

Waldorf Messing Plug-In



Foreword

Messing is an analog overdrive plug-in for your Waldorf AFB16. It offers warm and rich overdrive together with a pre-drive analog filter and a post-drive digital filter. You can process monophonic or stereophonic audio tracks with it, from soft warm saturation up to a real overdrive mess. That's why it's called Messing.

Messing is perfect for production, mixing and mastering. Whether you want to create overdriven drum loops, synth lines or vocals, or add warmth and depth to track groups or even the whole output sum, Messing always shines (literally).

You will soon find out that you use Messing in a lot of your productions.

Have fun with it.

Your Waldorf-Team

Hint

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Installing the Messing plug-in

Messing will be installed automatically by the „AFB plug-ins“ installer you will find either on the AFB CD-ROM or at the Waldorf website.

Please doubleclick the installer.exe and follow the instruction on your computer screen.

Usage

Messing is an insert effect. It is not thought as a send effect. Please consult your VST host application manual to find out how to open a VST insert effect.

Open the Messing editor window. You are presented with a number of controls.

 In a stereo track the Messing automatically demands 2 AFB16 filters.

The User Interface

The Messing user interface has a vintage look combined with the design of the AFB16. Consider Messing as a remote control for the filter hardware. The following chapters explain the individual functions and parameters in detail.

The Operating Controls

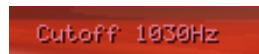
To set the Messing operating controls simply use the computer mouse.



Rotary Controls: Click on a rotary control and move it either in a circular fashion around the control or linearly up and down. The VST host application determines which of the knob modes is currently active. E.g., Cubase SX offers to change this behaviour in the Preferences dialog in the section User Interface Controls. Please read the documentation of your VST host application for further details.

Additionally, you can hold one of the following modifier keys to change the behaviour of the mouse:

- **ALT+Click** switches the knob mode temporarily between circular and linear.
- **SHIFT+Click** allows finer value changes in linear knob mode.
- **CTRL+Click** resets the parameter to its default value.



Parameter Display: Messing doesn't have a dedicated box that looks like an LCD or LED. Instead, it displays the values inside the red stripe that imitates the acrylic inlay of your AFB16.

When you change a control value, the respective value of that control is displayed. You can also just move over the controls without clicking a mouse button to see the control value in the respective format.



Switches: Just click on a switch to toggle its state between on and off. The only exception is the Init switch that switches its state to off as soon as you release the mouse button.



Sliders: Click on a slider handle and move the mouse up or down to change the control value.

Additionally, you can hold one of the following modifier keys to change the behaviour of the mouse:

- **SHIFT+Click** allows finer value changes.
- **CTRL+Click** resets the parameter to its default value.

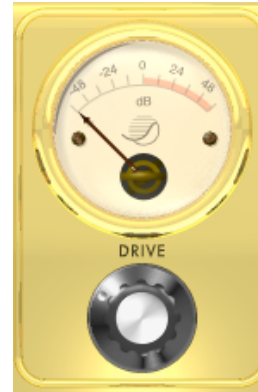


About box: Click on the Waldorf logo or the Messing logo to get information about the Messing.



Init: Click on Init to initialize the active program to meaningful default values.

The Drive Section



The central point of the user interface is the Drive control and the VU meter. Both go hand in hand and so we start with the VU meter:

You might guess that the VU meter either shows the input or the output volume. That is not the case, at least not always.

Values below 0dB represent the input gain. With the Drive control at its leftmost position, use the Gain slider to adjust the input gain so that the VU meter doesn't exceed 0dB.

So far, so good. But what's up with values above 0dB?

Values above 0dB are never present on the audio output. The VU meter shows a fictional volume that the signal would have if the analog overdrive of the AFB16 wouldn't clip the signal at 0dB. This fictional output level gives you a very good indication how strong the AFB16 overdrives the input signal.

Drive

0...54dB

Controls the overdrive of the AFB16. The AFB16 has 16 VCAs that drive the signals that have passed one of the 16 associated analog filters into saturation. The Messing uses one or two of these filters and VCAs to process the audio signals you feed it with.

On the leftmost position, the VCAs don't overdrive the signal. If the signal is distorted anyway, the input signal is too loud and you should lower its level with the Gain slider. Please read the description for Gain for further information.

Turning Drive to the right distorts the signal. Small Drive settings add warmth and depth to the signal while higher settings increase the distortion. Please note that the signal probably becomes louder, so protect your ears. This is caused by two factors: it happens when the input signal level is lower than 0dB and it's also caused by the fact that more parts of the signal are louder than they were before.

On the rightmost position, the VCAs are overdriven by their maximum and therefore the signal might be so distorted that it's not recognizable anymore.



Please note: Drive increases the VCA output volume by up to around 50.000% (read fifty-thousand percent). This also means that the very low noise that the analog filters generate (because they are analog) is amplified by this 50.000%, resulting in an audible noise. This is not a malfunction of the system, it's just more than 50dB louder than normal. If you need to get rid of this noise, use an Expander or Gate plug-in that you route behind the Messing.

Input and Output Parameters

Gain

-∞...0dB



Controls the input gain. With the Drive control at its leftmost position, use the Gain slider to adjust the input signal gain so that the VU meter just hits the 0dB mark. Very loud input signals can already drive the AFB16's overdrive VCA into saturation so you should adjust the input gain carefully.

On its highest position, the input signal is not attenuated. Lowering Gain results in a lower input level. On its bottommost position, the input signal is not audible.

Volume $-\infty \dots 0dB$ 

Controls the output volume. Use the Volume slider to adjust the output volume so that the signal doesn't clip in the channel strip. It is also interesting to automate this parameter to create fade ins and outs.

On its highest position, the output signal is not attenuated. Lowering Volume results in a lower output level. On its bottommost position, the output signal is not audible.

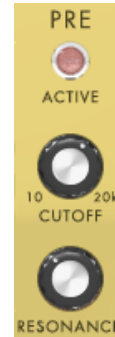
Bypass*Off / Active*

Controls if the signal is processed by Gain, the PRE Section, the Drive Section and the POST section.

When Bypass is off, all stages are processed except for those where the Active button is off (this might affect the PRE or the POST section). When Bypass is active, all stages except the output Volume are bypassed so you still have control over the output signal level.



Please note: Bypass doesn't really bypass the signal. Instead, the parameters are set to values that don't modify the signal. If you need a real bypass, just switch Messing off in the host application.

The PRE Section

Messing uses the analog 24dB low pass filter of the AFB16 that is routed before the analog overdrive VCA. In the PRE section, you can adjust the parameters for this filter. The sound of the overdrive depends heavily on the settings you perform here. You can leave the signal unfiltered to get a very bright and cutting overdrive signal, you can just damp the high frequencies to get a lush overdrive or you can use resonance to make the overdrive stage really scream.

Pre Active*Off / On*

Activates the pre-drive analog filter in the AFB16. Actually, the filter is always active because it's a hardware circuitry of the AFB16 routed right before the overdrive VCA. However, with this switch you control if the analog filter is adjusted by Cutoff and Resonance or set to the AFB16's maximum cutoff and minimum resonance.

Cutoff

12.29...20000Hz

Controls the cutoff frequency of the pre-drive analog filter in the AFB16. Turn Cutoff to the left to damp high frequencies of the input signal. On the leftmost position, the filter is fully closed and you will hear almost nothing. Turn Cutoff to the right to let higher frequencies pass. On the rightmost position, the filter is fully opened.

Resonance

0...100%

Controls the resonance of the pre-drive analog filter in the AFB16. On the leftmost position, the filter doesn't resonate. Turn Resonance to the right to increase the filter resonance. At around 75% to 80%, the filter starts to self-oscillate at the cutoff frequency. This is an effect caused by the analog circuitry of the filter. Please note that the self-oscillation doesn't always start at the exact same setting because caused by the fact that each analog filter is really unique. So, if you want a guaranteed self-oscillation, turn Resonance a little higher than 80%. If not, leave it below 75%.

The POST Section



The POST section features a 12dB digital filter that is applied to the signal returned from the AFB16. It works like a typical guitar amplifier equalizer with a Tone and an Emphasis control. Use the post-drive filter to add that "vintage" sound to the overdriven signal.

Post Active

Off / On

Activates the post-drive digital filter. *Off* means that the overdriven signal is not filtered. *On* means that the overdriven signal is routed to the post-drive filter.

Tone

2...10kHz

Controls the cutoff frequency of the post-drive digital filter. The frequency range is similar to the one found on guitar amplifiers or overdrive stomp boxes. On the leftmost position, the filter damps signal frequencies higher than 2kHz. Turn Tone to the right to let higher

frequencies pass. On the rightmost position, the filter damps signal frequencies higher than 10kHz.



Please note that the signal is always dampened as long as the Post Active button is on. If you want to hear the unfiltered signal, turn Post Active off.

Emphasis

0...100%

Controls the emphasis (or resonance) of the post-drive digital filter. On the leftmost position, only a little emphasis is applied to the filter. Turn Emphasis to the right to increase the signal level of the frequencies that are around the Tone frequency. On the rightmost position, the frequencies around the Tone frequency are emphasized strongly.