

1 Introduction

FAULTLINE is a free glitch & beat-repeat effect from X-Audio. It chops, stutters, freezes and crushes your audio in real time — turning drums, vocals, synths and full loops into rhythmic glitches, rolls and digital destruction.

At its heart is a deterministic, tempo-synced repeat engine: every glitch is musical and locked to your project tempo, while three performance keys (SHUFFLE, HIT, FREEZE) let you play the effect live. FAULTLINE runs as an Audio Unit and VST3 plug-in on macOS and ships with 40 factory presets, a preset browser, A/B compare, global bypass and a resizable interface.

AT A GLANCE

- Tempo-synced beat-repeat, freeze, bitcrush and shuffle
- Three live performance keys: SHUFFLE / HIT / FREEZE
- 40 factory presets with a one-click preset browser
- A/B compare, global true-bypass, percentage value read-outs
- Resizable UI (100%–150%), AU + VST3, macOS

2 Installation

FAULTLINE installs from a single signed, Apple-notarized macOS installer — no manual file copying and no security workarounds. The installer adds both the Audio Unit and VST3 versions automatically.

- 1 Double-click `Faultline-1.0.0.pkg`.
- 2 Follow the installation assistant (macOS may ask for your password).
- 3 Start your DAW.
- 4 FAULTLINE appears automatically under **X-Audio** (run a plug-in rescan if your DAW needs one).

WHAT GETS INSTALLED

Audio Unit (AU)	<code>/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/</code>
VST3	<code>/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/</code>

FAULTLINE is a Universal binary (Apple Silicon & Intel) and the installer is signed and Apple-notarized, so it runs natively on modern Macs and installs without any security prompts.

3 Controls

Two sections drive the sound — **CORE GLITCH** (the repeat engine) and **CHARACTER** (mix & tone) — plus three live **PERFORMANCE** keys and the header utilities.

CORE GLITCH

AMOUNT	Sets the beat-repeat slice length. Low values repeat longer rhythmic slices; high values shorten them into fast stutters and buzz.
RATE	The tempo-synced grid the repeats lock to: 1/4, 1/8, 1/8T, 1/16, 1/16T, 1/32, 1/64 (T = triplet).
DENSITY	How often glitch events fire — from sparse and occasional to busy and constant.
VARIATION	Adds randomized drift between events for movement and unpredictability, so repeated bars never feel static.

CHARACTER

MIX	Dry/wet balance, shown in %. 0% is the untouched signal; 100% is the full effect.
CRUSH	Bit- and sample-rate reduction for digital grit — from clean (0%) to fully crushed, lo-fi destruction (100%).
OUTPUT	Output level trim in dB (–24 to +12) to match levels after processing.

PERFORMANCE KEYS

SHUFFLE	Momentary. Instantly rolls a fresh, musical control state (Amount, Rate, Density, Variation, Crush, Mix) from a deterministic seed — perfect for finding happy accidents. Output, Freeze and Hit are never changed.
HIT	Momentary “DJ throw”. Hold to force the mix to 100% wet and trigger an immediate beat-repeat burst; release to ramp smoothly back to your Mix setting.
FREEZE	Latch. Captures the current slice of audio and sustains it indefinitely for instant stutter-freezes and drones. Press again to release.

HEADER & UTILITIES

PRESET BROWSER	Click the preset name to open the full list of 40 factory presets (the current one is ticked); use the < and > arrows to step through them.
A / B	Two independent snapshot slots. Tweak on A, switch to B to try an alternative, and compare the two instantly without losing either.
BYPASS	Global true-bypass — instantly compare the processed and unprocessed signal.
MENU (■)	Shows the current Shuffle seed and lets you copy or regenerate it, so a shuffle result can be reproduced exactly.
RESIZABLE UI	Drag the bottom-right corner to scale the interface from 100% to 150%. The layout stays identical — just larger and crisp.

4 Tips & Ideas

Creative beat repeats

Set MIX to 100%, choose a RATE of 1/8 or 1/16 and a moderate AMOUNT and DENSITY. Automate RATE toward 1/32 across a bar for an accelerating roll, then drop back.

Glitch FX

Push VARIATION and DENSITY high and add a touch of CRUSH for chaotic digital artifacts. Tap SHUFFLE until a pattern grabs you, then ride MIX to taste.

Drum fills

On a drum bus, tap HIT on the last beat of a phrase for an instant roll, or load a fill-style preset (e.g. “DnB Chopper”, “Snare Rush”) and trigger it live.

Transitions

Engage FREEZE on a downbeat to suspend the sound, sweep OUTPUT or a send for a riser, then release FREEZE on the drop for a clean re-entry.

Automation ideas

Automate AMOUNT and RATE for evolving stutters, MIX for wet/dry swells, CRUSH for lo-fi breakdowns, and BYPASS for hard, rhythmic cuts. Because the engine is deterministic, the same SEED always reproduces the same result.

Tip: FAULTLINE works on anything — drums, vocals, synths, full loops or a master bus. Start from a factory preset, then use A/B to develop a variation.

5 Support

FAULTLINE is made by **X-Audio**. For more free and premium instruments and effects, updates, tutorials and support, visit:

xaudio.store

<https://xaudio.store>

Thank you for using FAULTLINE. Now go break something — musically.

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