

DUCK

User Duckumentation

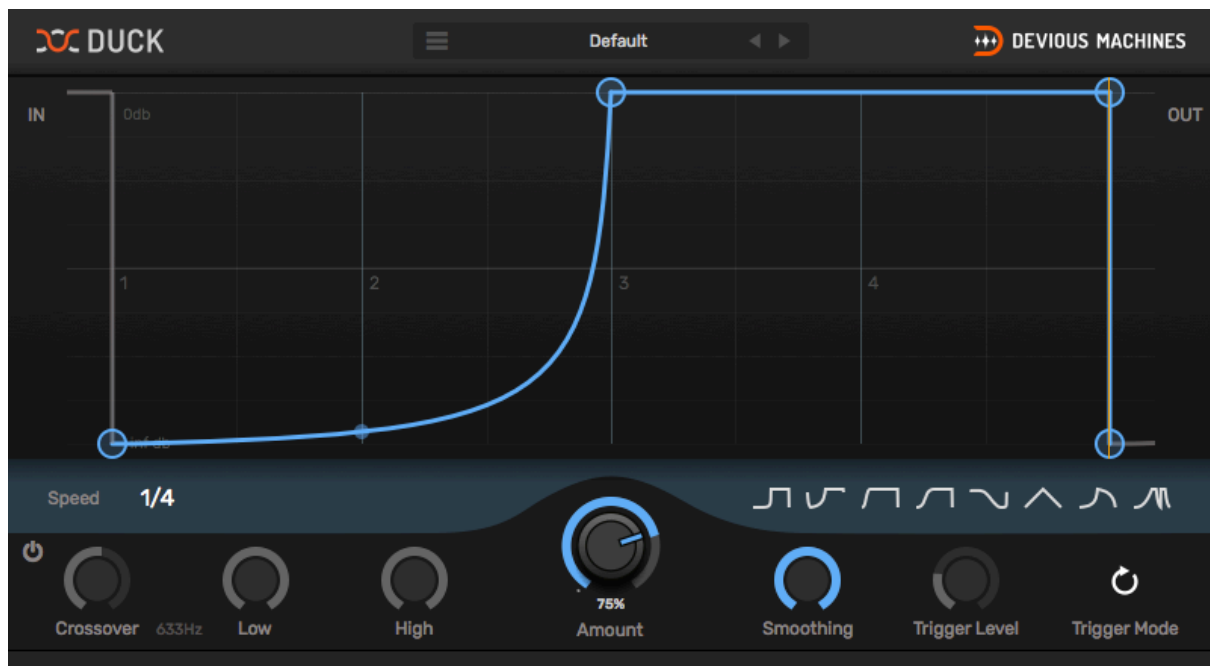


Table of Contents

Introduction	3
What does it do?.....	3
What is it for?	3
Getting started.....	3
Demo mode	4
Plug-in activation (Licensing)	4
Using Duck	5
The Preset and Menu Bar.....	6
Loading a preset	6
Saving a preset	6
Saving curve shapes.....	6
The Envelope Editor.....	7
Curve Shaper	8
The Lower Panel	8
Amount Knob.....	8
Crossover Section.....	8
Smoothing	9
Curve Presets.....	9
Speed.....	9
Modes	9
The Licence	11

Introduction

Duck is an effect plug-in for your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).

What does it do?

Applies a volume envelope to the track it is inserted on. This can be played at different speeds and, either, loops in time to your track or is retriggered from an external source, a MIDI note or another audio track.

What is it for?

The most common use for Duck is to get that modern ‘sidechain compression’ sound where the volume of other instruments is reduced to allow the key rhythmic elements through: typically, the kick.

There are also many other creative uses including:

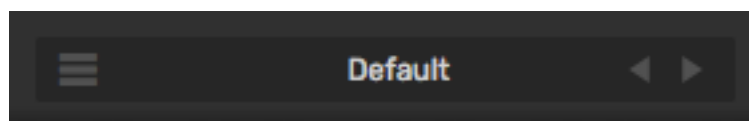
- Give clarity by ducking audio tracks based on your peaks
- Give chords and pads dynamic rhythm or tremolo
- Add variety to drum tracks with envelope shaping
- Enhance the rhythm of your track with the use of polyrhythms
- Generate new rhythms from any sound
- Trigger dynamic changes from MIDI instruments

Getting started

Select a stereo track or bus in your DAW which has some audio playing (we suggest something with a long sustain, like some synth pads, as a good starting point). Next, load Duck as an insert plug-in on that track.

The default preset will cause a dynamic reduction at the start of each beat, this sort of rhythm works well with a four to the floor drum kick, commonly found in dance music. However, to explore further the capabilities of Duck, we suggest you look into the user presets.

Presets are loaded via the text bar at the top of the plug-in. The bar displays the current preset name (which will say “Default” if none has been loaded). Click this bar to see a list of the available presets, and select one to load it.



You can also use the two arrow buttons to the right of the preset name to step through the available presets, one by one.

Demo mode

If it is not activated (licensed), then Duck will run in demo mode for 14 days. When in demo mode, the word DEMO will be displayed in faint letters over the centre of the plug-in, and it will emit infrequent bursts of noise. These limitations can be removed by entering a valid licence (see the Plug-in Activation section below).

Plug-in activation (Licensing)

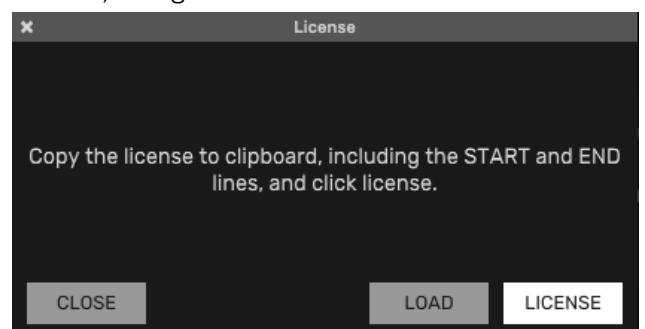
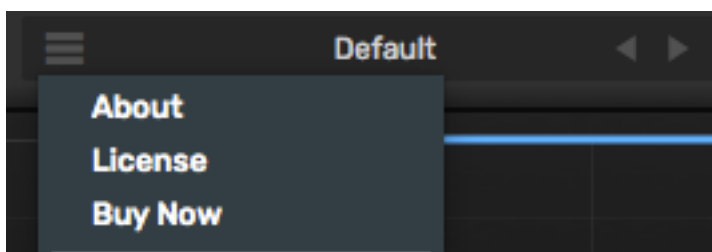
You can purchase a licence at any time by going to the menu (next to the Devious Machines logo) and clicking Buy Now. Once you've purchased a licence for Duck, you can activate the plug-in by entering your licence code.

First, retrieve the licence from your e-mail, or your vendor's website. It will look like this:

```
---START---  
3247214040000  
"adent@deviousmachines.com"  
"Arthur Dent"  
12a902c276d5aa8hxbxe5a24ec46fd45d4b26ec01e631bcd756f81a69a  
be88ffc69b7398cc3f27620902cf884c35b50c06de6adcc4ec46fd4511  
abcd12349asdbc8f1bd020c00ffe96542bfa37db1a1934a21a7ee9e6326  
0f98de0f98de0f98de7777719f98deaf4537240981832d32e84b6ce2c05  
04f860926df40c1dc652  
---END---
```

- Select the licence code, including the ---START--- and ---END---lines.
- Press ctrl-C (Windows) or cmd-C (Mac) to copy the licence code to your clipboard.
- Open the plug-in.
- From the plug-in menu (lined icon), select **Licence**.
- The licence dialog window will open. Click the LICENCE button.
- Your licence will be copied from the clipboard, and the plug-in activated.

Alternatively, you may also load a licence code from a .txt file, using the LOAD button.

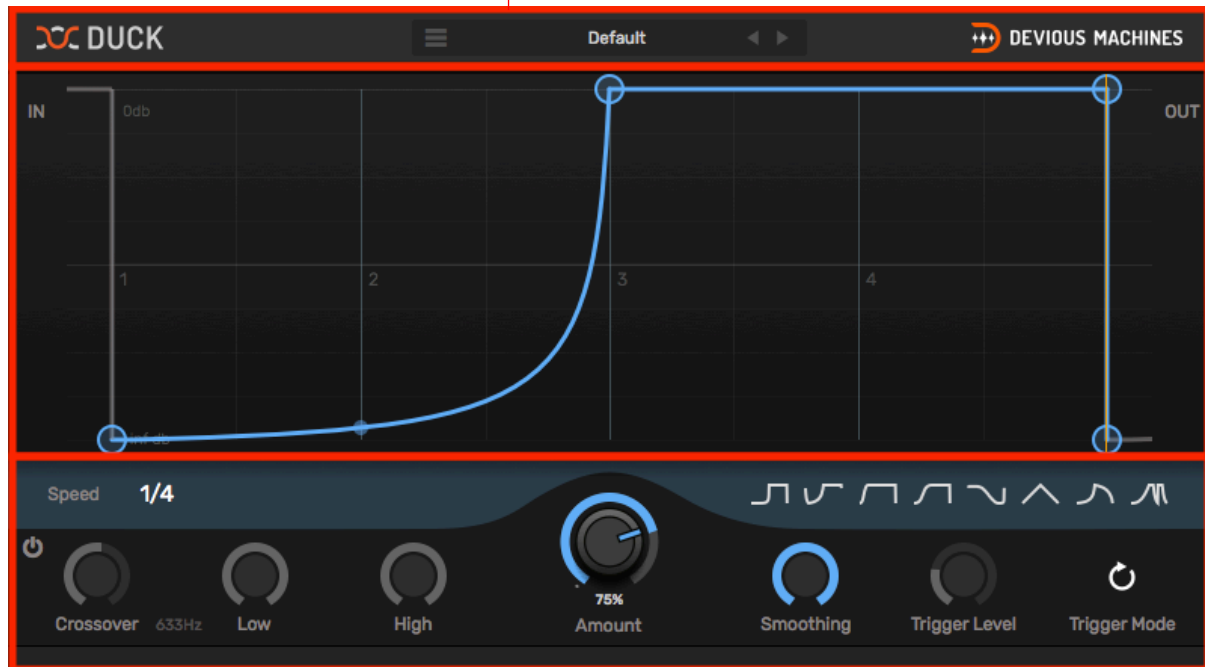


If you have problems authorising your plug-in, please refer to your vendor's website for troubleshooting and support information.

Using Duck

Duck's editor is split into three main areas:

1. Preset and Menu Bar



2. Envelope Editor

3. Lower Panel

1. Preset and Menu Bar

Here, you can load and save presets, and access the plug-in menu.

2. Envelope Editor

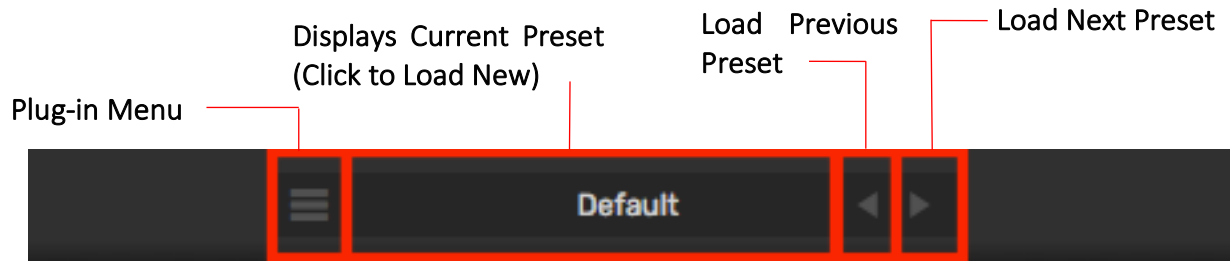
The area where you can edit the shape of which the dynamic changes will occur. There are preset envelope types. These can be edited. The audio waveform will appear here when playing.

3. Lower Panel

In this area, you are able to set the parameters for how Duck will affect your input signal as well as change the envelope itself.

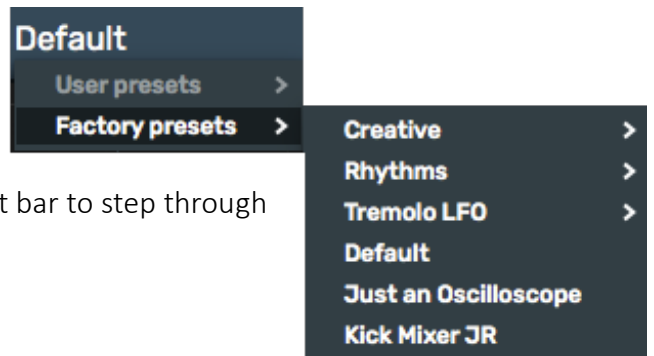
The Preset and Menu Bar

Duck comes with a variety of factory presets. You can also save your own presets, or just the curve shape itself. Controls for loading and saving presets are at the top of the plugin window.



Loading a preset

The central bar displays the current preset name. Click on the name to display the preset menu. Select a preset from the menu to load it.



You may also use the two arrow buttons on the preset bar to step through the available presets one-by-one.

Saving a preset

Click the **Save preset** button contained within the menu icon. A box will be displayed, prompting you to name your preset. Type a name, and press enter. Your preset will now be stored and will now appear under **User Presets**.

Saving curve shapes

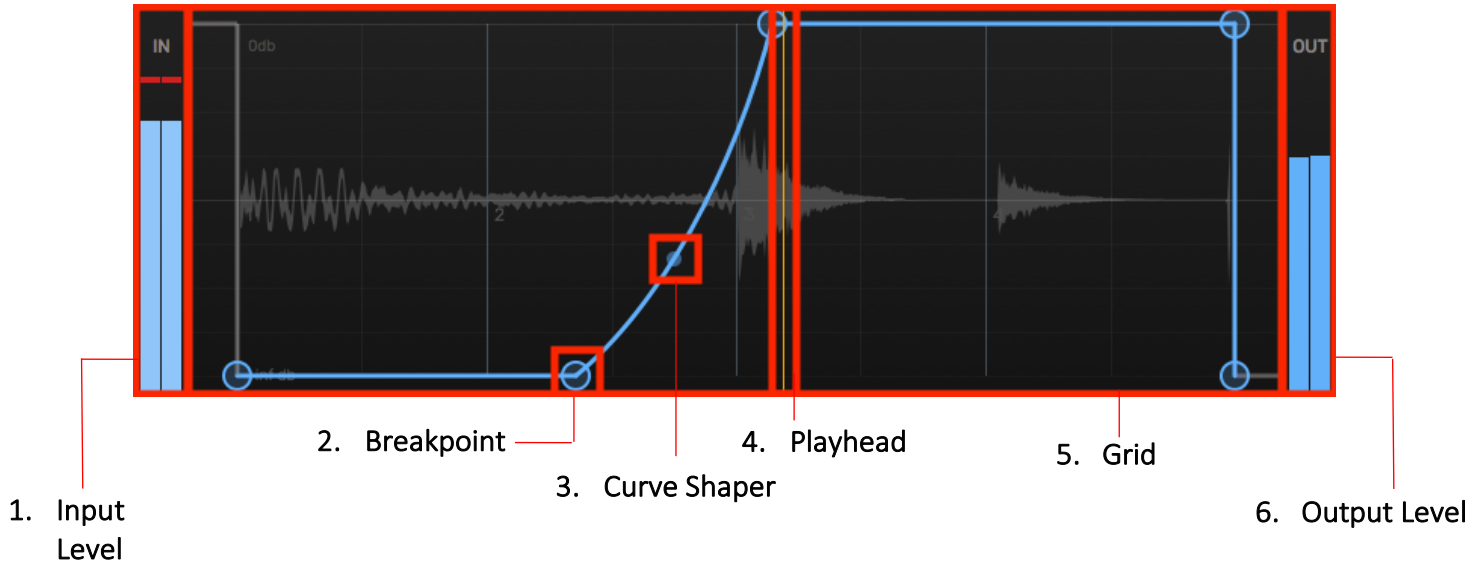
Click the **Save curve shape** button contained within the menu icon. Red boxes will appear over the preset shapes in the lower panel. Select the shape you would like to replace and find your new shape located in this slot to recall whenever required.



Note: To revert to the factory preset shapes you can manually remove your user shapes. Located:
Mac ~/Library/Application Support/DeviousMachines/Duck/shapes
PC %APPDATA%\DeviousMachines\Duck\shapes

The Envelope Editor

The Envelope Editor controls the shape of the volume envelope.



1. Input Level

Meter that allows you to see the loudness of your audio coming into the plug-in

2. Breakpoint

A point in the envelope used to control its shape. To create a new breakpoint double click anywhere in the envelope view.

3. Curve Shaper

Changes the style and shape of the curve.

4. Playhead

Indicates position through the cycle during playback.

5. Grid

Guide for mapping positions as to where beats are falling. When audio is playing, you will also be able to see the waveform in this section.

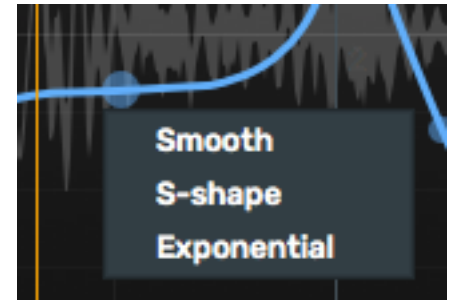
6. Output Level

Meter that shows the loudness of the affected signal upon output.

Curve Shaper

There are three different curve styles available to users in designing envelopes. To change the curve style, right-click on the curve shaper.

- **Smooth** - Rounded movement from one point to the next.
- **S-Shape** - Two smaller curves in opposite directions from the central point.
- **Exponential** - Similar to Smooth but with sharper movements at either end based on the shaper position.



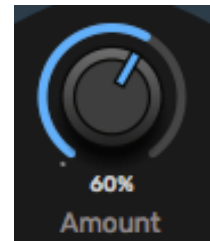
The Lower Panel

The Lower Panel allows you to define how, and to what extent, Duck will impact the audio signal. As well as this, you can change behaviour of the envelope itself.

Amount Knob

Controls the strength of the effect.

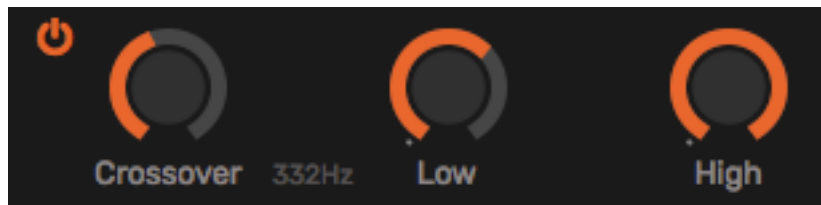
At 100% the signal can be made completely silent using the volume envelope.



Crossover Section

With Duck you can have separate amount controls for the high and low frequencies.

In order to use the split-band crossover mode, ensure that the on/off button in the filter section is on. When the filter is active the knobs will go from shaded to highlighted orange.



Crossover

Sets the point where the low frequency band ends and the high frequency band begins.

Low and High Amount Knobs

These are separate amount knobs for the low or high frequencies.

The amount of reduction in each band is shown by a small dot on the outer edge of the knob which moves when audio is playing.

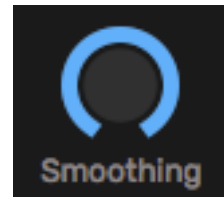
Tips

- In order to get a feel for how the filter works, start by having one band in full effect while having the other set to zero. Then play around with the cross over to hear the results.

- Use both bands together to reduce some elements of the audio while leaving others present. For example: on a drum loop tighten high end percussion while leaving presence in the kick. Or remove the low end from a synth to allow your kick drum to shine whilst leaving the top end loud.

Smoothing

If your envelope is causing audible clicks to the waveform because of its shape, use smoothing to round off the signal and remove artefacts.



Curve Presets

In the upper right-hand side of the lower panel there are a series of shapes, these are your handy preset curves. Select a shape by clicking on it.

Speed



Sets the speed at which Duck plays the volume envelope. Click on the speed to change it.

There are four different types of speed in the menu:

- **Common** - Covers commonly used speeds (1/4, 1/2, 1 bar, 2 bars, 4 bars)
- **Faster** - Common rhythms that are faster (1/8, 1/16, 1/32)
- **Triplets** - Different rhythms in multiples of three (1/3, 1/6, 1/12, 1/24)
- **Poly rhythms** - Used to create complex conflicting rhythms from your time signature of choice (3/8, 5/16, 3/16, 1.5 bar, 3 bar)

Tip

- Layer different iterations of Duck utilising various different speed modes to create interesting and complex rhythms.

Modes

Duck has three modes that cause the envelope to be



The screenshot shows the 'Speed' menu with the following options:

Speed				
Common				
1/4	1/2	1 bar	2 bars	4 bars
Faster				
1/8	1/16	1/32		
Triplets				
1/3	1/6	1/12	1/24	
Poly rhythms				
3/8	5/16	3/16	1.5 bars	3 bars

Below the Speed menu, there are three trigger mode options: Repeat, Midi, and Audio. A 'Trigger Mode' button is also visible at the bottom right.

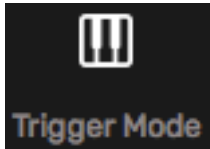
to be triggered in different ways. Click on the trigger mode icon to select a new mode.

Repeat Mode

This is the default. The envelope will cycle continuously in time with your track. This mode can be used to cause regular ducking to aid the mix or generate new rhythms out of the audio.

MIDI Mode

The next mode is MIDI mode which allows you to trigger the envelope from an external MIDI track contained within your DAW project.

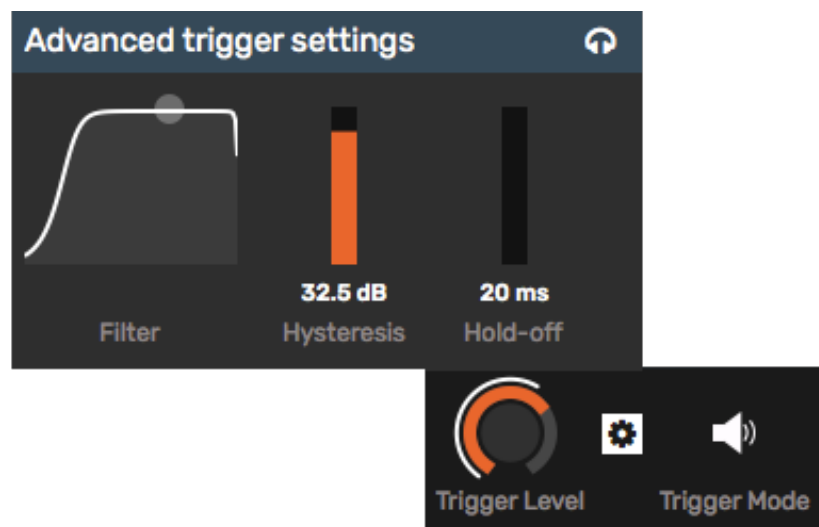


To achieve this, route a MIDI instrument track to the track containing Duck which you would like to affect. Ensure that the routing goes to the Duck plug-in, each DAW will have a different way of achieving this so be sure to check your documentation if you're unsure.

Use this method to trigger Duck's envelope alongside a MIDI instrument (e.g. a soft-synth) or to create your own unique rhythms that change over time.

This mode is also great if you want to do a side-chain ducking effect but you are writing a broken or break-beat record with an irregular kick pattern.

Audio Mode



This mode triggers the envelope from peaks in an external audio signal.

You will need to route the audio from your track of choice into Duck's sidechain input. This is achieved in different ways in each DAW so please refer to your user manual if you're unsure.

Once audio mode is selected, the trigger level knob becomes active and a settings icon appears. The trigger knob and advanced settings allow you to control when Duck retriggers the envelope. The settings are:

- **Trigger Level** – When the sidechain input audio crosses this threshold the envelope will retrigger. A meter, in white, around the knob shows the current sidechain level (after filtering).
- **Filter** - This allows you to filter the trigger audio, therefore causing only certain aspects to trigger Duck (e.g. just focusing on a kick drum)
- **Hysteresis** - Prevents the audio retriggering until the input level has fallen this much below the threshold. Use this to stop double triggering.
- **Hold-off** - Defines a time period before which the envelope can be retriggered, again useful to prevent unwanted secondary triggers.
- **Headphone** - Use the headphones icon to audition the incoming signal from the trigger audio. Useful when setting the filter.

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