

# ReBirth

RB-338 2.0.1

Getting Started  
Demo version



propellerhead  
SOFTWARE

Steinberg



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ReBirth RB-338 was inspired by the TR-808, TR-909 and TB-303, originally created by Roland Corporation. Their unique sounds and visual images have been reborn through digital simulation by Propellerhead Software. All visual and aural references to TR-808, TR-909 and TB-303 are being made with written permission from Roland Corporation.

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# Installation

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- The following text assumes that your computer is set up properly and that you are reasonably familiar with its operation!
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## Mac

1. **Locate the folder on your hard disk, named ReBirth RB-338. Open it and check for any ReadMe files that might be included. Open and read these!**
2. **Run the program, by double clicking on the ReBirth RB-338 icon.**

## PC

1. **Make sure the audio card is installed and functioning properly. If in doubt, use the MediaPlayer application (included with Windows) to make sure the card can play back an audio file without problems, and that you can hear it on your sound system.**

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- To hear anything from the audio card you need to connect it to external speakers or headphones!
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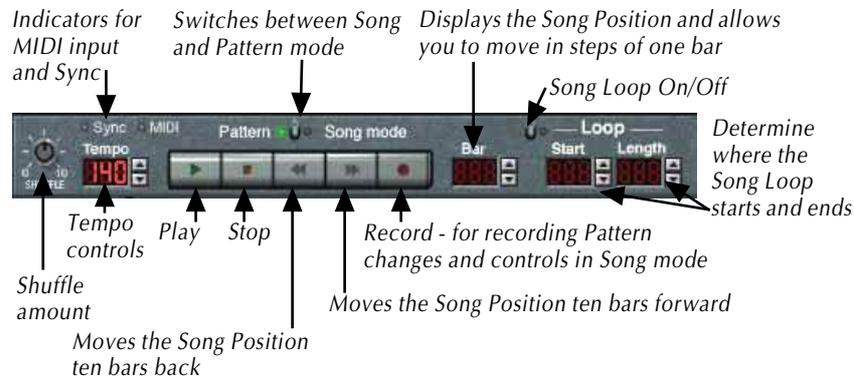
2. **Locate the ReBirth RB-338 item on the Propellerhead menu on your Start menu. On this menu, check for any ReadMe files that might be included. Open and read these!**
3. **Select ReBirth RB-338 from the same menu, to run the program.**

## Very Important Audio Settings!

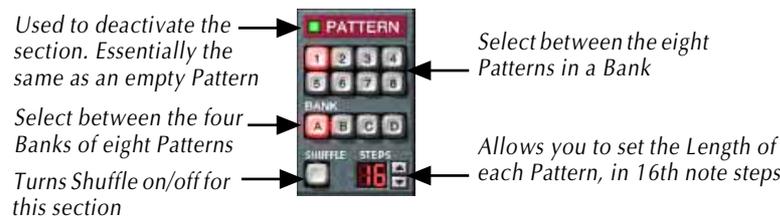
- If you are using ReBirth RB-338 on a Windows computer, there are some very important audio settings you need to make before you start using the program. For this reason, when you first launch the program, the Preferences dialog appears. In addition, a Windows Help document is opened automatically. Follow the instructions on screen, they are very important!
- If you are using ReBirth RB-338 on a Macintosh and run into problems with the audio quality (disruptions and 'crackles') you need to make adjustments to your audio settings. See the heading "Problems with Audio on the Macintosh" at the end of this document.  
Even if the audio plays back without problems you should make these adjustments, since using a buffer that is larger than necessary will make the program more 'unresponsive' than it needs to be.

# Guided tour Of the Panel

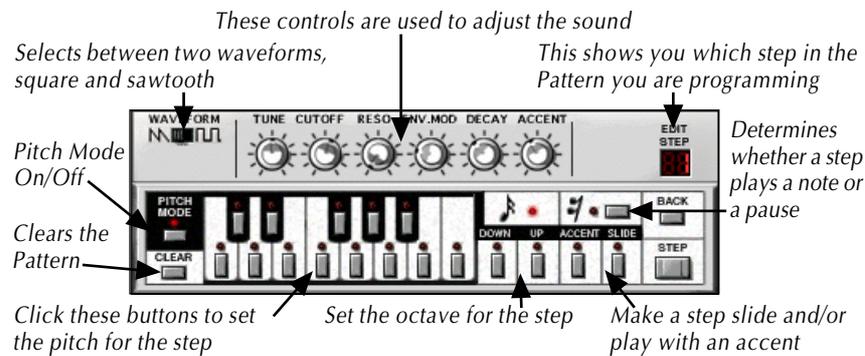
## Transport



## Pattern sections



## Synth sections



## 808 Rhythm section

The red knobs set the levels of the individual sounds      The white knobs adjust the various sound parameters

As a shortcut, you can click on the light instrument legends to select an instrument



The colored step buttons are used to program the selected instrument into the Pattern

This knob is used to select instruments (drum sounds)

## 909 Rhythm section

Click on a legend to select an instrument

Use the knobs to adjust volume and various sound parameters

The Flam knob is used to adjust the length of flam hits.

When this is activated, the step buttons are used for programming flam hits



The step buttons are used to program the selected instrument into the Pattern. Click twice to get an accented hit.

## Mixers

Mute/unmute.  
Not part of the Song automation!

Pan

Volume fader



Input meter

Distortion on/off (all sections can be on)

PCF (Filter effect) on/off (one section at a time)

Compression on/off (one section at a time)

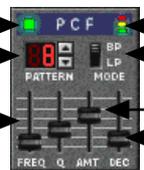
Delay amount for this section

## PCF (Pattern Controlled Filter)

PCF on/off

Pattern selection

Frequency (cutoff)



Q (Resonance)

Input meter

Filter type select

Envelope Amount

Envelope Decay

## Delay



## Dist (Distortion)



## Compressor



# Quick Tutorial

## Playing a Song

To play one of the Demo Songs, proceed as follows.

1. **Select Open from the File menu and locate one of the song files in the Demo Songs folder in your ReBirth RB-338 folder and double click on it.**
2. **Click the Play button on the Transport panel or press [space bar] on the computer keyboard.**
3. **When you are done, click Stop or press [space bar].**

## Checking out the Mixing and Sound Controls

1. **In the same Song document that you just opened, flip the switch in the Transport Panel from Song to Pattern mode.**
2. **Activate playback and try clicking the various Pattern selectors in the three sections.**  
You will note that Pattern switching always occurs at the end of the bar, not exactly when you click.
3. **Try turning the controls in the rhythm and synth sections. Play around to get a feel of how they affect the sound.**  
If you don't know where to start, try the Cutoff and Reso controls in the synth section.
4. **Raise the Delay setting in the mixer panel in one of the sections, to about two o'clock.**
5. **Make sure the Delay is activated.**  
You will hear an echo (delay) added to the sound.
6. **Play around with the controls in the Delay section.**
7. **Click on the Dist switch in one of the sections.**
8. **Make sure the Dist is activated.**
9. **Turn up the Dist Amount knob.**  
The sound from that section will be distorted.
10. **Click on the PCF switch in one of the sections.**
11. **Make sure the PCF is activated.**

**12. Play around with the controls in the PCF section.**

The PCF is very powerful, but also a little complicated. Don't feel discouraged if the results you get at this point are a bit unpredictable.

**13. Click on the Comp button in the Master section.**

**14. Make sure the Compressor (Dist section) is activated.**

**15. Play around with the controls in the Comp section.**

**16. Click on the Stop button.**

## Creating a Rhythm Pattern

**1. Select New from the File menu.**

**2. Turn off the synths, in their respective mixers.**

**3. Turn off one of the rhythm sections in its mixer.**

**4. Click on the remaining active rhythm section.**

Note that the red vertical bar moves to this section. This indicates that this section has the "focus" for the operations you perform from now on.

**5. Select Clear Pattern from the Edit menu.**

**6. Activate Play.**

You won't hear anything at this point, because nothing is programmed into the rhythm section yet.

**7. Select a rhythm instrument by clicking on the drum sound legends.**

These are the labels marked "BD", "SD" etc.

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- Don't select the AC (Accent) instrument at this point, it isn't a sound, it's a dynamic control feature!
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**8. Click on the bottom row of buttons in the rhythm section to select which sixteenth note steps that will play this sound.**

The step buttons light up when you click, and you will hear the sound as the Pattern loops. In the 808 (upper section) a second click turns off the step. In the 909 (lower) a second click selects a louder sound and a third click turns the step off.

**9. Select another sound, and enter some notes for that.**

**10. Try out the various control for levels, tuning and other aspects of sound.**

**11. If you like, select another Pattern in the rhythm section and program something for that.**

## Creating a Synth Pattern

- 1. Re-activate one of the synths, by clicking in its mixer.**  
Some factory Pattern will be played.
- 2. Click on the Clear button on the synth control panel.**  
This sets all the Pattern steps to pause instead, so that no sound is heard.
- 3. Activate playback again, if the program isn't playing already.**
- 4. Check the Step counter, just above the Back button. It shows 1, to indicate that you see the settings for the first step (sixteenth note) in the Pattern.**
- 5. Click on the Note/Pause button so that it switches to Note.**  
This note will now play on the downbeat of the next lap. If you can't hear it, raise the level and also try raising the Cutoff for this synth.
- 6. Select another pitch for this step, by clicking on the keyboard buttons.**  
You can also try the Octave Up/Down switches if you like.
- 7. Click the Step button to move to the next sixteenth note.**
- 8. Switch this from Pause to Note, just as with the first step.**  
You will now hear two notes on the first two sixteenths of the Pattern.
- 9. Select a different pitch for this step.**
- 10. Click the Back button to move back to step 1.**  
The Step Counter always shows which step you are at.
- 11. Activate Slide for this step.**  
You will now hear how the note slides between steps 1 and 2.
- 12. Try the Accent switch too, if you like.**  
Steps with Accent activated will be louder and more prominent in character. Exactly how much is adjusted with the Accent knob.
- 13. Use the Step and Back buttons to make settings for all the sixteen steps in the Pattern.**  
Note that when you are at step 16 and press Step, you go to step 1. The same, in reverse, applies when you are at step 1 and press Back.
- 14. If you like, select another Pattern in this synth section and program something for that.**
- 15. Activate and create a Pattern for the other synth!**
- 16. Play around with the mixing and sound controls!**

# Audio Settings

## Problems with Audio on the Macintosh

Due to differences between various versions of the Sound Manager routines in the Macintosh operating system, there's a risk you might experience disruptions or 'crackles' in the audio (depending on the Macintosh model you are using). If this happens, you need to adjust the audio 'engine' in ReBirth to your system:

- 1. Open one of the demonstration songs.**
- 2. Activate Playback.**
- 3. Open the Preferences dialog, from the Edit menu.**
- 4. Make sure the Multitasking friendly option is selected.**
- 5. Locate the Buffer size pop-up.**

This allows you to adjust the audio buffer size. On some systems it is not possible to automatically detect the buffer size properly, which means you manually have to find the correct setting.
- 6. Select the next larger buffer size.**

If, for example, the pop-up currently is set to 1 (followed by a buffer size number), set it to 2.
- 7. If there are still problems with the sound, repeat the above with the next larger buffer size.**
- 8. If none of the buffer sizes seem to work, switch from "Multitasking friendly" to "Crackle safe", and set the buffer pop-up to the value closest to 1024.**

This will make sure that ReBirth RB-338 works properly in all situations. However, the mouse pointer will not move as smoothly and you might possibly run into audio problems with other programs playing via the Sound Manager. Furthermore ReBirth RB-338 might possibly disturb other background processes such as networking.

# What else you can Do and Learn

## What the Complete Operation manual Teaches You

A complete manual in electronic format (but which can of course be printed out) has been installed into your system. In this you will learn:

- **More Pattern creating techniques.**
- **How to use the Pattern editing functions.**
- **More about how to shape the sound.**
- **More about using effects.**
- **More about Mods (Mods are not supported in the Demo version).**
- **How to create a Song from a number of Patterns, including automation of all knobs.**
- **How to integrate ReBirth RB-338 with Cubase VST or another audio or MIDI program.**
- **How to control ReBirth via MIDI.**
- **How to use the Internet connection facilities to get free songs and Mods!**

## Windows Help

For the Windows version, there is an on-line reference. This can be accessed in various ways:

- You can select Contents from the Help menu.
- To get help on a dialog or window, press [F1].
- To get help on a menu item, pull down the menu and position the mouse pointer over the item, without releasing the mouse. Then press [F1].
- To get Help on specific items in dialogs, click on the small '?' symbol in the title bar of the dialog and click on the item you need help on.