

GRAPHITE

MANUAL



1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing Graphite!

Designed by Acustica with N4 library developer SoundDrops (<http://sounddrops.it/>), the Graphite bass amp emulator is fully endorsed by GR Bass (<https://www.grbass.com/>), the innovative and dynamic Italian manufacturer of bass amplifiers and cabinets. This is the first Acqua Plugin product in VST, VST3, AAX, AU format fully dedicated to the needs of bassists and is without a doubt one of the most authentic and modern sounding bass amp plugins that you will find on the market today.

The challenge was to faithfully recreate the sound of the GR Bass One head in combination with the AT 212 bass cabinet, both produced by GR Bass. The GR Bass One head is designed according to their 'PURE SOUND' philosophy, producing a realistic sound with natural transparency. The AT 212 bass cabinet is the lightest 2x12" cab available in the world: it is part of the revolutionary AeroTech series, and an example of the incredible technical advancement that GR Bass has achieved with its Carbon Fiber cabinet line.

Thanks to its intuitive single-screen interface, whatever musical style you are playing, finger-style, pick or slap, this plug-in will adapt, providing you with the pure sound and punch of the GR Bass ONE head and the AT 212 cabinet, for a huge amount of ultra-solid bass tones ready for any genre! For any further tuning and sculpting of your sound, please don't forget to use the powerful 4-band equaliser, then add to the output mix any dose you like of your D.I. signal by using the relevant controls at your disposal. Graphite is accurately tuned with enough power to shake your studio from the ground up!

To get the most out of Graphite, please read this user manual carefully.

All other product names and trademarks are property of their respective owners, which are in no way associated or affiliated with Acusticaudio SRL. Product names are used solely for the purpose of identifying the specific products that were studied during Acustica's sound sampling and modeling; the use of these names do not imply any endorsement or collaboration.

2. WHAT YOU GET

Graphite includes:

- An emulation of the GR ONE bass head.
- An emulation of the AT 212 (2x12") bass carbon fiber cabinet sampled with four different classic microphones, expertly selected and placed.

The Graphite plugin comes in a standard version and an alternative 'ZL' (zero latency) version which is suitable for use when tracking with less latency, at the cost of extra processing resources; the right choice when you need to play in real time.

2.1. KEY FEATURES

- GR ONE Solid-state amplifier, complete with a powerful semi-parametric EQ section and an adjustable high quality D.I. output;
- Input and Output LED meters;
- AT 212 Carbon fiber cab (2x12") captured by 2 microphone setups which can be used individually or in pairs, with 4 different mic models, plus a switchable tweeter emulation;
- Freely adjustable cab settings with independent mic management, closely emulating a real bass recording session;
- Easy-to-use graphical user interface;
- Faithful graphic reproduction of the head;
- Low CPU usage and low latency;
- Presets available, suitable for different playing techniques.

2.2. DETAILS

- Head features

Transparency is one of the main characteristics of the GR ONE solid-state head; It includes a 4-band equalizer which allows you to sculpt the sound according to your needs, but that's not all, in addition to the usual low and a high-shelf controls, two additional mid-band equalizers allow you to choose from three central frequencies each, and to top it all, deep and bright filters give you control over any extra punch and/or definition you might need.

- Cabinet features

Compared to other similar wooden cabinets on the market, the AT 212 (2x12") carbon fiber cabinet has better focus, sonic detail, richer tone and a more open sound, not to mention its much lighter weight. After careful design, an intense sampling and optimisation phase, and thanks to the invaluable contribution of the GR Bass team themselves, Acustica was able to effectively capture the essence of this cabinet with all its tonal shades, harnessing it all in this plug-in and offering you a sound as close as possible to the original.

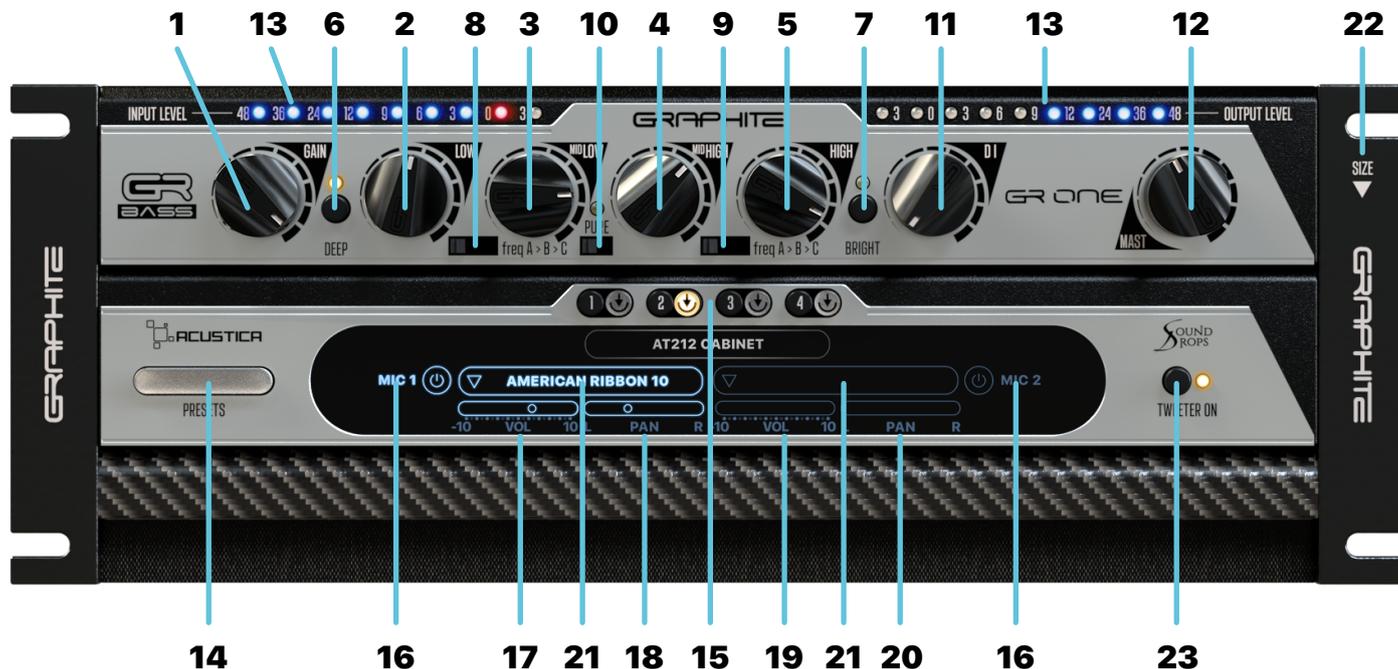
Several design choices determined the sound and final characteristics of this product:

- the recording studio (<https://www.elfostudio.com>), with its high-profile functional design offered a really interesting live room with excellent acoustics and a natural and balanced reverberation in frequency response, which further enhanced the great sound of the sampled equipment;
- an effective strategy to achieve the best possible sampling;
- a careful selection of the four microphones: an American dynamic microphone (model 57), an American ribbon microphone (model R10), a German FET condenser microphone (model 47) and a German dynamic microphone (model 421);
- accurately chosen microphone positions;
- an optimisation of the product in the development phase that guarantees a low consumption of CPU and the possibility of interacting with the plugin in a natural way and with minimal latency, and all this without affecting the sound quality in any way.



3. OPERATION

Let's delve into the explanation of each Graphite plugin control.



1- GAIN: Sets the level of the input signal entering the preamp.

2- LOW: Increases or reduces the gain of the low frequencies of the signal.

3- MID-LOW: Increases or reduces the gain of the Mid-Low frequencies of the signal.

4- MID-HIGH: Increases or reduces the gain of the Mid-High frequencies of the signal.

5- HIGH: Increases or reduces the gain of the high frequencies of the signal.

6- DEEP button: Gives a deeper sound

7- BRIGHT button: Gives a brighter sound

8- MID-LOW switch: Selects the center frequency of the Mid-Low band; available frequencies: 185 Hz, 375 Hz and 800 Hz.

9- MID-HIGH switch: Selects the center frequency of the Mid-High band; available frequencies: 600 Hz, 1200 Hz and 1800 Hz.

10- PURE switch: Bypasses the whole EQ section; when activated, the LED on the top of the button is lit.

11- DI control: Adjusts the output level of the D.I. signal.

12- MASTER: Global output gain.

13- INPUT/OUTPUT LEVEL meters: Show the input and output levels of the plugin.

14- PRESETS: Click on this button to select and load a preset from the drop-down menu.

15- User Banks (Save your Settings): Graphite includes 4 different slots to save and reload your favorite settings.

First, set your controls as desired, then simply press the first available 'save' icon (⏴).

To recall your settings, simply press the button associated with the 'save' icon you used.

16- MIC 1/MIC 2 button: Switches the Mic/s on or off.

17- MIC 1 VOLUME: Controls the level of the cabinet tone captured by MIC 1.

18- MIC 1 PAN: Controls the stereo placement of the signal captured by MIC 1.

19- MIC 2 VOLUME: Controls the level of the cabinet tone captured by MIC 2.

20- MIC 2 PAN: Controls the stereo placement of the signal captured by MIC 2.

Note: the action of the pan controls in Graphite reflects the behaviour of a traditional analogue pan sampled from a famous 'modern' UK-made console.

21- MIC drop-down menu: Select a mic from 4 different models.

Details

- MIC n.1: an American dynamic microphone, model 57;
- MIC n.2: an American ribbon microphone, model R10;
- MIC n.3: a German FET condenser microphone, model 47;
- MIC n.4: a German dynamic microphone, model 421.

22- SIZE drop-down menu: This menu adjusts the whole plugin-GUI size (1x,1.5x,2x).

Select the desired resizing format from the drop-down menu. Close the plugin and re-open it in you DAW to finalize the operation.

23- TWEETER ON button: This enables the tweeter, adding a natural sounding extension to the high end.



4. HOW TO DOWNLOAD, INSTALL, AND AUTHORIZE YOUR PRODUCTS

Acustica Audio products can be downloaded, installed, and authorized using the Aquarius Desktop application. The Aquarius Desktop application is a free standalone application that will manage every step in an automatic way without user intervention. Download Aquarius Desktop Application.

www.acustica-audio.com/pages/aquarius

4.1. HOW TO DOWNLOAD A PRODUCT IN AQUARIUS DESKTOP APPLICATION

To download a product using the Aquarius Desktop application go to the purchase page and select the product and format (VST2,VST3, AA-X,AU) to install. In case you can't find your product on the purchase page use the search page.

4.2. HOW TO INSTALL A PRODUCT IN AQUARIUS DESKTOP APPLICATION

The installation is done automatically by the Aquarius Desktop application after the download. As the Aquarius Desktop application creates a temporary file of the downloaded products, known as the stage area, at the moment you want to reinstall a product it will not be necessary to download it again.

4.3. HOW TO AUTHORIZE A PRODUCT IN AQUARIUS DESKTOP APPLICATION

The authorization is done automatically by the Aquarius Desktop application after the product installation. You can manage your authorizations using the Aquarius Web Service.

[Click here](#) for a complete installation user guide.

4.4. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Modern computers are powerful enough to run many plugins at once.

However, our technology requires more resources than algorithm-based software, so we recommend optimizing your system to work with high CPU loads and low audio latency.

Before starting the installation process, please confirm that your system meets the minimum system requirements to run the plugins.

Please consult the tab down here.

All technical specifications of Acustica Audio products provided are intended to be estimates or approximations. Due to numerous variables, no guarantees of compatibility or performance can be made. The end-user is solely responsible for, prior to purchase, ensuring that the end-user's devices are compatible and meet the system requirements for Acustica Audio products.

	PC with Microsoft Windows Intel CPU		Apple computer with macOS Intel CPU		Apple computer with macOS Silicon SOC	
	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
OPERATING SYSTEM	Windows 10 1909 64 bits (1) (9)	Windows 21H2 10 64 bits (1) (9)	macOS 10.14 (1) (9)	macOS 10.15 (1) (9)	macOS 11 (1) (9)	macOS 12 (1) (9)
CPU	Intel i5 4 th generation (2) (8)	Intel i9 11 th generation (2) (8)	Intel i5 4 th generation (2) (8)	Intel i9 11 th generation (2) (8)	ARM M1 (8)	ARM M1 (8)
RAM	8 GB of RAM (3)	64 GB of RAM (3)	8 GB of RAM (3)	64 GB of RAM (3)	8 GB of RAM (3)	16 GB of RAM (3)
SSD	It depends on the product (4)	It depends on the product (4)	It depends on the product (4)	It depends on the product (4)	It depends on the product (4)	It depends on the product (4)
SCREEN RESOLUTION	Full HD (1920x1080)	UHD (3840x2160)	Full HD (1920x1080)	UHD (3840x2160)	Full HD (1920x1080)	UHD (3840x2160)
PLUG-IN FORMAT	VST & AAX	VST & AAX	VST, AAX & AU	VST, AAX & AU	VST, AAX & AU	VST, AAX & AU
PLUG-IN ARCHITECTURE	64-bits		64-bits		64-bits	
TRIAL / DEMO	30 Days (5)		30 Days (5)		30 Days (5)	
SUPPORTED DAW / NLE	Cubase 64-bits & Pro Tools 64-bits (6)		Cubase 64-bits, Pro Tools 64-bits & Logic Pro X 64-bits (6)		Cubase ARM 64-bits, Pro Tools ARM 64-bits & Logic Pro X ARM 64-bits (6)	
AQUARIUS APPLICATION	YES & Mandatory		YES & Mandatory		YES & Mandatory	
INTERNET CONNECTION	YES & Mandatory (7)		YES & Mandatory (7)		YES & Mandatory (7)	

(1) Case sensitive file systems are not supported.

(2) Intel i7/i9 X and Xeon processors need CORE 16 or superior. The CPU speed is more important than the number of CPU cores.

(3) In order to run more plug-ins instances it is always necessary to increase the amount of RAM.

(4) Each format needs three times more space than what the product is in order to download and decompress the installation files.

(5) Trial settings cannot be transferred from the trial to the commercial version.

(6) For others DAWs or NLEs, try trial before buy

(7) TCP/UDP ports 8080 and 443 should be open. Reliable and fast internet connection is recommended

(8) For Apple Silicon (ARM) computers, check compatibility before purchasing. AMD processors are not officially supported.

(9) For other operating systems, check compatibility before purchasing using the trial version.

IMPORTANT: Genuine Apple device with a valid serial number or valid volume ID on Windows operating systems is mandatory.

IMPORTANT: It is highly recommended to make a complete backup before making changes to your computer systems.

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

