

VST3 · AU · Version 1.0 · Mzane Electric

FX Deck

Modular guitar & bass effects rack · Mono serial chain

A rearrangeable mono effects rack with Drive, EQ, Delay, and Modulation modules on one insert — build your chain, reorder by drag, and keep locked seats dry so the rest still works.

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FX Deck interface

1. Welcome

FX Deck by Mzane Electric is a mono effects rack. Modules run one after another in a serial chain — there is no parallel routing inside the plugin. Drive, EQ, Delay, and Modulation are sold (or trialed) as separate modules. Your first module purchase or 14-day trial unlocks the rack itself. Locked modules show **LOCK** and pass dry audio so the rest of the chain keeps working. Insert FX Deck on a mono track or mono insert slot (some stereo-only slots may not list it).

This guide covers installation, the interface, control reference, and practical mixing guidance for mix engineers and musicians.

Key features

- Rearrangeable modules on one mono insert (serial chain only)
- Launch modules: Drive, EQ, Delay, Modulation — buy or start a 14-day trial separately
- Add from the Add seat or the Board menu; drag to reorder; up to 12 seats
- Drop a module on the Add seat to move it to the end of the chain
- Remove under each module title; Bypass at the foot of each module
- Board (right of header, under License): Empty Board, then only unlocked modules
- Locked seats show LOCK and stay dry so the chain keeps working
- License (upper-right) opens activation and trial; menus fade in and out
- Formats: VST3 + AU (macOS) · VST3 (Windows)

What you will need

- A DAW that loads VST3 (and AU on macOS).
- FX Deck installed from the official download.
- Audio on the track or bus where you insert the plugin.

2. Installation

Download the package from **mzaneelectric.com** (account library or product page). Always install from that official download.

macOS

- Unzip the download. You will typically find both a **.vst3** and a **.component** (AU).
- VST3: copy into /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/ (or your user Library VST3 folder) as **FXDeck.vst3**.
- AU: copy into /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/ (or your user Library Components folder) as **FXDeck.component**.
- Logic Pro and GarageBand use AU; many other DAWs use VST3.

Windows

- Unzip the Windows package.
- Copy **FXDeck.vst3** into C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\.

Restart your DAW or rescan plugins. If macOS asks for permission the first time, allow it and try again.

Tip: If the UI does not update after an install, remove the plugin from the track and insert it again.

3. Activation & Trial

FX Deck is activated through your Mzane Electric account. Without an active trial or full license, audio processing is disabled.

- Open the plugin in your DAW.
- If it is not yet activated, the activation window will appear. You can also click **License** at any time.
- Sign in or create your Mzane Electric account.
- Start a free trial, or unlock the full version after you have purchased.
- If you already bought FX Deck with the same account, full access should unlock automatically.

Purchase on mzaneelectric.com, then activate in the plugin with the same account. For help, email info@mzaneelectric.com.

4. Interface overview

Across the top: the Mzane Electric logo on the left, the embossed **FX DECK** title in the center, and the **License** button in the upper-right corner. Directly under License on the right is the **Board** menu (both fade in when opened and fade out when closed). Below the header, a recessed bay holds module seats from left to right. Drag a module to reorder it, or drop it on the **Add** seat (the empty slot after your loaded modules) to send it to the end of the chain. Each unlocked seat shows that module's knobs and switches; locked seats show **LOCK** and pass dry.



Figure — FX Deck interface.

Regions at a glance

Area	What you see
License	Upper-right corner of the header. Opens the FX Deck license panel (titled FX Deck) with four module tabs (Drive, EQ, Delay, Modulation). Sign in, start a 14-day trial, or activate a purchase.
Board	Right side of the header, under License. Lists Empty Board, then only unlocked modules (with icons). Choose a module to add it. If none are unlocked: “No modules unlocked - open License”. The Board field shows Empty Board, a short chain summary (for example Drive > EQ > Delay > Modulation), or “N modules” when the rack is busy. There are no named factory boards in this menu.
Add	Empty seat to the right of your loaded modules. Opens the same unlocked-module list as Board. Up to 12 seats.

Area	What you see
Module strip	Horizontal bay of colored seats (Drive, EQ, Delay, Modulation, and more as you add them). Drag to reorder. Drop on Add to move a module to the end.
Remove	Under each module title — removes that module from the rack.
Bypass	At the foot of each module. On = dry pass-through for that module only.
LOCK	On a locked seat. Shows LOCK and passes dry so the rest of the chain still works.

Drag knobs **vertically** to adjust values. Your DAW saves and recalls settings with the project.

5. Quick start

1. Install FX Deck from the official download, then insert it on a mono track or mono insert slot.
2. Click License (upper-right), pick Drive, EQ, Delay, or Modulation, and sign in — start a 14-day trial or activate a purchase.
3. Use Board (under License on the right) or Add to place unlocked modules on the rack.
4. Drag modules to reorder, or drop one on the Add seat to send it to the end.
5. Set the knobs for each module. Use Bypass at the foot of a seat to A/B that stage alone.
6. Match Bypass loudness with Level or Mix before you decide the chain is finished.

6. Controls reference

Drag knobs vertically. Ranges below describe everyday use. Module knobs appear only on unlocked seats you have added to the rack.

Control	Range	What it does
License	Button	Upper-right of the header. Opens the FX Deck license panel. Choose Drive, EQ, Delay, or Modulation. Sign in, start a 14-day trial, or activate a purchase.
Board	Menu	Right of header, under License. Empty Board clears the rack. Then lists only unlocked modules (with icons) — picking one adds it. If none are unlocked: "No modules unlocked - open License".
Add	Menu	Empty seat after your modules. Appends an unlocked module (Drive, EQ, Delay, or Modulation). Up to 12 seats.
Remove	Button	Under the module title — removes that module from the rack.
Bypass	Off / On	At the foot of each seat. On = dry pass-through for that module only.
Gain (Drive)	0–1	How hard you drive into the overdrive.
Tone (Drive)	0–1	High shelf after the drive. Mid (0.5) is flat; lower darkens, higher brightens.
Level (Drive)	0–1	Output level after Drive. 0 is silence.
Bright (Drive)	Off / On	Extra brightness on the tone shelf.
Bass (EQ)	0–1	Low shelf. Center (0.5) is flat; lower cuts bass, higher boosts.
Mid (EQ)	0–1	Midrange peak. Center (0.5) is flat.
Treble (EQ)	0–1	High shelf. Center (0.5) is flat.

Control	Range	What it does
Level (EQ)	0–1	EQ output level. 0 is silence.
Time (Delay)	0–1	Delay time. Free mode: about 20 ms to 1000 ms. With Tempo Sync on, Time chooses note values in zones (shortest to longest): 1/16, 1/8, dotted 1/8, or 1/4 — locked to your DAW tempo. There is no separate note-picker control.
Feedback (Delay)	0–1	How much the echoes repeat.
Mix (Delay)	0–1	Dry/wet. 0 dry, 1 fully wet.
Tempo Sync (Delay)	Off / On	Off = free milliseconds. On = Time snaps to the note zones above at your DAW tempo.
Rate (Modulation)	0–1	How fast the modulation moves (slow to fast).
Depth (Modulation)	0–1	How wide the modulation swings.
Mix (Modulation)	0–1	Dry/wet.
Vibrato (Modulation)	Off / On	Off = chorus-style delay modulation. On = vibrato. (Label is Vibrato only — no Chorus label.)

7. Licensing and building a chain

How licensing works. Drive, EQ, Delay, and Modulation are separate modules. Your first module purchase or 14-day trial unlocks the FX Deck rack. Modules you have not unlocked still appear as LOCK seats and pass dry — so a mixed board of owned and locked seats will not break the chain.

Building a chain. Add modules from Board (under License on the right) or from Add. Drag to reorder. Drop a module on Add to move it to the end. Remove sits under the module title; Bypass is at the foot of each seat. You can use up to 12 seats — leave empty seats unused unless you need them.

How to build Drive → EQ → Delay → Modulation

- Open License (upper-right) and unlock (or trial) the modules you want — at least Drive to start.
- Click Add (or Board) and choose Drive, then EQ, then Delay, then Modulation.
- Drag seats left-to-right into that order if needed, or drop on Add to send one to the end.
- Set Drive Gain/Tone/Level, then EQ Bass/Mid/Treble, then Delay Time/Mix, then Modulation Rate/Depth/Mix.
- Use each module's Bypass to A/B that stage. Locked seats stay dry and do not stop the chain.

Tip: Board lists only Empty Board and unlocked modules — never named factory chain presets.

Tip: If Board says “No modules unlocked - open License”, use License first, then return to Board or Add.

8. Usage tips

- Insert on a mono track or mono slot. Stereo-only slots may not list FX Deck.
- Start with one or two modules, then tweak — you do not need all four at once.
- Match Bypass loudness with Level (Drive/EQ) or Mix (Delay/Modulation) before you judge the sound.
- Turn Tempo Sync on and raise Time through the note zones (1/16 → 1/8 → dotted 1/8 → 1/4) to lock Delay to the song.
- Vibrato Off = chorus-style; Vibrato On = vibrato. There is no separate Chorus switch.
- Prefer a short chain over filling all 12 seats — fewer stages are easier to mix.

- Drop a module on Add when you want it at the end without careful dragging.

9. Starting points

Short recipes you build yourself with Add or Board. There are no named factory boards — place the modules, then refine by ear.

Rhythm grit

Warm overdrive into a shaped EQ for rhythm guitar or bass.

- Add Drive, then Add EQ.
- Set Drive Gain for light grit; Tone near center; Level so Bypass matches.
- EQ: nudge Bass/Mid/Treble around center (0.5 = flat) to clear mud or add bite.
- Bypass each seat to confirm both stages help.

Watch for: If it gets fizzy, lower Drive Gain before you cut Treble hard.

Tempo slap delay

Short rhythmic echoes locked to the song.

- Add Delay. Turn Tempo Sync On.
- Raise Time into the 1/16 or 1/8 zone for slap; use dotted 1/8 or 1/4 for longer picks.
- Keep Feedback modest and Mix low enough that dry attack stays clear.

Watch for: High Feedback plus high Mix can wash out the part — ease Mix first.

Chorus-style guitar

Gentle width and motion without heavy vibrato.

- Add Modulation. Leave Vibrato Off (chorus-style).
- Set Rate slow-to-medium, Depth modest, Mix around one-third to half.
- A/B with Bypass at matched Mix so motion does not just sound louder.

Watch for: For pitchy vibrato, turn Vibrato On and keep Depth lower than you think.

Full serial board

Drive → EQ → Delay → Modulation as a complete mono chain.

- Unlock or trial the modules you need, then Add Drive, EQ, Delay, and Modulation in that order.
- Drag to fix order if needed (or drop on Add to send a module to the end).
- Dial Drive and EQ for tone, Delay with Tempo Sync for the groove, Modulation last for motion.
- Bypass seats one at a time; leave any locked seat dry — the chain still runs.

Watch for: Twelve seats is the maximum. Prefer four clear stages over a crowded rack.

Troubleshooting

Issue	What to try
No sound	Confirm activation (License). Check Bypass, mute, Level/Mix, and that audio is playing.
Plugin not found	Rescan plugins. Use AU in Logic/GarageBand; VST3 elsewhere. Verify install folders.
Activation problems	Sign in with the purchase account. Re-open License. Email info@mzaneelectric.com .

Issue	What to try
macOS blocks plugin	Re-download the official release and install again. Allow permission if prompted.

Support & product info

Product	FX Deck
Format	VST3 + AU (macOS) · VST3 (Windows) · Mono insert
Manufacturer	Mzane Electric
Version	1.0
Website	mzaneelectric.com
Support	info@mzaneelectric.com

Thank you for using FX Deck. For product support, contact Mzane Electric.