

FRENCH SQUASH FILTER

Analog-Style Envelope Filter | VST3® / AU

User Manual

Version 1.0

English

1. Overview

French Squash Filter is a dynamic, analog-voiced envelope filter inspired by classic mutating filter boxes. It pairs a zero-delay-feedback state-variable filter with an envelope follower, a tempo-syncable LFO and a multi-mode saturator. It is built for french-house style filtering, squelchy wah-wah movement, talk-box vowels and rhythmic gating.

The plugin runs as a VST3 (Windows, macOS, Linux) and as an Audio Unit (macOS). Both 64-bit formats only.

2. Installation

Windows (VST3)

Copy FrenchSquashFilter.vst3 into:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

Restart your DAW and rescan plugins if needed.

macOS (VST3 + AU)

- VST3: copy FrenchSquashFilter.vst3 to /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3
- AU: copy FrenchSquashFilter.component to /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

Then run `killall -9 AudioComponentRegistrar` or reboot so Logic/GarageBand rescan the AU. See the included `install_macos.txt` for details.

Linux (VST3)

Copy FrenchSquashFilter.vst3 to `~/vst3` (per user) or `/usr/lib/vst3` (system).

3. Activation

The plugin runs as a 7-day trial. To unlock it permanently, click the (i) button in the top-right corner, paste your license key into the field and press **ACTIVATE**. The key is verified offline - no internet connection is required. Once activated the panel shows **LICENSED** and the plugin stays unlocked on that machine.

4. Signal Flow

Input -> [Envelope Follower / LFO modulation] -> State-Variable Filter -> Saturator -> Wet/Dry mix -> Stereo Width -> Output. An optional external sidechain input can drive the envelope follower instead of the main signal.

5. Controls

Filter

MODE Filter type: Lowpass, Bandpass, Highpass or Notch.

CUTOFF Base cutoff frequency of the filter (20 Hz - 20 kHz). Modulation from the envelope and LFO is added on top of this.

RESO Resonance / emphasis at the cutoff frequency. High values produce the classic squelchy,

vocal character.

DRIVE Pre-filter drive feeding the saturator. Adds harmonics and grit.

Envelope

ENV AMT How much the input envelope opens or closes the filter. Negative values invert the sweep (filter closes as the signal gets louder).

ATTACK How fast the envelope reacts to rising level.

RELEASE How fast the envelope falls back when the level drops.

LFO

RATE LFO speed in Hz when free-running.

DEPTH Amount of cyclic cutoff modulation from the LFO.

SHAPE LFO waveform (sine, triangle, saw, square, etc.).

SYNC When enabled, the LFO locks to host tempo; RATE is replaced by a musical note value (1/4, 1/8, 1/16 ...).

Output / Tone

SAT TYPE Saturation curve: Tanh (smooth), Tube (asymmetric warmth), Tape (soft compression) or Fold (aggressive wavefolding).

MIX Wet/dry balance between the filtered and the clean signal.

WIDTH Stereo width via M/S processing. 0% = mono, 100% = original, above = wider.

OUTPUT Final output gain trim.

Oversampling & Sidechain

OVERSAMPLE Internal oversampling (Off / 2x / 4x) to reduce aliasing from drive and saturation. Higher settings cost more CPU.

SIDECHAIN When enabled, the envelope follower listens to the external sidechain input bus instead of the main input. Route a source to the sidechain in your DAW to make one signal open the filter on another.

6. Display

The graph shows the live filter response on a logarithmic frequency axis. A moving marker tracks the current modulated cutoff so you can see the envelope and LFO at work. The readout shows the instantaneous cutoff in Hz.

7. Presets

Use the preset selector at the top to browse factory presets, the arrows to step through them, and SAVE to store your own. The selected preset name is remembered when you reopen the plugin or reload the project.

8. Tips

- For classic french-house filtering, use Bandpass with high RESO and a slow synced LFO.
- For talking/vocal sweeps, raise RESO and drive ENV AMT from a percussive source.
- Use 2x oversampling when DRIVE and SAT are high to keep the top end clean.

- Use the sidechain to gate a pad or bass with a kick or hi-hat pattern.

9. Support

For help, updates and license requests, contact your vendor with your purchase details. Keep your license key safe - it is tied to your purchase.

10. Trademarks

VST is a registered trademark of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH.