FM3 FIRMWARE UPDATE GUIDE

FRACTAL-BOT

Fractal-Bot is required for **Firmware Updates**.
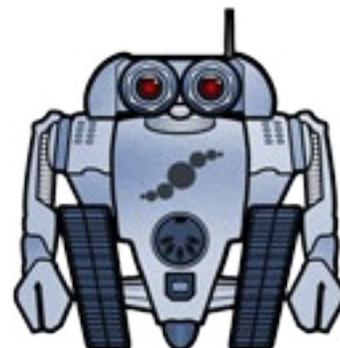It and can also be used to **Back up** your unit prior to updating.

The program is self-explanatory and has instructions built in.

To use Fractal-Bot on a Windows PC, you will need to install a driver available here: https://www.fractalaudio.com/fm3-downloads

Computers running OS X do NOT require a driver to communicate with the FM3.

Download and install **Fractal-Bot** from our web site at http://fractalaudio.com/fractal-bot.php

FIRMWARE

Firmware is technically software – the operating system of your FM3. Firmware is tracked using version numbers: 1.00, 1.01, 2.00, etc. Every FM3 is shipped from our factory with the latest version installed. You can check your version any time by pressing the **SETUP** button (Push-knob **E**) on the **Home** page. The version is displayed at the top of the **Setup** menu.

UPDATING

NOTE: Before performing a major firmware update, it is wise to back up your FM3 (see next page).

Updating is easy with Fractal-Bot (see above). Before you begin, please QUIT any other software applications which could try to communicate with your FM3, including FM3-Edit, Cab-Lab, other MIDI utilities, Digital Audio Workstations, etc. Then follow these steps:

1. **Download** the latest firmware from https://www.fractalaudio.com/fm3-downloads

2. **Unzip** the download file. The archive may contain various documents in addition to the actual firmware file, which is a MIDI System Exclusive or "SysEx" file. Extract the **.syx** file to a location you can easily find when required. **Do not double-click the .syx file**. Fractal-Bot will prompt you for its location when needed.

3. Please read any included **Release Notes**. These will let you know what's new and alert you to anything you might need to be aware of before updating to the new version.

4. To perform the update, launch **Fractal-Bot**, select the SEND tab, and proceed through the three self-explanatory steps, selecting the .syx firmware file during Step 2.

5. After file transmission is complete, the FM3 still needs time to process the update. Watch the unit, which will eventually display a message informing you that the unit has been updated and needs to be restarted.
   You can verify that it worked by checking the installed version. Press the **SETUP** button (Push-knob **E**) on the **Home** page. The version is displayed at the top of the menu.

   NOTE: Firmware updates will occasionally be accompanied by new versions of the FM3 Factory Presets. These will be available separately and can also be installed using Fractal-Bot.

FIRMWARE Q&A

Q: Can I skip versions to go from a very old firmware version to a much newer one?

A: You can upgrade from any version to any other version. When you skip versions it is recommended that you also read the **Release Notes** for all interim versions, all of which are included with every firmware release.

Q: Will updating the firmware erase my presets?

A: Updating firmware never erases your presets. However, updating may alter the sound of existing presets. Always read the Release Notes included with a given version before updating. Saving presets after a firmware update can render them incompatible with previous versions. It is always wise to back up your FM3 using Fractal-Bot before a major update.

Q: The firmware update failed mysteriously. What should I do?

A: If the Axe-Fx still boots normally, just try the update again. If successive failures occur, please delete and re-download the update file before trying again. Trying a different USB port or cable can also solve issues.

Q: After updating, my FM3 will no longer boot normally.

A: Mishaps during firmware updates are rare but can occur. In the event that your FM3 will not boot normally after an update, it has a built-in recovery system known as the "Emergency Boot Loader" which you can use to get back up and running again:

1. Power down the unit and wait five seconds.
2. Power on holding both **PAGE LEFT** and **PAGE RIGHT** buttons down until the **Emergency Utility** appears.
3. Update the firmware using **Fractal-Bot**.

BACKING UP

Fractal-Bot automates the backup process. Select the **RECEIVE** tab and follow the built-in instructions. Here are some things to consider when using Fractal-Bot:

▸ Presets are actually divided into banks of 128. To backup all of your presets, backup all of the banks. Bank **A** = 0–127, Bank **B** = 128-255, Bank **C** = 265–383, Bank **D** = 384–511, and so on.

▸ A backup of the **SYSTEM** includes all of the custom settings in the **Setup** menu: Global, I/O, MIDI/Remote, and Tuner settings, plus all Footswitch Layouts.

▸ User Cabs are backed up in a "Cab Bank".

▸ Fractal-Bot requires you to specify a location where files will be saved. It is wise to prepare this in advance. Many pros we work with use a consistent naming system for their backup folders: "**yymmdd - FM3** " (two digit year, two digit month, two digit day). In addition to the backup files, create a text file to remind you what firmware version was installed when the files were created.

GETTING HELP

Our forum is a source of great help ranging from product Q&A to tutorials and more. Fractal Audio staff participate in the conversation, and response times can be very fast. Find it at https://forum.fractalaudio.com.

Our wiki, maintained by members of the Fractal Audio community, is also an excellent resource: https://wiki.fractalaudio.com

You can get support directly from Fractal Audio Systems at: https://support.fractalaudio.com or internationally via our dealers listed at https://www.fractalaudio.com/international-ordering.