



# Kerosene

## Quick Start Guide

ACEDIA AUDIO

For macOS 13+ and Windows 10+ · VST3, AU & AAX

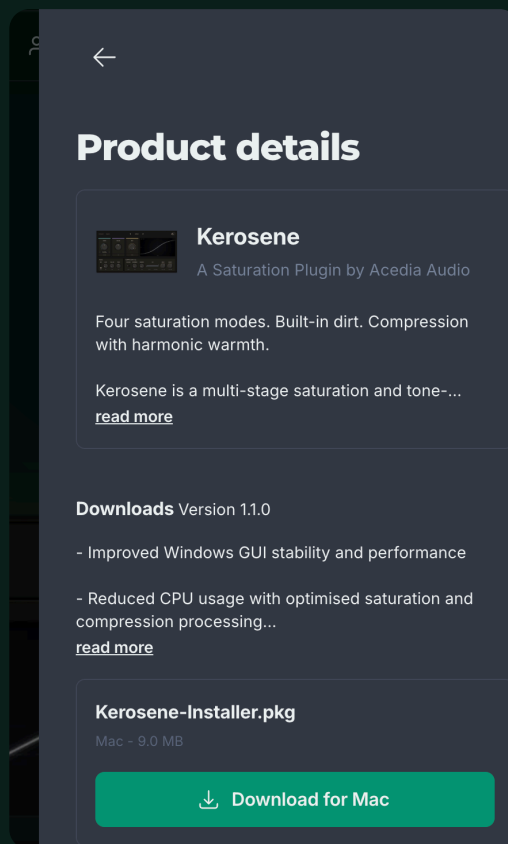
## SECTION 01

# Installation

Download the latest Kerosene installer from your customer portal at [acediaaudio.com](https://acediaaudio.com). Log in, navigate to the **Products** tab, select **Kerosene**, and download the installer for your operating system.

- 1 Close any DAWs you have open.
- 2 Run the downloaded installer and follow the on-screen instructions.
- 3 Restart your DAW after installation completes.
- 4 Find Kerosene under the **Acedia Audio** organisation name in your plugin browser.

**Tip:** If the plugin doesn't appear, try a full computer restart and ensure your DAW is set to scan the correct plugin folders in its preferences.



# Activation

When you first open Kerosene in your DAW, you'll see the activation screen.

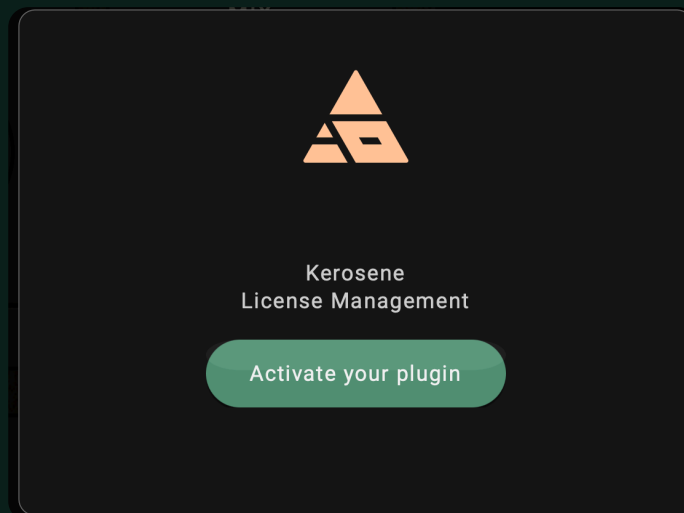
## Online Activation (Recommended)

- 1 Click **Activate your plugin** on the activation screen.
- 2 Click **Let's go!** to proceed with online activation.
- 3 Sign in to your Acedia Audio account on the website that opens.
- 4 Activate your purchased license, or start a **free 14-day trial** with full functionality.

During the trial, a message in the top-right corner of the plugin shows your remaining days. Click it to return to the activation window when you're ready to purchase.

## Offline Activation

If you need to activate without an internet connection, click **Offline Activation** on the activation screen, then follow the prompts to generate a machine file and upload your license. More information is available on the FAQ.



## SECTION 03

# Getting Started

Kerosene's interface is split into two areas: the **main controls** across the center and the **advanced panel** along the bottom. You can get great results from the main controls alone — the advanced panel opens up deeper sound design.



## Main Controls

### DRIVE

Saturation intensity from -12 dB to +24 dB. How it distorts depends on the selected saturation type. Double-click to reset to 0 dB.

### SATURATION TYPE

Four modes: **Soft Clip** (smooth), **Hard Clip** (aggressive), **Tube** (warm, valve-like), **Tape** (magnetic cohesion). Use arrows or click to select.

### COLOR

Tonal character *before* saturation. Left = warmer/darker, right = brighter. Affects which frequencies get driven into saturation. Double-click to reset.

### MIX

Wet/dry blend for parallel saturation. At 100% you hear only the processed signal; at 0% only the dry signal. Double-click to reset to 100%.

## Visualiser

The real-time transfer curve shows how your signal is being shaped. Every parameter change is reflected live, and when audio plays, a signal trace maps through the curve. It responds to Drive, Color, saturation type, filters, and compression.

## Top Bar

**Autogain** compensates for volume changes from Drive — essential for honest A/B comparisons. **Bypass** passes the dry signal through. The **preset browser** sits at the center.

## Advanced Panel — Noise

The noise engine adds analog-style texture that reacts to your signal's dynamics. The noise sits *before* the saturation stage, so it gets saturated along with your audio — integrating texture into the sound rather than just layering it on top.

### DIRT

Controls the amount of noise and grit mixed into the signal. At 0% nothing is added.

### DUCK

Noise level drops when audio is playing, rising in quiet moments — like a real analog noise floor.

### FOLLOW

Noise rises with loud transients, adding a burst of grit that decays with the signal.

### STONE

Spectral balance of the noise. Left = darker/bassier, right = brighter/hissier.

## Advanced Panel — Compression & EQ

Post-saturation dynamics and frequency shaping, with its own saturation stage via Warmth.

### COMPRESS

Soft-knee compression after saturation. A sidechain HPF at 80 Hz prevents low-frequency pumping.

### WARMTH

Harmonic saturation within the compressor stage — stacks on top of the main Drive for extra density.

### CUT

Combined high-pass and low-pass filters. Drag the handles to shape which frequencies enter the saturation stage.

### RELEASE

Toggles between fast (punchy, preserves transients) and slow (smooth, glues elements together) compressor recovery.

### INPUT

Signal level entering the plugin (-24 to +12 dB). Use to calibrate how hard the saturation is driven.

### OUTPUT

Final output level (-24 to +12 dB). Use to compensate for any level changes from processing.

**Tip:** Start with Drive and saturation type to get the basic character right. Use Autogain + Bypass for level-matched comparisons. The real depth opens up when you combine saturation modes with the noise engine and compressor.

## SECTION 04

# Presets

The preset browser sits at the center of the top bar. Use the arrow buttons to step through presets, or click the display to open the full menu.

Kerosene ships with **41 factory presets** organised by source material:

### VOCALS

Vocal Warmth, Vocal Presence, Vocal Grit, Vocal Tape, Vocal Lo-Fi, Vocal Radio

### DRUMS

Drum Glue, Drum Punch, Drum Tape Slap, Vintage Kit, Drum Transistor, Drum Smash, Parallel Drum Crush

### BASS

Bass Warmth, Bass Growl, Bass Tape, Bass Fuzz, Sub Saturation

### GUITAR

Guitar Clean Boost, Guitar Crunch, Guitar Fuzz, Acoustic Shimmer

### SYNTHS

Synth Thickness, Synth Tape Warble, Pad Warmth, Synth Destruction

### MIX BUS

Console Glue, Tape Mastering, Bus Warmth, Hot Input Console, Analog Sum

### CREATIVE

Worn Cassette, Vinyl Simulation, Broken Speaker, Telephone, Total Destruction, Industrial

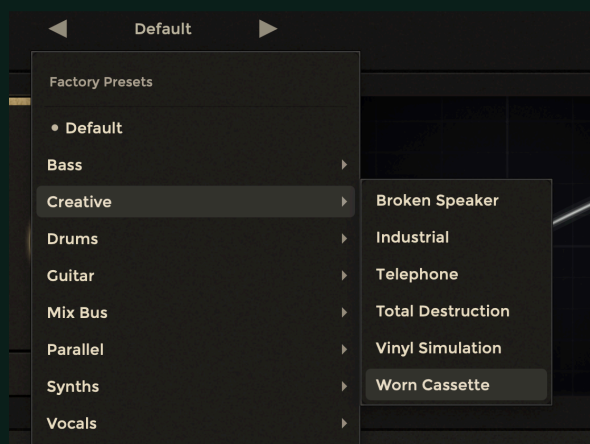
### PARALLEL

Parallel Heat, Parallel Crunch, Parallel Tape — high drive with low mix for parallel processing

Each preset is a starting point — adjust and combine controls to find what works for your material.

## Saving Your Own Presets

Select **Save Current...** from the preset menu and give it a name. Your presets are stored on disk and appear separately from the factory presets. To manage or delete user presets, select **Open Preset Folder** from the menu.



For the complete guide, download the **Kerosene User's Manual** from [acediaaudio.com](https://acediaaudio.com)

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