



Matt Otten's
Stereo WahWah VST Plug-In for Windows

Installation

All you have to do is unzip the zip file in your VST Plugin Folder; it is recommended you unzip it retaining the directory name, creating a sub folder in your VST folder. This way the files will not get mixed up with your other VST plug-in files. Once it is placed there, your VST host (audio editor or sequencer) will automatically recognise it, and the Wahwah plug-in will show up in the VST plug-in list (insert effect, send- or master effect). To un-install, just delete the Wahwah plug-in directory.

Using the WahWah plug-in

When you have opened your VST host, the Wahwah plugin will show up among the possible VST plug-ins you have installed, to be used typically as an insert effect, a send effect or a master effect. Selecting it from the respective list will open the Wahwah control window.

The example below shows the plug-in control window (opened here in Steinberg's Wavelab).



Most of the controls are fairly obvious:

Speed: controls the frequency of the modulating wave in Auto mode.

Modulation: controls the shape of the modulation wave.

Depth: controls the frequency range over which the WahWah effect operates.

Brightness: controls the average frequency region in which the WahWah operates.

Resonance: controls the sharpness of the WahWah band filter

Stereo width: controls the delay between the left and right channels (left slider) and (modulated) pan position (right slider).

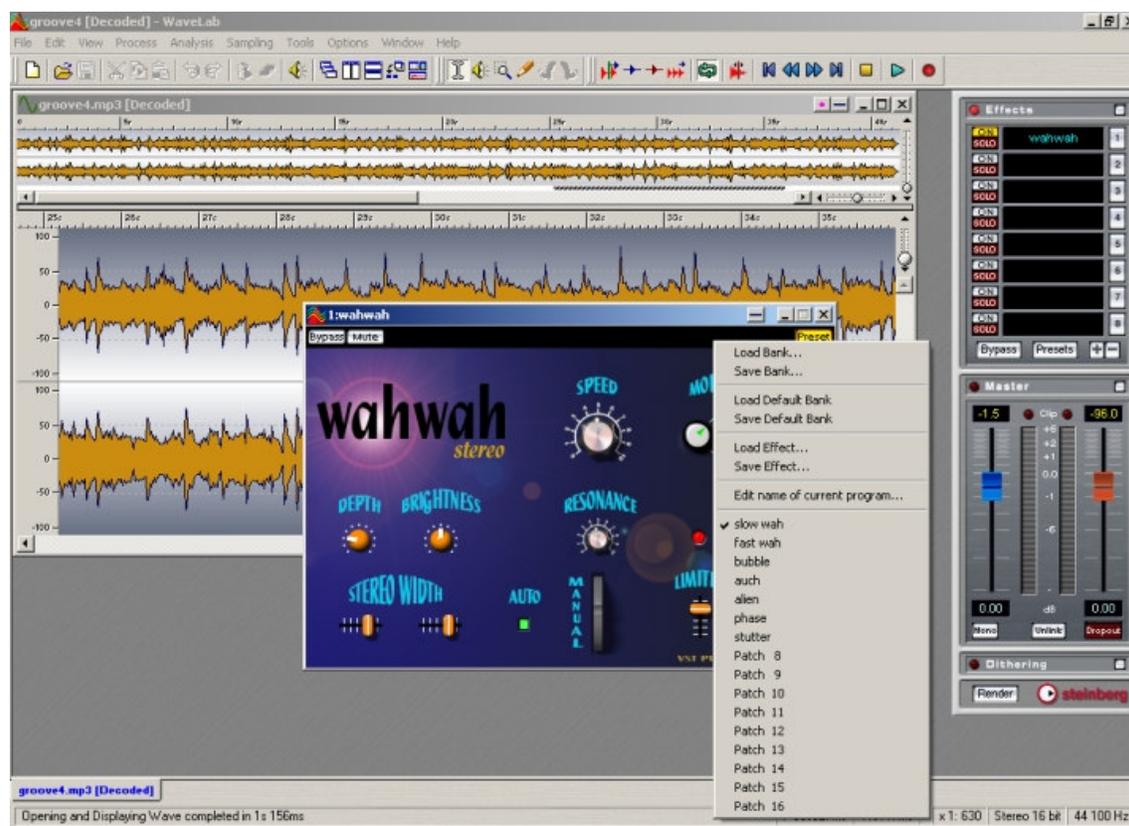
Auto: this button is to switch on and off the Auto Mode. In Auto mode, the WahWah is modulated by the built-in oscillator, controlled by the Speed and Modulation controls. If Auto Mode is off, the modulation can be done manually with the control wheel Manual, using the mouse. This is most useful if you record these modulations in your sequencer, using midi automation. You can modulate by hand while the track is playing, record the control and edit the control later if desired.

Manual: this is meant for manually modulating the WahWah during playback of a track. Normally you would use it with Auto Mode off, but if Auto Mode is on, the manual modulation is added to the automatic modulation.

Limiter: The Limiter limits peaks in the audio; the level can usually be set high, but the limiting level can be lowered if necessary to avoid distortions, depending on what other effects might follow the WahWah (when you chain effects).

Volume: controls the overall volume.

The available presets give you a good idea of some possible settings and how they sound, from typical wahwah to more extreme effects.



Above the WahWah is shown in Wavelab, with the presets list opened.

Note:

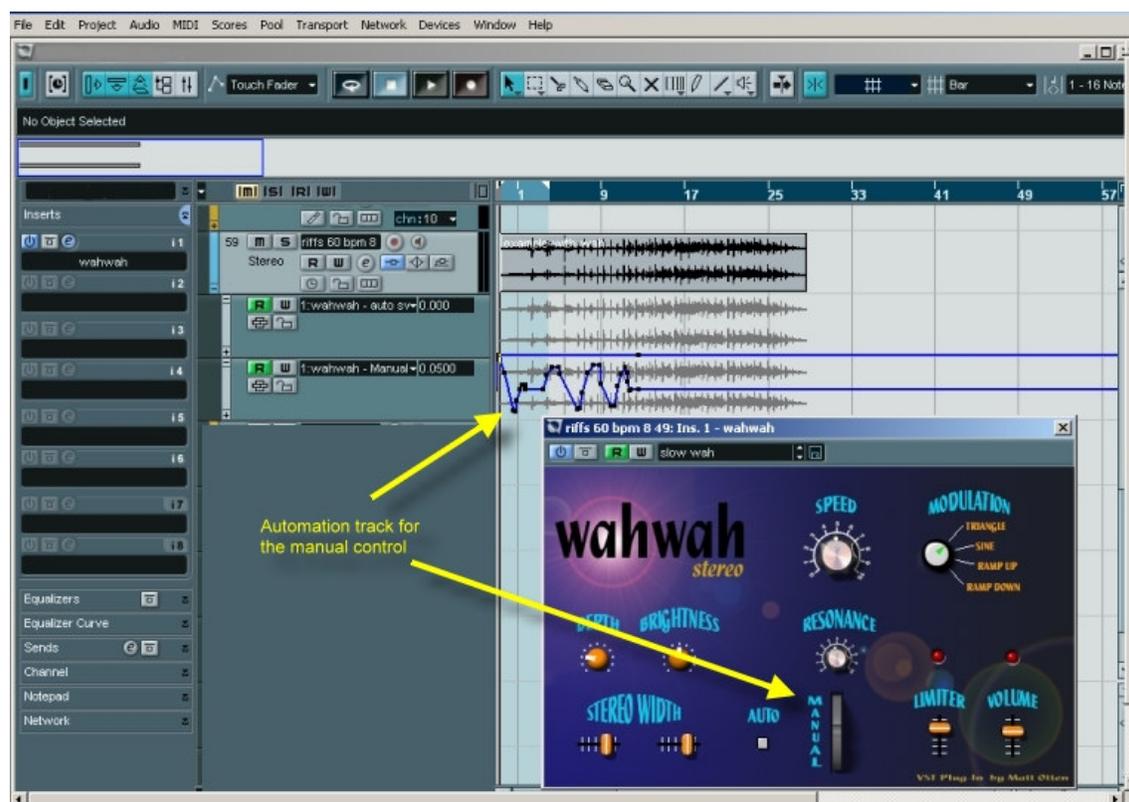
To get a stereo output, you must apply the plug-in to a stereo track. If you have a mono track, convert it to stereo by duplicating the audio to get 2 channels (or any other way your VST host allows you to convert mono to stereo).

The effect can, at some settings, cause fairly high boost. Generally the limiter will take care of that. Nevertheless, if you still hear some subtle distortion arising, reduce the volume level on the Wahwah control panel.

To try out new settings, it is often best to use long chords as input, so that you can accurately hear the actual effect. On very short and discontinuous sounds, it will be difficult to hear subtle differences between modulating waveforms.

Midi Automation

If your VST host supports midi automation (most do), you can automate the controls in the Wahwah control window, by recording the movements during playback, or by editing the automation control tracks directly. Below an automation track for the Manual modulation control is shown. Wahwah is used here as an insert effect (see left column).



This was recorded during playback of the track above by activating the automation Write (W) button, and can be edited to make some additional changes. By pressing the Read (R) button, as shown, the automation is read during play back. The appearance of automation buttons may differ in different sequencers. All controls can be automated in this way.

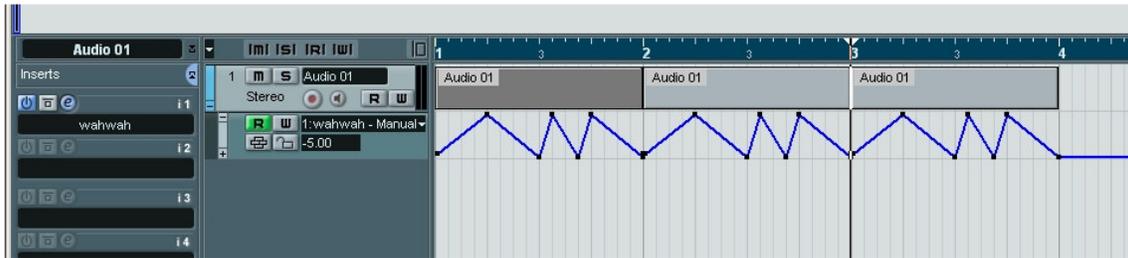
Examples

Some practical examples of how to work with the WahWah Plug-in.

The simplest way is to use the automatic modulation, if you want the wah-frequency to be 'free-flowing'. Switch it on during recording and leave it like that. If you want to make some changes to the controls afterwards, just open the associated automation track, and edit the control value, or play back the track, and tweak the control, with automation recording (Write) on.

If you want to control the modulation on the basis of the music played in real time, first record with automatic modulation, for a rough idea. When the audio is recorded, play it back and move the 'Manual' control wheel as you want.

If you want some modulation locked to the beat, you can draw the modulation, even before recording audio, on a dummy bar (i.e. with empty audio part) in the automation track, and then copy this bar as many times as needed, see the example below. Then record the audio over this part, making sure the automation Write function is off, so that the modulation curve is not replaced. This way you can make any shape of modulation, in sync with your sequencer tempo.



Free Auto-Wah

A free Auto-Wah plug-in is available that is based on the WahWah. It is a mono effect, and without the Manual control wheel, hence it only functions as an auto-wah effect.

