



FC-6/FC-12 (Original or Mark II) Firmware Update Guide

ABOUT FIRMWARE UPDATES

Fractal Audio Systems is known for continual improvement to its products through **firmware updates**. Firmware is just software which runs like an **operating system** inside your FC. It is tracked using version numbers: 1.01, 1.02, etc. Every FC should be shipped with the latest version installed. Watch the FC during startup to see its current version displayed. You can always upgrade from any version to any other version.

Update the FC using Fractal-Bot and the Axe-Fx III, FM9, or FM3

Unlike other products, the FC is programmed through a connected Axe-Fx III, FM9, or FM3. Most new FC features and fixes will be built into firmware for your main unit, but The FC also has its own internal firmware which may sometimes require an update.

Do not connect the FC directly to a computer. Updates are installed using the Axe-Fx III, FM9, or FM3 over FASLINK II as shown below.

1) PREPARE TO UPDATE

The update process is familiar and uses Fractal-Bot, our free utility. Fractal-Bot version 3.0 or newer is required for this process.

- a) **MAC:** No driver is required for the Axe-Fx III, FM9, or FM3.
- b) **WINDOWS:** Install the Driver for Windows if you have not previously installed it on your computer.
 - i) Download the USB driver for your product from [our web site](https://www.fractalaudio.com).
 - ii) Connect your Axe-Fx, FM9 or FM3 to the computer using a USB cable.
 - iii) Install the Driver you downloaded, following the on-screen instructions.
- c) **ALL PLATFORMS:** Fractal-Bot is now built into Axe-Edit, FM9-Edit and FM3-Edit. You can download and install a standalone version from our web site at <https://www.fractalaudio.com/fractal-bot/>

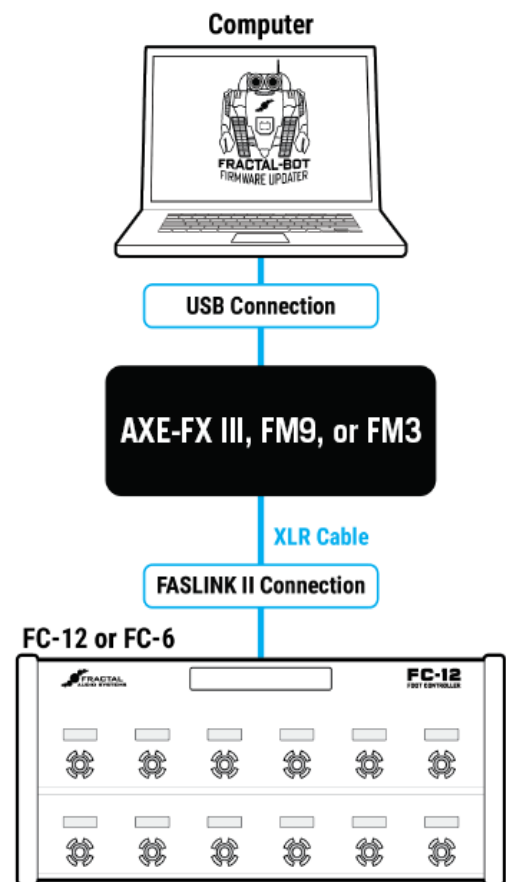
2) DOWNLOAD AND UNZIP THE FC FIRMWARE

Firmware is packaged in a **zip archive** containing a Sysex (.syx) **firmware file** and various supporting documents.

- a) Download the latest firmware from <https://www.fractalaudio.com/fcm>
- b) Extract the .syx file from the zip where you can find it (e.g. DESKTOP). Do not double-click the .syx file. Fractal-Bot prompt you when it is needed.
- c) Read the **Release Notes**. These alert you to anything you need to know before updating to a new version.

3) LAUNCH FRACTAL-BOT AND PERFORM THE UPDATE

- a) In Fractal-Bot, for Step 1, select "**Axe-Fx III**" or "**FM9**" or "**FM3**"
- b) For Step 2, browse to the downloaded .syx firmware file for the FC.
This is NOT a .zip file! See step 2a above!
- c) For Step 3, press the "BEGIN" button. You will see a progress bar on the computer but NOT on the host or the FC.
The FC will display "Fractal Audio Failsafe" once file transmission begins.
DO NOT INTERRUPT THE UPDATE PROCESS BY POWER CYCLING OR CANCELING AFTER TRANSMISSION BEGINS!
- d) When the transfer is complete, power OFF the Axe-Fx III, FM9, or FM3 for 5 seconds and then turn it ON again to reboot the FC.
- e) Verify the new firmware version by watching the main display of the FC as it powers on.



Getting Help

If you need any help, please contact our support team via <http://support.fractalaudio.com>

Customers outside the US or Canada may also contact the [official distributor](#) for their region.

Our forum at <http://forum.fractalaudio.com/forum.php> can also be a valuable resource, with members helping members around the clock.