RAYTOWN PRODUCTIONS

How to Protect Yourself From Vibe Coded Plugins: Red Flags Complete Checklist

Run any new plugin through this list before you buy it or put it in a session. Check every box that applies.

Red flags

- [ ] **No AAX version.**
  To sign an AAX plugin you need an Avid developer account. A lot of quick cash-grab developers won't bother.
- [ ] **No installer.**
  They tell you to drag a VST3 file into a folder yourself.
- [ ] **The installer isn't signed.**
  You get a security warning and have to click "More info" or "Run anyway" to install it. Signing costs the developer a yearly fee, so serious developers pay it.
- [ ] **The company has no history.**
  No reviews, less than a year old, and all of a sudden their ads are everywhere.
- [ ] **No manual, no licensing.**
  If they didn't have time to write a manual, they probably didn't have time to check their code either.
- [ ] **Slow or no support.**
  Email their support before you buy and see how long it takes them to answer.
- [ ] **Marketed as a "clone" or a "killer" of another plugin.**
  Don't even bother.
- [ ] **No free trial and no warranty.**
  If you can't try it first, don't spend your money on it.

Two or three boxes checked? Stay away from it.

What can go wrong

- It crashes your session because of a bug nobody tested for.
- Your session won't recall after an update, or after you upgrade your computer.
- Nobody maintains it, so it stops working the next time operating systems change (like when Apple Silicon came out).
- No refund policy, so if it doesn't work you're out the money.
- Legal problems if the developer used a framework like JUCE without the commercial license.

The golden rule

Never put an untested plugin on client work or on anything you can't afford to lose. Test it on sessions you don't care about first.

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