DRIVEFACTOR OPERATION MANUAL

BY SYNTHESCIENCE

Drivefactor Operation Manual

First of all congratulations and thank you for choosing the Drivefactor by Synthescience.
We hope that you'll find this a useful plugin for your processing needs.
To get the best from its features, please take some time to read this manual as it provides vital information about the plugins performance.

The Synthescience Team.

1. Introduction

The Drivefactor is an overdrive/distortion plugin who offers various cliping modes from soft cliping to more extreme over the top plain distortion. It is based on the behaviour of regular overdrive and distortion stompboxes offering the user some classic solid state overdrive and distortion tones with a lot of fuzz in between. Altough solid state overdrive is not considered to be as musical and warm as tube overdrive due to its inherent linear sound, it has its own charm and in the case of the Drivefactor plugin a level of controlability and sound shaping options not available in many units. You can use it with great effect on synth lead lines, guitars and basslines even pads and vocals for that gutsy unclean overdriven sound. The Drivefactor is a temperamental plugin and it reacts to what you throw at it in a dynamic way, responding differently to soft and loud input sounds offering various interesting nuances with a raw musicality associated to it. Take your time to experiment this little beast and surpreend yourself with what comes out of it. By the way if you add some chorus, phasing or delay after it, then it may get you for good. Enjoy the drive.

The Drivefactor can be used either in Stereo or Mono tracks, but if you use it on a Mono track, select input mode to ST-ST (if you select ST-M the input sound is likely to drop out by half)

The Drivefactor is fully automatable and has the ability to store 64 presets. It ships with a few already pre programmed ones that will show what its all about.

Installation procedure: Unzip the file, then copy the DLL's into your VstPlugins folder.

2. Front Panel controls

The controllers in the Drivefactor may be operated in three different ways:

Circular type controls – The grey knobs like Drive, Clip Mode, Tone, Level and Blend.
Toggle controls – Phase, Input Mode, Limit and Process – On/Off.
Click controls (only active while clicked) – The effects nameplate which shows additional information about the plugin (like plugin version and credits).

Description of controls

Drive – Adjusts the level or intensity of the Drive signal

Clip Mode – Selectable between seven different clipping modes, from Soft clip (SC) to Hard clip (HC) with increasing saturation factor from left to right. It depends obviously from what is set by the Drive knob

Tone – The Tone knob is conected to a low pass filter wich allows some cutting of the high frequency content from the overdriven signal, therefore smoothing it out a bit if necessary.

Phase - Inverts the phase of the overdriven signal against the direct signal, allowing for more sound sculpting options, especially if you combine it with the Blend knob at middle values or less.

Level – Adjusts the output level of the overdriven signal.

Blend – The Blend knob allows the mixing of the dry signal with the processed signal, ranging from Dry (only the input signal is outputed) to Eff (only the processed signal is outputed) and everything in between.

Description of controls (continued)

Input Mode – The Input Mode allows for two distinct choices of routing the input signal, St-St (Stereo to Stereo) and St-M (Stereo to Mono).
Stereo to Stereo allows for an independent routing of the left and right input signals inside the plugins internal arquitecture where each audio stream (left and right respectively) is processed separated from one another, keeping the stereo impression even if the ammount of Distortion apllied is high.
Stereo to Mono combines both signals from the left and right channel into one, that way eliminating any stereo impression of the input signals but contributing to a more Lo-Fi sort of sound.

Limit – The Limit switch is linked to an internal limiter module and is selectable between five steps: Off (no limiting of the processed signal takes place), 0db (limits the output signal to 0db), -3db (limits the output signal to -3db), -6db (limits the output signal to -6db) and -12db (limits the output signal to -12db). It is advisable to set it at least at -0db or below in order to avoid extreme high level output when using high Drive and Level settings and to provide a more controlled output even with drasting settings.

Process – The process switch allows for switching the effect on or off (bypass mode).

Led Meter indicators – The Drivefactor features independent Led meters for displaying Input and Output signal levels, for easy monitoring of what goes in and what goes out.

About Box - By clicking and holding the mouse arrow over the effect nameplate shows additional information about the plugin (like plugin version and credits).

3. Midi Controllers

(There is a total of 9 different midi controllers assigned to the Drivefactor plugin as shown in the below box.)

Drivefactor Midi Controller List
10 Drive
11 Clip Mode (7 steps)
12 Tone
13 Phase invert switch
14 Level
15 Blend
16 Input Mode (stereo to stereo or stereo to mono)
17 Limit switch
18 Process (On - Off)

4. Credits and Acknowledgement

Manual by Synthescience
Graphics and Programming by Synthescience
This Plugin uses software modules by David Haupt
Synthescience products are developed with SynthEdit development system
By Jeff McClintock.
Vst Plugin Technology by Steinberg Media Technologies AG.