



User's Manual



Echo Trip

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V-Plugs development team.

Introduction:

Fusing vintage and modern, complexity and ease of use, Echo Trip presents new standards in the echo domain!

Accurate emulation of classic echo units

When you want to capture the magic of a vintage tape-echo units, imperfection is the name of the game! Echo Trip reproduces the sonic qualities and artifacts generated by tapes, tubes, and mechanics for the most accurate emulation of any echo unit that has ever been created!

Among the classic echo units that were investigated during the development process you can find Space Echo, Echoplex, Memory Man, DM2 and others. Each nuance of these enchanting machines was carefully learned and implemented, and even the distinct electronic noise that each unit produces was integrated within Echo Trip for the most authentic analog sound and feel!

Take a walk on the wild side!

Echo Trip is not solely a perfectly modeled tape-echo. With its powerful sound engine, countless sound shaping options and modulation paths, Echo Trip is the perfect tool for extremists! If you are looking for an inspiring audio effect that will stimulate your creative juices- you are in the right place! Three timing modes, resonant filters, distortions, lo-fi effects, frequency and ring modulation, reverse mode, envelope followers, LFO's, and many other high quality sound shaping tools making Echo Trip a sound designer heaven!

Timing, groove and new colors

With Echo Trip you have independent control over the echo timing and the echo sound. You can first set your echo pattern, adjusting the shuffle and accent and get the exact groove that you are after. Then you can shape the echo sound (or color) by choosing and tweaking one of the 50 pre-programmed color presets, or by building your own new shining echo color- with Echo Trip it is up to you! There are two separate preset managers where you can load and store echo rhythm patterns and color presets.

Features:

- Choose from 50 echo sounds, including space echo, echoplex, DM2, and others
- Accurate emulation of vintage classic echo units
- Produces a wide variety of cutting-edge innovative effects
- Independent control over the echo timing and echo sound
- Set your echo groove by adjusting shuffle and accent
- Ultra mode for an easy creation of complex echo patterns
- Countless sound shaping options and modulation paths
- Reversed and slowed down delays
- Echo ducking effect helps your echoes blend with your mix
- Midi learn for manipulating parameters in real-time
- Superb sound quality
- Support for sampling rates of up to 192 kHz

Minimum System Requirements:

- Windows XP/Vista/Windows 7
- Pentium 4 1500 mhz or better
- 512mb RAM or more
- Any VST2 or VST3 compatible host application

Echo Trip Demo Version:

If you use the Echo Trip demo version, please note the following:

- The demo version is exactly the same as the full versions, with the exception of a short noise that appears every 50 seconds
- You are not allowed to use Echo Trip demo version in commercial projects of any kind

The full version of Echo Trip can be ordered from: www.v-plugs.com

Installation:

Double click on the „Echo Trip.exe“ file. The installation program will lead you through the rest of the process. Make sure to select your VST Plugins directory as the destination folder for the Echo Trip dll. file.

The demo version or earlier versions of Echo Trip don't have to be uninstalled before installing the full/new version. Simply install the new version over the older one.

After Echo Trip is installed open it within your host sequencer, and authorize it to work with your computer.

Authorization:

The unauthorized software will be fully functional for 21 days. It is recommended to authorize it immediately after purchase!



After starting Echo Trip for the first time you will be asked for the authorization code. Send your hardware ID as it shown on the authorization page to support@v-plugs.com to get your personal authorization code. After getting the code enter it to authorize the software.

After entering this code successfully the program is licensed on your computer. The authorization code is also your license number. Please keep it in a safe place!

Customer Support:

Technical support is available online. Please email us at:

support@v-plugs.com

Please don't forget to mention your name and license number.

Operation Instructions:

One of the features that make Echo Trip unique is the total independent control over the echo timing, and the echo sound (or color).

The upper section of Echo Trip is dedicated to the echo timing and the lower section will affect the echo sound.

This way you can:

Timing section: Set the echoes groove that fits your song

Color Section: Select and adjust the echo color.

Each of the two sections has a dedicated preset manager for instant gratification!



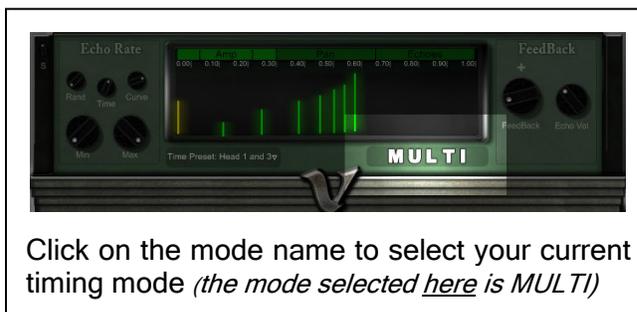
There are also **Global Controls** (*Feedback, Echo Level, Input, Output and Smooth*) that have global effect on the operation of Echo Trip, regardless of the timing and color settings.

* General operation of controls: Ctrl+Click on any control to set it to its default value. Press shift and turn a control to fine-tune the value of a control.

The Timing Section (Upper Section)

You can select from 3 different timing modes:

- I. Classic Mode
- II. Groove Mode
- III. Multi Mode.



Click on the mode name to select your current timing mode (*the mode selected here is MULTI*)

1. The Classic Mode



The classic mode enables you to set the timing of Echo Trip the same way you would do with a three-head vintage tape machine (e.g. the Roland Space Echo and other Echo classics from the 70's).

The **Echo Rate** control will determine the timing for all three Heads. The echo rate value represents the echo time of Head 3. The three Heads always maintain a proportional relationship with each other, so changing the Echo Rate will result in a proportional time change of all three Heads. (You can see the value for each Head in milliseconds).

You can turn each Head on and off by pressing the Head buttons. Set the panning and the volume of each Head with the **Pan** and **Vol** controls. To sync the echo rate to the BPM of your project, click on the **Sync** button located below the echo rate control.

2. The Groove Mode



Using the **Shuffle** and **Accent** controls in the groove mode lets you set interesting and musical echo patterns. This mode also enables you to add the known ping pong effect to your echo groove.

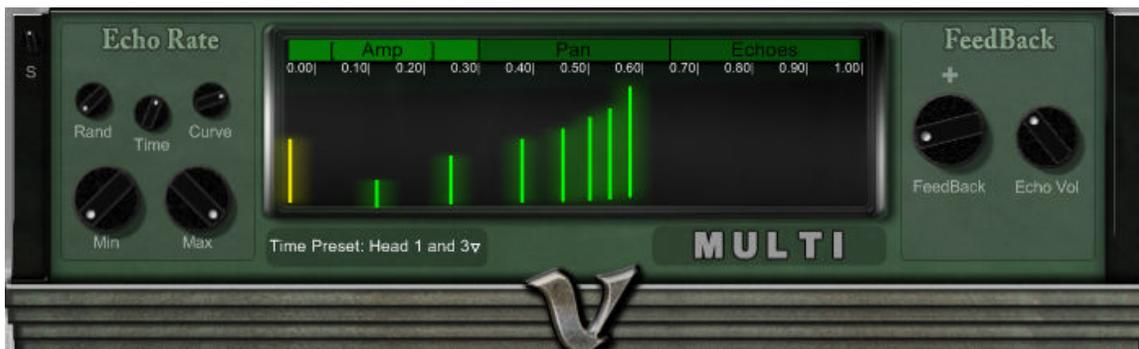
The **Echo Rate** control will determine the timing for your Echo groove.

The **Shuffle** control changes the rhythmic character of Echo Trip by moving forward in time all the even echo repeats. While not all your echo repeats are "on the beat", you can get a much more interesting and musical pattern than with a standard delay. Turn the shuffle control clockwise to get the "swing" effect.

The **Accent** control increases/decreases the volume of the even repeats. Use it to create more dynamic echo patterns with an alternation between softer and louder echoes.

The *Ping Pong* control spreads the echoes between the left and the right outputs. Place this control in the center, in order to avoid this effect.

3. The Multi Mode



Multi-Mode enables you to create more complex echo patterns. It is like an echo tape with eight heads, and you can set the panning and the volume of each head independently. Using the Multi-Mode enables you to change the timing of the different echo tapes in various unusual ways. Unique sounds can be achieved by changing these different timing parameters in real time.

On the main screen you can set various parameters for each head:



On the *Amp section* you can set the amplitude of each tape tap.



On the *Pan section* you can set the panning for each tape tap.



On the *Echoes section* you can set the timing for each tape tap.

You can quickly adjust the value for a specific parameter for all the active heads by dragging the cursor over the bars.

Questions you might ask yourself

How many tape heads can I use simultaneously?

Up to eight tape heads can be active at the same time.

How to add a new tape head?

You can add a new tape head by double clicking on the main screen.

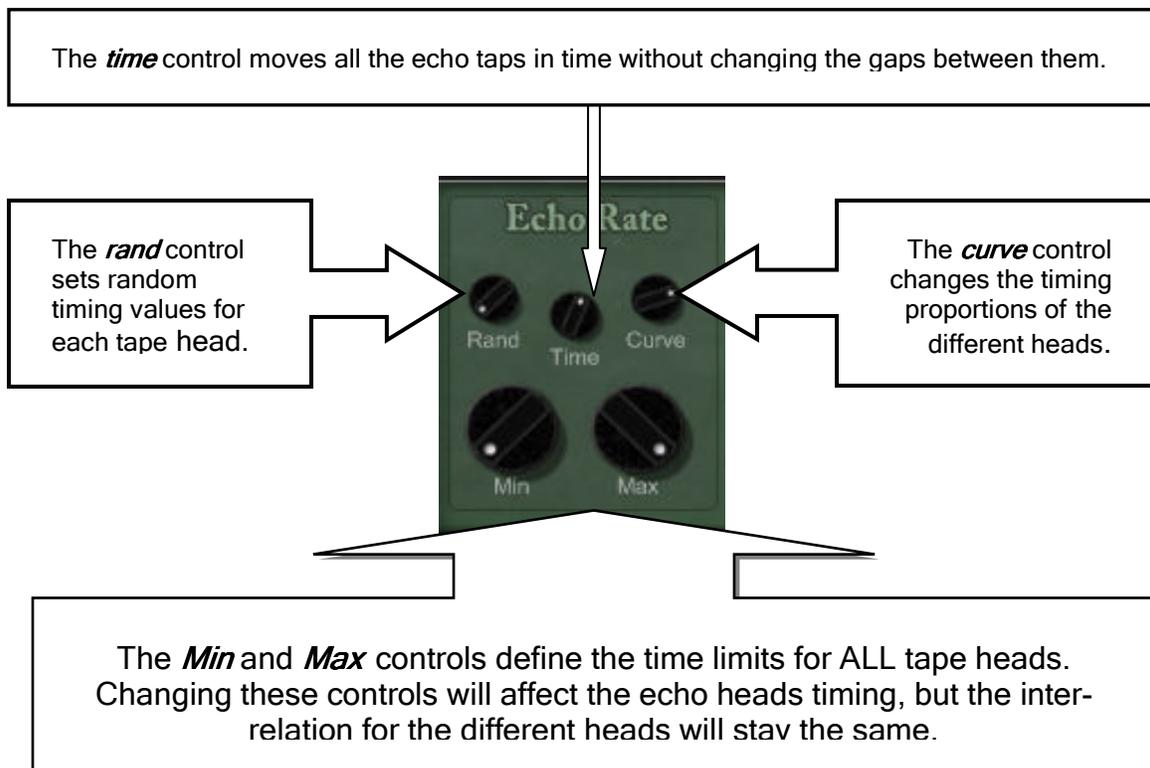
How to delete a tape head?

You can delete a tape head by ctrl+click on the head bar on the main screen.

From which tape head the signal is sent back to the feedback loop?

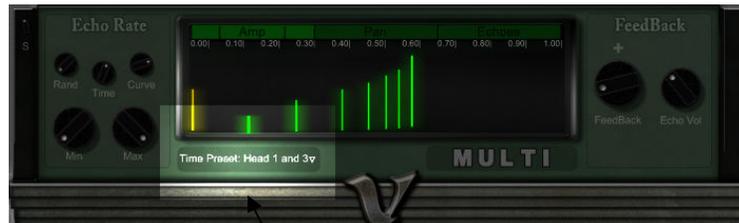
It's the yellow bar. It represents the echo tap from which the signal is sent back to the feedback loop.

You can select another echo head then the one that is already selected by alt+clicking on any echo head.



4. The timing preset manager:

As mentioned above the timing section of Echo Trip has a dedicated preset manager. A timing preset includes the timing mode and all the timing controls values.



Timing Preset
Manager

To load timing preset: click on the timing preset manager menu and then click on a preset name for selecting a timing preset.

To save timing preset: click on the timing preset manager menu and then choose the ***save preset*** option. Give a new name to your preset. To see it in your list click the ***rescan folder*** option.

To delete timing preset: click on the timing preset manager menu and then choose the open folder option. Delete the file with the name of the preset you want to delete. Close the window and click on the ***rescan folder*** option.

Color Section (lower Section)

The color section determines the sound of your echoes. Unlike the standard delay units, the echoes in echo trip are not an accurate replication of the original signal. Using physical modeling, sampling and advanced sound synthesis techniques, Echo trip can emulate the sound of any echo tape that have been ever created. Choose one of the 52 color presets and tweak it, or build your own unique echo sound!

1. Basic Color Settings: Color Presets and Quick Controls

The easiest way to set your echo sound is to choose one of the pre-programmed color presets. Then you can tweak each preset with the Quick Controls (Feedback, Drive, and Filter controls).

I. The color preset manager:



Echo Trip provides an accurate emulation of the sound of various vintage tape echo machine, and echo pedal along with modern inspiring and extreme echo sounds.

The 52 pre programmed color preset are divided to five categories:

- A: Tape Echoes** - Emulation of classic tape machines
- B: Analog Units** - Emulation of classic guitar pedals and other analog units
- C: Modern Echoes** - Up-to-date brighter echo sounds
- D: Special Echoes** - Spicy and spacey echo sounds
- X: Extreme Echoes** - For extremists only!

To load a color preset:

Double-Click on a preset name to load it.

To open a new empty color preset:

Double-Clicking on the category's name will open an empty color preset (No color - the echo is a perfect replication of the original sound)

To save color preset:

Right-Click on the color preset screen and choose the *save preset* option from the menu. Give your preset a new name. If you want the new preset to appear in a particular category - save it with the capital letter that represent the category, as the first letter of the preset name. To see it on your color preset screen choose the *rescan folder* option.

II: Quick Color Controls:

These controls enable you to easily tweak the most important parameters of the echo sound.



With the three filter controls you can easily change the basic color of your sound.

HP Freq: determines the cutoff frequency for the High Pass filter.

LP Freq: determines the cutoff frequency for the Low Pass filter.

Pick Freq: determines the cutoff frequency for the Mid-band of the EQ.

* Other parameters regarding these filters (Like the resonance) can be adjusted in the **advanced color section**.

Drive: Echo Trip use a unique analog drive emulation that makes it different then other echo and delay plug-ins. Echo trip Drive adds the warmth, character and presence of a real analog device. Turn this knob clockwise to add more saturation and analog distortion to your sound.

* Depending on your other settings you might get too much feedback when set the drive control to higher values. If this is the case, reduce the feedback amount, or set the feedback mix control to lower values.

Feed Mix: Enhances the "feedback loop effect" that is caused by the In-Feedback sound shapers (See below). When you turn the Feed Mix control clockwise the "In Feedback" effect becomes more dominant with each echo repeat.

Turn this control clockwise for a more "colored" echo sound.

2. Advanced Color Section:

Even though Echo Trip is loaded with plenty of pre-programmed echo sounds, some of you might want to build your own echo sounds (Or to make an in-depth tweak to the existing sound presets).

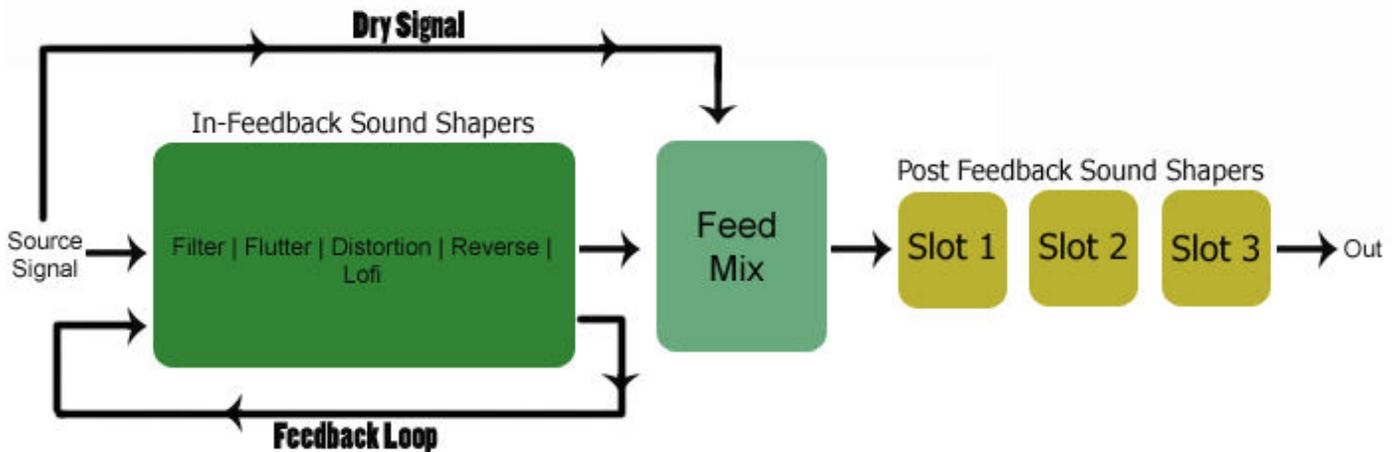
Well, it's time to get your hands dirty! Learning how to use the advanced color section will enable you to create and store endless unique echo sounds!

But firstly turn on the light: by clicking on the small button (Shown in the picture below) you will turn on the light of the advanced color section.



Turn the light for the advanced color section on/off

I: Signal Flow:



Signal flow for the color section

Understanding the signal flow in the color section is crucial for building new echo sounds from zero.

In-Feedback Sound Shapers: The first stage in the echo sound-shaping within Echo Trip starts with the In-Feedback sound shapers. There are many effects and sound shapers that are placed within the feedback loop. That means that the signal is passes trough these sound shapers again and again, depending on your Feedback control settings. For example, if you place a low-pass filter within the feedback loop the sound becomes darker and darker with each repeat.

Note that all these sound shapers are parallel (Not serial)!

Feedback mix: Enhances the "feedback loop effect" that the In-Feedback sound shapers cause. If this control is turned completely to the left the echo sound will pass through the In-Feedback sound shapers only once and there will be no iterative straightening effect. When you turn the Feed Mix control clockwise the "In Feedback" effect becomes more dominant with each echo repeat.

Post-Feedback Sound Shapers: The next stage in the echo sound-shaping process is the post-feedback sound shapers. There are three slots that can contain variety of effects and sound processors that will add the final touch to your echo sound. These three slots are connected serially.

II: In-Feedback Sound Shapers:

Press on the **-F-** button to see the *In-Feedback* panel of the advanced color section. There are five pages on this panel, each page represents a certain sound process or effect: **Filter**, **Flutter**, **Distortion** (and **Noise**), **Reverse** (and **Envelope Follower**) and **Low Fi**.

Filter



These three high quality filters are probably the first place to start shaping your echo sound. Please note that since these filters are placed within the feedback loop, its effect will be different then the effect of a usual filter effect. As the signal is going through the filter again and again (depending the *Feedback* control setting), the filter effect is increased and emphasized.

Use the **High Pass frequency (HP Freq)** control to roll off lower frequencies or to achieve a brighter and thinner echo sound. Use the **Low Pass frequency (LP Freq)** control to create a darker and more natural echo sound. Use the **Peak Frequency (Peak Freq)** to select which frequency range will be enhanced or attenuated by the *Gain* control.

You can set higher **Resonance (Res)** values for a sharper echo sound. You can use very high resonance values to make your echo "scream".

Flutter



Using this section enables you to add the wow and flutter side effects that are being produced by tape machines, or to create wilder pitch-changing effects.

The *Speed* knob controls the speed of the flutter effect. The *Flutter* control determines the amount of the flutter effect.

You can choose from three different patterns for the flutter effect: Sinus (*Sin*), Triangle (*Tri*) and Tape Machine (*Tape*). Use the *tape* option for emulating the flutter of a tape machine. Choose *sin* or *tri* for a more regular up-and-down pattern.

The *Smooth* button will create a smoother pitch transition.

Distortion and Noise



The distortion and noise section contributes a lot for the authentic tape emulation that Echo Trip can deliver.

Distortion: The distortion in Echo-Trip is based on an advanced algorithm to provide a non-linear warm sound with all the anomalies and liveliness that you can encounter when using an old analog tape echo device.

Turn the *Drive* control clockwise to get a hotter (and dirtier) sound.

Turn the *Damp* control clockwise for a deeper and warmer distortion sound.

* Depending on your other settings you might get too much feedback when set the drive control to higher values. If this is the case, reduce the feedback amount, or set the feedback mix control to lower values.

Noise: The mechanic and electronic noises that old echo machines produce helps the echo sound to blend better with the original sound (and the whole mix), and are part of the distinctive sound of these machines. Obviously, these noises can not be neglected when trying to perfectly emulate a certain echo unit.

Echo Trip can produce various noises that are based on noise samples of the original tapes and analog devices. You can choose from 12 noise sounds in the Noise menu, and change the noise pitch to fit your needs-, with the *Pitch* control. Finally set the noise level with the *Noise* control.

Reverse and Envelope Follower



Reverse: This section is actually an envelope follower that smoothes the signal transient and by that creating the "Reverse" effect. Turn *on* this section to activate the reverse effect. Use the *Amount* knob to control the reverse amount.

Envelope Follower: This section uses the signal amplitude envelope to affect the pitch of the echo signal. The *Attack* and *Release* controls determine the envelope follower attack and release. The *Amount* control determines how much the envelope follower will affect the echo pitch.

Lo Fi: Frequency Modulation, Ring Modulation, Sample&Hold



Here you can add some weird and digital character to your echo sound!

Ring Modulation: The *Ring* control determines the Ring Modulation amount. The *Freq* control sets the frequency for the modulator that affects the signal amplitude. The *Type* control will affect the way the amplitude is being modulated; the ring modulation sound will be changed respectfully.

* Use low frequency values to achieve a strange **Tremolo** effect.

Frequency Modulation: The *FM* control determines the frequency modulation amount. The *Freq* control sets the frequency for the modulator that affects the signal frequency.

* Use low frequency values to achieve a strange **Vibrato** effect.

Lo Fi: Turn the *S&H* control to the left, to achieve sample-rate dividing and digital distortion.

III: Post Feedback Sound Shapers:



Left Click on the slot name see its panel.
 Right Click to choose a new (or a different) effect.
 Right Click and choose "Off" to turn a slot off.

With the Post Feedback sound shapers you can add the final touch to your echo sound. There are three effect slots that are connected serially, one after the other. The effects and the sound shapers are: **Lo-Fi**, **Distortion**, **Gate**, **Compressor**, **Flanger**, **Comb Filter**, **Filter**, **Tremolo**, **Tube Saturation**, **Revreb**, **Equalizer** and **Volume**.

Even though these are serial effects, there is a **Mix** control on the panel of each effect that determines the balance between the processed sound and the dry signal.



Lo Fi:



The Lo-Fi effects enable you to add a digital character to your echo sound.

S&H (Sample & Hold): Turn the *S&H* control to the left, to achieve the sample-rate dividing effect (Resulting with aliasing distortion)

Bits (Bit Crusher): Turn the *Bits* control to the left, to achieve bit crushing effect.

Ring (Ring Modulation): This control determines how much ring modulation will be applied to the echo signal.

FM (Frequency Modulation): This control determines how much frequency modulation will be applied to the echo signal.

Speed (Modulator Rate): This control determines the rate for the modulator of both the Ring and the FM modulations. Use low values for achieving Tremolo and Vibrato effects.

Distortion:



Here you can add extra gritty distortion to your echo sound.

Drive: Turn the *Drive* control clockwise to get a hotter sound.

Type: Turn the *Type* control clockwise for a brighter harsher distortion sound. Turn it counterclockwise to get a warmer distortion.

Gate:



Use the gate processor to cut the echo-tails or to soften the echo transient.

Thresh (Threshold): Set the threshold value - below this value the signal will be eliminated. Higher values means lower threshold settings- turn this control clockwise to start gating!

Attack: Set the attack value for the gate. Use longer attack time to soften the echo transient.

Release: Set the release value for the gate. Use short timing setting to cut the echo-tails.

Compressor:



With the compressor you can get mild to hard compressed echo sound.

Another trick you can do with this compressor is to use the original signal to compress the echoes (**Side-Chain Compression**). This way you can attenuate the echoes when the original signal is present, so you can use a lot of echo sound without getting in the way of the original signal!

Thresh (Threshold): Set the threshold parameter - when the signal amplitude raises above the threshold value the signal will be compressed. Higher values means lower threshold settings- turn this control clockwise to start compressing!

Attack: Set the attack value for the compressor.

Release: Set the release value for the compressor.

Make-Up-Gain: Make up gain for increasing the echo level when the compressor attenuates it.

Side Chain Mix (SChainMix): Set the balance between the regular compression and a side chain compression. When this knob is turned fully to the right only the side-chain compression will be heard. When it turned fully to the left only the regular compression will be heard.

* Echo tape is characterized by a mild tape compression. You can use the compressor to emulate this effect with mild compression settings, short attack time and a longer release time.

Flanger:



Time (Delay Time): Set the delay time for the flanger.

Depth: Set the modulation depth.

Feedback: Set the feedback value for the flanger. Higher values will make the flanger "scream".

Speed (Rate): Set the modulation speed.

Phase:

Comb Filter:



The comb filter enables you to color your sound with soft to metallic colors.

The original signal is duplicated two times. These two signals are slightly delayed and then combined with the original signal to create the comb filter effect.

Delay: Set the delay time for the first duplication of the signal.

Stereo: Determines the stereo spread value for the comp filter effect.

Delay 2: Set the delay time for the second duplication of the signal.

Feedback: Set the feedback value for the comb filter.

* You can use short delay times and very high feedback values, to make the comb filter "scream". Impressive effects can be achieved this way. You might want to set a compressor after the comb filter to "calm it down" a little, when it screams too loud!

Filter:



This section contains High Pass Low Pass filters, for further shaping and fine-tuning of the echo timbre. (For achieving the dark echo sound that characterize Tape Echoes you better use the In-Feedback loop filters).

HP Cutoff: Set the cutoff frequency for the High Pass Filter.

HP Resonance: Set the resonance value for the High Pass Filter.

LP Cutoff: Set the cutoff frequency for the Low Pass Filter.

LP Resonance: Set the resonance value for the Low Pass Filter.

* The primary use of this section is to smooth or to bring out the character that other processors gave to the echo sound. For example after using a sample rate divider you might want to roll off the bright (and sometimes disturbing) high frequency that this effect produces. You can use the Low Pass filter in this section for this mission.

Tremolo:



The tremolo will add the effect of a repeated periodical change in the amplitude of your echo sound.

Amount: This control sets the tremolo amount.

Speed: This control sets the tremolo speed.

Smooth: When turned clockwise, this control makes the amplitude modulation effect softer.

Tube:



The tube section can add a delicate airy tube distortion sound. It will also help your sound being more compressed and solid.

Drive: Turn the Drive control clockwise for more tube saturation.

CutBand: The Cut-band control slightly changes the Tube-Drive color.

Amp: The drive causes an increase in the echo overall amplitude. With this control you can attenuate the volume so it won't be too loud.

Reverb:



In the reverb section you can add space and air to your echo sound.

Room: Sets the reverb room size.

Dump: Turn this control clockwise for a darker reverb sound.

Width: Sets the reverb stereo width.

Equalizer:



Freq 1: Sets the frequency for the equalizer first band.

Gain 1: Sets the gain for the Equalizer first band (Positive and negative values)

Freq 2: Sets the frequency for the equalizer second band.

Gain 2: Sets the gain for the Equalizer second band (Positive and negative values)

Q: Determines the Q parameter for both bands.

Volume:



Volume: Increases or attenuate the echo signal level.

* The primary purpose of this section is to set the overall level of your echo signal after the other processors and sound shapers have increased or attenuated it.

Global Controls:

There are some global controls that are not part of timing or the color sections. These controls are not saved with the timing/color presets, and will have global effect on the operation of Echo Trip, regardless of the timing and color settings. (These parameters will be saved with the Main presets).

1. Feedback/Echo level section

Feedback: this knob controls how many times the echo signal repeats itself.

Rotate the control clockwise to increase the number of echoes. Depending on the color setting, higher values can cause the self-oscillation effect that is associated with classic tape echo machines.

You can choose between positive and negative feedback paths, by pressing on the small +/- sign (Which is placed above the feedback control)



Echo Vol: determines the amplitude of the echo effect. Turn this control clockwise for a louder echo sound.

2. Input/Output section

Input: this control determines the signal level that is input to Echo Trip. Depending on the color settings (the echo tape sound that you use), the input control can have different effect on the overall sound. For example, when imitating old tape machines, higher input levels means also a distorted echo sound (Just like what happen with the originals)

Output: this control determines the output volume of Echo Trip. It affects both dry and effect signals.

100 Wet: When turned on, only the processed signal is heard. When turned off you will here the mix of the dry and processed signals. When you are using Echo Trip as a parallel effect, make sure that this button is turned on!



3. The hidden smooth control

Smooth (Hidden control) at the top left corner of the plug-in you can see a hidden small smooth control.

So, what exactly this control does? Whenever you are changing the timing of an echo machine a simultaneous change in the signal pitch occurs. Various impressive sound effects can be created in this way. Many of the classic sci-fi effects that you have heard on records and movies were achieved in this exact way. The smooth parameter gives you extra control over this pitch-transition effect.



Turn the smooth control clockwise for a smoother pitch transition. Turn it counter-clockwise for a stepped pitch transition.

4. Midi Learn

When using tape echoes, part of the fun is the real time tweaking. The Midi Learn option enables you an easy control over all the parameters of the Echo Trip, so you can play it in real time just as it was a musical instrument, and create musical interesting effects.

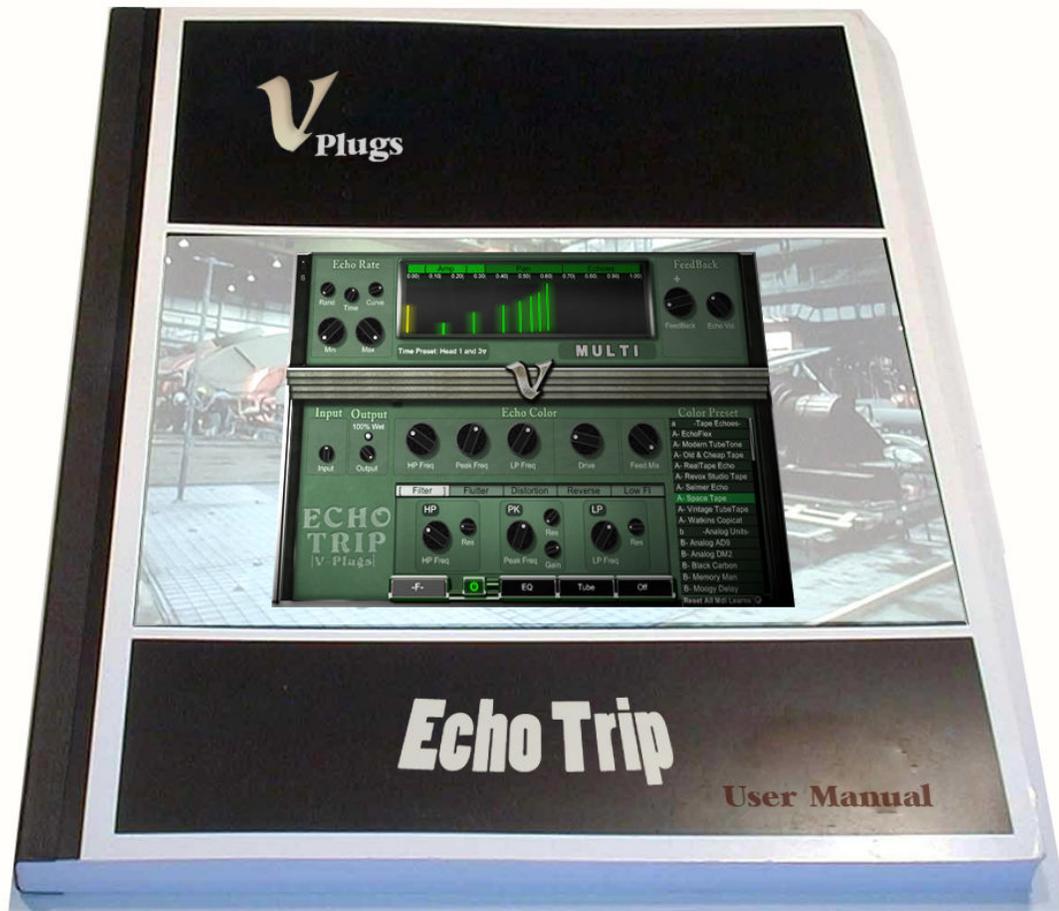
Choose a control by left clicking on it, and turn a knob on your Midi controller to associate this knob with the desired Echo Trip control.



Click here to activate the Midi learn mode

Select a control by left clicking on it, and turn a knob on your Midi controller





User Comments:

We will appreciate any comment regarding Echo Trip. Don't hesitate to contact us at support@v-plugs.com and share with us your experience using Echo Trip.