



Clearmountain's Dance User's Guide



Version 1.0

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Overview

Preface From Bob Clearmountain

After we finished recording the song Let's Dance for David Bowie's album of the same name, Nile Rodgers—who was producing and playing guitar—said, “Can you put a little slap delay or something on the guitar track? What I'm playing feels kinda boring.” I said, “Sure, no problem.”

I happened to have one of Power Station's Studer B67 stereo ¼" tape machines patched for a “ping-pong” style stereo delay. It wasn't synced to the tempo of the song, and the returns were coming back way too hot into the mix. When I hit play, the delay jumped out—loud, chaotic, and completely overwhelming. I reached for the return faders to pull it back, but Nile and David immediately stopped me: “No, no... that's perfect! Leave it just like that!”

What I thought was a mistake became exactly what they wanted. The delay ended up being a defining part of the guitar sound, and in the final mix I also added it to David's vocal.

Over the years, many mixers and producers have tried to nail down exactly what that delay was. So Apogee thought it would be fun to capture it as a plug-in. And honestly—who am I to argue?

About Bob Clearmountain:

For decades, engineers, producers, and musicians have marveled at Bob Clearmountain's mixes. Recordings by iconic artists like David Bowie, Chic, Roxy Music, The Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, Bryan Adams, INXS, and so many more are prime examples of how Bob's work elevated the role of “the mixer” to that of an essential creative partner in the process of making records. Bob's ability to build a soundscape and atmosphere, where voices and instruments effortlessly live in an intimate space but seamlessly blend together, set new standards for mixing. His passion to reveal the true character of the song, highlighting the emotion of the music, gets to the heart of what inspired the song to begin with.

Highlights:

1. Cascading Ping Pong Delay: create rhythmic stereo textures and entrancing, attention grabbing patterns.
2. Analog Tape Emulation: Dance provides a rich, warm dual tape head delay character.
3. Customizable Randomization: built in Offset and Skew knobs provide options to vary stereo timing subtly or drastically from the standard “grid” timing.
4. Add Analog Imperfections: The Degrade knob provides control of tape aging simulation, which can be used to take the harsh edges off repeats or lean into organic artifacts and variation.



Setup and Installation

Unlike most other Apogee Plugins, Clearmountain's Dance does not require a Pace iLok account or iLok License manager to run.

Installation Steps

1) Download the Clearmountain's Dance installer via the Links sent to you via email at the time of purchase. If you need these at a later time please [create a support ticket](#) to request an updated link and verify your proof of purchase

Mac

- 2) Once the download is complete, open the .dmg file to reveal its contents
- 3) Double click the "Clearmountain's Dance installer.pkg" icon
- 4) Continue through the installer until you reach a page that states 'Installation Successful'. Users will be prompted for preferences and license agreement along the way.

Windows

- 2) Once the download is complete, open the .exe file to reveal its contents
- 3) Continue through the installer until you reach a page that states 'Installation Successful'. Users will be prompted for preferences and license agreement along the way.

System Requirements

- macOS 13.7.5 & Up
- Windows 11 and up
- AAX Native, AU (Mac only), VST or VST 3 Compatible Host Application

Indicators



1) Left right channel Indicators

- a) Lightning bolts act as an indicator of active delays showing left and right channels with the corresponding left and right lightning bolts.

2) Power

- a) When lit Plugin is engaged, when blank Plugin is bypassed

Basic Delay Features



- 3) Time
 - a) Adjusts delay length, values display in milliseconds unless Sync is selected.
 - b) Minimum value is 50ms maximum value is 1000ms
- 4) Sync
 - a) Changes the time feature to musical note values based upon the tempo set in your DAW
 - b) This provides options for stand music notes length as well as dotted and triplet variations, timing ranges from quickest (1/16th note to whole notes)
- 5) Feedback
 - a) Determines the amount of repeats of the delay. As the channels feed between each other, it also creates more ambience at greater settings.
- 6) Mix
 - a) Determines the volume balance of the delays relative to the original “dry” signal.
 - b) When using as a send effect, you’ll want to set the mix to 100% and control the blend via the bus level or send level knob of your DAW.

Advanced Delay Features



7) Offset

- a) Determines timing differences between Left and Right channels
- b) At 50%, the left channel is faster than the right dividing the time in half ($\frac{1}{4}$ note delay becomes $\frac{1}{8}$ note delay). At 200%, the left channel is slower than the right doubling the time ($\frac{1}{4}$ note delay becomes $\frac{1}{2}$ note delay etc.)

8) Skew

- a) Varies the rhythmic timing, similar to “swinging” a rhythm.

9) Degrade

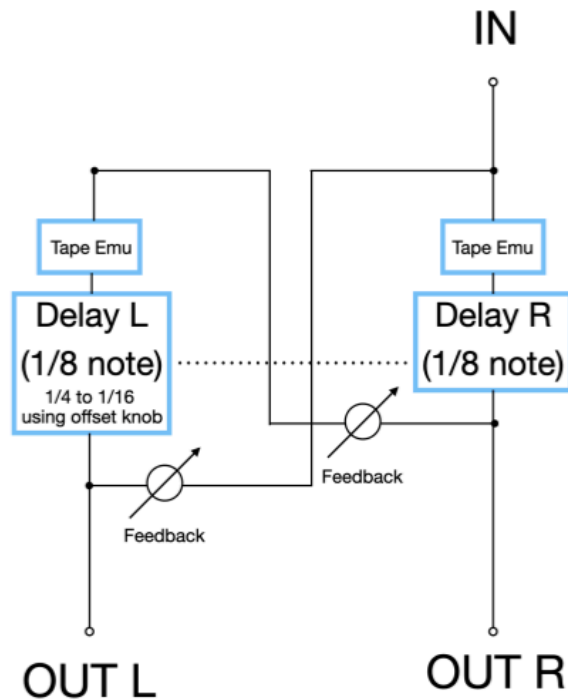
- a) Introduces analog imperfections of tape aging. Providing the feeling of reduced high end, a “warmer” character and repeats that feel as though they die out more quickly. At more extreme settings wow and flutter characteristics can be heard.

Notes On Signal Routing

While Clearmountain's Dance is by design a stereo plugin, it's worth mentioning how this works for both Mono and Stereo sources.

Mono input signals become stereo through the added wet signal of the cascaded delays.

For Stereo input signals, the signal is summed to mono then stereo ping pong delay is applied. The dry source retains its stereo balance but the wet signal is then hard panned for its ping pong texture.



Notes On Pitch Variance When Adjusting Delay

When adjusting delay settings that relate to time such as Time, Skew and Offset; if live audio is passing through the plugin you may notice alterations to pitch.

If you don't want the pitch sweep to be heard, momentarily mute the delay return or bypass the effect, change the time, then bring it back in.

Another method is pausing playback until repeats decay, then the new setting can be more appropriately judged.

As many noise musicians have discovered, this effect can be manipulated or automated if it contributes to your musical expression.

Delays works by recording incoming audio into a temporary buffer and then playing it back after a set period of time.

When you change that delay time while audio is still running, the plugin or hardware must "stretch" or "squeeze" the playback to reach the new timing—just like speeding up or slowing down a tape machine or turntable:

- **Shortening delay time** = playback speed increases → pitch rises.
- **Lengthening delay time** = playback speed decreases → pitch drops.

Top Toolbar



1. View/ Size Options
 - a. Controls the display size of the plugin window
 - i. Default is set to 100%.
 - ii. Options: 75, 100, 125, 150%
 - iii. Larger settings with lower screen resolutions could cause buttons and knobs to “disappear” thus being inaccessible. This can easily be resolved by changing back to a smaller size.
2. Settings
 - a. User Guide
 - i. Here you'll find this very guide!
 - b. About
 - i. Details the release version. Want to make sure you're up to date? Compare this number against the current release [here](#).

Bottom Toolbar

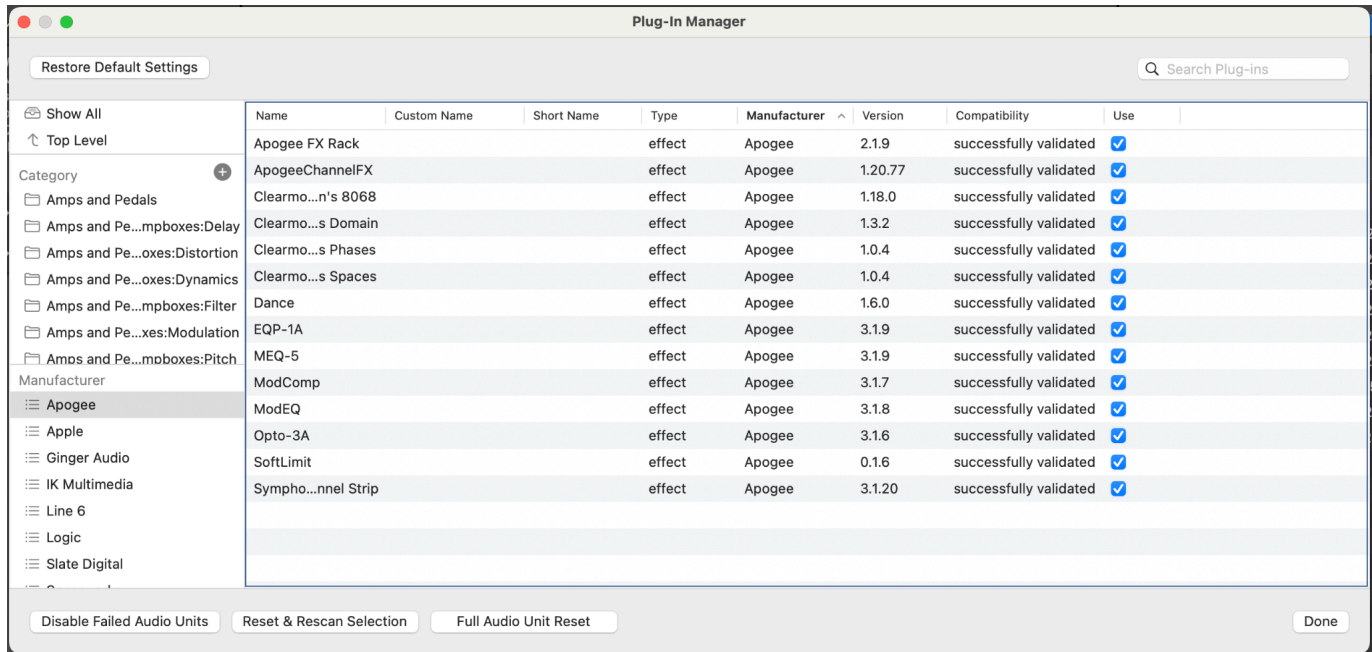
1. Input Level Meter
2. Output Level Meter



Troubleshooting

I've installed the plugin, but I don't see it in the Logic Pro plugin list.

For any plugin issues that you experience with Apple Logic Pro, there's a very useful tool called Plugin Manager, accessed by clicking Logic Pro > Preferences > Plug-in Manager



In the Plug-in Manager, click Apogee in the lefthand Manufacturer column, then verify that Clearmountain's Dance is listed under Name, and "successfully validated" is shown in the Compatibility column. If another message is shown, select Clearmountain's Phases, then click Reset and & Rescan Selection.

Additional Information

For more information

- Apogee KnowledgeBase and FAQs
- Informational Videos
- Apogee Product Registration
- How to contact Apogee Technical Support

Please visit:

[Apogee Knowledgebase](#)

Need specific help for your situation?

[Start a ticket with support](#)

