



**SPECIAL EDITION**

**USER MANUAL**

APPLIED ACOUSTICS SYSTEMS

The logo for Applied Acoustics Systems, consisting of three curved, parallel lines in a light orange color that sweep upwards and to the right, positioned above the text "APPLIED ACOUSTICS SYSTEMS".

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 TASSMAN SE synthesizer by Applied Acoustics Systems

Applied Acoustics System is proud to introduce the **Tassman SE** to Cakewalk users. This instrument is a monophonic analog synthesizer with two oscillators, a lowpass filter, a VCA, a LFO, an envelope generator and a highpass filter. This synthesizer has been patched to provide a great variety of classic analog sounds as well as more experimental sounds. It is an extremely versatile and effective instrument for virtually any project. We hope you will have as much fun playing with as we had designing it!

The **Tassman SE** is a pre-patched synthesizer based on the physical modeling technology developed by Applied Acoustics System. It constitutes an example of vintage synthesizers one can reproduce with the modular software synthesizer **Tassman**. With the full version one can patch, a wide variety of analog and acoustic modules to create an infinite number of analog, acoustic or hybrid instruments. If you are interested to learn more about the Tassman, or try a free demo, please visit us at our web site: [www.applied-acoustics.com](http://www.applied-acoustics.com).

## 1.2 Presets an programs

You can scroll through the presets in the window at the right of the upper tool bar. You can edit the presets and save them as new ones, or create your own by tweaking the knobs. To save a preset, click on the *Save Preset or Save Preset As* button located in the lower left corner of the **Tassman SE** window. You can also save the settings of a single module in order to reuse it in other presets. To do so click on the small arrow at the bottom left of the module you want to save. To reload the settings, click on the upper small arrow.

You can arrange your presets in a program. A program is a group of different presets that you can load at the same time in the preset window and then scroll through them. To create a program, start by loading a preset with the *Load Preset* button at the bottom left of the screen, this will be the first preset of your program. Then click on the *New Preset* button at the left of the preset window and load another preset, this one will be the second preset of your program. Repeat this operation as many times as the number of presets you want to include in your program. When you have finished, click on the *Save Program As* button in the lower left corner of the synth window and choose a name for it. You can save different programs for different projects or live shows.

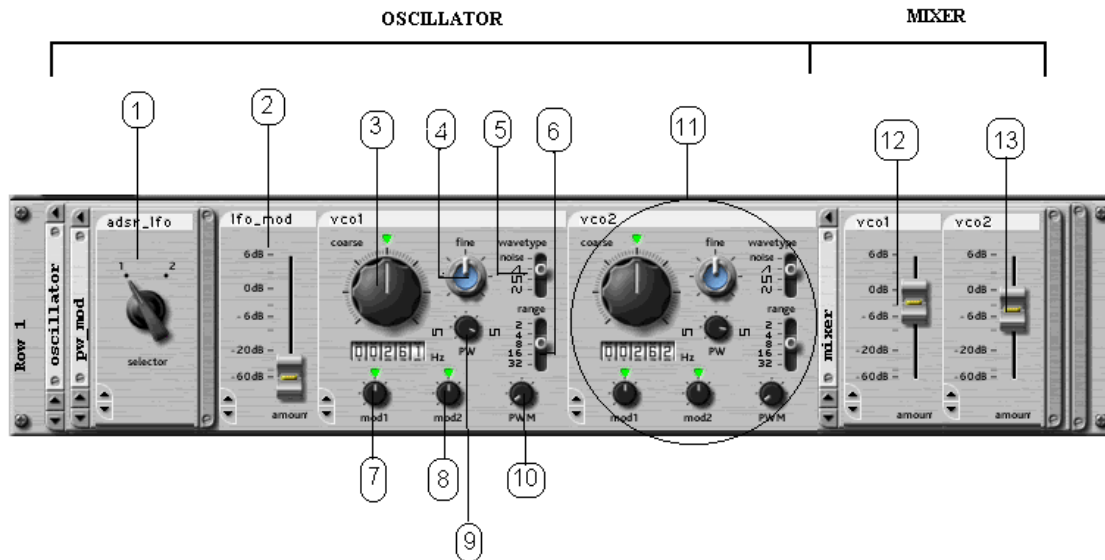
## 1.3 MIDI links

Some of the modules in the **Tassma SE** have MIDI controllers linked to them, here is the list:

Mod wheel:	controller 1	Attack:	controller 20 and 73
Cutoff frequency:	controller 2 and 74	Decay:	controller 21
Resonance:	controller 3 and 71	Sustain:	controller 22
Portamento:	controller 5	Release:	controller 23 and 72
Master volume:	controller 7		

## 2 Front Panel Description

### 2.1 Row 1



### Oscillator

The **Oscillator** section of the Tassman SE is based on two **VCO** modules and constitutes the main sound source of the instrument.

1. This **Selector** module is used to choose the modulation source for the pulse width of the pulse wave on both oscillators. You can choose either the output from the ADSR (first position) or the LFO (second position) module as a source.
2. This **Slider** module controls the amount of modulation from the LFO module on the *mod2* input of both oscillators (VCO1 and VCO2).

The two **VCO** (Voltage Controlled Oscillator) modules are oscillators used to generate signals of different frequencies and waveforms.

3. The **Coarse** knob controls the global frequency of the output signal from the VCO. The value of this frequency is displayed in the counter below this knob.
4. The **Fine** knob is used to fine tune the frequency of the VCO (3 semitones , up or down).
5. The **Wavetype** selector is used to choose the waveform of the output signal from the VCO. Waveforms include noise, sawtooth, pulse or sine.
6. The **Range** selector switches the output frequency of the VCO by octave jumps (2' to 32') for a total range of 4 octaves.
7. The **Mod1** knob is used to control the amount of frequency modulation from the keyboard and the pitch wheel.

8. The **Mod2** knob is used to control the amount of frequency modulation from the LFO and the modulation wheel.
9. The **PW** knob is used to control the shape of a pulse wave. In its right position the waveform is square and only includes odd harmonics.
10. The **PWM** controls the amount of pulse width modulation. When this knob is in the left position, there is no modulation applied to the pulse width while when it is in the right position, the amplitude of the modulation is almost equal to the width of the pulse. This input is connected to the output of the `adsr_lfo Selector` module (see 1).

### Note on tuning

When the **Coarse** and **Fine** knobs are in their center position (green LEDs on for the **Coarse** knob), the **Range** switch is set to 8 and there is no modulation signal, the playing frequency has a value of 261.6 Hz, which corresponds to the C3 key on a piano (middle C).

### Note on the modulation inputs

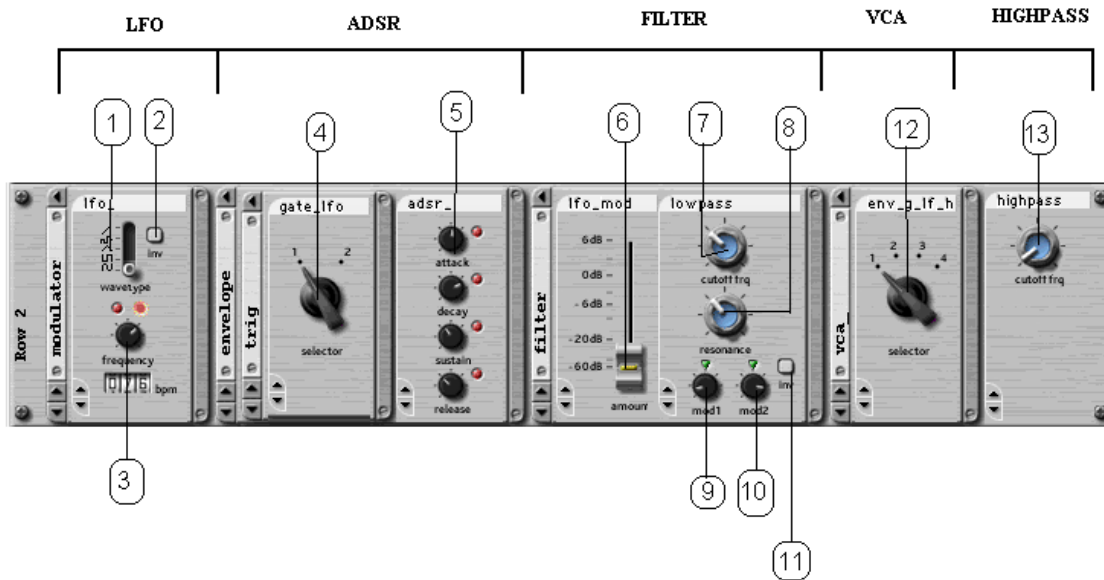
Frequency modulation is relative to the settings of the **Coarse**, **Fine** and **Range** controls. The amount of variation of the playing frequency obtained with the modulation inputs depends on the adjustment of the **Mod1** and **Mod2** gain knobs. The total modulation signal is the sum of the two modulation signals each multiplied by the gain corresponding to its respective **Mod** knob. When the knobs are in the center position (green LEDs on), the gain equals 1 and the pitch variation is 1 Volt/octave. This position is used to play an equal temperament scale. The frequency variation with the modulation signal can be increased or decreased by turning the modulation knobs clockwise or anti-clockwise.

11. This VCO has exactly the same settings as the previous one.

## Mixer

The **Mixer** section is used to control the amplitude of the sound sources.

12. This **Slider** module controls the volume of the output of the first **VCO** module.
13. This **Slider** module controls the volume of the second **VCO** module.

**Row 2****LFO (Modulator)**

The **Modulator** is an **LFO** module (low frequency oscillator). It is used to modulate the inputs of other modules such as the **VCO** modules and filters in order to create vibrato or harmonic changes.

1. The **Wavetype** selector is used to choose the **LFO** output waveform (sawtooth, random, triangle, square or sine).
2. The **Inv** button inverts the phase of the selected waveform in order to get, for example, a descending sawtooth.
3. The **Frequency** knob is used to control the frequency of the output signal from the **LFO**. The output frequency (which can range from 0.1 Hz to 35 Hz) is displayed in beats per minute in the counter below the knob.

**ADSR (Envelope)**

The **ADSR** module is an envelope generator. It is used to shape the contour of a signal.

4. The trig **Selector** is used to select the source which will trigger the **ADSR** module. In the first position, the gate from the keyboard is the triggering signal while in the second position it is the signal coming out from the **LFO (Modulator)**.
5. The **ADSR** (attack, Decay, Sustain and Release) module generates the envelope. The **attack** knob controls the amount of time required for the envelope to reach its maximum level after a key is pressed. The **decay** knob controls the amount of time required for the envelope to reach the level set by the sustain knob. The **sustain** knob sets the level at which the envelope will stay as long as a key is pressed. Finally, the **release** knob controls the amount of time required for the envelope to fall to a minimum level after a key is released.

## Filter

The filter used in this synth is a -12 dB/oct lowpass filter. It is used to alter the tone color of the signal coming from the **oscillator** section by changing its harmonic content.

6. This **Slider** (lfo\_mod) controls the amplitude of the modulation signal from the **(LFO) Modulator**. This signal is used to modulate the cutoff frequency of the filter.
7. The **Cutoff freq** knob controls the cutoff frequency of the filter. Frequency components located below the cutoff frequency can go through the filter.
8. The **Resonance** knob is used to emphasize the frequencies near the cutoff frequency.
9. The **Mod1** knob controls the modulation of the cutoff frequency of the filter. It is linked to the output from the **LFO (Modulator)**.
10. The **Mod2** knob controls the modulation of the cutoff frequency of the filter. It is linked to the output from the **ADSR (Envelope)**.
11. The **Inv** button inverts the phase of the **ADSR (Envelope)** modulation signal.

### Note on the modulation inputs

The total modulation signal is the sum of the two modulation signals each multiplied by the gain corresponding to its respective **Mod** knob. When the knobs are in the center position (green LEDs on), the gain equals 1 and the pitch variation is 1 Volt/octave. This position is used to follow an equal temperament scale.

## VCA

The **VCA** (Voltage Controlled Amplifier) is an amplifier whose gain can be controlled from various sources. These different sources act as a volume control on any sound passing through the **VCA**.

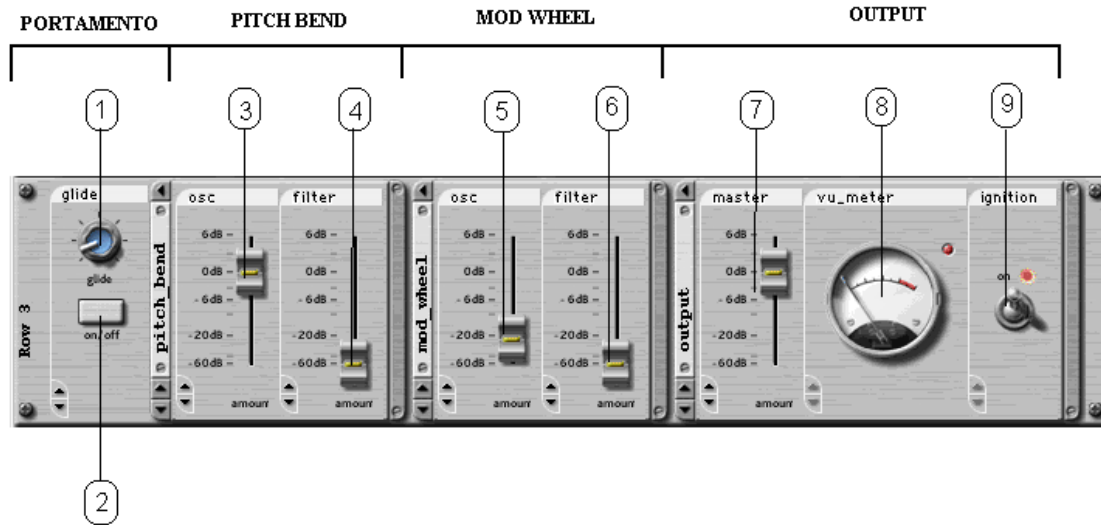
12. The **Selector** (env\_g\_lf\_h) is used to select the source controlling the **VCA**. In the first position, the control signal is the **ADSR (Envelope)**. In the second position the control signal is the gate signal from the keyboard. In the third position it is the **LFO (Modulator)** signal. Finally, in the fourth position, the **VCA** is in the hold position which means that the synth produces sound continuously.

## Highpass

This module is a **Highpass** filter. It is used to remove low frequency components from a signal. It is the opposite of a lowpass filter.

13. The **Cutoff frq** knob sets the cutoff frequency of the filter. Frequency components located above the cutoff frequency can go through the filter.

## Row 3



### Portamento

The **Portamento** module is an integrator and is used to smooth a signal. It is used to perform a sliding effect from one note to another.

1. The **Glide** controls the time constant of the integrator. The higher the time constant, the longer the time to slide between notes.
2. The **On/Off** button is used to activate or deactivate the portamento.

### Pitch Bend

The pitch bend is the first wheel usually located at the left of a keyboard. It is used to create glissando on the **VCO** modules or to open and close the **Filter** (the lowpass filter).

3. This **Slider** (osc) controls the amount of pitch bend sent to the first modulation inputs of the **VCO** modules.
4. This **Slider** (filter) controls the amount of pitch bend sent to the first modulation input of the **Filter** (lowpass filter).

### Mod wheel

The pitch bend is the second wheel usually located at the left of a keyboard. It is used to control the amount of modulation from the **LFO (Modulator)**.

This **Slider** module (osc) controls the amount of modulation from the **LFO (Modulator)** on the second modulation inputs of the **VCO** modules.

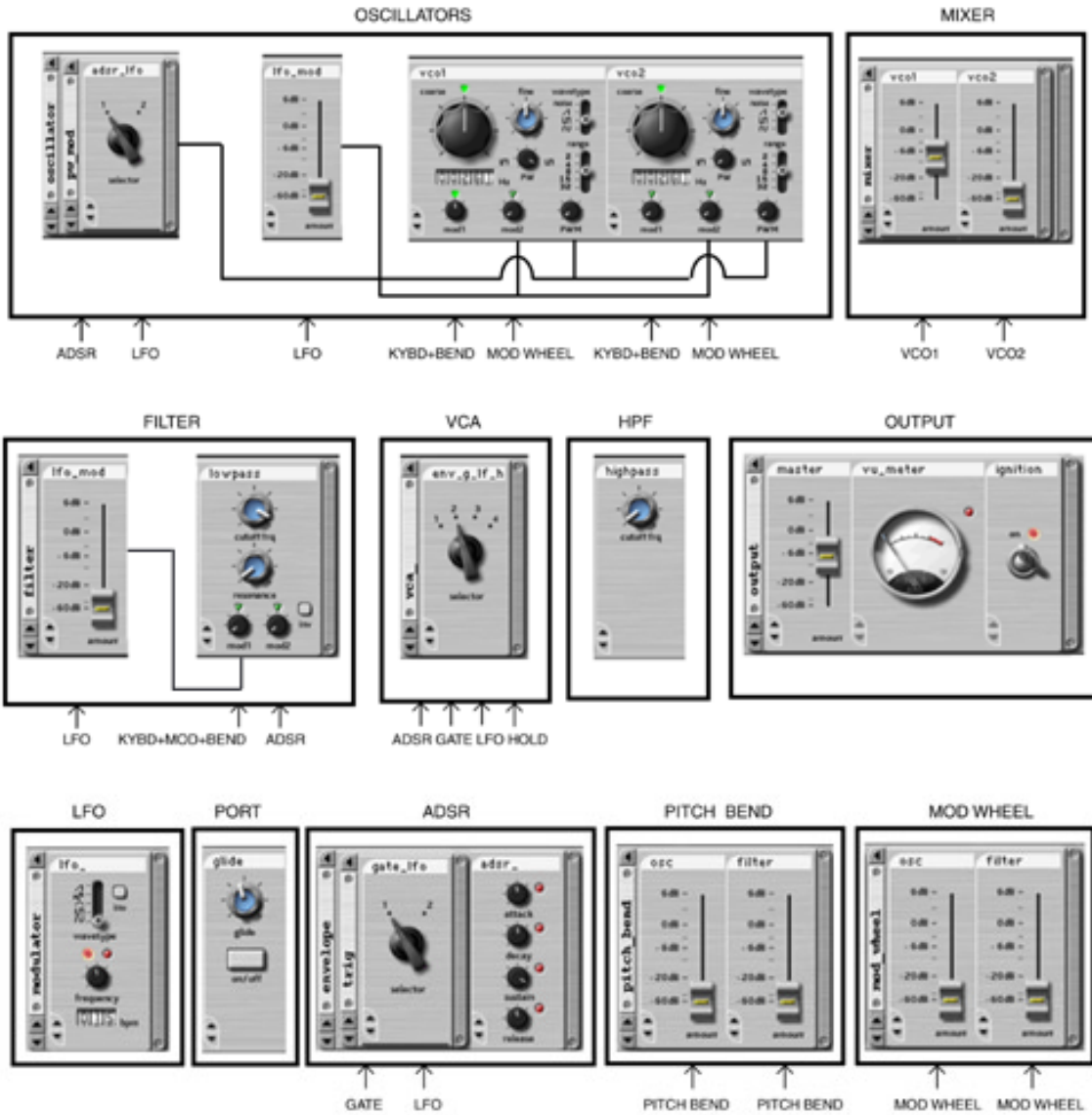
5. This **Slider** (filter) controls the amount of modulation from the **LFO (Modulator)** on the first modulation input of the **Filter** (lowpass filter).

## **Output**

The output is the section where you monitor the sound coming out from the synthesizer. It is composed of a volume **Slider**, a **Vu-Meter** and a **DAC** (Digital to Analog Converter).

6. This **Slider** (master) controls the master level of the synthesizer.
7. The **Vu-Meter** is used to monitor the output level from the synthesizer. The red zone indicates saturation.
8. The **DAC** (ignition) is used to switch on or off the output of the synthesizer.

### 3 Module connections



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