

STL Tonality - Andy James Plugin Suite User's Guide

Version 1.0 For Mac & Windows

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STL Tonality - Andy James Plugin

INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Our team, along with **Andy James** have been hard at work developing, and designing a plugin we are all extremely proud of.

Using the most advanced modelling algorithms, users can experience real-time simulations of **Andy James's** actual go-to amps. Our software uses internal circuit simulations from the schematic's of the specific amplifier's Andy uses every day.

Designed by **STL Tones**, the **Andy James Plugin Suite** has been developed to capture every song aspect of what makes Andy's guitar tones so sought after. The plugin suite takes your direct input guitar signal all the way to a fully mixed guitar tone with its unique all-in-one design.

Experience an all-access pass to **Andy James's** mix-ready guitar tones.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Low Latency Audio Interface (ASIO / Core Audio compatible). High-Z (high impedance) instrument input.
- Digital Audio Workstation (**DAW**) or a standalone plugin host.

Windows requirements:

- Windows 7 32/64 bit.
- Intel Core 2 Processor Family or better.

Mac requirements: • OS X 10.9.0 +

• Intel Core 2 Processor Family or better.

We recommend an Intel Core i5 processor or better for the best user experience.

During recording or monitoring we recommend a buffer size of 128 samples or lower, this is to minimize latency and improve the play through experience. This can be set in your audio interface setup utility or in your current DAW audio settings.

SUPPORTED HOST SOFTWARE

To use STL Tones software you need an audio software which can load "plugins". This plugin is not designed to work as standalone software. This plugin officially supports the following software host:

Pro Tools 11 - 2018: Mac & PC: AAX Native Logic Pro 9 and 10 (X): Mac: Audio Units

Cubase 9: Mac & PC: VST

Ableton Live 9.X or later: Mac: Audio Units & VST; Windows: VST Reaper 5.x: Mac: AU & VST; Windows: VST.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always use the high impedance (Hi-Z) input of your sound-card. This will ensure less noise and signal loss. Most real (pre)amplifiers and stomp boxes, have an input impedance of 1MegaOhm, so it would be a good idea to get a sound-card with 1MegaOhm input impedance to use this plugin.
- Always make sure to have the highest input signal before the AD conversion, avoiding clipping.
- Amp sims and stomp box simulators are not noisy, they do not add noise. In fact, they're a lot less noisy than real hardwares. If you have noise issues, check your guitar electronic circuit, cables and sound-card settings.
- In almost all cases, amp sims and stomp box simulators don't introduce noticeable latency. STL Tonality doesn't introduce any noticeable latency. If you're experiencing latency issues, check your sound- card settings (specifically reduce the "Input Buffer Size to 128 samples").

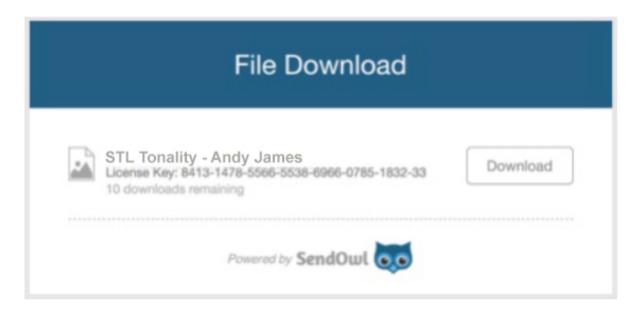
iLok User ID & License Manager

STL Tones User Account -

In your STL Tones User Account, you will have access to your product installers, and latest software updates. To login to your user account, go to http://www.stltones.com and click the 'Login' button in the upper right-hand corner of the website. If you don't have a user account, please create one by clicking 'Create Account' inside the same login window.

License Location -

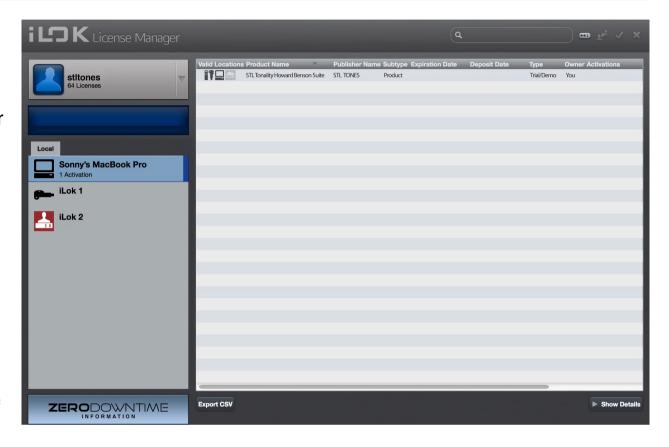
- In your STL Tones account you will have access to your product installers and latest updates. By clicking your product download link, a new window will open that will show your Activation License
- To login into your user account, go to http://www.stltones.com and click on the "Login" button in the upper right- hand corner. If you don't have a user account, create one by clicking "Create Account" inside the same login window.



iLok User ID & License Manager

Please create an iLok account by visiting http://www.ilok.com and download the latest version of the iLok license manager application. This will allow you to register your serial number and deposit your license to your computer or an iLok USB key. NOTE:-You DO NOT need an iLok USB Dongle in order to use this plugin. You can simply register your iLok license code to your computer that you intend to use the plugin.

Install the iLok License Manager, open the program on your computer, and log in with the iLok User ID information that you created at http://www.ilok.com. When logged in, a list of available destinations for license placement will be displayed under your

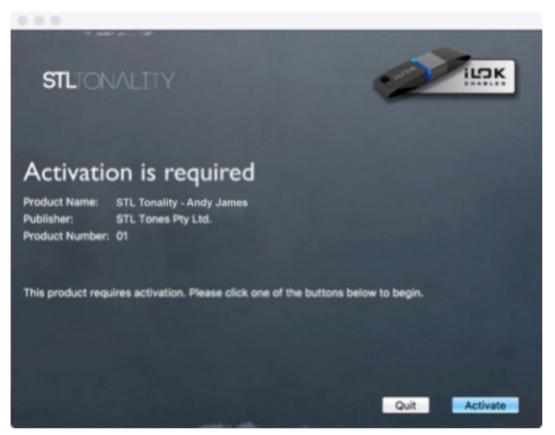


User ID, such as your computer, or your iLok USB Keys. A list of all currently activated products will be shown in the main right list window. Inactive licenses will be shown in the "available" tab on the top.

You can drag and drop licenses to deposit them in your computer or iLok USB Keys.

INSTALLATION & License Activation

• Run the provided installer which you will receive via email, follow the on-screen instructions given by the installation software.



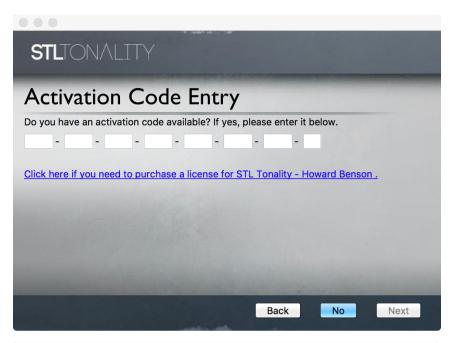
License Activation -

The plugin won't be functional until you authenticate it with a valid iLok license.

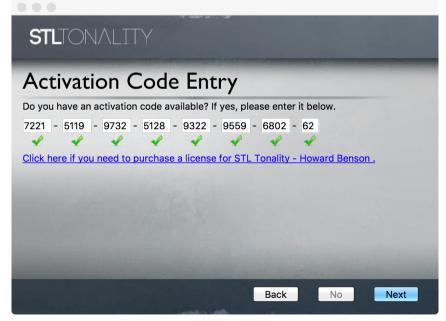
Follow these steps to complete the software activation.

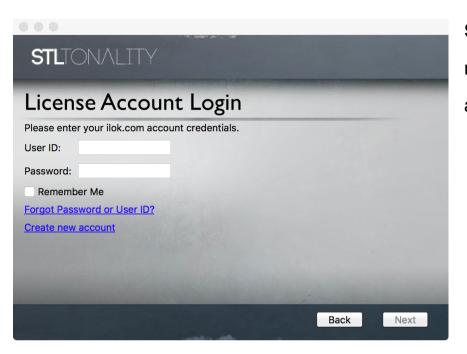
STEP 1 -

After logging in to your iLok Account, click on the "Activate" button and go through the process to authorise your software.

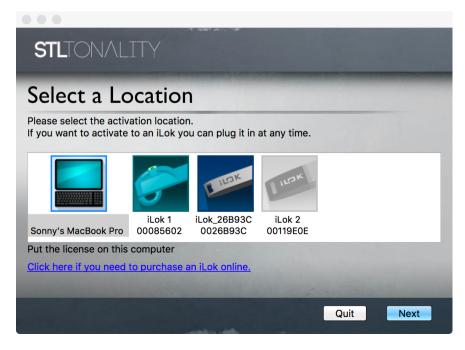


STEP 2 - Enter your serial number and if valid, green ticks will appear, as seen in the image below.

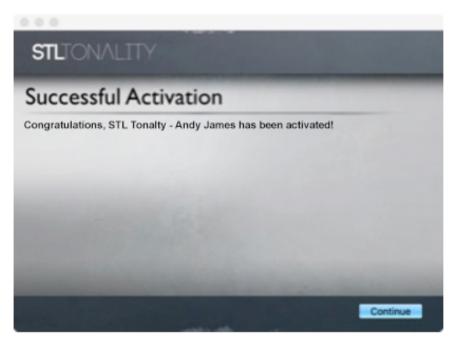




STEP 3 - If you haven't yet created one, click on the 'Create new account' link, and you will be directed to <u>ilok.com</u> to create an account, which is free.



STEP 4 - Here you will see all available locations to place your license. Select either your computer, iCloud, or iLok USB key.



STEP 5 - Successful Activation window will be next, confirming you have registered your product correctly.

MAIN INTERFACE



Input and Output Controls:

Input will affect how much signal the plugin will receive. This will affect the amount of distortion range of the Gain pots in the Amplifier and Stomp Sections. Adjust according to your purposes and input signal levels. Output will affect on how much signal the plugin will feed out to your DAW channel. Meters will show if input or output signal are clipping by appearing red.

Gate: Cuts unwanted noise spill, hiss or hum by setting a threshold at which the input signal need to be above for processing.

Tuner: Click to enable the global tuner. The tuner is viewable from any 'window' within the plugin, so when enabled, you can continue to tune your guitar from wherever you may be within the plugin.

Amp Select: These buttons control which Amp module you are currently using.

Cab Select: These buttons control which Cabinet you are currently using.

MAIN INTERFACE

Tone Section: Here you have the option to navigate to the Pedals Section, Amp Module Section, Cabinet Section, and EQ Module Section. When a section is On, the 'On' light's will appear. NOTE, if you wish to use different Amp and Cab combinations, simply click the 'Lock' button, this will disengage the preset Cabinet's from loading when changing between different Amp modules.

Normal Mode: When in Normal Mode, you are using a single amp, and single cab combination.

Mixer Mode: After the Pedals Section, the signal is split into 2 amps and 2 cabs running in parallel.

After the cabinets, you're free to use the rotary knobs to decide the output level of each chain separately, but we give you the possibility the easily mix the 2 chains (we'll call "A" the top one, "B" the one at the bottom) using an additional fader right before the EQ stage.

Move the fader toward the chain you want to be dominant in the mix, so up for "A" and down for "B". To make things more intuitive, as soon as you click on the fader, a label will appear telling you how much percentage of each chain you're using.

A great advantage of this fader is that it keeps the output level consistent for all its excursion, so you'll easily figure out the sweet spot of your chains.

To make things even easier, we matched the phase polarity of every amp and cab in the suite (different amps may have opposite phase depending on the particular circuit), so you do not need to worry about phase cancellation when changing amps back and forth.



DISTORTION SECTION



Overdrive: There are 4 controls for the Tube Screamer Pedal. 1) Drive, which controls the amount of gain you are adding to the signal. 2) Balance, which is the amount of Volume you are adding to the signal. 3) Tone, this controls the amount of tonal frequencies you wish to add to the signal. 4) Power, this switch turns the pedal on / off.

Andy James Revenant Pre Amp Pedal:

There are 9 controls for the Revenant Pedal. 1) Gain, this controls the amount of gain you are adding to the signal. 2) Bass, adjust the amount of low frequencies being added. 3) Lo Mids, controls the lower mid eq frequencies. 4) Hi Mids, controls the higher mid eq frequencies. 5) Treble,

controls the higher range eq frequencies. **6) Volume**, which is the amount of Volume you are adding to the signal. **7) Shape**, this switch changes the mid range frequency sound and feel of the pedal. **8) Focus Switch**, this turns the 'AJ Overdrive' baked settings on or off, and reacts like his usual 808 Overdrive settings. **9) Power**, this switch turns the pedal on / off.

Routing Pedal: as the Revenant Pedal is a Pre Amp pedal, you can use the Routing Pedal to option to use the Revenant before the amp, or traditionally in the FX loop by selecting the 'Power Amp' option.

EFFECTS SECTION



Delay: There are 6 controls for the Delay Pedal. 1) Wet, which controls the mix of your signal, from 0-100%. 100% is for an equal mix. The dry signal always passes unprocessed, when the mix is at 100%, the delayed signal has the same amplitude, therefore at 50%, the delayed signal is lower. 2) Feedback, controls the feedback and repeats of the Delay. 3) Delay, which sets the delay time note. This value can be synced to the Daw by clicking the 'BPM **Sync'** button. You can also use the 'Tap' button to Tap a specific delay time of your choice. 4) Depth, this controls the modulation depth of the delay repeats from 0-100%. 5) Rate, this controls the modulation rate of the delay repeats from

0Hz to10Hz. 6) Pre/Post Switch, this switch allows you to choose the delay position in the chain.

Use Pre if you want the delay in front of the amp, or Post if you want it in the loop of the Amp. NOTE, you can only use the effect in Stereo mode when the switch is in Post Mode.

Reverb: There are 6 controls for the Reverb Pedal. 1) Wet, which controls the balance of the dry and wet signal. 2) **Delay**, controls the delay time before the reverberated signal appears. 3) **Length**, which sets the time of the Reverb, from 0-10seconds without temporal reference. 4) **Lo Pass**, this controls the eq of the delay repeats from 1000Hz to 22050Hz. 5) **Hi Pass**, this controls the eq of the delay repeats from 20Hz to 1000Hz. modulation depth of the delay.

EFFECTS SECTION

6) Pre/Post Switch, this switch allows you to choose the reverb position in the chain. Use Pre if you want the reverb in front of the amp, or Post if you want it in the loop of the Amp. *NOTE*, you can only use the effect in Stereo mode when the switch is in Post Mode.

LO FI: There are 2 controls for the LO FI pedal. **1) Frequency**, which controls the EQ frequencies between 100Hz to 7KHz in a logarithmic scale. **2) Gain,** this adjust the amount of additional gain added to the signal, if the control is at 0, it will not be adding any gain.

AMP MODULES



AMP 1 - One of the main Amp's that Andy uses in his day to day rigs, is modelled from a modern version of another one of the worlds most well-known amps.



AMP 2 - Modelled from arguably one of the most well-known amps in the metal industry. This amp's sole focus in the circuitry is based on the characteristics of the lead channel.



AMP 3 - A legendary British amp from the 1960's that cover's many styles, from crystal clean, to amazing mid gain crunch tones. We also included the Tremelo functionality in this model.

AMP CONTROLS

Bass / Mid / Treble: the classic tonestack controls. Like in real amplifiers, every control influences the tonal response of the others involved in the circuit.

Presence: Adjusts the amount of high frequencies.

Focus (Amps 1 & 2): controls the saturation behaviour. When turned up, the overall gain will increase in the high-frequencies, making the distortion more saturated.

Gain: controls the amount of gain and saturation of your sound. In Clean mode (if applicable to the module), it influences the overall perceived output volume more than in Lead mode, where it controls mostly the amount of distortion.

Volume: controls the overall volume of the amp. It also affects the frequency response. Higher master volume will react as the Master volume control on a real tube amp. This level will be the input level of the power amp.

Tight/Normal Switches (Amp3): controls the picking attack, making the sound brighter or darker / softer depending on your needs.

POWER TUBE SELECTION

Amp Modules 1, & 2 allow users to switch between 3 of Andy's go-to Power Tube options that he uses for these amps.

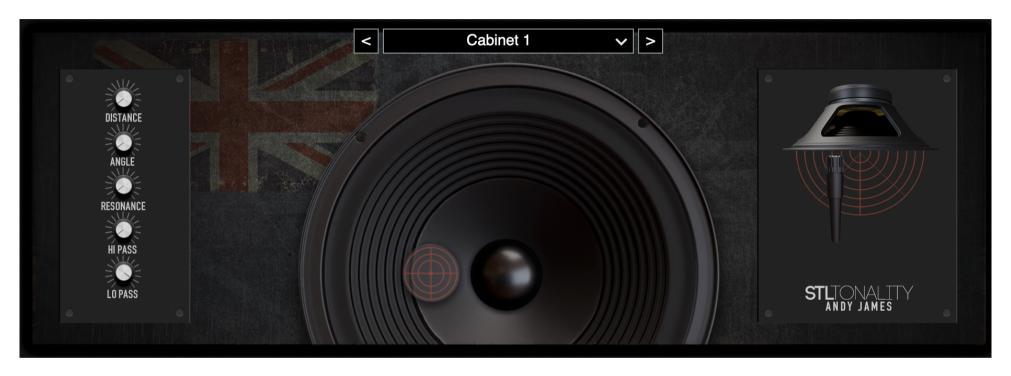
Power Tube Options by Amp -

Amp 1 - EL34, 6L6 & KT88

Amp 2 - EL34, 6L6 & KT88

When changing between the different Power Tube options, the amp will react as it would with those different Tubes.

CABINET SECTION



The cabinet plays an integral role in a complete rig's overall tone and character. The Cabinet Module within Tonality gives you the flexibility to not only move the microphone position vertically & horizontally, but also the user can adjust the angle up to 45 degrees. The main point mixer is scaled in size to give you the ability to make very small, distinctive adjustments. You can now get more creative control than ever with the 3D mixer.

Distance: this controls how close/far away the microphone is from the speaker cone.

Angle: this controls the angle of the microphone, from 0 to 45 degree's in motion.

CABINET SECTION

Resonance: this control simulates the power amp + speaker interaction in tube amplifiers. It provides a boost in the guitar cabinet speaker resonant frequencies.

Hi Pass: lets you select the frequency range of the high pass filter. It ranges fro 10Hz to 400Hz, and can be useful to control the low-end response of the speaker.

Lo Pass: lets you select the frequency of the low pass filer. It ranges from 6KHz to 22KHz and can be useful to control the high end response.

IR Loader: Click on the drop down menu in the center of the module to load an IR wav file. Use the < & > arrows to scroll through IR's.

PRESET MANAGER



In the STL Tonality header section, you will find controls for the STL Tonality proprietary Preset Management System:

- 1) Bank: A bank is a group of presets which can be imported or exported to file, in order to save or recall settings, or to move them from one DAW to another.
- 2) Add Bank (+): lets you add a new Preset Bank. You can change the Preset Bank name by clicking the EDIT button to the right of the Preset Bank.
- 3) Remove Bank (-): lets you remove the selected Preset Bank.
- 4) Preset Bank Dropdown Menu: This is where you can select which bank you are wanting to use. Click the dropdown menu to view more Preset Banks.
- 5) Edit: by clicking this button you can edit the name of the current Preset Bank through a dialog box. You cannot Edit the two default Preset Banks titled 'Andy James', or 'STL Tones'. You need to create a new User Bank in order to edit or remove.
- 6) Add Preset (+): lets you add a new preset to the current bank. Clicking on this button will create and load a new preset with a default name ("Preset"), using the current plug-in settings.

PRESET MANAGER

- 7) Remove Preset (-): lets you remove a preset from the current bank. Clicking on this button will erase the current preset and load the settings of the previous one on the list (or the next one, in case the removed preset was the first of the bank). There is no undo function, so use this control carefully.
- 8) Toggle Left (<): lets you toggle between presets within the Preset Selector.
- 9) Preset Selector: lets you switch between presets contained in the current bank. Clicking on this control will open a drop down menu showing all the available presets. Selecting a preset will immediately update the plug-in settings to the ones stored into it. PLEASE NOTE: If you edit a preset, and click to another preset, the settings will not be saved automatically. You need to save the presets before proceeding to the next preset.
- 10) Toggle Right (>): lets you toggle between presets within the Preset Selector.
- 11) Edit: by clicking this button you can edit the name of the current preset through a dialog box. Once a preset is loaded, as soon as you edit one of the plug-ins settings, an **asterisk** ("*") will appear next to the preset name, in order to remind you that the settings for that preset are changed. You can revert the settings back using the Revert function or permanently update them using the Store function. PLEASE NOTE:- If you edit a preset, and click to another preset, the settings will not be saved automatically. You need to save the presets before proceeding to the next preset.
- 12) Save: lets you store the selected preset settings as its original state. Clicking on this button will save all the current plug-in settings and mark them as the last saved state, meaning that every successive use of the Revert function, will recall these settings. This control is enabled only when a preset has been changed from its original state and will be disabled as soon as you click it (you'll also notice the asterisk next to the preset name disappear).

PRESET MANAGER

- 13) Reset: lets you reset the selected preset settings to the original state. Clicking on this button will discard all the current plug-in settings and reload the last saved ones.
- 14) Copy: lets you copy the current preset settings on the plug-in's clipboard. You can then use the Paste function to reload them. The great thing about this control, is that the plug-in's clipboard is shared among different STL Tonality instances, so you can conveniently copy and paste settings from one to another, without having to explicitly save and load the bank.
- 15) Paste: lets you load the preset settings available on the plug-in's clipboard. You can then use the Copy function to store them. The great thing about this control, is that the plug-in's clipboard is shared among different STL Tonality instances, so you can conveniently copy and paste settings from one to another, without having to explicitly save and load the bank.
- 16) Undo: lets you undo your most recent move.
- 17) Redo: lets you redo your most recent move.
- 18) Routing: lets the user select the processing mode of the plug-in (Mono or Stereo). It is important to note that a complete stereo separation, and thus a correct stereo image preservation, is only possible when STL Tonality is placed on a stereo bus and fed with a stereo signal with left and right components panned at 100%. Feeding STL Tonality with two tracks panned at less than 100% left and right, will not preserve the correct stereo separation of the tracks at the output. Stereo Mode will double the CPU load of the plug-in, as the two audio channels are being implicitly processed by two separated instances of the plugin.
- Preset Bank and Cab IR Location: Please note, Preset Bank, Presets, and Custom Cab IR files are located on your local drive. See below for locations. Mac Users/Documents/STL/Tonality/Andy James/Banks PC C: \Users\Documents\STL\Tonality\Andy James\Banks

SUPPORT

For technical issues or any problems experienced with our software contact us via the contact page at www.stltones.com. Before doing so, follow our Troubleshooting questions below to see if these fix your issue.

Support Information to be provided -

In order to help us assist you the best way possible, please attach the following information to our support team: Product Version Number (e.g STL Tonality - Andy James, V1.0.0.)

Version number of your audio system (e.g ProTools 11.2.2, Logic 10.2.4) Interface/hardware (e.g. Focusrite Scarlett 2i2, Apogee Duet 2, etc.) Computer and operating system info (e.g Macbook Pro OS X 10.9.6, Windows 10 ver 1709, etc.)

Please include a detailed description of your problem.

Troubleshooting -

Having issues with our software?

Uninstall / Reinstall

This will repair possible broken permissions, fix corrupted files, and remove old versions of our software

Steps:

- 1) Close out of all host software (Pro Tools, Logic, Cubase, etc.)
- 2) Uninstall your plug-in.
- 3) Open your host software and ensure that the plug-ins no longer showing up in the inserts list. If the plug-ins are still present, locate the files on your computer and remove them manually. Once they no longer show up in your DAW (after restarting it), move on to step 4.
- 4) Close out of all host software.
- 5) Download the latest iLok License Manager application from <u>iLok.com</u>, install it, run the program and login with your iLok credentials.
- 6) Log into your STL Tones User Account and download the latest installers for the plug-in.
- 7) Run the latest installers and start your host program.
- 8) To confirm, ensure that your host program is reading the latest version of our software.

iLok synchronisation:

If you receive a message telling you to activate your licenses again, follow these steps.

Fix iLok connectivity:

If your iLok cannot connect to your computer, try plugging it in through a powered USB 2.0 hub – this will increase the likelihood that the iLok will connect to the computer. Once it is synched, it should be able to be plugged back into the computer's USB port for use.

Repair your computer's hard-drive:

Repair permissions on your computer.

Instructions: Mac & Windows

Run your host software as an administrator (Windows-only) :

This can fix a variety of issues that result in crashing or error messages on Windows DAWs that are loading our plugins for the first time.

Steps:

- 1) Exit your host program (Pro Tools, Cubase, etc.)
- 2) Right-click on the icon for that host program and select "Run as an Administrator." You will only have to do this once, meaning you can open up the host program normally the next time.

How do I find my plugin in Reaper?

If cannot find your STL Tonality plugin in Reaper, follow these steps in order to make the plugin available.

Step1:

Download and install the latest version of iLok License Manager from iLok.com. After you install, open it and login with your iLok credentials. If you don't have an iLok account, please create an account for free at <u>iLok.com</u>.

Step2:

Now check if the plugin is installed on your computer in the default folder.

File Locations: MAC

VST: Macintosh HD/Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST/STL Tonality Andy James

Note: The plug-in files are "Universal Binaries, which means that 32-bit and 64-bit plug-ins are included in the same file / Location.

File Locations: Windows

32-bit VST: C:\Program Files (x86)\Steinberg\VSTPlugins\STL Tonality Andy James

64-bit VST: C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins\STL Tonality Andy James

If you don't find the respective files please reinstall your STL Tonality Product. If the relevant plugin files are in the above folder, perform a rescan:

In Reaper, press [Ctrl] + P (Windows) / [Cmd] + [,] (Mac) to access Preferences.

Go to Plug-ins > VST.

Under "VST Plugin Path," make sure that the following path is listed (if not, add it):

Windows:

32-bit VST: C:\ Program Files (x86) \ Steinberg \ VSTPlugins \ STL Tonality Andy James

64-bit VST: C:\ Program Files \ VSTPlugins \ STL Tonality Andy James

Mac:

System HD > Library > Audio > Plugins > VST

Click on Clear Cache/Re-Scan. Create a new session with a supported sample rate, add a track and load your STL Tonality plugin. If the pop-up window tells you to activate please press "activate" button and insert your Full license serial code.

How do I find my plugin in Pro Tools?

If you cannot find your STL Tonality plugin in Pro Tools, follow these steps in order to make the plugin available. **Step1:** download and install the latest version of iLok License Manager from iLok.com. After install, open it and login with your iLok credentials. If you don't have an iLok account, please create an account for free at <u>iLok.com</u>. **Step2:** check if the plugin is installed on your computer in the default folder.

VST: Macintosh HD / Library / Audio / Plug-ins / VST / STL Tonality Andy James

AAX: Macintosh HD / Library / Application Support / Avid / Audio / Plug-ins /STL Tonality

Note: The plug-in files are "Universal Binaries, which means that 32-bit and 64-bit plug-ins are included in the same file/ Location.

File Locations: Windows

32-bit VST: C:\Program Files (x86)\Steinberg\VSTPlugins\STL Tonality

64-bit VST: C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins\STL Tonality

32-bit AAX: C:\Program Files(x86)\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\STL Tonality

64-bit AAX: C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\STL Tonality

If you don't find the respective files please reinstall your STL Tonality Product. If the relevant plugin files are in the above folder, perform a rescan:

To do a Rescan you need to delete certain files on your computer depending on your Pro Tools version. Please follow the official Avid website to do this.

Authorization Exception Error Message:

If this error message pops up, follow these steps:

Close your DAW (Pro Tools, Logic, etc.)

Go to <u>iLok.com</u> and download the latest version of the iLok License Manager application.

Run the iLok License Manager installer on your computer.

Restart your computer.

This issue only affects users who have not installed iLok License Manager 4.0.3 or later.

The plugin makes no sound at all, why is this happening?

You have most likely not activated the software yet, or the license file has moved to a different location and the software can't find it anymore. Please check the license activation window and double check that it still says you are registered. If not, simply redo the steps mentioned in the License Activation chapter.

Where do I find the installers?

You can download your plug-ins from your STL Tones account. Your account will display the installers and serial numbers for all of the STL Tones products you have purchased.

Where is the STL Tonality Plugin located on my computer?

Mac:

AudioUnits: Macintosh HD / Library / Audio / Plug-ins / Components / STL Tonality - Andy James

VST: Macintosh HD / Library / Audio / Plug-ins / VST / STL Tonality - Andy James

AAX: Macintosh HD / Library / Application Support / Avid / Audio / Plug-ins / STL Tonality - Andy James

Windows:

32-bit VST: C:\ Program Files (x86) \ Steinberg \ VSTPlugins \ STL Tonality - Andy James

64-bit VST: C:\ Program Files \ VSTPlugins \ STL Tonality - Andy James

32-bit AAX: C:\ Program Files(x86) \ Common Files \ Avid \ Audio \ Plug-Ins \ STL Tonality - Andy James

64-bit AAX: C:\ Program Files \ Common Files \ Avid \ Audio \ Plug-Ins \ STL Tonality - Andy James

Note: The plug-in files are Universal, so 32-bit and 64-bit plug-ins are included in the same file and location.

CREDITS

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Sincerely

STL Tones Team!