

**poly**



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TRAILS



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## UNFAMILIAR EFFECTS THAT SUSTAIN + GROW...

### JOURNEY INTO DIVERSE AND EXOTIC SOUNDSCAPES.

Explore sympathetic strings, granular textures, vinyl inspired delays, resonators, modulated vocal modelling, wavefolding and microlooping.

Trails offers 7 easy to control, and inspiring modes in true stereo. Each mode has their own control parameters as each is a different ecosystem.

Onboard 8 step sequencer can animate all the controls.

Effects from off the beaten track.

## HAPPY TRAILS!

- 1. INPUT JACK**
- 2. POWER INPUT:**  
Requires 9V DC negative center power and consumes 500mA.  
Do not use more than 9V DC
- 3. USB (C) INPUT:**  
Only use small USB flash drives.
- 4. MIDI INPUT + OUTPUT:**  
TRS Type A.  
Pink = Input,  
Green = Output.  
More midi details on back page.
- 5. OUTPUT JACK**
- 6. MODES:**  
See details inside this foldout.
- 7. PRESETS:**  
8 presets for each mode which are also steps in the sequencer.
- 8. CONTROLS:**  
Differ for each mode. See details inside this foldout.
- 9. SEQUENCER  
PLAY/STOP BUTTON:**  
Press to start and stop the sequencer.
- 10. LEFT FOOTSWITCH:**
  - Tap to toggle sustain on/off.
  - Hold to go to the next mode.
- 11. RIGHT FOOTSWITCH:**
  - Tap to toggle bypass on/off.
  - Hold to go to next preset.

1 OUTPUT

2 POWER  
+G-

3 USB

4 MIDI

5 INPUT

MEADOWS



HAVEN



PRAIRIE



OUTBACK



TUNDRA



BADLANDS



6



COAST

8

8

Vertical panel A and B with 8 pink buttons each.

A

B

1 2  
P R E S E T S  
3 4  
5 6  
7 8

7

Vertical panel C and D with 8 pink buttons each.

C

D

9



SUSTAIN



10

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TRAILS

BYPASS



11

## PRESETS

Press a category icon or a number to change preset.

Press and hold the currently lit number to save new settings for a preset.

## LED SLIDERS

Each LED slider has a total of 4096 values.

Sliders are best used by sliding your finger up and down the slider column directly over the LEDs.

Pressing the sliders like they are buttons is not as expressive.

## FINE MODE



For fine control press and hold the Trails logo, this will cause all sliders enter 'fine mode'.

You can tell you are in fine mode because the centre LED on all sliders will be lit. You can now finely tune the slider value around the current setting. To exit fine mode press any icon.

## CONNECTIONS

For mono, use any everyday instrument lead but if you want to run stereo, you'll need a TRS Cable.



To run mono in to stereo out, triple tap the 'Haven' icon. This toggles mono summing.



By default, Trails will pass your input signal unchanged. If you would like to mute your input signal, triple tap the 'Prairie' icon.


# MEADOWS



Sympathetic strings ring in response to what you play. You can tune which notes they resonate with. Single notes on the higher strings highlight the sarod / sitar like character where strums on lower notes create lush full textures.

Get lost in a valley of flowers.

## CONTROLS

- A BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B PITCH**  
The base pitch of the strings.
- C STRUCTURE**  
What material the strings are made from. Basically influences tensions which changes how they react.
- D DENSITY**   
How many grains are played back. Middle is no grains, bottom of slider is lots of regular grains, top is lots of irregular grains.



SUSTAIN SWITCH: FREEZE. ONLY DENSITY WILL CHANGE THE FROZEN SOUND.


# HAVEN



Create bell like sounds on each pluck. This resonator based mode uses your guitar as the excitor to a physical model where you can vary the material the bells are made from.

A tranquil land of chimes or peaceful oblivion with bells.

## CONTROLS

- A BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B PITCH**  
The base pitch of the bells.
- C STRUCTURE**  
What material the bells are made from. Influences sustain and tone.
- D DENSITY** BOTTOM  TOP  
How many grains are played back. Middle is no grains, bottom of slider is lots of regular grains, top is lots of irregular grains.

 SUSTAIN SWITCH: FREEZE. ONLY DENSITY WILL CHANGE THE FROZEN SOUND.

# PRAIRIE



This is not a tape delay. It's not a bucket brigade delay. It's a vinyl record playing back what you've just played. Filled with crackle and character.

Vast grasslands where time moves differently.

## CONTROLS

- A BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B LENGTH/SPEED**  
This controls both the direction the record is spinning and how fast it spins. Spinning slowly means that there are less grooves for the sound to record into and the quality is degraded.
- C AGING**  
The age of the vinyl. Older records lose high end and dynamic range.
- D NOISE**  
The amount of pop and crackle on the vinyl.

 SUSTAIN SWITCH: STOP THE TURNTABLE.

# OUTBACK



This is a physical model of a human mouth. Sounds you play come out of the mouth as it opens and shuts. This sounds similar to talk boxes, formant synths and phaser effects.

The remote red center invites you to look at things you know in a different way.

## CONTROLS

- A BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B SPEED**  
How fast the mouth is opening and closing
- C SHAPE**  
What curve the open / close action follows.
- D TONGUE POSITION**  
Change the position of the lips and tongue, changing the frequencies that pass through.

⏪ ⏩ SUSTAIN SWITCH: INCREASE THE SUSTAIN.

# TUNDRA



A pitch shifting delay. You can shift up and down either with the slider or via sending MIDI notes.

Tundra is best when frozen, so play a note, freeze it and then change the controls.

## CONTROLS

- A BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B TIME**  
Time of the delay.
- C FEEDBACK**  
Feed the pitch shifted signal back, so if you're shifting single notes it'll go up or down chromatically per repeat.
- D PITCH**  
Between 2 octaves up and 2 down. Notes are quantised and can be controlled from MIDI notes.

❄️ SUSTAIN SWITCH: FREEZE. THE ICE IS COLD. ALL CONTROLS INFLUENCE FROZEN SIGNAL.

# BADLANDS



A Very brutal distortion. This combination of wave folding and Chebyshev wave shaping, is not for gentle warm tones. It's great with notes that ring out and slower playing as the sustain is very interesting.

Twisted and heavily eroded, difficult to navigate, the badlands bring an unusual and unexplored type of distortion.

## CONTROLS

- A** **BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B** **DELAY LEVEL**  
Level of the delays.
- C** **NUMBER OF FOLDS**  
How aggressive the wave folder is. It can get really angry.
- D** **BIAS AMOUNT**  
Modifies how the wave folder functions, basically it'll get quieter as the bias is increased, but it'll depend on number of folds. The two controls are very interactive.

↔ SUSTAIN SWITCH: INCREASE DELAY REPEATS.

# COAST



A microlooper / granular texture generator, that grabs snippets of sounds and then plays them back. It's great for creating full sound scapes from sparse playing. To explore the controls, freeze some of audio and then see how the controls interact.

Grains of sand get between your toes as lapping waves splash in and out.

## CONTROLS

PITCH SHIFTING CAN BE CONTROLLED BY MIDI NOTE ON.

- A** **BLEND**  
Wet / dry of your signal.
- B** **SIZE**  
How large the snippets / grains of sound are that are captured and played back. This control is modulated and at smaller settings will do glitch / stutter effects.
- C** **WAVE SHAPE** BOTTOM TOP  
The grains when played back have a volume envelope applied. They can fade in and out with a range of shapes.
- D** **DENSITY** BOTTOM TOP  
How many grains are played back. Middle is no grains, bottom of slider is lots of regular grains, top is lots of irregular grains.

❄ SUSTAIN SWITCH: FREEZE. ALL CONTROLS CHANGE THE FROZEN SOUND.

## SET LIST

You can easily move between your favourite presets and select the start up preset with the set list feature.

To set up a custom set list, put a file on a USB flash called `set_list.txt`

The default list is 0,8,16,24,32,40,48

The numbers are the preset you want to go to, counting from zero, separated by commas.



Tap the 'Coast' button 4 times to import.

## STEP SEQUENCER



Pressing the play button toggles the sequencer.

The sequencer will step through the presets in the current mode.

Each preset will become a step in the sequence. While the sequencer is active, the sustain switch acts as tap tempo. Tap 3 times to set tempo.



## MIDI

To set the MIDI channel, tap the Badlands icon (pictured) four times quickly. The preset number buttons will light, press one of these to set a MIDI channel from 1-8.

## CHANGING PRESETS FROM MIDI

Send a program change message to change presets from MIDI.

Send note on to control pitch.

0-7: MEADOWS  
8-15: HAVEN  
16-23: PRAIRIE  
24-31: OUTBACK  
32-39: TUNDRA  
40-47: BADLANDS  
48-55: COAST

## CONTROL CHANGES

A	14
B	15
C	16
D	17
Sustain (On Above 64)	18
Bypass (On Above 64)	19

PC 4 will change to preset 5 in the Meadows mode.

PC 8 will change to preset 1 in the Haven mode.

Some controllers count from 1, if yours does, add 1 to the program numbers below.

Don't plug hard drives into Trails.

There is not enough power.

Please use only small USB flash drives to import.

**PEDAL DIMENSIONS: WIDTH - 102MM ~ DEPTH - 112MM ~ HEIGHT - 60MM**

Trails is an effect pedal for instruments / music. Any other use or use under other operating conditions is considered to be improper and may result in personal injury or property damage. No liability will be assumed for damages resulting from improper use. Never immerse Trails in water. Just wipe it with a clean dry cloth to remove smudges.



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