USER GUIDE · V1.2.2

BOX OF BASS

One bass signal in, a complete layered rig out. Nine strips of my own captures, real cabs, real mics, real rooms, with a drive stage, glue and a master EQ around them. Digitally Analogue.



BOX OF RULES

01

WHAT IT IS

Box of Bass takes one clean bass signal (a DI) and fans it out across nine parallel strips, each a capture from my own sessions: a true sub, two clean cabinets, three driven microphones and two room mics. Blend them on faders and the rig builds itself, from a tight clean tone to a thick driven wall.

AU · VST3 | MACOS · WINDOWS | MONO OR STEREO | FREE

02

INSTALL AND FIRST OPEN

Install from the Hub, then restart your DAW so it scans the new plugin. It appears under the manufacturer **Box of Rules**. Put it on the audio track that carries the bass DI, not a mic'd amp. On Windows there is also a Standalone app if you just want to play.

A few seconds after the first open, a one-time notice explains the anonymous usage counts and offers OK or OPT OUT. Opting out stops all reporting immediately. No login, no activation, no serial, ever. Updates arrive through MuseHub.

03

THE RACK

Two views, switched with **SIMPLE** in the header: SIMPLE is the essentials, EXPERT is the full rack below. The cog (SYS) picks which one new instances open in.

RAW
The untouched DI, muted by default. The A/B key beneath it auditions the raw signal against the rig.

SUB
The low foundation. Raise it for weight, cut it for a tighter low end.

CLEAN 15" · CLEAN 12"
The clean body of the tone, two captured cabinets.

FX 57 · FX 421 · FX TWEETER
The driven mic layers. Each has a FUZZ key and a TYPE menu (FUZZ / DIST), loudness-matched so switching compares character, not volume.

ROOM NEAR · ROOM FAR
Real room microphones, silent at the floor until you raise them. The FEED keys choose which layers each room hears.

Every strip
Fader (drag rides the printed scale, double-click resets), M, S, phase invert, pan on stereo tracks, and a PAD row: 0, -12 or -30 dB of headroom for hot DIs.

04

THE MASTER BAR

- **INPUT** also pushes the drive, like a real pedal. **TONE** and **FEEL** shape the character of the note; 50 is neutral.
- **DRIVE** with **RELEASE** and **SUSTAIN** is the drive envelope, greyed until a FUZZ or DIST key is on: RELEASE lets the dirt hang on and bloom, SUSTAIN holds it.
- **SATURATE**, then **GLUE** (bus compression), **WIDTH** on stereo tracks, and **OUTPUT**.
- The right-hand column is a six-band master EQ: HI SHELF, HIGH, HI MID, LO MID, LOW, LO SHELF. Right-click a band's dial for its frequency menu.

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HEADER KEYS

- **GUITAR MODE** pitches the input down an octave before the whole rig: plug in a guitar, get a bass. Right-click and hold to preview the other state.
- **PHASE** opens a window drawing every audible strip's response and the combined signal, with per-strip polarity and **OPTIMISE Ø**: one click finds the polarity set with the least cancellation. Right-click the PHASE key for one-click OPTIMISE without opening the window.
- **PRESET**: factory presets, artist presets, your own, and Load from URL. Your preset names never leave your machine.
- The cog opens **SYS**: live CPU, latency, block size and format, the usage-data consent toggle, PRIVACY, a COPY key for diagnostics, and the default view.

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FOOTER

- **FREQ** shows the spectrum, RAW and OUT traces, and where in the chain you look (ALL / PRE / POST).
- **IN** picks the sidechain source for the drive envelope: TRACK, EXT or AUTO. **LINK** ties several instances together (one master, the rest follow) and **M/S** switches the stereo processing.
- The lightbulb sends me an idea (an idea that ships in a paid plugin earns a lifetime licence); the ear opens the listener survey. There is no bypass in the plugin: use your DAW's.

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QUESTIONS

It is not in my DAW.
Restart the DAW. Logic: Plug-In Manager, full rescan. Live, REAPER, Cubase: check VST3 scanning includes the standard folder.

It sounds boomy, too big or too dirty.
Start from a factory preset near the goal, then lower SUB or the CLEAN faders for boom, lower the FX faders or switch their drive off for dirt, and finish with GLUE and the master EQ. A/B compares with the raw DI.

The room faders do nothing.
Rooms sit at the silent floor by default. Raise ROOM NEAR or ROOM FAR and check their FEED keys.

What does OPTIMISE Ø actually do?
Tries every polarity combination of the audible strips and keeps the one with the least cancellation. A decibel or two is typical; more with rooms engaged.

Does it add latency?
It reports its latency to the host so everything stays aligned; SYS shows the figure. GUITAR MODE adds pitch-shift latency in the Standalone app, which shows a notice.

How much CPU?
Roughly 1 to 2 percent of one modern core per instance. Silent rooms cost nothing.

What does it send home?
Anonymous usage events: a random install id, plugin version, OS and DAW, which controls and presets were used, an hourly snapshot of the panel. Never audio, never personal data, never file, session or preset names, no IP addresses stored. Opt out in the first-run notice or in SYS at any time. Policy: boxofrules.com/privacy

My old sessions sound different after updating.
They should not; compatibility is a hard rule and new controls default to the old behaviour. If you hear a difference, report it with both versions.

Is it really free?
Yes, for any use, commercial productions included. Box Of Rules is one person's project and the plugin is a calling card for the records.

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TECHNICAL

- Signal flow: DI, input gain, per strip (drive, cab capture, filters), gain and pan, sum (rooms fed by the layers you choose), glue, master EQ, output. Lock-free and allocation-free on the audio thread.
- Identity: manufacturer Box of Rules (BxRl), code BbEn, AU type aufx, bundle com.boxofrules.boxofbassfree. macOS 10.13+, universal. Windows 10+, 64-bit.
- Built with JUCE 8. Proprietary software, © Box Of Rules; the captured impulse responses may not be redistributed.

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