USER GUIDE · V1.1.0

PICKING FINGERS

Pick from fingers, fingers from pick. I measured matched recordings of the same basses played both ways and turned the difference into precision voicing filters, level-matched so the low end never moves. Digitally Analogue.



BOXOF RULES

01

WHAT IT IS

Picking Fingers changes the playing character of a recorded bass: a fingerstyle performance voiced as picked, or a picked performance voiced as fingerstyle. The voicings come from matched recordings of real players and real picks, level-matched through the low end, so the tone and attack change while the weight stays exactly where it was.

AU · VST3 · LV2 | MACOS · WINDOWS | ZERO LATENCY | 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 track that carries the clean bass DI, before amps and effects; the voicing assumes an uneffected direct signal.

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 CONTROLS

VOICE
PICK 1 and PICK 2 voice a fingerstyle DI as picked; FINGERS 1 and FINGERS 2 voice a picked DI as fingerstyle. Two measured picks, two measured players. OFF is a bit-exact passthrough.

AUTO-GAIN
Green when on: every voice sits at the same loudness, so switching compares character, not volume.

ATTACK
Transient depth in dB, default 2.4 (the measured real-world difference). Half the effect lives here; 0 disables the transient stage exactly.

BITE
A measured, subtle chunk at the front of each note, in percent. Sustained tones are untouched.

BLEND
How much of the voicing you take, 0 to 100 percent. 50 lands halfway between the two playing styles.

TONE · IN · OUT
TONE tilts plus or minus 6 dB (0 is bit-exact flat). IN and OUT are trims in dB; the voicing itself is level-robust.

04

PRESETS, SCOPE, SIZE

- **PRESET** in the header: factory presets, your own presets (saved per user, never transmitted) and Load from URL, which fetches a preset file from a link. Community presets live on plugins.boxofrules.com.
- The **BEFORE / AFTER** scope draws the DI and the voiced signal side by side; RATE and ZOOM set the view, SCOPE OFF stops the drawing. Sound is unaffected either way.
- Drag the bottom-right corner to resize the editor, 75 to 175 percent; the whole layout scales as one canvas.

05

SYS AND THE FOOTER

- The cog opens **SYS**: live version, format, host, sample rate, CPU and latency; the usage-data consent checkbox; PRIVACY; and a COPY key that copies diagnostics for support.
- **LANG** picks one of 20 languages for the support-facing text (first pass; English is the fallback).
- The lightbulb sends me an idea (an idea that ships in a paid plugin earns a lifetime licence), the ear opens the listener survey, and LISTEN opens my records on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.
- There is no bypass in the plugin: use your DAW's, or the OFF voice for a bit-exact passthrough.

06

QUESTIONS

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

Which direction does it work?
Both. Choose the voice for the sound you want to end up with: PICK on a fingerstyle take, FINGERS on a picked one.

It sounds like an EQ change, not a new playing style.
Keep ATTACK near its default, feed it a clean DI, and add BITE for the pick chunk on note fronts. Extreme TONE settings can mask the effect.

Does it work on distorted or already-mixed bass?
It is designed for a clean DI. It does something on processed bass, but the measured voicing assumes a direct signal.

Does it add latency?
No. Zero samples, nothing reported to the host. Safe for tracking and live use.

Do my 1.0 sessions still sound the same?
Yes. The new controls default to the 1.0 behaviour and old session data loads with those defaults. If you hear a difference, report it with both versions.

What does it send home?
Anonymous usage events: a random install id, plugin version, OS and DAW, which controls and presets were used, the chosen UI language. 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

Is it really free?
Yes, for any use, commercial productions included.

07

TECHNICAL

- Precision minimum-phase voicing filters measured from matched pick and fingers captures, plus a transient stage; level-matched through the low end. Zero latency, dual-mono on stereo tracks.
- Identity: manufacturer Box of Rules (BxRl), code Pkgr, AU type aufx, bundle com.boxofrules.pickingfingers. macOS 10.13+, universal. Windows 10+, 64-bit.
- Built with JUCE 8. Proprietary software, © Box Of Rules; the measured voicing filters may not be redistributed.

Support: boxofrules.com/contact · Plugin page: boxofrules.com/plugins/picking-fingers