

Tape Warmer

Tape saturation, low-end weight and pitch movement.



VERSION 1.9.6

Learn the four main controls, make a level-matched comparison and save a useful setting for your next session. Start with a short loop so you can hear each change in context.

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Installation and first launch

Install Tape Warmer, then load it in an effect slot.

- 01.** Close your DAW before installing or updating.
- 02.** Download the Windows installer or macOS package from your product page or [My account](#).
- 03.** Run the installer, reopen your DAW and rescan plugins if needed. On Mac, use AU in Logic Pro or AU/VST3 in a compatible host.
- 04.** Find Tape Warmer under Metasis Audio. Start playback and select Init or a factory preset.

Format	Installation folder
Windows VST3	C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3
macOS VST3	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3
macOS AU	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit, with a VST3 host. On Mac, use macOS 11 or later on Apple silicon or Intel.

Trial and activation

The full plugin has a seven-day trial. Activate a purchase with the email used for your order and your licence key. Activation needs an internet connection; normal activated use works offline.

See Activation and device changes for moving to another computer.

Quick start and controls

- 01.** Insert Tape Warmer on a track or bus. Start with Modern character and a modest input level.
- 02.** Enable Auto Gain while adjusting the effect. Increase Drive until the added harmonics are audible, then back it off if needed.
- 03.** Add Warmth to give the low end more weight. Keep Wow & Flutter low for stable tuning.
- 04.** Use Bypass to compare. If Auto Gain is off, adjust Output so the processed and unprocessed levels are similar.

Control	What it does
Drive / 0-100%	Sets how strongly the signal drives the saturation stage. More Drive adds harmonics and rounds peaks. The result also depends on the input level.
Warmth / 0-100%	Adds the low-frequency resonance associated with tape. Use it independently of Drive.
Wow & Flutter / 0-100%	Adds slow and fast pitch variation. Higher settings make the movement more obvious.
Output / -12 to +12 dB	Trims the final level. When Auto Gain is enabled, manual Output is dimmed and unavailable.
Character	Modern is tighter and steadier. Vintage adds a darker, more saturated and less stable character.
Auto Gain	Compensates for level changes as you adjust the effect. Useful for comparison; turn it off to use manual Output.
Bypass	Switches between the processed and bypassed signal. The plugin retains the settings for when it is enabled again.
Use Auto Gain while adjusting the effect, then compare with Bypass at a similar listening level.	

Dialling in the sound

Saturation and low-end weight

Drive and Warmth solve different problems. Increase Drive for density and harmonic colour. Increase Warmth for low-end weight. If the mix becomes crowded or boomy, reduce Warmth before adding more processing elsewhere.

Pitch movement

Wow & Flutter changes pitch over time. Start near the bottom of its range for held notes, vocals and a full mix. Higher values are useful for an intentionally unstable effect on keys or a separate texture track. Both channels share the pitch modulation, helping preserve mono compatibility.

Modern and Vintage

Try Modern when you want a restrained effect across a bus. Try Vintage on a source that benefits from more audible colour. Switching character changes more than the pitch movement, so compare at similar loudness before deciding.

Auto Gain and Output

Auto Gain is a level-comparison aid. Give it a representative passage to measure while you adjust settings. If you want a deliberate gain change, turn Auto Gain off and use Output. Check the DAW output meter as well as the perceived loudness.

Action	Result
Drag a knob	Drag vertically from its current position.
Shift + drag	Make a finer adjustment.
Double-click a knob	Return that control to its default.
Window size	Use the 75 / 100 / 125 / 150% controls in the header.
Information line	Hover a control to read a short explanation.

Starting points and presets

These are starting settings, not fixed recipes. Input level and source material change the result.

Goal	Try this
Subtle bus colour	Modern. Drive 15-30%, Warmth 15-35%, Wow & Flutter 0-10%. Use Auto Gain while comparing.
Thicker bass	Modern. Keep Wow & Flutter near zero. Raise Drive until the bass is easier to hear, then add only enough Warmth to support the low end.
Unstable keys	Vintage. Start with Drive 20-40% and Wow & Flutter 25-45%. Lower Warmth if the left hand becomes muddy.
More obvious drum colour	Raise Drive while looping a busy section. Listen to the transient shape. Reduce Output or use Auto Gain to avoid choosing a setting just because it is louder.

Browse, save and load

Click the program display to browse programs, or use its arrows to move through the list. **SAVE** stores your current settings as a user program; **LOAD** opens a saved program file. Use a descriptive name such as “Bass - steady warmth”. Save the DAW project to preserve the full session.

Reset and window size

Use Menu > Reset to factory state for a clean starting point. The window scale is a viewing preference rather than a sound parameter. A preset should not be used as a substitute for saving the project.

Automation

Record or draw automation in the DAW for gradual changes in Drive, Warmth or pitch movement. Test the transition in context and leave room for the loudest part of the track.

Troubleshooting and support

Symptom	Check this first
Output does not move	Auto Gain is enabled. Turn it off to use the manual Output control.
Sound is too wobbly	Lower Wow & Flutter or switch from Vintage to Modern.
Too much low end	Reduce Warmth and compare with Bypass at a similar level.
Little audible saturation	Check the input signal and Drive. A quiet source reacts differently from a loud one.
Effect stops after the trial	Open the licence entry in Menu and activate a purchased licence.

Plugin missing from the DAW

Confirm the plugin format, architecture and installed location. Close and reopen the DAW, rescan with its plugin manager, and review any failed-validation list. Remove duplicate old installations only when you know which version your existing projects require. Do not disable operating-system security checks to force a plugin to load.

Projects, presets and updates

Save your DAW project and a copy of important user presets before updating. A DAW project stores the plugin state; a preset file lets you reuse settings in another project. Keep the original installers needed for archived sessions.

For activation trouble, use the same email address as your order, check your connection and available device slots, then reopen the plugin after activation. If the licence does not persist, report the exact error to support.

Contact METASIS

Email support@metasisaudio.com with the plugin name and version, operating system, DAW/version, plugin format and steps to reproduce the issue. For audio problems, include sample rate, buffer size and a short example you are allowed to share.

[Support and current downloads](#) | [My account](#)

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Activation and device changes

Activate once, use offline

The full plugin works for seven days from first use. To keep using it after the trial, open MENU and the licence window. Enter the email used for your purchase and your licence key, then choose ACTIVATE while connected to the internet. Once activated, normal use works offline without periodic licence checks.

A personal licence normally covers two computers. Check your allowance in My account. Several instances on the same computer use one activation. To free an activation, use DEACTIVATE inside the plugin on that computer.

Move to another computer

- 01.** Open the licence window on the old computer, choose DEACTIVATE and wait for confirmation.
- 02.** If the connection fails, local activation is removed but the server activation stays pending. Reconnect and choose RETRY. The activation is free to use elsewhere only after server confirmation.
- 03.** Activate on the replacement computer with your purchase email and key. If an older activation shows VERIFY, use it first to enable deactivation.

Deactivation does not restart the trial. If the original trial has ended, the plugin is silent until activated again. If a computer is lost or broken, contact support@metasisaudio.com. Reaching the device limit does not stop an already activated computer from working.

Transferring your licence

Transfer a perpetual paid licence to another person from your customer account. There is no transfer fee.

01. Deactivate every authorised computer inside the plugin. Contact support if a computer is unavailable.

02. Stop using the licence and make all retained copies and restorable backups unusable.

03. Open My account > My Licenses. Enter the recipient email for the selected licence, confirm that you have relinquished the copies and send the invitation.

04. The recipient accepts the email invitation within seven days. They use the account for that email or receive a password-setup email for a new account.

05. The recipient receives a new key and download access. Your original invoice and other purchases stay in your account. Both sides receive confirmation.

While an invitation is pending, new activations are paused. Cancel it before acceptance if needed; unaccepted invitations expire after seven days. Private resale payment is arranged between the parties. Statutory rights remain unaffected.

Full instructions: metasisaudio.com/support. Privacy: metasisaudio.com/privacy-policy.