



Gillespie Audio Releases VA-1 1.1.0, a Major Update for Its Virtual-Analog Synthesizer

The update adds AUv3 instrument support, expanded MIDI Learn, a dedicated user preset workflow, independent oscillator noise controls, tighter sequencer timing, and smoother performance across iPhone, iPad, and Mac.



PRODUCT VA-1	VERSION 1.1.0	CATEGORY Music	PLATFORMS iPhone, iPad, Mac
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TORONTO, ONTARIO - May 11, 2026 - Gillespie Audio today announced the release of VA-1 version 1.1.0, a major update to its focused virtual-analog synthesizer for iPhone, iPad, and Mac. Built for musicians, producers, and sound designers who want a fast hands-on instrument without subscriptions or account requirements, VA-1 1.1.0 expands the app from a standalone synth into a broader production tool with Audio Unit v3 (AUv3) instrument support, deeper MIDI control, improved preset management, and a more robust sound engine.

VA-1 is designed around the immediacy of classic hardware synthesizers: one clear panel for playing and shaping sound, a built-in sequencer for sketching patterns, a searchable preset library, and an effects chain with chorus, phaser, delay, and reverb. Version 1.1.0 keeps that direct workflow while adding the deeper integration and reliability expected from a modern iOS, iPadOS, and macOS music app.

"VA-1 1.1.0 is about making the instrument fit the way musicians actually work. You can open it as a standalone synth, map hardware controls quickly, save your own sounds, or load it inside an AUv3 host and keep the same core sound library with you."

RICHARD GILLESPIE, CREATOR OF VA-1

Major New Capabilities in VA-1 1.1.0

AUv3 instrument support

VA-1 can now run inside compatible AUv3 host apps with its synth engine, plugin editor, MIDI input, parameter automation, factory presets, and saved plugin state.

Expanded MIDI Learn

A cleaner tap-to-learn workflow makes it easier to map hardware controls to VA-1 parameters, with persistent mappings and stronger behavior across standalone and AUv3 use.

Dedicated user presets

Saved sounds now have their own place in the preset browser, making them easier to manage, favorite, rename, duplicate, delete, and recall alongside the factory bank.

Independent oscillator noise

Oscillator 1 and Oscillator 2 now each have a dedicated noise control for adding air, grit, transient bite, texture, and analog-style movement to patches.

Tighter sequencer timing

Sequencer playback is steadier during live use, including while opening preset and effects controls. KEY mode transpose now lands on a 16th-note grid without restarting the loop.

Smoother sound engine behavior

Gain staging, output dynamics, release-tail handling, effect-load management, and CPU stability have all been improved for denser patches and sustained playing.

AUv3 Support Brings VA-1 Into More Production Workflows

The biggest workflow change in version 1.1.0 is AUv3 instrument support. VA-1 can now be loaded inside compatible host apps, giving producers access to the synth engine and plugin editor in a wider range of mobile and desktop setups. The AUv3 version supports MIDI input, parameter automation, factory preset access, and saved plugin state, allowing sessions to reopen with the instrument settings intact.

Factory presets are available from the AUv3 version as well, so users can begin with the same sound library whether they are working in standalone mode or inside a host. This makes VA-1 more flexible for sketching, arranging, sound design, and performance-based production.

More Complete MIDI Control

VA-1 1.1.0 expands MIDI Learn into a more consistent cross-platform control system. Users can map hardware controls to synth parameters through a cleaner tap-to-learn process, keep mappings persistent, and reduce visual clutter while performing. External MIDI behavior has also been improved for note playing, control changes, program changes, pitch bend in the standalone app, all-notes-off handling, and panic/all-sound-off messages.

Standard MIDI CC assignments remain available out of the box for common performance and sound-shaping controls, including mod wheel, master volume, filter cutoff, filter resonance, attack, decay, and release.

Preset Workflow and Sound Design Improvements

The update introduces a dedicated user preset area in the preset browser. User-created sounds now sit in their own space instead of being mixed indistinctly with factory content, making it easier to build a personal library while still moving quickly through the 500 factory presets included with the app.

Independent oscillator noise controls give each oscillator its own noise amount. This adds a practical new layer of control for synth patches that need breath, roughness, sharper attacks, lo-fi texture, or subtle analog movement without overwhelming the core oscillator tone.

Stability, Timing, and Audio Recovery

VA-1 1.1.0 includes a broad pass on the sound engine and platform behavior. The update improves gain staging, smoother output dynamics, safer release-tail handling, heavier effect use, and performance under demanding patches. It also fixes an issue where sine-wave chords could produce clicking or crackling, especially with sustained polyphonic playing, stacked voices, and longer releases.

The sequencer has been refined for live use. Playback timing has been tightened, loop wrap behavior has been improved, and KEY mode now transposes patterns on a 16th-note grid while keeping the loop running at its current position. The result is a steadier feel when changing keys, tweaking sounds, or moving in and out of preset and effects views.

Audio recovery has also been improved for real-world device changes, including route changes, Bluetooth switching, interruptions, and engine reconfiguration. These changes help VA-1 recover more gracefully when audio conditions change outside the app.

Availability

VA-1 1.1.0 is available now on the App Store as a universal purchase for iPhone, iPad, and Mac. The app has no subscription, no in-app purchases, no ads, and no account requirement.

Download VA-1 on the App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/va-1/id6763180976>

About VA-1

VA-1 is a focused virtual-analog synthesizer for iPhone, iPad, and Mac. It includes up to 16-voice polyphony, two oscillators plus sub oscillator, oscillator noise, a multi-mode filter, amp and filter envelopes, dual LFOs, an onboard effects chain, a built-in sequencer, MIDI support, MIDI Learn, user presets, 500 factory presets, and AUv3 instrument support.

About Gillespie Audio

Gillespie Audio is an independent music software project by Richard Gillespie, focused on direct, performance-minded tools for musicians, producers, and sound designers.

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LINKS

App Store: [VA-1](#)
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