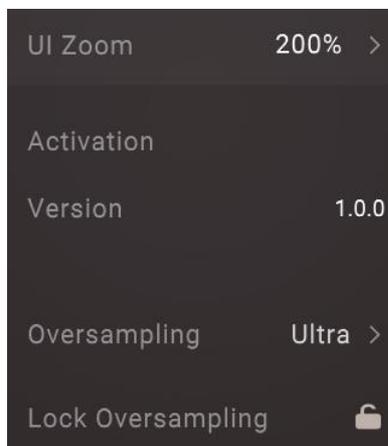**Clear Favourites** - When pressed all user favourites will be reset.

4. Preset List

This list reveals all the available presets based on the current search, tag, and favourite selections. Clicking the name of the preset will load it.

Settings Menu

Tapewave: Settings

UI Zoom - Lets you choose the UI zoom level, between 50% and 200%.

Version - Indicates the currently installed version of Tapewave.

Oversampling - Lets you select the internal oversampling of the plugin. Standard is 4x oversampling, High is 8x oversampling. And Ultra is 16x oversampling. Higher oversampling modes will give you a more accurate, alias-free sound.

Lock Oversampling - Locks the currently selected oversampling mode when browsing presets.

Saving / Loading Presets

Custom presets can be saved by pressing the save button in the top header of Tapewave.

Once pressed, this will allow you to save presets in the presets folder which will appear in the Save dialog. This folder is in the following location:

macOS: /Library/Application Support/Wave Alchemy/Tapewave/User Presets

PC: /Users/User Name/AppData/Roaming/Wave Alchemy/Tapewave/User Presets