

STUDIOCAT

User Guide



1 Introduction

Welcome to StudioCat, the only plugin in your arsenal designed to contribute absolutely nothing of value to your mix.

All the best studios have relied on a resident feline or two to judge fader moves, nap on the outboard gear, and walk across keyboards at critical moments. StudioCat now brings that energy directly into your DAW.

Your new digital companion will wander your screen, react to your audio, and generally cause trouble while you work. It won't fix your low end, balance your vocals, or clean up your tracks, but it will make those late night sessions a lot less tedious.

StudioCat is drawn entirely in real time through procedural graphics rather than heavy video assets, ensuring it glides smoothly across your screen without hogging your computer's resources. More than just a static overlay, it's built around an active behavioural engine designed to inspect, react to, and interrupt your workspace in surprising ways. It pays attention to what's happening in your session and will find plenty of ways to keep itself entertained.

One cat not enough for you? Spawn as many as you like, and watch them interact with each other and your session. Each cat has its own personality, and will react in its own way. Some are more curious than others, some are more playful, and some are downright mischievous.

2 Installation

2.1 System requirements

	macOS	Windows
System	macOS 12 or later	Windows 10 or later, 64-bit
Processor	Apple Silicon or Intel	Any 64-bit
Formats	VST3, AU	VST3
Host	Any VST3 or AU host	Any VST3 host

2.2 Installing

Download StudioCat for your platform from nyx-dsp.com. There's no installer. Unzip and copy the plugin into the folder for its format.

Format	Copy to
VST3, Windows	C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3
VST3, macOS	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3
AU, macOS	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

Restart your DAW, or rescan its plugins, and StudioCat will appear under NYX-DSP.

2.3 Activation

The first time StudioCat opens, it asks for a license key. Paste in the key from your purchase email and click **Activate**. Activation happens online; there's no iLok, no dongle and no account software running in the background.

Not bought it yet? Click **Start Free Trial** for seven days of the full plugin. If you buy a license later, enter it in the same place. There's nothing to reinstall.

Each license can be active on up to three machines at once. If you reach that limit, **Manage Activations** appears so you can release one of the others.

StudioKitten, the free edition, doesn't need a key.

3 Quick start

1. Put StudioCat on any track.
2. Choose a cat from the cat menu.
3. Click **Roam** to let it out of the basket and onto your screen.
4. Turn on **Speak** for the occasional meow, and **Interact** to play with it using your cursor.
5. In REAPER, the + button next to Interact lets the cat loose on your session's own controls. You have been warned.

4 Meet the cats

Did you know a group of cats is called a clowder? No, neither did we.



Classic

Queen of the night, our little champion.



Orange

That one brain cell is working overtime here.



Chocolate

Steady and companionable. Stays near and usually comes when called.



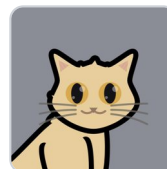
Cinnamon

Warm and busy. Loves to groom and has a curious streak.



Gray

Dignified and thoroughly unimpressed. Sits and watches the world impassively.



Cream

Soft-natured and slow. Kneads at everything and a big fan of naps.



Lilac

The scaredy cat. Prone to bolting, prefers to keep to the edges.



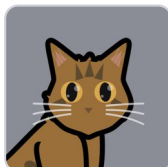
Bengal

Half wild, and hungry with it. Sprints, climbs, hunts, almost never stops.



Mackerel Tabby

Vacant. Stares at nothing for long stretches, and takes an age to notice potential prey.



Spotted Tabby

All hunter. Idle cursors beware!



Rosette

The derpy one. Never quite seems sure what its doing, spends a lot of time staring vacantly.



Brown Tabby

The everycat, with one weakness: food. Begs at the slightest provocation.



Gray Tabby

Placid and watchful. A little slower than the average cat.



Silver Tabby

A poser. Bit of a diva, wants attention constantly.



Tortie

Tortitude. Moody, quick to swipe, and as likely to stalk off as to follow you.



Calico

Opinionated and independent. Does what it likes, which is often not what you asked.



Siamese

Needy and vocal. Will follow you around, and hates being left alone.



Blue Lynx

Talkative, but independent. Might have more to say than you realise.



Tuxedo

Formal and well-mannered. Immaculately groomed, and would never touch your faders.



Harlequin

The clown. Zoomies and pratfalls, and strongly drawn to anything it should not touch.



Smoke

Sleepy old thing. Chasing is mostly beneath it these days.

5 Controls



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The basket

The cat loves its bed. Something most of us can relate to. It's where the cat lives when Roam is disabled.

A sleeping cat can be stubborn and may take a few clicks to rouse.

Cat menu

A simple dropdown to pick your cat. Each cat has its own personality and will behave slightly differently.

Speak

Toggle on for an immediate meow, then occasional random meows every few seconds.

Not every cat is equally talkative. Some have plenty to say for themselves, but most are largely content to keep it to themselves.

Roam

Want your cat up and about? Hit the Roam button. A stubborn cat might need a poke or two to get going.

Interact

Enabling this puts the cat in fully interactive mode. The cat becomes aware of, and responds to, your cursor, swatting and pouncing as it moves around the screen. Play with the cat, have it chase until you've worn the poor thing out.

+ (REAPER only)

A small + button appears beside **Interact** when Interact is already enabled. Switch it on to unleash a whole extra layer of mayhem. No longer is your mix window simply a backdrop for your cat, it's now a playground. The cat gains the ability to walk up to real controls and interact with them.

Why REAPER only? REAPER is the only DAW that exposes an API and provides a framework to understand its layout. No other host exposes anything comparable, so this is a REAPER-only feature for now. In every other DAW the + button simply never appears.

This feature has only been tested with REAPER 7 onwards, but should work with REAPER 6.36 or newer.

Only one control is explicitly excluded from the cat's reach in this mode: the record button. Everything else is at its mercy.

Changes the cat makes are stored as REAPER undo points, so you can see in the undo history exactly what the cat did. The cat does *not* tidy up after itself. If it mutes your vocal it leaves it muted and wanders off.

You can also right-click the cat basket (or the cat itself) for a list of the last dozen things it has done, newest first, each with a timestamp. Click an entry to revert.

Light / dark

Switches the panel between light and dark finishes.

Manual

Congratulations! You've found the manual.