Fat-Tape

Analog Recording Tape Emulator

Fat-Tape (ReArtist Pro) is a **magnetic tape simulator** that combines *tone shaping* (tonal response modification) with **harmonic distortion**, giving your mixes the characteristic **color and warmth** of analog tape. Unlike the original Tukan Studios version, several features have been **improved and added** to provide a **more robust sound**—hence the name "FAT-TAPE"—including a **group system** and a **processing menu** that was not previously present in the base plugin.

2. Overview of Controls

1. **Noise**

   o Adjust the **characteristic noise** of the tape, adding an analog "hiss".

   o At low values, the noise is almost imperceptible; By raising this parameter, you get the retro atmosphere typical of old tapes.

2. **Filter (Bright ↔ Dark)**

   o Control the **tonal color**:

      ▪ **Bright** enhances treble and highlights transients.

      ▪ **Dark** attenuates treble for a more opaque and warm sound.

o Useful for adapting the tape to different styles: percussion and drums may require more brightness, while vocals or bass may look better with a darker tonality.

3. **Drive**

    o **Amount of saturation** and harmonic distortion.

    o At low values, compression is smooth; By raising it, a more aggressive and "fat" saturation is achieved, enhancing the "fat" personality of the film.

4. **Output**

    o **Output gain** after the saturation stage.

    o It serves to compensate for the increases in level when increasing the Drive. Adjust this control to maintain a stable volume in your mix.

5. **Tape Speed (15 ips / 30 ips)**

    o Simulates reel **speed**:

        ▪ **30 ips**: higher definition and less saturation.

        ▪ **15 ips**: color more, with a bass boost and more apparent compression.

    o Switch between speeds to find the one that best fits the character of your production.

6. **VU Meter**

    o It provides a visual reference of the output level or degree of saturation.

    o It helps you see if you're "crushing" the signal too much or finding a compression/saturation sweet spot.

Processing *and* Groups *Menu*

Processing Menu

- You can decide **in which state** (Playback, Recording, Stop) the plugin will be active:

    o **On Playback**: Fat-Tape works during the normal playback of your project.

    o **On Recording**: The plugin keeps working while you record.

    o **On Stop**: Continues processing even when the transport is stopped.

- This is useful for **optimizing performance** (turning off the effect when not needed) or for **maintaining ribbon coloration** at different stages of the workflow.

Groups Menu

- It allows **you to group** multiple instances of the plugin and link their controls:

    o **Start Group [n]**: Create a new group (e.g., if you want the same ribbon setting on multiple tracks).

    o **Add to Group [n]**: Adds the current instance to an existing group.

- o **Joins Group [n]**: Shows that this plugin is within that group.

- o **Delete Group [n]**: Deletes a group, breaking the link between the associated plugins.

- With this feature, simply modify the Drive (or any other relevant control) in one instance to replicate that change across all linked tracks, ensuring **consistency** in the "tape" sound throughout your mix.

Usage Tips

1. **Start with moderated Drive**

   - o Set the Drive to average values and slowly work your way up to find the point where saturation adds character without "drowning" the original dynamics.

2. **Filters to match the tone**

   - o A brighter setting can be used on drums to enhance punch, while a **Dark setting** benefits vocals or instruments that require warmth and "roundness."

3. **Combines Noise and Speed**

   - o At low speeds (15 ips) and some noise, you recreate the retro atmosphere of "vintage" recordings.

   - o For a more defined and less noisy sound, opt for 30 ips and low noise.

4. **Take Advantage of Menus**

   - o **Processing**: If you don't need tape sound during recording, turn it off in On Recording to save CPU, and turn it on only in Playback.

   - o **Groups**: If you're handling multiple tracks with the same tape "personality," group them together to maintain consistency throughout your mix.

5. **Calibrate the Output**

   - o After getting the desired saturation with Drive, adjust the **Output** so that the final signal is properly integrated into the mix without triggering the levels.

Acknowledgments "Powered by Tukan Studios"

This plugin is based on technology and libraries created by **Tukan Studios**. Special thanks are due to **John Matthews**, whose exceptional work served as the basis for the plugin series. Building on that foundation, **Edu Serra** has added and modified features—such as the addition of the **Groups system**, **options in the Processing menu**, and **the adjustment of tone shaping and saturation**—to achieve a more robust sound and a revamped graphical interface that live up to the name "FAT-TAPE."

Summary

Fat-Tape (ReArtist Pro) gives you the **warmth**, **color**, and **saturation** typical of analog tape, with enhancements that make it even more versatile: from full control over the saturation and noise stage, to the ability to group instances and handle processes in different states of your project. Experiment with its controls, set the speed and noise, and discover how **that vintage nuance** can enhance your tracks and mixes giving them an unmistakable character. Enjoy the magic of the tape!