SlowShade - User Guide

Slow Playback & Tone Transformation Tool

Version: 1.0
Website: rockheyday.com
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Format: Standalone Application (Windows 64-bit)
Audio Engine: 96 kHz Ready / 32-bit Floating Point

SlowShade is a powerful standalone audio tool for creative sound design and detailed analysis. It allows you to:

- **Adjust Playback Speed:** Slow down or speed up audio with pitch following speed.
- **Drive:** Add rich, analog warmth and gentle push to your sound with soft saturation.
- **Shade:** Sculpt your tone by smoothly filtering out harsh high frequencies, creating a darker or brighter feel.
- **Width:** Expand or narrow your stereo soundscape, from focused mono to super-wide.

Beyond these sonic transformations, SlowShade features high-resolution visual feedback including a **real-time dual-layer spectrum analyzer** (Dry/Wet FFT), precise LR Peak Meters, and a Stereo Correlation meter for phase monitoring. With easy drag-and-drop loading and WAV export, SlowShade is designed for fast, deep exploration and refinement of your audio.

Key Features

- **Engine:** Slow-Playback & Tone Transformation Processor
- **Speed Control:** Variable 0.5x to 1.5x tape-style playback rate
- **Tone:** Drive, Shade, and Width controls for audio enhancement
- **Processing:** Smooth real-time DSP with zero-latency architecture
- **Utility Controls:** Bypass for instant A/B
- **Analyzer:** High-Resolution Real-Time Spectrum Display (Dual-Layer Dry/Wet FFT)
- **FFT Engine:** 4096 / 8192-point resolution with Blackman window
- **Response Model:** Internal 4.5 dB tilt and 350 ms ballistic decay
- **Metering:** Dual-layer LR Peak meters (background = input, top ticks = output)
- **Stereo Tool:** Correlation meter for phase monitoring
- **Output:** Post Gain trim control, -12 dB to +12 dB
- **Playback:** Drag & Drop loading with Loop functionality
- **Export:** Render processed audio to WAV (16-bit or 24-bit)
- **Precision:** 32-bit floating-point processing
- **Sample Rates:** 44.1–96 kHz support

Standalone Architecture

The standalone architecture enables instant loading, looping, and analysis of audio files without requiring a DAW. It's designed for fast, focused audio work—whether checking references, making precise adjustments, or performing detailed evaluations.

CPU-Efficient Processing

Each tool is engineered with highly optimized DSP and lightweight graphics, ensuring stable, low-latency performance in both standalone and VST3 formats—even under heavy analysis or high sample rates.

Analyzer and Windowing

High-Resolution Spectrum Engine
This tool provides a high-resolution real-time spectrum display optimized for accurate dual-layer frequency visualization during playback.

Blackman Windowing
An ultra-low spectral leakage Blackman window provides clean frequency separation and stable fundamentals, minimizing spectral smearing between adjacent bands.

Precision Engine Support
The application operates using a high-resolution 32-bit floating-point processing engine, optimized for desktop performance and stable real-time operation.

Standalone File Management and Export

Flexible Loading
- **Load Button:** Browse files via your system dialog.
- **Drag & Drop:** Drag audio files directly onto the window for instant loading.

Audio Export
It is intended for reference renders, comparison, and archiving.
- **Format:** WAV
- **Bit Depth:** Selectable 16-bit or 24-bit

WAV Output Only

The application processes all audio in high-resolution 32-bit float, so exporting to compressed formats would cause generation loss and artifact buildup. To preserve full fidelity, the output is limited to uncompressed WAV with selectable 16-bit or 24-bit depth.

Credits

Development: Application architecture, processing integration, analysis engine, and user interface design by Hakan Yurdakul. DSP implementations use JUCE framework components.
Framework: Developed using the JUCE framework.
Typography: Open Sans (SIL Open Font License 1.1). Copyright © The Open Sans Project Authors.
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Installation & First Launch (Windows)

SlowShade is a portable standalone application. No installation is required.

1. Download and unzip the file.
2. Double-click **SlowShade.exe** to launch the application.

Note: On the first launch, Windows may display a **"Windows protected your PC"** message. This occurs because the application is not yet code-signed by Microsoft.

To continue:

1. Click **More info**
2. Click **Run anyway**

The application does not install background services or modify system files.