

Cobalt Drift Neo User Manual

Product Version 1.1

1. Introduction

Cobalt Drift Neo is a Windows software synthesizer designed for Progressive Trance, Melodic House, Deep Progressive, and Modern Trance.

Supported plugin formats are VST3 and CLAP.

Cobalt Drift Neo is a single-layer synthesizer. You shape sound by combining the following elements within one patch:

- Oscillators OSC A / OSC B / OSC C
- Filters Filter 1 / Filter 2
- Envelopes Envelope A–D
- LFOs A–D
- 6-slot FX Rack
- Mod Matrix R1–R12
- Preset browser
- Master output

Cobalt Drift Neo focuses on practical Leads, Plucks, Pads, Bass sounds, and spatial processing for real productions rather than a large feature count for its own sake.

The built-in FX section integrates Cobalt-series DSP such as Cobalt Space Neo, Cobalt Feedback Neo, Cobalt Filter Neo, Cobalt Clipper Neo, and Cobalt Limiter Neo. You can handle the synth core, filters, saturation, delay, reverb, and level management within a single patch.

On startup, Cobalt Drift Neo opens with Init Basic Saw Neo from the Factory Bank.

You can check the version from Menu → About in the header. The product edition shows Version 1.1, and the Demo edition shows Version 1.1 Demo.

2. Product and Demo Editions

Cobalt Drift Neo is available as a Product edition and a Demo edition. Both are provided as VST3 / CLAP.

Product edition

- No time limit while playing
- Normal preset management is available, including Save, Rename, and bank Import / Export

Demo edition

- Audio output stops after about 15 minutes from launch. No popup is shown
- Reload the plugin to continue testing after the limit
- Preset Save, Rename, and bank Export are disabled

- Bank Import is available
- About shows Cobalt Drift Neo Demo / Version 1.1 Demo

See “14. Demo Limitations” for details.

For the full Terms of Use, see the Terms of Use document included with the documentation package.

3. System Requirements

Supported OS

- Windows 11 64-bit recommended

Supported Formats

- VST3
- CLAP

Supported Hosts

- 64-bit DAWs that support VST3 or CLAP
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4. Installation and Launch

Cobalt Drift Neo is distributed as a zip package. There is no installer. Extract the package and place the format you want to use manually.

Package Contents

The main plugin package contains:

- Cobalt Drift Neo.vst3
- Cobalt Drift Neo.clap

Manuals, Terms of Use, third-party notices, and other documentation are provided in a separate package.

VST3 Location

Place the plugin in either of the following folders:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\ or %LOCALAPPDATA%\Programs\Common\VST3\

The recommended system-wide location is:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\

CLAP Location

Place the plugin in either of the following folders:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\ or %LOCALAPPDATA%\Programs\Common\CLAP\

After placing VST3 or CLAP, restart the DAW or rescan plugins.

5. First Sound Check

1. Load Cobalt Drift Neo as an Instrument / Synth in your DAW
2. Send MIDI notes to the instrument track
3. Check track monitoring, mute, volume, and master output
4. Select a sound with BANK / CAT / PRESET in the header

If there is no sound, confirm that MIDI notes are reaching the plugin from the DAW.

On launch, confirm that BANK is Factory and PRESET is Init Basic Saw Neo.

6. Overview of the Screens

Use the top tabs to switch between these four screens:

Tab	Contents
MAIN	Basic sound design: OSC, Filter, Envelope, LFO, and performance controls
FX	6-slot effects rack
MOD	Mod Matrix R1–R12
BROWSER	Preset selection and management, Key Range

Start on MAIN to adjust OSC, Filter, and Envelope, then use FX and MOD as needed.

7. Header

The header at the top of the window provides preset selection, overall output, CPU load, and menu controls.

Control	Role
BANK	Select a preset bank
CAT	Select a category
PRESET	Select a preset. Use < > to move forward or back
Save	Save the current sound. Disabled in the Demo edition
Delete	Delete the selected preset
Init	Return to the initial sound
Undo / Redo	Undo or redo edits
Bypass	Bypass overall output without changing sound settings
Bank	Bank Import / Export and related commands
Menu	About
Thresh	Threshold used for output protection and internal level control
Master	Master volume
CPU	Approximate current load and voice count
CPU Lv	CPU load adjustment

Bypass and FX ALL KILL are different functions.

Bypass stops the overall synth output without changing the current preset, automation, or FX slot settings. FX ALL KILL temporarily stops FX Rack processing only. Slot settings are kept.

8. Quick Start

Select a preset and play

1. Choose a Bank in the header or BROWSER
2. Choose a Category
3. Choose a preset from the preset list
4. Play notes from a MIDI keyboard or the DAW
5. Adjust Master and CPU Lv if needed

Basic sound design steps

1. Select Init Basic Saw Neo
2. Choose a waveform on OSC A
3. Enable OSC B / OSC C if needed
4. Shape density and width with Semi / Cent, Unison, and Spread
5. Shape brightness and movement with Filter Cutoff / Reso / Env
6. Set note length with Envelope Attack / Release
7. Add Delay, Reverb, or other effects on the FX screen
8. Route LFO or Envelope to Cutoff, FX Mix, and similar targets on the MOD screen

9. MAIN Screen

The MAIN screen covers OSC, Filter, Envelope, LFO, and basic performance settings.

Oscillator: OSC A / B / C

Oscillators create the source waveforms. Each OSC includes ON, a wave category, a wave selection, and controls such as:

Control	Overview
Semi / Cent	Pitch adjustment in semitones and cents
Morph	Waveform morphing
Phase	Starting phase on note on
Drift	Subtle movement
Unison / Detune / Spread	Stack voices for thickness and width
Level / Pan	Level and left/right balance
Filter Destination	Route to Filter 1, Filter 2, or no filter

Example wave categories:

- Analog Core OSC
- Modern Club OSC
- Digital / Texture OSC

Filter: Filter 1 / Filter 2

The filter section shapes brightness, softness, attack character, and movement.

Control	Overview
Cutoff	Passband control. On a lowpass, lower values darken and higher values brighten
Reso	Emphasizes the area around Cutoff
Drive	Pushes the input and adds harmonics and density
Env	How much the envelope moves Cutoff
Key	Changes Cutoff based on keyboard pitch
Make	Post-filter level compensation
Core / Character / Mode / Slope	Filter type, character, mode, and slope
Route	Connection between Filter 1 and Filter 2. Serial / Parallel

Combined with each OSC Filter Destination, you can separate layers of the sound.

Examples:

- Send OSC A to Filter 1
- Send OSC B to Filter 2
- Layer OSC C lightly with no filter

Envelope A–D

Envelopes define how a sound starts, holds, and fades.

Control	Overview
Attack	How quickly the sound rises
Decay	Time from the initial peak down to Sustain
Sustain	Level while a key is held
Release	Tail after a key is released
Delay / Amount	Delay before the envelope starts, and how strongly it applies

These controls are important for Pluck and Bass attack, and for how Pads open.

LFO A-D

LFOs are low-frequency oscillators that move pitch, filter, level, effect amount, and similar targets periodically.

Control	Overview
Time	Speed of movement
SYNC	Tempo sync to the DAW
Amount	Depth of movement
RETRIG	Reset phase on each note
Source / Target	Assignment within the LFO section

Voice / Performance

The lower part of MAIN includes voice settings such as Poly / Mono / Legato, plus the Performance Keyboard.

Key Range and Pitch Bend range are set on the BROWSER screen.

10. FX Screen

The FX Rack has up to 6 slots. Choose a type for each slot, then adjust ON / Mix and the slot parameters.

Slot order changes the result. Distortion before reverb sounds very different from reverb before distortion.

FX ALL KILL temporarily stops FX Rack processing. Slot settings are kept.

Main FX Types

FX	Typical use
Dual Delay	Rhythm and depth for Pluck, Lead, and Arp
Reverb	Space for Pad and Lead
Equalizer	Low, mid, and high balance
Saturator	Added harmonics and density
Distortion	Stronger drive and presence
Neo Chorus	Width and motion
Compressor	Level control and evening
Hyper	Added width, thickness, and stereo spread
Cobalt Clipper Neo	Clip, drive, and peak character
Cobalt Feedback Neo	Feedback, repeats, and motion-based delay / space
Cobalt Filter Neo	Additional filtering inside the FX chain
Cobalt Limiter Neo	Level control inside the FX Rack
Cobalt Space Neo	Spatial reverb

Cobalt Limiter Neo is a practical limiter for taming peaks and keeping levels manageable inside the FX Rack. It is intended as sound-design level control, not as a dedicated final-mastering loudness processor.

FX Notes

- Feedback, Drive, Distortion, and Clipper can raise level quickly, so check Master and Make
- Too much Reverb or Delay Mix can blur the outline of the sound
- If CPU is tight, lower FX Mix, polyphony, Unison, or the number of FX slots first
- On heavy presets, lowering CPU Lv can help

11. MOD Screen

The Mod Matrix has 12 routes, R1–R12. For each route, set:

Control	Overview
ON	Enable or disable the route
Source	Modulation source such as LFO, Envelope, or Velocity
Target	Destination such as Cutoff, Pitch, or FX Mix
Amount	Depth of change
Curve	Response curve
BIP	Move above and below a center point

Use this screen to route LFO and Envelope movement to filter, pitch, level, and effects.

Examples

- LFO A → Filter Cutoff
- Envelope B → FX Mix

- Velocity → Filter Cutoff
- Mod Wheel → Reverb Mix
- LFO B → Pitch

Large Amount values can sound extreme. Start small and increase as needed.

12. BROWSER Screen

BROWSER handles preset selection, sorting, saving, and Key Range.

Item	Contents
Bank	Factory, User, and imported banks
Category	Lead, Pluck, Pad, Bass, and more
Preset list	Preset list. Sortable by Type, Character, BPM, Rating, and more
SORT / ORDER	Sort field and ascending / descending order
Save / Delete / Rename	User preset management. Save / Rename are disabled in Demo
Key Range	Low / High / Offset, Pitch Bend up / down

User preset location:

%APPDATA%\Synth Studio Neo\Cobalt Series\Cobalt Drift Neo\Presets\User\

The Demo edition uses a separate folder from the Product edition.

Example Factory bank category order:

- Init
- Lead
- Pluck
- Pad
- Bass
- Reese Bass
- 808 Bass
- Keys / Chords
- Arp / Sequence
- Atmos / FX
- Stab / Chord Hit

The User bank category is shown as User.

The Bank menu supports:

- Import Bank
- Export Bank
- Delete Bank
- Rename Bank

In the Demo edition, Save / Rename and Export / Delete / Rename Bank are unavailable. Import Bank is available.

13. Global Controls

Master

Master is the final output level. Lower Master if the sound is too loud or FX push the level too high.

Thresh

Thresh is a threshold used for output protection and internal level control. Lower values make large peaks easier to contain.

CPU Lv

CPU Lv adjusts processing load on the computer. The choices are Eco / Normal / Rich.

If a heavy preset or many notes feel demanding, try Eco or Normal first.

Bypass

Header Bypass stops overall synth output without changing the current preset, automation, or FX slot settings. Use it for comparisons or temporary silence while designing sounds.

14. Demo Limitations

The Demo edition has the following limitations:

- Audio output stops after about 15 minutes (900 seconds) from launch
- No popup is shown when the limit is reached. Reload the plugin to continue testing
- Preset Save is disabled
- Preset Rename is disabled
- Bank Export is disabled
- Delete / Rename for imported banks is disabled
- Bank Import is available

The Product edition does not have these time, Save, or Rename limitations.

You can confirm Demo status in Menu → About (Cobalt Drift Neo Demo / Version 1.1 Demo).

15. Troubleshooting

The plugin does not appear in the DAW

- Confirm that the VST3 or CLAP file is in the correct folder
- Rescan plugins in the DAW
- Confirm that you are using a 64-bit DAW

- Confirm that the DAW supports the format

No sound

- Confirm that MIDI notes are reaching the plugin
- Check track monitoring, mute, volume, and master output
- Confirm that the plugin or track is not Bypass / Mute
- Confirm that Master is not set too low
- In the Demo edition, confirm that the about-15-minute limit has not been reached

Notes keep sounding

- Stop the DAW transport
- Send MIDI panic, All Sound Off, or All Notes Off from the host
- Check for a held sustain pedal or stuck notes
- If needed, reload the plugin instance

High CPU load

- Lower CPU Lv
- Reduce the number of sounding notes
- Reduce Unison Voices
- Reduce the number of FX slots or Mix
- Lower heavy settings such as Reverb Decay or Delay Feedback
- Increase the DAW buffer size

Too loud or distorted

- Lower Master
- Lower Filter Make
- Lower Drive, Distortion, Clipper, or Feedback
- Add Cobalt Limiter Neo later in the FX Rack
- Check the DAW track meters

A bank does not appear

- Confirm that the bank was imported from the Bank menu
 - Check the BANK list in the header or the Bank list in BROWSER
 - Import Bank is available in the Demo edition as well
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16. Specifications and Credits

Item	Details
Product name	Cobalt Drift Neo
Version	1.1
Supported OS	Windows only (Windows 11 64-bit recommended)
Formats	VST3, CLAP
Developed by	Synth Studio Neo

This product is developed with JUCE 8. For third-party software license information, see THIRD_PARTY_NOTICES in the documentation package. For usage terms, see the Terms of Use in the documentation package.

Version information is also shown in the About dialog (Menu → About).

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