Astrel™ Reviewer's Notes

Tristar Advanced Software, LLC · Version 1.0.0 · November 2026

Thank you for taking the time to look at Astrel. These notes cover how to get set up with your review license, what to listen for, and the facts you may need for your piece. Images, logos and a fact sheet are on our press page at https://tristaradvanced.com/press.

At a glance

Product	Astrel™, a 5-voice analog-style polyphonic synthesizer
Developer	Tristar Advanced Software, LLC (Ohio, USA)
Released	November 1, 2026
Formats	VST®3 (macOS, Windows, Linux), Audio Unit (AUv2, macOS), AAX (macOS and Windows, for Pro Tools), plus a standalone app
Platforms	macOS (Apple silicon and Intel), Windows (64-bit), Linux (64-bit x86_64; .deb or tar.gz)
Price	$49.00 USD, a one-time purchase. No subscription.
License	One license covers every format on two computers at a time
Trial	Free download. Every feature works; without a license, Astrel inserts one second of silence once a minute
Product page	https://tristaradvanced.com/products/ASTREL

In one paragraph

Astrel is a warm, characterful polysynth with five voices. It has two band-limited analog-style oscillators per voice, a filter that morphs continuously from low-pass through notch to high-pass, a 16-slot modulation matrix, an arpeggiator, a 64-step chord sequencer and twelve types of studio effects followed by a plate reverb. It comes with an original factory bank of 305 presets. It runs as a plug-in in your DAW or as a standalone app that needs no DAW.

Your review license

- Your review license works for **30 days** from the date it was issued, on **two computers** at a time. It's a full license: no silences and nothing locked.
- Once it's activated, the line under the Astrel logo says **Review**.

- If you need more time to finish your review, reply to your press inquiry and we'll extend the license.
- When the license expires, Astrel goes back to trial mode. Projects and presets you made keep working.

Installing and activating

1. Download the installer for your system from https://tristaradvanced.com/products/ASTREL. Each installer installs every format available on your system, plus the standalone app.
2. Rescan plug-ins in your DAW if it doesn't find Astrel on its own. It's listed under **Tristar Advanced Software**. In Logic Pro and GarageBand, look under **AU Instruments > Tristar Advanced Software > Astrel**. In Pro Tools, it's in the Instrument category of the insert menu.
3. Open Astrel and click **UNREGISTERED: ACTIVATE** under the logo. Paste your license key and click **ACTIVATE**. You need to be online once; after that, Astrel works offline for up to 30 days at a time.

The complete user guide is at https://tristaradvanced.com/docs/ASTREL. Sign in to your account to download it as a PDF.

A 20-minute tour

These are the things we're proudest of, in the order we'd show them to you in person.

1. **The factory bank.** Click the preset name in the header to open the browser, then step through presets with ◄ and ►. Try these first: Broken Rotator Cuff (Arp), Night City Pulse (Seq), Polar Light (Pad; hold it for 10 seconds), Night City Brass (Brass), Wide Load (Bass; play it at C2), Fat Unison Lead (Lead). Arp and Seq presets play patterns: hold a key or a chord. Many presets respond to the mod wheel, aftertouch and velocity, so play them expressively.
2. **The filter.** Load **Init**, hold a chord and turn the filter's **State** knob slowly. The filter sweeps continuously from low-pass through notch to high-pass, without stepping between modes. Then try the separate HPF/LPF pair, before the main filter or in parallel with it.
3. **Vintage.** On a pad, turn **Vintage** (in OUTPUT) from 0 up to about 50. Each voice gets its own small tolerances and slow drift, the way analog hardware behaves.
4. **The chord sequencer.** Open the **SEQUENCER** page on a Seq preset. Each of the 64 steps can hold a chord of up to five notes. Hold a key to transpose the pattern live, change the play direction (forward, backward, ping-pong, random, random walk), and turn up probability and mutation so it keeps changing as it plays. Every step can also send a modulation value through the matrix.
5. **The modulation matrix.** The **MOD MATRIX** page has 16 slots with 20 sources and 66 destinations, including audio-rate modulation of pitch and filter cutoff.
6. **Effects.** Twelve effect types, from BBD and tape delays to a rotating speaker and lo-fi, followed by a plate reverb. Every effect knob can be modulated.
7. **The standalone app.** Choose your audio and MIDI devices in Settings, play your controller or the on-screen keyboard, and record straight to a 24-bit WAV file. On Windows, it supports WASAPI and your interface's ASIO® driver.
8. **MIDI Learn.** Click **LEARN**, click a control, then move a knob on your controller.

What sets Astrel apart

- **Focused by design.** Five voices and one page of controls, laid out like a hardware front panel. You can see the whole signal path at once.
- **Clean oscillators at any setting.** The oscillators are band-limited, so hard sync, through-zero FM and high notes stay free of aliasing.
- **A chord sequencer, not only a note sequencer.** Up to five notes per step, with per-note velocity, ties, live transposition, and probability and mutation to vary it.
- **One license for everything.** One purchase covers VST3, AU, AAX and the standalone app on macOS, Windows and Linux.
- **No subscription.** You buy a license for a major version once. Updates within that version are free, and upgrades to the next major version are discounted.

Known limitations

We'd rather you hear these from us:

- Astrel has five voices of polyphony. That's deliberate, but long-release chords can steal notes.
- There's no CLAP, LV2 or AUv3 version yet, and no native build for Windows or Linux on ARM.
- Astrel runs on desktop and notebook computers only. There's no version for iPhone, iPad or Android.
- Astrel doesn't support MPE (MIDI Polyphonic Expression). It responds to channel-wide pitch bend, aftertouch and controllers, but not to per-note expression.

Pricing and availability

Astrel is available now at https://tristaradvanced.com/products/ASTREL for $49.00 USD, with a free trial. Our reseller and merchant of record is Paddle, which handles payment and sales tax.

Writing about Astrel

- The product name is **Astrel**. Use "Astrel™" on first mention if you like; it isn't required.
- The company is **Tristar Advanced Software, LLC**. "Tristar Advanced Software" or "Tristar" is fine after first mention.
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