ATOMIC LABS

INSTRUMENT

FRETLINE

Physically modelled electric bass

INSTRUMENT · VST3 · WINDOWS 64-BIT · 300 PRESETS · V1.0



USER MANUAL

VERSION 1.0 · 2026

01 About Fretline

Fretline models a real bass string instead of playing samples. Each note is a vibrating string excited by a finger, pick or slap at a chosen position and heard through a pickup placed along the string, so tone changes naturally with how and where you pluck.

Behind the string sits a full bass amp: 3-band EQ, compressor, drive (clean, tube, fuzz), cabinet, chorus and width.

TYPE	FORMAT	SIGNAL	LATENCY
Instrument	VST3 · Win x64	MIDI in → stereo out	none

FACTORY PRESETS	CONTROLS	WINDOW	VERSION
300 + Init	30 automatable	Resizable	1.0

02 Quick start

1. Choose a preset (finger, pick, slap, fretless, muted, rock, funk, upright, synth hybrids, dub).
2. Play in the low register; velocity changes the attack and brightness.
3. Move Pick Position and Pickup Position to hear the tone change like on a real bass.
4. Switch Style to Slap or Muted for different playing techniques.

INSTALLATION

Install

Copy the folder `Fretline.vst3` into `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\`, then restart your DAW or rescan plug-ins. It appears under the manufacturer **Atomic Labs**.

This manual

A copy of this PDF lives inside the plug-in folder, next to `Contents`. Your DAW ignores it; it is there so the manual always travels with the plug-in.

03 The interface



String

Style (Finger, Pick, Slap, Muted, Fretless), Pick Position, Pickup Position and Pickup Type (Single, Dual, Piezo). Damper, Tone, Decay and Release shape the ring. Fret Buzz and Finger Noise add realism. Velocity > Brightness and Velocity > Level respond to how hard you play.

Tuning and play

Sub Octave, Fine Tune, Transpose, Bend Range, Voice Mode (Poly, Mono, Legato) and Glide for slides.

Amp

Amp On, Amp Type (Clean, Tube, Fuzz), Cabinet (Off, 1×15, 4×10, 8×10, Vintage), Bass, Mid with Mid Frequency, Treble, Compressor, Drive, Chorus, Width and Volume.

04 Presets

Fretline comes with **300** factory presets in 10 categories, plus an **Init** program to start from scratch. Every preset was designed for this plug-in and level-matched, so you can browse without jumps in volume.

30 Finger Bass | **30** Pick Bass | **30** Slap & Pop | **30** Fretless | **30** Muted & Palm | **30** Rock & Drive

30 Funk | **30** Jazz Upright | **30** Synth-Sub Hybrids | **30** Dub & Reggae

A FEW TO TRY

- Studio Finger
- Classic Jazz
- Smooth P-Bass
- Deep Finger
- Steel Attack
- Punchy Pick
- Crisp Line
- Plectrum Attack
- Funky Funk
- Slap Thumb
- Pop Slap
- Thumb Funk
- Lyrical Slide
- Silken Line
- Fluid Song
- Muted Mute
- Thud Palm
- Plunk Thump
- Pillow Mute
- Crunch Rock
- Grinding Drive
- Stoner Wall
- Molten Rock
- Disco Strut
- Strutting Pocket
- Groovy Funk
- Tight Strut
- Acoustic Walk
- Smoky Pluck
- Club Bass
- Hybrid Sub
- Deep Low
- Weighted Hybrid
- Low End Sub
- Skank Roots
- Dub Dub

05 Tips

Pick near the bridge for a bright, punchy tone; near the neck for a round, deep tone.

Fretless + Glide + a little chorus = smooth jazz lines.

For reggae and dub: Palm Mute, low Treble, long Decay.

06 Atomic Labs essentials

These work the same way in every Atomic Labs plug-in.

Preset browser

Use the arrows next to the preset name to step through the presets, or click the name to open the menu sorted by category. The current category is shown above the name.

SAVE: your presets and banks

SAVE stores the complete state as your own preset (.atp) in Documents\Atomic Labs\Fretline\Presets. From the same menu you can delete presets and export or import a whole bank (.atb) to share or back up. Your presets appear at the end of the preset menu.

DICE

DICE rolls a brand-new patch: it starts from a factory design and changes the main settings at random. Not happy? Roll again, or step back to a preset.

SIZE and resizing

Drag the bottom-right corner to resize the window, or pick a fixed zoom from SIZE. The size is remembered with the project.

Automation

Every control can be automated and is listed with its full name in your DAW. Changes are smoothed, so automation never clicks.

Project recall

The whole state (including drawn waves, patterns, steps and window size where available) is saved with your project.

STABILITY

Every Atomic Labs plug-in is tested at sample rates from 44.1 to 192 kHz and at block sizes from 1 to 8192 samples, before and after the host prepares it, and with every factory preset. The audio code never allocates memory while playing, and signals are protected against invalid values, so it stays quiet and stable in long sessions.

07 Control reference

Every automatable control as your DAW lists it, with its range and default value. Where a set of controls repeats (for example several identical layers, bands or slots), it is shown once.

General

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	DEFAULT
Style	Finger · Pick · Slap · Muted · Fretless	Finger
Pick Position	2 % to 50 %	20 %
Pickup Position	2 % to 50 %	12 %
Pickup Type	Single · Dual · Piezo	Single
Damper	0 % to 100 %	10 %
Tone	0 % to 100 %	60 %
Decay	200 ms to 12.00 s	4.00 s
Release	20 ms to 2.00 s	150 ms
Velocity > Brightness	0 % to 100 %	50 %
Velocity > Level	0 % to 100 %	60 %
Fret Buzz	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Finger Noise	0 % to 100 %	20 %
Sub Octave	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Fine Tune	-50.0 ct to +50.0 ct	0.0 ct
Transpose	-24 to 24	0
Bend Range	0 to 12	2
Voice Mode	Poly · Mono · Legato	Mono
Glide	Off to 410 ms	Off
Amp On	Off · On	On
Amp Type	Clean · Tube · Fuzz	Clean
Cabinet	Off · 1×15 · 4×10 · 8×10 · Vintage	Off
Bass	-12.0 dB to +12.0 dB	0.0 dB
Mid	-12.0 dB to +12.0 dB	0.0 dB
Mid Frequency	150 Hz to 3.00 kHz	600 Hz
Treble	-12.0 dB to +12.0 dB	0.0 dB
Compressor	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Drive	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Chorus	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Width	0 % to 100 %	50 %
Volume	-24.0 dB to +12.0 dB	0.0 dB



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Atomic Labs makes original instruments and effects with futuristic, animated interfaces, deep sound design and hundreds of presets in every plug-in.

Version 1.0 · VST3 for Windows 64-bit · Manual generated 2026-11-13

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