

ModPlay version 1.0 User Manual

Welcome to ModPlay!

ModPlay is a unique MIDI LFO plug-in purpose built to enhance your favorite plug-ins! It is a “plug-in for your plug-in” that easily adds dynamic movements to your instruments and effects. It does so with a highly flexible LFO used to modulate parameters on other plug-ins using MIDI CC.



Why ModPlay?

Playability

ModPlay is not a “set and forget” processor like most other plug-ins. Instead it’s designed to be “played” like an instrument:

- Quickly create shapes and variations with simple and intuitive controls.
- Store multiple settings in Snapshots, then switch between them in real-time.
- Results - Dynamic, exciting, and musical movements and textures!

Leave your presets alone

- ModPlay allows you to keep your modulation isolated from the preset, so you can experiment with modulation without worrying about losing the original sound..

Built for Speed

- ModPlay is designed to get results fast.
 - We want to eliminate endless tweaking.
 - Instead we provide simple controls for intuitively sculpting desired shapes, and Snapshots to play these shapes in context of your project.
- The controls are distilled to just a few parameters that are optimized to create a huge variety of shapes.
- Results are faster because you can try out the effect changes in real-time.

What can you do with this thing?

Depending on what parameter you modulate, a truly wide range of effects can be achieved. Furthermore, the ability to switch settings instantly in real-time makes it easy to change the effects throughout the song or project.

Here are just a few examples of what can be done:

- Modulate Volume to create...

- Tremolo effects
- Rhythmic patterns
- Swells
- Fade ins
- Modulate Pan to create...
 - Rotary effects
 - Stereo sweeps
- Modulate Delay Time to create...
 - Accelerating or decelerating delays
 - Wild pitch effects
- Modulate Effects Mix Level to create...
 - Effects that move in and out
 - Add effects only to certain points in time

Visit and follow the [FSK Audio YouTube channel](#) for frequently updated tips and tricks.

Installation & Authorization

1. Download the installer from fskaudio.com and run it.
2. After the installation, launch your DAW and instantiate a ModPlay.
3. A prompt for activating ModPlay will appear. You will be asked to sign into your iLok account.
 - a. Alternatively, you can authorize ModPlay using iLok License Manager prior to opening ModPlay on your DAW.

The installer will install the following plug-in formats:

- AAX: MIDI Effect
- VST3: Instrument
- AU: MIDI FX (Mac only)

Setup & Routing

ModPlay is a MIDI effects plug-in, and as such does not affect audio on its own. **ModPlay's MIDI output must be routed to a target plug-in or device that can use incoming MIDI CC to control its parameters.**

Different DAWs, plug-ins, and devices may have different capabilities and methods for routing MIDI. Please refer to the documentation for each plug-in or device for details.

- Some products have parameters that are pre-assigned to CC numbers. To modulate these, simply select the corresponding CC number on a ModPlay output.
- Many products have a MIDI Learn function. When MIDI Learn is enabled on a parameter, it is auto-assigned to the first MIDI message it receives. This function can be used to “learn” the MIDI CC signal being sent from ModPlay.
- Note that not all parameters may be available to be assigned.

About MIDI CC

MIDI CC (Continuous Controllers) is a type of MIDI data that allows one device to control knobs and buttons on another device.

Using ModPlay

Keyboard Shortcuts

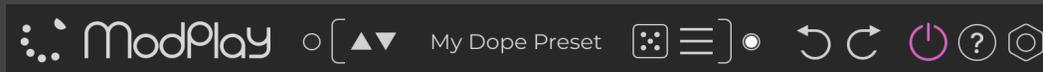
Parameters:

- **Fine control** for parameters - Hold the **Command** (Mac) or **Ctrl** (Windows) key while turning knobs.
- **Reset** parameter to default value - Hold **Option** (Mac) or **Alt** (Windows) and click on parameter.
- **Direct input** - **Double click** on parameters to type in values.
- **Contextual menus** - **Right-click** or **Control+click** (Mac) to open contextual menus on select items.

Snapshots:

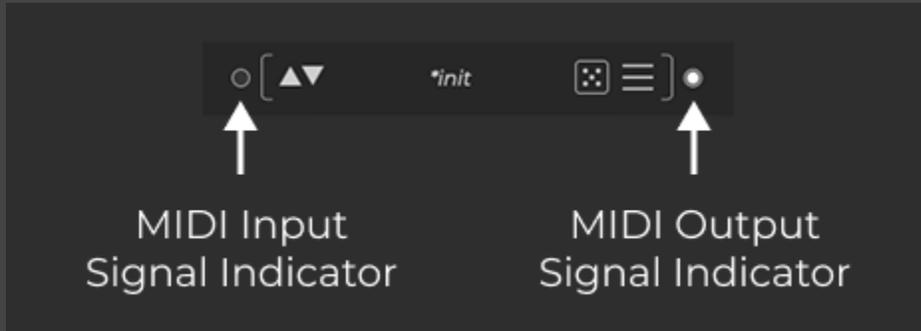
- **Store** settings - Click on any empty slot.
- **Update** a slot - Hold **Command** (Mac) or **Ctrl** (Windows) and click on a used slot.
- **Options menu** - **Right-click** or **Control+click** (Mac).

The Header



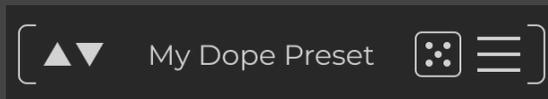
The Header contains preset management, undo/redo, power, help links, and preferences.

MIDI Input and Output Signal Indicators



These light up when MIDI signal is received at the input, or is being sent from the output.

Presets Management



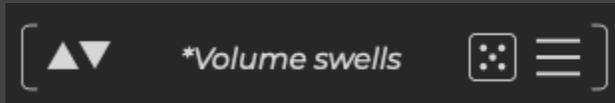
Previous/Next Preset (Up/Down buttons)

Use these buttons to load the previous or next preset.

Preset Name Display

Displays the name of the currently loaded preset.

- The preset name will be italicized and display an asterisk (*) if settings have been changed.



Click on the display to open a menu showing other presets.

Presets Menu

Provides further options for managing your presets.

- Load
 - Opens ModPlay preset files from any location.
- Import
 - Copies ModPlay preset files into the preset folder.
- Save
 - Overwrites the currently loaded preset.
 - If there is no preset loaded, saves a new preset.
- Save As...
 - Saves the current setting as a new preset.
- Initialize Settings
 - Unloads the current preset, and resets all settings to their default values.
- Delete
 - Deletes the current preset.
- Export
 - Creates a copy of the current preset to any location.
- Open Preset Folder
 - Reveals the ModPlay Preset folder in the Finder or Explorer.

Undo/Redo

Click on the corresponding button to undo or redo edits.

Power

Toggles LFO generation on/off.

Help

Opens a menu with more help resources.

Preferences

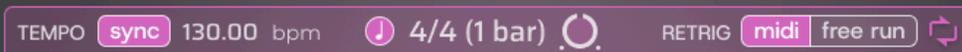
- Reset Window Size - If the plug-in window has been manually resized, this will reset it back to its original dimensions.
- Displays ModPlay production information

LFO



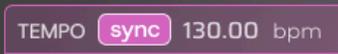
The LFO section is where you create your LFO shape and determine the speed and behavior of the generated signal.

Rate Bar



The Rate Bar contains all of the parameters for setting the rate, or playback speed, of the LFO.

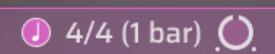
Tempo



On the left hand of the Rate Bar are the tempo controls.

- Sync
 - On - ModPlay follows the host application's tempo.
 - Off - ModPlay will use its own internal tempo.
- Tempo Display
 - When Sync is Off, the tempo can be edited.

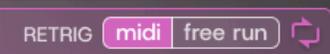
Rate



In the center of the Rate Bar are the rate controls.

- Rate Mode
 - On - Rate will be set in note divisions.
 - Off - Rate will be set in frequency (Hz)
- Rate Display
 - When using note divisions, clicking on the display will open a menu.
 - When using Hz, double-click on the display to directly enter the desired frequency.
- Rate Knob
 - Drag to increase or decrease the rate in either musical notes or Hz.

Retrigger (Retrig)

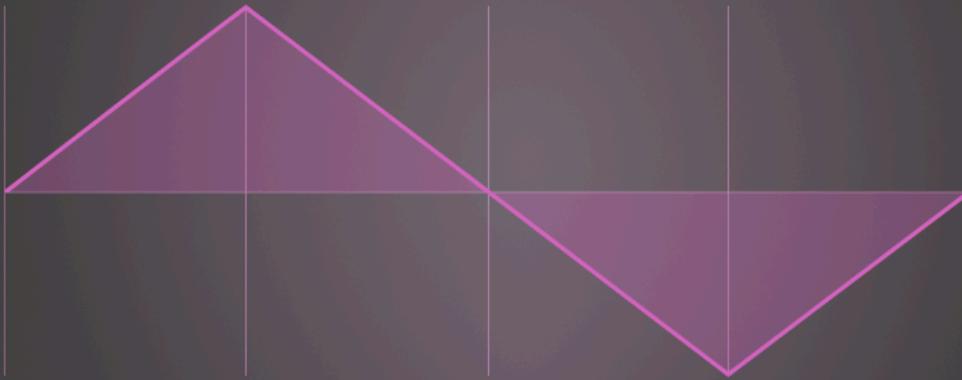


On the right hand of the Rate Bar are the retrigger behavior controls.

- Retrig
 - MIDI - The LFO will be restarted whenever a MIDI Note is received.
 - Free Run - The LFO will be restarted when playback is started on the host application.

- Loop
 - On - The LFO will cycle continuously.
 - Off - The LFO will stop after one cycle. This allows ModPlay to act similarly to an envelope generator.
 - Note that Loop mode applies only if Retrigger is set to MIDI.

Display



The graph in the center of the LFO shows the shape of the LFO in real-time.

- Responsive visual feedback to reflect how each parameter affects the wave shape.
- A moving puck traces the movement of the LFO.

Shape Parameters



Below the display you will find all of the parameters that determine the shape of the LFO.

- Shape
 - Morphs between sine - triangle - square - random shapes.

- Skew
 - Sine and Triangle - Moves the peaks of the wave shape closer or farther.
 - Square and Random - Alters the length of each half of the cycle.
- Phase
 - Moves the entire wave shape left or right.
- Polarity
 - Unipolar - The wave shape moves in one direction relative to the initial level.
 - Bipolar - The wave shape moves in either direction relative to the initial level.

Shape Helpers

Shortcuts



Provides shortcuts to common shapes which are useful as starting points.

Hint - These shortcuts are simply different combinations of the Shape, Skew, and Phase parameters. Therefore they can help to understand how these parameters interact.

Randomize



- Randomize - Click to randomize parameters.
- Strength - Adjusts the amount of randomization.
 - Smaller values will randomize less for creating subtle variations.

Grids

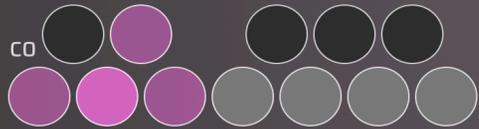
GRID



Grid lines are provided as reference for sculpting your LFO shapes.

Snapshots

SNAPSHOTS



Snapshots store combinations of settings which can then be switched in real-time, allowing you to easily perform changes to the modulation.

- Store up to 12 sets of ModPlay settings.
- Switch between them in real-time from a MIDI keyboard.
 - Use MIDI notes C0 ~ B0 to switch Snapshots.
 - ModPlay will consume MIDI notes for loaded Snapshot slots only. All other notes will be passed through to the output.
- Quickly store or update the current settings to any of the slots.

Snapshot Slot States

Snapshot slots can be in the following three states:

- Empty (gray or black) - These do not have any settings stored in them.
- Loaded (dark pink) - These have settings stored in them.
- Active (bright pink) - This is the currently active slot.

Snapshot Slot Operations

- **Store** settings - **Click** on any empty slot or use the **right-click** options menu.
- **Clear** settings - Available in the **right-click** options menu.
- **Update** settings - Hold **Command** (Mac) or **Ctrl** (Windows) and click on a used slot, or use the “Store” command in the **right-click** options menu.

What’s Stored in a Snapshot

- Included:
 - All Rate Bar settings.
 - LFO wave shape settings (Shape, Skew, Phase, Polarity).
 - Output settings (Base Level, Modulation Amount, Mute)
- NOT included:
 - Shape Helper settings.
 - Output CC number.

Hint - To record your Snapshot switching, simply record the corresponding MIDI notes together with the MIDI notes used to trigger your instruments. No need to use the DAW’s automation.

Hint - Quantize your Snapshot trigger notes for precisely timed switching.

Outputs



The Outputs section is where you specify the output destination, as well as level and modulation amount.

- Four outputs.

- Each output can be set to the desired CC number.
- Each output can have its own base level, modulation amount, and modulation direction.
- Each output can be Muted.
- MIDI Assign Assist mode to help connect each output to the desired target parameter on the receiving plug-in.

Each Output consists of the following

- CC Number Selector and Display
- Base Level knob (center knob)
- Modulation Amount knob (outer knob)
- Mute

MIDI Assign Assist Mode



The MIDI Assign Assist mode makes it easier to assign multiple ModPlay outputs to multiple parameters on target plug-ins.

MIDI Assign Assist button

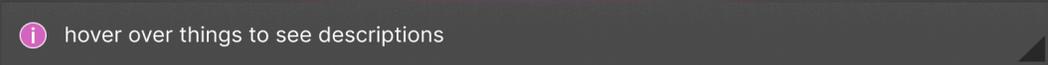


Click on the button to activate MIDI Assign Assist mode.

MIDI Assignment Steps

- When this mode is enabled, only the active (pink cell) output will send MIDI data.
- Click on the desired output cell to make it active for assignment.
- Go to the target plug-in and enable its MIDI Learn function for the desired parameter(s).
 - Different plug-ins have different methods and capabilities for MIDI Learn. Refer to their documentation for details.
- The CC number for any of the outputs can be selected or changed by clicking on the CC number display.
- Click on the “X” or “close” button to exit MIDI Assignment Assist mode.

The Footer



 hover over things to see descriptions

The Footer contains a display area for helpful tooltips and a window resize handle.

Tips and Tricks

Getting familiarized with the LFO

- Setting the output to CC 7 will control the main volume on many VIs. This is a good way to familiarize yourself with the functionality of ModPlay since the effects are easy to hear.
- Try the included factory presets as starting points.
- Play with the LFO settings to see how the different settings affect the sound.

Try the Snapshots

- One good way to get started is to store a few Snapshots of the same shape, but different Rates.
- While you play your instrument, switch between these Snapshots to see how different speeds can alter the effect.

Compatibility

Operating Systems

- Mac (Intel, Apple silicon)
- Windows

Plug-in Formats

- AAX (MIDI Effect)
- VST3 (Instrument)
- AU (MIDI FX)