TRACKSPACER

2.5.9

INTRODUCTION **3**
WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 2.5 ..... **3**
GETTING STARTED **3**
SPECIFICATIONS 3
SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS 3
INSTALLATION 4
TROUBLESHOOTHING 4
DEMO EVALUATION 4
AUTHORIZATION 5
ABOUT SIDECHAINING **5**
LOGIC PRO 6
PRO TOOLS 6
CUBASE 6
LIVE 6
REAPER 6
BITWIG 6
DIGITAL PERFORMER 6
STUDIO ONE 6
FL STUDIO 6
MASCHINE 6
USER INTERFACE **7**
ADVANCED PANEL 8
HIDDEN MENU 8
AUTO-UPDATER **9**
USE CASES **11**
SUPPORT **11**
FUTURE UPDATES **11**
FINAL WORDS **11**
CREDITS 11
EULA 12
CHANGELOG **13**

INTRODUCTION

Trackspacer is a mix tool that creates space in the mix for an instrument, voice, or other audio by performing automatic, multi-band equalisation on a channel based on the spectrum of another channel. In real-time it analyses the audio frequency content via side-chain, and applies an intelligent 32-band EQ to subtract those frequencies from the track where Trackspacer is inserted.

This may sound a little bit confusing, but in reality it's a very useful mixing tool that can be managed with a single knob. Its utility is simple: blend two tracks together giving priority to one over the other. In order to do that, we insert the plug-in in the track that we want to apply the effect, and set up the side chain so Trackspacer listens to the track that we give priority. At that moment, you'll be able to see the spectrum analyser moving. It's analysing the incoming side-chain signal and reducing the needed frequencies to the track we inserted Trackspacer in. Then, you just need to increase the "Amount" knob to the desired value and you're done.

WHAT'S NEW IN VERSION 2.5

Trackspacer has been ported to a new framework, coded from the ground-up in order to keep it simple for making regular updates and improvements. Then number 1 request we've got since its original release has been lowering the CPU consumption, and that's what we've done in this update. We also re-created the whole UI from scratch, making it bigger (650 x 650 instead of 400 x 400) making is suitable for modern displays.

There is only one installer now instead of a different binary for demo and full versions. When installing the demo you'll be able to enter the serial number at anytime and turn it to the full version without having to install anything else.

Support for RTAS has been dropped as well as support for MacOS 10.5 and 10.6, and Windows XP and Vista. In version 2.5.5 support for 32 bit systems has also been dropped.

GETTING STARTED

SPECIFICATIONS

- Carve specific frequencies that a track needs in real time.
- 32 band EQ that reacts to side-chain.
- Apply the reduction to L/R or M/S.
- Attack and release controls.
- Pristine audio quality.
- Low-cut and high-cut filters for adjusting the range of the effect.
- Simple authorisation using a serial number, no iLok required.
- New graphics with bigger screen size.
- Formats: VST, VST3, AU, AAX (64 bit only).
- Platforms: OSX, Windows.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OSX 10.9 or superior.
Windows 7 or superior.

INSTALLATION

Mac
Double-click on the PKG file downloaded from Wavesfactory.
Follow the steps to install the plugin.
The installer will place the different plugin formats in the right folders for you:
- **AU**: Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/Trackspacer.component
- **VST**: Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/Trackspacer.vst
- **VST3**: Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/Trackspacer.vst3
- **AAX**: Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/Trackspacer.aaxplugin

The installer will also create a folder in Library/Application Support/Wavesfactory named Trackspacer that will contain all the necessary files like user manual and license.

Windows
Double-click on the EXE file downloaded from Wavesfactory.
Follow the steps to install the plugin.
The installer will place the different plugin formats in the right folders for you:
- **VST**: C:\Program Files\Steinberg\Vstplugins\
- **VST3**: C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\
- **AAX**: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

The install will also create a folder at C:\Users\'username'\AppData\Wavesfactory named Trackspacer that will contain all the necessary files like user manual and license.

TROUBLESHOOTHING

If Trackspacer doesn't appear in your DAW plug-in list you can try following these steps:
- Re-scan all plug-ins.
- If you're on Windows make sure that the plug-in is in the correct folder as the installer will place it in the default VST location but your DAW may be using a custom one.
- Make sure that your OS version is 10.9 minimum on Mac and Windows 7 minimum on Windows.

If Trackspacer crashes your DAW on start-up or while using it please delete it from the folder and reinstall it.
Make sure that you have the latest version by downloading a new installer from your user area:
https://www.wavesfactory.com/my-account/downloads

If the crashes continue, contact support with any available crash reports, specifying your OS version, DAW version and any other valuable information that you may have.
https://www.wavesfactory.com/contact

DEMO EVALUATION

Trackspacer will run in demo mode by default. It will output a short burst of noise every 45 seconds, parameters won't be recalled when saving the session. All other features will be available for full evaluation with no specific time expiration.
While in demo mode the plugin will show the authorisation panel every time you open the UI, if you still want to evaluate it you have to click on "Continue evaluation" at the bottom of the pop-up.

AUTHORIZATION

When purchasing Trackspacer from Wavesfactory you'll receive an e-mail immediately containing the serial number. This will be formatted like this:

Serial: XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX

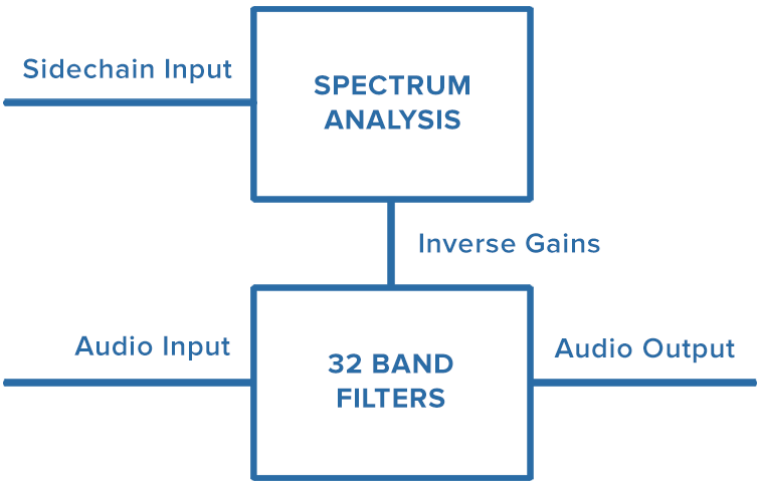
You have to copy this to the clipboard by selecting it and either
- Right-click and select "copy".
- Press ctrl+C on Windows or cmd+C on Mac.

Make sure that you copy them without empty spaces as it will result in a not valid authorisation.

Then open the plug-in and the authorisation panel will appear. Insert your username (e-mail address) and serial. Press "paste" and the contents of the clipboard will be copied accordingly. Finally, press the Activate button. If the information is correct he plug-in will save your serial number in Wavesfactory/Trackspacer/License/. If the information is not correct the panel won't disappear and the version will still be in demo mode.
In order to de-authorise you can simply delete the file inside Wavesfactory/Trackspacer/License.

ABOUT SIDECHAINING

Side-chaining is a production technique used in a wide variety of music genres where an effect is activated by an audio track different to the one that the effect is inserted in. In other words, an audio effect uses an alternative audio source to trigger a processor.



It's very commonly used in EDM to create a pumping effect on a bass or pad by putting a compressor in side-chain mode listening to the kick and lowering the volume of the pad every time the kick hits.

There seems to be a little bit on confusion on how to effectively set up Trackspacer in your DAW, so here you have a selection of online tutorials (mainly from YouTube) on how to do side-chaining in all major DAWs. If a link is down please report it here: https://www.wavesfactory.com/contact

LOGIC PRO

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR0NSr4vn6I

PRO TOOLS

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXDjtj6xC1Y

CUBASE

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-hID45Yv30

LIVE

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCXuqKTd590
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeJ7hPhhBAQ

REAPER

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDa-ydf1P3U

BITWIG

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUMTXxt_pi0

DIGITAL PERFORMER

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvaX_eBN8Dk

STUDIO ONE

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faqls72NvjM&t=3s

FL STUDIO

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frpTvh98ynA (Russian)

MASCHINE

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKcSmX03U2c

USER INTERFACE

This is the main view of the plug-in. On the top you have a spectrum analyser that will show you the analysis of the incoming signal. When you set up the side chain the blue line will show the analysis of the side chain signal and the white analysis the reduction amount based on the amount knob.
On mouse-hover the display will show the frequency and dB values that the mouse points to.

The Amount knob sets the amount of reduction that is being applied to the signal (the negative gain of the filters). Use the Low-Cut and High-Cut filters in order to reduce the range to which the effect is applied. For example, if you are using a kick drum to duck the frequencies of a bass you don't need the top information from the kick, you just need the lower part of the spectrum. Turn the High-Cut knob down so the higher information is not taken into account.
The Freeze button can be activated with a single click and will pause the reduction to the current state of the filters. This is useful for having a static EQ that's set up automatically based on the side-chain spectrum.

Click on the Wavesfactory logo in order to show the info panel.

If you look closely in the spectrum analyser you'll see a little blue dot. When you activate this button the Advanced Panel will be shown.

ADVANCED PANEL

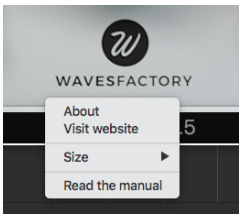
In the advanced panel you can find a set of parameters for a better audio control.

- Pan: controls the panorama of the effect. In L/R mode you can set the effect to the left or to the right or anything in between. In M/S mode you can set the effect to the mid channel or the sides channel or anything in between.
- L/R - M/S: Selects the processing mode to regular stereo (L/R) or to mid / sides (M/S).
- Attack: Sets how quickly the gain reduction reacts to changes in the input signal level.
- Release: Sets how fast the gain reduction.
- Side-chain: When activating this button you'll hear the side chain signal with the Low-Cut and High-Cut filter applied for a better fine-tuning.

HIDDEN MENU

When you click on the Wavesfactory logo it appears a menu with a set of options:

- About: shows you info about the version of the plug-in and credits.
- Visit website: takes you to the Trackspacer website where you can download the latest installers.
- Default size: it will resize the plug-in to its default size: 650x650.
- Read the manual: it will take you to the folder where the user manual is located in your system.



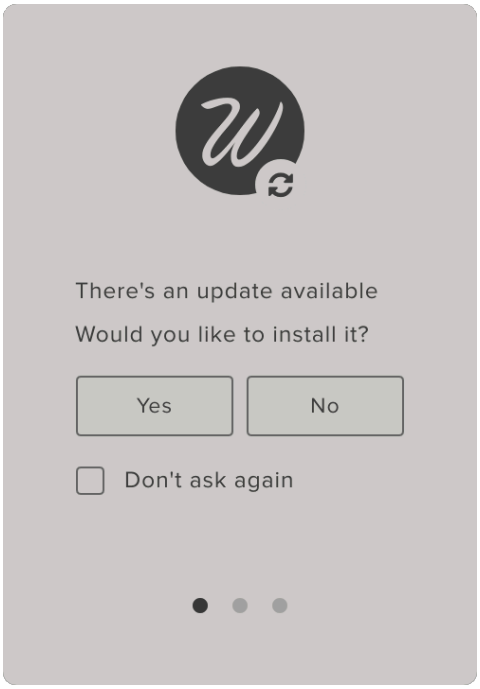
AUTO-UPDATER

In order to make the plug-in easier to use and improve the user experience we've included a new method for updating it. Rather than sending an e-mail for letting you know that there is an update and tell you to go to the website and download it, we've thought of a better method.

The plug-in itself will warn you that there is an update available by displaying a yellow icon just below the Trackspacer label.

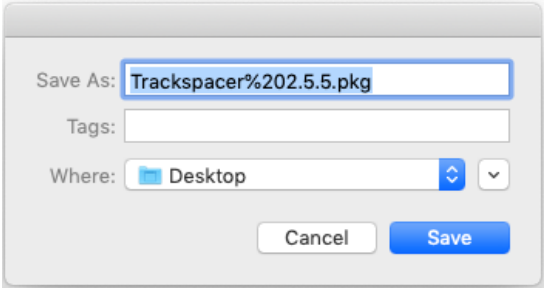
This icon will only appear if your computer is connected to the internet and if it's possible to perform the update.

When clicking on this yellow update icon this panel will appear:

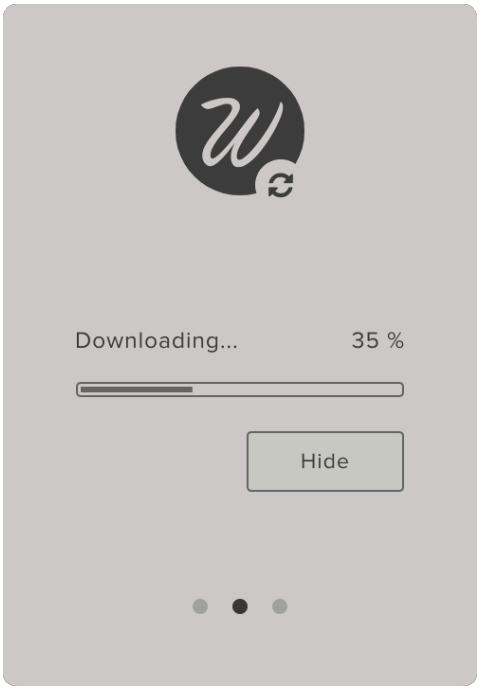


If you don't want to install the update you can postpose it by clicking "No".
If you don't even want the plug-in to warn you again you can toggle the "Don't ask again" switch.
Then, the icon will disappear but a new option will appear in the main menu named "Check for updates (1)". This menu option will trigger the same process as the yellow update icon does.

If you would like to perform the update (always recommended!) you have to click on "Yes".
The plug-in will ask you where you want to download the installer in your hard drive using a native window. In this case, in a macOS system.



If you click on “Cancel” or if something goes wrong, an error message will appear indicating that there has been an error and you should try again.
If a valid location has been set, the download will begin.



In this window you can see the download progress. Here we depend on the server speed and your own connection speed. Usually, it should be fine and the download should be ready in 1 minute (the installer’s size is roughly 100MB).
You can always click on “Hide” so the plug-in downloads the installer in the background while you work in the main interface.

Once the download finishes the plug-in will launch the installer automatically, you should install the plug-in normally.

USE CASES

- Make space for a vocal in a wall of electric guitars and synths.
- Make space for the kick drum in a heavy low-end mix.
- Snare low-end cutting-through the lower-mids.
- Voice-over on top of the background music in a more musical way than having a full-band compressor.
- You name it!

SUPPORT

If you find any bug or you have any questions please get in contact with us following this link:
https://www.wavesfactory.com/support

FUTURE UPDATES

The purpose of making this new version from scratch is making it more maintainable. It has been ported to a widely used framework for a more easy access to the code and rapid development.
The next planned update is going to feature a resizable interface functionality and a more detailed display.

FINAL WORDS

Huge thanks to all people involved in this project. Beta testers, video makers, reviewers, artists, designers, composers and friends!
We hope you like it as much as we do and it helps you take your mixes to the next level.
Thank you very much for supporting Wavesfactory.

CREDITS

- **Production**: Wavesfactory
- **Design**: Nanopsy, Jesús Ginard.
- **DSP**: Xavier Oudin, Ivan Cohen.

EULA

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CHANGELOG

All bug-fixes, additions and all relevant changes made to Trackspacer will be documented here.

 # Version 2.5.9 - 25/02/2021
- Added: native support for Apple M1 chip.
- Fix: Pro Tools HDX offline bounce.
- Fix: authorization bug.
- Improved: UI optimisations.

 # Version 2.5.8 - 14 / 12 / 2020
- New: Apple Silicon and Big Sur compatibility.
- New: Trackspacer now can react to itself.
- Improved: stability.
- Dropped: support for macOS 10.7 and 10.8.

 # Version 2.5.7 - 16 / 07 / 2020
- Fixed: crash on Logic 10.5.
- Improved: general optimisation.

 # Version 2.5.6 - 10 / 03 / 2020
- Fixed: knob images on Windows.
- Added: OpenGL on Windows.
- Improved: macOS Catalina compatibility.

 # Version 2.5.5 - 14 / 01 / 2020
- Improved: faster spectrogram ballistics.
- Improved: more readable font for parameter labels.
- Added: more detailed screen display that shows the frequency and dB on mouse hover.
- Added: low-cut and high-cut filter graphic feedback on the display.
- Added: window is now resizable by dragging the bottom right corner.
- Added: retina images.
- Added: macOS Catalina support.
- Added: auto updater.
- Dropped: 32-bit support.

 # Version 2.5.4 - 07 / 12 / 2018
- Fixed: attack and release bug
- Added: UI resize functionality.
- Added: Menu when clicking on the logo.

 # Version 2.5.3 - 23 / 08 / 2018
- Fixed: serial number doesn't accept extra characters other than numbers and dashes. This was the first cause of serials not being accepted.
- Fixed: freeze parameters correctly recalled.
- Fixed: spectrum analyser behaviour in Pro Tools when initialising the plug-in.
- Improved: on an invalid serial input the plug-in will show a popup.
- Improved: attack and release ballistics.

 # Version 2.5.2 - 29 / 05 / 2018
- Fixed: attack and release ballistics.
- Fixed: license folder is created if it's not found in the system. This fixes the authorisation issues that were sometimes present on macOS.

 # Version 2.5.1 - 17 / 05 / 2018
- Fixed: changed binary names so old version and new version can coexist in the same DAW.
- Improved: Bigger font size for the parameter's label.

 # Version 2.5.0 - 16 / 05 / 2018
- Added: New version created from scratch using a new framework for better maintenance.
- Added: New graphics.
- Improved: General CPU optimisation.
- Dropped: RTAS support.
- Dropped: support for 10.5 and 10.6 MacOS.
- Dropped: support for Windows XP and Vista.

 # Version 2.0.7 - 29 / 09 / 2016 - Private update
- Fixed: Logic X bugs.

 # Version 2.0.5 - 18 / 06 / 2015
- Fixed: silent output in Logic X.

 # Version 2.0.4 - 02 / 04 / 2014
- Fixed: minor bugs.

 # Version 2.0.3 - 30 / 06 / 2013
- Fixed: minor bugs.

 # Version 2.0.2 - 24 / 06 / 2013
- Fixed: Pro Tools 11 signing.
- Fixed: AAX authorisation issue.
- Fixed: CPU peaks on Windows.

 # Version 2.0.1 - 05 /06 / 2013
- NOT PUBLIC.

 # Version 2.0.0 - 03 / 06 / 2013
- Added: AAX support.
- Added: Advanced panel.
- Changed: UI background.

 # Version 1.0.4 - 26 / 12 / 2012
- Improved: more time between watermarks.
- Added: mono versions.

 # Version 1.0.3 - 12 / 12 / 2012
- Fixed: Reaper crash.

 # Version 1.0.2 - 07 / 12 / 2012
- Added: VST3 format.
- Added: Filter automation.
- Added: Custom install.

 # Version 1.0.1 - 07 / 12 / 2012
- Improved: CPU optimisation.

 # Version 1.0.0.1 - 13 / 11 / 2012
- Fix: AU 64 bit installed correctly.
- Fix: Demo AU 64 bit didn't allow side-chain.

 # Version 1.0.0 - 12 / 11 / 2012
- Initial release.