



Fuzz Cola



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Introduction

Fuzz Cola is a stompbox-style distortion plugin inspired by the Op-Amp Big Muff Pi, with a cola-themed interface. The project started out of a love for the dense, sustaining Smashing Pumpkins style fuzz guitar tones (especially *Siamese Dream*), and the realization that there are plenty of transistor Big Muff emulations but far fewer that of the op-amp reissue sound.

Fuzz Cola keeps the three-knob + footswitch workflow of the original pedal (Volume, Tone, Sustain, plus bypass options) so it stays simple, quick, and reliable inside a DAW.

Under the hood, Fuzz Cola follows a pedal-style signal path: the input is lightly filtered to reduce sub-rumble before distortion, then it runs through two soft-clipping stages that create the main fuzz character. The second stage is intentionally slightly asymmetrical (it clips the positive and negative swings a little differently) to add extra warmth and harmonic color. After clipping, the Tone control shapes the sound using a tilt-style EQ (two shelving filters), and a final “fizz tamer” filter smooths the very top end before the Volume stage.

Installation Instructions

macOS (VST3)

Quit your DAW (Logic, Ableton, Reaper, etc.).

Unzip the download

If macOS says the plugin is “damaged” after unzipping, don’t use Archive Utility.

Use Keka (or another unzip tool) instead.

Copy the plugin

Copy Fuzz Cola.vst3 to:

System-wide (recommended):

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/

User-only (no admin required):

~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/

Rescan / restart

Restart your DAW, or run its plugin rescan.

If macOS says “Fuzz Cola.vst3 is damaged and can’t be opened”

This is usually Gatekeeper/quarantine.

macOS (AU)

Quit your DAW.

Copy Fuzz Cola.component to:

System-wide:

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

User-only:

~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

Restart your DAW (Logic will scan AUs on launch).

Windows (VST3)

Quit your DAW.

Copy Fuzz Cola.vst3 to the VST3 folder:

System-wide (recommended):

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

Restart your DAW or run a plugin rescan.

Quick Troubleshooting

Plugin doesn't show up?

Confirm you placed it in the correct folder, then rescan plugins in the DAW.

Still getting "damaged" on macOS

Unzip with Keka or another archive tool

Controls



- A - Volume Knob
- B - Tone Knob
- C - Sustain Knob
- D - Tone Stack Switch
- E - Footswitch

A: Volume Knob

Controls the final output level after all processing. Range is **-60 dB to +12 dB**, default **0 dB**.

B: Tone Knob

Shapes the post-distortion EQ from dark/fat to bright. Under the hood it's two shelving filters (bass shelf around 450 Hz, treble shelf around 1.5 kHz) that tilt the sound as you turn the knob.

Practical guide:

Tone low: darker and thicker (more bass, less treble)

Tone noon: a more balanced “neutral-ish” voicing

Tone high: brighter and more cutting

C: Sustain Knob

Controls how hard the signal hits the distortion circuit (more in = more fuzz, compression, and sustain). In the current build, Sustain maps to an input gain range of **+15 dB to +45 dB**, so it intentionally has “built-in dirt” even at lower settings.

D: Tone Stack Switch

Enables or disables the Tone control.

On the original hardware pedal, switching this control off simply removes the Tone potentiometer from the circuit rather than bypassing the entire tone stage. Fuzz Cola mirrors this behavior conceptually by fixing the tone shaping to a neutral center setting when the switch is off, allowing for quick A/B comparison without altering the overall gain structure.

E: Footswitch

Hard-bypasses the entire effect. When Pedal On is off, the plugin outputs the dry input (passthrough).

Miscellaneous Features

Double Clicking Knobs

When you drag a knob, Fuzz Cola displays a small pop-up readout showing the current value. For precise settings, **double-click any knob** to type an exact value, then press **Enter** to apply. Press **Esc** or click away to cancel. Values entered outside the knob's valid range will snap to the nearest allowed setting.

Presets

Fuzz Cola includes a **built-in preset menu** for both factory presets and your own saved presets.

- Open the Presets dropdown.
- **To save:** choose "Save current as...", name your preset, and save it.
- **To load:** select a Factory preset or a User preset from the list.
- If you add/remove preset files while the plugin is open, choose "Rescan presets" to refresh the list.
- To find where presets live on your computer, choose "Open preset folder."

Also: your knob/switch settings are saved automatically with your DAW session/project, even if you don't save a preset.

High-Res / Low-Res Artwork

Fuzz Cola can switch between high-resolution and low-resolution artwork depending on the current bypass switch on/off.

LED Indicator

The LED reflects whether the pedal is engaged. If the effect is bypassed, the LED is off and the plugin passes through your clean signal.