



# Blackbird N73 User Manual



Thank you for downloading the Blackbird N73 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



As one of the most iconic channels in music history, the Neve 1073 has played a vital role in shaping music's sound since the 1970s. Popularized for its iconic analog character and simple eloquent controls, the 1073 boasts big, fat, and colorful tones. These channel strips have been used to create some of the greatest chart-topping records of decades past.

From the KIT offices at Blackbird Studios, our engineers have worked hand in hand with John McBride and the Blackbird team to model not one, but twelve different 1073s. With John's guidance, we were able to take our favorite characteristics from each unit to build the perfect channel.

Each 1073 was hand selected from Blackbird's extensive collection and painstakingly analyzed to ensure every audible detail was accounted for. In the KIT spirit of building "Real World" models, the BB N73 has been designed to sound and function just like the hardware in use at Blackbird. Everything from cables and modifications to age and irregularities have been factored into the final product.



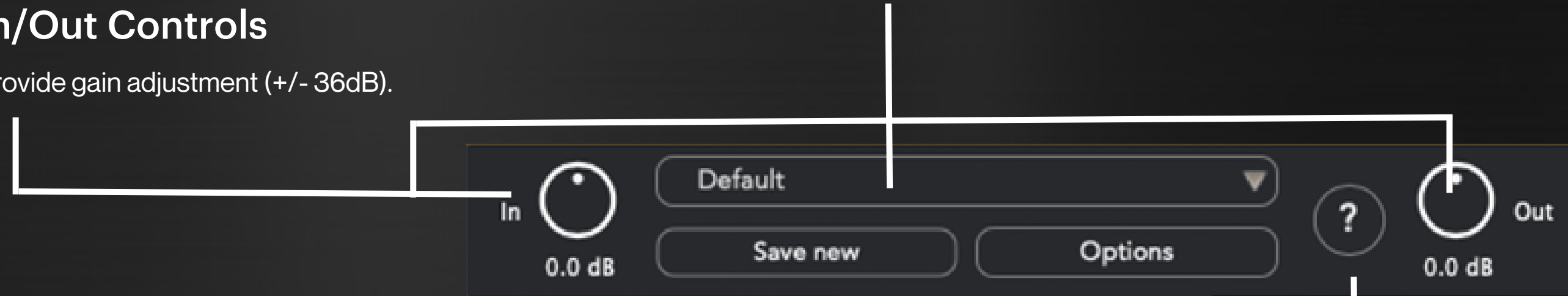
# Top Bar Controls

## Preset manager

Factory and User preset menu. Save and load presets.

## In/Out Controls

Provide gain adjustment (+/- 36dB).



## Options

Access global options: Oversampling (4, 8, and 16x), Link Oversampling and Hum, view plugin version.

?  
Opens the manual.



# Controls

## Preamp Sensitivity

Unique gain staging from -80 to -20dB in 5dB steps. Turn it up to add compression and harmonic content to your signal.

## 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.

## Hi Shelf EQ

A fixed 12kHz high shelf band with +/- 18dB gain control.

## Low Shelf EQ

Selectable 35, 60, 110 and 220Hz frequency points, with +/- 18dB gain range.

## EQ Button

Engages/Disables the EQ.



## Preamp Saturation

Provides analogous and music drive, compression and harmonic distortion to your signal.

## Mid-Band EQ

Selectable bell curve mid-range, with pre-fixed frequencies (360 and 700Hz, 1.6, 3.2, 4.8 and 7.2kHz) and +/- 18dB gain for musical results.

## Hi-Pass Filter

Selectable 3rd order filtering from fixed frequency points, 18dB per octave, at 50, 80, 160 and 300Hz.

## PH Button

Phase inverts the signal 180 degrees.





# Controls (Pt. 2)

## TOOLTIPS

Enables/Disables tooltips viewing for parameter controls.

## Fader

Changes the fader color (Black, Grey, Blue, Teal, Red).

## CONT. GAIN

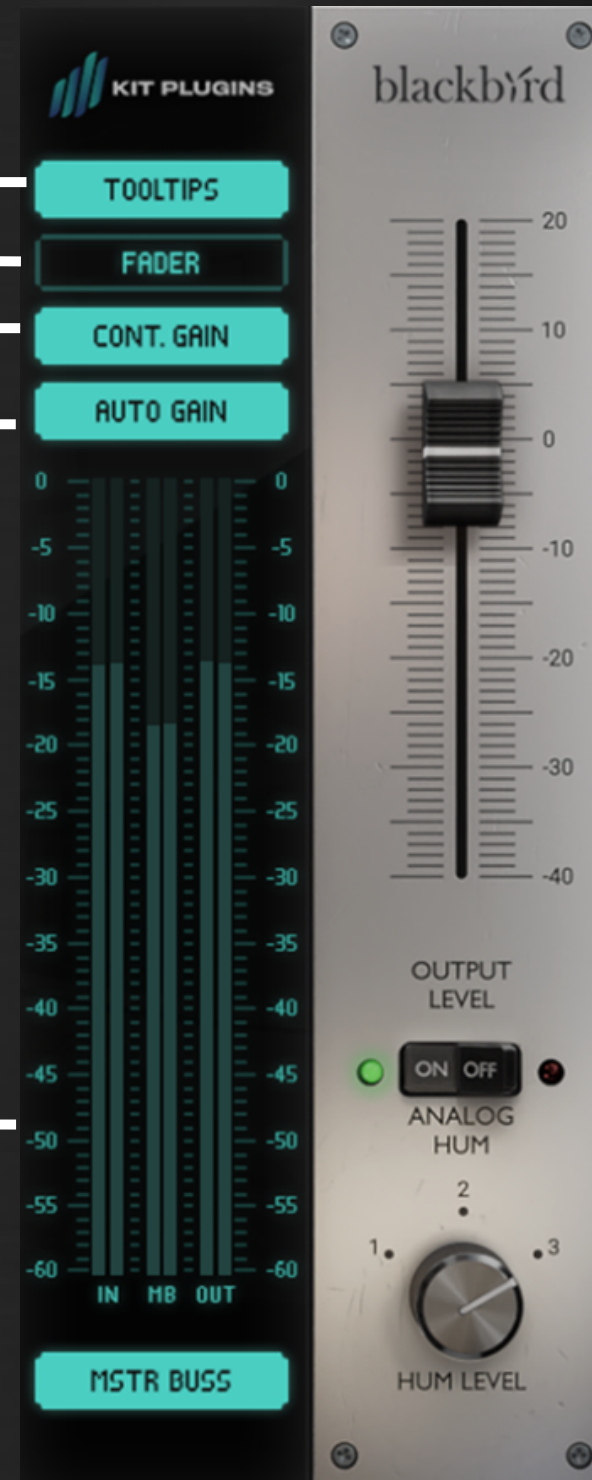
Allows you to boost or cut Mic Pre gain variably rather than stepped.

## AUTO GAIN

Attenuates output level (approximately) to compensate for added input gain from mic pre and saturation.

## Metering

Displays Input and Output metering, and MB (Master Buss).



## Output Level

Adjustable gain (pre-Master Buss), from -40 to +20dB.

## Analog Hum

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

## Hum Level

Sets the level of the analog noise applied to the signal.

## Master Buss

Designed to replicate the unique tone and effect of a Neve master buss amp. The master section on the BB N73 is inspired by the master channel from Blackbird's 8058 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, all while monitoring your signal into the master section with the MB meter.



## System requirements

- Free iLok License Manager and iLok account required
- No iLok USB dongle required
- iLok machine activation not supported (cloud and dongle only)
- iLok 2 or 3 dongles are supported (not iLok 1)
- macOS 10.14 or later
- Apple M1 (ARM-based) support for AU and VST3 formats (AAX pending AVID update for Pro Tools)
- Windows 7 - 11 (64-bit only)
- Intel i3 or later
- AMD Quad-Core (Windows)
- 4 GB RAM and 4 GB free disk space
- 64-bit operating system required



## 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 N73, simply delete the plugin binary from the respective plugin folder(s) on your system for the formats installed/provided.

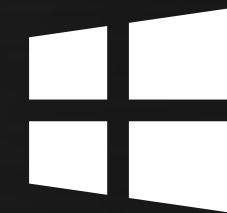


**Mac OS:**

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

All names, logos and trademarks of studio equipment and/or accessory brands are the property of their respective manufacturers and are in no way affiliated with KIT Plugins or its affiliates. None of the aforementioned name, logo or trademark owners were involved in the making of this product, nor do they endorse it. This plugin was made by KIT Plugins and John McBride at Blackbird Studio to represent the unique sound and quality of Blackbird. The names, logos and trademarks used are only for the purpose of identifying the hardware chain that was used to create this product.



Thanks for  
purchasing  
the BB N73