LYDTROLD AUDIO

Vintage Stringformant

Guitar synthesizer and eight-band vocoder



User Manual

English | Manual edition 1.0 | September 2026

Mac + Windows | AU on Mac, VST3 and AAX Native

lydtrold.com

01 / START HERE

Meet Vintage Stringformant

Vintage Stringformant derives a synthesizer carrier from the pitch of incoming audio and can shape it with an eight-band vocoder. Synth, Vocoder and Fusion provide three approaches, with four carrier voices and octave selection. No MIDI input or external carrier is required. Clear single-note playing gives the pitch tracker the most unambiguous source.



Your first session

1. Insert on a monitored guitar audio track before delay, reverb and heavy distortion. Use a clean input and begin with clear single notes.

2. Choose Synth, Voice = Strings, Octave = 0 and Freeze / Hold off. Start with moderate Morph and Output at 0 dB.

3. Adjust Tracking and Glide so note changes feel useful. Set Attack for a plucked onset or a slower swell.

4. Try Vocoder or Fusion, then adjust Formant and Blend. Set Morph for the overall transformation and use Output to balance the result.

02 / REFERENCE

Controls and behaviour

Names follow the front panel; alternate host parameter names are included where useful. Ranges describe control values, not recommended settings.

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	HOW TO USE IT
Mode	Synth / Vocoder / Fusion	Synth follows pitch with a carrier voice; Vocoder shapes that carrier with the input's band envelopes; Fusion blends synth and vocoder character.
Voice	Sine / Saw / Pulse / Strings	Selects the carrier timbre. Harmonic-rich voices generally reveal more vocoder colour than Sine.
Formant	-12 to +12 semitones	Shifts the vocoder filter-bank frequencies. It changes spectral colour rather than transposing the played note.
Attack	4 to 250 ms	Sets the rise time of the input and vocoder envelopes. Longer times soften the onset.
Tracking	0 to 100%	Changes pitch-following responsiveness. Higher values follow changes faster; lower values smooth them more.
Blend	0 to 100%	In Fusion, moves between synth and vocoder. It also changes the balance of the direct and generated contributions; it is not the overall dry/wet control.
Morph	0 to 100%	Sets the overall transformation amount. At 0% the original input remains; higher settings introduce the generated texture, whose blend retains some direct signal.
Output	-12 to +12 dB	Sets final output gain, including the direct component.
Octave	-1 / 0 / +1	Transposes the generated carrier down an octave, at pitch or up an octave.
Glide	Off / On	Smooths changes in tracked pitch for sliding transitions.
Freeze / Hold	Off / On	Holds the vocoder's current band envelopes. It does not record an audio loop or freeze the pitch tracker.
Bypass	Off / On	Passes the original input without Stringformant processing.

03 / IN PRACTICE

Workflows and troubleshooting

Guitar synth lead

Choose Synth with Saw or Pulse, short Attack, responsive Tracking and enough Morph to bring out the generated tone. Compare Glide on and off for note transitions.

Bowed texture

Choose Strings, a longer Attack and Glide on. Play separated notes cleanly, then add reverb after Stringformant.

Vocoder colour

Choose Vocoder with Saw, Pulse or Strings. Move Formant slowly while playing and set Morph for the desired amount. An external vocal sidechain is not needed.

Held spectral texture

In Vocoder or Fusion, play a rich sound and engage Freeze / Hold. The band shape is held while pitch can still follow new notes. Release Hold to resume normal envelope movement.

If the result is unexpected

Pitch jumps or follows the wrong note. Use clear single notes, mute unused strings and remove upstream chorus, delay or heavy distortion. Adjust Tracking and Glide; chords contain several competing pitches.

Formant or Freeze seems to do little. Try Vocoder or Fusion with a harmonic-rich Voice and a higher Morph setting. Freeze holds the vocoder envelope, not the entire synth.

Dry guitar remains at maximum Morph. This is part of the engine's blend. Morph introduces the complete transformation, which retains a direct component; Blend is not a conventional wet-only switch.

INSTALLATION AND SESSIONS

Install, recall and get help

1. Get Lydtrold Installer

Go to https://lydtrold.com/installer and download Lydtrold Installer for Mac or Windows. Use this shared installer to install plug-ins and receive updates.

2. Choose the product and formats

Close your DAW before installation. Select Vintage Stringformant and the formats used by your DAW. Pro Tools must be fully closed before installing or replacing AAX plug-ins.

3. Open the DAW

After installation, open your DAW and rescan plug-ins if needed. Insert the plug-in on a suitable audio path. For purchased editions, sign in or complete the activation steps presented by Lydtrold Installer.

The Native edition is free and does not require a plug-in licence key.

Formats and editions

Native formats are VST3 and AAX Native on Mac and Windows, plus Audio Unit on Mac. This product is listed as Native in the public catalogue.

Save and automate

Save your DAW session to recall parameter settings and use the host preset system for reusable starting points. Available audio parameters can be automated in the host; meters and other display-only elements are not sound controls.

Keep a sound you have captured

A session stores parameter settings, not a recording of every transient audio buffer. Print a held delay or generated texture to an audio track when you need to preserve the exact performance.

Support

Visit https://lydtrold.com/contact. Include the plug-in name and installed version, operating system, DAW version and plug-in format. Describe the routing, the steps that reproduce the issue and the result you expected.

About this guide: manual edition 1.0, September 2026. Illustrations show the published product interfaces. Manual edition numbers are independent of plug-in release versions.