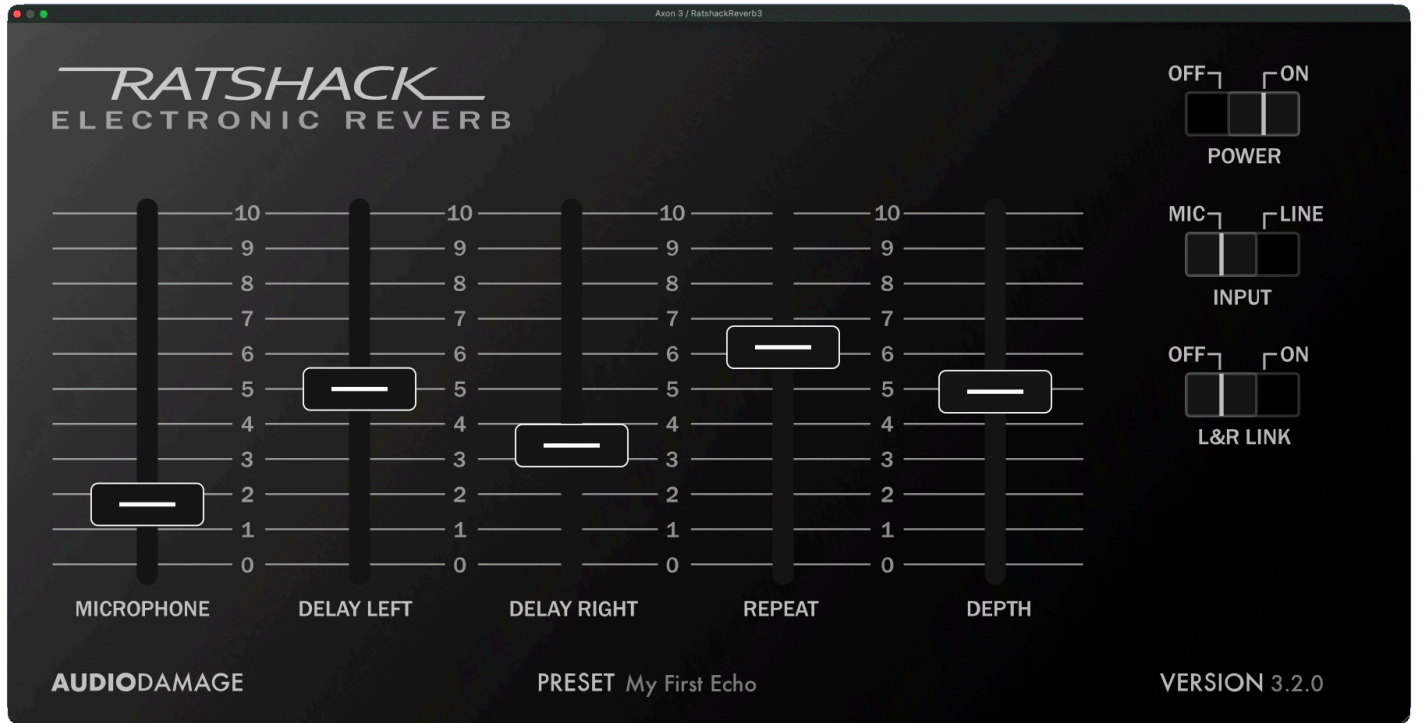


Ratshack Reverb Manual

Audio Damage, Inc.

Release 3.2



27 May 2026

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Made Possible By

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Tracie

Dedication

Dedicated to Radio Shack and all it contributed to our formative years. We miss you, Tandy Corporation.

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System Requirements

The following table summarizes the operating system requirements and formats provided for Ratshack Reverb. Ratshack Reverb is a 64-bit plugin.

Operating System	Minimum Version	Formats
macOS	10.13	AAX, AudioUnit, CLAP, VST3; Intel and Apple Silicon
Windows	10.0 version 1607	AAX, CLAP, VST3
Ubuntu	18.0	CLAP, LV2, VST3
iOS (separate purchase)	iOS 12	AUv3

Demonstration Version

We encourage you to download and try the demonstration version of Ratshack Reverb before purchasing it. The demo version of Ratshack Reverb is the same as the regular version, but has the following limitations:

- Presets cannot be saved, nor can parameter values or other settings. This includes the information usually stored by your host DAW. If you save a DAW session with an instance of the demo version of Ratshack Reverb, the plugin will revert to its default state when you reload the session.
- Ratshack Reverb will cease to emit audio altogether 20 minutes after you add it to your DAW session. You can remove it and add it again, but it will revert to its default state.

If you purchase Ratshack Reverb after using the demonstration version, simply run the installer provided to you after your purchase to replace the demo version with the full version.

Introduction

If you have any interest in music hardware, particularly if you're older than 30 or so, you've almost certainly heard of the Radio Shack Electronic Reverb Unit. Introduced in 1982, it was a small, boxy, battery-powered device marketed to the low-end PA market. Despite its name it was a delay rather than a reverb. Its low price and the ubiquity of Radio Shack stores meant that it ended up in the hands of numerous aspiring musicians. Radio Shack didn't survive the transition into the digital age, and the Electronic Reverb developed a cult following among today's collectors. The Audio Damage Ratshack Reverb plugin captures the sound of the original hardware unit, warts and all, expands its features with independent left and right delay times, and never needs a fresh set of batteries.

Electronic Reverb Unit for Special Effects

NEW FOR '83

39.95

Available Oct. 30, 1982

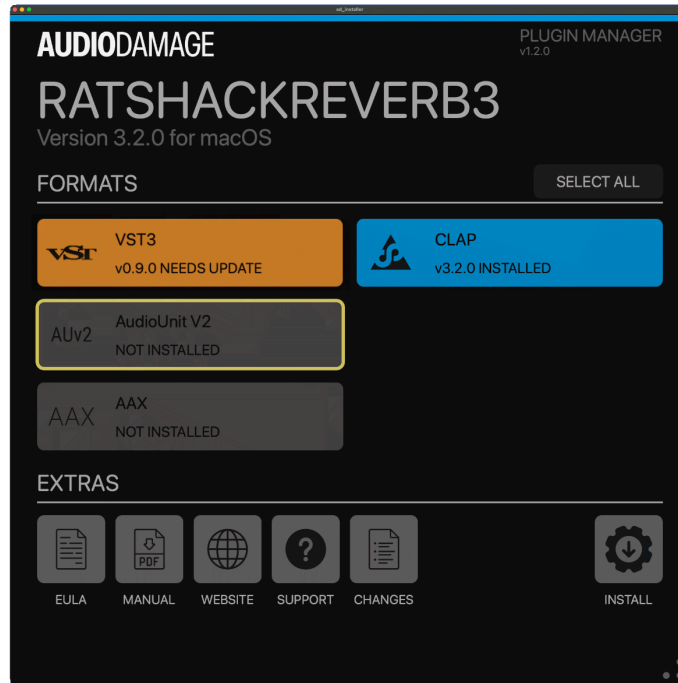
- *In/Out Jacks for Mike/Guitar, And Line Level Signals*
- *Adjustable Delay (5-95ms), Depth and Repeat Controls*

Add unique sounds and effects to "live" vocals, recordings, or musical instruments. Works with tape decks, PA systems or guitar amplifiers. Features Glide-Path controls for mike mixing level, delay time, repeat and echo depth. Solid-state analog-delay IC circuit has no moving parts or springs, insensitive to vibration and feedback. Has phono jacks for line in/out and 1/4" mike in/out jacks. LED battery-test indicator. 2 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 4 1/2". Requires six "AA" batteries or AC adapter. **32-1110 39.95**
AC Adapter. U.L. listed. 273-1455 6.95

Creates Echo, Reverb, And "Space" Sounds!

Installation

Ratshack Reverb uses our custom plugin manager application for installation. Launch it as usual on your operating system of choice and you'll be presented with a window like this:



Near the top of the window, beneath the name of the plugin, you'll see the version number of the software carried by the installer. This is distinct from the version of the plugin manager itself, which is shown in the upper right and usually not of much interest. (Note that the version numbers in this screenshot are for demonstration purposes only and may not reflect the actual version numbers of the software at the time you read this manual.)

Under the heading FORMATS are large buttons corresponding to the plugin formats which can be installed: AAX, AU, CLAP, LV2 and/or VST3, depending on the operating system. If the plugin is already present on your system in one or more formats (i.e. if you're upgrading from a previous version), the corresponding button is drawn in blue. When possible, the version number of the existing plugin is also shown. If the installer contains a newer version of the plugin than the one(s) already installed, the version number is drawn in orange to alert you to the fact that an update is available. If a format is not present on your system, its button is drawn in gray.

Click a button to select the format for installation. A yellow outline appears around the button to indicate that its format will be installed. In the above screenshot, VST3 and CLAP are installed, AAX and AudioUnit are not installed, VST3 is one revision behind that contained in the installer, and the AudioUnit is selected for installation. Clicking a button a second time removes the yellow outline, and the corresponding format will not be installed. Clicking the SELECT ALL button selects all available formats for installation.

No changes to your system's storage device take place until you click the INSTALL button near the lower-right corner of the window. Click that button and you'll receive visual confirmation that the formats you've selected have been installed. (Yes, it happens quickly. Our products are not encumbered by any DRM or anti-piracy baggage and hence install more quickly than many others.) On Windows and Linux, if you hold down the Shift key on your keyboard, the INSTALL button's label switches to UNINSTALL, and clicking it will remove the selected formats from your system¹. Once you're installed and/or removed the formats you need, simply close the application in the usual manner for your operating system. You're done. There is no license code or other authorization necessary; we'd rather assume we can trust you than burden you with an onerous DRM system.

You'll find some handy buttons under the EXTRAS heading, all of which are pretty self-explanatory:

- EULA: presents the End-User License Agreement for our products. By clicking the INSTALL button you're implicitly agreeing to these terms, but we expect that you'll find them reasonable should you take the time to read them.
- MANUAL: opens the current version of this user manual, in PDF form, in your web browser.
- WEBSITE: opens the product's web page in your browser.
- SUPPORT: displays information for contacting us, either via our Discord presence or through email.
- CHANGES: displays a summary of what we've added, changed or improved since the last version of the product.

¹ Blame Apple, not us, for the lack of this feature on macOS. On macOS just manually delete the plugin(s) from your plugin folder(s).

Operation

The original Electronic Reverb Unit was a pretty simple device, particularly by today's standards. Our plugin recreation is correspondingly uncomplicated and you can almost certainly figure out what it does by playing with it. Nonetheless we'll describe each of its controls here.

Unlike its predecessor, Ratshack Reverb is a stereo processor. It's most at home when used as an insert effect rather than on a send/return channel because it, like the hardware, always passes the input signal.

Switches

The switches at the right side of the plugin's window affect how its sliders behave so we'll talk about them first.

POWER acts as a bypass switch for the plugin, allowing you to temporarily remove it from your signal chain. On the hardware, accidentally leaving the power on would lead to the disappointment of dead batteries, but there's no harm in leaving the plugin turned on at all times.

INPUT switches the simulated microphone pre-amp on and off. When set to MIC the pre-amp and its attendant distortion engage. Set Input to LINE if you don't want this additional coloration.

L&R LINK, when on, connects the left delay-time slider to the right so that moving the left one moves the right to the same position. You can still move the right one independently when this switch is on, but touching the left slider will cause the right slider to jump to the same position.

Sliders

MICROPHONE sets the input level of the simulated microphone pre-amp. Moving the slider upwards amplifies the input signal, fairly quickly driving the amp hard enough to cause distortion. In the context of this plugin, this is a feature, not a bug. The Microphone slider has no effect if the Input switch at the right side of the window is set to Line.

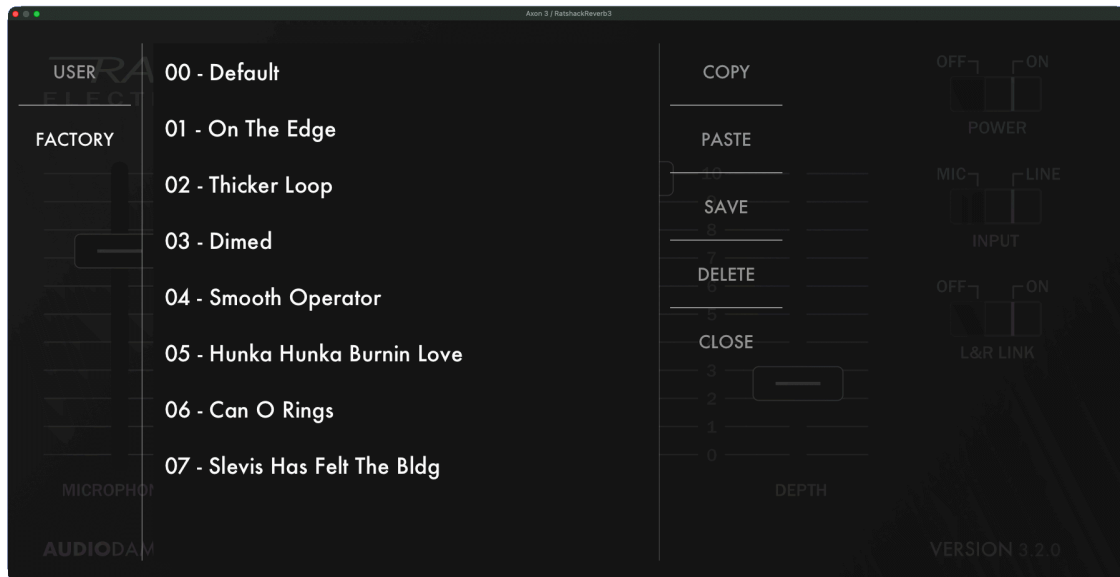
DELAY LEFT and DELAY RIGHT set the delay times on the left and right channels. They have a range of 4-150 milliseconds, a bit broader than the original hardware's range of 5-95 msec. The hardware had only one delay slider; you can recreate this behavior by turning on the L&R Link switch. As part of the accurate reproduction of the original BBD analog delay, you'll hear pitch slurs when you change the delay times if there is audio present in the delays.

REPEAT sets the number of echoes you hear by feeding back some of the delay output signals back into their inputs. If you move Repeat all the way up the delayed signals will repeat more or less indefinitely.²

DEPTH sets the output level or loudness of the delayed signal, from silent to full strength. Mimicking the original hardware, the undelayed signal is always present at the output, including the coloration of the microphone pre-amp if the Input switch is set to Mic.

Presets

Ratshack Reverb includes an assortment of presets to serve as a demonstration of its capabilities and inspirations for your own creations. The name of the current preset appears at the bottom center of the window. To examine all of the presets, click the name of the current to open the preset browser.



The browser displays presets in two sections, USER and FACTORY. Click on these words on the left of the preset view to switch between the groups. Factory presets are those provided by us with Ratshack Reverb, while User presets are those which you create and save. Clicking on a preset name loads the settings into Ratshack Reverb.

The presets in the browser correspond to files within Ratshack Reverb's own folder on your storage device (i.e. your computer's hard drive or SSD). This folder is located at `C:\ProgramData\Audio Damage\Ratshack Reverb\` on Windows, and `~/Music/Audio Damage/Ratshack Reverb/` on macOS and Linux. You can store your presets anywhere you like, but for them to show up in the User list they must be placed in the User folder within Ratshack Reverb's folder. Also, to avoid possible collisions during future updates, do not store your presets within the Factory folder.

To save your presets, click the SAVE button at the left edge of the window. The plugin will prompt you to enter a name for the preset with a standard system file dialog box.

²In his youth, the author of this manual found that adding a second feedback path created with a potentiometer connecting the microphone output to the corresponding input not only increased the number of echoes but permitted the entire unit to break into self-oscillation, generating all sorts of strange, uncontrollable noises. Experiences like this eventually contributed to the name of our company, among other things.

You can delete presets from the User list by clicking their name and then clicking the DELETE button. Quanta will give you a chance to confirm this action or cancel it. If you confirm, the preset's file will be removed from your storage system and is gone for good. As always, clicking a preset name immediately loads that preset, so make sure you've saved any changes you wish to keep before you click preset names to delete them.

Preset files are plain-text XML files so that you can exchange them online in forums, copy them between a Windows computer and a Macintosh (and even between an iPad and a regular computer), email them to your friends, etc.

The COPY and PASTE buttons copy the current settings to the system clipboard and paste settings from the clipboard. You can use the copy and paste commands to transfer settings between two instances of Ratshack Reverb or paste the settings into an email message or text editor. When copied to the clipboard, presets are presented in the same XML text as used in preset files.

Click the CLOSE button in the preset browser to dismiss it.

Default Preset

If you save a preset with the special name "Default" in the User folder, new instances of Ratshack Reverb will load it automatically when you add it to your DAW session. You can use a default preset file to give yourself the same starting point with Ratshack Reverb whenever you use it. The plugin installer creates a default preset file for you but feel free to replace it with your own.

And Finally...

Thanks for purchasing Ratshack Reverb. We make every effort to ensure your satisfaction with our products and want you to be happy with your purchase. Please write to support@audiodamage.com if you have any questions or comments.

Document Revisions

- 2026-05-28: Initial publication.