ATOMIC LABS

EFFECT

# PAYLOAD

Modular multi-effect with modulation

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




USER MANUAL

VERSION 1.0 · 2026

# 01 About Payload

Payload is a six-slot effect rack with 23 effects (filters, comb, phaser, flanger, chorus, drive, wavefold, bitcrush, ring mod, frequency shift, pitch, delay, reverb, trance gate, auto pan, compressor, width, vowel, tremolo, doubler and stutter).

Four modulators (LFO shapes, step patterns, envelope follower or MIDI envelope) are routed by an 8-route matrix to any effect control. An XY macro pad controls two macros at once, and the modulators can follow the song, run free or restart on MIDI notes.

| TYPE | FORMAT | SIGNAL | LATENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Effect | VST3 · Win x64 | Stereo in → stereo out · MIDI in | none |

| FACTORY PRESETS | CONTROLS | WINDOW | VERSION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 300 + Init | 85 automatable | Resizable | 1.0 |

# 02 Quick start

1. Insert Payload and pick a preset.
2. Grab the XY pad and move it: most presets map the big changes there.
3. Choose effects in the six slots and set A, B and Mix.
4. Connect a modulator to a slot control in the routing matrix.

## INSTALLATION

**Install**

Copy the folder `Payload.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




### Slots 1-6

Effect, A and B (the two main controls of that effect), Mix and On.

### Modulators 1-4

Shape (sine, triangle, saws, square, sample & hold, drift, step sequence, envelope follower, MIDI envelope), Rate, Sync, Phase, Smooth and Step Pattern (16 patterns).

### Routes 1-8

Source (MOD 1-4, MACRO X, MACRO Y), Destination (any slot's A, B or Mix) and Amount.

### Global

Input, Output, Global Mix, Macro X / Y, Mod Retrigger (Host, Free, MIDI) and Bypass.

# 04 Presets

Payload comes with **300** factory presets, 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.

### A FEW TO TRY

- Liquid Sweep
- Band Hopper Soft
- Step Filter Hard
- Liquid Sweep Wide
- Triplet Stabs
- Morse Gate Soft
- Trance Chop Rush
- Triplet Stabs Wide
- Data Corrupt
- Random Repeats Hard
- Buffer Stutter Wide
- Sample Rate Sweep
- 8-Bit Arcade Hard
- Broken Speaker Rush
- Infinite Wash
- Gated Verb Soft
- Shimmer Hall Rush
- Infinite Wash Wide
- Alien Ring
- Octave Down Hard
- Detune Choir Rush
- Alien Ring Wide
- Fuzz Fold Soft
- Fold Wobble Hard
- Screaming Lead Wide
- Through Zero
- Deep Phase Hard
- Auto Panner Rush
- Talk Box
- Talk Box Hard
- Bass Growl
- Reese Motion Hard
- Drum Smash Soft
- Drum Smash Rush
- Build Up XY Soft
- Build Up XY Rush

# 05 Tips

Build-up: map Macro X to a high-pass cutoff and a reverb mix, then automate X.

Use the MIDI Envelope modulator and play notes to trigger effects by hand.

# 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\Payload\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 |
|---|---|---|
| Input | -24.0 dB to +24.0 dB | 0.0 dB |
| Output | -24.0 dB to +24.0 dB | 0.0 dB |
| Global Mix | 0 % to 100 % | 100 % |
| Macro X | 0 % to 100 % | 50 % |
| Macro Y | 0 % to 100 % | 50 % |
| Mod Retrigger | Host · Free · MIDI | Host |
| Bypass | Off · On | Off |

## Slot 1–6

6 identical sets - Slot 1 shown

| CONTROL | RANGE / OPTIONS | DEFAULT |
|---|---|---|
| Effect | Empty · Low Pass · High Pass · Band Pass · Comb · Phaser · Flanger · Chorus · Drive · Wavefold · Bitcrush · Ring Mod + *12 more* | Empty |
| A | 0 % to 100 % | 50 % |
| B | 0 % to 100 % | 50 % |
| Mix | 0 % to 100 % | 100 % |
| On | Off · On | On |

## Mod 1–4

4 identical sets - Mod 1 shown

| CONTROL | RANGE / OPTIONS | DEFAULT |
|---|---|---|
| Shape | Sine · Triangle · Saw Up · Saw Down · Square · Sample & Hold · Drift · Step Seq · Env Follower · MIDI Envelope | Sine |
| Rate | 1/64 to 8 bars | 1/4 |
| Sync | Off · On | On |
| Phase | 0 deg to 360 deg | 0 deg |
| Smooth | 0 % to 100 % | 0 % |
| Step Pattern | Pattern 1 · Pattern 2 · Pattern 3 · Pattern 4 · Pattern 5 · Pattern 6 · Pattern 7 · Pattern 8 · Pattern 9 · Pattern 10 · Pattern 11 · Pattern 12 *+ 4 more* | Pattern 1 |

## Route 1–8

8 identical sets - Route 1 shown

| CONTROL | RANGE / OPTIONS | DEFAULT |
|---|---|---|
| Source | - · MOD 1 · MOD 2 · MOD 3 · MOD 4 · MACRO X · MACRO Y | - |
| Destination | - · S1 A · S1 B · S1 MIX · S2 A · S2 B · S2 MIX · S3 A · S3 B · S3 MIX · S4 A · S4 B *+ 7 more* | - |
| Amount | -100 % to +100 % | 0 % |



# ATOMIC LABS

## Payload · Modular multi-effect with modulation

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

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