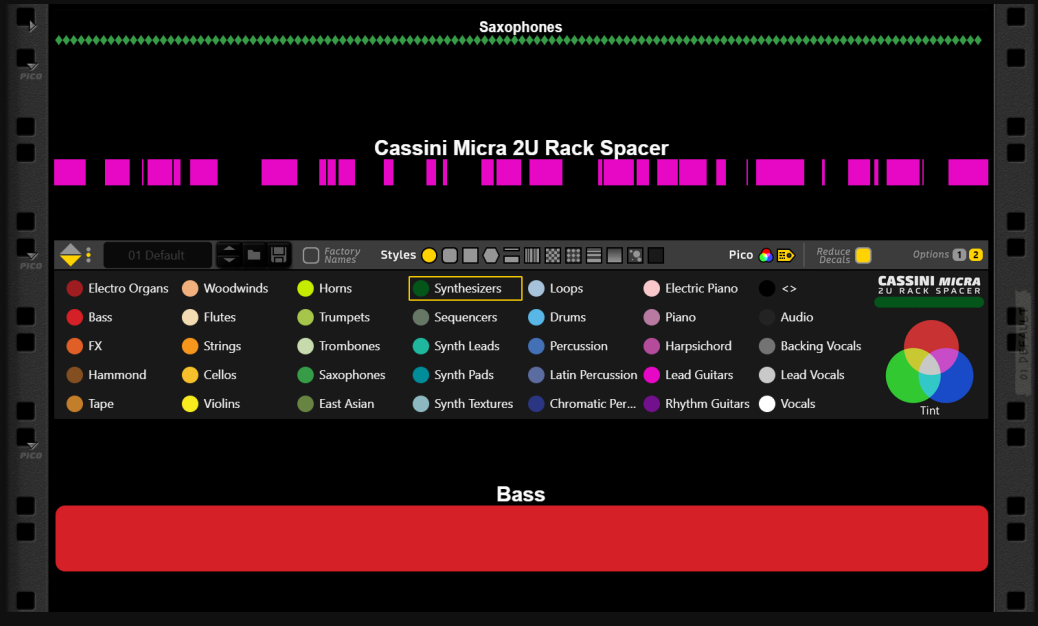
CASSINI MICRA
2U RACK SPACER



v1.1

Produced and Designed by Matt Black

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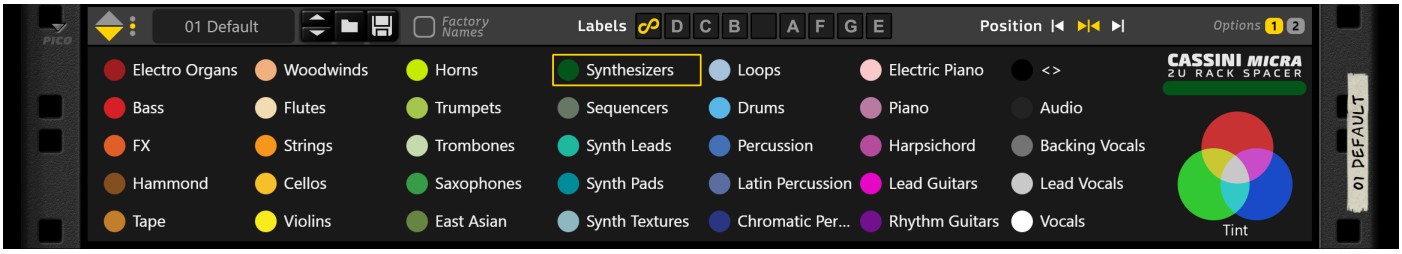
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Cassini Micra 2U Rack Spacer



Cassini Micra 2U Rack Spacer is an advanced rack spacer for Reason utilising a custom display. It is designed to effectively break up complex racks, aid accessibility and navigation, and provide improved labelling.

Cassini Micra displays a text label and a styled block of colour we call the **Division Bar**. It includes several built-in text presets, colour and style options, with the flexibility to freely adjust colours and labels to best fit your workflow and your individual projects. It includes ***Cassini Pico*** for a compact 0.4U front folded view.

On the default *Micra* layout you'll see the grey backdrop of the **Options** menu bar at the top, including the Patch Browser and the "Labels" and "Position" buttons, and below all the available colours and their associated text labels in the dark Selection area.

Cassini Micra has three "Pages", selected by the Up/Down arrow, or directly via the index buttons to the right of it, in the top left of the device panel.

By default, *Cassini Micra* starts in the **Selection** page, as show in image at the top of the page.



1. **Division Page** (click up)
2. **Selection Page**
3. **Label Edit Page** (click down)

We'll go through the individual pages and functions in detail later, but we'll begin with a **Quick-Start** guide, the most basic top-level device set up.

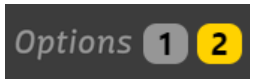
One important aspect to note before we start. In Reasons 10, 11, 12 and 13, you can freely position *Micra*. Typically, this might be above your instrument or Mix Channel, or between blocks of parallel effects or in a Combinator. For Reason 14 this is more complicated, as you will also need to ensure Auto-Grouping is disabled by going to Options>Rack Settings>No Grouping. Sadly, non-Player devices are no longer allowed to be Grouped above Instruments in Reason.

Quick-Start: a 6-step plan in 5 steps

1. Create an instance of *Cassini Micra*.
2. In the **Options** menu bar at the top select from the text presets you want with the **Labels** selector JPS to E. The text labels displayed below will update to the new selection. The blank middle option, **Cassini Division**, defaults to no text should you want no labels on display.



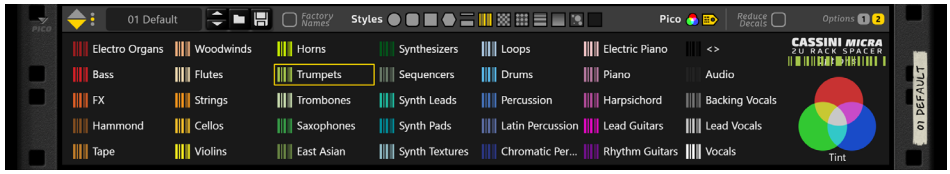
3. Press **Options 2** on right of the menu bar to switch from "Labels" options to the "Styles" options page



4. Select one of the twelve **Styles** to use for the **Division Bar,** from **Rounded** though to **Free Space** (a blank icon, you can use this to have no colour bar). The shape of the colours below will update to the new selection, as will the preview on the right, between the *Cassini Micra* logo and the **Tint** colour wheels



5. In the main Selection area, click on the Colour/Label you want from the 35 selections. The current selection is indicated by a surrounding box of sunshine yellow.
   You can use Shift + Click to select it and go straight to Division page, skipping step 6!
6. Assuming you didn't Shift-click at Step 5, when you're ready click the Page Up arrow or the top hamburger circle to manually switch to **Division Page**



Advanced Controls (Selection & Label Edit Pages)

Having tried the *Quick Start*, here are the additional functions you can apply to refine your spacer.

Available in both the **Selection Page** and **Label Edit Page:**

Options Page 1



Labels: Inspired by the rings of Saturn, the following Division Label Presets are available:

1. **JPS**: JP's own default mix of organs, synths, guitars, drums, and orchestral labels; versatile for wide range of rock/pop/electro/R&B arrangements
2. **D**: A mixed modern production; a broad mix suitable for modern productions, with 808s, plucks, chops, risers)
3. **C**: A vintage multi-track set up for rock/pop productions
4. **B**: Straight-ahead Electronic / Dance with sub bass, plucks and loops
5. **Cassini Division**: Blank labels (but denoted in the editors with "<>"). If creating your own label set, we recommend using this selection
6. **A**: For R&B and Hip-Hop, a broad palette including loops and vinyl
7. **F**: The top 25 VST synthesizer instruments (probably)
8. **G**: First-party Reason instruments, both native and RE
9. **E**: A genre-neutral mix template, including stems

Position

Set the justification of the **Division Label** to left, centre, or right-align.

Options Page 2:



Styles

Chose from twelve styles:

1. **Rounded:** a thick line with round sides
2. **Soft Square:** a rectangle with rounded corners
3. **Squared:** a rectangle with squared-off corners
4. **Hexagon:** six-sided polygon
5. **Dual Lines:** a thin line above, and thick line below the **Label Text**
6. **Saturnian 78rpm:** Random vertical lines
7. **Checkerboard:** small check pattern
8. **Diamonds:** small diamond pattern
9. **Perspective:** spaced horizontal lines reducing in the length
    - If you Shift + click **Perspective**, you can additionally adjust the curve via four pop-up presets:
        i. **Beehive**
        ii. **Pyramid**
        iii. **Stairs**
        iv. **Aspire**
10. **Gradient:** A graduated block with margins
11. **Planets:** Random circles
12. **Free Space:** An invisible black bar

Pico



You can disable the **Division Bar** and/or the **Division Label** in **Pico** view by clicking the mini-colour wheel and label icon respectively

Reduce Decals

You can reduce unwanted device furniture by selecting **Reduce Decals**. This is a multi-level ability.

1. When off, nothing is hidden
2. Left-click to fade the Patch Browser and Device Tape, and slightly fade other UI elements in the **Division Page**
3. Shift + Left-click to hide the Patch Browser and Device Tape entirely, but leave *Micra* UI functions like **Page View** buttons visible in the **Division Page** mode, albeit more faded
4. Alt + Left-click to hide all UI options in the **Division Page**

Because the last option hides pretty much the whole user interface for the cleanest rack spacing possible, it does make it hard to navigate certain functions later. So, this is designed to be explicitly set with key-presses to avoid being ac-

cidentally set by, for example, mis-clicking a pop-up menu. It must be an intentional selection. Only use Alt-Click on **Reduce Decals** when you know you're not making further changes, at least until you're familiar with the positions of the invisible layout. You can apply **Reduce Decals** both from **Styles Options** and from **Division Options**.

Tint



Colours in columns 1-5 can be adjusted using the Tint colour wheels. The Red (top), Green (left) and Blue (right) regions adjust the RGB values respectively. The white middle section can also be used to adjust the alpha for further shades. Click and hold to show the value, dragging the cursor up and down to change it. Hold Shift as well for finer value adjustment.You can Ctrl-click anywhere in the colour wheel to reset the colour values of the selected preset to the default.

Or you can Alt-click the Red, Green, Blue or Alpha regions specifically to reset only that respective value.

Remember to save a patch with any new colour scheme you'd like to recall later!

The sixth column, the monochrome range, can't be edited. While Graphite grey is a Reason colour, it was deemed more practical to keep this one as a fixed shade in this block.

Functions available on the **Selection Page** only:

Factory Names

When clicked and held, this momentary button in the Options menu bar will display Reason's standard colour names instead of the current Preset or edited Labels.

Reset Colour

If you edit a colour, you can use Ctrl-click on the selection area of that label to reset it to the default colour values.

Switch to Label Edit Page

You can also Alt-click a selection to switch to the **Label Edit Page**, although unfortunately we can't auto-open the label edit window itself, you'll still need to double-click there to edit specific **Division Label** texts.

Label text longer than the preview space will have "…" appended.

Functions available on the **Label Edit Page** only:

Enter the **Label Edit Page** by clicking the **Page View** down button or hitting the bottom index icon next to it, or via Alt-click of a label selection from **Selection Page**. The background changes to a light grey to clearly distinguish this page from the previous. The two **Options** menus, and the colour/shape previews are still available, but it's here you can edit the text labels.

Edit Label

Double-click a text box to bring up Reason's standard text label input to edit it. You can use regular or extended ASCII, and standard Emoji etc. Do note that OS-level behaviours and available typefaces and fonts may alter the style and

colour of text or Emoji the device displays. We can't guarantee consistency from one system to another.

Text labels can be up to 100 characters long. Be aware that Reason silently rejects attempts to add more, or to copy in text longer than 100 characters from another source.

You can leave text labels entirely blank, but for the purposes of accessibility we've allowed "<>" to be displayed as a visual indicator for no text in the Edit pages. "<>" renders as blank both in the *Micra*'s **Division Page** and in **Pico**.

Select and return

You can still select any colour by clicking the colour preview shape *next* to the label, which will be marked with a surround of sunshine yellow, then return to **Selection** or **Division Page** through the **Page View** arrows, or by Shift-clicking the preview shape to switch directly to the **Division Page**.

Reset colour

If you edit a colour, you can also reset it here: use Ctrl-click just on the preview shape to revert to the default values.

Factory Names is disabled in this view, as we can't dynamically update editable text boxes

Division Page

In the **Division Page** view, the menu bar turns black. If **Reduce Decals** is not already in fully hidden mode, you'll see the **Divisions Options** menu along the top:

Bar

Click this to turn the **Division Bar** off or on. This doesn't affect the **Division Bar** in **Pico** mode.

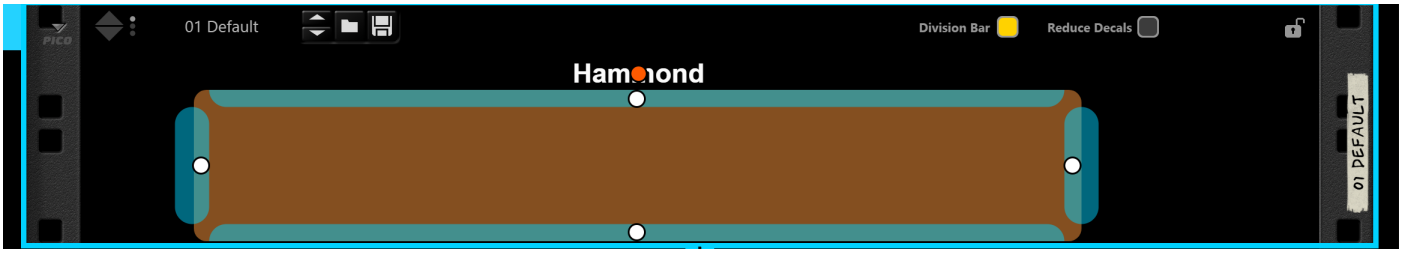
Reduce Decals

Another place to set the decal visibility amount, using the modifiers as described above.

Lock

Enable **Lock** to disable any accidental mouse input into the **Division Bar**. It is not applied to functions in any of the **Options** menus, or the **Selection** or **Label Edit Pages**.

Division Bar



If you click and hold anywhere in the internal area of the **Division Bar,** you'll see white positional grab-handles for the Top, Bottom, Left and Right side of the bar, and an orange position handle for the **Division Label**. Grab and drag these

with your mouse to resize or reposition elements of the Division Bar. Add a Shift modifier for fine position adjustment.

Ctrl-click a *specific* handle to reset it to the default position, or Ctrl-click *between* the handles to reset all values.

You can adjust other values too by dragging the region between the handles: click and drag up/down with no modifiers to cycle between the available preset colours and their current labels, and use Alt-drag to cycle between the **Shape** options.

Note that if left/right or top/bottom positions are too close together, you will not have a hitbox big enough to adjust global **Division Bar** values, in which case reposition a handle enough create a hitbox size you can use

Cassini Pico 0.4U Rack Spacer



Hit Reason's ***Fold/Unfold Device*** icon in the top left to enter/exit **Pico** mode.

This mini mode tracks the **Division Bar** width and **Text Label** positions, and the label/style selection. They can't be directly repositioned from here, but you can adjust the colour and shape selection clicking on and then using Shift+ or Alt+ modifiers as before.

As described above, you can disable the mini-**Division Bar** and **Division Label** individually in **Styles Options** (**Options 2**).

Pico mode is particularly useful for a modicum of tiny spacing in Combinators, or for times you want to recover some rack real estate but will want to keep some demarcation.

Version history

1.0.0

- **Initial release**

1.1.0

- **Added additional functions and refactored portions of the codebase to align with *Cassini Maxim***