

ARTIFACT

Lo-Fi Degradation Effect | Quickstart Guide | Synesound Studio

Artifact is a lo-fi degradation effect for Reason. It crushes, degrades, saturates, and destabilizes your signal — turning clean audio into something that feels lived in, worn, and human. You can place it on groups, mastering chains, or vocals — anywhere you want that warm vintage sound.

THE CONTROLS

SIGNAL

- **INPUT** — Controls incoming signal level. Unity at 12 o'clock.
- **OUTPUT** — Controls outgoing signal level. Unity at 12 o'clock.

FILTER

- **LOW PASS / HIGH PASS** — One knob, full filter control in both directions. Turn left of center for Low Pass filtering. Turn right of center for High Pass filtering.
- **DRY/WET** — Blends your clean signal with the processed signal. Full left = dry, full right = fully degraded.

DEGRADE

- **BIT DEPTH** — Reduces bit resolution. Turn left for heavy crushing, right for subtle grit.
- **SATURATION** — Adds tape-style harmonic warmth. Works well at all settings.

TIME

- **S.RATE** — Reduces sample rate. Turn left for lo-fi character, right for full fidelity.
 - **JITTER** — Adds timing instability. Subtle settings feel like tape. Higher settings feel broken.
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THE SWITCHES

- **MONO** — Collapses the stereo signal to mono. Great for that old sampler and tape machine character. Fully automatable.
 - **RESET** — Right-click Artifact in the rack and select **Initialize Patch** to reset all knobs to their default positions instantly.
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AUTOMATION

All 8 knobs and the Mono switch are fully automatable in the Reason sequencer. Record parameter movements in real time or draw automation curves directly in the arrange view.

- Automate **DRY/WET** to bring degradation in and out over time.
 - Automate **BIT DEPTH** for rhythmic bit crushing effects.
 - Automate **MONO** to collapse and expand the stereo field.
 - Automate **S.RATE** to sweep from clean to destroyed and back.
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CV INPUTS (BACK PANEL)

Every parameter has a dedicated CV input for real time modulation.

- Patch an LFO into **JITTER** for tape wobble.

- Patch an envelope into **SATURATION** for dynamic drive.
- Patch a Matrix into **BIT DEPTH** for rhythmic crushing.

FACTORY PRESETS

Artifact ships with 14 factory presets covering the full range of lo-fi character:

PRESET	MONO	CHARACTER
Cassette Tape	No	Warm tape lo-fi
Vinyl	No	Vinyl warmth + flutter
VHS Tape	No	Video tape degradation
Bedroom Lo-Fi	No	Lo-fi hip hop style
AM Radio	Yes	Narrow band transmission
Telephone	Yes	Classic phone effect
8-Bit	Yes	Chiptune / game sound
Mono Lo-Fi	Yes	Degraded mono
Subtle Warmth	No	Gentle enhancement
Warm Saturation	No	Drive only
Crushed	No	Heavy bit/rate crush
Glitch	No	Extreme chaos
Space	Yes	Alien / sci-fi
Destroyed	Yes	Maximum destruction

5 WAYS TO USE ARTIFACT

1. Drum Bus Grit

Send your drum bus through Artifact. Set BIT DEPTH to 9 o'clock, S.RATE to 10 o'clock, DRY/WET to 2 o'clock. Instant SP-1200 character.

2. Tape Warmth

SATURATION at noon, filter turned slightly left (Low Pass), DRY/WET at 3 o'clock. Adds subtle warmth without obvious degradation.

3. Parallel Lo-Fi

Set DRY/WET to 9 o'clock for light blending. Push JITTER and S.RATE hard. The dry signal keeps things clean while the degraded signal adds texture underneath.

4. Automated Degradation

Automate DRY/WET from 0 to full over 4 bars. Watch your clean loop slowly fall apart. Automate it back for a clean drop.

5. Telephone Vocal

Load the Telephone preset, engage MONO, and run a vocal through it. Instant lo-fi telephone effect.

TIPS

- Start with DRY/WET at noon and work from there.
 - SATURATION and Low Pass filter together = warmth without harshness.
 - Less is more — subtle settings often sound better than extreme ones.
 - Use Reason's right-click **Randomize Device** to explore random settings — you can see exactly what changed and undo with Cmd+Z.
 - Works beautifully on groups, mastering chains, and vocals.
 - Engage MONO for that authentic old sampler and tape machine character.
 - Automate DRY/WET to bring the lo-fi character in and out dynamically.
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FAQ

How is Artifact different from Audiomatic Retro Transformer?

Audiomatic uses convolution-based presets that apply fixed lo-fi character in one click. Artifact gives you individual control over each degradation parameter separately, with CV modulation and full automation on every knob. Think of Audiomatic as a collection of lo-fi snapshots. Artifact is a lo-fi engine you can tune, automate, and modulate in real time. They complement each other well.

How do I reset all knobs to default?

Right-click Artifact in the Reason rack and select Initialize Patch. This resets all parameters to their default positions instantly.

Can I use Artifact on a master bus?

Yes — Artifact works great on master buses, groups, and individual channels. Use the DRY/WET knob to blend in just the right amount of character without overwhelming the mix.

Can I automate Artifact?

Yes — all 8 knobs and the Mono switch are fully automatable in the Reason sequencer. Record parameter movements in real time or draw automation curves directly in the arrange view.

Can I use Artifact in other DAWs?

Yes — Artifact works in any DAW that supports the Reason Rack Plugin, including Logic Pro, Ableton Live, and Pro Tools.