VariSpeed

USER'S MANUAL

Version 1.0.0

www.GenuineSoundware.com

INTRODUCTION

VariSpeed is a new plugin that GSi offers free of charge to everybody. It's a simulation of the *WEM Copicat IC-400 Belt Drive VariSpeed* model, the first tape echo machine made by WEM with a DC capstan motor capable of changing speed, thus varying the delay time. GSi VariSpeed replicates the hardware instrument "as is" with all its pros and cons, without any additional feature except the fact that it is digital and MIDI-controllable. This can be considered as the second chapter of a tribute to the genius of Mr. Charlie Watkins that GSi began back in 2008 with the release of the freeware "WatKat", which was a simulation of the "Custom Copicat".

INSTALLATION

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

VariSpeed is available in the following formats:

- for Windows: VST2 x64, VST3 x64, Standalone x64
- for OSX: VST2 x64, VST3 x64, Audio Unit x64, Standalone x64

Windows:

- any Windows computer running Windows 7 x64 or newer
- ASIO compatible sound card for low latency performance

OSX:

- OSX version 10.11 or greater

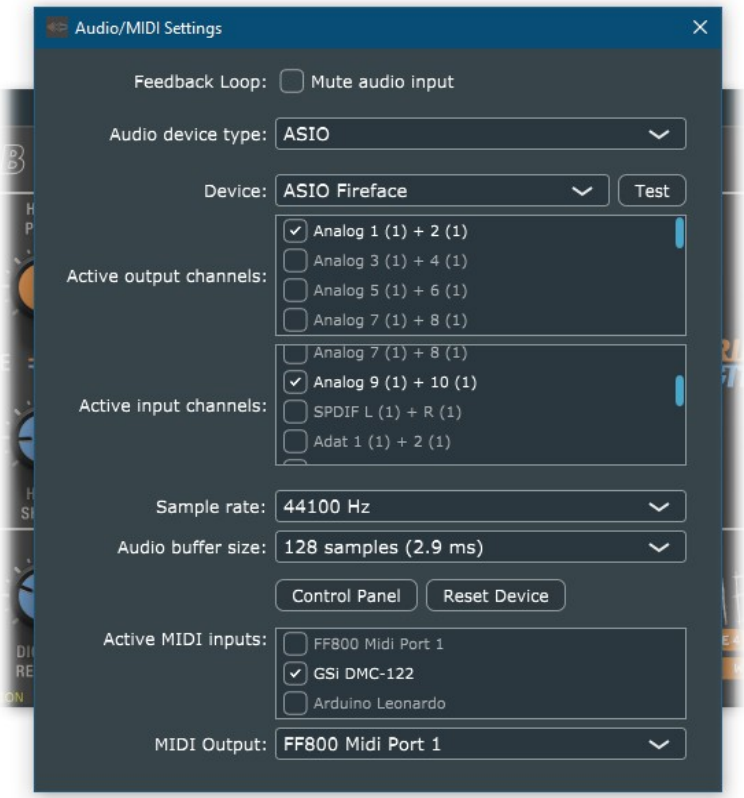
INSTALLATION ON WINDOWS

An automatic installer is provided. Double click its icon, accept the EULA and follow the on-screen instructions.

INSTALLATION ON OSX

An automatic installer is provided. Double click its icon, accept the EULA and follow the on-screen instructions. At some point you might be asked to insert your user's log-on password, this is required by OSX to authorize the copy of the files into your Library.

OPTIONS FOR THE STANDALONE APPLICATION



The standalone application offers an extra menu for setting the AUDIO and MIDI devices. Under Windows it is possible to select between the available audio driver types. For better performance, use a low-latency ASIO driver, possibly the most recent driver released from your sound-card's manufacturer. Select the stereo output port, the stereo input port, the sampling rate, the buffer size, and the MIDI input and output devices.

VariSpeed supports sample-rates from 44100 up to 384000. However, the best performance is achieved at 44100.

If you have two or more controllers connected to your computer, you can enable them all at the same time, their MIDI streams are internally merged.

The settings are immediately applied as soon as they're changed. Close this window when done.

Please note: the standalone application always stores the last status.

USAGE

VariSpeed is very easy to use. You can use it in your DAW as an insert effect (either mono or stereo) or on a send bus, or use it in standalone mode.

By doing a right-click (CMD-click on Mac) on an empty area of the screen you access to the contextual menu with a few options:

The window size can be changed and will be remembered if the interface is closed and re-opened within a session, but will always be reset to 100% when the plugin is launched, unless the host can save its size and position and restore it when recalling the project.

By clicking on Show Help Overlay you access to a quick instruction sheet:

Everything is pretty self-explanatory. Here are a few things worth noticing:

- it's a simulation of a tape delay built and marketed during the seventies, so don't expect high fidelity

- the tape produces hum and hiss, this can't be disabled

- it can easily reach a state of self-oscillation (when the feedback is too high) and distort the sound in a transistor-fashioned way

- it's also worth noticing that the real unit is way more aggressive when it comes to noise and distortion... we tried to keep it usable

- not to forget that the real unit can change sound and behavior in time, as the tape loop degrades itself until becoming unusable

- of course there's no host tempo sync

- since all imperfections have been simulated, you'll notice that the tape “slips” when the junction passes around the capstan, and you'll probably also notice that the tape speed isn't really stable

- the tone knob works reversed: turn clockwise to darken the sound

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