Amp Modelers

Name	URL	Comments
Ace	https://www.plugindiscover.com/product2-Effects/18-Amp-Simulator/1413-Ace	This sounds like a little old yellow practice amp I used to have. I love the sound of this one. **Edit** I have found that this amp modeler is excellent for vocal applications. You can get a very good vocal distortion with this; I've used it on many track vox. **Edit** Three years in and I still love this amp sim. **Edit** I have used this on harmonica a few times now and it is amazing. If you are looking for a growly, angry-goose honking harmonica then this is the amp for you. Superb.
Audiofly L12X	https://www.audiofly.com/shop/l12x-solid-state-amplifier/#getitfree	This is a superb model of a vintage 1980's Marshall solid state amplifier. If you are looking for that signature full, smooth Marshall distortion tone, then this plugin is perfect. Simple controls, and sounds fantastic. Been using this one and loving it, but I know it will become one of my staples for guitar tone. **Edit** Yes, indeed! I use this quite frequently now, especially when doubling guitar tracks and blending this with other amp models.
BC Free Amp	https://www.bluecataudio.com/Products/Product_FreeAmp	I love this one, and have used it on almost every recording I've done so far. 3 different fully modeled amps, they sound amazing. **Edit** This has been, and continue to be, one of my two workhorse amp modelers. The other one being the L12X above.
BOD	https://www.tseaudio.com/software/tseBOD	This is a model of a Sans-Amp bass DI. Sounds exactly like it.
LeCto	https://oksinus.com/plugin/90/	This guitar amp plugin is...distinct. I'll be honest, I do not really like the way this thing sounds. Maybe it is just not what I think of when I think guitar tones, but I find it to be brittle and tinny, with little character in the low-mid and lows. It might be useful as a specialty effect, perhaps on an instrument other than guitar. I'll come back and add more comments if I ever use it. **Edit** I have learned that there is an associated cabinet simulator that is meant to be used with this. Apparently it sounds nice when you set up a cabinet model for the preamp, though I have not yet tried it myself. I'll try to investigate if I have time.
AmpLion Free	https://shop.audiffed.com/pages/amplion-free?	This plugin is friggin awesome. There are 3 full featured amp models that all sound great. BUT, the thing that makes this one especially cool is you can change the mic placement on the cabinets. It does mono or stereo micing too. It really gives you a ton of control for DI guitars.
Ignite Emmisary	https://www.igniteamps.com/en/products/ignite-emissary-plug-in-bundle	This has 3 amp models that all sound great. They are very modern sounding; like 80's and 90's rock amp sounds. They can be huge though, if you need a giant distortion sound by one, the like super-hot vibes going insane.
Amplifikation Lite	https://www.kuassa.com/products/amplifikation-lite/	This is a nice simulated guitar amp with three channels and optional cab emulation. It sounds quite good so far, sounds unique enough that it is worth keeping along side the other plugins on this list. It is not trying to sound "like" some famous amp, it is its own sound so far as I can tell, and it does sound good.
Amped Roots	https://ml-sound-lab.com/products/amped-roots	This one sounds great. Wide range of usable clean and distorted amp tones. It appears to try to model a Marshall JCM 800 or 900, but doesn't officially say so. If you want that sound, this one works well. **Edit** apparently the free license expires. I no longer use this.
IVGI	https://klanghelm.com/contents/products/IVGI.php	I had a problem trying to get this one installed and working properly. I will add notes when I get this working and try it out. I do know that I love Analog Obsessions' plugins, so it is probably going to be good.
ATONE	https://www.patreon.com/posts/atone-102448797	Another new channel strip modeler from Analog Obsessions. It is supposed to have some unique vintage analog gear models combined: input, eq, and compressor. I'll report back when I've used it. **Edit** this is a really good channel strip model. Like all of Analog Obsessions' plugins, it adds a bit of subtle character. The preamp quality is good and warm. The compressor is not transparent, but it is quite musical if used right, and the EQ options work well to regain clarity after the modeled preamp. A nice easy tool for a good vintage sound and that is what you are looking for. **Edit** I have used this now on acoustic guitar, vocals, and harmonica, and it is a great choice for one-box vintage tone.
PreBOX	https://freevstplugins.net/analog-obsession-prebox/	This is not a guitar amp modeler, but a tube preamp modeler. I friggin LOVE this thing. There are 11 different tubes modeled, and there is input and output gain, plus HPF and LPF. Can be used to saturate anything at any point, in an effect chain, or just distort vocals or whatever. Adds warmth to DI too. Love it. **Edit** I have come to rely on and use this one heavily. It is just too versatile; every tube model sounds amazing. If you are recording direct with anything, you should consider this tool in the signal chain at some point. **Edit** Yes, I cannot recommend this strongly enough. It is amazing. **Edit** There is a new version of this with automatic adjust gain on the pre-amp side, but still let you dial the output gain. I do not like this as it makes it harder to use the various tubes' saturation qualities. I since deleted the new one and found the older version on the website "plugins for free". I personally recommend the older version, but both are great.
Eminence Channel Strip	https://www.acustica-audio.com/pages/specials/eminence	A fully realized model of an Eminence channel strip with everything that comes with it. EQ, gate, etc. I have yet to really explore this. More notes to come.
Valvsla	https://hornetplugins.com/plugins/hornet-valvsla/	This plugin models about a dozen different vacuum tubes. You can select the tube type, and the amount to which it is driven. It is simple and perfect. You can string them together in a channel to reproduce any combination of power and output tubes, so you can make any number of real or imaginary amp models from this. It really is an amazing plugin for clean amplification, or adding warmth, or adding full on overdrive. Amazing. Make the free account and download it for free.
PREDD	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/2275/	Another modeled vintage tube mic preamp with full features.
Frank CS	https://bedroomproducersblog.com/2022/10/20/frankus-analog-obsessions	A beautiful channel strip model. The Frank is like "Frankenstein" as in this is a combination of models from various famous analog mixers and components. It is all put together into a complete input channel with eq, compressors, you name it. An awesome plugin to get for free! **Edit** The more I use this the more I love it. If I had only one channel strip model to use forever, it might be this one. A great range of tonal and dynamic control in one easy box and it sounds great.

Compressors

Name	URL	Comments
FRONTIER	https://d16.pl/frontier	This compressor is awesome. It can be transparent, or it can pump. Easy to control this one as well. Also can be used as a leveling amp. **Edit** I personally lean toward using this one as a leveling amp, as the controls are somewhat limited.
LALA Leveling Amplifier	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/3221/	This is a model of a Teletronix LA-2A optical limiter. I use this all over the place, instruments, vocals, and even main mix bus. It is super transparent, you can use it anywhere. **Edit** I have noticed when adding this plugin to a track, it caused a super loud transient pop and burst in my audio, which would slam my headphones and my ears. It was only every once in a while, but honestly I didn't want to risk it. I now use the YALA plugin listed down below for leveling.
MJUCjr	https://klanghelm.com/contents/products/MJUCjr.php	My goodness, this is an amazing free version of a modeled tube compressor. It sounds perfect. If you want tube compression sound, this is it. **Edit** I just want to add that I still use this somewhere on every project for more than two years now. It dials in a transparent and warm dynamic control with lots of tube output if you need it. A real workhorse tube compressor for me. **Edit** Make that three years...still going strong.
RoughRider3	https://www.audiodamage.com/pages/free-downloads	I use this compressor in every mix. It can be subtle, and it can PUMP super hard. I love this thing. Makes drums and bass pop like crazy if you want, or it can be practically invisible. HPF on it too. **Edit** this is my go-to compressor for making drums pump and pop hard. It can be dialed up so aggressively that it can really smash anything you throw at it. A very musical compressor.
SUPERCHARGER	https://www.native-instruments.com/en/products/komplete/effects/supercharger/	A killer tube compressor model from Native Instruments. You'll need the NI account, but this is a very good sounding tube compressor with simple controls. Its like a one-knob "make it sound good" kind of box. Can control loud vocals easily with this.
TDR Molotok	https://www.tokyodawn.net/tdr-molotok/	A highly musical compressor with lots of available gain boost and a very good HPF. I use this all over the place; guitars, bass, vocals mainly. **Edit** I personally have stopped using this, but my initial comments stand, a really excellent compressor with an easy interface.
Buster	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/3215/	BUSTERse is a classic console compressor with extra filter and transient sidechain options to dominate whole signal. Another awesome compressor from Analog Obsessions. **Edit** I've been using this across the mix bus and it is extremely good for final mix compression, it can really squash things together and even out a mix if you need it to. Excellent plugin. **Edit** I have used this on every mix now for at least the last year. It is a great mix bus compressor. Be careful, it is quite responsive and can really slam a mix down.
Dynassar	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/3096/	This is a great multiband compressor. It has 5 bands, low, low mid, mid, high mid, high. Each band has fully adjustable parameters (attack, release, threshold, gain boost/reduce, frequency center and width too). It has a hugely variable range of gain reduction. There are meters for each band too, but I would suggest using your ears on this one as it is a really powerful compressor.
Dirty LA	https://bedroomproducersblog.com/free-vst-plugins/bpb-dirty-la	A not-really-a-model of an LA-2A optical compressor. It also has a knob that let's you add "dirt", which is a sort of overdriven effect if you want it. It can also be switched to limiter mode. It works well as a compressor/limiter and can be pretty transparent. I don't recommend the "dirt" though. Add to taste.
Comper	https://www.patreon.com/posts/comper-74729047	A unique plugin that has 2 compressors in series with one another, both able to be switched between modeling modes: FET, VCA, and Optical. I just got this and haven't used it yet, but I will update my comments soon. **Edit** I am now in love with this plugin. Chaining compressors is something I already do, so having 2 in series, each in single unique emulation mode, is just fun for me. The unique thing about this is that the three modes can all be activated simultaneously, or in pairs too. The output is the average of the signals. So, you could have the first comp be the average of the FET and OPTO, then the second VCA and OPTO, or all three, etc. Hugely powerful and very transparent for controlling something like a bass track that goes back/forth between fingerstyle and slap/pop. Lots of dynamic control. **Edit** Get this. It is such a powerful tool for dynamics control. I now use it on every recording. If you do any chaining of compression/expansion, having the two blendable modelers in series just simplifies things, while giving you so many options for the way the two of them stack. Just an amazing tool for free.
DC1A3	https://klanghelm.com/contents/products/DC1A.php	I haven't used this yet. Notes to come after I do.
dBComp	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/3582/	A leveling amp/maximizer that is supposed to be optimized for drum and vocal applications. It is from Analog Obsession, and I love all of their other plugins that I've tried. I will definitely be trying this out immediately and will add notes. **Edit** this is an excellent tool from Analog Obsession. I have now tried it on drums and vocals and the leveling, when set properly, is controlled and transparent. This is great and definitely worth having in your arsenal of leveling amps/compressors.
YALA	https://plugins4free.com/plugin/3031/	YALA is a model of a Vari-Mu tube leveling amplifier. This is another one from Analog Obsession, whose plugins are all excellent. I will be trying this out immediately and will add notes. **Edit** I have used this now on a dozen projects and it is an excellent hard limiting amplifier. I have used it on vocals, bass, and instruments; it does the job and is actually really transparent even with very low threshold. A very good tool for dynamics control. **Edit** Yes, used at the end of a compression chain, this is the "none shall pass", just a really good hard leveler.

Reverbs

Name	URL	Comments
TAL-Reverb-2	https://tal-software.com/products/tal-reverb-ii	From what I can tell this models a plate reverb and it sounds amazing. This can sound huge and full, or subtle and close. I use this all over the place. I use it on my digital drums all the time to give them some life. Vocals too, this can sound like a huge space. **Edit** I rely heavily on this plugin for reverb that sounds "real". The controls are so powerful that you can create a convincing sound field from anything like a bathroom to a stadium. If I had to pick only one reverb to use forever, it would be this one.
TAL-Reverb-4	https://tal-software.com/products/tal-reverb-4	This reverb models a modulated vintage reverb sound. It is very nice and very natural sounding from small to large reverb sounds.
Room041	https://www.patreon.com/posts/room041-85993203	This is another amazing free plugin from Analog Obsession. This can produce beautiful lush reverb sounds that can sound like either plate or room reverbs. It is unique in that it has a preamp drive knob, which most reverbs do not have. Also HPF, and post-reverb EQs. Very nice for free. **Edit** Yes, I love this reverb now. It works very well for modeling a "hard wall" space. You can easily make something sound like it is in a large tiled bathroom, or like a parking garage or something. Very unique with the built-in eq too.
Ocean Plate	https://www.patreon.com/posts/ocean-plate-100710016	I just downloaded this and I will add comments as soon as possible.
Developing	https://ixob75a.com/plugins/DevSpring	Excellent multi-cab modeled spring reverb.
Valhalla Supermassive	https://valhalladsp.com/shop/reverb/valhalla-supermassive/	I'm putting this in reverb, but it is principally a delay. But it is so widely and variously adjustable that is does both things amazingly well. It can make the most beautiful, musical delays, echoes, reverberations, you name it. **Edit** Beware how sensitive the "mix" and "feedback" controls are with this tool. I have found it often difficult to get echoes to diminish quickly enough in a mix unless those settings are quite low. The presets are all dialed up quite aggressively for long-tailing delays that can clutter things up. Just my two cents here.

Pitch Correct / Autotune

Name	URL	Comments
Graillon 2	https://www.auburnsounds.com/products/Graillon.html	This one is very transparent; will make corrections without the super auto-tune sound. You actually used this on a bass track and it worked amazingly well too. **Edit** You cannot have a free auto-tune here. It can be adjusted to sound very natural. The full range of control the UI gives you is really excellent. **Edit** This plugin will NOT give you the really warbly sounding robotic-type autotune that is used commonly in rap and R&B (the T-Pain thing...). It almost does, but not quite. I still have not found a good free plugin to get that effect (used to be Voloco, but that is not free anymore).
Pitchproof	https://aegeanmusic.com/pitchproof-specs	This one works pretty well. It can definitely be used as a non-transparent effect, so try it and see if it works in a particular mix. **Edit** I recommend NOT using this as pitch correction, but for harmonizing. It has a number of preset harmonies available, or you can choose up to +/- one octave in 1/2 step increments. In that respect, it is a useful tool for coloration and support, but not so much as pitch correction, at least for the things I have tried it on and in. Just my 2 cents here.

Name	URL	Comments
Voloco	https://www.tracktion.com/products/waverazor	This one makes it very easy to do the way-over-the-top autotune effect. There is nothing to adjust, it has only 5 presets that vary from "just a little cleaning up pitch" to some really wacky over the top stuff. You of course input the key you are in, but thats it. I really like it. **Edit:** this sometimes will glitch out and cause my vocal tracks to no longer have volume control, or otherwise have a constant buzz. I have had to copy the whole track content to a new track and delete the original and re-do the channel. When it works, it sounds amazing, but be careful and watch for glitches. **Edit:** I recently downloaded the updated version of this and it works great now. Also there are more presets that sound awesome. Definitely worth getting the current version. **Edit:** one new weird glitch: when closing my DAW, and re-opening a project, this plugin defaults to the orig. settings. You have to go back and re-do your settings each time. **Edit:** no more free version of this I'm afraid. The new one is amazing, but subscription only and it is $10/month when I checked. I'll be looking for someone to make a new free one to replace this unfortunately.

Name	URL	Comments
Aspen Trumpet 1	https://bluesine4free.com/plugin/3331/	Sounds pretty good; wide tonal control and reverb.
Collab3	https://sampleson.com/collab3-free-tonewheel-organ.html	A perfect model of a Hammond B3 organ w/ working sliders, rotary, and chorus. Beautiful. **Edit** Yes indeed, this is still the best free B3 I have found. Amazing for free. **Edit** Three years in now and this is still the best free organ vst I've found. It can do everything from funk to gospel, you name it.
Spitfire Labs	https://www.spitfireaudio.com/my-account/login/	Make a free account and download this plugin/app. There are dozens and dozens of super-high-quality instruments. Percussion, strings, brass, guitars, bases, etc. etc. plus synths, environment sound effects and whatever. It is a must-get for free, and download all the sound banks. **Edit** All of the "LABS" are free to download as you want, but at the cost of taking up lots of storage space. I got overzealous and grabbed a ton of them to try out and next thing I knew my HD was full and I couldn't edit anything. I deleted all but the few I actually use often to save space.
VSCO2 Clarinet	https://bluesine4free.com/plugin/2720/	This is a very nicely sampled clarinet. **Edit** I recommend just getting the whole VSCO2 Orchestra below. It has the clarinet plus all the others.
VSCO2 Orchestra	https://vis.versilstudios.com/vsco-2.html	A host of excellently sampled orchestral instruments; some that I could not find for free or otherwise get to work on Mac. Totally worth getting this for free. **Edit** This is now my go-to for orchestral instruments. Each instrument has multiple attack or sustain modes, with fully adjustable parameters as well. Really amazingly good sampled instruments for free. I use them all the time now.
Monster Ethnica	https://aguitardiman.tv/monster-ethnica-the-best-free-plugin-of-world-instruments/	A collection of high quality "ethnic" flute and other blown instruments from around the world. I'm going to use them soon and will add more comments. **Edit** I just opened this to check it out and wow, it has percussion, wind, and string instruments from various folk and ethnic groups around the world. I can't wait to use this.
Sweetcase	https://roleaah.com/sweetcase-vintage-electric-piano/	Finally! An amazing sounding electric piano that can re-create all the great sounds from the 70's. Rhodes, Wurlitzer, whatever you are looking for. The controls are excellent with full customization, plus excellent presets for starting points. I'm so glad I found out about this one. It will definitely be my go-to electric piano patch. **Edit** Yes, this is the best sounding electric piano I have found for free. It sounds incredibly good, with realistic bell, toped, and modulation parameters fully adjustable. A must-have.
Pianotone 800	https://app.gumroad.com/d/35bf5E7Sfc0b4a04d5cfd3ee3fd9abdd	I'll try to add notes when I get to using it.

Name	URL	Comments
Waverazor	https://www.tracktion.com/products/waverazor	Make the free account and download this. I love this synth because the presets are wide and varied, but are also very easy to adjust and make them perfect for your needs. This synth is capable of some really crazy sounds. I love it. **Edit** personally, I have moved away from this one, but it's really just my taste lately. This synth makes really "out-there" sounds, which are excellent if that is what you are looking for. It also can be tempo-mapped, so it is very musical while also being very weird. I still love it.
Dexed	https://www.audiojungle/free.com/dexed/	This is a multi-oscillator digital synth with a crazy amount of control. Too much for me, I usually use the presets and tweak them a little, but you can really customize this thing, and it sounds awesome. I use it a lot actually. **Edit** I have personally moved away from this synth, I think it is just too much for me, control-wise. In the right hands, I bet this thing is. a beast, but I am not that person.
Kontakt 6	https://www.native-instruments.com/en/products/komplete/samplers/kontakt-6/	A great suite of synth sounds, also from Native Instruments. Might need to make a free Native Instruments account to download it. **Edit** I do not use any of the additional Kontakt libraries so I don't use this anymore.
Symonic BD-808	https://synronic-instruments.com/synronic-bd-808/	A model of the classic TR-808 drum machine. It sounds deep and amazing. If you know the sound from early 80's rap and hip-hop, this one makes that low synth "kick" for beats.
Symonic BD-909	https://synronic-instruments.com/synronic-bd-909/	From the same makers as the above 808 synth, this one is a model of the other classic; the TR-909. This is a very versatile and famous "kick" or "beat" generator used all across hip-hop and rap. This thing is awesome albeit alone, or as a blend-in for other kick drums and beats. An amazing plugin.
T:REX 606	https://bluesine4free.com/plugin/2373/	A model of the classic 606 drum machine. I'll add comments after I've used it. **Edit** Great sounds, quite authentic to the original hardware, and in the same way it is limited to only those sounds. If you want the iconic 606 sounds, they are here.
Surge	https://splice.com/plugins/2465-surge-vst-au-by-vember-audio? utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Google_Search_Acquisition_Sounds_Nonbrand_DSA_US_America&utm_content=plan&utm_term=&campaign=6655108933&adgroup=932184406&adce=141025798595&gclid=CjWCCjwwpABhBNEiWAu1zwbe5OSGyrd77z-4clHOCCjDFQ=xm1N2zmi9FG2UwrSsXw8HHDIseNAE4Aue_wdA	This used to cost money, but is now made free by the creator. It is another full-functioned digital synthesizer. You could spend all day tweaking this thing. I haven't used it much, but what I've heard out of it so far is pretty cool.
8 Bit Treats Free	https://www.tracktion.com/products/8bit-treats	A suite of plugins from Tracktion that model the sound chips in old video game consoles. Nintendo Game Boy, Commodore 64, Sega Master System, and NES. Super fun if you are looking for this kind of thing.
Pendulate	https://www.eventidesaudio.com/plus-ins/stereolate/#pendulate_giveaway	Update: This synth is so unique. It uses simulated pendulums as the oscillators. It sounds incredible, and so very different from all the other synths I've been using. I used it recently in a recording and it really sounds amazing. Full-featured and easy to get interesting sounds. I love it now. **Edit** Three years in and this is still one of the most unique sounding synths I've tried.
Odin II	https://www.thewavewarden.com/odin2	**Edit:** I have now explored this a lot more. It does make very cool and unique sounds, but it does not handle chords well. For melodies, absolutely beautiful to use, for chords, I would suggest going with another synth. Just my 2 cents here.
Lokomotiv	https://www.kvraudio.com/product/lokomotiv-by-archetype-instruments	Another nice digital synth. This one uses mathematically generated oscillator, no wavetable or whatever. It makes a wide range of really robust sawtooth and pulse-wave sounds, from warm and fuzzy to really aggressive and buzzy. I used it recently to substitute for another distorted guitar track and it worked very well. Added an 80's / Rush kind of sound and feel to the track. I'll be using it more now. **Edit** I have used this a ton now and it is one of my favorite synths. I can't say enough good things about the presets on this, and you can tweak them like crazy. I love this.
Surrealistic MG-1	https://cherryaudio.com/products/surrealistic-mg-1-plus	This is a beautiful model of the classic 80's MG-1 synthesizer that was only sold in Radio Shack stores. The model is perfect, fully-featured, and sounds amazing. All the presets are beautiful, and are fully customizable. I have used this synth in a couple pieces of music already, and it is an awesome addition to my synth arsenal. It is rapidly becoming one of my favorites. I'll be getting lots of use out of this.
Vital	https://vital.audio/	A "spectral warping wavetable synth". I only recently downloaded this, but I have now checked out all the presets and I can say this: This is one of the most powerful synths I've ever seen. It will take a lot of time to even learn all the features here. It is an incredible tool for sound design for free. Amazing, and I can't wait to try it out for real. **Edit** Yes, this is an incredible tool. The controls are too much for me. I'll stick to tweaking presets for a while, and even that is a learning experience for sound design. The user interface is a bit opaque, but perhaps that will change as I use it more.

Name	URL	Comments
TDR Nova	https://www.tokyodawn.net/tdr-nova/	This is a dynamic multi-band EQ and compressor. It can be used as just EQ, or as a multi-band compressor and limiter. There is a Youtube video that covers all its functionality and I am still learning how to get the most out of this thing. At first glance and listen this is a very powerful tool for multi-band compression and dynamic EQ-ing. I can't believe this thing is free, it is so powerful. It is good on individual tracks, or your whole mix bus, or after mix for mastering. I'll add more notes when I learn it better. **Edit** You MUST get this. This is such a powerful tool, and for free. Its simply stunning. A fully-parametric 4 band dynamic EQ. Dynamically compresses or expands the four bands as you see fit. My goodness; just watch the YouTube videos and learn how to use this tool. It is amazing for free.
TDR Vos SlickEQ	https://www.tokyodawn.net/tdr-vos-slickeq/	This is another excellent and very unique EQ from Tokyo Dawn. They call it a, "mixing/mastering equalizer designed for ease of use, musical flexibility and impeccable sound". I am only just starting to use it, so more notes to follow. **Edit** This EQ sounds excellent. Easy controls, very intuitive and some really nice presets to get you going. There are a couple mastering presets that honestly sound really good as a starting point for a mix. Between this and the TDR Nova above, you should likely cover all your needs. **Edit** There are great tutorials on YouTube to learn this tool, and it is excellent for end-of-mix eq or in mastering. As powerful as the TDR Nova, but in a different way; absolutely worth trying out.
Magic Switch	https://bailvout.io/freebies	A nice sounding one-button chorus. Can't adjust much, but it does what it does and sounds nice.
Marvel GEQ	https://www.voxengo.com/product/marvelgeq/	A simple and effective graphic EQ. I use it on every recording. **Edit** I no longer use this as much, and do a lot of my EQ-ing with the TDR Nova. If you need a graphic EQ, this would still be my go-to, just my 2 cents.
MAudio Suite	MFreeFXBundle	MeldaProduction	You have to make an account, but it is free and way worth it. Once you have the account, you put the software in a cart, but the price is $0.00, then they email you a link. You get a whole amazing suite of effects and utility plugins like spectral analyzers, loudness meters, etc. Can't believe it is all free. **Edit** after free trial period I found the remaining things limited in the - util instrument category, but their support and analyzer tools are still free and excellent quality. Still worth it if you have the disk space. **Edit** Simply for disk space considerations, I personally have moved on from this entire bundle, and now use the Kilohearts Essentials suite of tools, that has a lot more in the bundle for free. Just my 2 cents.
Filterstep	https://www.producerspot.com/product/filterstep	This is an active dynamic filter that adds interesting sweeps and sonic movement to a track. I haven't really explored it much yet, so I'll update this comment later. **Edit** Easy to use, intuitive interface. If you want a go-to step filter that won't take forever to set up, you can go here.
Blindfold EQ	https://www.pluginboutique.com/products/6070?a_aid=5b6571190d6a5	A very nice EQ with high and low shelf, plus low mid, mid, high mid. **Edit** this is now pretty standard in my vocal processing chain. You can really scoop out the +/- 400Hz "box" garbage and add some nice sheen with the upper shelf filter. Use your ears with this one though or you can easily overdo it. A very musical EQ.
Valhalla Space Modulator	https://valhalladsp.com/shop/modulation/valhalla-space-modulator/	A super high quality flanger model from Valhalla. **Edit** After many tries, I have to admit that I do not like the sound of this plugin. It works fine, as all the Valhalla plugins do. Good UI, but I'm just personally not partial to the sounds I get. You should definitely try it yourself though, it is a quality plugin for free.
iZotope Vocal Doubler	https://www.izotope.com/en/products/vocal-doubler.html	This does exactly what it says, and very well too. You can vary the percentage of variation in both time and frequency too, which makes it sound very authentic, without weird phase cancellation or comb filtering. It really sounds amazing. **Edit** I have used this on guitars and other instruments as well and it works wonders for thickening and adding a subtle chorusing effect to rhythm guitars or anything else. I really love this plugin now. Also, you can use it more than once in a channel, for REALLY thick multi-layering. Amazing effect!
Border	https://mialaboratories.com/products/border/	A high and low pass filter that is perfect for reducing energy in the low or high frequencies. This is suitable for use on individual tracks or even on the main mix bus to maximize loudness.
Baby Comeback	https://bailvout.io/freebies?invert=1	Very nice sounding delay from Baby Audio. It has a built-in ducker too, which is nice. It is easy to set with some preset "flavor" types. A nice option for delay. **Edit** This has become my workhorse delay. The controls are just too easy to use to get it sounding perfectly.
T-De-Esser	https://techivation.com/t-de-esser/	A simplified and easy-to-use De-Esser that smoothes out high frequencies while maintaining a natural and musical sound. Super easy to use interface.
Spaz	https://twoclicksaudio.com/pages/spaz-thank-you-page	I really don't have anything to say about this effect as I haven't used it in a piece of music. It does make things sound interesting, but I'd be lying if I said I knew how good it is or is not. **Edit** You may find some of the random effects this produces useable. It is random, though, how often you get something you may want to actually use in a given piece of music. Try it and see if you like it. I personally do not use it.
Phaser 74	https://www.fxeartone.com/plugin15	I've been looking for something like this forever. This is a beautifully-modeled replica of the classic MXR Phase90. I've been using the physical pedal since 1966, and now there is a plugin that sounds just as good. Single knob operation, just like the original pedal. I already am in love with this plugin, it is the exact phaser sound I love so much. I have already used it on numerous instruments and I only just found it last week. Definitely worth a download.
HZ Multiplier	https://hisherhz.com/hz-multiplier/	This plugin makes interesting...sounds I guess. The interface is very un-friendly and hard to use. So far, I can make it do things, but not necessarily what I expect, so it is hard to find proper creative uses for it. I'll add more later if I get around to playing with it more.
DeeDoubler	https://dotec-audio.com/deedoubler.html	I have tried this on vocals, as well as instruments. It has a 2-button easy control system. It does provide a fuller, multi-voiced sound to both audio and midi instruments without giving lots of weird comb-filtering. A solid doubler plugin for free. **Edit** I have noticed that when you save your file, then re-open to continue, the "doubling setting reverts to default. You have to remember to put them back where you want before mixing or exporting. Watch for that maybe.
SPAN	https://www.voxengo.com/product/span/	No notes yet, I will add if and when I get around to trying this out.
Bratwurst Fuzz	https://guitarsoftwareplugins.com/bompplus/	This is a model of a fuzzbox distortion. I just got this and will add notes later when I have something to say about it.
Zupas	https://bluesine4free.com/plugin/3087/	This is also a model of a fuzzbox distortion. This one is from Analog Obsession, and they make great plugins that I already use a lot. I'll add notes on this after I've used it more. **Edit** I have been trying to find an application for this. It sounds EXACTLY like an old analog fuzz pedal, complete with all the weird un-controllable sound you would get from a 30 or 40 year old pedal. It is actually very real sounding because of this. I guess my one gripe is that the controls do not seem to have much range at all. It sounds either on or off. So like I said, I will use it when I find a place for it in a piece, but so far not yet. You should try it though because it is a unique plugin.
Kilohearts Essentials	https://kilohearts.com/products/kilohearts_essentials	This is an amazing suite of effects and utility plugins for free. There is one of everything I could have thought of, and many I would never have thought of. All the effects and tools you could want. I am currently working my way through the effects first, so I will update this soon. So far, what I am hearing are high quality effects (reverbs, delays, chorus, and more). I'm looking forward to some of the more obscure ones if they sound just as good. **Edit** I recently needed to use a noise gate, and the Kilohearts one is exceptionally good. **Edit** The transient shaper that comes with the package is incredibly good too. A ton of control and huge dynamic effect possible with this. **Edit** This whole toolset is excellent, I can't say enough good things about every plugin that comes with it.
Realizer	https://www.patreon.com/posts/realizer-77061724	Most plugins from Analog Obsession are amazing and I love them. I haven't yet found a use for this one, though I will still spend more time playing with it. I'm not even sure what it is "supposed" to do, I think perhaps take out instruments and give them some variation such that they sound more alive. I'll add more when I understand it better.

Name	Link	Notes
ChowMultiTool	https://chowdsp.com/products.html#multitool	I have not had a chance to try this out yet. Notes to follow when I spend some time with it.
ChowBYOD	https://chowdsp.com/products.html	A build-your-own guitar distortion plugin. I have not tried it yet, but will soon and I'll add notes.
Zen Master	https://unison.audio/zen-master	This is an effect plugin for producing "low-fi" sounds. I just got it and have not used it yet. I will add notes soon. **"Edit"** I have only just played around with this plugin, but it does work pretty well for its desired effect. You can tweak 5 parameters to turn any source into "low-fi", meaning it adds different kinds of filters, noises, and other minor effects to produce the "low-fi" sound (meaning less present, sounding poorly-sampled, scratchy, etc). Pretty cool for free! **"Edit"** After numerous attempts to get something I like out of this, I have abandoned it. Personally I think everything this does could be done another way with better sounding results (filtering, reverb, bit-crushing, etc.). Just my 2 cents.
Blendeq	https://www.patreon.com/posts/blendeq-67480087	Another unique EQ from Analog Obsession. I have not used this yet, will report back soon.
Big Stuff	https://www.nembriniaudio.com/products/big-stuff-harmonic-distortion-sustain	This looks to be a high quality emulation of the classic Big Muff fuzz pedal. I'll be trying it out soon and will report back. **"Edit"** Okay so getting this installed was a pain, but worth it. You have to make an account, then open the app file that manages their downloads, BUT there are many really good free plugins to get once you open the download manager. Everything from effects to amps and eqs. Very nice for free. I'll be grabbing everything. **"Edit"** I will now say that the analog rack chorus plugin from this developer sounds fantastic. I will try to find time to add each of their plugins individually to this spreadsheet, I have grabbed 4 more of them and am looking forward to using them.
NA Analog Rack Chorus	https://www.nembriniaudio.com/products/na-analog-rack-chorus-by-nembrini-audio	I'm splitting this one off from the "Big Stuff" above as a standalone effect. This chorus sounds amazing. It is full and saturated, with simple controls and and a prominent analog... something...the emulation of analog artifacts is superb. I have used this on vocals and guitars over multiple projects now, and I love it. This alone is worth making the Nembrini Audio account for (free!). **"Edit"** I can't overstate how lush and amazing this chorus sounds. It is one of my 2 go-to chorus effects (the other is the TAL-Chorus 81.)
Stargazer	https://tknjteaudio.blogspot.com/2023/09/stargazer.html	Windows only, so I can't comment on it, but I'm including it because it looks really interesting and I'd love to have it.
NA Analog Rack Delay	https://www.nembriniaudio.com/products/analog-rack-delay	A beautiful model of an analog delay, complete with audible artifacts that give this tool a unique character that I haven't heard in other delays. Definitely worth having in the toolset alongside any other workhorse delay.