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Alea

User manual

Version 1.0.0 · VST3 · Windows 64-bit

GINGER ALE PATTERN

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1 What is Alea?

Alea is a MIDI plugin that plays your notes at random. You choose which notes it is allowed to play and how likely each one is. Alea then decides, every time. The goal: **controlled variations that never follow a fixed loop**, even if your sound runs for ten hours.



Alea makes no sound by itself: it takes MIDI in and sends MIDI out. It always needs an instrument to play the notes.

2 Installation

Requirements

- Windows, 64-bit.
- A 64-bit DAW that supports VST3 plugins. Alea has been tested in FL Studio.
- Administrator rights, to install into the shared VST3 folder.

Steps

1. Run **Alea-Setup-1.0.0.exe**. If Windows shows “Windows protected your PC”, click **More info**, then **Run anyway** (the installer is not code-signed yet).
2. Follow the installer. Alea is copied to **C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\Alea.vst3**.
3. Open your DAW and rescan your plugins. Alea appears as an instrument named “Alea”.

Uninstall

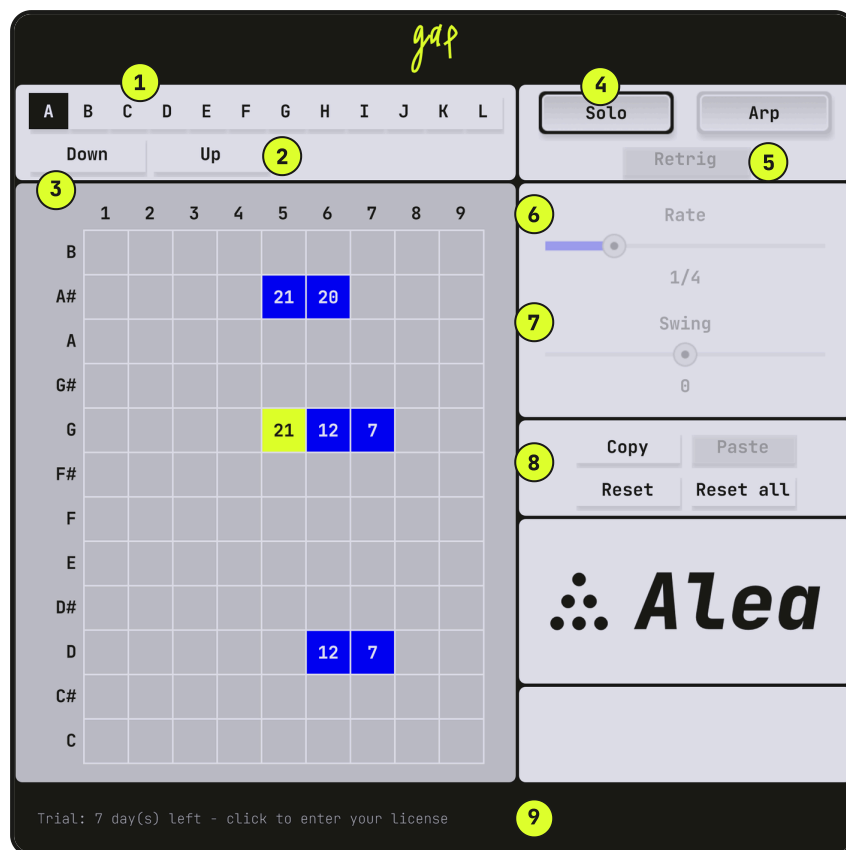
Windows Settings, Apps, then remove **Alea (VST3)**.

3 Quick start in FL Studio

1. **Add your synth.** Load any instrument plugin on a channel of the Channel rack.
2. **Add Alea** on a new channel.
3. **Set Alea's output port.** Open Alea's plugin settings (the gear icon in the plugin header) and set its MIDI **Output port** to a number, for example 7.
4. **Set your synth's input port** to the same number (its settings, MIDI **Input port**).
5. **Choose notes.** In Alea, tab A, click a few cells of the grid. They turn blue, and you hear a short preview.
6. **Play.** Select Alea's channel and play C0 on your keyboard, or draw a C0 note in Alea's piano roll. Your synth plays one of your notes, at random.

Menu names can vary slightly between FL Studio versions. In another DAW, use that DAW's MIDI routing to send Alea's MIDI output to your instrument track.

4 The interface



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>① Tabs A to L</p> | <p>The 12 slots. Each tab answers to one control note (C0 to B0) and has its own grid and settings. The selected tab is blue; a tab turns dark while its control note is held.</p> |
| <p>② Down / Up</p> | <p>Move all the assigned notes of the current tab one octave down or up.</p> |
| <p>③ Grid</p> | <p>Rows are notes (C to B), columns are octaves (1 to 9). Blue cells are the notes Alea may play; the number is the probability. A cell lights up yellow when its note is played.</p> |
| <p>④ Solo / Arp</p> | <p>The mode of the current tab.</p> |
| <p>⑤ Retrig</p> | <p>Arp only: restart the arpeggio when you press the key, instead of following the DAW grid.</p> |
| <p>⑥ Rate</p> | <p>Arp only: the length of a step, from 1 Bar to 1/32t.</p> |
| <p>⑦ Swing</p> | <p>Arp only: shifts every other step, from -100 to +100.</p> |
| <p>⑧ Copy / Paste /
Reset / Reset all</p> | <p>Duplicate a tab, clear a tab, or reset the whole plugin.</p> |
| <p>⑨ Status line</p> | <p>Shows the trial days left or your license status. Click it to enter or manage your license key.</p> |

5 Control notes and tabs

The 12 lowest MIDI notes, 0 to 11, are the **control notes**. FL Studio shows them as **C0** to **B0**; other DAWs may label them C-1 to B-1 or C-2 to B-2.

Each control note is linked to one tab: **A = C0**, **B = C#0**, **C = D0**, and so on up to **L = B0**. Each tab has its own grid, mode, rate, swing and retrigger, which makes 12 independent random generators.

Click a tab to edit it. Playing a control note does not change the selected tab.

6 The grid and the probabilities

Add a note

Click an empty cell. It turns blue and you hear a short preview. You can assign as many cells as you like, in any octave.

Set the probabilities

1. Click a blue cell: the grid switches to **probability mode** and every blue cell shows its percentage.
2. **Drag up or down** on a cell to raise or lower its percentage.
3. **Click** a cell to confirm. The percentages of the tab are rebalanced so that their total is always 100%.

Remove a note

Right-click a blue cell.

Move, copy, reset

Down / Up	Move all the assigned notes of the tab one octave down or up. A note already at the edge of the grid stays in place instead of being lost; if two notes land on the same cell, their probabilities add up.
Copy / Paste	Copy the notes and probabilities of the current tab, then paste them into another tab. The clipboard is shared between tabs.
Reset	Clears the grid of the current tab.
Reset all	Puts everything back to zero: all grids, modes (Solo), rate, swing and retrigger.

7 Solo and Arp modes

Solo

Each time you press the control note, Alea plays **one** random note from the grid. It is held until you release the key, so a long control note gives a long note.

Arp

While you hold the control note, Alea plays a new random note at every step. When you release the key, the arpeggio stops.

Rate

The length of a step. The available values are:

1 Bar 1/2 1/4 1/4t 1/8 1/8t 1/16 1/16t 1/32
1/32t

"t" means triplet. The default is 1/4.

Swing

Shifts every other step, from -100 to +100. 0 means no swing.

Retrig

Off: the arpeggio follows your DAW's grid and tempo. On: it restarts exactly when you press the key.

The mode is chosen **per tab**. Rate, Swing and Retrig are greyed out in Solo mode. Alea keeps the MIDI channel and the velocity of the control note you play.

8 Mixing with your own notes

Only the 12 control notes are remapped. **Every other note, and every other MIDI message** (pitch bend, sustain, CC...), passes through unchanged. You can therefore play or draw a normal melody or chords in the same clip, and add control notes for the parts you want Alea to vary.

A control note whose tab has no assigned cell stays silent in Solo mode.

9 Trial and license

Free trial

Alea works with all its features for **7 days**, with no account and no credit card. The countdown starts the first time you open the plugin. The status line at the bottom shows the days left. When the trial ends, Alea stops remapping and lets your MIDI through unchanged until you activate a license.

Buy and activate

1. Click the status line at the bottom of Alea, then **Buy a license** (or buy on the website). Your key arrives by e-mail.
2. Paste the key in the field and click **Activate**. An internet connection is needed.
3. You can click **Continue trial** to close the panel and keep trying.

Use another computer

Your key is tied to the computer where it was activated. On that computer, open the status line and click **Deactivate this computer**. You can then activate the same key on the new one.

Offline use

Once activated, Alea checks your license online about once a week. Without an internet connection it keeps working for up to 30 days after the last successful check.

Privacy

When you activate, deactivate or when the weekly check runs, Alea sends your license key and your computer's name to Lemon Squeezy's license service. It sends no MIDI, no audio and no project data.

10 Tips and ideas

- **Ambient and drones.** Assign 4 to 6 notes of one scale over two or three octaves. Draw long control notes in Solo mode: each one holds a different random note.
- **Rare surprises.** Give a distant note a low probability, around 5 to 10%, so it only appears from time to time.
- **Variants.** Copy a tab, paste it into another tab, then change a few probabilities: you get a related but different pattern.
- **Groove.** In Arp mode, try 1/16 with a Swing of around 30, and a few notes on strong probabilities.
- **Several instruments.** Use different tabs, and different MIDI channels, to drive different sounds from one Alea.
- **Keep what you like.** Record Alea's output as audio or MIDI in your DAW once you hear something you like.

11 Troubleshooting

I hear nothing	Check that Alea's MIDI output port and your synth's MIDI input port are the same number; that at least one cell is blue in the selected tab; that the note you play is between C0 and B0; and that the trial or license is valid (see the status line).
My note is played unchanged	Only C0 to B0 are control notes. Every other note passes through by design.
The arpeggio does not start	Check that the tab is in Arp mode (the mode is set per tab), and hold the key down.
A note seems stuck	Stop playback in your DAW: Alea releases the notes it started during playback. Then restart.
Alea is not in my plugin list	Rescan your plugins. Check that Alea.vst3 is in C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3 and that your DAW is 64-bit.
Activation fails	Check your internet connection and that you copied the whole key, without spaces. If the message says the key is not valid for Alea, check that it comes from your Alea purchase.
"Your trial has ended"	Enter your license key in the status line, or buy a license.

12 Support

Write to `__SUPPORT_EMAIL__`. Please include your DAW and its version, your Windows version, what you did and what happened instead. A screenshot helps.

Website: `__SITE_URL__`

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