



# Blackbird A5 User Manual



Thank you for downloading the Blackbird A5 from KIT Plugins. This guide gives you a basic overview of the plugin and uninstall process. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit [kitplugins.com](https://kitplugins.com) and reach out to [help@kitplugins.com](mailto:help@kitplugins.com). Be sure to join our newsletter and connect with us on socials for new releases and product updates!

— Matthew Kleinman, Founder & CEO



Within Blackbird Studio, lie two of the best API™ Legacy consoles to ever be used in a commercial studio. These revered consoles have been the catalyst for countless chart-topping records, all within the confines of one of Nashville's most coveted recording spaces.

With careful consideration and thorough analysis of channel variations, our dedicated team at KIT collaborated closely with John McBride to meticulously craft three harmoniously balanced EQs. With a preamp designed to capture the essence of the API™ 212L saturation, the nuances of the console's EQ's, analog hum, and the character of the master bus, the BB A5 is a powerhouse of vibe and tone.

We at KIT set out to meticulously translate this esteemed console into plugin form, upholding each intricate facet with unwavering fidelity. Following our mission of building “real world models” the creation of the BB A5 was driven by our commitment to mirror the operational and sonic essence of its physical counterpart, to give you a truly authentic analog experience.



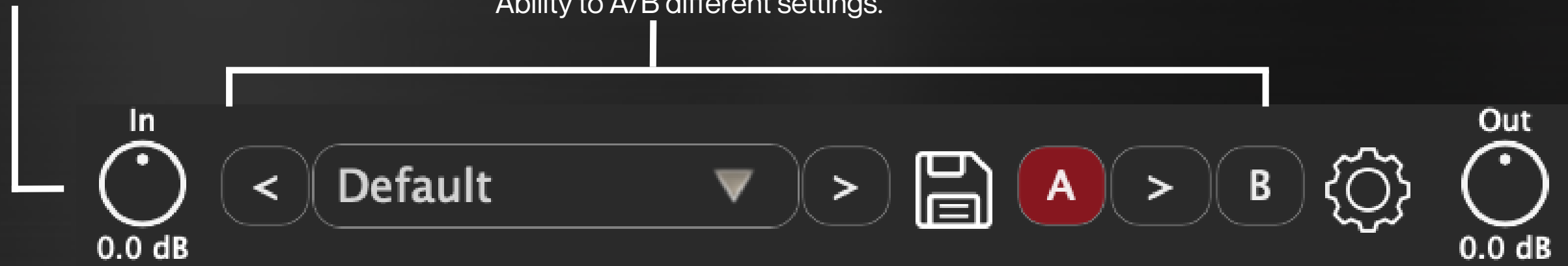
# Top Bar Controls

## In/Out Controls

Provide gain adjustment (+/- 36dB).

## Preset Manager

Factory and User preset menu. Save and load presets. Cycle through presets. Ability to A/B different settings.



Choose between Low, Med, or High Oversampling with the ability to link across all instances.

## Options

- Save New Preset
- Overwrite Current Preset
- Delete Current Preset
- Open Preset Folder
- Refresh Presets

Oversampling Lo ▼ Link

UI size 150% ▼ Link

[Show Tooltips](#)

[BB A5 Manual](#)

[Customer Support](#)

[Copy System Info to Clipboard](#)

Version: 1.1.1

Toggle tooltips, View User Guide, Contact Customer Support, Copy System Info to Clipboard.

Change the size of the GUI by percentage with the ability to link across all instances.





# Controls

## Preamp Sensitivity

Unique API gain staging with fluid control.  
Turn it up to add compression and harmonic content to your signal.

## Pad

Put a 20dB on your signal before it reaches the preamp.

## HPF

Hi-Pass your signal from 20Hz-600Hz at 6dB/octave.



## Preamp Mode

Choose between Line or Mic impedance.  
Change the Preamp behaviour just like on the original hardware. Preamp sensitivity is disabled in Line mode.

## Polarity Button

Phase inverts the signal 180 degrees.

## LPF

Low-Pass your signal from 20kHz-300Hz at 12dB/octave.



# Controls 55A

## HF Curve Toggle

Change the curve of the High Band to a shelf.  
(White is a bell, Green is a shelf).

## High Band EQ

Selectable bell or shelf curve with fixed frequency points. 2.5, 5, 7, 10, 12.5, 15, and 20kHz.

## Low Band EQ

Selectable bell or shelf curve with fixed frequency points. 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 300, and 400 Hz.

## BP Filter

Band-Pass filter removing frequencies below 50Hz and above 15kHz.

## Stepped EQ Toggle

Choose between the standard API stepped EQ gain values, or continuous gain allowing more control. (Green = on, White = off).



## Mid Band EQ

Selectable bell curve with fixed frequency points. 200, 400, 600, and 800Hz, 1.5, 3, and 5 kHz.

## LF Curve Toggle

Change the curve of the High Band to a shelf.  
Default is a bell.

## EQ Select

Choose between emulations of the 3 different EQ's available on the API Legacy Console.

IN/OUT bypasses the EQ section.

\*All EQ bands offer +/- 12 dB gain.



# Controls 55L

## HF Curve Toggle

Change the curve of the High Band to a shelf.  
(White is a bell, Green is a shelf).

## High Band EQ

Selectable bell or shelf curve with fixed frequency points. 2.5, 5, 7, 10, 12.5, 15, and 20kHz.

## Lo-Mid Band EQ

Selectable bell curve with fixed frequency points. 75, 150, 180, 240, 500, 700Hz, and 1kHz.

## Low Band EQ

Selectable bell or shelf curve with fixed frequency points. 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 300, and 400Hz.

## Stepped EQ Toggle

Choose between the standard API stepped EQ gain values, or continuous gain allowing more control. (Green = on, White = off).



## HI-Mid Band EQ

Selectable bell curve with fixed frequency points. 800Hz, 1.5, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12.5kHz.

## LF Curve Toggle

Change the curve of the High Band to a shelf.  
(White is a bell, Green is a shelf).

## EQ Select

Choose between emulations of the 3 different EQ's available on the API Legacy Console.

IN/OUT bypasses the EQ section.

\*All EQ bands offer +/- 12 dB gain.

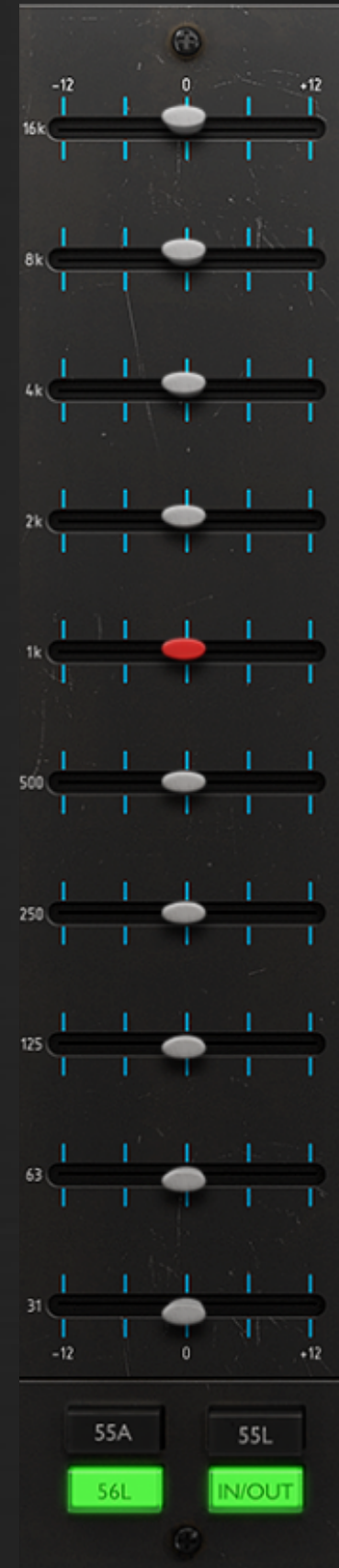




# Controls 56L

## Graphic EQ Controls

+/- 12dB on each of the frequencies available.  
31, 63, 125, 250, 500Hz, and 1, 2, 4, 8, 16kHz.



## EQ Select

Choose between emulations of the 3 different EQ's available on the API Legacy Console.

IN/OUT bypasses the EQ section.





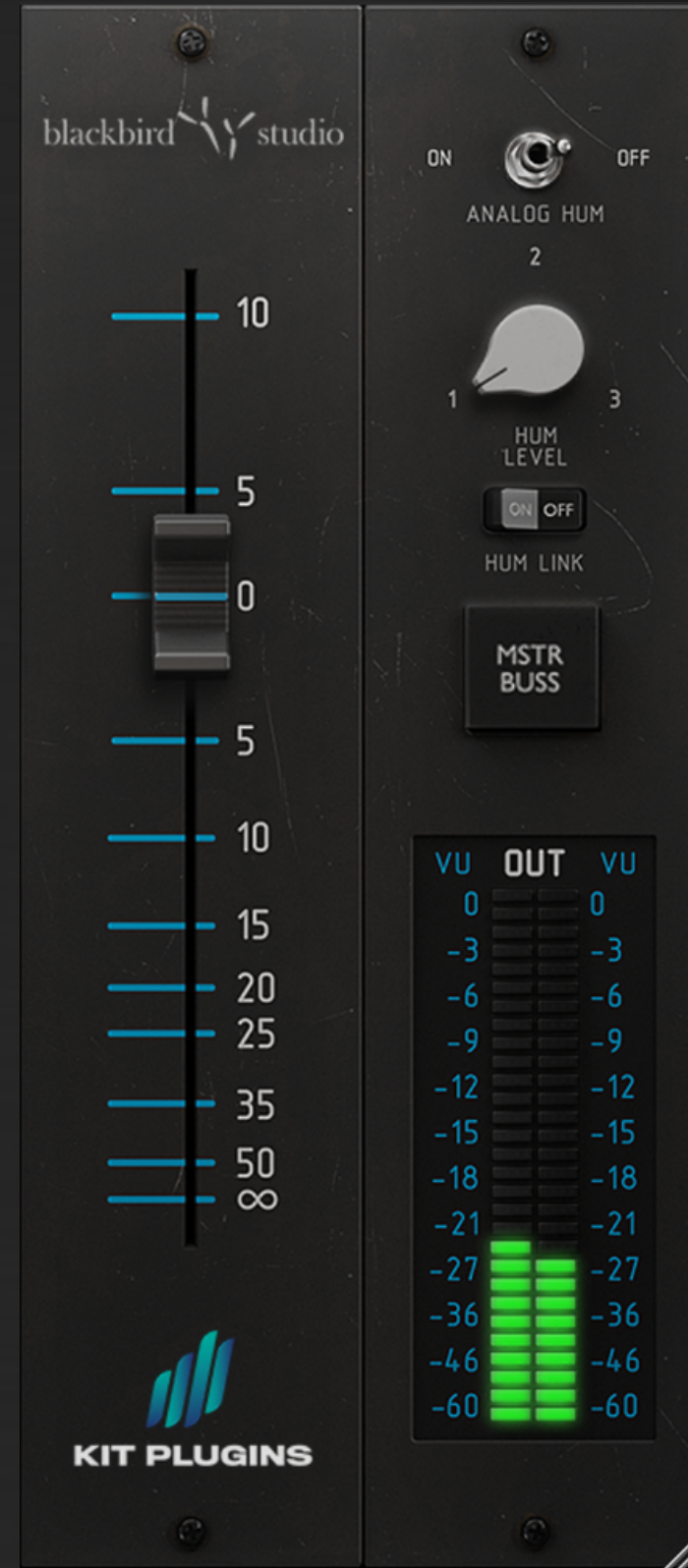
# Controls (Pt. 3)

## Blackbird Website Link

Sends you directly to the Blackbird Website.

## Fader

Add or subtract gain before hitting the Master Buss Processing.



## Analog Hum

Enables/Disables the analog noise generator modeled after the hardware.

## Analog Hum Controls

Chooses the desired level of effect (1, 2, 3) as well as link Hum settings across all instances of the BB A5 in your session.

## Master Buss

Designed to replicate the unique tone and effect of an API master buss amp. The master section on the BB A5 is inspired by the master channel from Blackbird's API Legacy console, bringing your tracks to life with subtle compression and saturation.

Located after the big fader in the signal chain, you can drive into the master section to achieve the desired effect.

## KIT Website Link

Sends you directly to the KIT Plugins website.



## System requirements

- A FREE iLok account and iLok License Manager installation is required
- Activation support for iLok Cloud or iLok gen 2 or 3 keys only (machine activation is not supported)
- macOS 10.14 or above (Intel, and M-Series)
- Windows 7 or above (Intel i3, AMD Quad-Core, or later)
- A 64-bit operating system and DAW is required
- A Compatible DAW or Host is required for AAX, AU, and VST3 formats use (64-bit only)
- Minimum 4 GB RAM and 4 GB free disk space





## Distribution formats

- VST3 (Steinberg Virtual Studio Technology 3)
- AU (macOS Audio Unit)
- AAX (Avid Audio Extension)
- Compatible with all major DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) that support the formats mentioned above
- Supports mono and stereo signals

AAX is a registered trademark of Avid Technology, Inc.

Audio Units is a registered trademark of Apple Computer.

VST is a trademark of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH, registered in Europe and other countries.



# Uninstall instructions

To uninstall BB A5, simply delete the plugin binary from the respective plugin folder(s) on your system for the formats installed/provided.

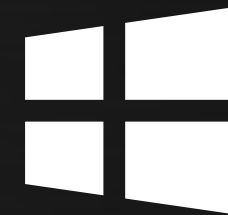


**Mac OS:**

Mac AAX - Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins

Mac AU - Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

Mac VST3 - Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3



**Windows:**

Win AAX - C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

Win VST3 - C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

For Windows users, you can also uninstall by going to Add and Remove programs from the Control Panel.





## Disclaimer

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Thanks for  
purchasing  
the BB A5!