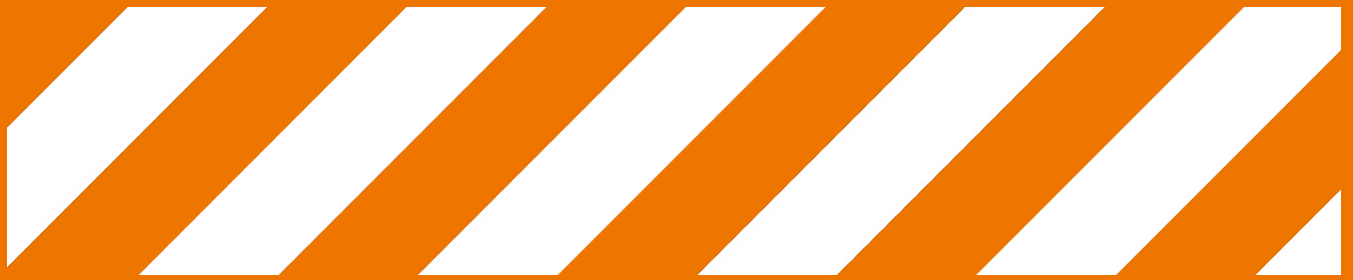


\_2411-fcm



Celebrating quality art + tools,  
released for free by their creators.

# FREWARE CREATOR MAGAZINE

OCT / NOV 2024

**OpenMPT** - *Olivier Lopicque + Community*

**PixelFed** - *Daniel Supernault*

**Zotero** - *Corporation for Digital Scholarship*

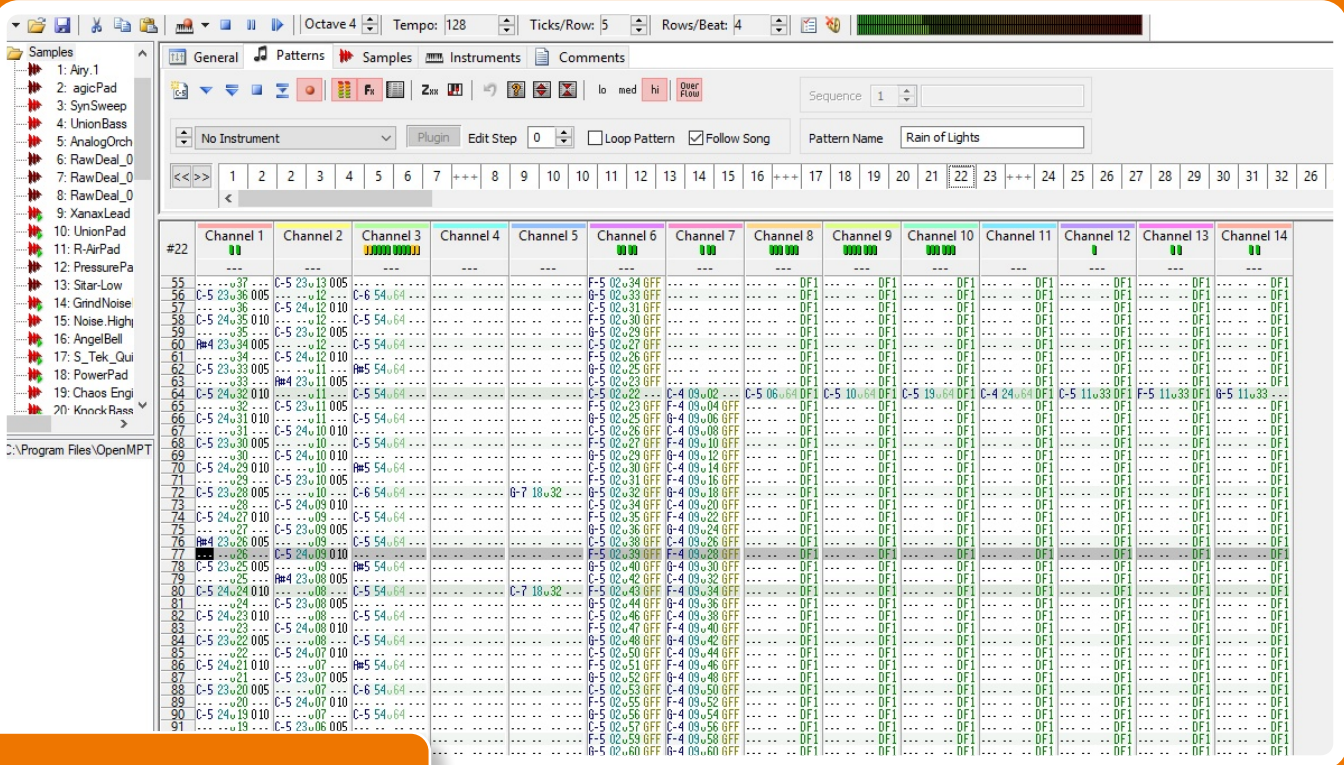
**One Must Fall: 2097** - *Diversions Entertainment*

**HandBrake** - *Eric Petit + HandBrake Team*

**VSCodium** - *Community / Microsoft*

**BespokeSynth** - *Ryan Challinor + Community*

# AUDIO



## data

`_creators: Olivier Lapicque + Community`  
`_type: Music Sequencer`  
`_released: 1997`  
`_latest: 1.31.12 (2024)`  
`_license: BSD-3-Clause`

**Free + Open-Source Music Tracker with all the essential features for fast composition.**

I have to admit I initially skimmed over OpenMPT in my journeys finding free + open-source music tools for my workflow. This was

## OpenMPT

Olivier Lapicque + Community

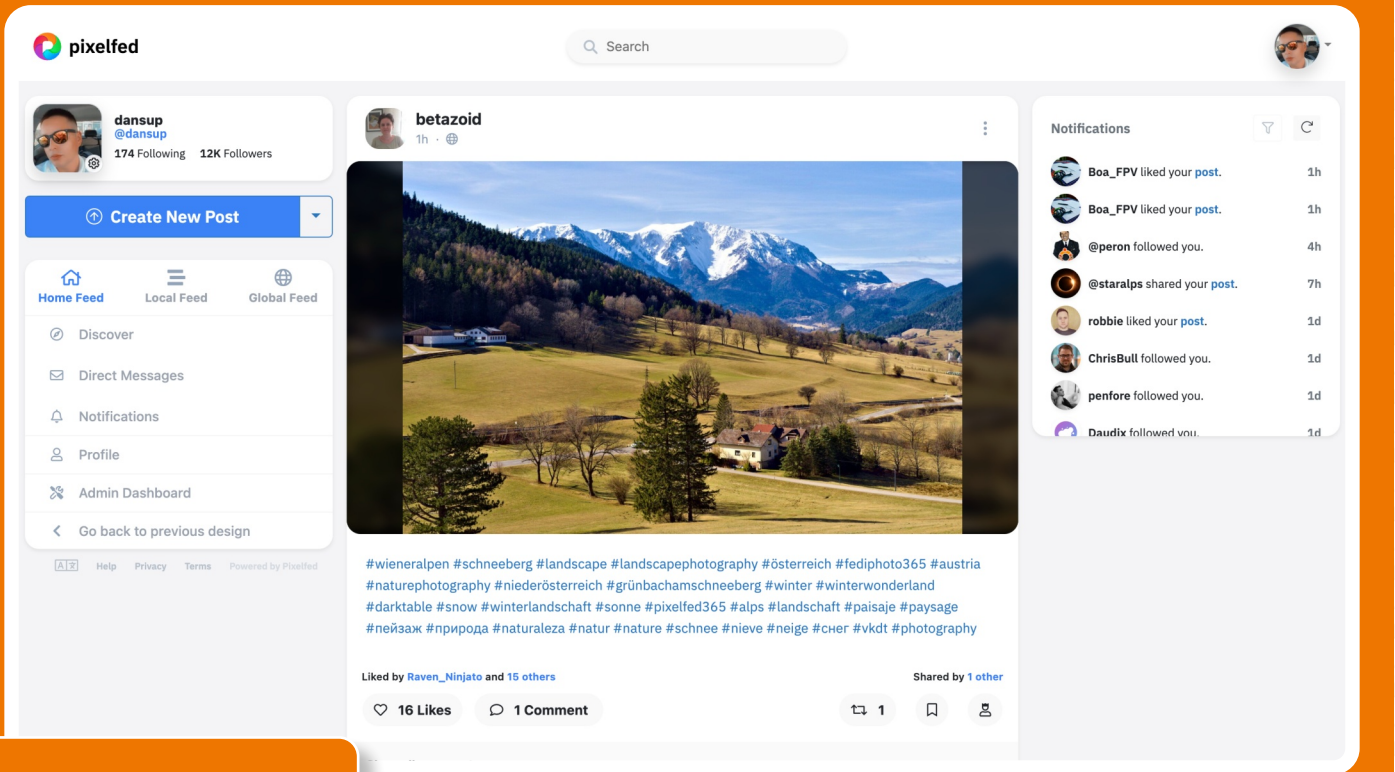
partly because it is a native Windows application (and looks like it), and I had just switched to Linux.

As I keep re-learning, don't judge a book by its cover, and don't be too quick to judge a software by its interface. OpenMPT looks much harder to use than it actually is. It also integrates well within WINE.

You will need to learn how Tracker sequencers work if you're not already familiar, but this is one of those skills that runs deep. With experience using Trackers, you continuously get faster and produce more expressive music - and OpenMPT is a great friend on that journey.

Links:  
[\[ Official Site \]](#)

# VISUAL



## data

```
_creator: Daniel Supernault
_type: Instagram-Alternative
_released: 2018
_license: AGPL-3.0
```

***The Fediverse answer to Instagram. Where Meta drops the ball on several ethical fronts, Pixelfed stands tall.***

If you're not familiar with Federated Social Media (or the 'Fediverse'), it is a relatively new approach

## *Pixelfed* Daniel Supernault

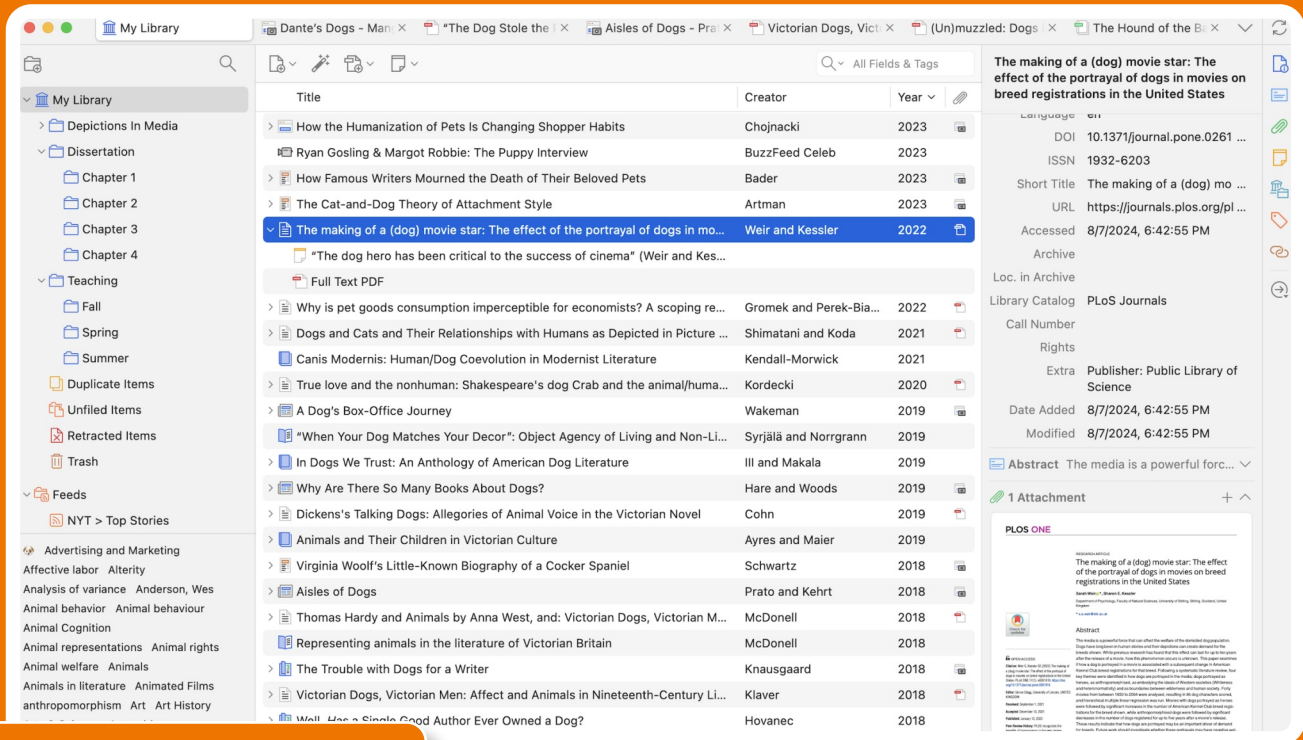
to our social networking. In short, all Fediverse apps on the same protocol (in this case ActivityPub) can talk to each other and migrate user data between them. This tears down the Walled Garden approach that has enabled current Big Tech to continuously bend ethics while their users feel trapped on their systems.

While the current big drawback is the smaller community, ActivityPub platforms are designed to be here for the long game.

If you'd rather support robust alternatives that aren't financing Chokepoint Capitalism, give Pixelfed a shot.

Links:  
[ [Official Site](#) ]  
[ [Fediverse Explainer](#) ]

# WRITING



## data

`_creators: Corp. for Digital Scholarship (cur)`  
`_type: Reference Manager`  
`_released: 2006`  
`_latest: 7.0.9 (2024)`  
`_license: AGPL`

***Easily catalogue and annotate your research and resources. Easily generate bibliographies from them.***

For a while, Zotero became my default app for any research or book I wanted to properly digest. It has

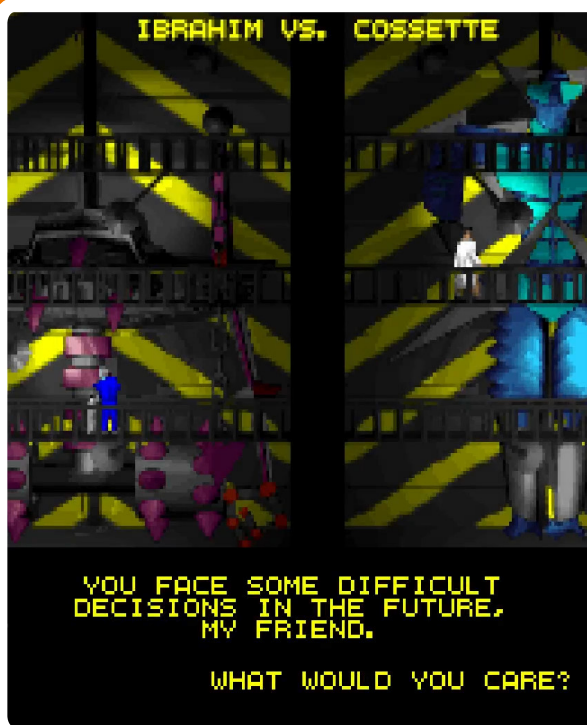
## Zotero Corp. for Digital Scholarship

a good system for organizing the PDFs and web snapshots you come across, and the Zotero Connector plugin for browsers mean you can save pages (and automatically generate their metadata) from the browser.

Zotero also runs on and can sync across different operating systems and devices. You get 300mb of Sync

Storage for free, however will have to pay if you need more. I still consider this a free tool, as it is not the program itself, but separate server storage you are paying for. This sync includes all of your annotations too.

Links:  
[\[ Official Site \]](#)  
[\[ Code Repo \]](#)



## data

\_creator: Diversions  
 Entertainment  
 \_type: Fighting Game  
 \_released: 1994  
 \_license: Commercial  
 (Open-Source underway)

***Giant Robot Fighting game with an addictive single player and iconic 90s soundtrack.***

One Must Fall: 2097 turns 30 this year! But as someone who professionally works in video games, I am starting to realize

## One Must Fall: 2097

### Diversions Entertainment

that some of the "retro" games we love aren't from pure nostalgia. They are simply better designed games than many current products. Limitations forced developers to refine the core game rather than simply slop extra layers of content, and OMF is a great example of this.

Originally commercial, Diversions released it

as freeware in 1999. More recently, another team began reverse engineering it into an Open-Source version which runs across different operating systems and modern hardware.

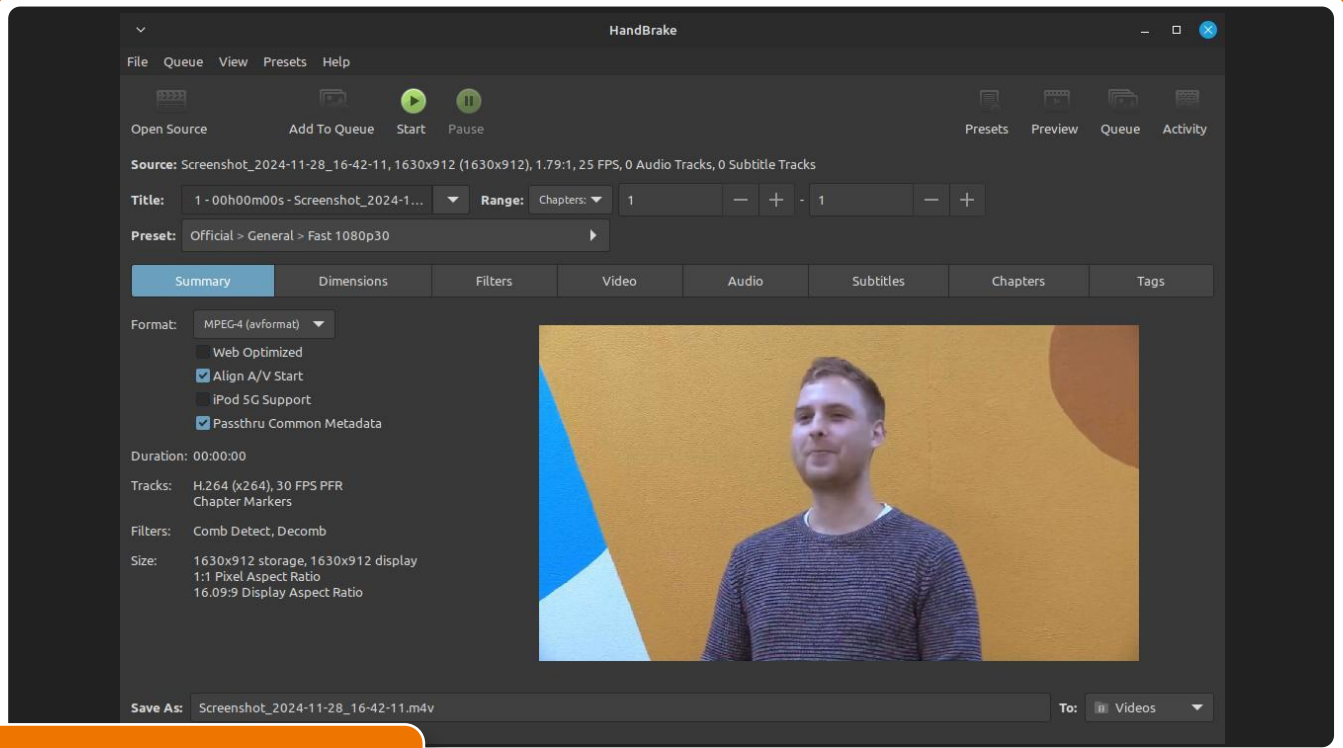
Just make sure to stop and enjoy Kenny Chow's signature menu music.

Links:

[ [Wikipedia Entry](#) ]

[ [OpenOMF](#) ]

# VIDEO



## data

`_creators: Eric Petit +  
Handbrake Team  
_type: Video Convertor  
_released: 2003  
_latest: 1.8.2 (2024)  
_license: GPL-2.0`

***Sometimes you need a conversion tool that just works. HandBrake is that.***

There's not a huge amount to get excited about with conversion tools - except many don't seem to work without paying silly

## HandBrake

### Eric Petit+ HandBrake Team

license fees to suspicious bank accounts.

So when they do work robustly enough to change your workflow, and don't cost you anything, you remember them.

Aside from using FFMPEG from the command-line more recently, I had used HandBrake for years, and would still

recommend it to most people.

It's fairly straightforward to use, but still has enough depth of settings for those who know what they want professionally.

Links:  
[ [Download](#) ]  
[ [Source Repo](#) ]

# SOFTWARE



## data

```
_creator: Community /  
Microsoft  
_type: Programming IDE  
_released: 2018  
_latest: 1.95.3 (2024)  
_license: MIT
```

***VSCode is great, but VSCodeium removes the telemetry that Microsoft sneaks in.***

We do need to appreciate the amazing work that Microsoft has done in creating VSCode and the ecosystem around it.

## VSCodeium

Community / Microsoft

However VSCode itself could not be part of the magazine, as it turns out that the version you download from their website is not freeware the way the pure Open-Source version is.

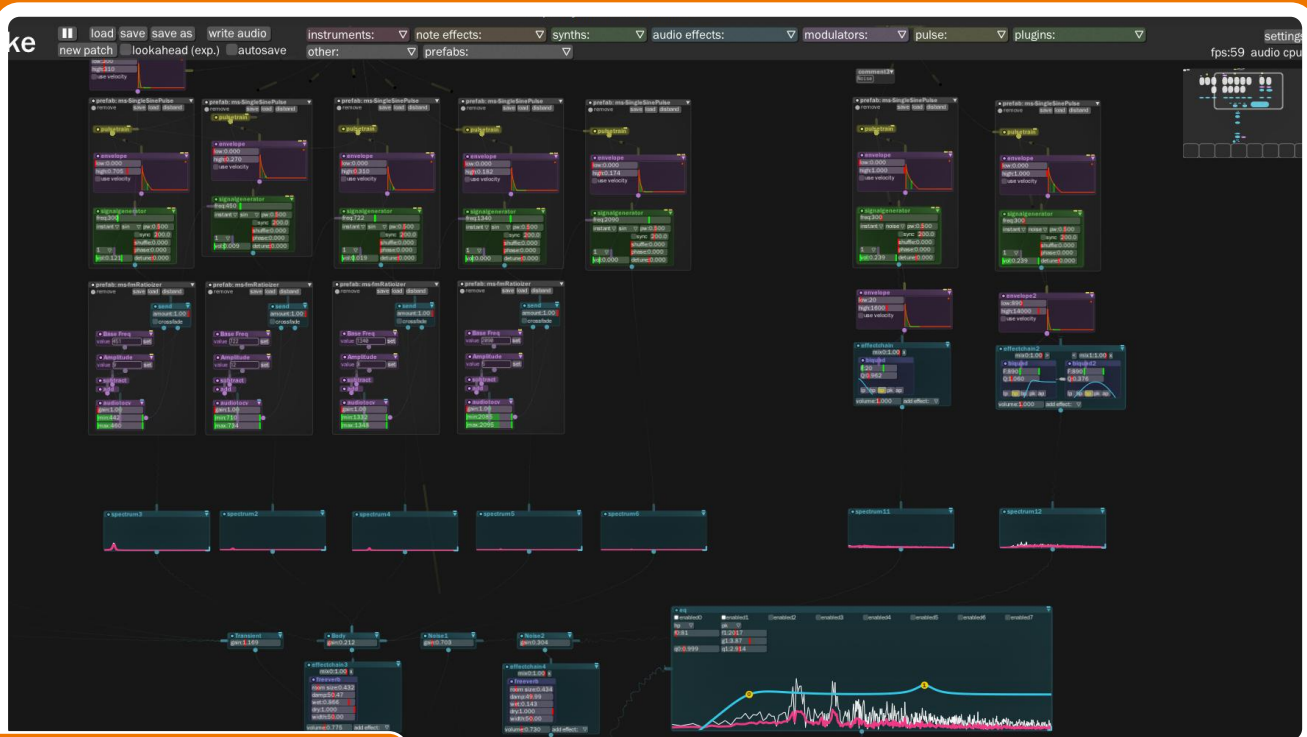
Microsoft sneakily adjusts the default configuration to allow data tracking, and release it under their own special license.

That's where the VSCodeium team formed to simply build and make accessible the latest "pure" version of the software.

While this does limit some of the available extensions, it means you can use the robust IDE without ethical concern.

Links:  
[ Download ]

# BONUS



## data

\_creator: Ryan Challinor  
+ Community  
\_type: Reference Manager  
\_released: 2021  
\_latest: 1.2.1 (2023)  
\_license: GPL-3.0

**Halfway between Modular Synth and Audio Programming, but with great UX.**

I've got some experience with Modular Synth tools like VCV Rack, and with visual Audio Programming Languages like Max /

## *BespokeSynth* Ryan Challinor + Community

Pure Data. Bespoke seems to fit in the sweet spot between the two.

While the program can look a little bit daunting at first, take a bit of time to become familiar with the modules available, and you'll quickly find they use a lot of visual feedback to make waveforms and modulations clear for

the desktop tinkerer.

Other noteworthy features include the ability to run Python scripts, to create Prefabs to quickly recall custom modular creations, and even host VST plugins within the modular structure. It's a great time.

Links:  
[ [Download](#) ]  
[ [Manual](#) ]



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