

cloudburst

— ambient reverb • **PLUGIN**

USER MANUAL

strymon®

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Introduction



The cloudburst plugin interface

Thank you for purchasing the Strymon Cloudburst plugin! This software offers the same unique effects as in our Cloudburst Ambient Reverb pedal on a fully digital and intuitive platform.

The Cloudburst plugin's simple user interface belies the power underneath the hood—it produces some of the most gorgeous ambient reverb tones and soundscapes available, right within your own DAW projects. Now you can easily apply Cloudburst to any instruments or even your entire mixes!

The Cloudburst plugin provides multiple reverb experiences, with beautifully-tuned and natural small spaces at one end of the Decay knob and vast, expansive atmospheres at the other. The Ensemble knob optionally adds lush synthesized string section swells to the ambience for even more dramatic soundscapes. Of course, we've included the modern, convenient plugin controls as well, such as Infinite/Freeze Hold, Mix lock, Kill Dry, In & Out level controls, and full parameter automation for ease of use within your DAW host.

You will need to create a Strymon account to download the Cloudburst plugin and manage your software license. Please visit www.strymon.net to set up your account. This also allows us to notify you about any updates to the software as they become available.

The features and instructions described within this manual are the same for the Cloudburst plugin on macOS or Windows® computers, unless otherwise noted. If you run into any trouble using the Cloudburst plugin, or would like to report any issues you may encounter, please visit the [Strymon Support](#) page for FAQs and information on activation, installation, and troubleshooting.

NOTE: Cloudburst plugin is available in AAX®, AU, and VST®3 plugin formats and can be operated at any standard sample rate from 44.1kHz to 192kHz, at either 16-bit or 24-bit resolution.

Installation & Activation

Minimum System Requirements

macOS

- macOS Monterey 12.7
- Intel® Core™ i5 or Apple M1
- 8GB RAM
- AAX, AU, or VST3 compatible plugin host software
- iLok account and Internet connection for activation

Windows

- Windows 10
- Intel Core i5 processor or AMD multi-core processor
- 8GB RAM minimum
- AAX or VST3 compatible plugin host software
- iLok account and Internet connection for activation

Installing Cloudburst Plugin

The downloads for the Cloudburst plugin can be found at the following link:

strymon.net/support/cloudburst-plugin-in

Please download the correct installer for your computer's operating system.

Install Locations

The following lists the default install locations for each Cloudburst plugin format:

macOS

- AAX - Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/plugin-ins/Strymon
- Audio Units - Library/Audio/plugin-ins/Components
- VST3 - Library/Audio/plugin-ins/VST3/Strymon

Windows

- AAX - C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\plug-ins\Strymon
- VST3 - C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\Strymon

Activating Cloudburst Plugin

Activating the Cloudburst Plugin Free Trial

The Cloudburst plugin can be evaluated with a 7-day free trial by clicking on the **Try** button from the Activation window that pops up the first time you launch the plugin within your DAW or plugin host application before activation. The trial includes a single, non-transferable activation for 7 days of full-featured use of the plugin.

When you purchase an iLok-compatible Strymon software product, the first step is determined by where you purchased the software.

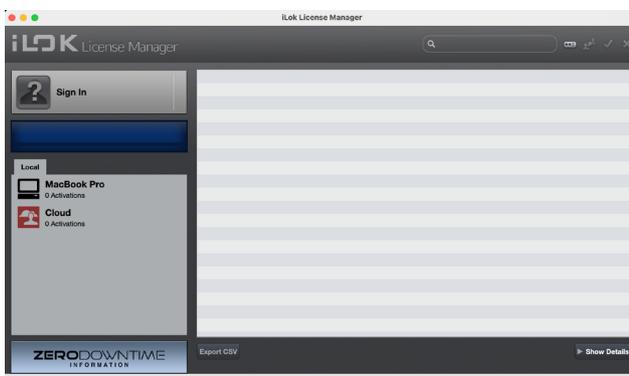
If you purchased the software from the Strymon online store, you can skip to the following **iLok Activation Process** section.

If you purchased the software from one of our software partner dealers, you must redeem the redemption code you received from that purchase at the following link to receive your activation code. Once you have received the activation code from our site, you can begin the activation process below.

[Redeem Redemption Code](#)

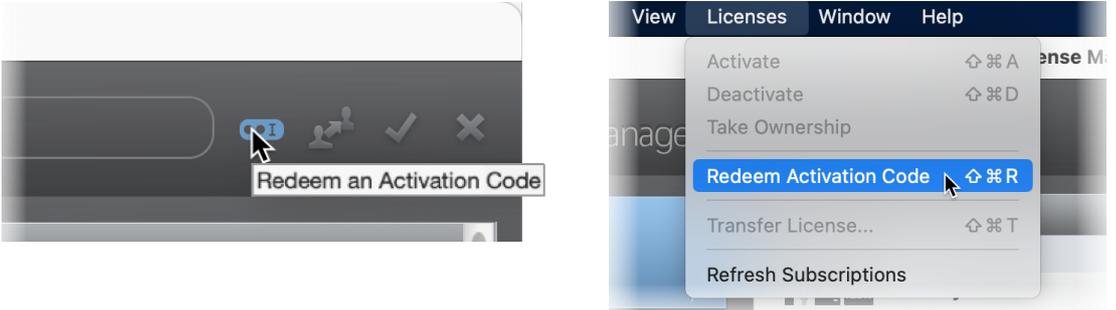
iLok Activation Process

- 1 Create an iLok account** at ilok.com. An iLok account is required to complete the activation process. You can skip this step if you already have an iLok account.
- 2 Download and install** the iLok License Manager software from the ilok.com website onto your computer. If you already have the iLok License Manager software installed, it is recommended to check for updates from the application's menu and install the newest version.
- 3 Open the iLok License Manager** software and click the Sign In button to log into your iLok account.



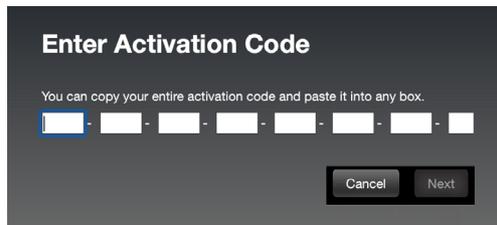
The iLok License Manager main window

- 4 Redeem your software license by clicking on the **Redeem an Activation Code** button at the top right of the iLok License Manager window, or choose **Redeem Activation Code** from the Licenses menu.



iLok License Manager - selecting Redeem Activation Code

In the **Enter Activation Code** window that appears, enter the activation code that you received from your plugin purchase and click **Next**.*



***NOTE:** If you purchased the Cloudburst plugin from one of our software dealer partners rather than directly from the Strymon.com online store, you must first [redeem the code you received from them here](#) to receive the iLok activation code.

- 5 Once you have redeemed your software license, select the Cloudburst plugin license from the list of licenses under your username and click **Activate**.

You'll be prompted to choose the location for your activated licence:

-  To an iLok USB dongle (make sure to have it connected to the computer before selecting to activate the license)...
-  To your computer...
-  Or, to the iLok Cloud.

Click **Activate** again.

- 6 After you have activated the software license, exit the iLok License Manager and insert a Cloudburst plugin instance within your DAW or plugin host project. If activated to an iLok USB dongle, you must have the dongle connected to the computer for authorization whenever using your Strymon plugin.

Returns

We cannot accept returns of any purchase containing an iLok License authorization because the iLok license keys are managed by a 3rd party. If you have experienced a billing or activation issue related to an iLok License purchase, please reach out to [Strymon Support](#) for assistance.

Transfers

Purchased iLok Licenses may be “moved” between two iLok devices that are registered to your iLok.com account. Purchased iLok Licenses may also be transferred from your iLok account to another iLok account. Move and Transfer instructions are provided on [iLok.com](#). There may be a nominal fee assessed by iLok.com. Trial and other free iLok Licenses may not be moved or transferred.

Cloudburst Plugin Overview

Much like the Cloudburst Ambient Reverb pedal, the Cloudburst plugin utilizes a simple user interface, consisting of a top toolbar of controls and a main plugin window including knobs and switches for parameter control. The colorful meters within the center Ensemble section provide real-time, visual feedback for the amount of Ensemble effect applied.



The Cloudburst plugin interface

Mono and Stereo Operation

In DAW host applications that offer the option, Cloudburst plugin can be inserted as a mono, mono-stereo, or stereo plugin instance. When a Cloudburst mono instance is in use, its left & right outputs are summed to mono.

Presets

We've provided a set of Cloudburst Factory Presets to get you started. These can be loaded and used as they are, or edited to your liking and then saved or copied for use in all your DAW host's projects.

The loading and saving of all Cloudburst presets is managed within your DAW host application. Each DAW host application presents this Preset Menu and its Preset Load and Save commands slightly differently, as shown in the following examples. Please check your DAW host application's documentation for details.

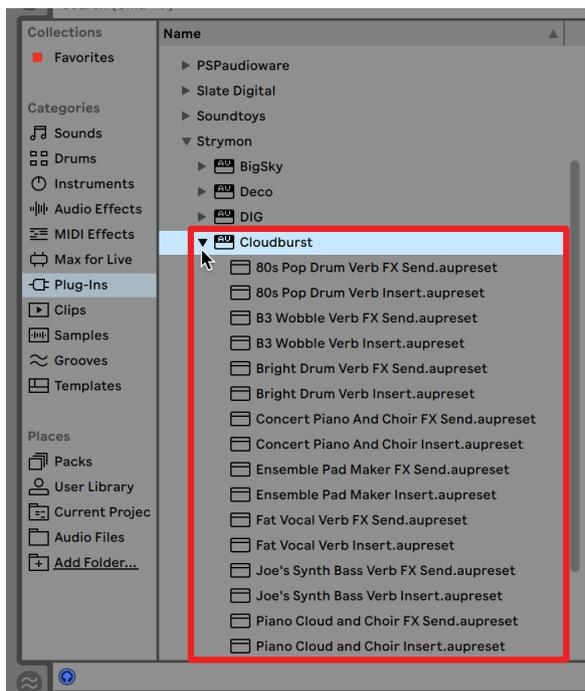
NOTE: As indicated by their titles, Factory Presets are provided in two versions:

FX Send - Default settings include the KILL DRY switch enabled and the MIX at 100% (maximum dry signal level) for use on an Aux/Bus. In Some DAW hosts, these presets will appear within a separate "FX Send" preset sub-menu.

Insert - Default settings include the KILL DRY switch off and the MIX configured for a dry/wet balance for use on an audio or instrument track.

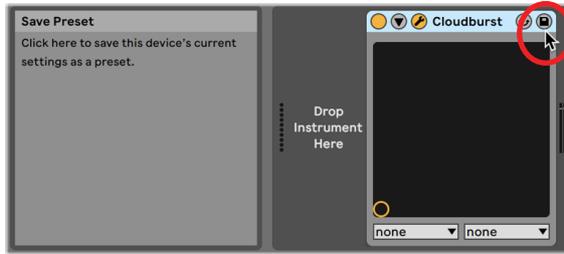
Presets - Ableton® Live

In Ableton Live, you'll find Cloudburst's factory presets within the Browser window's Plug-Ins Category list. Double-click on a preset here to launch a new Cloudburst instance with the preset loaded. Or, you can drag one of the presets onto an existing Cloudburst plugin instance within the Device View at the bottom of Live's screen.



Accessing Cloudburst factory presets from the Ableton Live Plug-Ins Browser

To save your own presets, click the Save button of the Live app Device View's Cloudburst plugin interface. Your saved presets are accessible within Live's User Library from the Browser window.



Saving Cloudburst plugin's current settings as a user preset in Ableton Live

Presets - Apple Logic

In Logic, click on the Preset menu found at the top of the plugin window of your Cloudburst plugin instance and select one of the presets from the bottom of the menu.



Loading a Cloudburst preset from Logic's Preset Menu

To save your own presets, use the Save options within the menu. Your custom, saved presets will appear at the bottom of the Preset menu list.

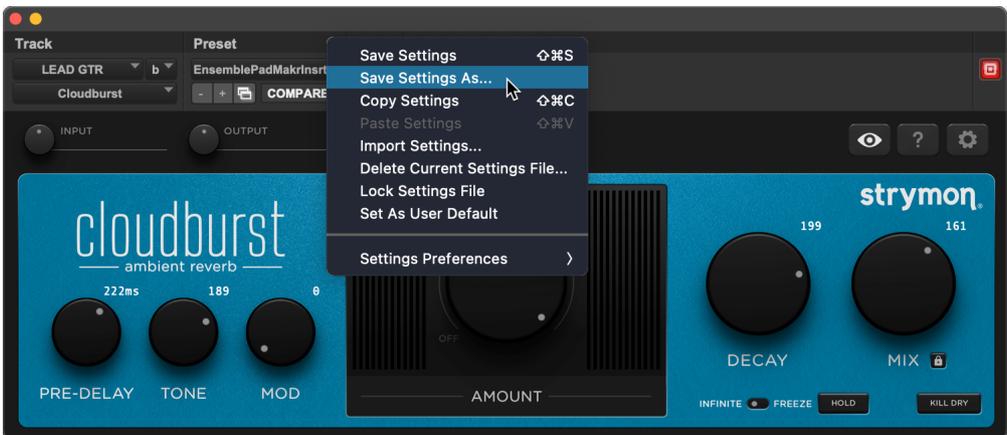
Presets - Avid® Pro Tools®

In Pro Tools, click on the Preset Library menu found at the top of the plugin window of your Cloudburst plugin instance, and select one of the presets from the Factory folder.



Loading a Cloudburst factory preset in Pro Tools

To save your own custom presets, use the Save Settings options within the Preset Settings menu. Your saved presets will appear within the Preset Library menu.



Saving a custom Cloudburst preset in Pro Tools

The Plugin Toolbar Controls



The Cloudburst plugin Toolbar

All the toolbar controls' settings are applied globally per each instance of the Cloudburst plugin (not saved per preset).



INPUT - Turn the knob to adjust input level to the plugin. The LED meter lights **GREEN** to **YELLOW** when the input level signal is within a normal range. The solid **RED** LED lights when an overload condition occurs, in which case you should use the knob to reduce your input level. The Input knob provides +/-36dB of gain.



OUTPUT - Turn the knob to adjust the output level of the plugin. The output meter to the right of the control lights **GREEN** to **YELLOW** when the plugin's output signal is in a normal range, and **RED** when an overload condition occurs. The Output knob provides +/-36dB of gain.

TIP: To quickly reset the Input or Output Level knobs (or any other Cloudburst plugin knobs and switches) to their default value, Option + click (macOS), Alt + click (Windows), or double-click (macOS and Windows) directly on the control.

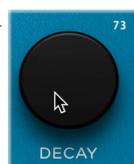


NUMERIC VALUE VISIBILITY - Click the "eye" 3-way switch to show or hide the rotary controls' parameter values.

NOTE: This toolbar setting changes the numeric values' display behavior only for the current instance of the plugin. You can apply the behavior globally, for all plugin instances, within the Settings tab—see [page 13](#).)



Always - Values are shown above controls (the initial default setting, the toolbar button appears illuminated).



Auto - Click again to momentarily show values only when the mouse cursor hovers over or adjusts the control (the toolbar button appears dimmed).

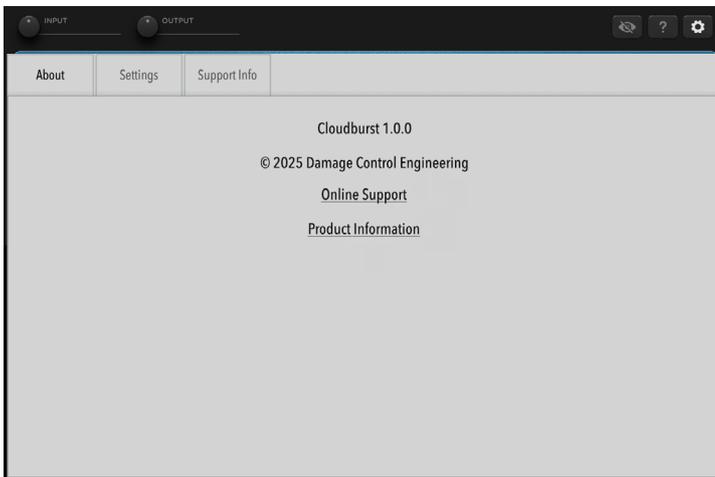


Off - Click once again to always hide the values (the toolbar button appears crossed out and dimmed).

? HELP WINDOW - Click to display a handy, on-screen Help Window. When enabled, a description is displayed for any plugin control as you hover your mouse cursor over it. Click the Help toolbar button again to disable the on-screen Help.



⚙️ ABOUT/SETTINGS/SUPPORT INFO- Click to launch the plugin’s About, Settings, and Support Info window.



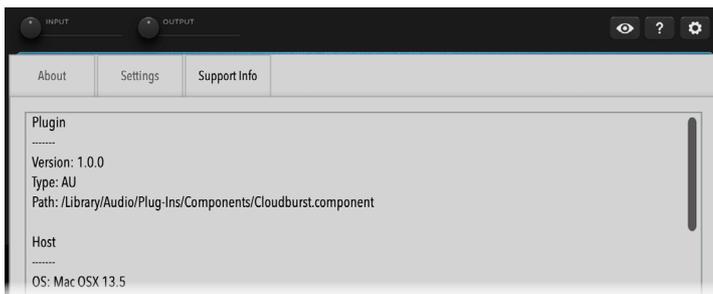
The About tab

- **The About tab** shows the current Cloudburst plugin version and links to the Strymon website’s Online Support and Cloudburst Product Information.



The Settings tab

- **The Settings tab** offers several global options for the plugin.
 - **Animations** - Enables or disables the Ensemble's real-time activity meter animation.
 - **Numeric Value Visibility** - This is a global option for the behavior of the values that can be displayed above the knobs in the plugin window. (You can use the  button on the plugin toolbar to configure this behavior individually for each plugin instance.)
 - **Interface Size** - Choose the plugin window size that best fits your screen and workflow.



The Support Info tab

- **The Support Info tab** displays details about the Cloudburst plugin, your DAW host and computer system, and current project and plugin parameter settings. If you are encountering issues using Cloudburst or your DAW host, use the **Copy to Clipboard** button to copy all the info from this tab and paste into a text document, which can be useful to send to Customer Support for evaluation.

Click the Settings toolbar button again to return to the plugin interface.

The Effect Parameters

The Cloudburst interface’s main window offers simple and intuitive controls for its reverberation and Ensemble features.



The Cloudburst plugin user interface

TIPS: To enter precise knob settings, click on any knob’s numerical value, type in your desired value (0-255), and hit the Return/Enter key.

Reset any knob control to its initial default value by using Option + click (macOS), Alt + click (Windows), or double-click (macOS and Windows) directly on the knob.

Globally customize the size of the Cloudburst plugin interface within the plugin’s Settings tab—see [page 13](#).

The **PRE-DELAY**, **TONE**, and **MOD** knobs at the left of the window control the functions of the Cloudburst reverberation.



PRE-DELAY - Sets the amount of time before the reverberated signal appears, an essential control in creating an accurate and pleasing reverb. For most natural results, use lower **MIX** knob settings when using higher **PRE-DELAY**.



TONE - Adjusts the high-end content of the reverb. Lower settings create darker, warmer reverberation. Higher settings are bright and crisp.



MOD - Adds a wide range of modulation to the reverberated signal. Modulation is off at the minimum setting.



ENSEMBLE - Analyzes the input signal and generates a harmonically rich pad reminiscent of a string section, which is blended with the Cloudburst reverberation.

Simply turn the **AMOUNT** knob to choose the level and intensity of the ensemble effect, as depicted by the meter animation.

At the knob's minimum setting, no effect is added. As the knob is turned clockwise, an increasing amount of effect is added, from a subtle enhancement to a lush soundscape.



DECAY - Controls the decay time of the reverberated signal from very short to over 50 seconds. The size of the reverberated space is simultaneously expanded as the knob is turned clockwise.



MIX and **MIX LOCK** - The **MIX** knob controls the mix from full dry at minimum to full wet (reverb + ensemble) at maximum. A 50/50 mix occurs at approximately 3 o'clock on the knob.



The **MIX LOCK** button, when enabled (lit), makes the Mix knob's setting global, allowing the value to remain fixed while loading presets.



KILL DRY - When enabled (lit), mutes the dry path signal completely, allowing the **MIX** knob to strictly control the "wet" effect output level. This can be preferable when inserting the Cloudburst plugin on an Aux or Effects Send channel in your DAW host.



INFINITE / FREEZE HOLD - To use the Hold feature, click to enable the **HOLD** button at the start of a note or chord input or playback on the track to capture and sustain the Cloudburst signal, with the behavior determined by the **Infinite / Freeze** switch, as listed below. Click the button again to disengage the Hold:

- **Infinite** - Reverb is applied indefinitely to *all* the current track's playback and current input signals while Hold is enabled.
- **Freeze** - Reverb is applied indefinitely to only to the track signal that was captured when enabling Hold. As you continue playing audio (or inputting/recording new audio into the track) while Hold is enabled, you'll hear the input on top of your "frozen" signal *without* being added to the reverb.

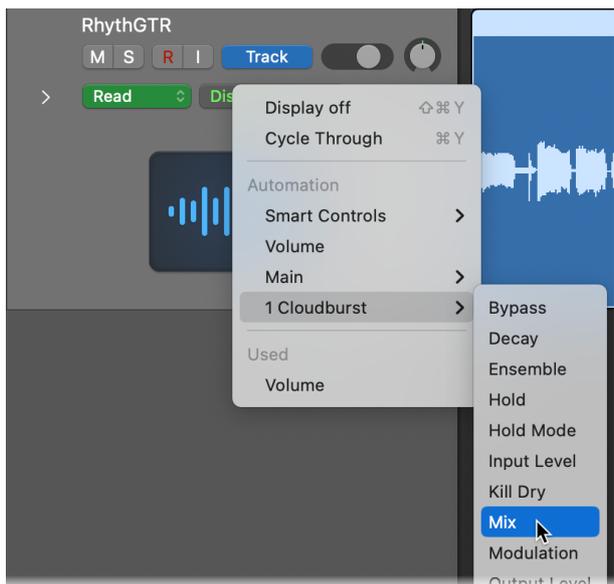
Parameter Automation

Parameter automation is a feature that most DAW applications provide as a manner to change one or more of a plugin’s available parameters, either by recording the changes made to these parameters in real-time, or by using an editable track envelope to “draw” changes. These parameter automations can be played back, affecting your project mix. Automating Cloudburst parameters can be a great way to add some unique textures or extreme effects to your track!



The Cloudburst plugin’s Decay parameter is automated within a Logic Pro audio track

The list of automatable parameters is available in the host application’s parameter automation menu, which is typically found with the track where you’ve inserted the plugin, or in a menu within the plugin window header itself. Every DAW host software offers automation controls in its own unique way, so please refer to the user manual of the DAW host for information and instructions.



Selecting a Cloudburst plugin automation parameter within a Logic Pro audio track

Features

- Hand crafted, computationally intense reverb
- Tone and Pre-Delay controls for flexible reverb tone shaping
- Decay control for adjustment of reverb decay time and space size
- Adjustable Modulation for moderate to intensely modulated reverb sounds
- Ensemble effect with visual real-time metering for lush, orchestral-inspired harmonic enhancement
- Kill Dry mode to optionally mute the dry signal, providing level control for the wet signal only
- Separate Infinite and Freeze Hold modes for creating continuously sustaining sounds
- Fully adjustable plugin Input and Output levels with metering and clip indication
- Support for DAW host automation of plugin parameters
- A set of factory presets included
- Resizable plugin user interface with selectable window sizes
- Integrated help tip pop-ups on demand
- AU (macOS) and AAX & VST3 (macOS and Windows) plugin formats for support with all major DAW host applications
- DAW host support for mono, mono-stereo, and stereo plugin instances and standard sample rates from 44.1 kHz to 192 kHz, at 16-bit or 24-bit resolution
- 32-bit floating point processing

Troubleshooting

How to Obtain Service Under this Warranty

Cloudburst plugin is very simple to operate, but if you have any problems, help is available here:

strymon.net/support/cloudburst-plug-in

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