



VOICE CHANGER & ANONYMIZER  
BY HERBISTRY · AU & VST3 FOR MAC

# INCOGNITO

Change a voice, or hide one. **Incognito** reshapes any voice in your timeline, from cartoon characters to broken radios, with a dedicated **Anonymize** dial built to disguise a real person while keeping every word clear.

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## THE SHORT VERSION

### What Incognito does

Drop Incognito onto a clip and you get one small set of dials that can do a lot. Turn someone into a robot, an alien, a monster, or a deep movie-trailer narrator. Push a voice through a phone, an old radio, or a megaphone. Or use the headline feature, **Anonymize**, to protect a guest's identity without bleeping them out or turning them into a cartoon.

Everything is built from the same handful of controls. There are no hidden menus and no per-character magic. Once you know what each dial does, you can build any voice yourself, or grab a ready-made preset and tweak it. This manual walks through every dial at its lowest and highest setting, then shows how they work together.

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## FIRST RUN

### Install, run, and unlock Incognito

From download to a clean export. Here is the whole path.

- 1** **Install it.** Download the installer and double-click it. It is notarized by Apple, so there are no security warnings to fight. Agree to the license, choose Audio Unit, VST3, or both,

and you are set.

- 2 **Add it in your host.** Open your host and drop Incognito onto a track or clip as an audio effect. In Final Cut Pro it is under **Audio Effects > Herbistry > Incognito**; in Logic, Ableton Live, and the rest, look in the AU or VST3 effects list. If it does not appear, restart the host so it picks up the new plugin.
- 3 **Try it free.** Every dial and preset works right away, no time limit. The catch is a short marker tone that drops into the audio every so often, our watermark, so the trial is perfect for auditioning but not for a clean export.
- 4 **Buy a license.** Click the **Trial** pill in the plugin, then **Get license**. That opens the Incognito page on herbistry420.com, where you buy. Your license key arrives by email.
- 5 **Register your license.** Back in the plugin, click the **Trial** pill, paste in your key, and activate. It checks in once to confirm the key, the marker tone disappears, your exports come out clean, and the unlock is remembered, so it is a one-time thing.
- 6 **On more than one computer.** One license covers two computers. Need a third? Free a slot first. On a computer you still have, click the **license** pill (it is the same pill, just renamed once you are licensed) and deactivate. No longer have that computer? Sign in at the [Lemon Squeezy orders page](#) with the email you bought with and deactivate it from there. That same orders page is also where you can look up your license key if you ever lose it.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Incognito does all its work on your Mac and never listens in on your audio. The only thing that ever leaves your computer is the quick check that confirms your license key when you register.

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# The plugin at a glance

Incognito is laid out in three blocks: voice-shaping dials on the left, the big **Anonymize** dial in the middle, and the texture and output dials on the right. The numbered pins below match the full breakdown that follows.



## ACROSS THE TOP

- A Trial / License status.** Shows whether you are on a trial or unlocked. Click it to enter a key.
- B Voice.** Pick the speaker's natural range so presets land right.
- C Preset.** Step through ready-made voices, or save your own.

## THE DIALS

- 1 Pitch**
- 2 Character**
- 3 Robot**
- 4 Grit**
- 5 Anonymize** (the big one)
- 6 Tone**
- 7 Doubler**
- 8 Space**
- 9 Noise**
- 10 Wobble**
- 11 Mix**

# The dials, one by one

Every dial does nothing at one end and its full effect at the other. Here is what you hear as you turn each one from all the way down to all the way up.

## VOICE SHAPING

### 1 Pitch

VOICE SHAPING

Sets how high or low the voice sits.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

A deep, heavy, slowed-down voice.

**Monster, giant, sinister narrator.**

— ALL THE WAY  
UP

A high, light, sped-up voice.

**Chipmunk, cartoon, tiny creature.**

Dead center leaves the pitch **exactly as it was.**

### 2 Character

VOICE SHAPING

Changes the size and resonance of the voice without changing the pitch. This is your gender and age lean.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

A bigger, fuller, chestier voice.

**Reads older, larger, more masculine.**

— ALL THE WAY  
UP

A smaller, brighter voice.

**Reads younger, smaller, more feminine.**

Dead center leaves the voice's natural tone **untouched.**

## THE PRIVACY DIAL

### 5 Anonymize

HEADLINE FEATURE

The reason this plugin exists. It disguises **who** is speaking while keeping **what** they say perfectly clear, and it keeps shifting on its own so the disguise is hard to undo.

— ALL THE WAY DOWN

Off. **Your real voice comes through** with nothing added.

— ALL THE WAY UP

Strongest disguise. **The speaker is masked but still easy to understand.**

Anonymize **stacks on top** of everything else, so you can hide the voice first and then add as much or as little character as you want.

## TEXTURE & CHARACTER

### 3 Robot

TEXTURE

Adds a metallic, machine-like ring to the voice.

— ALL THE WAY DOWN

Off. The voice keeps its natural texture.

— ALL THE WAY UP

Full metal. **Classic sci-fi robot or computer voice.**

### 4 Grit

TEXTURE

Adds dirt, drive, and distortion.

— ALL THE WAY DOWN

Clean. No distortion at all.

— ALL THE WAY UP

Heavily broken up. **Demon growl, blown speaker, angry megaphone.**

## 6 Tone

TEXTURE

A single dial that runs from dark and muffled, through natural, up to thin and tinny.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

Dark and muffled. **Like the voice is behind a wall, or underwater.**

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Thin and boxy. **The "through a phone, radio, or bullhorn" sound.**

The **middle** is the neutral, do-nothing spot. This dial sits halfway by default.

## 7 Doubler

TEXTURE

Layers a second, subtly different copy of the voice on top.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

A single, dry voice.

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Thick and wide. **Two takes stacked together for more body and presence.**

## 8 Space

TEXTURE

Adds room, echo, and distance around the voice.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

Close and dry, right up on the microphone.

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Big and far away. **A large hall, a cathedral, a ghost down a corridor.**

## 9 Noise

TEXTURE

Adds a hiss-and-crackle floor, the kind you hear from old gear.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

Clean and quiet.

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Noisy and staticky. **Pairs with Tone for old radio, walkie-talkie, or phone-line.**

## 10 Wobble

TEXTURE

Adds a slow, drifting unsteadiness to the pitch.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

Rock steady.

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Seasick, warped-tape wobble. **Great for failing or degraded signals.**

## OUTPUT

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## 11 Mix

OUTPUT

Blends the processed voice against the original, dry voice.

— ALL THE WAY  
DOWN

Only the **original, untouched voice**. The effect goes silent.

— ALL THE  
WAY UP

Only the **fully processed voice**. This is the default.

The space in between lets you **soften any effect** or keep a disguise sounding natural by letting a little of the real voice through.

## THE VOICE SELECTOR (B)

Up top, next to the preset, is a **Voice** menu: Bass, Baritone, Tenor, Alto, Mezzo, Soprano. Pick the one closest to the speaker's natural range. It quietly tunes the presets so a voice built for a deep speaker still lands on a high one, and the other way around. If you are not sure, leave it on **Tenor** and adjust by ear. It does not touch the clean default or the device presets, since those are not about a voice range.

There is no wrong answer here, either. Picking the "wrong" range on purpose is a trick worth keeping: a deep-voice setting on a high speaker, or the reverse, often lands somewhere more interesting than the technically correct one. If it sounds good, it is good.

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### ADVANCED

## Working the dials together

Any single dial is simple. The fun starts when you combine them. Here is how the controls play off each other, and a few recipes to get you going. None of this is locked in: think of these as starting points, then trust your ears.

### THE MENTAL MODEL

Work in three passes. **Shape the voice first** with Pitch, Character, and Anonymize. **Add texture next** with Robot, Grit, Tone, Noise, Wobble, Space, and Doubler. **Then balance the whole thing** with Mix. If a voice ever sounds like too much, you can almost always fix it by easing one setting back rather than starting over.

## A believable different person

Pitch + Character, same direction

Move Pitch and Character the same way and the voice reads as a real, different human. Both down gives you a bigger, older person. Both up gives you someone smaller and younger. Keep the moves modest and it stays convincing.

## Something inhuman

Pitch + Character, opposite directions

Push Pitch one way and Character the other and the voice stops sounding like a person at all. This is the secret behind aliens, goblins, and creatures. Add a touch of Robot or Grit to seal it.

## Hide a guest, keep it natural

Anonymize up, Mix back a touch

Turn Anonymize up for protection, then ease Mix back just slightly so a little of the real delivery stays. You get a disguise that still sounds like a human being talking, not a machine. This is the go-to for interviews and witnesses.

## Through a device

Tone up + a little Noise + a little Grit

Roll Tone up to thin out the voice, sprinkle in Noise for the line hiss, and add a little Grit for the crunch. That is your phone, radio, or megaphone. Add Wobble on top and it becomes a signal that is barely holding together.

## Distance and mood

Space for size, Doubler for body

Space sets how far away and how haunted the voice feels. Doubler thickens it and gives it a produced, larger-than-life feel. A little of both reads cinematic. A lot of Space alone reads ghostly.

## Disguise on top of a character

Preset first, then a light Anonymize

If you start from a character preset, it has already moved the pitch and resonance for you. So a **light** touch of Anonymize on top is usually plenty to break the identity. You rarely need to max both.

# Presets

A preset is just a snapshot of every dial at once. Pick one from the **Preset** selector up top, or step through them with the little arrows. Picking a preset sets all the dials for you, and you can still nudge anything afterward to make it yours.

## CHARACTER VOICES

Robot

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Alien

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Monster / Demon

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Chipmunk

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Deep Trailer Narrator

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Ghost

## THROUGH A DEVICE

Telephone

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Megaphone

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Broken Radio

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Walkie-Talkie

## VOICE SHIFT

Feminine Lean

a believable lean, not a perfect swap

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Masculine Lean

a believable lean, not a perfect swap

## PRIVACY

Anonymize - Light

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Anonymize - Strong

## HONEST EXPECTATIONS ON VOICE SHIFT

The **Feminine** and **Masculine** presets give you a believable lean, not a flawless swap. They are labeled that way on purpose. They sound great as a creative voice, just do not expect them to fool anyone into thinking it is a different person's gender.

# Saving your own presets

Built a voice you love? Save it and reuse it anywhere.

- 1 Dial in the voice until it sounds right.
- 2 Open the **Preset** selector at the top of the plugin and choose **Save**.
- 3 Give it a name. It now appears in your preset list right alongside the built-in ones.

## WHERE YOUR PRESETS LIVE

Each preset you save is a small file stored on your Mac under **Music ▶ Herbistry ▶ Incognito ▶ Presets**. Because they live there and not inside one project, your saved voices follow you everywhere: they show up in any audio app on your Mac that loads Incognito. You can also hand one of those files to a friend or teammate so they get the exact same voice.

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# Incognito presets vs. Final Cut presets

This trips people up, so it is worth being clear. There are two separate places a preset can live, and they save different things.

## Incognito presets

INSIDE THE PLUGIN · THE PRESET SELECTOR

- Saves **only the voice-effect dial positions**, nothing else.
- **Travels with you.** Works in any audio app on your Mac that loads Incognito.
- **Shareable.** The saved file can be handed to someone else.
- Best for: the **voice itself**, the thing you want to reuse across projects and apps.

## Final Cut Pro presets

INSIDE FINAL CUT · SAVE EFFECTS PRESET

- Saves the **whole effect on the clip**, including any keyframes and the rest of the audio effects stacked on it.
- **Lives in Final Cut's library.** Only available inside Final Cut Pro.
- Re-apply it to other clips and projects to repeat the exact treatment.
- Best for: remembering the **whole clip treatment**, not just the Incognito dials.

## RULE OF THUMB

Use an **Incognito preset** when you want to reuse the voice anywhere. Use a **Final Cut preset** when you want Final Cut to remember the entire setup on a clip, automation and all, so you can stamp it onto the next one.

# Quick reference

Every dial at a glance, from one end to the other.

DIAL	ALL THE WAY DOWN	ALL THE WAY UP
<b>Pitch</b>	Deep, heavy, monster	High, light, chipmunk
<b>Character</b>	Bigger, older, fuller	Smaller, younger, brighter
<b>Anonymize</b>	Off, your real voice	Strongest disguise, still clear
<b>Robot</b>	Off	Full metallic robot
<b>Grit</b>	Clean	Distorted, demon, blown speaker
<b>Tone</b>	Dark, muffled, underwater	Thin, tinny, through-a-device
<b>Doubler</b>	Single dry voice	Thick, wide, doubled
<b>Space</b>	Close and dry	Big hall, cathedral, ghostly
<b>Noise</b>	Clean and quiet	Hiss and crackle, old gear
<b>Wobble</b>	Rock steady	Warped-tape wobble
<b>Mix</b>	Original voice only	Fully processed voice

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## BEFORE YOU INSTALL

# System requirements

Incognito is a Mac audio effect. Here is what you need.

### OPERATING SYSTEM

#### macOS 12.5 or later

Supported.

### WORKS IN

#### AU & VST3 hosts

Final Cut Pro, Logic, Ableton Live, and other Mac apps that read Audio Units or VST3.

### MAC TYPE

#### Apple Silicon Mac

Runs natively on M1, M2, M3, and later.

### INSTALLING

#### Run the installer

Open the .pkg and choose Audio Unit, VST3, or both.

## OPEN SOURCE

# Credits & licenses

Incognito is built with the help of these open-source projects, each used under its own license. The complete license texts are included with the plugin and shown when you install it.

- **iPlug 2** and **Cockos WDL**: Zlib-like license
- **NanoVG** and **NanoSVG**: zlib license
- **MetalNanoVG**: MIT license
- **SignalSmith Stretch** and **SignalSmith Linear**: MIT license
- **nlohmann/json**: MIT license
- **Steinberg VST 3 SDK**: MIT license. VST is a registered trademark of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH.
- **Roboto** (font): Apache License 2.0
- **Inter** (font): SIL Open Font License 1.1