



# D16 Group Repeater €89

PC MAC

The veteran Polish developers unleash a vintage-modelling delay plugin with the uncanny ability to separate right from left...

> With so many high-quality vintage-style delay plugins already on the market, any new entrant needs to offer something genuinely different to stand any real chance of success. In their follow-up to the excellent but very full-on Sigmund (9/10, *cm198*), D16 reckon they've come up with a plugin that sets itself apart both sonically and functionally.

Developed in conjunction with Slate Digital (and consequently also available in that company's subscription-based Everything Bundle), Repeater (VST/AU/AAX) takes all the controls you'd expect to find on a 'traditional' stereo delay unit and separates them almost completely for the left and right channels. Indeed, the 'left' and 'right' demarcations themselves are wholly arbitrary, as each has its own Pan knob, so either can be positioned anywhere in the stereo field - put them both in the centre, if you like. The other key selling point is a roster of 23 classic delay modelling

algorithms, which you can read all about in *23 and me*.

## Split personality

Repeater's disconnection of L and R channels is achieved on a per-parameter basis using the seven Link buttons arranged along the central plane of the GUI. With any given Link button

active, the identical controls above and below it move together when either is adjusted; with Link disabled, each knob moves entirely independently of the other. Every control in the interface is link/unlinkable, making the system supremely flexible, but there is one minor issue: clicking a Link button immediately snaps its R knob to match its L partner - the option to maintain their relative offset could be useful.

## Going with the flow

At the start of Repeater's signal flow, the Input knob determines how hard the incoming audio is driven into Repeater's clipping saturation circuit, from -12dB to +12dB. The tone of this saturation is brightened or darkened via the Color knob, which crossfades between fixed-frequency band-pass and notch filters.

From there, three Sync modes let you set the L and R delay times freely from 0.1-1000ms or synced to host tempo from 1/1 to 1/64, with

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dotted and triplet options, either using the Delay knobs or by clicking the Tap Tempo button. Crucially, each channel has its own Feedback knob, giving Repeater a compelling polyrhythmic angle, with a Ping Pong mode for routing the feedback from one to the other. The Spread switch offers two strengths of stereo-widening phase offset, while Analog mode degrades and dulls the signal with each feedback loop, as would happen in a real analogue delay. And since both channels can be panned to the same position in the stereo field (see below), Phase Invert buttons are on hand to counter feedback phase cancellation.

The two high- and two low-pass filters sweep from 40Hz to 1kHz, and 22kHz to 1kHz – our inner dub producer wonders why both don’t simply cover the full 40Hz-22kHz range. Over to the right, the Pan knobs – along with the Feedback – are key to Repeater’s seamless morphing between stereo and ‘dual’ operation, unshackling the two channels from their nominal stereo locations. And finally, even the wet/dry balance is set individually for left and right – although the Mix knobs are tied to their stated channels, so with the L channel panned all the way to the right, it’s the position of R Mix, not L Mix, that determines how much of it is heard.

## Rinsing Repeater

The freedom Repeater gives you through its total separation of left and right channels is wonderfully liberating, and the broad array of modelling algorithms onboard brings an impressive degree of textural nuance and versatility to the table. Whether you need the warmth of tape, the crunch of analogue, the sheen of digital or the lo-fi vibes of, er, the telephone, they’re all here, even if the differences between certain models in the same category can be quite subtle. Our favourites are the tapes, the TelRay oilcan, the Cooper Cube and the DM-2, but there’s something here to suit



Select one of 23 models of delay hardware, from tapes and analogue electronics to digital and beyond

## 23 and me

Repeater offers a rich variety of sonic flavours in the shape of a 23-strong library of core algorithms, each modelling a different type of vintage delay unit. The under-the-hood parameters affected by the Delay Model include filter calibration, feedback loop frequency response and the amount and quality of degradation introduced by the Analog mode.

The line-up starts with a multitude of tape delays, from the crusty Tape Delay Ancient (a deck from the 40s), through the warmer, more coherent 60s and 70s Classic, Space Delay, Vintage and

Plexy Echo models, to the “early 80s Japanese” Cassette Tape and luscious Tape Delay Modern. Representing the analogue electronic side of things, there are emulations of the Boss DM-2, Cooper Time Cube, Electro-Harmonix Memory Man and TelRay oilcan, amongst others; while the digital contingent includes two takes on the Lexicon PCM 42 – one regular and the other at half the sample rate. Throw in a handful of lo-fi telephone and radio models, and Repeater certainly doesn’t skimp on retro echo styles.

any sound and production style. The saturation circuit also plays its part, delivering convincing analogue dirt all the way up from light enhancement at low input levels to aggressive overdrive when cranked.

We have a few requests, though. As mentioned, at times we found ourselves wishing for more range in the filters, and the option to keep the offset between L and R controls intact when hitting those Link buttons; but the lack of separate level controls for the two delay lines (you can’t dial either out completely, for example) is also surprising. We really hope that one, at least, gets fixed in an update.

Despite those blips, Repeater hits the marks where it matters most: sound and usability. This is a unique, hugely creative vintage modelling delay plugin with real old-school soul, that no producer could fail to find enthralling. **cm**

Web [www.16.pl](http://www.16.pl)

## Alternatively

**Soundtoys EchoBoy cm227 » 10/10 » \$199**  
Stunning delay plugin, but much more expensive

**PSP Audiware stompDelay cm232 » 10/10 » \$69**  
Awesome stompbox-style tape delay plugin

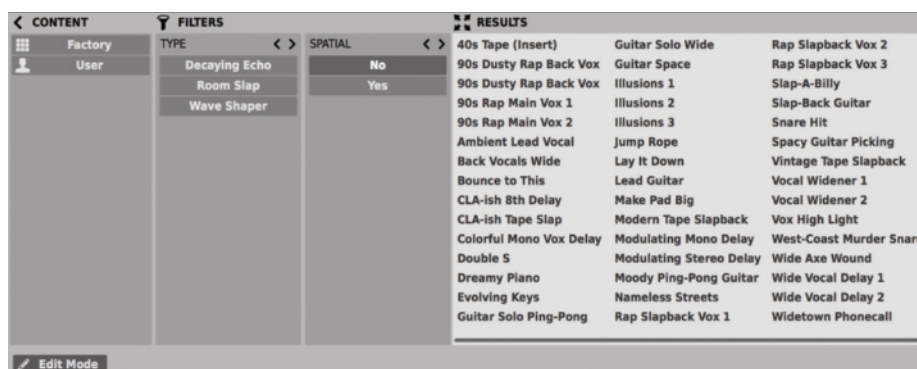
## Verdict

**For** Stereo/dual-channel implementation is great  
23 delay models  
Sounds superb  
Easy to use

**Against** Filters aren’t full-range  
Can’t offset linked controls  
No per-channel volume control

Despite a couple of puzzling design quirks, Repeater is a flexible, inspiring delay toolbox with a gorgeous vintage sound. It could become a classic in its own right

9/10



Repeater features a handy browser for managing and tagging its own library of presets and those you make yourself