

Gaines Auto Panner AP-1

PUT YOUR MIX IN MOTION

USER MANUAL · v2.0 · macOS (Apple Silicon) · AU / VST3

OVERVIEW

AP-1 is a modulation panner that moves a sound across the stereo field automatically, using a selectable waveform shape, adjustable rate, and tempo sync. It's built for rhythmic width — pads that breathe, guitars that swirl, synths that pump left-right in time with the track — without you touching an automation lane.

Beyond simple panning, AP-1 tracks phase alongside position, which means the pan meter shows you not just where a sound sits in the stereo field, but how its phase relationship is behaving as it moves — useful for catching mono-compatibility issues before they become a problem on other systems.

QUICK START

- Insert AP-1 on any track or bus you want to animate.
- Choose a waveform shape: **SIN** for smooth, continuous movement; **TRI** for even, linear sweeps; **SQR** for a hard-switching left/right effect.
- Set **RATE** (in free-running Hz) or engage sync and set **DIVISION** to lock movement to your track's tempo.
- Adjust **DEPTH** to control how far the sound travels across the stereo field.
- Use **PHASE** to offset the panning cycle's starting point — useful for staggering multiple instances across different tracks.
- Watch the PAN POSITION meter to see the pan (amber) and phase (red) needles move in real time.

INTERFACE GUIDE

Header

Control	Function
FREE / SYNC	Toggles between free-running Hz-based rate and tempo-synced, division-based rate.
STEREO / MONO	Indicates the detected channel configuration of the current input. Mono input disables true stereo panning behavior, as there is no left/right image to move.

Waveform Shape

Shape	Character
SIN	Smooth, sine-wave motion — the most natural-feeling, continuous pan sweep.
TRI	Triangle wave — linear, even movement with a sharper turnaround at each extreme.
SQR	Square wave — the sound snaps between left and right with no gradual transition, useful for rhythmic, gated-style effects.

Motion Controls

Control	Range	Function
RATE	0.01 – 20 Hz	Speed of the pan cycle when in FREE mode.
DIVISION	1/1 – 1/64, incl. dotted & triplet	Note division used to sync the pan cycle to host tempo when SYNC is engaged.
DEPTH	0 – 100%	How far the sound travels across the stereo field. At 0%, the sound stays centered regardless of waveform or rate.
PHASE	0° – 360°	Offsets the starting point of the pan cycle — use this to de-sync multiple AP-1 instances from one another for complex, layered movement.
STEREO	0 – 100%	Controls the stereo width of the panned signal itself, independent of its position in the field.
SWING	0 – 100%	Introduces a swing feel to the sync'd movement, delaying alternate cycles for a shuffled, less mechanical motion.

THE PAN POSITION METER

The circular meter shows two needles: the **amber PAN** needle tracks the sound's current left/right position, while the **red PHASE** needle tracks the phase relationship between channels as the pan moves. Watching both together helps confirm that wide, fast panning settings aren't introducing phase cancellation that could cause problems in mono playback.

PRESETS

Select a starting point from the PRESETS dropdown, then adjust RATE/DIVISION and DEPTH to fit your track's tempo and the amount of movement you want.

SPECIFICATIONS

Formats	Audio Unit (AU), VST3
Platform	macOS — Apple Silicon (Windows in development)
Latency	Zero added latency
Channel config	Stereo (mono input disables panning motion)

SUPPORT

Questions, issues, or feature requests: **gainesaudio63@gmail.com**. Please include your Stripe receipt, your DAW and macOS version, and a short description of what you're hearing or seeing.