ToneSpot Acoustic Pro

User Manual

Version 1.0

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing AUDIFIED ToneSpot Acoustic Pro. ToneSpot Acoustic Pro is an ultimate mixing channel strip for acoustic instruments delivering monstrous processing power and flexibility for the tone you are dreaming about.

What Is Included

ToneSpot Acoustic Pro contains 9 powerful modules:

- Character
- Saturation
- Shaping
- Punch
- Surgery
- Smash
- Effects
- Finalizer

How It Works

The main value of the ToneSpot Acoustic Pro is in carefully tuned combinations of parameters, settings and workflow based on the analysis of thousands of world-class records. This allows you to significantly speed up your work and improve the tone of stringed acoustic instruments such as acoustic guitar, piano, violin or cello.

The Character module determines the basic flavor of the resulting sound. But it's only the beginning. In this plug-in there is a stunning amount of flexibility and processing power for fine tuning your tone by plenty of modules perfectly tailored for stringed acoustic processing.

Additionally to all this, the plug-in offers the brand new Audified Auto Gain Control (AGC) feature on both Input and Output level controls for easy gain staging.

The Saturation module includes a classic Audified-quality model of real valve circuits.

Of course, there is also full-featured preset management. You may save your corrections to the prepared sounds to presets inside the ToneSpot Acoustic Pro or utilizing the DAW project storage.

Software Installation

Download the recent version of the application:

http://services.audified.com/download

- **Windows**: The downloaded file is packed, unzip it. Run the installer and follow the on-screen instructions. You can select the destination path and the installed plug-in format during the process.
- **Mac**: Mount the downloaded disk image and run the installer. You can select the installed plug-in format by clicking the Customize button. Plug-ins are installed in the standard locations and the control app appears in the Applications folder.

Software Uninstallation

- **Windows**: Navigate to the ToneSpot Acoustic Pro program folder in the Start menu and run the uninstaller.
- **Mac**: Open the provided disk image and run the uninstaller. Opening The Plug-in

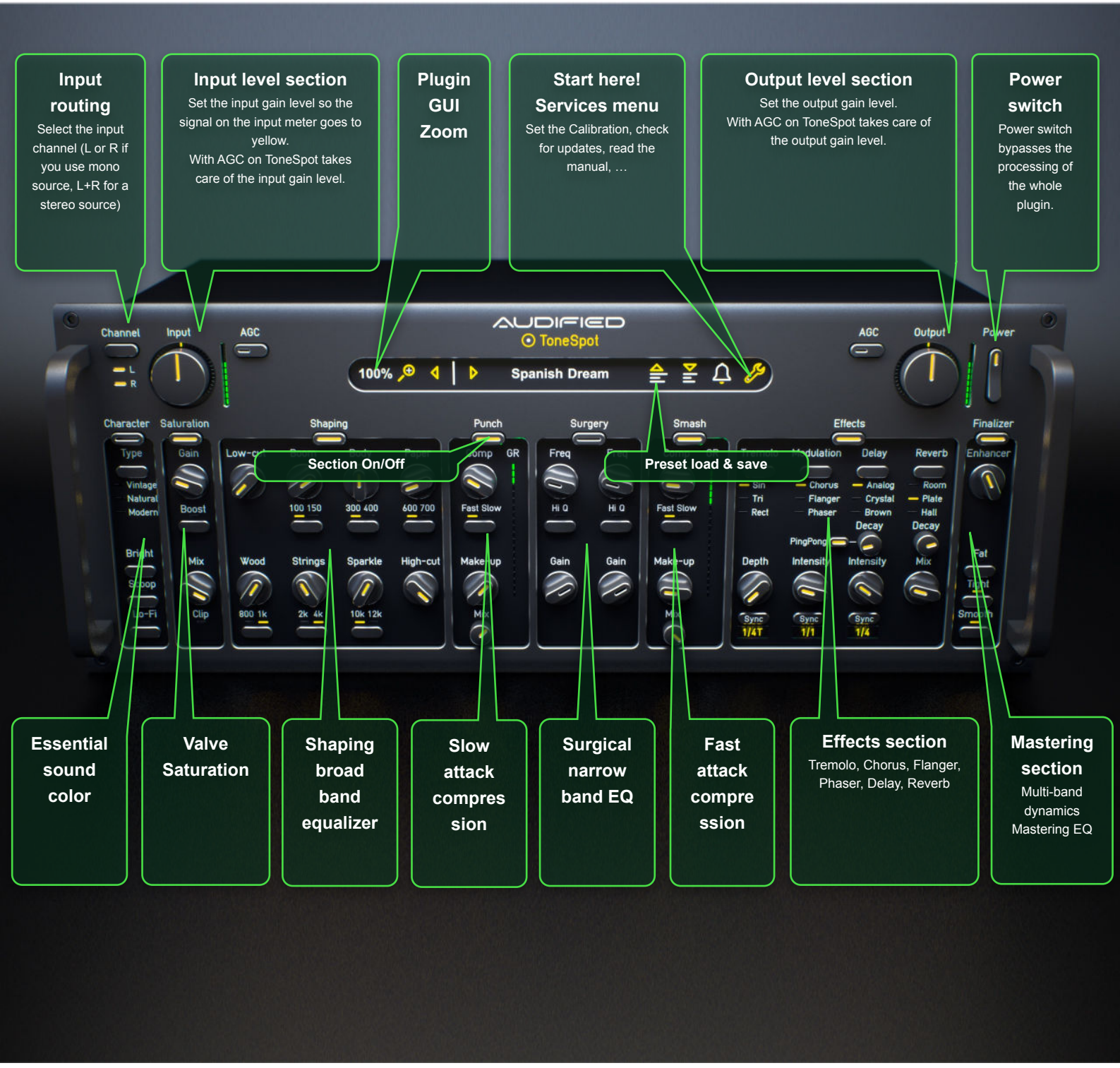
The AUDIFIED ToneSpot Acoustic Pro works in all main digital audio workstations (recording applications) as a plug-in.

Opening the plug-in

To open the plug-in, locate the plug-in selection (usually a hierarchic menu). ToneSpot Acoustic Pro is listed in the Other group or in the AUDIFIED group when the manufacturer sorting is offered.

Working with ToneSpot Acoustic Pro

Control overview



Preset management

Presets can be loaded and saved in the display area.

- The left button offers a selection from a preset list, structured in several submenus.
- The mid button opens a menu allowing to save or delete user presets.

Services menu

The display contains the Services button (wrench symbol), opening the Services menu.

The Services menu allows to access:

- Help - this User manual
- Calibration
- Product updates
- Audified web site
- Support area on the Audified web
- Feedback form on the Audified web
- Product version and other info

Calibration

The Calibration value adjusts the relation between the digital zero (maximum signal value in digital systems) and the analog zero (the value which is displayed in signal meters, affecting the non-linear characteristics of the effect).

Default Calibration value is -9 dBFS, so 0 dBVU equals -9 dBFS.

Recommended Workflow

Basic

1. Set the default calibration of the plug-in according to your preferences and working headroom so the meter shows the signal being around 0 dBVU
2. Choose one of the factory presets
3. Done

Advanced

1. Set the default calibration of the plug-in according to your preferences and working headroom so the meter shows the signal being around 0 dBVU
2. Choose the Character Type and activate additional Character buttons according desired flavour
3. Add a cup of valve Saturation and mix it with the dry signal
4. Adjust Shaping EQ parameters
5. Add some punch to your tone by adjusting Punch compression parameters
6. Do some surgical filtering of unwanted frequencies by adjusting Surgery EQ parameters if needed
7. Adjust Smash compression parameters to bring your tone under control
8. Add some effects for some extra fun
9. Adjust Finalizer parameters to finally polish your tone
10. Done

Detailed controls description

AGC

AGC is an automatic gain control feature that automatically and constantly sets the level of the signal to the plug-in's 0 dBVU. Both Input and Output level knobs have their own AGC buttons.

Character

Let's change the character of your tone so you can get some exciting new colors with 1 click.

Character is an incredible set of EQ filters grouped into some intuitively and musically labeled controls. Feel free to combine 3 basic character types with 3 additional very powerful character buttons.

Character parameters:

- **Character Type** is a 3-way switch with Natural, Vintage and Modern EQ curves. Natural type is simply the flat EQ while Vintage and Modern types have some broader EQ curves but the effectivity of those curves is very good and tone changes are easily audible. So "less is more" kinda approach was applied here.
- **Bright button** activates a set of EQ filters that makes your tone brighter but not harsh. If your tone lacks some sweet brilliance, this button is your best friend.
- **Scoop button** activates very deep cut of lower-midrange frequencies, helps to make the tone more 3-dimensional and less woody. Scoop button is so powerful that it can transform the woody character of the instrument into the modern monster or can very effectively cut a lot of mud in the tone.
- **Lo-Fi button** activates low-cut and high-cut filters to slightly cultivate your tone so it's frequency range doesn't clash with other instruments too much.

Saturation

Add the valve saturation to your tone so it gets some grit and fullness.

ToneSpot Acoustic Pro has an advanced model of real valve saturation circuit that has very flat response with a cup of sweetening boost in the top-end.

Saturation parameters:

- **Clip indicator** lights up when the signal incoming to the saturation circuit is too hot and the signal is hard-clipped
- **Gain knob** adjusts the amount of saturation. The higher saturation levels add harmonics to the incoming signal
- **Boost button** increases the signal level right before the saturation circuit to get even stronger saturation

- **Mix knob** controls the overall blend of saturated and unsaturated signal. 100 % mix means that 100 % of the signal is going through saturation circuit.

Shaping

Shape your tone with 8-band musically labeled EQ.

For the better flexibility, there are frequency switches to perfectly match all your shaping needs. The Q factor of the peak filters is set quite low so the shaping tasks are musical enough but not super-broad so the filters are not clashing.

Shaping controls:

- **Low-cut** knob adjusts the critical frequency of a 2nd order HPF filter ranging from 20 Hz to 250 Hz.
- **Boom knob** adjusts a peak filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (100 Hz or 150 Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **Body knob** adjusts a peak filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (300 Hz or 400 Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **Paper knob** adjusts a peak filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (600 Hz or 700 Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **Wood knob** adjusts a peak filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (800 Hz or 1k Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **Strings knob** adjusts a peak filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (2k Hz or 4k Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **Sparkle knob** adjusts a 2nd order high shelf filter with 2 selectable critical frequencies (10k Hz or 12k Hz) thanks to the frequency switch below the knob. The range of the knob is from -9 dB to + 9 dB.
- **High-Cut knob** adjusts the critical frequency of a 2nd order LPF filter ranging from 2k4 Hz to 20k Hz.

Punch

The name speaks for itself. Add some slamming punch to your tone.

For better flexibility there is a compression release switch.

Punch is quite strong compressor with slower attack time and medium compression ratio so it makes the tone more powerful and full of enhanced transients. It's very clean sounding with very low distortion. If more natural tone is needed, keep the Gain Reduction fairly low (2-3dB is enough) or

you can squash your tone with heavy reduction and blend the squashed tone with the uncompressed one with the Mix knob.

Punch controls:

- **Comp knob** adjusts compression threshold (the range of threshold is from -30 dB to 0 dB).
- **Fast/Slow switch** switches between 2 compression release times (Fast = 50 ms, Slow = 500 ms).
- **Make-up knob** compensates the volume loss when applying compression (the range is from -12 dB to +12 dB).
- **Mix knob** is a blend between compressed and uncompressed signal. 100 % mix means that 100 % of the signal is going through compressor.

Surgery

Sometimes you need to go really deep with some surgical EQ.

-50 dB attenuation?

No problem.

Surgery is an extreme surgical peak EQ with 2 identical filters. The Q factor of the filters is high and can be switched to even higher Q setting by Hi Q button. The range of both frequency and gain controls is monstrous, so you can go really narrow, deep and solve any problem in the full spectrum.

Surgery controls:

- **Frequency knob** adjusts the critical frequency of the filter, ranging from 20 Hz to 20k Hz. Since the range is very wide, feel free to use the numerical input by clicking in the knob's tooltip and simply enter the desired frequency value.
- **Hi Q button** activates Hi Q mode of the filter (Q = 10).
- **Gain knob** adjusts the gain of the filter. The range of the filter is from -50 dB to +20 dB so the dB mark is not at noon position.

Smash

Do you want to have your tone more dynamically controlled but not completely dead?

This is what you are looking for.

For the better flexibility there is compression release switch.

Smash is a peak-eating levelling compressor with faster attack time and gentle compression ratio so it can take the dynamics of your tone under control. But it's not all. Smash compressor also adds some mild distortion to add some extra color or grit to your tone. In combination with Punch compressor it makes your tone more consistent while still adding something new into your tone and since it's attack time is not super-fast, it leaves a significant amount of enhanced transients acquired by using Punch compressor.

Smash controls:

- **Comp knob** adjusts compression threshold (the range of threshold is from -50 dB to 0 dB).
- **Fast/Slow switch** switches between 2 compression release times (Fast = 30 ms, Slow = 150 ms).
- **Make-up knob** compensates the volume loss when applying compression (the range is from -12 dB to +12 dB).
- **Mix knob** is a blend between compressed and uncompressed signal. 100 % mix means that 100 % of the signal is going through compressor.

Effects

Need some fun?

Try to add Tremolo, Modulation, Delay, Reverb, or all of them.

ToneSpot Acoustic Pro has 6 effects suitable for stringed acoustic instruments processing. The effects are sorted into 4 groups - Tremolo, Modulation, Delay and Reverb. Modulation group has 3 effects - Chorus, Flanger and Phaser.

Effects controls:

- **Tremolo type switch** is a 3-way switch with Sinusoidal, Triangular and Rectangular modes.
- **Tremolo Intensity knob** determines how much of the processed signal is added into the original signal.
- **Tremolo Sync function** adjusts the speed of the LFO. If any Sync note is selected, the LFO speed is adjusted according to the host application tempo and chosen sync value. If the Sync value is in Off position, then LFO speed is set to 0.1 Hz.
- **Modulation type switch** is a 3-way switch with Chorus, Flanger and Phaser modes.
- **Modulation Intensity knob** determines how much of the processed signal is added into the original signal.
- **Modulation Sync function** adjusts the speed of the LFO. If any Sync note is selected, the LFO speed is adjusted according to the host application tempo and chosen sync value. If the Sync value is in Off position, then LFO speed is set to 0.1 Hz.
- **Delay type switch** is a 3-way switch with Analog, Crystal and Brown modes. Those modes represent various delay colors and every mode has different stereo width when PingPong mode is activated.
- **Delay Decay knob** determines the length of the delay.
- **PingPong button** activates PingPong stereo mode. If this button is in OFF position, the delayed signal is positioned in the center of the stereo field.
- **Delay Intensity knob** determines how much of the processed signal is added into the original signal.

- **Delay Sync function** adjusts the speed of the LFO. If any Sync note is selected, the LFO speed is adjusted according to the host application tempo and chosen sync value. If the Sync value is in Off position, then LFO speed is set to 0.1 Hz.
- **Reverb type switch** is a 3-way switch with Room, Plate and Hall modes. Those modes represent various reverb algorithms and different color and pre-delay settings.
- **Reverb Decay knob** determines the length of the reverb.
- **Reverb Intensity knob** determines how much of the processed signal is added into the original signal.

Finalizer

This is the mastering section of your tone.

Sometimes the tone needs some final touch. Some sweetness, fatness, tightness and smoothness.

Finalizer controls:

- **Enhancer knob** adjusts the additive gain amount of 2nd order low shelf and high shelf filters. The filters are coupled and the range of the gain is from 0 dB to +10 dB. Low shelf filter is set at 500 Hz and the High shelf filter is set at 2k Hz.
- **Fat button** is a set of 2 hardset peak filters. The first filter with the center frequency set at 250 Hz and gain at +4 dB and the second one with the center frequency set at 7k Hz and gain at -6 dB.
- **Tight button** is a combination of 4 subtractive EQ filters and a multi-band compressor.
- **Smooth button** represents a set of 5 smoothing EQ filters with different filter types.

Technical info

Specification

- AAX, AU, VST3,
- macOS, Windows plug-ins

Requirements

- macOS 10.11 and newer
- Windows 7 and newer
- 150 MB of disk space required

Conclusion

We are confident that you can now work with ToneSpot. However, if anything seems unclear or you need assistance, feel free to contact us at

http://services.audified.com/support

Thanks for using AUDIFIED products.