GRND
CTRL

UWU

VIRTUAL PET



MANUAL

VERSION 1.0

WINDOWS · VST3 · CLAP · APP

HELLO

A PET THAT EATS GUITAR

UwU started life as a guitar pedal. It didn't change your sound at all. Instead, it listened to how much you played and fed it to a little creature on a screen.

Play, and the pet earns XP. Keep playing and it levels up, 30 levels in all, each with its own animation. The plugin runs the pedal's original code, so it's the same pet, the same animations and the same three arcade games, now living in your DAW.

Your audio goes through UwU untouched, with no added latency. You can leave it on your guitar track forever.

QUICK START

1 INSTALL

Run the installer and keep the formats you want: VST3, CLAP and the standalone app. Then have your DAW look for new plugins. In **FL Studio**: Options › Manage plugins › Find more plugins. In **Ableton Live**: Settings › Plug-Ins, turn on *Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders*, then Rescan.

2 PUT IT ON YOUR GUITAR

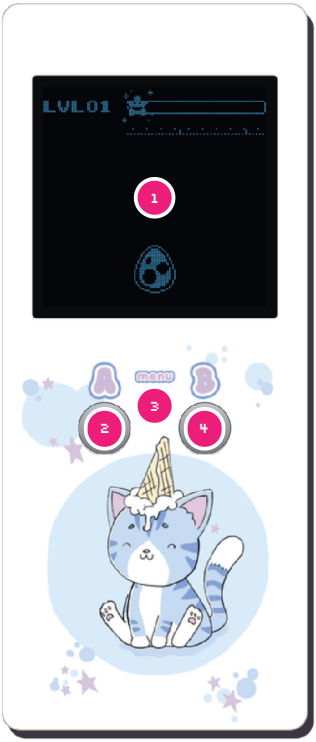
Add UwU to the track your guitar comes in on, first in the chain, before any amp sim. The pet hears your real dynamics there. Make sure the track is monitoring its input.

3 PLAY

Your pet wakes up, dances along, and the XP bar starts to fill. That's it. Rather skip the DAW? Open the standalone app, pick your audio interface in its settings, and play.

CONTROLS

THE PEDAL



1. **Screen.** The pet, its level and XP, and under the XP bar, a meter showing how loud your input is. In the menus you can click a line to choose it.
2. **A.** In menus, moves down a line. In games, goes left.
3. **MENU.** Opens the menu from the pet. In menus, goes back. In a game, hold it to leave.
4. **B.** In menus, chooses the line you're on. In games, goes right and starts a new round.

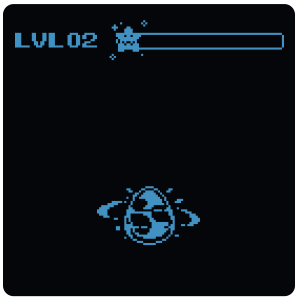
KEYBOARD

When the UwU window has focus, you can use the keyboard instead of the mouse.

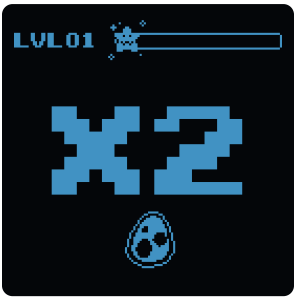
BUTTON	KEYS
A	A or ←
B	B or →
MENU	M or ESC
A and B together	SPACE (like stomping both buttons on the pedal: hold to open the menu)

HOW IT WORKS

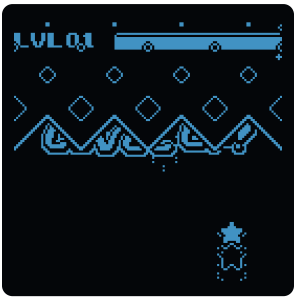
GROWING YOUR PET



LEVEL 2: STILL AN EGG



KEEP GOING: ×2 XP



LEVEL UP!

IT LISTENS

The pet has a resting, a quiet and a loud animation, and switches between them as you play. Leave it in silence for about 20 seconds and the screensaver comes on. Play a note to wake it.

THE MULTIPLIER

Every moment you play earns XP. Keep playing without a break and it multiplies: `X2` after about 5 seconds, `X4` after 15, `X8` after 30. Playing loud doubles that again. Stop, and it drops back to ×1.

30 LEVELS

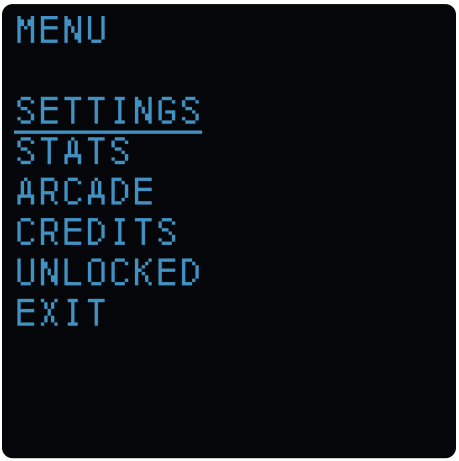
The XP bar fills up and the pet levels up, with a new animation at every level. Each level takes a little longer than the one before.

STEADY, LOUD PLAYING	TAKES ABOUT
Level 1 to 2	5 minutes
Level 1 to 5	22 minutes
All the way to 30	6 hours

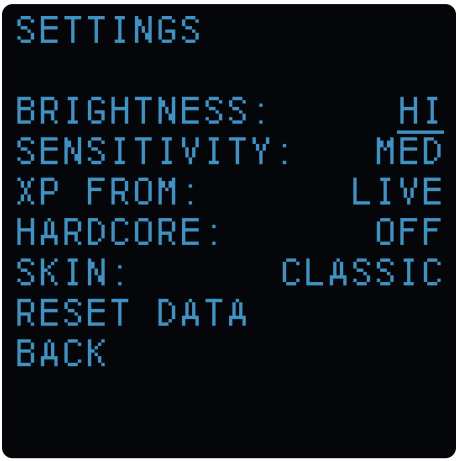
Real practice, with breaks and quiet parts, takes longer. Level 30 has a finale of its own.

PRESS MENU

MENU & SETTINGS



THE MENU



SETTINGS

`SETTINGS`, `STATS`, `ARCADE`, `CREDITS`, `UNLOCK` and `EXIT`, which goes back to the pet. Press A to move, B to choose, MENU to go back. Or just click a line. When a new version of UwU is out, an `UPDATE` line appears: choose it to open the download page.

SETTING	WHAT IT DOES
`BRIGHTNESS`	How bright the screen is: LOW, MED or HI.
`SENSITIVITY`	How well the pet hears you: LOW for hot signals, HI for quiet ones. The meter under the XP bar should move with your playing without staying pinned.
`XP FROM`	**LIVE** (the default): only what you play live earns XP (transport stopped or recording). During playback the pet still dances, and the screen says `XP: LIVE ONLY`. **ALL**: playback earns XP too.
`HARDCORE`	For the brave. See the next page.
`SKIN`	Changes the faceplate, once you've earned more than one.
`RESET DATA`	Back to level 1 with no XP, and default settings. It asks first. Your stats, faceplates and high scores stay.

KEEPING SCORE

STATS & HARDCORE



MENU › STATS

STATS

UwU keeps track of your practice. It counts what XP FROM counts: live playing, plus playback when it's set to ALL.

PLAYED	All the time you've played
TODAY	Time played today
LONGEST	Your longest session. A break over 2 minutes ends one.
STREAK	Days in a row with at least 5 minutes of playing
BEST	Your longest streak

HARDCORE MODE

With HARDCORE on, the pet can't stand silence. Whenever you stop playing, a timer runs down, and the bar under the level shows it. The timer is somewhere between about 7 seconds and a minute, picked at random. Playing wins time back.

Let it run out and it's **game over**: the pet goes back to level 1. The menu and the arcade pause the timer, and there's no screensaver in hardcore.

> While hardcore is on, the screen shows HCMODE. Getting to level 30 this way is a real achievement.



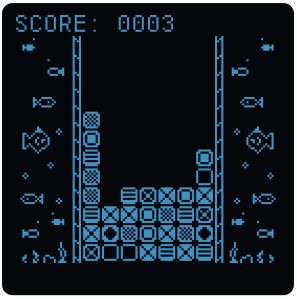
LEVEL 30, THE HARD WAY

THE ARCADE

Three games from the pedal. Press **B** to start, use **A** and **B** to play, and **hold MENU** to leave. Your best score is saved for each game. The pet doesn't earn XP while you're in the arcade.



NEKO INVADER



FISHY BLOX



LONG CAT

NEKO INVADER

You're the cat in the UFO. A and B fly left and right, and your laser fires on its own. Hit each police car before its countdown runs out.

FISHY BLOX

Blocks drop into the tank. A and B nudge them left and right. Touch three or more of the same kind together to clear them. Don't let the stack reach the top.

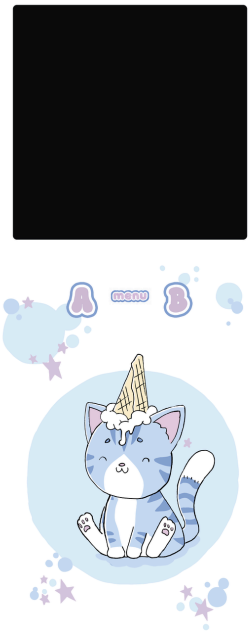
LONG CAT

A turns the cat left, B turns it right. Eat to grow longer. Don't run into yourself.

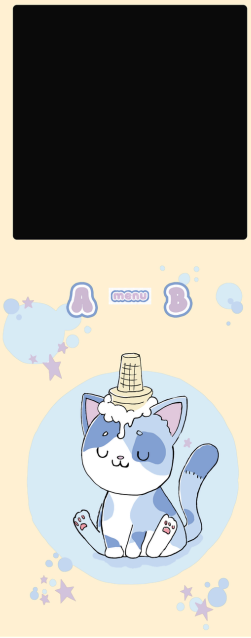
Beat your best and the game over screen says **NEW BEST!**

COLLECTIBLES

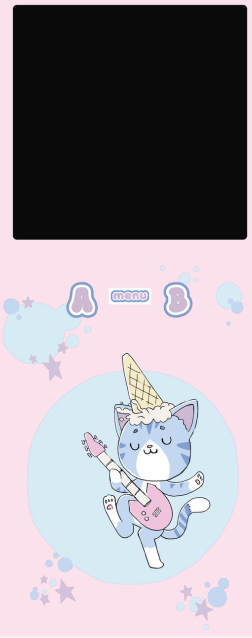
FACEPLATES & SEASONS



CLASSIC: FROM THE START



CALICO: REACH LEVEL 15

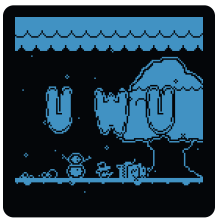


GUITAR: REACH LEVEL 30

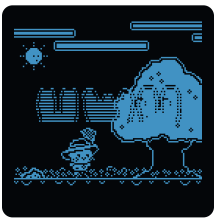
Earned faceplates are yours for good, even after a reset. Switch in SETTINGS › SKIN.

A STARTUP SCREEN FOR EACH SEASON

When UwU starts, it greets you with the time of year.



WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL

FREE VERSION & UNLOCKING

The free version is the whole thing, except the pet stops growing at level 5.

Settings, stats, the arcade and the seasons all work. When the pet is ready for level 6, the screen says `UNLOCK TO GROW`. Your XP waits for you: nothing is lost.

Buy UwU at **groundcontrolaudio.com**, then unlock it from the plugin:



LEVEL 5, WAITING

1 CHOOSE UNLOCK

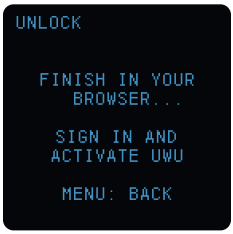
Press MENU, then choose `UNLOCK`. Your web browser opens.

2 SIGN IN AND ACTIVATE

Sign in with the email you bought UwU with, and activate. Meanwhile the screen says `FINISH IN YOUR BROWSER`.

3 DONE

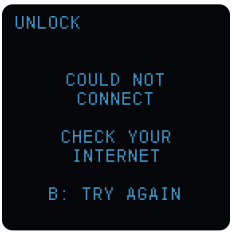
The screen says `UNLOCKED!` and every copy of UwU on this computer can grow to level 30. After that, UwU works offline.



WAITING



ALL DONE



OFFLINE: B TO RETRY

GOOD TO KNOW

ONE PET, EVERYWHERE

There's one pet per computer. Every copy of UwU, on every track, in every project and DAW, plus the standalone app, shows the same pet. Open two at once and they stay in sync.

YOUR SAVE

Your pet lives in `%APPDATA%\GROUND CONTROL\UWU`, with your license. Uninstalling UwU leaves it there, so your pet is waiting if you reinstall. To move your pet to a new computer, copy that folder over.

IF SOMETHING'S OFF

PROBLEM	TRY THIS
My DAW can't find UwU	Rescan your plugins. The VST3 is in C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3. In FL Studio, use *Find more plugins* (Scan & verify).
The pet doesn't react	Check that the track monitors its input, and watch the meter under the XP bar. If it barely moves, set SENSITIVITY to HI.
No XP during playback	That's XP FROM: LIVE doing its job. Set it to ALL if you want playback to count.
Stuck at level 5	That's the free version. See *Unlocking* on page 9.
Windows says it protected your PC	UwU comes from a tiny company, so Windows doesn't know us yet. Click *More info*, then *Run anyway*.

KEEP PLAYING.
IT'S HUNGRY.

FORMATS	VST3, CLAP, standalone app
SYSTEM	Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit. macOS (AU for Logic) is on the way.
AUDIO	Clean pass-through, no added latency
SCREEN	128 × 128 pixels, running at the pedal's own frame rate
LEVELS	30, each with its own animation
GAMES	Neko Invader, Fishy Blox, Long Cat
FREE VERSION	Grows to level 5



LEVEL 7

GRND CTRL

GROUNDCONTROLAUDIO.COM

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