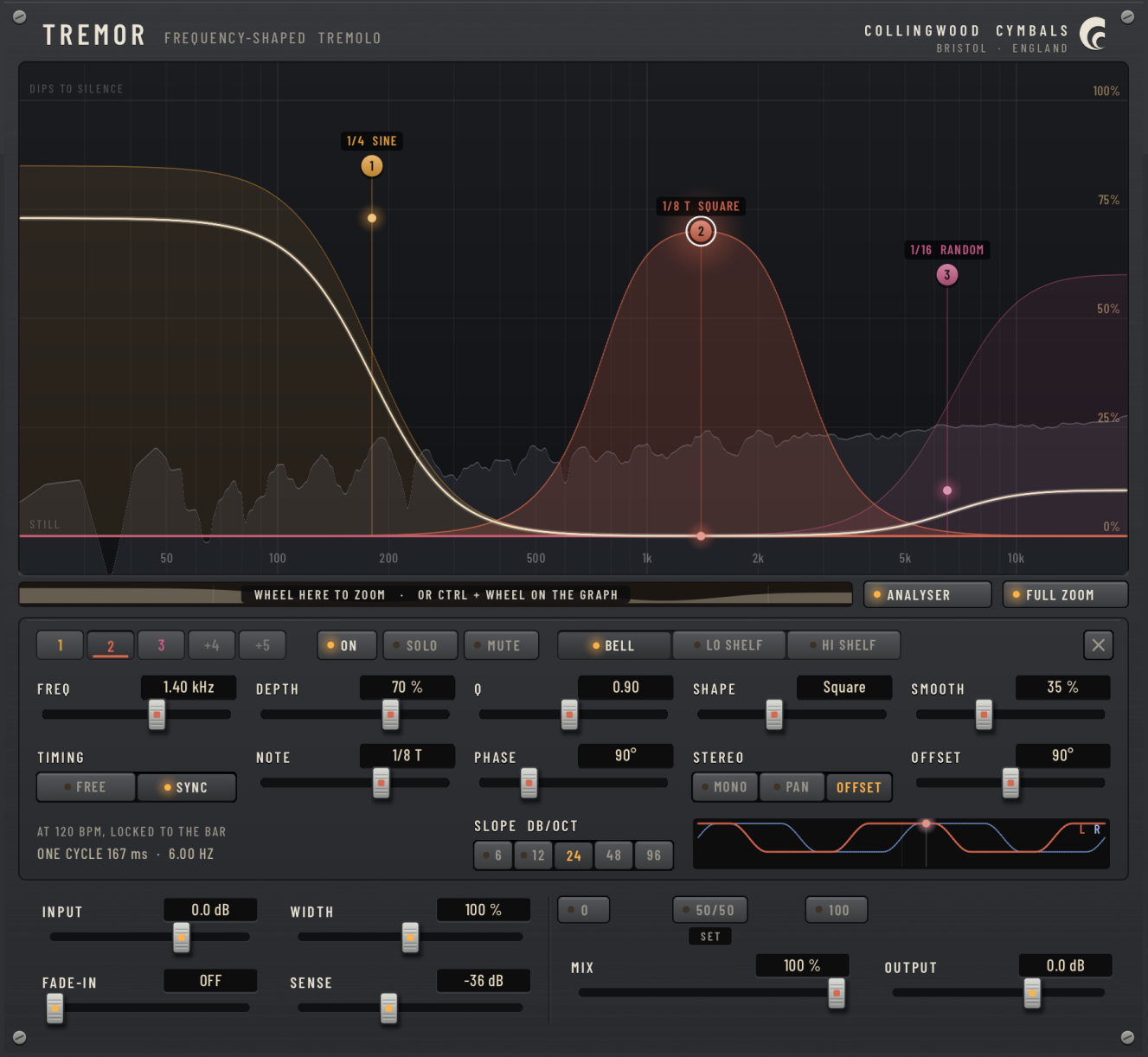
COLLINGWOOD CYMBALS

BRISTOL · ENGLAND

TREMOR

FREQUENCY-SHAPED TREMOLO

VERSION 1.0 · USER MANUAL



VST3 FOR WINDOWS · AUDIO UNIT + VST3 FOR MAC · CYMBALSAMPLES.COM

Welcome to Tremor

Tremor is a tremolo shaped like an EQ. Up to five bands each pick out part of the spectrum, and each band rises and falls with its own wave. The output is only the bands: what isn't in a band isn't heard (at Mix 100 %).

Each band has its own rate (in Hz or synced to your song), shape, phase and stereo mode. A band that covers the whole range is a plain tremolo on everything; a narrow bell gives just that part of the sound, pulsing. The analyser shows the input.

Installing

WINDOWS	Copy the Tremor.vst3 folder from the download into C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3 (click Continue when Windows asks for permission; replace any older Tremor.vst3). Rescan plug-ins in your DAW if it doesn't find Tremor on its own. It is listed under Collingwood Cymbals. 64-bit Windows 10 or 11, any VST3 host.
MAC	In Finder choose Go > Go to Folder and paste ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components, then drag Tremor.component in. For VST3 hosts also drag Tremor.vst3 into ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3. Logic: Audio FX > Audio Units > Collingwood > Tremor. If it isn't listed, use Logic Pro > Settings > Plug-in Manager, select Tremor and click Reset & Rescan Selection. Apple silicon and Intel, macOS 10.15 or later.

Tremor works on stereo and mono tracks.

Quick start

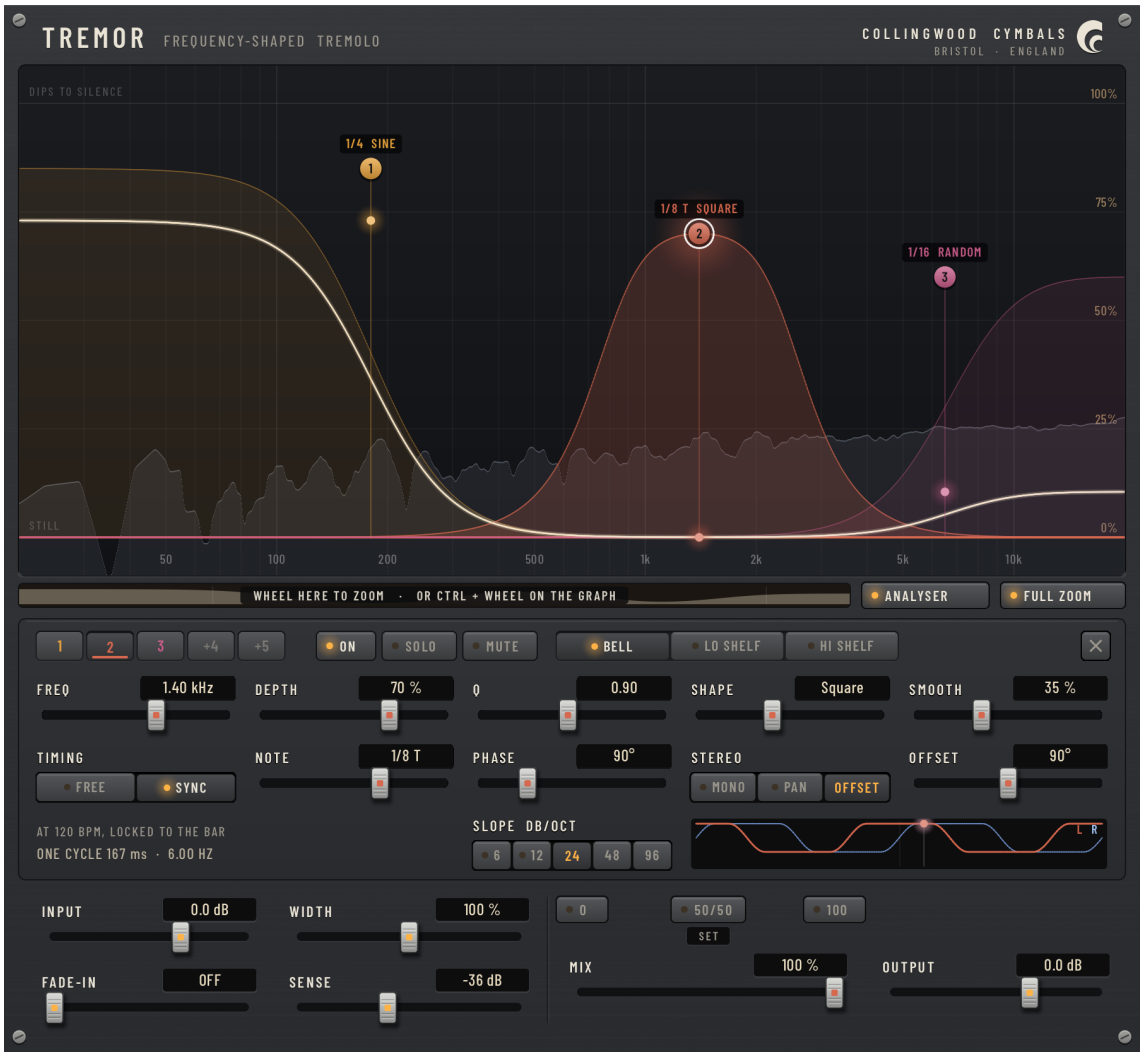
1. Put Tremor on your chosen track. With no bands, Mix 100 % is silent.

2. Double-click in the display to add a band. It appears where you click: the left-right position sets its frequency and the height sets its DEPTH, how far it dips at the bottom of the wave.

3. Drag the dot left and right to move it, up and down to change the depth. Use the mouse wheel over a bell's dot to make it narrower or wider (Q). Hold Shift for fine moves.

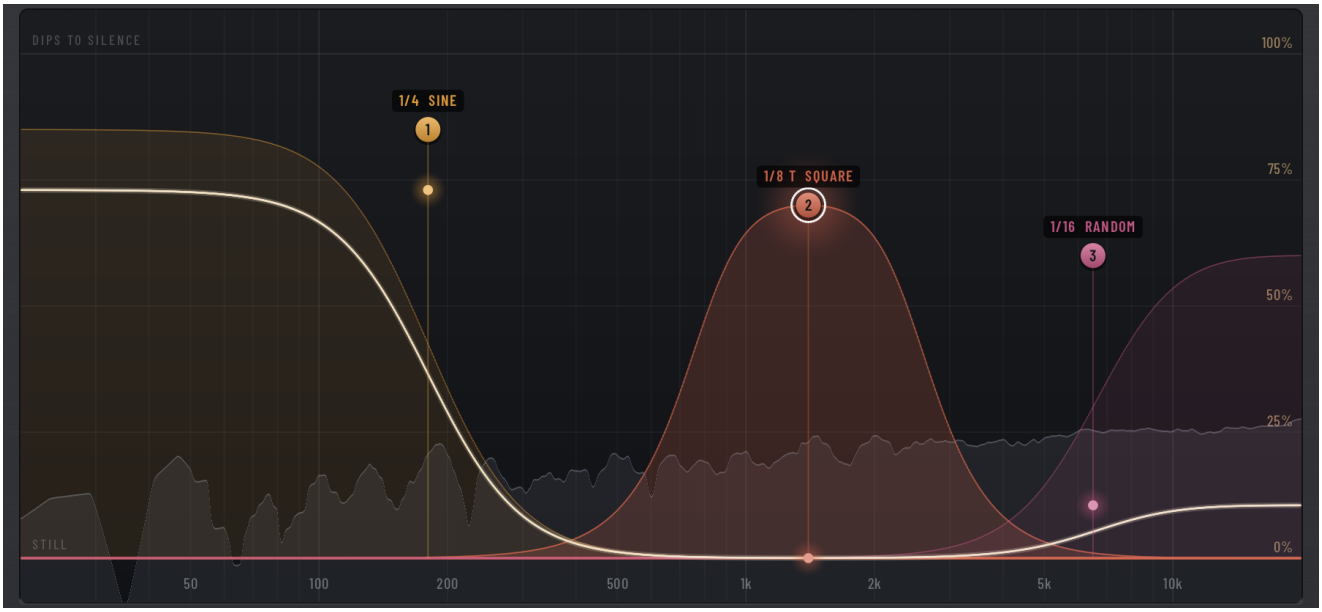
4. Click the dot to show its controls in the strip underneath: rate or note value, shape, phase, stereo, slope.

5. Add more bands, up to five in total, with different settings.



The Tremor window. Band 2 is selected, so its controls fill the strip in the middle.

The display



Frequency runs left to right (20 Hz to 20 kHz). Height is DEPTH: on the bottom line, STILL, a band doesn't move; at the top, DIPS TO SILENCE, it falls to nothing at the bottom of each wave. The filled shape is each band's full range; the coloured line and the bead on its stem show where the band is now. The light line is all bands together.

ADD A BAND	Double-click anywhere in the display that isn't a dot, or click an unused number tab in the strip (+4, +5). Up to five bands.
MOVE	Drag the dot. Left/right = frequency, up/down = DEPTH. Shift = fine.
WIDTH (Q)	Mouse wheel over a bell's dot (or over the graph while a bell is selected).
SELECT	Click a dot or its number tab. Click empty space or press Esc to deselect.
REMOVE	Alt-click a dot (Option-click on a Mac), press Delete with it selected, use the X in the strip, or the right-click menu.
BAND MENU	Right-click a dot (Ctrl-click on a Mac): Bell / Low Shelf / High Shelf, the six shapes, Sync to tempo, Solo band, Mute band, Bypass band, Delete band.
LABELS	Each dot shows its rate and shape above it (a note value like 1/8, or Hz). Hover over a dot to see its frequency and depth.

Zooming in



The thin strip under the display is an overview of the whole range. Use the mouse wheel over this strip to zoom in and out, or hold Ctrl (Cmd on a Mac) and use the mouse wheel over the graph, which zooms around the pointer. While zoomed, drag the strip to move along. FULL ZOOM shows 20 Hz to 20 kHz again. ANALYSER switches the input spectrum behind the curves on and off.

The band strip



The controls of the selected band. Its colour matches its dot and tab. Double-click a fader track to put it back to its default; double-click a value window to type a value (Windows).

1 2 3 4 5 / +N	Pick a band, or add one.
ON	Switch the band on or off (bypass) without losing its settings. It fades, so it never clicks.
SOLO / MUTE	SOLO plays only the soloed bands. MUTE takes a band out. A band that is soloed and muted stays silent and doesn't count as a solo. The display shows which bands are soloed or muted.
BELL / LO SHELF / HI SHELF	Bell: the part of the sound around FREQ. Lo Shelf: everything below FREQ. Hi Shelf: everything above FREQ. Shelves split at 24 dB/oct; a low shelf and a high shelf at the same frequency add up to the whole sound.
FREQ	20 Hz to 20 kHz. The centre (bell) or the split point (shelves).
DEPTH	0 to 100 % (default 60 %). How far the band dips at the bottom of its wave. 0 % = steady, 100 % = down to silence.
Q	0.1 to 10 (bells only). Width of the bell; higher is narrower.
SLOPE	Bells only: 6, 12, 24, 48 or 96 dB/oct. 6 is a plain bell. Steeper settings give a flat top and steep sides. Q still sets the width.
SHAPE	Sine, Triangle, Square, Saw Up, Saw Down or Random (a new level each cycle).
SMOOTH	0 to 100 % (default 20 %). Rounds off the jumps in Square, the saws and Random.
TIMING	FREE: a rate in Hz. SYNC: a note value locked to your song position.
RATE / NOTE	RATE 0.05 to 20 Hz. NOTE 4 bars to 1/32, with dotted (D) and triplet (T) values. The strip shows the cycle length at the current tempo.
PHASE	0 to 360 degrees. Where this band's wave sits against the others. New bands start a quarter cycle apart. A low shelf and a high shelf at the same frequency, 180 degrees apart, give a harmonic tremolo.
STEREO	MONO: both sides move together. PAN: the band moves between left and right (auto-pan). OFFSET: the right side's wave runs behind the left by OFFSET.
OFFSET	0 to 180 degrees (default 90). Used in OFFSET mode.

The picture on the right of the strip shows two cycles of the band's wave (left side in the band's colour, right side in blue) and where it is now.

The bottom bar



INPUT	-24 to +12 dB, before everything.
WIDTH	0 to 200 % (default 100 %). Stereo width of the result. 0 % is mono.
FADE-IN	Off, or up to 5 s. After each new note the wobble starts at nothing and swells in over this time.
SENSE	-60 to 0 dB (default -36 dB). How loud a new note has to be to restart FADE-IN.
MIX	0 to 100 % (default 100 %). Crossfades the dry input with the bands. At 100 % you hear only the bands.
0 / 50/50 / 100	Hold to hear Mix at 0 %, 50 % or 100 %. Let go and Mix goes back to where it was.
SET	The small flat button under 50/50 sets Mix to 50 % and leaves it there.
OUTPUT	-24 to +12 dB, after everything.

The header



Once a day, when you open the window, Tremor checks whether a newer version is out. If one is, UPDATE x.y AVAILABLE lights up at the top of the window; click it to open the download page in your browser. Nothing is downloaded or installed automatically and nothing about you or your computer is sent. Without an internet connection nothing shows and Tremor works exactly the same.

Questions and answers

I HEAR NOTHING	At Mix 100 % only the bands are heard. Add a band, or lower Mix to bring in the dry sound.
IT SOUNDS THIN	A narrow band passes only a narrow slice. Widen it (lower Q), use a shelf, or lower Mix.
IT CLICKS	Square, the saws and Random jump at low SMOOTH. Raise SMOOTH.
LATENCY / CPU	Tremor adds no latency. Five bands use around 1 to 2 % of one CPU core.

Thank you for using Tremor. Updates, more plug-ins and cymbal samples are at cymbalsamples.com.

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