

Pitchshifter plugins

Move things higher and lower with this comprehensive selection of processors



Unfiltered Audio Fault \$99

To start off with, Fault gives you a pitchshifter with individual settings for left and right channels, although naturally the two can be linked to the same amount. Notably, these parameters reach up to a maximum of +/- 12 semitones, with a resolution of 0.1 semitones, but in terms of pitchshifting quality, the results are very, very solid when compared to the other shifters in this roundup.

A larger and more customisable part of Fault is the frequency shifting architecture. With panning, spread and Multiplication controls, this can easily perform ring mod duties too, and there's also FM with Frequency and Depth controls – nice and growly. This whole section sounds great on drums, and comes into its own in the next panel...

The Feedback Matrix lets you send frequency shifting and delay processes back into each other for cascading pitched echoes. Add to that a selection of coloured LFOs that can be routed to anything, and you're in pitching-and-delaying heaven here.

plugin-alliance.com

VERDICT 8.8



Soundtoys Little AlterBoy \$99

It's the 21st century pitchshifter plugin that everyone's talking about, but why? With two main pitching controls, two global controls and three modes, Little AlterBoy certainly isn't an entire pitch manipulation workstation. Instead, the idea is to focus entirely on a pitchshifter that's easy to use for vocal-focused pitch effects – you shouldn't expect to get much out of LAB on non-vocal material, because it wasn't designed for that, and we're not reviewing it with that usage in mind.

Little AlterBoy has a certain sound of its own when applied to vocals, with genderbending, robotising, and its own take on the Cher/T-Pain scourge all possible. The most enjoyable use is probably operating with the Dry/Wet mix set to roughly half, and controlling the Pitch (and Formant if you Link it) control using a MIDI input; while negatives are some stereo side effects to the pitch manipulation process, and the inability to shift things by cents – it's all done by 0.1 of a semitone.

It's a creative vocal effect of very good quality, but paying that price for the number of controls, despite the great sound quality, loses Little AlterBoy some marks compared to its competition.

soundtoys.com

VERDICT 7.6



kiloHearts Pitch Shifter \$19

A very digital-sounding effect with few controls, but quite a bargain at

\$19 (it's also available as part of kiloHearts' wider ecosystem). The kHs Pitch Shifter isn't as good at its basic remit as, say, the Ableton Live clip Transpose function, which is a shame, but some good results can be obtained using slight detunes and blending the Dry/Wet mix to thicken and spread the sound more – synth detune-style.

For the price, it's hard to complain about Pitch Shifter, although you probably can get the same effect in your DAW already. In reality, this one works better in its intended context – as a Snap In within kiloHearts' Multipass, Snap Heap or Phase Plant systems.

kilohearts.com

VERDICT 6.3



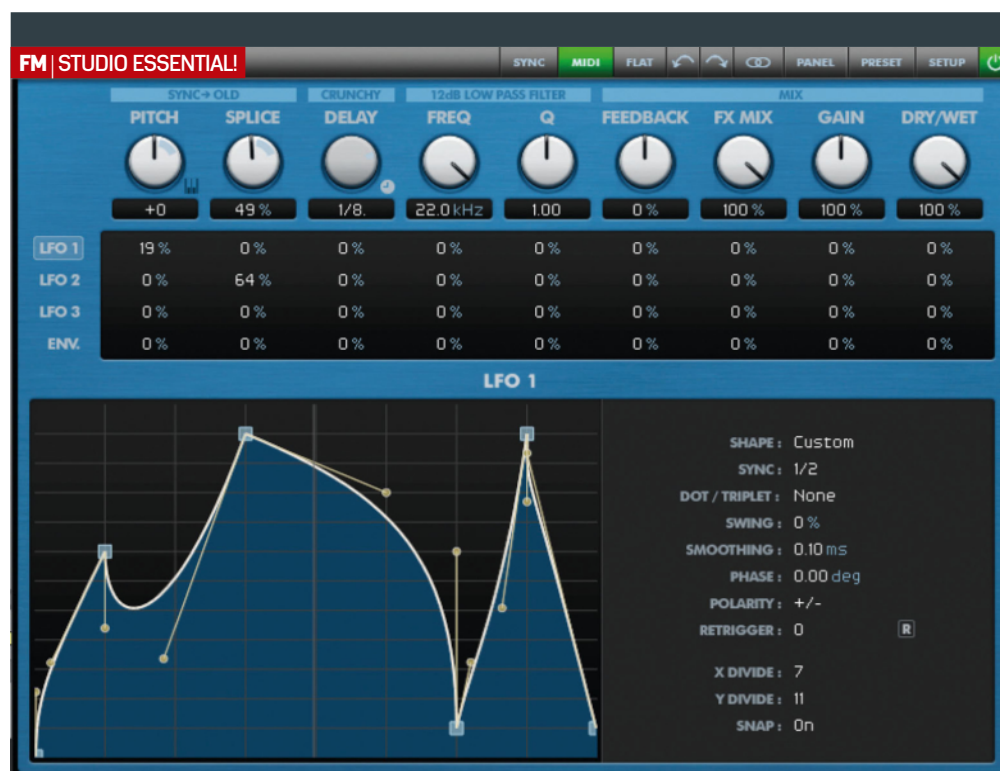
Sinevibes Shift \$29

This Audio Units-only plugin is more of a frequency shifter, actually, but the results are very high quality, and the sequencer-driven nature of the effect makes it notably very creative. A little goes a long way in Shift, with the green Frequency lane controlling pitch per-step on a drawable curve, and the yellow Envelope allowing you to draw prescribed shapes at a depth of your choosing per step, from a choice of Triangle, Ramp (Single, Double or Triple) and Square. 32 steps are possible, splayed over 1, 2, 4 or 8 bars, so you can get some quite intricate, quick frequency-shifting movements should you wish.

Global controls include Swing, curve shape, Dry/Wet and Lag, and you also get Sinevibes' intuitive Snapshots system for switching between different setups. Shift can be heavy-handed, and it's a one-stop shop for every pitch effect you'll need (but make sure you know the difference between frequency and pitchshifting before choosing it). But for creative step-driven frequency shifting, this is unrivalled – especially on drums.

sinevibes.com

VERDICT 7.9



DMG Audio PitchFunk

£75

PitchFunk gives you a choice of eight effects, only one of which is Pitch (the others take in Delay, Filtering and global Mix controls). The idea is to take said parameters and modulate them using any of one envelope follower and three LFOs. These LFOs are nice and deep, allowing lots of customisation. Let's look at PitchFunk: it has 10 algorithms for pitch detection, each changing how the pitch of incoming audio is detected, often with interesting results. That Pitch dial can be set in cents or semitones, while the Splice dial acts as a sort of granular control. Getting three LFOs and an envelope to control these parameters gives a lot of effects, and with delay and filtering also dialled in in the mod matrix, PitchFunk opens up groovy rhythmic effects. If you've got the time to master its workflow, it can give you what no other pitchshifter can.

dmgaudio.com

VERDICT 8.3