



plastique was developed by **de la Mancha**
It is a VST synthesizer for Microsoft Windows.

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<http://www.delamancha.co.uk/>





Introduction

plastique is a 2 oscillator subtractive synth, using the 31 waveforms from the Casio HT-700 synth and some enhancements to the originals feature set. It does lofi 80s sounds but also so much more, with a configurable filter (up to 16 poles), a pitch envelope for percussion, an arp, tempo sync delay & LFO, chorus and some lofi instability. Some top sound designers have contributed to the presets, so whether it's chiptune, lofi, trance, hiphop or breakbeat, everyone needs a bit of plastique in their life.

Features

- 31 Waveforms from the Casio HT-700
- 2 Oscs with sync and octave / semitone detune
- Configurable Resonant Low Pass filter (2-16 poles with cut-off spread)
- Volume and Pitch envelopes
- Tempo sync LFO with 10 waveforms and note-on sync to modulate filter and pitch
- Tempo sync Arp with 6 modes and adjustable octave range, note length
- Tempo sync Delay
- Adjustable Chorus
- Lofi options include reduction in quality, distortion and pitch drift
- 64 presets from Tim Conrardy, Ouroboros & Sink

Installation

To install plastique, you should copy the full contents of the zip file into your VST directory and install in your host as you would any other VST instrument. Please ensure when you copy or extract the contents of the zip that you preserve the folder structure contained in the zip file. This is necessary for the plugin to find all the files it needs to work.



Controls

Oscillators

There are 2 oscillators in plastique, the waveform of the currently selected osc is shown in the display. Click the Osc 1 / Osc 2 buttons to change which is shown

To change the waveform, turn the large dial (with vertical mouse movements) to scan through the 31 available waveforms.

Tune – this detunes the selected osc by the number of semitones you type into the text field. The detune is for the selected osc. You can detune each osc independently. The amount of detune is not limited, but is displayed to 2 decimal places (hundredth of a semitone or cent)

Octave – this is a global detune of the synth in octaves (-3 to +3). Click on the word 'octave' to select the offset

Sync – this will sync the start of each cycle of Osc 2 with Osc 1. This particularly noticeable when the 2 oscs are slightly detuned and gives a rough edge to the sound

Volume – the volume of both oscs can be adjusted using the sliders on the right of the GUI

Filter

The filter is a resonant low pass, but with some options

Osc 1 / Osc 2 toggles – you can choose to route either, both or neither of osc 1 & 2 through the filter

Poles - you can change the number of poles from 2 to 16 to change the slope of the filter at the cut-off point. 2 pole is a gentle roll-off where 16 pole is a more severe cut.

Spread – this can spread the cutoff values, so each set of poles has a different cut-off value. It's easier to hear than describe the effect this has.

Cut-off – the frequency in kHz where all frequencies above this level are filtered

Res – the resonance at the cut-off level, gives an emphasis to those frequencies around the cut-off

Envelopes

There are 2 ADSR envelopes, modulating Volume and Pitch

Attack, Decay and Release are shown in ms, Sustain is 1-10 where 10 is 100% of note velocity

Volume / Pitch – this toggles which envelope controls are shown

Volume envelope is always active

Pitch envelope has a 'semi' slider, which is the amount of pitch modulation in semitones. When set at zero, this effectively turns off the pitch envelope



LFO

The tempo sync LFO modulates the Filter Cut-off and the pitch of both oscs.

LFO – toggle this to turn the LFO on

Beats – the LFO frequency is expressed in beats (from 1/32 to 32) for syncing to host tempo

Shape – the waveform of the LFO, choose from 10 shapes including random

Sync – this is note-on sync, so the LFO always starts a new cycle when a new note is pressed

Cut-off - amount of modulation 0-10 kHz

Pitch – amount of pitch modulation 0-60 semitones

Chorus

A simple chorus, can be turned on/off and amount adjusted using the slider

Arp

A flexible tempo sync Arp

Arp – choose from 6 different Arp modes or choose 'off' if not used

Modes include Up, Down, Both, Rev, Complex and Tarnce

Octave – number of octaves the Arp acts over (1-4)

Beats – How often a new note in the sequence is sounded (1/32 to 4 beats)

Ratio – How long the note is in relation to the tempo sync setting (5-100%)

25% means the note is on for a quarter of the temp sync period, with 75% being a silent gap

100% means there is no gap between notes

Delay

This is a tempo sync audio delay.

Delay – toggle to turn the delay on or off

Beats – the delay frequency is expressed in beats (from 1/32 to 4) for syncing to host tempo

F'back – the amount of delay feedback, basically how many times it echoes on a scale of 1-10

Damp – this can damp the feedback to create a fading delay

Drift

This function allows you set a random drifting of the global pitch to give a lofi feel to the sound.

Stability – choose from 4 modes of increasing instability, digital means there is no pitch drift, broken means it deviates quite far, the others are somewhere in the middle.

Rate – how often the frequency wanders, from 1/100s to 40s. Choose low durations for buzzing and computer noises, choose long durations for analog / tape type pitch drift



Lofi

There are 3 options to give some lofi gunge to your sound

Quality – reduce the sound quality to ½, ¼, 1/8 or even 1/16 for extreme sound quality reduction

Lofi – adds a gentle degradation to the sound

Dirt – like lofi, only more so, really roughens things up

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Credits

Thanks go to the generous Sound Designers who gave their time to create presets for a free synth

Thanks also to Jeff McClintock for creating SynthEdit and to the 3rd party SE module developers, without which this plug-in wouldn't exist.

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About the Developer

de la Mancha is a UK based producer of odd-skool breakbeat, downtempo glitchy beats and other assorted bleeps and noises. He also develops VST synth, drum machine and effect plugins and still finds time to make babies and sleep. You can find his music, plug-ins and other junk at www.delamancha.co.uk

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