PLUGFREAK

DRIFT 8

8-STAGE CREATIVE MIDI SEQUENCER

USER MANUAL - VERSION 1.0.0

DRIFT8 SEQ is an 8-stage creative MIDI sequencer built for movement, probability and controlled chaos. It combines stage-based pitch sequencing, conditions, ratchets, per-stage accumulator movement, transpose sequencing, memories and pattern chains to create patterns that can stay precise or evolve over time.

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1. QUICK START

IMPORTANT

DRIFT8 generates MIDI, not sound. Load it as a VST3 instrument/MIDI generator, then route its MIDI output to the synth or instrument you want to play.

STEP	ACTION
1	The download is a .zip; there is no installer. Unzip it, copy the DRIFT8 SEQ.vst3 folder to C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\, then rescan plugins in the DAW. Do not rename the .vst3 bundle.
2	Load DRIFT8 SEQ on a MIDI/instrument track.
3	Route DRIFT8 MIDI output to the destination synth or instrument.
4	Press Play in the host. DRIFT8 follows host transport and tempo.
5	Set Direction, Rate and Length, then program the eight stages.
6	Use Probability, Conditions, Ratchet and the Accumulator to add controlled variation.
7	Store variations in M1-M6 and arrange longer structures with Memory Chain.

TRIAL & ACTIVATION

First launch: the 10-day full trial starts automatically and requires an online start. No separate Trial button is needed.

Paid license: open LICENSE, enter the license key and choose ACTIVATE. Validation is handled automatically. After the last successful online check, a paid license can continue offline for up to one year. The plugin re-checks quietly in the background whenever there is a connection. If it asks for validation, open it once while online: no new key is needed.

A license can be activated on up to 3 computers. To move it: DEACTIVATE on the old computer, then ACTIVATE on the new one.

HOST ROUTING

The exact routing controls differ by DAW. In Ableton Live, configure the destination instrument to receive MIDI from DRIFT8. In FL Studio, use matching wrapper MIDI Output/Input Port numbers between DRIFT8 and the destination VST instrument.

INTERFACE OVERVIEW

The numbered markers correspond to the sections of this manual.



2 **GLOBAL CONTROLS**
DIRECTION, RATE, LENGTH, ACCENT +, ACC MODE and MUTATE.

3 **SCALE / GENERATIVE**
SCALE ON, ROOT and SCALE.

4 **PITCH RANGE**
Two-handle range, RANDOM and RESET ALL.

5 **TRANSPOSE SEQUENCER**
Eight pitch offsets, LENGTH and RATE.

6 **MEMORY / PATTERN CHAIN**
M1-M6 memories and the eight-step chain.

7 **USER PRESETS**
Preset menu, navigation, SAVE and DELETE.

8 **EACH STAGE**
Stage pitch, timing, conditions, accumulator and switches.

16 **LICENSE & OFFLINE USE**
LICENSE dialog.

17 **ABOUT**
ABOUT dialog.

2. GLOBAL CONTROLS

CONTROL	FUNCTION
DIRECTION	Forward, Backward, Ping-Pong, Random or Walker stage traversal.
RATE	1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32 plus Triplet (T) and Dotted (D) variants.
LENGTH	Sets the active main sequence length from 1 to 8 stages.
ACCENT +	Adds extra MIDI velocity when a stage ACCENT button is active.
ACC MODE	ACC ST = semitone accumulator steps. ACC SCALE = scale-degree steps when Scale is enabled.
MUTATE	Introduces a small musical variation to pitch or probability rather than rewriting the whole pattern.

3. SCALE / GENERATIVE

CONTROL	FUNCTION
SCALE ON	Enables pitch quantization and root-relative pitch behavior.
ROOT	C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B.
SCALE	Chromatic, Major, Natural Minor, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Locrian, Major Pentatonic, Minor Pentatonic, Blues.

SCALE NOTE

Minor: the normal minor scale is listed as Natural Minor. Harmonic Minor and Melodic Minor are also available as separate choices.

4. PITCH RANGE

The two-handle vertical Pitch Range control defines the lower and upper limits used by RANDOM. The numeric range text is intentionally omitted from the final interface; the two handles themselves define the active range.

With SCALE ON, randomized pitches are constrained to the selected Root and Scale. RESET ALL returns the sequencer to its default musical state.

5. TRANSPOSE SEQUENCER

CONTROL	FUNCTION
STEPS 1-8	Each knob offsets the main sequence by -24 to +24 semitones. 0 st = no transposition.
LENGTH	Sets how many transpose steps are active.
RATE	1/4, 1/2, 1 Bar or 2 Bars.
USE	Runs alongside the main sequencer, moving the entire pattern through different pitch offsets over time.

6. MEMORY / PATTERN CHAIN

CONTROL	FUNCTION
M1-M6	Six internal pattern memories. Selecting an occupied memory recalls it immediately.
SAVE	Stores the current main pattern into the selected memory slot.
CLEAR	Clears only the selected memory slot. Chain steps that point to an empty slot are skipped.
COPY / PASTE	Copy an occupied memory, select another M1-M6 slot, then Paste to duplicate it.
CHAIN	Enables the eight-step Memory Chain.
CHAIN STEP	Choose OFF or M1-M6 plus a repeat count from 1-8 complete pattern cycles.

CHAIN EXAMPLE

Example: M1 x1 -> M2 x2 -> M4 x1 means one complete cycle of M1, two cycles of M2, one cycle of M4, then the chain continues/repeats according to the programmed steps.

7. USER PRESETS

User presets are managed from inside DRIFT8. They are stored in:

Documents\Plugfreak\DRIFT8 SEQ\Presets

A preset recalls the musical/plugin state, including the sequencer settings, memories and chain data. The temporary Memory COPY clipboard is not stored as part of the preset.

The download contains a Presets folder with factory presets (files ending in .drift8preset). Copy them into Documents\Plugfreak\DRIFT8 SEQ\Presets, then reopen the plugin.

8. EACH STAGE

CONTROL	FUNCTION
PITCH	Base pitch for the stage. With Scale ON, pitch is root-relative.
PULSES	How many pulses the stage receives before moving on (1-8).
PROB	Chance that the stage triggers: 100% = always, 0% = never.
GATE	Note length relative to each available pulse.
RATCHET	Splits a pulse into 1-4 faster retriggers.
VELOCITY	MIDI note velocity.
CONDITION	Controls on which pattern cycles the stage is eligible to trigger.
ACC AMT	Accumulator step size, from -8 to +8.
ACC CYC	Accumulator cycle length, from 1 to 8 stage visits before reset.
ON / OFF	ON plays normally. OFF creates a silent rest. The previous note is closed; this stage still uses its full pulses/time.
ACC	Enables the Accumulator for this stage.
TIE	No new Note On; holds the previous note through this stage for its full duration.
SLIDE	Triggers this stage note and glides from the previous output pitch using pitch bend.
SKIP	The stage is omitted completely and the sequence advances without spending time on it.

9. CONDITIONS

SETTING	ELIGIBILITY
Always	Every pattern cycle.
1:2	First cycle of each two-cycle group.
1:4	First cycle of each four-cycle group.
2:4	Second cycle of each four-cycle group.
3:4	Third cycle of each four-cycle group.
4:4	Fourth cycle of each four-cycle group.
2:3	Second cycle of each three-cycle group.
3:3	Third cycle of each three-cycle group.

10. PULSES VS RATCHET

PULSES	RATCHET
PULSES controls how many pulse positions a stage owns before the sequencer advances. RATCHET controls how many faster Note On retriggers occur inside each pulse. Ratchets do not advance the Accumulator.	Example: PULSES = 3 and RATCHET = 2 gives three pulse positions, with two fast triggers inside each pulse. The stage still counts as one stage visit for the Accumulator.

11. SLIDE

SLIDE is independent from TIE. A SLIDE stage triggers its own note, but the new note begins at the previous output pitch and bends smoothly to its target. The receiving synth should use a pitch-bend range of +/-12 semitones for the intended result.

REST BEHAVIOR

A stage set to OFF breaks the held/slide relationship because it creates a true rest: the previous note is closed and no new note is triggered.

12. ACCUMULATOR - HOW IT REALLY WORKS

CORE RULE

ACC AMT is the size of each accumulator step.
ACC CYC is the number of accumulator positions before the stage returns to its base position.
The accumulator advances once per stage visit, not once per ratchet and not once per pulse.

ACC POSITION = stage visit index mod ACC CYC

Pitch offset = ACC POSITION x ACC AMT

ACC ST applies the accumulated amount in semitones. ACC SCALE, when SCALE ON is active, moves by scale degrees inside the selected musical scale.

IMPORTANT

ACC CYC = 1 contains only position 0, so the accumulator always returns the stage to its base position. To hear movement, use ACC CYC 2 or higher.

MODE	BEHAVIOR
ACC ST	Chromatic/semitone movement. Example +2 means +2 semitones per accumulator position.
ACC SCALE	Scale-degree movement when Scale is enabled. Example +1 means the next note in the selected scale.

Transpose is applied after the accumulator movement. If Scale quantization is active, the final pitch is kept inside the selected scale.

13. ACCUMULATOR EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1 - SEMITONE CLIMB

SETTING	VALUE
Pitch	60
ACC MODE	ACC ST
ACC AMT	+2
ACC CYC	4
ACC	ON

Result by stage visit: 60 -> 62 -> 64 -> 66 -> 60 -> ...
Four accumulator positions are used, then the stage returns to base.

EXAMPLE 2 - DESCENDING LOOP

SETTING	VALUE
Pitch	72
ACC MODE	ACC ST
ACC AMT	-1
ACC CYC	5
ACC	ON

Result: 72 -> 71 -> 70 -> 69 -> 68 -> 72 -> ...
Useful for repeating descending tension without permanently drifting out of range.

EXAMPLE 3 - NATURAL MINOR SCALE WALK

SETTING	VALUE
Pitch	60
ROOT	C
SCALE	Natural Minor
ACC MODE	ACC SCALE
ACC AMT	+1
ACC CYC	4

With SCALE ON: C4 -> D4 -> Eb4 -> F4 -> C4 -> ...
ACC SCALE advances by scale degree rather than chromatic semitone.

EXAMPLE 4 - DORIAN THIRDS

SETTING	VALUE
Pitch	60
ROOT	D
SCALE	Dorian
ACC MODE	ACC SCALE
ACC AMT	+2
ACC CYC	4

With SCALE ON: D -> F -> A -> C -> D -> ...
Each visit moves two scale degrees, producing a repeating diatonic shape.

CREATIVE RECIPE

Polymetric accumulator idea: give Stage 1 ACC CYC = 3 and Stage 5 ACC CYC = 5. Their accumulator loops realign only after a longer combined phrase, even though the main sequence length stays unchanged.

14. CREATIVE RECIPES

RECIPE	SETTINGS
Subtle motion	ACC AMT +1, ACC CYC 6-8 on one stage; moderate Probability.
Melodic climb	ACC ST +2, ACC CYC 4; add a slow Transpose Sequence.
Scale evolution	SCALE ON + ACC SCALE +1; use different ACC CYC values across stages.
Descending tension	ACC ST -1 or -2 with ACC CYC 4-6.
Controlled chaos	Different Conditions + 60-90% Probability + one Ratchet stage + slow Memory Chain.
Long-form movement	Create 3-4 Memory variations and chain them with different repeat counts.

15. AUTOMATION / ABLETON CONFIGURE

DRIFT8 exposes its musical controls as host-automatable VST parameters. In Ableton Live, enable Configure, then touch only the controls you want to expose. Each touched parameter is added to Live for automation or mapping.

AUTOMATABLE EXAMPLES	NOT INTENDED AS AUTOMATION ACTIONS
Stage Pitch, Pulses, Probability, Gate, Ratchet, Velocity, Condition, ACC AMT, ACC CYC, ON/OFF, ACC, TIE, SLIDE, SKIP	MUTATE, RANDOM, RESET ALL, preset Save/Delete, Memory Save/Clear/Copy/Paste, ABOUT, LICENSE
Direction, Rate, Length, Accent Amount, ACC Mode, Scale controls, Pitch Range, Transpose controls, Chain controls	These are one-shot actions or navigation functions rather than continuous musical parameters.

HOST CONTROL

Automation changes are read by the sequencer before musical events are evaluated, so host automation can drive stage and global behavior during playback.

16. LICENSE & OFFLINE USE

ITEM	DETAIL
10-Day Trial	Starts automatically on first launch and requires an online start. Full-function during the trial period.
Activate	Enter the PLUGFREAK license key in the LICENSE dialog and choose ACTIVATE.
Automatic Validation	Validation is handled automatically; there is no separate Validate button in the final user interface.
Offline Use	After the last successful online check, a paid license can continue offline for up to one year. The plugin re-checks quietly in the background whenever there is a connection. If it asks for validation, open it once while online: no new key is needed.
Deactivate	Shown for a paid local license so the activation can be released from that machine. To move a license: DEACTIVATE on the old computer, then ACTIVATE on the new one.
Machine Code	Can be copied from the License dialog for support/activation identification.
Computer Limit	A license can be activated on up to 3 computers.

17. ABOUT

DRIFT8 SEQ
8-Stage Creative MIDI Sequencer
Version 1.0.0
plugfreak.com

SUPPORT

Preset folder: Documents\Plugfreak\DRIFT8 SEQ\Presets

The download contains a Presets folder with factory presets (files ending in .drift8preset). Copy them into Documents\Plugfreak\DRIFT8 SEQ\Presets, then reopen the plugin.

Support: plugfreakaudio@gmail.com and plugfreak.com

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