

Plugin Manager

Introduction

Plugin Manager is a utility tool designed to help manage Matt Jones LD plugins within a grandMA3 show file and on connected USB drives. When opened, the plugin will display the versions already installed in a show file or present on a connected USB Drive, checks for available releases and allows updates to be applied from a single menu.

Plugin Manager is provided automatically to all users, free of charge.

Plugins can be updated in the Plugin Pool, saved to a connected USB, or updated in both locations. Older versions on a USB drive are retained so they remain available if an earlier version is required.

First Time Use

Extract the downloaded package and place the Plugin Manager XML file in the grandMA3 plugins folder on your USB drive. Import the XML into the Plugin Pool using the grandMA3 Import function, then run Plugin Manager.

Connect any USB drives that contain Matt Jones LD plugins you want to manage. An internet connection is required when checking for available releases or downloading updates. The local Plugin Pool and USB scan can be completed without an internet connection to show Licence Status for each plugin found.

Note: It is advised to save your show file before applying updates or deleting Plugin Pool entries.

Getting Started

When Plugin Manager opens, it scans the current Plugin Pool and the standard plugin folders on connected USB drives. A progress bar in the Main UI indicates that a scan is in progress. Once the scan has completed, the progress bar disappears and the discovered plugins remain in the list.

Select Check for Updates to retrieve the available versions from the Matt Jones LD server. Review the Installed / Present and Available columns, select the plugins you want to update, then choose Update Plugin Pool, Update USB Plugins or Update Both.

Main UI

Selection Checkbox: Select the checkbox at the start of a row to include that plugin in an update. Checkboxes can also be used to select several items for deletion.

Location: Indicates whether the plugin was found in the Plugin Pool or on a connected USB drive. Each location is listed separately.

Plugin Name: Displays the name of the discovered plugin.

Installed / Present: Displays the version installed in the Plugin Pool or present on USB.

Available: Displays the version available from the server after Check for Updates has completed. Where Public and Beta releases are available, select this cell to choose the release you want to use.

USB Licence and Device Licence: Indicate whether the corresponding Licence has been found for the listed plugin. A green tick indicates a Licence was found and a red cross indicates none was found. Plugins that do not require a Licence will display 'Licence Free'.

Delete: The trash icon at the end of each row removes the associated Plugin Pool entry or USB XML file. Confirmation is required before the item is deleted.

Selecting a Row: Clicking a row highlights it and displays its location in the information area. Highlighting a row does not normally select it for an update. Use the Selection Checkbox to include it.

Location	Plugin Name	Installed / Present	Available	USB Licence	Device Licence
☐	Create New Song	1.8.1.1	1.8.1.1	✓	✗
☐	Song Asset Manager	1.5.0.12	1.5.0.12	✓	✗
☐	Tag Manager	1.1.0.3	1.1.0.3	✓	✗
☐	Running Phaser Assistant	1.1.0.1	1.1.0.1	✓	✗
☐	Song Asset View Update	1.3.0.5	1.3.0.5	✓	✗
☐	Grid Control	1.1.0.4	1.1.0.4	✓	✗
☐	Shuffle Randomiser	1.1.1.2	1.1.1.2	✓	✗
☐	Timecode Assistant	1.3.1.0	1.3.1.0	✓	✗
☐	Fader Master	1.1.0.9	1.1.0.9	✓	✗

Scan complete. Select a plugin, or Check for Updates for available releases.

☒ Plugin Pool ☒ USB Drive 66 / 66 plugins

Refresh Check for Updates Update Plugin Pool Update USB Plugins Update Both

Plugin Locations and Versions

Plugin Manager displays only the most recent version found for each plugin in each source location. Older copies in the same location are not displayed, but they are not deleted.

Plugin Pool: The most recent installed copy is displayed independently from the USB copies. An older version in the Plugin Pool remains visible even when a newer version is present on USB.

USB Drive: The most recent copy found on each connected USB drive is displayed. When more than one drive is connected, each drive is treated separately.

For example, if a USB drive contains three versions of Grid Control, only the most recent version is displayed for that drive. If an older version is installed in the Plugin Pool, that version is shown on its own row so it can still be updated.

List Filtering

Use the Plugin Pool and USB Drive checkboxes above the below the plugin list area to choose which plugin locations are displayed. Both locations are displayed by default.

Note: Hiding/deselecting a location does not clear checkboxes already checked in that location. Before updating or deleting selected items, display both locations and review the selected checkboxes.

Refresh

Select Refresh to perform a scan of the local plugins again. Use this after connecting or removing a USB drive, importing a plugin, or changing the files on a drive. When you click 'Refresh', you will be asked to choose from two scan options:

Quick Scan: Searches the Plugin Pool and the standard USB plugin folders, including their subfolders. This is the normal scan used when Plugin Manager opens.

Full USB Scan: Also searches other folders on the connected USB drives. Use this when a plugin is stored outside the standard plugin folders. A Full USB Scan can take longer, and search limits may prevent every folder on a large drive from being checked.

Note: 'Refresh' only updates the local plugin list. Select 'Check for Updates' to retrieve current release information from the server.

Checking for Updates

Select 'Check for Updates' once the local scan has completed. Plugin Manager will check the available releases for Matt Jones LD plugins displayed in the Plugin Manager list. The Version numbers in both 'Available Version' and 'Present Version' columns will display in different colours when version numbers between the two columns differ.

Green Available Version: The Installed / Present version matches the Available version.

Orange Available Version: A newer version is available than the Installed / Present version.

Orange Installed / Present Version: The local version is newer than the selected Available version. This is relevant to beta testers only.

Not Checked or Unavailable: The release version has not been retrieved. Select 'Check for Updates' and review any message shown in the information area.

Unavailable does not mean the plugin is up to date.

Selecting Plugins to Update

Individual Plugins can be targeted to be specifically updated by using the checkboxes beside each plugin. When one or more checkboxes are selected, only those checked items are included in an update.

If no checkboxes are selected, Plugin Manager will target all visible plugins whose Installed / Present version is older than the Available version displayed.

Plugins that already match, or are newer than the Available version, are not automatically included.

Before an update starts, a confirmation dialog lists the plugins, target versions and destinations. Review the displayed list, then select Update to proceed or Cancel to return to the Main UI.

Note for Beta Testers: *Where Installed / Present version numbers are newer than the Available version, you will be provided an option to roll back to the Available version.*

Note: A checked plugin must have an available release before the update can proceed. Uncheck any item that reports no available release, or run Check for Updates again.

Update Destinations

There are three update options provided that allow you to easily choose which destination you wish to update plugins.

Update Plugin Pool: Downloads the selected release and installs it in the show file. Plugins found in the current show file are identified with a grandMA3 DataPool icon symbol on each row on the left.

When an existing matching Plugin Pool entry is found that entry is updated. A new entry can be created when the plugin is only present on USB. If a plugin's current version is found on a connected USB, the plugin will import the current version from the USB drive instead of downloading the Available version from the Server.

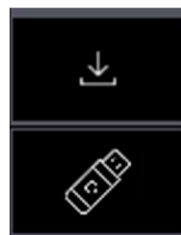
Update USB Plugins: Downloads the selected release to a connected USB drive. USB rows display a USB symbol icon on the left to identify Plugins found on USB drives. When updating from a Plugin Pool row, select the destination drive if more than one drive is connected.

Update Both: Updates the Plugin Pool and saves the selected release to USB in the same operation.

USB updates are saved as a new versioned XML file. Older XML files retain their original names and contents. Saving an update to USB does not install it in the show file unless Update Plugin Pool or Update Both is chosen.

Note: If a different file already exists under the target version filename, the USB update is stopped rather than overwriting that file.

Plugin in Show file



Plugin in USB drive

Public and Beta Releases

Public releases are selected by default. If Beta access has been enabled for your account, Plugin Manager can also display eligible Beta releases when your account is recognised.

After 'Check for Updates' has completed, click the Available cell for the required plugin. If a Beta release is available to you, the 'Choose Release' dialog displays the Public and Beta options. Select the required version.

The selected release is used for that plugin in the update list, and the row is checked for updating. Review the confirmation dialog to confirm the version and release channel (Public or Beta) before proceeding.

Note: A Beta release is intended for testing. Keep a saved show file and an earlier plugin version available before replacing a version used in a working show.

Returning to an Earlier Version

If the selected Available version is older than the Installed / Present version, Plugin Manager asks whether you wish to roll back the plugin. Select 'Roll Back' to accept the earlier version or 'Skip' to leave it unchanged.

An older XML retained on USB can also be imported manually in the grandMA3 Plugin Pool. Older USB versions are hidden from the Plugin Manager list when a newer copy exists on the same drive; they remain available through the normal Import function.

Update Progress and Results

During an update, the primary progress bar shows the progress of the complete update operation. The second progress bar shows the current plugin download and installation stage. Each Plugin will display a separate Progress Bar in the Plugin's name cell also.

Some update operations depend on the console or server and may take longer than others. Read the stage shown beside the progress bar when assessing whether the operation is still running.

Stop: Requests that the operation stops. Changes already completed are retained. An operation being processed by grandMA3 may need to return control before the stop request can take effect.

Once the update operation has completed, a Summary reports the result for each plugin and the local list is refreshed. If an item failed, read the reported reason before trying that item again.

Note: Keep the destination USB drive connected until the operation has completed. Removing a connected USB drive during an update operation may cause errors and will cause the update to fail.

Updating Plugin Manager

Plugin Manager can be updated through its own Main UI. If other plugins are included in the same operation, those updates are processed first and Plugin Manager is updated last.

Once the replacement Plugin Manager file is installed, Plugin Manager will close. Once closed, the plugins and grandMA3 UI are reloaded automatically.

Wait for the reload to finish before opening Plugin Manager again. Confirm that the new version is displayed in the Title Bar and in the Plugin Pool settings.

Note: If an older Plugin Manager version cannot complete its self-update, import the current XML manually into the Plugin Pool. If you don't see the correct Plugin Manager version in the Plugin Manager UI, close Plugin Manager and enter '*ReloadUI*' into the Command Line and press Enter.

Deleting Plugins

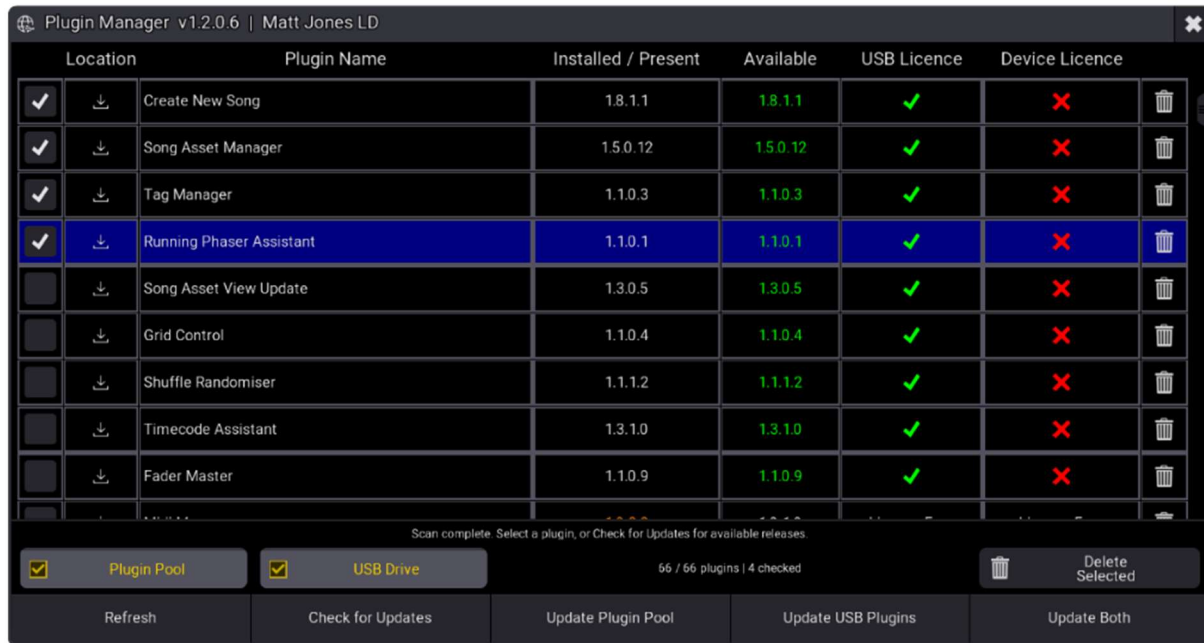
It is possible to cleanup the plugins stored in your Show file and USB drive.

Delete a Single Item: Select the trash icon on the required row, review the name and location, then confirm Delete Permanently.

Delete Selected: Select the checkboxes beside the plugins to remove, then select Delete Selected in the bottom right of the Plugin Manager window. Review the displayed list of selected plugins for deletion, before confirming.

A Plugin Pool deletion removes the entry from the show file. A USB deletion removes only the XML file associated with that row. Other versions stored on the drive are retained and may become visible after the list is refreshed.

Caution: Deletion is permanent and cannot be undone through Plugin Manager. The running Plugin Manager pool entry cannot be deleted using these controls.



Practical Tips

Use Quick Scan for normal use and Full USB Scan when the required plugin files are stored elsewhere on a USB drive.

Check the Location before updating or deleting a row. A Plugin Pool entry and a USB copy of the same plugin are separate items.

Use the Selection Checkboxes when you want to update individual plugins. If you wish to exclude a specific plugin from being updated, select all other plugins and perform the required Update. With no checkboxes selected, all visible plugins with a newer available release are included.

If the Plugin Pool or USB files change while Plugin Manager is open, select Refresh before continuing. If the server release changes during an update, select Check for Updates again.