AUDIO · WEBCAM, PHOTO OR CLIP

XPLOR

Player one: you.

Xplor 1.0 · guide · friendsupstairs.co

Xplor moves a picture with your music as the track plays. Scopes draw the sound itself, shapes and words move with it, and it all sits over a photo, a video or your webcam. Record a clip and AirDrop it to your phone, or screen-record any window with your computer's sound.



Recorded in Xplor with a song playing, cut into nine steps with labels added.

What you can do

It moves with your music
The picture follows the audio as the track plays.

Scopes: XY, wave, gonio, quad
Four ways to draw the sound itself.

Neon, glow and beam colours
Choose how the line burns.

Shapes from the library
Atom shapes and more, drawn with the sound.

Your words, or lyrics timed to the song
Type them, time them, save them as an .lrc file.

Light and dark looks
The window itself comes in light and dark.

Glitch, tape and film
Rough the picture up with texture.

Screen-record any window, with your computer's sound
Pick a window or a display and Xplor records it with whatever is playing.

Use a photo, a video or your webcam
Including your iPhone as the camera, with Continuity Camera.

Start here

1. Put Xplor on a track that has sound, such as the master or a drum bus. It's an audio effect, and the sound passes through unchanged.
2. Open its window and press play. The picture follows the music.
3. Pick a scope (XY, wave, gonio or quad), a colour and a shape.
4. Bring in your own picture: a photo, a video or your webcam. The camera list includes a USB webcam or your iPhone.
5. Add your words, or paste lyrics and time them to the song.

Getting the video out

- **Record:** 3, 2, 1, then it records with the sound. Clips go to Movies › Xplor › Exports.
- **AirDrop:** send the clip to your iPhone (awake and unlocked, with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth on).
- **Screen record:** any window or display, with your computer's sound (macOS 14 or later). Add your voice with Mic (macOS 15 or later).

What it needs

macOS	12 Monterey or later. Screen recording needs 14 Sonoma; adding your voice to it needs 15 Sequoia.
Mac	Apple silicon or Intel. Face and body tracking needs Apple silicon.
Formats	Audio Unit and VST3.
Permissions	Camera (for the webcam) and Screen & System Audio Recording (for screen recording), both given to your music app.
Download	847 MB.

Good to know

- On Intel Macs, the effects that track your face and body (such as cutting you out of the background) need Apple silicon for now. Everything else works.
- macOS asks your music app, not Xplor, for the camera. If you said no once, see camera and screen permissions.
- Face and body tracking uses MediaPipe, a Google library that runs on your Mac. Your picture stays on your Mac; see the privacy policy for what Google's library may report.

HELP: ALL FOUR PLUG-INS

Installing, finding the plug-ins in your music app, permissions, and what to do when something's off. If it isn't here, write to contact@friendsupstairs.co.

WHAT YOU NEED

	Xplor	Glass	Ondas	Handframe
macOS	12 or later	11 or later	11 or later	14 or later
Apple silicon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intel	Yes, except face and body tracking	Yes	Yes	Yes, tracking runs slower
Formats	AU, VST3	AU, VST3	AU, VST3, app	AU, VST3
Listens to	Audio	Audio	MIDI notes	Your webcam
Download	847 MB	463 MB	178 MB	24 MB

Checked in Ableton Live 12, FL Studio 2026, REAPER 7, Bitwig Studio 6, Logic Pro and GarageBand. Not supported: Pro Tools (it needs AAX). Windows versions are coming; there's no date yet.

macOS versions by name: 11 Big Sur, 12 Monterey, 14 Sonoma. To check yours: Apple menu › About This Mac.

INSTALL

1. Open the downloaded `.pkg` file and follow the installer. It asks for your Mac's password, because plug-ins go in a folder every user shares.
2. Quit and reopen your music app.

Where things go: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components` (Audio Unit) and `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3`. Ondas also adds the Ondas app, its presets, and a small helper for Ableton Live. The installers are signed and checked by Apple, so macOS opens them without warnings.

FIND IT IN YOUR MUSIC APP

All four are listed under the maker **friends upstairs**.

Ableton Live

In the browser, Plug-Ins. Not there? Settings › Plug-Ins: switch on "Use Audio Units v2" or "Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders", then Rescan.

Logic Pro

An Audio FX slot › Audio Units › friends upstairs. Logic checks new plug-ins when it opens. If one's missing: Logic Pro › Settings › Plug-in Manager, select it, then Reset & Rescan Selection.

GarageBand

GarageBand › Settings › Audio/MIDI: tick Enable Audio Units. Then a plug-in slot › Audio Units › friends upstairs.

FL Studio

Options › Manage plugins › Find installed plugins. They then appear in the plug-in picker.

REAPER

Add an effect to a track and search "friends upstairs". Not there? Settings › Plug-ins › VST › Re-scan.

Bitwig Studio

Bitwig scans plug-ins when it starts. To look again: Settings › Locations › Rescan.

Xplor, Glass and Handframe go on a track as audio effects; the sound passes through unchanged. Ondas goes on an instrument or MIDI track: see the next section.

Ondas and MIDI

Ondas needs the notes, so it goes on an instrument or MIDI track, after the instrument. When it isn't getting notes, it shows a short guide for the app it's in, with a light that turns green when notes arrive. The steps for each app are on the Ondas page. The two that need an extra step:

- **FL Studio:** in Ondas, the cog, then the plug-and-cog tab: MIDI Input port 1. Add a MIDI Out channel on port 1 and put the notes there.
- **GarageBand:** it doesn't pass a track's notes to plug-ins. Play your MIDI keyboard (Ondas hears it directly), or load the part's MIDI file with MIDI on Ondas's bar.

Camera and screen permissions

macOS asks your **music app** for permission, not the plug-in. If you once said no, the camera picture stays black and screen recording does nothing.

1. Open System Settings › Privacy & Security.
2. **Camera** (Xplor's webcam, Handframe): switch on your music app. **Microphone**: only for Handframe's Mic and Xplor's voice-over. **Screen & System Audio Recording** (called Screen Recording on older macOS): for Xplor's screen recording.
3. Quit and reopen your music app.

Nothing from your camera, screen or microphone is sent to us. It's all processed on your Mac. See Privacy.

SOMETHING'S OFF

The plug-in isn't in the list

Quit and reopen the app, then rescan (above). Check your macOS version against the table: Handframe needs macOS 14, Xplor 12. If the app runs under Rosetta, it needs the Intel half, which is included.

Xplor's background cut-out or face effects don't work

On an Intel Mac, the effects that track your face and body need Apple silicon for now. Everything else in Xplor works.

The camera picture is black

See permissions. Also check no other app is using the camera.

Ondas shows no chords

It isn't getting notes. Follow its on-screen guide, or the steps on the Ondas page.

It's slow or stutters

Close other plug-in windows you aren't using, and make the plug-in's window smaller. These draw with your Mac's graphics, so older Intel Macs work harder. Tell us your Mac and app: it helps us tune them.

I can't find Glass's floating visual

It opens on your main screen. If it's hidden, use the recover option in Glass's window: it brings the visual back onto the screen.

UNINSTALL

Quit your music apps, then move these to the Bin (Finder › Go › Go to Folder, and paste the path):

- `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/`: Xplor.component, Glass.component, Ondas.component, Ondas MIDI.component, Handframe.component
- `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/`: Xplor.vst3, Glass.vst3, Ondas.vst3, Handframe.vst3
- Ondas only: `/Applications/Ondas.app`, `/Library/Application Support/Ondas`, and the Ondas folder in `~/Music/Ableton/User Library/Remote Scripts`
- Your own settings and looks, if you want them gone too: `~/Library/Application Support/friends upstairs`

Recordings you made stay in your Movies folder.

DOWNLOADS, KEYS AND REFUNDS

- **Lost your download?** Get fresh links on the Downloads page with the email you bought with.
- **Licence key:** it's in your order email. Version 1.0 doesn't ask for it; updates may. One key covers everything in the order, on up to 2 of your computers.
- **Updates** within version 1 are free. See Version history.

- **Refunds** within 14 days, no questions: see Refunds.

CONTACT

Write to contact@friendsupstairs.co. It helps to say which plug-in, your music app and its version, your Mac (Apple silicon or Intel) and your macOS version. We reply within two working days.