

SPURPOLITUR

TRACK POLISH · RUHRPOTT GUITARS · USER MANUAL · VERSION 1.0

Spurpolitur (German for “track polish”) finishes any track with seven classic studio effects – and gives each of them exactly **one knob**. Vocals, guitars, bass, drums, keys: shape the tone, add grit, even out the dynamics, widen it and put it in a room.



Spurpolitur. POLISH: tone, drive and compressor on top, chorus, double, echo and space below. OUT: output level (VU), how hard the compressor works (GR) and the output knob. Presets at the top.

Quick start

1. Insert Spurpolitur on a track. On a mono track choose **Mono › Stereo** if your DAW asks.
2. Pick a preset at the top – five each for vocals, guitar, bass, drums and keys, from gently polished to battered.
3. Turn the knobs by ear. The value under each knob tells you where you are – for Tone, Echo and Space also what it does (Loud or Focus, Slap or Echo, Room ... Plate).
4. Double-click a knob to send it back to off (Tone and Output: back to the centre).

Audio Unit and VST3 for macOS 11 or newer (Apple Silicon and Intel), VST3 for Windows 10 and 11. No latency.

Installation

Spurpolitur comes with the Ruhrpott Guitars installer. On the Mac, open **Ruhrpott Guitars Plugins.pkg** and follow the steps; under **Customize** you can choose Audio Unit, VST3 or both. The installer is signed and notarised by Apple. On Windows, run the Ruhrpott Guitars setup; it installs the VST3 to **C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3**.

Installing by hand (Mac)

Copy **Spurpolitur.component** (Audio Unit) to **/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/** and **Spurpolitur.vst3** to **/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/** (Finder: **Go › Go to Folder...**, paste the path, drag the file in, enter your password) and restart your DAW. Keep only one copy of each – two copies in different places confuse the DAW.

Finding it

Logic Pro: **Audio Units › Ruhrpott Guitars › Spurpolitur**. If it does not show up: **Logic Pro › Settings › Plug-in Manager**, select Spurpolitur and choose *Reset & Rescan Selection*. VST3 hosts (Reaper, Ableton Live, Cubase, Studio One ...): rescan the plugin list; Spurpolitur is listed under Ruhrpott Guitars.

Trial and licence

Spurpolitur runs fully for 14 days from the first start. Afterwards it keeps working as a demo with a short silence once a minute until you activate it. The small badge in the OUT panel shows the trial; the **?** button opens a menu with the manual and **License...**, where you activate your licence.

Updating: install the new version the same way. Your songs and your own presets are kept.

How it works

The effects run in the order of the knobs. Tone, Drive and Comp shape the sound itself, Chorus sits in the signal path. Double, Echo and Space are added in parallel – and Space also gets the double and the echo, so everything sits in the same room.

TONE › DRIVE › COMP › CHORUS › DOUBLE + ECHO + SPACE › OUTPUT

- **All knobs off** (Tone and Output in the centre): the signal passes through bit for bit unchanged.
- **Mono or stereo track:** mono › mono, mono › stereo and stereo › stereo. Double, Chorus and Space are stereo effects – on a mono track they are folded to the centre.
- **The OUT panel:** the VU meter shows the output level (0 VU = –18 dBFS RMS, a common studio level). The GR bar below shows how many dB the compressor takes away – it grows from the right (0 dB) to the left, like on a studio compressor.
- **No latency** and very little CPU.

The knobs

TONE

Centre = neutral. Turn right for **LOUD**: a loudness curve – lows and highs come up (up to about +9 dB), the sound gets fuller and shinier. Turn left for **FOCUS**: the low end is cut (rumble is gone after a small turn, at full everything below about 250 Hz), the mud around 300 Hz goes down, presence comes forward and the top gets softer – slimmer and more forward, not dull.

Tip: A small turn left cleans up almost any vocal or guitar. Full left with some Drive gives a telephone sound.

DRIVE

Saturation from gentle tape warmth to a real crunch, spread evenly over the whole knob: the first third adds warmth and density, the middle starts to break up, the last third crunches. The low end is tightened before the saturation, so bass and kick get grit without turning to mud. The level stays the same while you turn – a slow automatic gain keeps the output as loud as the input, however loud your track is.

Tip: A little on bass and drums adds weight; turn it up on guitars and lo-fi vocals.

COMP

A smooth tube/opto compressor in the spirit of the LA-2A. It starts working early on the knob and keeps the loudness about the same by itself. From about 10 o'clock on it gets steadily harder – faster, higher ratio, more tube – and towards the end it pumps.

Tip: Around 9–11 o'clock for natural levelling, 1–3 o'clock for drums and rock vocals, full for effect.

CHORUS

The chorus from the Ruhrpott Guitars plugin Namenlos (its preset “Chorus”): a bucket-brigade chorus, here with two voices – one left, one right – so the sound gets wide but stays in the centre. At full both sides are a 50/50 mix of dry and chorus; the level stays the same.

DOUBLE

Tape double tracking from the plugin Doppelspur – at full exactly its preset “Wide Double”: the original hard left, a tape copy 24 ms later hard right. Turning up moves the two apart and brings the copy in step by step.

Tip: Ideal for backing vocals and rhythm guitars. On a mono track the copy is simply added in the centre.

ECHO

A tape echo. Up to the middle of the knob a classic slapback (100 to 150 ms) like a rock'n'roll vocal; above the middle it opens up to a short echo with more repeats (up to 350 ms).

SPACE

One knob, four rooms. It does not just get bigger – the character changes on the way: **ROOM** (small, with strong early reflections) › **CHAMBER** (denser, the classic echo chamber) › **HALL** (large, later and darker) › **PLATE** (bright and dense, no reflections). Already a small turn gives a subtle room; the level rises to a clearly audible reverb.

Tip: Room for drums and acoustic guitar, chamber and hall for vocals and keys, plate for ballads and snare.

OUTPUT

Output level, -18 to +18 dB (centre = 0 dB). It is not part of the presets and stays where it is when you change a preset.

Values

Under each knob: Tone -50 (Focus) ... +50 (Loud), off ... 100 for the six effects (Echo and Space also name their character), Output in dB. Your DAW's automation uses the same numbers.

Presets

The presets sit at the top: ⏪ step through all presets (factory first, then your own), a click on the name opens the list (one sub-menu per kind of track), the disk icon saves. The field shows the category in front of the name, e.g. "Vocals · Vocal Wide". A small amber dot after the name means: something was turned since the preset was loaded or saved.

Factory presets

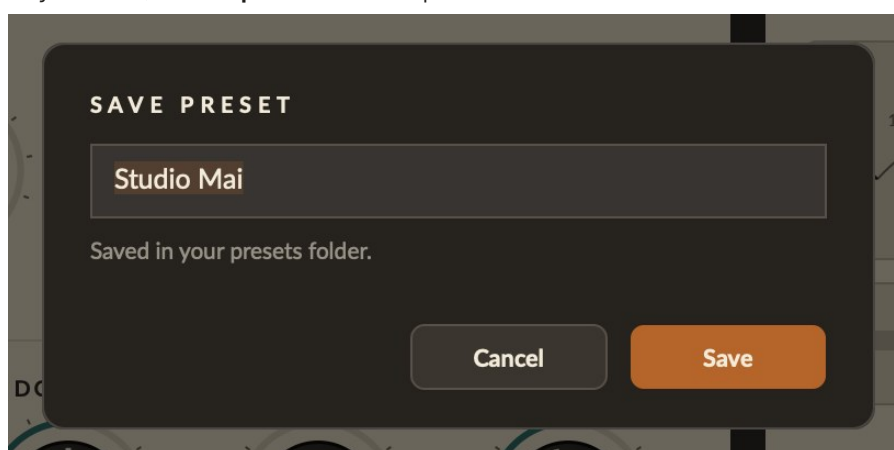
Besides **Clean** (everything off) the list has five presets for each kind of track, ordered from gently polished to battered. They are a starting point – turn the knobs to taste, then save your own version.

Preset	Tone	Drive	Comp	Chorus	Double	Echo	Space
Clean	0	off	off	off	off	off	off
VOCALS							
Vocal Silk	+10	off	30	off	off	off	30
Vocal Shine	+20	5	45	off	off	off	55
Vocal Wide	+10	off	50	35	50	off	45
Vocal Slapback	+15	10	60	off	off	40	20
Vocal Megaphone	-50	50	85	off	off	30	15
GUITAR							
Guitar Polish	+10	5	30	off	off	off	25
Guitar Sparkle	+25	off	40	30	off	off	35
Guitar Wide Double	+5	5	35	off	80	off	35
Guitar Crunch	-10	40	35	off	off	25	30
Guitar Wrecked	-35	100	70	40	off	60	70
BASS							
Bass Round	+5	5	35	off	off	off	off
Bass Punch	+15	10	60	off	off	off	off
Bass Growl	0	25	55	off	off	off	off
Bass Chorus	0	10	45	60	off	off	10
Bass Fuzz Box	-20	80	80	off	off	off	8
DRUMS							
Drums Air	+15	off	30	off	off	off	12
Drums Punch	+25	5	60	off	off	off	15
Drums Room	+20	8	70	off	off	off	30
Drums Big Hall	+15	5	55	off	off	off	70
Drums Smashed	+40	50	100	off	off	off	25

Preset	Tone	Drive	Comp	Chorus	Double	Echo	Space
KEYS							
Keys Gloss	+15	off	25	off	off	off	35
Keys Chorus	+10	5	30	60	off	off	40
Keys Tape Wide	0	10	35	off	70	off	45
Keys Dreamy	+20	off	30	50	30	55	90
Keys Junkyard	-40	65	75	70	off	45	60

Your own presets

1. Set the knobs, then click the disk icon (or choose **Save preset...** in the list).
2. Type a name and press **Save** (or Return). If the name exists, Spurpolitur asks before it replaces it.
3. Your presets appear under **MY PRESETS** in the list. **Delete** removes the active one (after a question; the sound stays as it is). **Show preset folder** opens it in the Finder.



Saving a preset.

Preset files

Your presets are small files in ~/Library/Audio/Presets/Ruhrpott Guitars/Spurpolitur/ on the Mac and in %APPDATA%\Ruhrpott Guitars\Spurpolitur\Presets on Windows (ending .sppreset). Copy them to another computer to take your sounds with you.

CHAPTER 5

Tips and troubleshooting

- Start with Tone and Comp, then Space, and only then the colour effects (Drive, Chorus, Double, Echo).
- Watch the GR bar: around 3–6 dB is natural levelling, beyond 10 dB it is an effect.
- If the VU needle sits in the red all the time, turn Output down a little – the next plugin will thank you.
- The ? button opens this manual. If your DAW does not allow that, Spurpolitur offers to save the PDF.

Specifications

Format	Mac: Audio Unit (AU) and VST3, macOS 11 or newer, Apple Silicon and Intel. Windows: VST3, 64-bit
Channels	Mono › mono, mono › stereo, stereo › stereo
Latency	none
Plugin code	aufx Splt Rpgt
Version	1.0