

# MODULA



Quantica

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# OVERVIEW

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF QUANTICA AUDIO.

Congratulations on purchasing Modula. A brand new system by Quantica Audio that utilizes an Acqua/Nebula virtual studio environment, with the possibility of using screen-based consoles and interchangeable channel strips, all executed as an extension to existing digital audio workstations.

## ABOUT US

Quantica Audio are Acustica Audio and Studio DMI. After collaborating on some of the industry's most appreciated audio plug-ins for mixing and mastering the two teams have united to bring you the ultimate in cutting-edge audio technology.

Acustica Audio develops professional audio plug-ins based on the revolutionary VVK Technology, which samples and recreates analog studio gear in the digital domain. From equalisers to compressors, FX and full channel strips derived from the world's most praised studio consoles, their plug-ins are now used by the industry's top professionals on a daily basis.

Studio DMI is a high-end mixing and mastering Studio led by 3x Grammy® Nominated Engineer Luca Pretolesi. The studio is home to some of the world's greatest artists. The deeply artistic vision it embodies is essential to Quantica's philosophy.



## ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This manual starts with an introduction to the Modula product, then goes into its features in detail, the controls, the setting and the mandatory requirements to guarantee the proper functioning of the product and ends with the explanation of the processes involved to install and authorize Modula.

Please take the time to read this user manual carefully, to facilitate and ensure a proper understanding of this product. Please note that the procedures involved in loading and using plug-ins within your host application are not covered in this manual. Please refer to your host application's user guide for more information on how to use plug-ins in general.

Quantica Audio reserves the right to change the features and specifications of this document without further notice, as this document is intended to be an introduction and not the definitive guide to the Modula 4 product, we will integrate and improve this document so that it can be even more explanatory and easy to understand.

# INTRODUCTION

MODULA is a “touch-screen friendly” application, which faithfully recreates the function, look and feel of real analog mixing consoles. It can run on Windows and macOS operating systems as a standalone application. M4 connects to your favorite DAW (Cubase, Pro Tools, Logic Pro X, etc.) and runs in unison with it in perfect sync, thanks to the special M4 versions of ACQUA plug-ins and the Nebula Server technology included in N4.

## NOTE:

From now on in this document we will use the following convention: the terms MODULA (name of the commercial product) and M4 (name of the engine / .dll) both refer to the same plugin.

Each M4 plug-in loaded into your DAW is automatically mirrored in a new channel in the M4 application. This means, that all the plugin controls (buttons, sliders etc.) will be synced. For example, when you move the slider on the M4 channel, the slider and its connected M4 plugin in your DAW will move as well and vice versa.

Note that M4 must be started before your DAW and closed after the plugins are properly unloaded and your DAW is closed.

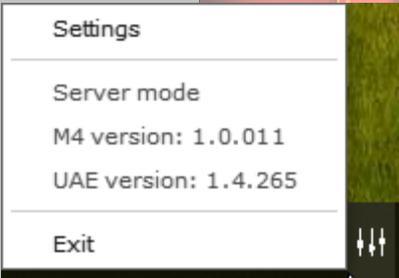
The M4 window is called a “rack”. The application can hold up to six racks. They can be displayed on a different computer monitors, each showing a specific range of channels in your mixing session.

The picture below shows M4 (left) running with the Reaper DAW (right). The M4 ACQUA plug-ins loaded in Reaper (each track contains one plug-in) are presented as five channels in the M4 application.



M4 plugins are designed as channel strips. Their GUI is basically divided into three pages (preamp, equalizer and dynamics). In your DAW, all three are displayed as a single plug-in. This is not possible in the M4 rack window, so users can decide which page on a particular channel should be visible.

M4 must be started before your DAW and closed after your DAW. If you try to close it while your DAW is still using M4 plug-ins, Modula will warn you and ask for confirmation.



When M4 is running, you will see its tray icon. Click on the icon to bring up a pop-up menu with additional options and information. The picture on the right is showing the icon and menu on Windows.

The "settings" option will open the settings dialog, the "exit" option will close M4 (make sure that you stop your DAW first). To change running mode (server, client) and some other options, open the settings dialog.



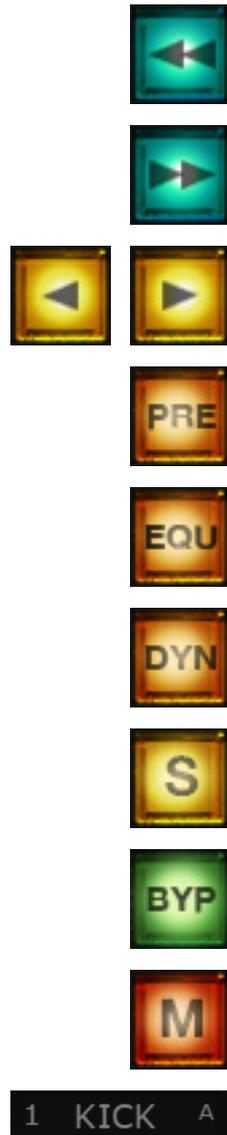
# CHANNEL STRIP

The channel strip consists of the actual channel at the top and the control area at the bottom. The control area contains buttons which control different aspects of the channel.

Here is a closer look at the control area of the channels from the previous picture.



# BUTTONS



Bank left (available only on the first rack channel, available also without a channel loaded, server mode is required).

Bank right (available only on the last rack channel, available also without a channel loaded, server mode is required).

Scroll through channel pages (available only on the first and the last rack channels).

Show channel preamp page.

Show channel equalizer page.

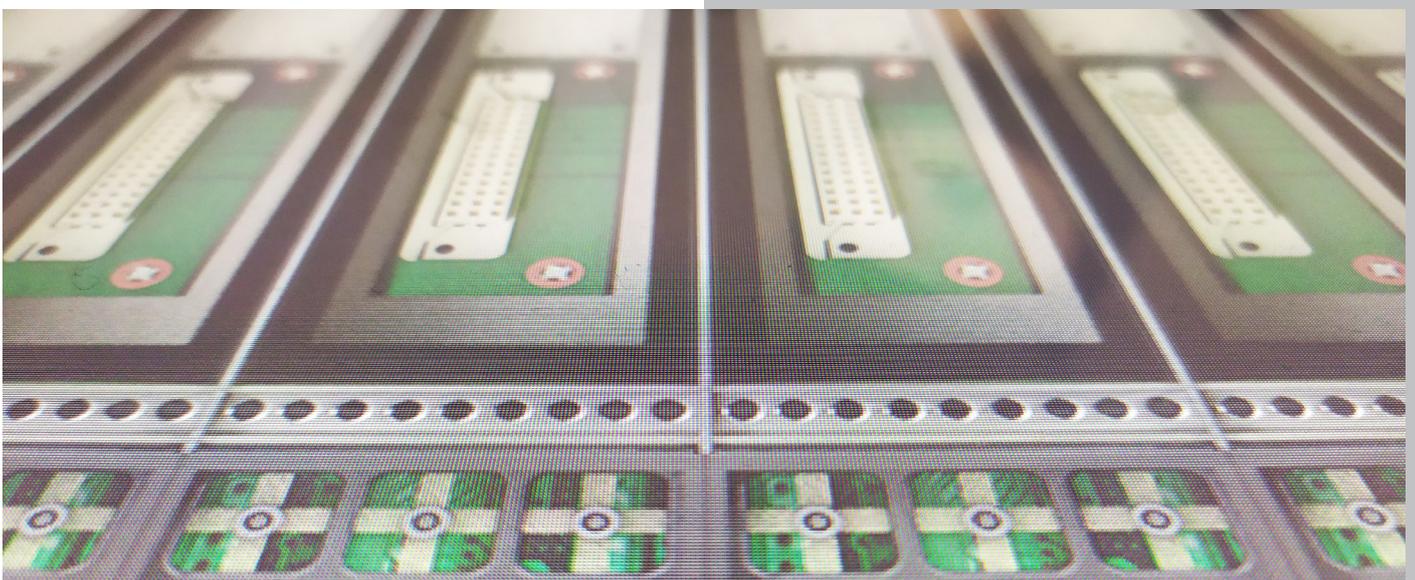
Show channel dynamics page.

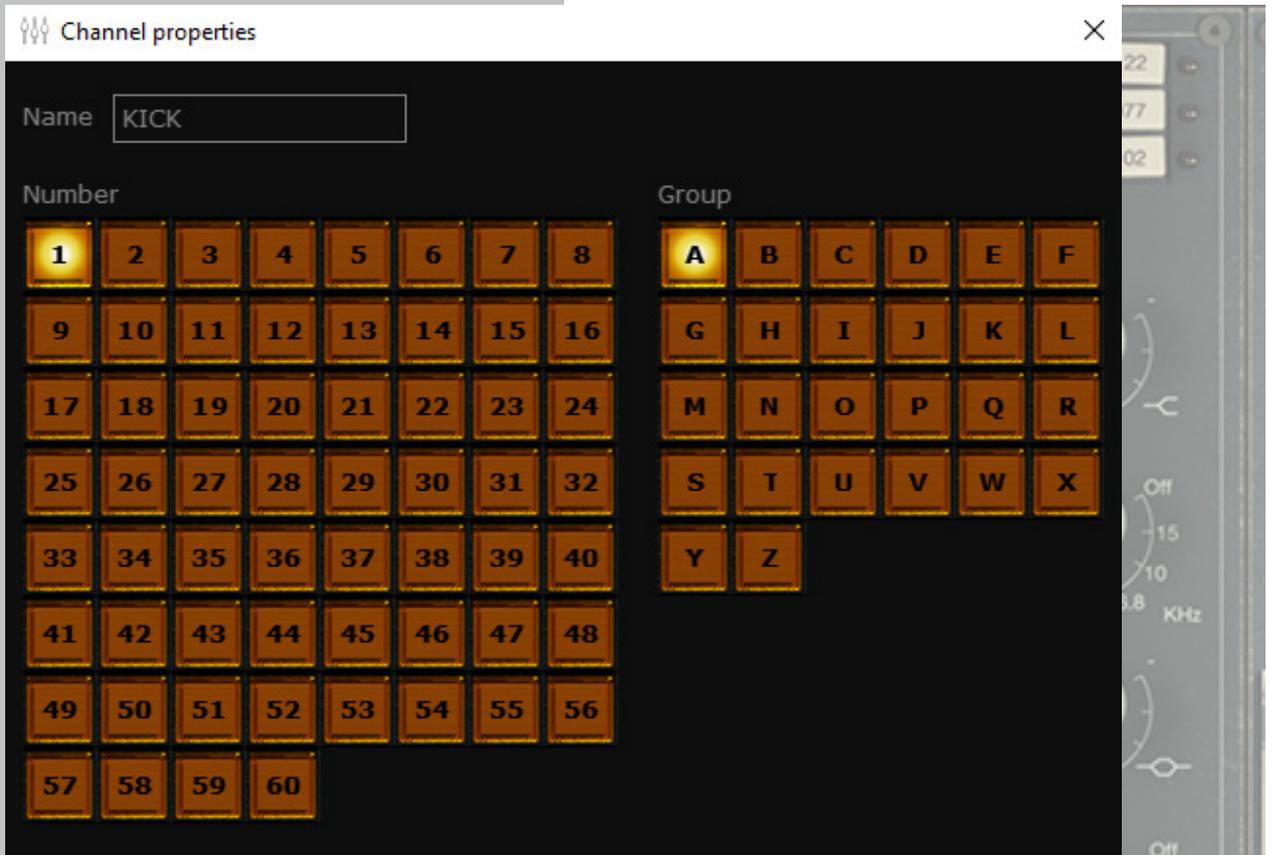
Solo all channels in a group.

Bypass all channels in a group.

Mute all channels in a group.

Channel properties (number, name and solo/mute group). Properties can be changed by selecting this button – look below.





**Name**

The track name (press Enter to confirm or Escape to cancel). The channel name is NOT connected to the name in your DAW.

**Number**

When you select a number, the dialog box will close and the channel will be moved to the new position. For more information about channel manipulation inside a rack, see the Racks, Banks and Channels section.

**Group**

When you select a group, the dialog will close and the channel will be assigned to the selected solo/mute group. For more information about channel manipulation inside rack, see Racks, banks and channels section.

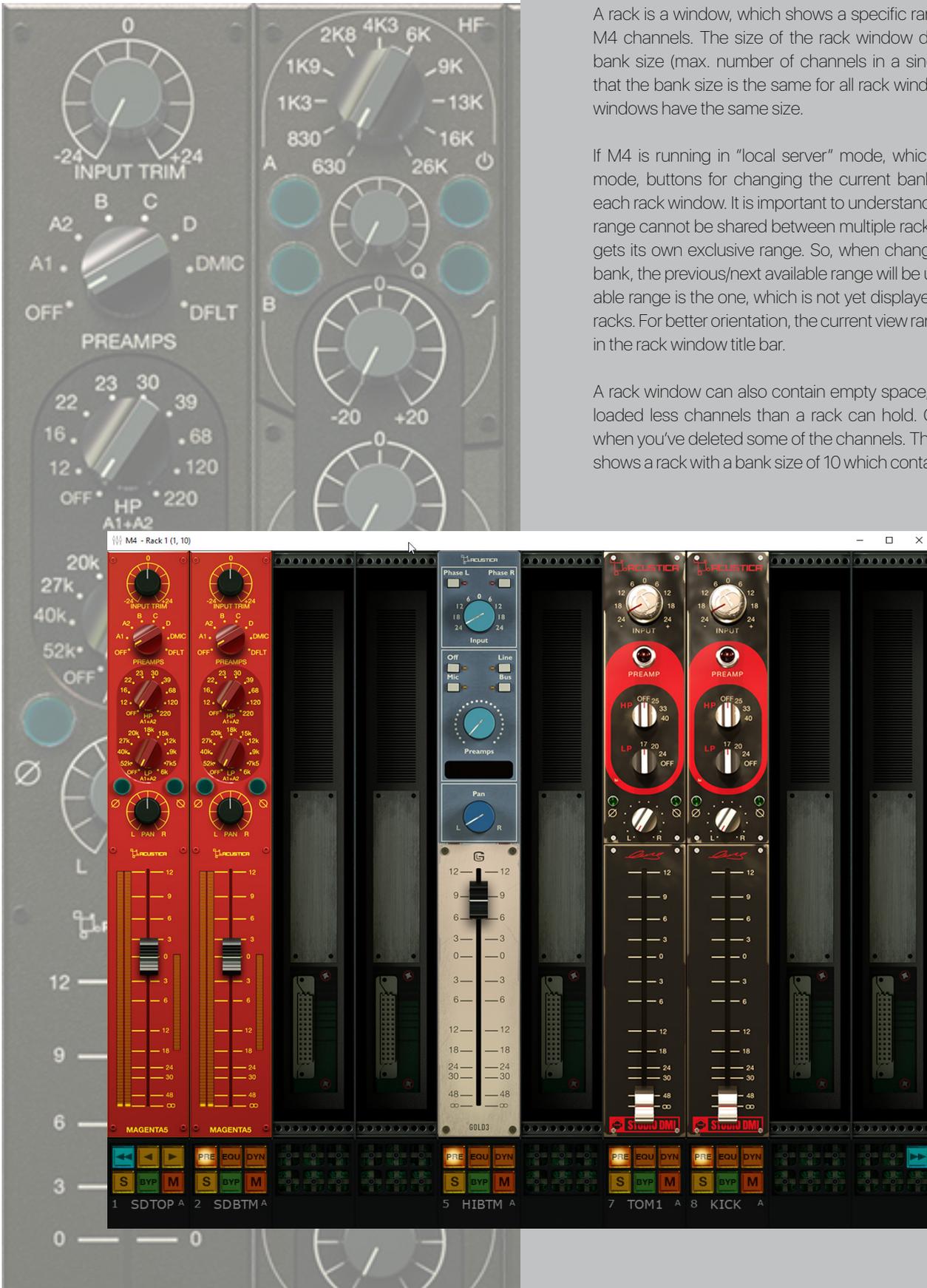


# RACKS, BANKS AND CHANNELS

A rack is a window, which shows a specific range of available M4 channels. The size of the rack window depends on the bank size (max. number of channels in a single rack). Note, that the bank size is the same for all rack windows, so all rack windows have the same size.

If M4 is running in "local server" mode, which is the default mode, buttons for changing the current bank will appear in each rack window. It is important to understand, that a specific range cannot be shared between multiple racks, so each rack gets its own exclusive range. So, when changing the current bank, the previous/next available range will be used. The available range is the one, which is not yet displayed by any of the racks. For better orientation, the current view range is displayed in the rack window title bar.

A rack window can also contain empty space, in case you've loaded less channels than a rack can hold. Or for example, when you've deleted some of the channels. The picture below shows a rack with a bank size of 10 which contains 5 channels.



Free rack space will be filled with the new channels when you load them. You can change the channel position using the "channel properties" dialog box or using drag & drop. Channels can be moved to other rack windows or even to other banks, which are accessible from the current rack. If the target position is empty, the source channel will be moved there. If the target position is already occupied by another channel, channels will be exchanged (swapped).

If you want to use drag & drop, just drag the source channel control area, where the number, name and group are displayed, to the target position. The orange horizontal line will keep you informed of the possible drop positions.

If you want to move a channel to another bank using drag & drop, drag your source channel over one of the "bank change" buttons and hold it there – this way you will continuously scroll through available banks. When you find the right one, drop the channel to the desired location. Don't forget to check the rack's title bar which is always showing the view range of the rack.



# SETTINGS



## Number of channels

Total number of Modula channels available (the default and recommended value of 60, can be increased if needed, decreasing is not recommended).

## Number of racks

Number of rack windows available (min 1, max 6, default 1).

## Names

Global user defined names/titles for all 6 racks. This is useful for easy visual identification of the rack windows. The name is displayed in the rack's title bar together with the view range. To change the name of the rack, simply its item from the pop-up menu.

## Rack/bank size

The number of channels (bank size) in a single rack window (min 2, default 15). This should be set to a value which best fits to your computer monitor resolution.

## Server mode

on = server, off = client (requires external Nebula server running).

## Bank mode

on = bank change buttons visible (server mode only), off = bank change buttons hidden.

## Log file

on = log file enabled, off = log file disabled.

A new log file is created every time M4 is started. Its file name is date/time stamped. The location of log files is:

Windows: C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\M4  
macOS: /Users/{username}/Library/Logs/M4

**Always restart Modula after settings has been changed.**

# SOFTWARE SETUP

Before starting the installation of M4, confirm that your system meets ALL the requirements described in the following Chapter to run M4 and ACQUA plug-ins and the Nebula Server technology included in N4.



## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

### OPERATING SYSTEMS:

Windows 10 64 bits (versions 1803-1809-1903-1909).

The target OS is Windows 10 64 bits 1803.

macOS 64 bits (versions 10.13 - 10.14 - 10.15).

The target OS is macOS 64 bit 10.13.

### CPU:

- Latest multicore CPU Intel I7 or I9 (recommended).

- Quad Core CPU Intel I7 (minimum).

### Screen Resolution:

- 1920x1080 full HD (recommended).

### RAM:

- 16 GB to 128 GB (recommended).

- 8 GB (minimum).

Have free HDD/SSD space for download, store and install the products.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Aquarius 2.3.5 or superior.
- Internet connection.
- Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 1.1 or superior working and accessible.
- Internet port 8080 open.

## SUPPORTED PLUG-IN FORMATS

VST2 64 bits - VST3 64 bits - AAX 64 bits - AU 64 bits (only macOS).

## SUPPORTED HOSTS

- Cubase 10.x.
- Logic Pro X 10.4x.
- Pro Tools 2019.
- Other host (DAW or NLE) try before buy.

## WINDOWS LIMITATIONS

- Multitouch is not implemented.
- Network mode is not implemented.

## MAC OS LIMITATIONS

- Multitouch is not implemented.
- Network mode is not implemented.

## MODULA PLUG-INS (CURRENT AVAILABLE):

- M4 MAGENTA 5
- M4 GOLD 3
- M4 DIAMOND 3
- M4 CLEAN CHANNEL



# PRODUCT REGISTRATION AND AUTHORIZATION

If you have purchased Modula on the Quantica web store, the product is automatically registered.

You will also receive an email containing your product activation code and detailed instructions on how to authorise and run M4 (Modula) and the included Skins (Magenta5, Magenta 5 Black Lite Ed., Gold3, Diamond 3 Color EQ and the clean channel). So please refer to that email for complete instructions.

If you want to try and evaluate Modula, you will need Aquarius\*, our installation manager, which can be downloaded for free here: <http://quanticaaudio.com/downloads/>

When you first open Aquarius, you will be presented with a splash screen. If you already have an Aquarius account, just log in using your Acustica Audio username email and password. If you do not have an account yet, just choose an email, a password and flag the 'Create new account' option.

**1. Please enter your Username and Password\***

Username: \_\_\_\_\_ Create new account

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Enter your activation code below and Press Login button\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_

\*If you already have an Aquarius account, just log in using the credentials you normally use on the Acustica Audio website. If you do not have an account yet, just choose an email, a password, and flag the 'Create an account' option.

\*\*Product activation codes are sent via email by Quantica after you have purchased Modula on <https://quanticaaudio.com>. If you are experiencing issues with your purchase or have not received your activation code please contact Quantica Audio directly.

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\*Various versions of Aquarius are available for download. Windows users can just go ahead and download the only version provided for that operative system. Mac users should download the macOS Catalina version of Aquarius only if they are running Catalina on their system. For any other macOS version please just download the standard Aquarius version. So if you are using Aquarius - 'Catalina' version please Install M4 (MODULA PLAYER – AQUARIUS CATALINA ONLY), otherwise install the standard version called M4 (MODULA PLAYER).

\*\* If you are using Pro Tools, choose AAX plug-in format. If you are using Logic Pro X choose the AU plug-in format. For all other DAWs/NLEs please, please refer to your host application's user guide for more information on how to use plug-ins in general.

\*\*\* You will find the Modula application in the following path:

Mac: /Library/Audio/Presets/AcusticaAudio/Nebula4/Client/M4.app

Win: C:/Nebula4TempRepository/Client/M4.exe

All sales are final and non refundable once the activation code has been implemented. We strongly suggest you try Modula before purchasing it to make sure it fits your workflow and expectations.

Once you are logged in, scroll down until you find your M4 application under the 'Nebula' section. Install it (ignore the plug-in format for now. This is not important at this stage).

Under the 'Purchased' page, in the 'Acqua' section, search for M4 Magenta 5 (trial) and install it (remember to choose the right plug-in format)\*\*.

Ensure your sequencer is not running yet.

Run Modula first\*\*\*, then run your DAW/NLE.

Load the M4 Magenta 5 trial skin on a channel in your sequencer. Enjoy!

Important: once you are done mixing, save your session in your DAW/NLE and remember to always close your sequencer first and then the Modula application.

If you need assistance, suggestions or help consult the following page: <https://quanticaaudio.com/contact/>

Please refer to the Aquarius user manual for more information about how to install and authorise Acustica Audio plugins.

If you need assistance, suggestions or help please do not hesitate to contact us.

## COPYRIGHT

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As research and development is a continual process, Quantica Audio Inc. reserves the right to change the features and specifications described herein without notice or obligation.

Quantica Audio Inc. cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any error or omission in this manual.



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