



## FIRMWARE RELEASE NOTES

### Version 5.00 - August 17, 2023

Firmware 5.00 is the first version to feature new DynaCab speaker cab simulation technology. The firmware is now comprised of two components: a main firmware file and a separate Dyna-Cab file.

To install both files, please use Fractal-Bot (standalone) version 3.00.18 or newer, OR the version of Fractal-Bot that is built into the latest release of FM9-Edit, version 1.02.01, or newer.

<https://www.fractalaudio.com/fm9-edit/>

### New Features

#### Version 5 Introduces Dyna-Cab™ cabinet modeling.

- The Cabinet block now has two modes of operation: Legacy and Dyna-Cab. Legacy is the previous style of operation.
- Dyna-Cab cabinet modeling allows freely positioning the microphone. We took an approach of quality over quantity:
  - Dyna-Cab IRs are 1024 samples.
  - Mic positions are sampled at a fine spatial resolution.
  - Four mic choices are available: Condenser, Ribbon and two Dynamic types.
  - All IRs are time-aligned with each other. They have been processed using a new algorithm that ensures alignment without destroying phase information. You can mix-and-match IRs from different cabs/mics and they'll always be perfectly aligned.
- The Amp block now features "Auto Dyna-Cab Impedance". When set to ON the speaker impedance curve of the Amp block will follow the Cabinet Type in the first mixer slot of the associated Cabinet block. I.e., if the Cab Type in the first mixer slot of Cabinet 1 is, say, 4x12 5153 and the Mode is DynaCab then Amp 1's speaker impedance will automatically be set to 4x12 5153. If both Amp and Cab blocks are in the grid then Amp 1 will follow Cab 1 and Amp 2 will follow Cab 2. If only Cab 1 is in the grid both Amp blocks will follow Cab 1.
- Added Speaker Impedance Curves for "2x12 Class-A 30W Silver", "2x10 Heart Key" and "4x12 1960BV".
- Added "4 Band JMPRE-1" type to Graphic EQ block. Note that the upper two bands of this type have more boost/cut range than the version in the Amp block.
- Added "Revv Gen" amp models based on a Revv Generator 120. There are three models for each of the Purple, Red, and Green channels corresponding to the three levels of the "Aggression" switch.

### Updates

- Drive effect default Input Select setting is changed to 'LEFT'.
- Small improvement to the Amp block channel switching speed.

### Fixes

- FC: Edit Setlist page on the front panel will now refresh appropriately when inserting/deleting songs.
- Klon Drive model noise when bias set to 0.0 is removed.

# RELEASE NOTES HISTORY

## VERSION 4.01 – April 7, 2023

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**IMPORTANT: 4.01 adds several features that expand the System Settings memory storage size. These settings cover the Global, I/O, MIDI/Remote, Tuner, and Foot Controller sections. As a result, System Settings created using firmware version 4.01 are not backward-compatible with earlier firmware versions. To restore System Settings after reverting for any reason to firmware older than 4.01, use a backup file created previously under the older firmware to restore System Settings.**

### New Features

- Added new Amp type: **"59 Bassguy Reissue Jumped"**.
- Added new Drive types: **"Bosom Boost"**, **"OD-One Overdrive"**.
- Added **"Paragon"** type to Wah block based on the Tycobrahe Parapedal wah.
- Added **"Oxbow Loadbox"** and **"Double Notes Loadbox"** speaker impedance curves based on a Universal Audio Ox and Two Notes Torpedo, respectively. (Note that these are amp block impedance curve options and not new IRs in the Cab block.)
- **"1x10 Metro Blues"** speaker impedance curve added to AMP effect..
- Added **"JP IIC+ Shred"** Input Boost type to Amp block. This replicates the "Shred" switch on the Mesa/Boogie JP2C.
- Added new Amp block parameter **"Input Dynamics"** (as found on Axe-Fx III). When set below zero, the amp input is compressed, resulting in a smoother, less dynamic sound. When set greater than zero, the amp input is expanded, resulting in a punchier, crunchier and more dynamic sound. Note that extreme values can have undesirable side effects such as pumping or clipping.
- Added new **"Startup Preset"** option under SETUP: Global Settings. This determines which preset is loaded at startup.
- Changed bypass/engage speed for the following blocks: Filter, Graphic EQ, Parametric EQ, Tremolo and Wah. These blocks now bypass/engage with a gentle fade as rapid bypass/engage with these types of blocks can sound abrupt.
- New **large fonts display mode** for the main Presets/Scenes view (Home page of the Home menu). Turn Knob B ("Zoom") to switch between small fonts and large fonts. In Large mode:
  - Turn the Value knob and then press ENTER to change the preset. (Presets are shown in "preview" as dim text until you press Enter.) When previewing presets, NAV left/right = -1/+1 preset and NAV down/up = -10/+10 presets.
  - Once any preset is loaded, use NAV keys to change scenes.
- Signal level meters have been added to the I/O menu "Input" page for use when adjusting input sensitivity. The Instrument Input (In 1) meter will display input signal clipping via its color.
- An Instrument Input (IN1) signal clipping warning is added to the mini-tuner graphic. If this clipping indicator appears, reduce the input 1 input sensitivity in SETUP: I/O: Audio: Input.

### Updates

- Improved Compressor block:
  - Improved "Studio FF Compressor 1" type. New algorithm yields smoother release and "fatter" compression. This type is suitable for a wide range of uses now including bus and mastering. Type has been renamed "Studio FF Compressor".
  - Improved "Optical Compressor" types. New algorithm features improved ballistics and an inherent soft knee for vintage optical compression sounds.
  - Improved "Dynamics Processor" type. New algorithm also supports various detector types.
  - Improved "JFET Compressor" type.
  - Added "Optical Sustainer" type based on optocoupler-based pedal compressors.
  - Added "Analog Sustainer" type. This is an upwards compressor using the same "analog" gain computer as the Analog Compressor type yielding a natural soft-knee response.
  - Added "JFET Sustainer" type. This is based on a rare JFET-based pedal compressor where the JFET is in the op-amp's feedback network.
  - The range of "Release Time" now goes from 2ms to 2s.

- Added a graph for “Analog Compressor” and “Sustainer” types.
  - New “Auto-Makeup Gain” algorithm for most types provides better output level tracking vs. Threshold and Ratio.  
Note: As a result, the output level of the compressor block may be slightly different compared to previous versions. Auditioning presets that use the Compressor block is recommended.
  - Selectable Auto-Makeup Gain has been added to Optical, Tube and Analog Compressor types.
  - Studio “FF Compressor 2” has been renamed “Studio FF Sustainer”.
  - Compressor types have been alphabetized.
- Improved Gate block:
  - Improved “Downward Expander” type. The “Hold Time” parameter has been removed as it is not compatible and no longer needed with the new algorithm. This type has been renamed “Classic Expander” as it is based on classic analog downward expanders.
  - Added “Modern Expander” type. This type uses a novel approach to the envelope detector resulting in improved ballistics compared to traditional analog expanders. A new “Knee Type” parameter allows selecting between hard-knee expansion and varying degrees of soft-knee expansion.
- Improved Noise Gate in Input block:
  - Improved performance based on a new algorithm developed for the Gate block.
  - A “Mode” page has been added to the gate with “Easy” and “Advanced” options. In “Easy” mode the number of parameters is reduced, simplifying the adjustment procedure for those who are unfamiliar with the finer details of gates/expanders for guitar noise reduction applications.
- Updated PVH 6160 Block and PVH 6160+ models. New models have more accurate Gain knob response.
- Reduced default Power Tube Grid Bias for PVH 6160 and Recto models as previous default was hotter than these amps are typically run due to the non-adjustable bias.
- Added “Treble Shift” control to Tone page of USA IIC+ models. This is an alias of the “Fat” control found on the Preamp page and performs the same function.
- Added Fat control to Tone page of USA Rhythm 2, which is just a duplicate of the control found on the Preamp page.
- Updated “**Speaker Thump**” to latest from Axe-Fx III.
- Input and Output volume pedals (MIDI/Remote menu) filtering is reduced. This causes the level to react quicker, similar to Axe FX III.
- **2x12 Bassguy** speaker impedance curve is updated to match Axe-FX III.
- Improved tuner:
  - Changed filter to tracking bandpass, rejects harmonics and noise.
  - Changed strobe tuner so that indicator rotation frequency is constant vs. error as a fraction of desired frequency
  - Changed Tuner Mute behavior so that Mute: INPUT only mutes the selected Input source.

## Fixes

- Corrected a bug when using a modifier on the Klon Gain value or other mathematically complex parameter.
- Corrected a bug that caused pedals/switches connected to faslink FC#2 to function as if they were connected to FC#1.
- Turning soft knob 3 on the layout GUI, 'Block Level', will no longer make an empty banner message appear on the LCD when a valid effect block is not highlighted.
- Corrected a bug causing a crash when assigning control to scene inc/dec in the 'MIDI/Remote' menu 'Other tab'.
- Fixed Transformer and Vintage preamp types in Cabinet block not ported correctly during a previous firmware update. This manifested as the distortion not being frequency dependent.
- Fix for IR(s) not loading on channel change if one or more slots has SOLO engaged.
- Side-chain filters are now working for the Gate effect.
- Reverb effect low cut slope control is now working.
- Fixed a filter in the Wah block not being initialized.
- Corrected a condition that caused the shunt block outline color to draw incorrectly on the layout grid GUI.
- Fixed setting the Ratio parameter to '1' in certain compressor effect model types causing an audio signal loss requiring reboot.
- Using the '**Ignore Redundant PC**' setting no longer prevents preset 0 from loading at startup.
- Parameters controlled via a modifier viewed on a 'Perform' GUI will not send an incorrect parameter update message when loading the Perform GUI screen.
- Corrected an error with individual block muting during scene changes that causes an accidental disruption of signal in a delay or reverb effect.

- Corrected a display error causing the AMP effect block to appear in the wrong bypass state on the layout grid.
- FC: Song/Setlist, using "default" for scene loads the correct scene.
- FC: Effect: Channel functions will now work correctly when Effect is set to Controllers.
- FC: Changed how the lower right footswitch works when the Master Layout Menu ("MLM") Switch Combo is enabled. Because this switch has an extra "hidden" hold function that helps show the MLM, its tap function would be skipped if you accidentally held the switch for too long. Now, the tap function will fire in these cases as long as there isn't also a separate Hold function assigned.
- FC: When editing switches from the front panel, the 'Mini-Display Label' setting of 'Custom' will now allow access to the 'Custom Label' for all switch categories.

## VERSION 4.0 – December 2, 2022

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*FM9 firmware version 4.00 implements Fractal Audio Systems "Cygnus X-2" amplifier modeling. The default values of various parameters have been updated. Existing presets are automatically updated to the new values upon loading.*

### New Features

- Added new amp models: "Brit Studio 20", "Plexi 50W 6CA7 Jumped", and "Herbie MK3".
- Added "Overdrive Volume" parameter to Dumble-type amp models (ODS-100, Two Stone, etc.). This is sometimes labeled "Ratio" or "Lead Master". As the Master Volume on these amps often has a bright capacitor, the Overdrive Volume control allows setting the Master Volume higher to counteract the bright cap and then lowering the power amp drive with the Volume.
- Added "Plate Suppressor Diodes" parameter. This value is set automatically when the amp model is chosen, but the user can override the default setting. Most amps do not have suppressor diodes but some do (e.g., Trainwreck Express). These diodes (also called "snubber" or "flyback" diodes) prevent undershoot on the power tube plates due to inductive kick and reduce upper harmonics thereby reducing "fizz".
- Added "Griddle Cake" Drive model based on a Crowther Hot Cake. The "XLF" switch on the pedal can be replicated by turning the Bass Response knob fully CW.
- Improved the amp block output transformer algorithm. The new algorithm more accurately models B-H curve, resulting in a clearer low end. The new algorithm now also accounts for the effect of speaker impedance on transformer response.
- Improved power tube modeling. This yields better dynamics and improved low frequency accuracy.
- Improved cathode follower algorithm. Provides more accurate "cleanup" when volume is rolled off.
- Improved triode algorithm which more accurately models plate bypass capacitors.
- Improved Drive block modeling to more accurately model effects of op-amp finite open-loop gain and GBW product.
- CPU overload is now re-evaluated when a new preset is loaded via the edit buffer from FM9-Edit.

### Updates

- All amp models are updated for use with Cygnus X-2.
- The Ideal amp controls have been updated.
- Renamed USA Clean to USA Rhythm 1 to be more in line with actual amp.

### Fixes

- Normally closed type stand-in switches operate properly.
- FC "Banner Messages" being displayed no longer causes the entire LCD to redraw.
- The SPDIF clock will be used automatically upon boot when a valid input signal is preset and SPDIF Word Clock mode is selected.
- The Reverb effect wet/dry mixing strategy is changed to match the latest Axe FX III method (constant power).
- The AMP effect speaker impedance curve graph is now calculated using the same method as the Axe FX III.
- The Foot Controller layout will not inadvertently be changed when using controls that cause "Banner Messages" to be displayed.
- External foot controller stand-in switch assignment mapping is corrected.
- Fixed wrong coupling capacitor value in 1959SLP Treble, 1959SLP Jumped and 1987x Treble amp models.

- Fixed wrong resistor value in the tone stack of Solo 88 Rhythm and Lead models.
- Fixed low frequency behavior of Recto2 models due to loss of precision.
- Fixed wrong treble pot taper in CA3+ models.
- Fixed wrong capacitor value in Friedman HBE V1 Fat model.
- Fixed wrong resistor value in AC-20 12AX7 models.
- Fixed wrong Depth knob taper in Archeon models.
- MIDI PC Mapping "To Scene" function is corrected.
- The "Scene Revert" setting is taken into account when recalling a scene with a MIDI CC command.
- "Prompt on Edited Preset Change" dialog displays when changing preset via a foot controller.
- Fixed rare issue that could cause data corruption in Delay and Reverb blocks resulting in blocks outputting noise.

## VERSION 3.01 – November 22, 2022

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### FIXES & UPDATES

- Fixed rare issue that could cause data corruption in Delay and Reverb blocks resulting in blocks outputting no

## VERSION 3.00 – August 15, 2022

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### New Features

- Added new amp models: "PVH 6160 Block Crunch" and "Diamante Fire" (based on a Diamond Del Fuego.)
- Added new Drive effect types "Klone Chiron", "Esoteric Bass RCB", and "BB Pre AT".
- Added new Setlists/Songs feature, which can be used with onboard footswitches or an FC Controller to access presets and scenes in custom order during live performance. A new area of the SETUP menu provides full access from the front panel, with a corresponding new area of FM9-Edit which also offers import/export and more. For additional details, please see the Setlists & Songs Mini-Manual, located at: <https://www.fractalaudio.com/ssss-manual>
- New "Block Mixer" algorithm results in faster/quieter scene and channel changes. This new algorithm allows placing Amp blocks in series without the concomitant sound bursts that would normally occur when switching scenes.
- New Speaker Drive algorithm in Amp block. This new algorithm more accurately models the frequency dependent distortion of guitar loudspeakers. The default value (upon resetting the block) is 2.0 which gives roughly 1 dB of compression. Setting the value to 0.0 defeats the speaker drive modeling. Higher values give a smoother and more focused sound, rounding off the "sharp edges" and yielding greater compression.
- Added Speaker Thump control to Amp block. Speaker Thump models the dynamic, nonlinear behavior of a guitar speaker. A value of 5.0 roughly corresponds to an amplifier running into a speaker rated at the same power as the amplifier, i.e., a 100W amplifier running into a 100W speaker. The reset value is a conservative 2.5 which represents, i.e., a 50W amp running into a 100W speaker. Note that the majority of the response is in the subsonic region and the effect is primarily tactile. Existing presets are not affected and the value will be zero
- Added ability to use Pre-Delay in Reverb block as a simple echo. Pre-Delay now features Tempo, Feedback and Mix parameters. The pre-delay time has also been increased to 1 second. Several new types have been added to demonstrate these capabilities.
- Added ten new speaker impedance curves in the Amp block.
- Added Depth control to Authentic/Tone page for Brit Super, Brit 800 Mod and JMP-1 amp models.

- Added "Scene Ignore" to most blocks. When set to ON, Scene Ignore causes the block to ignore scene changes. Scene Ignore is a per-channel parameter. This allows turning Scene Ignore to OFF on one or more channels which will then allow a scene change to set the block to a desired state if the block is on that channel.
- Factory default FC Layout #8 now contains a new Setlist/Song layout. To load this layout, you can either re-load all of the factory layouts from in **SETUP: FC Controllers: Reset**, or download the layout and instructions a la carte from: <https://www.fractalaudio.com/downloads/manuals/fas-guides/SSS-Sample-FC-Layouts.zip>
- Added "Aurora Delay" type to Multitap Delay also added new cross feedback to Quad Parallel type.
- Support for new FM9 Turbo hardware. <https://forum.fractalaudio.com/threads/announcing-fm9-turbo.185877/>  
Note that the FM9 Turbo cannot be used with firmware versions older than 3.0

## Updates

- Improved Amp block transformer/speaker interaction modeling. The "Voice Coil Resistance" parameter has been repurposed/renamed "Speaker Impedance". The various parameters work as follows: Transformer Matching: Sets the impedance ratio (square of the turns ratio) of the output transformer. Speaker Impedance: Sets the relative nominal impedance of the speaker. To simulate connecting, e.g., a 4-ohm speaker to an 8-ohm output you would set Speaker Impedance to 0.5. Conversely to simulate connecting a 16-ohm speaker you would set it to 2.0.
- Update PI Bias Excursion parameters for many Amp models based on new measurement technique.
- Improved Amp block output transformer modeling. This requires updated Transformer LF/HF values for the amp models. Existing presets are automatically updated to the new values upon recall.
- Changed Compressor block so that times display actual milliseconds for the various pedal types.
- Improved speaker impedance curve fitting algorithm. This results in more accurate and more "colorful" modeling as the previous algorithm tended to damp box resonances somewhat. All the speaker impedance curves have been updated using the new routine. Existing presets are automatically updated to use the updated curves based on the new global setting option "Update Pre-3.x Presets Spkr Imp Upon Load." If you have modified the stock curve, i.e., changed the LF/HF Resonance parameters, then you will need to re-enter those values into your presets if set to "YES."
- Changed "Drive" to "Gain" for Amp block preamp gain control as this is more consistent with naming in real amps.
- Muting algorithm improved around FM9-Edit operations such as Block Library, Cabinet download, Patch download.
- Decreased minimum diffuser time in Delay block to 1%.
- The DRIVE effect is updated to correspond with the latest Axe-Fx III firmware release.
- Patch edited status is set to 'On' when an existing preset is loaded and the speaker impedance curve data has been updated automatically.
- Preset store functionality is improved. Presets take less time to write to storage. "Level & Save" FC functions will no longer cause a gap in audio.
- Presets created prior to version 3 will be loaded with updated default values for AMP Excursion Time and Recovery Time.
- AC/RC Boost and BB Preamp models now use accurate bass and treble controls.
- "PVH 6160 Block" AMP type is renamed as "PVH 6160 Block Lead"

## Fixes

- FC: Layout Link will no longer unduly trigger when exiting the Tuner.
- FC: Fixed an issue that prevented the Hold function from working for some Stand-in Switches.
- FC: Preset: Select in Bank switches now stop flashing when the preset is changed by any means other than an FC footswitch (editor, front panel, etc.)
- FC: Preset: Select in Bank switches now flash consistently when used with Bank: Select switches.
- FC: Preset: Toggle in Bank switches now consistently and correctly load the "Primary" preset after changing the bank.
- FC: The STARTUP VIEW of the FM9 will now behave appropriately in all circumstances when an external FC-6 or FC-12 is present.
- FC: Corrected Layout: Inc/Dec mini-display labels when set to Destination # or Destination Name and wrapping is enabled.
- Fixed wrong drive taper in Mr. Z Highway 66 model.
- Fixed wrong capacitor value in Friedman Smallbox model.
- Status messages on the main LCD will not immediately be cleared when viewing the Tuner GUI screen.
- Status messages on the main LCD display and clear properly in all cases when viewing the Setup menu.

- Text labels that would overrun the assigned text field on the LCD GUI are now truncated to fit.
- Selecting output configuration "MUTE" no longer causes USB signals to be summed to mono.
- Parametric EQ and Megatap blocks no longer cause a GUI hang if modifier attached to parameter and update rate is set to FAST.
- Adjusting a Custom Scale value no longer causes the next value to be zeroed despite the value shown in the edit field.
- Using the MLM switch combo on the FC-6 more than once changes between the MLM layout view windows.
- The speaker impedance graph updates correctly when "Reset Current Channel" is selected in FM9-Edit.
- Standard resolution cabinet graph data shows correctly in the "Align" interface.
- Scene MIDI LCD GUI screen updates correctly on scene change.
- The modifier graph will update and re-draw on screen automatically when adjusting Scale and Offset parameters.
- FC: Fixed Layout: Inc/Dec mini-display labels when set to Destination # or Destination Name and wrapping is enabled.
- 3rd Party MIDI Command "Status Dump" is now enabled.

## VERSION 2.02 – April 20, 2022

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### FIXES & UPDATES

- Ten-Tap Delay effect bypass modes operation corrected.

## VERSION 2.01 – April 15, 2022

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*FM9 Version 2.01 is a massive upgrade featuring new amps, new effects, and much much more. It was first released in December 2021 as "public beta 2.0", but so many updates have been added since that a new beta was released as **2.01**, and now as official firmware version 2.01. The 2.0 beta release notes are integrated below. **NOTE:** You can upgrade to this version directly from firmware 1.0, or from public beta 2.0 or public beta 2.01.*

### AMP BLOCK UPDATES

*Version 2.01 represents the first use of the Chase Nonlinear Feedback (CNFB) technique in the FM9. The virtual power amp has been completely rewritten, providing improved accuracy, especially in the clipping and power supply sag behavior vs. frequency.*

- New amp models: 59 Bassguy Normal, 5F8 Tweed Normal and 5F8 Tweed Jumped.  
59 Bassguy and 5F8 Tweed models now include both "Normal" and "Bright" input drive controls.
- New amp models: JMPre-1 Clean1/2. Note: The real amp has a fixed, passive tone stack with an active 4-band EQ. Therefore, the Bass/Mid/Treble controls when using Authentic Tone Controls are mapped to the Graphic EQ. The passive tone stack itself, however, is adjustable. With all controls at noon the tone stack is equivalent to the real amp's fixed tone stack.  
You can access these controls using the Advanced menu page or via FM9-Edit.
- Updated JMPre-1 OD1/2 models. As with the Clean1/2 models the Bass/Mid/Treble controls now are mapped to the Graphic EQ when using Authentic Tone Controls.
- New JMPRE-1 Output EQ type in Amp block. This type replicates the active EQ used in the JMP-1 preamp (see above).
- New Amp model: "FAS Buttery"
- Added 11 new power tube types from various manufacturers.
- Added "RCB Boost" to Amp block Boost types.
- Improved Phase Inverter Bias Excursion accuracy for some models (mostly non-MV types). *Note: The improved PI Bias Excursion accuracy results in an increase in bias excursion in most cases. Bias excursion primarily manifests as intermodulation distortion,*

*particularly subharmonic distortion. This produces a chunkier tone with more growl and also yields a thicker tone when rolling off the volume or playing lightly. The amount of bias excursion can be adjusted using the PI Bias Excursion control in the Advanced menu.*

- The Amp block headroom meter is improved.
- Updated default cathode follower values for Matchbox D-30 model.
- Renamed "Speaker Impedance" to "Voice Coil Resistance" to more accurately describe the function of the control. Note that this includes all other "parasitic" resistances, i.e., speaker cable resistance, output transformer winding resistance, etc.
- Rearranged order of pages in Amp block so that "Input EQ" and "Output EQ" are after the "Tone" page.
- Fixed Amp block Transformer Match control not working properly.
- Fixed Bludojai Lead model missing resistor between last preamp stage and power amp.
- Fixed names of Dizzy V4 2 and Dizzy V4 3 swapped.
- Fixed wrong resistor value in Solo 88 Lead input circuit. Impact is probably negligible.
- Fixed wrong resistor value in USA Pre LD2 overdrive circuit. This increases gain slightly. You may need to audition any presets using these models and adjust gain accordingly.
- Fixed Amp block power tube "kvb" not being set correctly in rare circumstances. This caused the output level of the amp block to change depending upon the previous preset used.
- Fixed wrong B+ voltage for Tremolo Lux amp model.
- Added check to prevent excessive message queuing, i.e., when selecting an amp model using Value knob.
- Added global "Speaker Impedance Curve" option (Setup: Global Settings: Config page). The selected curve is whenever you change to a new amp model. When set to "DEFAULT", the default curve for a newly selected model is used. Also added several new Impedance Curves; thank you to Dr. Bonkers Soundlab for these.
- Improved Amp block transformer/speaker interaction modeling. The "Voice Coil Resistance" parameter has been repurposed/renamed "Speaker Impedance". The various parameters work as follows:  
Transformer Matching: Sets the impedance ratio (square of the turns ratio) of the output transformer.  
Speaker Impedance: Sets the relative nominal impedance of the speaker. To simulate connecting, e.g., a 4-ohm speaker to an 8-ohm output you would set Speaker Impedance to 0.5. Conversely to simulate connecting a 16-ohm speaker you would set it to 2.0.
- Update PI Bias Excursion parameters for many Amp models based on new measurement technique.

## DRIVE BLOCK UPDATES

- New Drive Types: "Valve Screamer VS9" and "Maxoff 808" including a new diode SPICE model, "1S1588T" which is the Toshiba version of the 1S1588 and reportedly the "best sounding."
- New "Hi Mid" control in EQ section.
- Improved accuracy of "G-taper" used for tone control in some Drive models, i.e., T808, VS9, Super OD, etc. Impact on existing presets is likely negligible but any presets using Tube Screamer models and their variants should be auditioned.
- Renamed Timothy and Suhr Riot Drive models to clarify switch position.
- Fixed Blackglass 7K model as reference pedal was defective. Also added new "Grunt" and "Attack" controls (Grunt switch on pedal is a selectable low cut so knob duplicates Low Cut control).
- "Fixed" the "Attack" control of the "Horizon Precision Drive" so it matches the actual pedal (was reversed previously). Any presets using this model should be adjusted accordingly.
- Fixed wrong op-amp clip threshold for DS1 models in Drive block.
- Fixed DS-1 Drive types have no gain when Drive is at 0.0.
- Improved accuracy of Drive block Drive control for low settings.

## COMPRESSOR BLOCK UPDATES

Overhauled the Compressor Block based on the latest Axe-Fx III updates:

- Added Input Level switch. When set to INSTRUMENT the detector is optimized for guitar-level signals, i.e., before an amp block. When set to LINE the detector is optimized for post-amp level signals.
- Added Emphasis frequency to the sidechain.
- Improved Pedal, Optical, Tube, Analog, JFET and Dynamicomp types in Compressor block. Auto Attack/Release has been removed from Pedal and Dynamicomp types as it is no longer applicable.
- Improved Auto-Makeup gain behavior for types with this option.



- Increased maximum sustain for various compressor types.

**IMPORTANT:** Due to these changes, the behavior and level of the Compressor may be different in existing presets.

It is recommended to audition any presets using the Compressor block and adjust as required.

## OTHER BLOCK UPDATES

For additional details about new features below, see the updated Fractal Audio Blocks Guide, available on our website.

- New "Types" in the Flanger, Plex Delay, and Multitap Delay. These provide instant access to exciting effect settings without the need to adjust individual parameters. Special thanks to Leon Todd, Simeon Harris and Cooper Carter for some of the new contributions.
- New Delay Block Types: Worn Tape, Zephyr, and Diffused Delay.
- New "LFO3" in Delay block. This can be assigned to Level, Pan or Spread.
- New Megatap features including feedback, diffusion, and more. Maximum number of taps is now 64 on the FM9.
- New LFO in the filter section of the Plex Delay block allows creative modulation effects.
- New pitch shifting capability inside the Reverb Block. This can be used to create "Shimmer" more easily than using separate Pitch and Reverb blocks—and with less CPU usage. Several new types demonstrate this capability.
- New Pitch type, "Dual Detune Delay" offers exciting cross-feedback options with delays inside the feedback loop.
- New "Modern Gate" type in the Gate/Expander Block. This type is similar to the Classic Gate except it opens in a constant linear-in-dB manner. This makes the attack slower so this type can be used for both traditional gating and for special effects.
- Improved Input block gate performance.
- Improvement: Pitch Block and Pitch Follower use new pitch detection based on Axe-Fx III
- Added New "Max Loop Time" parameter to Looper. This sets the maximum recording time, allowing a loop time to be precisely pre-configured in advance of recording. When recording time reaches the maximum recording time the mode changes to that specified by Record 2nd Press (for the first pass of a new recording.)
- New "S-Taper" option in the Volume Block allows new and improved "Auto-Swell" sounds.
- Added Diffuser Modulation in the Multitap Delay.
- Added Spread control to Dual Delay and Tape types in Delay block. Spread acts as a "master pan" in this case and is modifiable.
- Added Modifier capability to LFO Enable and Mod Frequency in Filter block.
- Improved Tape preamp types in Cabinet block.
- Improved Stack/Hold implementation in Delay block so that "texture" is applied to audio when Stack/Hold is on.

## FRONT PANEL DOUBLE-TAP

Improvement: The front panel now has various double-tap shortcuts:

- Double-tapping HOME enters the layout grid; Double-tapping EDIT edits the previous block; Double-tapping STORE prompts immediately.
- In the Home or Layout menus, double-tapping the A-E push-knobs does the following:
  - A enters the **Amp** 1 menu; B enters the Drive 1 menu (think "**Boost**")
  - C enters the **Cab** 1 menu. D enters the **Delay** 1 menu. E enters the Reverb 1 menu (think "**rEverb**")

## FOOT CONTROL UPDATES

- Added "Bank Switch Limits" ENABLE/DISABLE to the FC Config menu. These allow the FM9 to ignore the limits set on individual bank switches, thereby allowing access to ALL BANKS by default.
- **IMPORTANT:** If you want the "Bank Limit" function of existing footswitches to take effect, you must enable this new option.
- Added "Invert Mini-Displays" under the APPEARANCE section of the FC Controllers: Config page.
- Added "STARTUP VIEW" to the FC Controllers: Device page.
- Added an option for "2nd Press = Previous Bank" to **Bank: Select** function making it possible to toggle back to the previous entry.
- Added an option for "2nd Press = Previous Preset" to **:Preset: Select** and **Preset: Select in Bank** functions.
- Added the option "2nd Press" to **Effect: Select Channel** function. The two choices are "Smart Bypass" which is a pre-existing feature, and "Previous Channel" which toggles to the previously selected channel instead.
- New "Scene Level & Save" function increments/decrements the current SCENE LEVEL for selected output(s) and saves the preset.
- "Amp Level & Save" function now has an option for "0 dB" to allow saving a preset via a footswitch without also changing volume.

- Improvement: The FC functions "Amp Level + Save" and "Scene Level + Save" now wait 1.5 seconds before saving. This allows you to tap the footswitch repeatedly before the Save is executed. On-screen messages show the status.
- Added "Current" to the mini-display options for **Bank: Inc/Dec** function.
- Added "Current Name" and "Current #" to the mini-display options for **Preset: Inc/Dec** and **Scene: Inc/Dec** functions.
- Added "Current Channel" to the Mini-Display option for **Effect: Chan Inc/Dec**.
- Changed LED ring behavior for **Effect: Select Channel** function:  
When "Smart Bypass" is enabled, the LED will be dim instead of off when the effect is bypassed.
- Fixed: Tuner now exits more gracefully and reliably when using an FC switch.
- Fixed some stand-in switches not executing the tap function correctly when a hold function is assigned.
- Fixed an issue when changing function to "Bypass" if current effect does not have a Bypass function (e.g., Mixer, Multiplex).
- Fixed an issue when changing FC effect type from "MultiPlex" to an effect containing fewer channels.
- Fixed: Switch Ring Color settings of "Off" now work correctly.
- Fixed: LED ring will properly be dim when an effect is bypassed using **Effect: Chan Select** function.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- New 'MUTE' options for OUTPUT 1 MODE and OUTPUT 2 MODE cause only FM9 processed audio to be muted. USB audio will still be routed to and heard at a muted output, enabling certain applications when using a DAW with input monitoring. See the FM9 Owner's Manual for additional details.
- New option "ALL" for "Spillover" in SETUP: Global Settings: Config. In addition to Delay and Reverb, this includes Plex Delay, Multitap-Delay, Megatap Delay, and Ten-Tap Delay blocks, allowing spillover when switching presets. See the FM9 Owner's Manual for more on spillover.
- Performance Enhancements: General improvements of GUI, FM9-Edit Communications and IR Management.
- Scene changes where the channel is changed for two Amp Blocks are now as fast when one amp block is used.
- In the Edit menu of any block, the controls for Channel, Bypass and Reset have been consolidated into a single page.
- Added Damping control to Modifiers. The default, EXPONENTIAL, is the classic damping style where the modifier value has an exponential attack/decay. LINEAR selects a linear attack/decay.
- Added "Type" control to ADSRs. The default, EXPONENTIAL, is an analog style where the ADSR has an exponential attack/decay. LINEAR selects a linear attack/decay.
- The Tuner now displays note frequency and cents. Tuner indicator motion is also smoother.
- Improved scene switching to prevent signal "leaking" into bypassed blocks.
- New Delay and Reverb CPU use meter. Features added to the Delay and Reverb effects can overtax the effects' processor in extreme use situations. When viewing a Delay or Reverb effect editing GUI screen on the FM9 hardware a CPU meter will appear on the display if the cpu usage moves past 75%. As with the primary effects core, the recommended maximum cpu use value is 80% to ensure best performance.
- Fix: Modifiers now update correctly on Preset/Scene changes. This fixes, for example, an issue which could cause a burst of sound when a volume pedal was used across sound changes.
- Fixed: Knob for "USB/Digital" Metronome level now works correctly.
- USB In/Out meters on the Home menu Meters tab are now labeled 1 through 8.
- Fix: FM9 now correctly loads IRs created by exporting Tone Match data from Axe-Fx III.
- Fix: Home menu screen will update when the scene is changed from any source, including MIDI.
- Fix: MIDI over USB messages are now detected in MIDI Learn mode in the Setup Menu.
- Fix: Amp block copy/paste in FM9 Edit will correctly transfer level, pan, and bypass settings.
- Fix: Onboard Pedal 2 and Pedal 3 jacks now allow independent "Switch Behavior" settings
- Fix: Preset "SAVED!" message is now shown reliably in all expected cases.
- Fix: Tuner-on-heel-down was causing artifacts in the main display.
- Fix: Amp block output transformer turns ratio is now being correctly calculated.
- Fix: Stand-in switches will now work correctly when assigned to a footswitch configured as a Per-Preset: Placeholder.
- Fix: Incoming MIDI now works to select preset bank.
- Fix: Amp block Input EQ and Speaker displays now update correctly when the channel is changed.
- Fix: Corrected an issue with reverb sound that appeared in the previous beta.
- Fix: Corrected a display problem that could happen on Reverb and Delay screens when the default saved channel was not 'A'
- Fix: Delay and Reverb parameters Mix, Level, and Bypass are again controllable via modifier.

- Fix: Parameter settings for Delay and Reverb that are controlled with a modifier will no longer carry over to the next recalled preset.
- Fix: Settings for an FC switch could be replaced with another's after firmware update is corrected.
- Fix: FC Per-Preset GUI menu scrolls up/down to keep selected item on screen always.
- Fix: AMP Speaker Impedance Curve name label will always be visible in the GUI.
- Other small fixes based on those made on the Axe-Fx III.

#### **VERSION 1.0, FEB 11, 2020**

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- First public release. See the FM9 Owner's Manual for details.