USER MANUAL

Field

Version 0.1.0 · Phone browser / PWA · Raleigh, NC

Open and install

Field runs at soundlab-delta.vercel.app/field. Install it to the home screen for a full-screen recorder. It needs microphone permission and, for kit export, permission to download files.

Choose a mic profile

Pick the source before recording: smartphone internal mic, wired lavalier, USB/field condenser or direct line. The profile sets the high-pass frequency and presence compensation, and arms the soft-knee limiter.

- Internal mic: 80 Hz high-pass, handling rumble cut.
- Lavalier: 60 Hz high-pass, presence lift.
- USB/condenser: 20 Hz high-pass, flat body.
- Line: flat, no compensation.

Pre-roll recording

Field keeps a rolling buffer of recent audio. Press record and the buffer is written in front of the take, so the attack you heard before the tap survives. The buffer length is set in capture settings.

Gain trim is live. Watch the meter and leave headroom; the limiter is a safety net, not a mixing tool. Place name and take number are written into the file metadata.

Slice the take

Auto-chop runs onset detection and proposes markers. Accept all, drag a marker to adjust, or choose whole take. Even chop is available when you want equal divisions rather than transients.

Fades are applied at slice edges to prevent clicks. Set the fade length before committing; a longer fade is safer on pads, a shorter one preserves percussion.

Cleanup

Cleanup tools run per slice or across the take: DC removal, normalise, noise gate and a short fade. The gate is broadband; it removes room floor and handling noise, not a specific hum. Use the high-pass profile first.

Tune and evolve

Pitch detection estimates the root of each slice. The variant grid generates a seeded family of variations. The seed is stored with the variant, so a sound can be reproduced later. The first 15 ms of the attack are locked against mutation.

Keep the variants you want and trash the rest. Refining a kept variant re-keys it, so it stays in the kept set instead of becoming stranded.

Kits and export

Build a kit from the kept variants. Export the kit as .ncbeat for Phone Beat and NC Studio, or export individual slices as 24-bit WAV. The kit carries slice points, tuning and seeds.

> *Everything is local. There is no upload and no account; uninstalling the PWA can delete unexported work.*

Limits and support

- Screen lock suspends recording on iOS Safari.
- Pre-roll is memory-only; a force-quit loses it.
- Storage quota varies by browser.
- The gate is broadband, not spectral.

Report issues in The Booth with the phone model, browser and whether the take was captured with the pre-roll buffer.