

Test: HOFA Colour Delay

The name says it all: Colour Delay was not developed to delay the audio signal as unadulterated as possible, but to color the sound audibly. To achieve this, the creative effect offers various modules both in the feedback loop and at the end of the signal chain. **by Jan Wilking**

Features

- Software delay
- 4 combinable styles
- Tape, Bucket, Digital, Tube
- 5 post-delay effects
- Interactive display
- VST3/AAX/AU
- Windows 7 and Mac OS 10.13



Facts

- Developer:** HOFA
Web: hofa-plugins.com
Distribution: Website
Price: 85 Euro
- ▲ Intuitive operation
 - ▲ Many combinable effects
 - ▲ Very good sound
 - ▲ Sophisticated user interface
 - ▲ Interactive display
 - ▲ Ducking with sidechain option
- Sound:** ██████████
Operation: ██████████
Price/Perf: ██████████
Total: ██████████



With the interactive display, you can adjust the delay and frequency response and see the effects directly.

After the smooth installation by way of the HOFA Plugins Manager, the very clearly laid out interface of this plug-in is immediately noticeable on its first start. No attempt has been made here to graphically reproduce hardware, but the advantages of modern software have been fully utilized. The individual sections are clearly delineated, symbols and colors make them easier to recognize and large controls with clear labels invite you to tinker. In addition, the effects of the parameters are shown centrally on an interactive display. And, if desired, a pop-up note appears for each parameter with a brief explanation of the function and a direct link to the corresponding chapter in the manual.

Retro Delays

The upper section of the plug-in is dedicated to the effects in the Feedback Loop. With four modules, which can be activated individually or combined in a selectable order, you can recreate old delay classics or create your own new variations. Tape offers the distortion, flutter and pitch fluctuations of a tape echo. Bucket Brigade simulates an analog bucket brigade delay with different variations of the rather dark and noisy LoFi sound. Digital

provides the artifacts of early digital delays, from slight aliasing to chip sounds to digital chaos. And destruction combines tube distortion and clipper for a rather warm and round distortion.

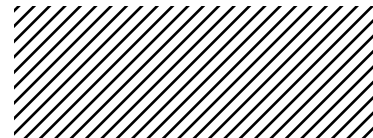
Interactive Display

In the middle section, you set the delay time (can also be tapped in if required) and the feedback, which also allows values far above 100% for endless loops. Various ping-pong variants are available for selection and modulation of the Delay Time is also possible.

Next to it is the large interactive display. It shows the pulses over time and visualizes the modulation using waveform graphics. The dry/wet ratio, delay time and Feedback can be set directly and tracked visually. Below this is the fully parametric equalizer with a real-time analyzer.

Additional effects

The lower section is reserved for the five effects connected behind the delay, which can also be freely combined. An auto panner modulates the signal in the stereo field. This is followed by the modulation effects featuring a chorus for a broad stereo sound and a phaser for the typical floating delays in the style of Jarre and the like. We also liked diffusion, a very dense and atmospheric reverb-like effect. And finally, there is a function that is unfortunately too often forgotten in delay effects: Ducking, winkingly decorated with a stylized duck. This is effectively a



downstream compressor that makes the effect quieter depending on the volume of the incoming audio signal. At the extreme setting, you will only hear the effect in the signal pauses. A slight reduction is sufficient for more transparency. Thanks to the sidechain option, ducking can also be triggered by another audio track, which offers scope for rhythmic experiments such as a "pumping" delay.

Global functions

The global functions in the top bar include Undo/Redo and a practical A/B switch for comparing two different settings. In addition to the mixing ratio of original and effect, the width of the effect can also be limited globally here. If it becomes apparent in the mix that the effect has become a little too wide, this can be quickly adjusted with a fader.

Verdict

Colour Delay is not only impressive in terms of operation and features, but also in terms of sound. The plug-in enables subtle effects, as well as extreme feedback orgies and everything in between. Each effect module has its own special sound, and completely new delay effects can be achieved by freely combining different modules. Thanks to its clear interface and functions such as moving the modules using drag & drop, as well as the interactive display and manual, Colour Delay is ideal for beginners. It also offers professionals plenty of scope for quick and creative implementation of ideas and experimentation. 🍌



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