

DRIVER



Manual



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1 Welcome to DRIVER

Thank you for downloading DRIVER by Native Instruments.

The following manual will give you an overview of the features of DRIVER, as well as explain how to use the software.

1.1 What Is DRIVER?

DRIVER is a versatile, creative distortion and filter effect. The smooth filter, powerful distortion, and extreme modulation possibilities combine to take tracks from subtle filtering to all out mayhem.

DRIVER is an easy to use, powerful creative tool for deep sonic manipulation developed by the creator of MASSIVE. The smooth filter section provides a colorful palette of sounds. The distortion and audio modulation sections transform DRIVER into a sonic weapon capable of everything from light saturation to complete destruction. Running as a plug-in in any DAW, DRIVER is flexible enough to use on any track needing fresh musical color or total annihilation.

1.1.1 Manual Conventions

This manual uses particular formatting to point out special facts and to warn you of potential issues. The icons introducing the following notes let you see what kind of information is to be expected:



Whenever this exclamation mark icon appears, you should read the corresponding note carefully and follow the instructions and hints given there if applicable.



This light bulb icon indicates that a note contains useful extra information. This information may often help you to solve a task more efficiently, but does not necessarily apply to the setup or operating system you are using; however, it's always worth a look.

Furthermore, the following formatting is used:

- Text appearing in (drop-down) menus (such as *Open...*, *Save as...* etc.) and paths to locations on your hard drive or other storage devices is printed in *italics*.

- Text appearing elsewhere (labels of buttons, controls, text next to checkboxes, etc.) is printed in **light blue**. Whenever you see this formatting applied, you will find the same text appearing somewhere on the screen.
 - Important names and concepts are printed in **bold**.
- Single instructions are introduced by this play button type arrow.
- Results of actions are introduced by this smaller arrow.

2 Installation and Activation

2.1 Installing DRIVER

The following section explains how to install and activate DRIVER. Although this process is straightforward, please take a minute to read these instructions, as doing so might prevent some common problems.

- To install DRIVER, double-click the installer application and follow the instructions on the screen. The installer application automatically places the plug-in into a directory. Alternatively, during the installation process, choose the directory where you would like to have DRIVER installed.

2.2 Activating DRIVER

When installation is finished, start the Service Center application, which was installed with DRIVER. It will connect your computer to the Internet and activate your DRIVER installation. In order to activate your copy of DRIVER, you have to perform the following steps within the Service Center:

Log in: Enter your Native Instruments user account name and password on the initial page. This is the same account information you used in the Native Instruments Online Shop, where you downloaded DRIVER, and for other Native Instruments product activations.

Select products: The Service Center detects all products that have not yet been activated and lists them. You can activate multiple products at once if necessary.

Activate: After proceeding to the next page, the Service Center connects to the Native Instruments server and activates your products.

Download updates: When the server has confirmed the activation, the Service Center automatically displays the Update Manager with a list of all available updates for your installed products. Please make sure that you always use the latest version of your Native Instruments products to ensure they function correctly.



Downloading updates is optional. After activation is complete, you can always quit the Service Center.

3 Using DRIVER

3.1 The Menu Bar

At the very top of DRIVER interface, you will see the Menu bar. This is primarily used for saving and loading presets, but also has a few other functions.



The Menu bar is located at the top of the interface.

Loading Presets

In the center part of the Menu bar, you will see the Preset menu. To navigate through presets, either:

- Click the left and right arrows to cycle through and load the presets one at a time, or
- Click the drop-down menu to view a list of all available presets.

When using the second option, a preset is loaded when you click on its name.

Saving and Deleting Presets

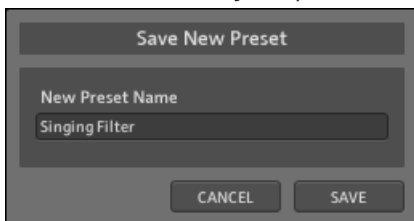
To save a preset:

1. Click the drop-down arrow to the very left of the Menu bar to open the File menu.

2. Select *Save as...* from the File menu:



3. Enter the name of your preset in the area under the label **New Preset Name**:



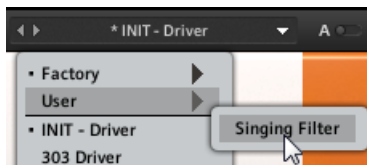
4. Click the **SAVE** button to finish the process and close the dialog box.



If you wish to remove a preset you no longer want, you can delete it by selecting *Delete* from the File menu. Please note: you cannot delete factory content.

The Preset Menu

When you save a preset, the Preset menu is automatically split in two submenus, one containing factory presets and one containing user presets. By selecting a preset from the *User* submenu, the list of presets you have saved is brought to the front of the Preset menu and is displayed below the *Factory* and *User* options.



The **User** submenu in the Preset menu.

- By loading one of the presets from the *Factory* submenu, the factory presets are brought back to the front.

A/B Comparisons

DRIVER offers an A/B comparison system to help you fine-tune your settings.

Basically, this feature gives you two slots into which you can enter different parameter settings. You can then quickly switch between the two slots to quickly compare the settings and use whichever sounds better.

By default, you edit the parameters of slot A. To **switch to slot B**:

- Click on the **A/B** switch located beside the preset menu.

→ You will now be editing and listening to the parameters of slot B, until you click on the switch again.

To **copy the settings of slot A to slot B**:

- Go to the File menu on the left side of the menu bar and select *Copy A to B* from the list. You can also copy from B to A when editing the parameters of slot B.

Other functions

The File menu also offers the following options:

- *Show User preset folder*: opens a system window in the location of where your presets are saved. Here you can rename your presets by changing the file names.
- *Open Manual*: opens this PDF document for reference.
- *Visit DRIVER on the web*: opens your default web browser and takes you to the DRIVER page on the Native Instruments website.

3.2 The Interface Parameters



The DRIVER interface.

DRIVER has controls that are common on many filter and distortion units, as well as some unique features. The top half of the interface contains the tonal parameters; the lower half contains parameters relating to modulation.

The tonal section consists of filter and distortion controls. The filter is a 12dB state variable design with zero feedback technology. It offers low-pass and notch filtering capabilities. In the feedback path of the filter is a distortion unit that reacts dynamically to the audio input and is able to create wild feedback distortion effects.



Please be careful when changing parameters or using DRIVER at high volume as it can produce loud feedback when the filter is driven into self-oscillation.



For all parameters, the value is displayed in place of the control label when the mouse cursor hovers over the control, or when you are interacting with the control.

3.2.1 Tone Parameters

The top half of DRIVER interface contains the tone parameters which allow you to set the tonal qualities of the filter and distortion effect.



The top half of the user interface.

- (1) **Input**: Input level control adjusts the amount of amplification or attenuation applied to the incoming audio signal.
- (2) **RES** (resonance): When turned from left to right, a boost of the frequency range around the cutoff frequency (**FREQ**) will occur.
- (3) **FREQ** (frequency cutoff): Controls the operating frequency of the filter. This parameter can be modulated by the internal modulators. For more information see [↑3.2.2, Modulation Parameters](#).
- (4) **DISTO** (distortion): The **DISTO** knob controls the amount of distortion in the output signal. The level of distortion can also be modulated using the internal modulators. For more information see [↑3.2.2, Modulation Parameters](#).
- (5) **COLOR**: The **COLOR** knob allows for drastic changes to the distortion tone: with the knob to the left the tone is duller; to the right the tone is brighter.
- (6) **LPF/Notch**: These are two filter types which both work in relation to the **FREQ** (3) and **RES** (2) controls:
 - **LPF** is a state-variable 12 dB lowpass resonant filter. Frequencies are attenuated above the cutoff frequency.

- **Notch** is a filter that passes all frequencies except those in a narrow band around the center frequency.

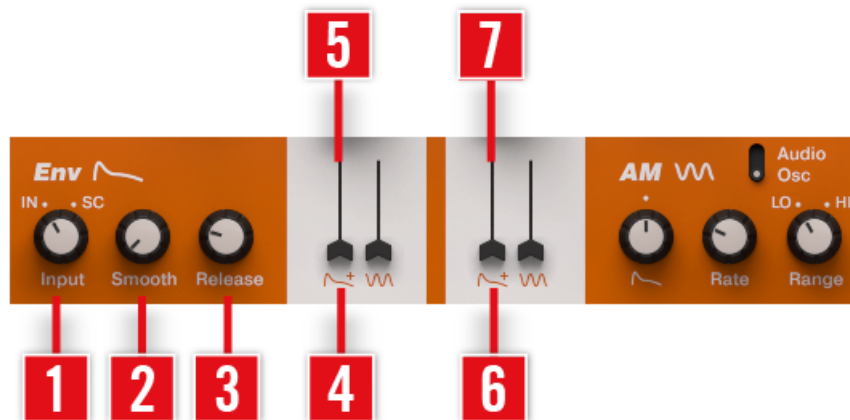
(7) **Output**: Sets the final amplification (or attenuation) of the processed signal.

3.2.2 Modulation Parameters

The bottom half of the DRIVER interface hosts the two modulation sections: the envelope follower and the audio modulation section. These two modulators can be used to control the filter frequency and distortion amount.

Env section

An envelope follower responds to the changing amplitude of an incoming audio signal and creates a dynamic control signal that loosely mimics the incoming audio. The **Smooth** and **Release** parameters allow you to fine-tune the responsiveness of the envelope follower. The envelope amount slider determines the intensity of the effect, i.e., the extent to which the control signal modulates (i.e., alters) the filter's cutoff point and the amount of distortion added to the signal.



The Modulation parameters.

(1) **Input**: Select the audio input that will affect the envelope follower. This can be either **IN** (audio input) or **SC** (side-chain input):

- **IN** will process the audio on the current channel of your DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) and use the audio to affect the envelope follower.
- **SC** allows you to feed the **Input** with another signal (e.g., another track in your mix). When using this setting, the envelope responds to the level of the other signal. This greatly widens the versatility of DRIVER.



Please read the documentation that came with your DAW for more details on sidechaining.

(2) **Smooth**: Sets the responsiveness of the envelope. Similar to the attack portion of an envelope, turn the knob left for a smoothed envelope or right for a sharpened envelope.

- (3) **Release**: Sets the release time of the envelope follower. Technically speaking, this value specifies the time that the envelope uses to reach zero (i.e., silence) after the hold period is over. If a new peak is detected, the release period is interrupted and a new release period starts.

(4) **FREQ** envelope polarity: Click the envelope icon to switch the polarity of the envelope. The envelope has two states: **envelope +** and **envelope -** both can be used to shape the amplitude of the frequency. The **FREQ** envelope and amount slider (5) affect the frequency in the following way:

- **Envelope +** will apply positive modulation raising the frequency by modulation when the amount slider (5) is pushed upwards.
- **Envelope -** will apply negative modulation decreasing the frequency by modulation when the amount slider (5) is pushed upwards.

(5) **FREQ** envelope slider: Push the slider up to increase the effect of the envelope follower modulation on the filter frequency. Decrease the level of the slider to remove the effect of the envelope.

(6) **DISTO** envelope polarity: The envelope has two states: **envelope +** and **envelope -** both can be used to shape the distortion amount. The envelope states can be selected by clicking the envelope symbol itself. The **DISTO** envelope in combination with the amount slider (7) affect the distortion level in the following way:

- **Envelope +** will apply the envelope in positive polarity when the amount slider (7) is pushed upwards.

- **Envelope** - will apply the envelope with inverted polarity when the amount slider (7) is pushed upwards.

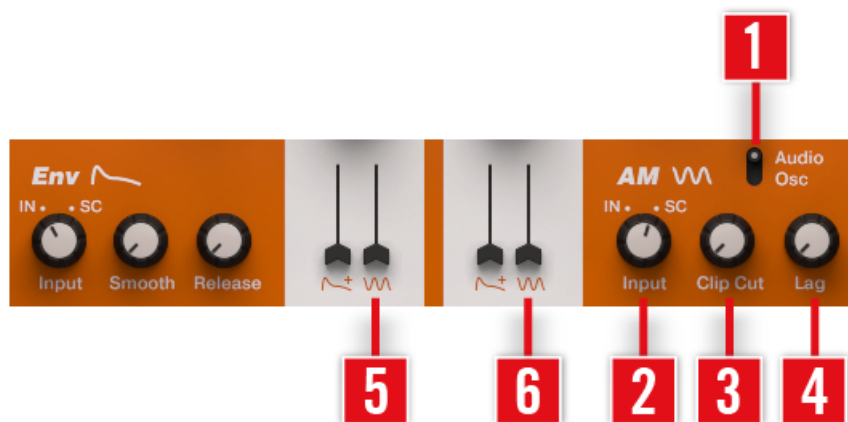
(7) **DISTO** envelope slider: Push the slider up to increase the effect of the envelope follower on the distortion. Decrease the level of the slider to remove the effect of the envelope.

AM section with Audio

The lower right-hand side of the DRIVER interface hosts the AM (Audio Modulation) section. The AM selector allows you to choose between the following modulation methods:

- **Audio** uses a raw audio signal as a modulation source.
- **Osc** uses a sine oscillator as a modulation source.

The user interface will change accordingly, depending on which modulation method has been selected.



The AM section with Audio modulation selected.

(1) AM selector: Select between **Audio** (audio signal) and **Osc** (oscillator). This selects Audio or Osc mode for the AM section.

When **Audio** is selected the following parameters will appear:

(2) **Input**: Select the audio input source. This can be either **IN** (audio input) or **SC** (sidechain). The **IN** setting will process the audio on the current channel of your DAW and use this to affect the envelope follower. The **SC** setting allows you to feed the **Input** with another signal (e.g., another track in your mix). When using this setting, the envelope responds to the level of the other signal.

(3) **Clip Cut**: Increase this knob from left to right to clip the modulation signal. This can be used to create a more aggressive sound.

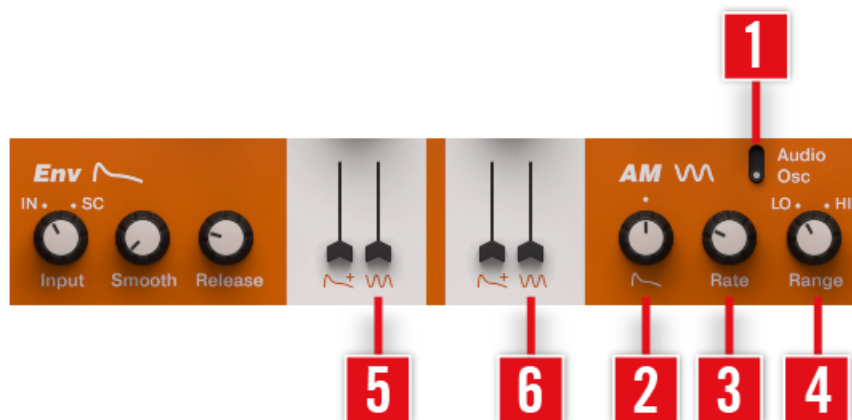
(4) **Lag**: Use this to limit the rate of change of the modulation signal; it will help to "round off" the edges of the modulation signal.

(5) **FREQ** modulation: Set the amount of modulation of the filter cutoff frequency by Audio Modulator.

(6) **DISTO** modulation: Set the amount of modulation of the distortion by the Audio Modulator. Use this in combination with the envelope follower to shape your sound.

AM section with Osc

When **Osc** is selected using the AM selector, the following parameters are available:



The AM section with Oscillator modulation selected.

(1) **AM selector**: Set the mode of operation for the audio modulator (AM). Select between **Audio** (transients of incoming audio) and **Osc** (oscillator).

- (2) **Envelope**: Use this to apply the envelope follower modulation to the frequency of the oscillator. When the Envelope knob is to the left, the envelope will be applied to the oscillator with inverted polarity. Values to the right will apply the envelope in positive polarity. In the center, the envelope will not affect the amplitude of the oscillator.
- (3) **Rate**: Sets the rate (frequency) of the modulation oscillator. This parameter is only available when AM selector (1) is set to **Osc**.
- (4) **Range**: Sets the frequency range of the **Rate** control. In **LO** mode the **RATE** range is 0.03 Hz to 26.0 Hz. In **HI** mode the **RATE** range is 2.04 Hz to 15.80 KHz. This parameter is only available when AM selector (1) is set to **Osc**.
- (5) **FREQ** modulation: Set the amount of modulation of the filter cutoff frequency by the Audio Modulator. Use this in combination with the envelope follower to shape your sound.
- (6) **DISTO** modulation: Set the amount of modulation of the distortion by the Audio Modulator. Use this in combination with the envelope follower to shape your sound.

4 Credits

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