

DRUMBREAKER

USER GUIDE & SUPPORT

SUPPORT & TROUBLESHOOTING

Everything you need to run DrumBreaker — using the plugin, managing presets and devices, and fixing the handful of things that occasionally go wrong, on macOS and Windows.

VERSION 1.0.0

thesamplelab.com/drumbreaker



CONTENTS

1 DrumBreaker at a glance

2 Using DrumBreaker

3 Presets & restoring the factory pack

4 Activation & managing devices

5 Troubleshooting

6 Uninstalling

7 Getting help

A Where DrumBreaker keeps its files

B Factory preset list

C Activation messages & fixes

NEW HERE?

Start with the **Install & Activation Quick-Start** — it gets you installed and unlocked in a few minutes. This handbook is the deeper reference for everything after that.

1 DRUMBREAKER AT A GLANCE

DrumBreaker is a boom-bap drum-bus character plugin — a chain of analog-style modules in one window. Drop it on a drum bus (or any track) and dial in compression, drive, low-end, tape and lo-fi.

THE SIGNAL FLOW



EQ High-pass and low-pass filters on a single range slider, each switchable between **Cut** and **Shelf**. Clean up rumble and tame harsh highs. Wide-open positions are transparent.

DRIVE Saturation and distortion for grit and harmonics.
Amount · Crunch · Damp · Mode (Soft / Medium / Hard / Thick Tube)

COMPRESSOR Glue and punch, with a transient control and a live gain-reduction gauge.
Amount · Tran · Attack · Release

BOOM Adds weight and sub to the low end. Use Solo to audition just the boom.
Amount · Freq · Delay · Solo

TAPE Reel-to-reel character — saturation plus pitch/time movement.
Sat · Wow · Flutter · Wear · Flux

RESAMPLER Lo-fi sample-rate and bit-depth reduction for crunchy, vintage-sampler grit.
Sample Rate (8K–44.1K) · Bit Depth (4–16) · Amount

Plus the I/O bar at the bottom — **Input Gain**, the **EQ** slider, **Dry/Wet** and **Output Gain** — and the top bar with presets, the **MAG** macro and the power button.



The full interface — every module active. Click a module's title to turn it on or off.

TURNING MODULES ON & OFF

Each module has a little light next to its name. **Click the module title** (DRIVE, TAPE, BOOM, RESAMPLER, COMPRESSOR) to toggle it. An off module dims to grey and stops processing. You don't have to toggle first, though — **touch any knob and the module wakes up automatically.**

THE TOP BAR



Gear (settings) · preset arrows & name · SAVE · power · MAG macro.

MAG

The master macro. It scales every module's intensity together — a quick “more / less” for the whole chain. 100% is full strength; at 0% the effect is dialled all the way out.

POWER

The red button bypasses the entire plugin — audio passes through clean and every panel shows its off state. Your settings are remembered, so switching power back on restores everything.

METERS

The **VU** meter shows output level; the bar across the Compressor shows live **gain reduction**.

RESIZING THE WINDOW

Right-click the background for GUI-scale presets from 75% to 200%. DrumBreaker remembers the size you choose and reopens at that size next time.

TIP

Hover any control to see what it does — a short description appears along the bottom of the plugin.

3 PRESETS

DrumBreaker ships with **50 factory presets across 8 groups**, plus **Init** (a clean slate). Use them as finished sounds or as starting points.

LOADING & SAVING

- Step through presets with the ◀ ▶ **arrows** in the top bar.
- Click the **preset name** to open the full browser: groups on the left, presets in the middle, management on the right.
- Click **SAVE** (or *Save As* in the browser) to store your own preset. From the browser you can also **Rename**, **Duplicate**, **Delete**, **Set Startup** (auto-load on open) and **Reveal** the preset folder.

Your saved presets live as `.preset` files in the DrumBreaker user folder (see Appendix A). The built-in factory presets are part of the plugin and are always available — you can't delete them.

RESTORING / RE-IMPORTING THE FACTORY PRESETS

If you ever want the factory presets back as your own editable copies — or you're moving to a new machine — DrumBreaker ships with a downloadable **Factory Preset Pack** in two flavours. Pick whichever is easier:

EASIEST • ALL-IN-ONE

"DrumBreaker Factory Presets.zip"

- 1 Open the preset browser and click **Import**.
- 2 Choose the zip. All 50 presets appear under one new group, **"DrumBreaker Factory Presets."** Done — no restart needed.

ORGANISED • KEEPS THE 8 GROUPS

"DrumBreaker-Factory-Presets-Organized.zip"

- 1 In the preset browser, click **Reveal** to open your DrumBreaker user folder.
- 2 Unzip the pack and move its **Packs** folder into that folder (choose *Merge* if asked).
- 3 **Reload the plugin** (remove and re-add it, or restart your DAW). The eight **"Factory - ..."** groups appear.

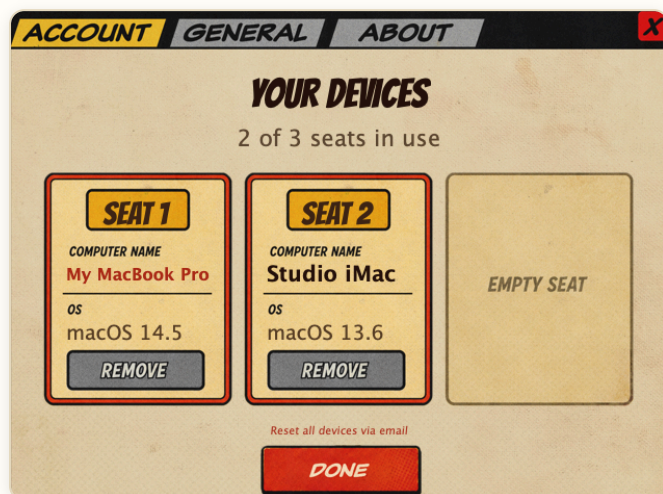
WHY TWO VERSIONS?

The all-in-one imports through the plugin in one click but collapses everything into a single group. The organised pack preserves the original 8-group layout but needs a reload, because files dropped into the folder by hand are only picked up when the plugin restarts.

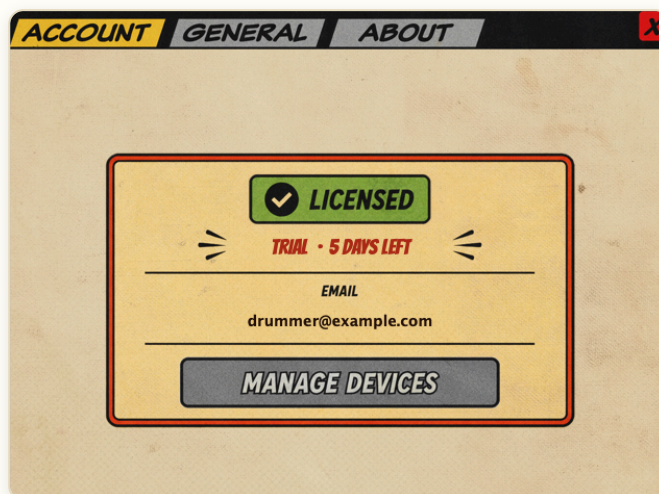
4

ACTIVATION & DEVICES

DrumBreaker uses simple email-based licensing — no account passwords, no dongle. Open **Settings** → **ACCOUNT** (the gear icon). See the Quick-Start for first-time activation; this section covers the rest.



Your devices · 3 seats



An active free trial

DEVICES & SEATS

- A licence runs on up to **3 devices** at once. Reinstalling on the *same* computer doesn't use an extra seat.
- Open **Manage Devices** to see your seats and **Remove** any you no longer use — this frees the seat instantly. (Managing devices doesn't email a new code; it reuses your saved sign-in.)
- Lost access to a machine? Use "**Reset all devices**" to clear every seat at once and start fresh.

THE 14-DAY FREE TRIAL

The trial runs for 14 days on a single computer and unlocks the full plugin. It's tied to your email *and* that machine, so it can't be restarted on a second computer — but if you log out, remove the device or lose the file, signing back in **on the same computer** restores the remaining time.

MOVING TO A NEW COMPUTER

Install DrumBreaker there, open **Settings** → **ACCOUNT**, and sign in with your purchase email. If all 3 seats are taken, remove one from any machine first (or use *Reset all devices*).

WORKING OFFLINE

Once activated, DrumBreaker works offline. It quietly re-checks your licence when you're next online; it only needs to reach the internet roughly every **90 days** to stay active. Keep your computer's clock set correctly — a clock set far in the past can trip the licence's tamper check.

ACTIVATING INSIDE GARAGEBAND OR LOGIC?

Those hosts sandbox Audio Units and can block the plugin's internet access during activation. If activation can't reach the server there, activate once in a non-sandboxed DAW (Reaper, Ableton, Studio One...). After that the licence file works everywhere on that machine, including Logic and GarageBand.

DRUMBREAKER DOESN'T APPEAR IN MY DAW

First: did you fully quit and reopen the DAW, and rescan plug-ins? Make sure you're looking at the right format (it's under the maker "**DrumBreaker Audio**"), and that your system meets the minimum (macOS 11+ / Windows 10+ 64-bit).

MACOS**AUDIO UNIT NOT SHOWING IN LOGIC / GARAGEBAND**

Logic and GarageBand cache plug-in info and sometimes miss a fresh install. Reset the cache:

```
killall -9 AudioComponentRegistrar
rm -rf ~/Library/Caches/AudioUnitCache
```

Then reopen Logic/GarageBand — it re-scans on launch. For VST3 hosts, just rescan and confirm `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3` contains `DrumBreaker.vst3`.

WINDOWS**VST3 NOT FOUND**

Confirm `DrumBreaker.vst3` is in `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3`, that this folder is in your DAW's VST3 scan paths, and that you're running a **64-bit** DAW. Then rescan.

I HEAR NO EFFECT / THE SOUND IS UNPROCESSED

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT TO DO
Controls dimmed behind a lock	You're not activated — open the gear icon and sign in or start your trial.
The power button is lit red / engaged	The whole plugin is bypassed. Click it to switch DrumBreaker back on.
MAG is near 0%	Raise the MAG macro in the top bar — at 0% the effect is dialled out.
A module looks grey	It's disabled — click its title to enable it.
Still dry	Check Dry/Wet and Output Gain in the bottom bar aren't turned down.

PRESETS

- **A preset I imported isn't there.** Files dropped into the folder by hand are only picked up when the plugin reloads — remove and re-add it, or restart the DAW.
- **I want the factory presets as editable copies.** Re-import the Factory Preset Pack (Section 3).

THE WINDOW LOOKS WRONG OR OFF-SCREEN

Right-click the background and pick a GUI scale. If the window is stuck off-screen or the layout looks broken, quit the DAW and delete `gui-prefs.json` (size) and/or `layout.json` (positions) from the DrumBreaker folder — see Appendix A. They're rebuilt automatically.

ACTIVATION PROBLEMS

The message DrumBreaker shows tells you exactly what to do — the full list is in **Appendix C**. The most

wait a moment (codes are rate-limited), then use *Resend code*.

CRASHES OR FREEZES

Make sure you're on the latest version. Try removing and re-adding the instance; if one preset triggers it, load **Init** to reset. If it persists, email support with your OS, DAW + version, and DrumBreaker version (see Section 7) so we can reproduce it.

6

UNINSTALLING

MACOS

REMOVE ON MACOS

Delete:

/Library/Audio/Plug-
Ins/VST3/DrumBreaker.vst3
/Library/Audio/Plug-
Ins/Components/DrumBreaker.component

To remove everything (presets + licence), also delete the folder in Appendix A.

WINDOWS

REMOVE ON WINDOWS

Use **Settings** → **Apps** → DrumBreaker → Uninstall, or delete `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\DrumBreaker.vst3`.

To remove everything, also delete the folder in Appendix A.

7

GETTING HELP

Still stuck? We're happy to help.

Email

support@thesamplelab.com

Manual

thesamplelab.com/drumbreaker/manual

Website

thesamplelab.com

HELP US HELP YOU

Include your **operating system**, **DAW + version**, **DrumBreaker version** (1.0.0), the **format** (VST3 or AU), and your **Device ID** — it's on the **ABOUT** tab of Settings. That's usually everything we need.



WHERE DRUMBREAKER KEEPS ITS FILES

Presets, preferences and your licence all live in one folder. Knowing where helps with backups, moving machines, and the resets below.

PLATFORM	FOLDER
MACOS	~/Library/Audio/Presets/DrumBreaker Audio/DrumBreaker/
WINDOWS	%APPDATA%\DrumBreaker Audio\DrumBreaker\

On Windows, paste `%APPDATA%` into the File Explorer address bar to jump there. The plugin's **Reveal** button (preset browser) opens this folder for you.

WHAT'S INSIDE

FILE	WHAT IT IS – AND WHAT DELETING IT DOES
*.preset & Packs/	Your saved presets and imported packs. Deleting removes those presets (factory presets are unaffected).
drumbreaker.license	Your licence. Delete it to sign out on this computer.
drumbreaker.session	Your saved sign-in (so device management doesn't email a code each time). Delete to force a fresh code next time.
drumbreaker.hwm	Licence safety marker. Harmless to leave; rebuilt if removed.
gui-prefs.json	Window size / GUI scale. Delete to reset the window size.
layout.json	Saved control layout. Delete to reset positions to default.

FULL RESET / CLEAN UNINSTALL

Deleting this entire folder removes your presets, preferences and licence and returns DrumBreaker to a brand-new state. You'll need to sign in again afterward.



FACTORY PRESET LIST

50 presets across 8 groups, plus **Init**. Re-importable any time via the Factory Preset Pack (Section 3).

GROUP	PRESETS
Drum Bus	Boom-Bap Bus · Hard Hitter · Tight Snap · Glue Bus · Parallel Smash · Vinyl Drums · Punch & Air
Mix Bus & Master	Subtle Master · Master Glue · Analog Polish · Tape Master · Loud & Proud · Wide & Warm
Lo-Fi & Vintage	Lo-Fi Cassette · Cassette Demo · VHS Tape · Old Vinyl · 8-Bit Crush · Dusty Sampler · Broken Tape
Saturation & Drive	Soft Warmth · Tube Drive · Thick & Fat · Hard Clip · Crunch Box · Tape Saturation
808 & Bass	808 Punch · 808 Saturation · Sub Warmth · Bass Growl · Tight Low End · DI Bass Warmth
Keys & Synths	Lo-Fi Keys · Warm Rhodes · Dusty Pad · Vintage Synth · Pluck Glue · Bright Synth Polish
Guitar & Vocals	Guitar Warmth · Guitar Crunch · Acoustic Sparkle · Vocal Glue · Vocal Saturation · Lo-Fi Vocal · Radio Voice
Creative FX	Telephone · Underwater · Crushed & Filtered · Warble Machine · Destroyed



ACTIVATION MESSAGES & FIXES

IF YOU SEE...	WHAT IT MEANS & WHAT TO DO
No code email arrives	Sent from noreply@mail.thesamplelab.com — check spam/promotions; codes are rate-limited, so wait a minute and use <i>Resend</i> .
“That code didn’t match...”	Re-type it carefully (it expires after a few minutes) or request a fresh one.
“Too many attempts...”	You hit the rate limit — wait about a minute, then try again.
“No licence found for this email”	Use the exact address you purchased with. If it should exist, contact support.
“Too many devices active”	All 3 seats are in use — open Manage Devices , remove one, then retry.
Trial refused — email or device “already used a trial”	The free trial is one per person and one per machine. Purchase to continue.
“Couldn’t reach the licence server”	Check your connection. In GarageBand/Logic, activate once in another DAW first (see Section 4).
Unlocked yesterday, locked today	If you’ve been offline a long time, reconnect once to refresh. If your clock was changed, set it back to the correct date/time.

