5. Windows - Custom VST plugin paths

On Windows 10 the path scanned for VST2 is

C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins & C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins

and for VST3 is

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

If you cannot move your plugin in the standard VST2 folder then you can do the following easily with a folder junction on Windows.

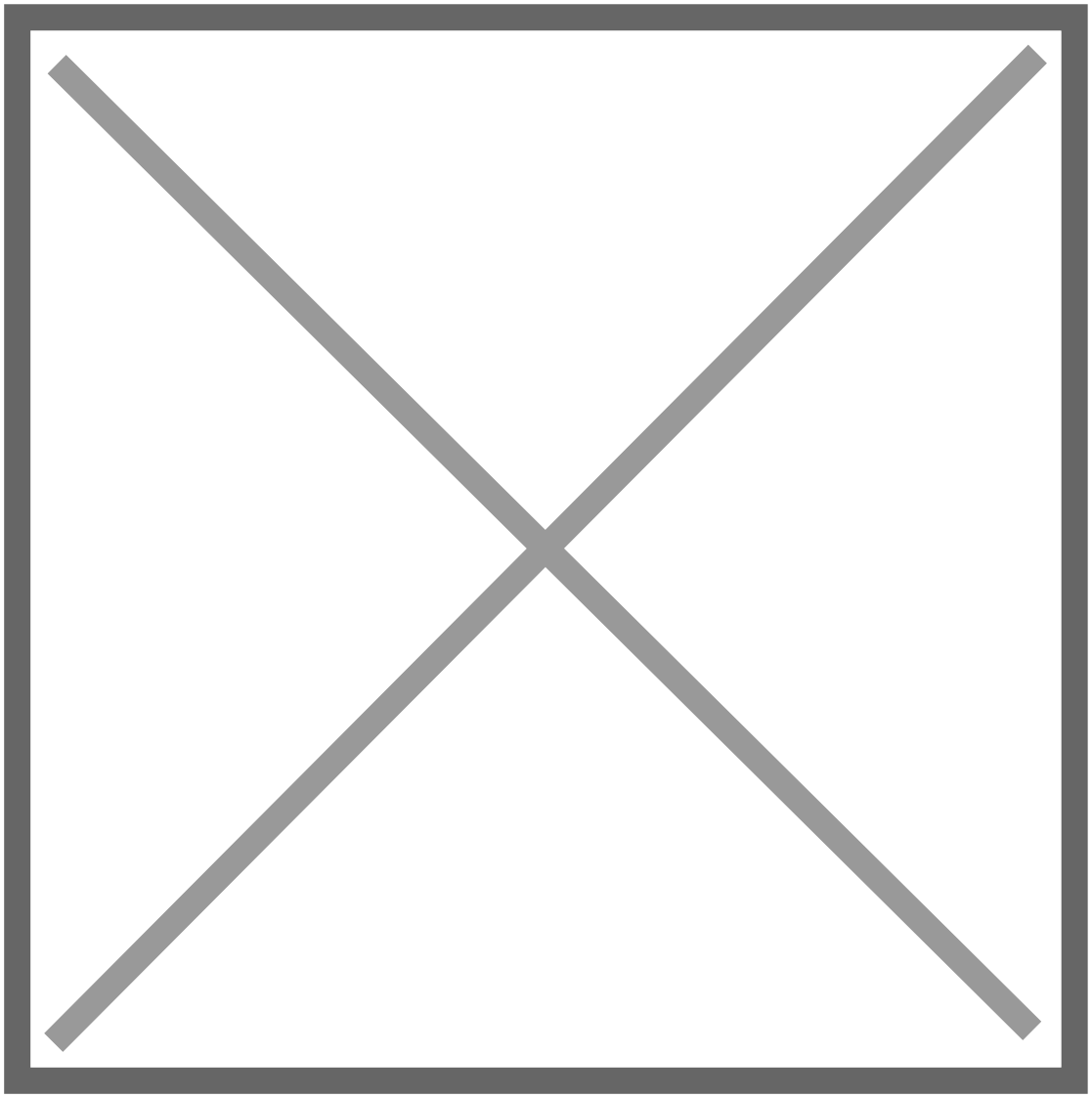
A junction is like a shortcut, but Windows sees it as a real folder, without consuming extra space. It is like having a virtual clone of the original folder. When you delete, add or edit a file in that junction folder is like you are doing it in the original folder.

Creating a Junction via Symlinker

You can download Symlinker from here

Create the junction with the following. The Destination Folder should be the folder you currently have your VST2 plugins.

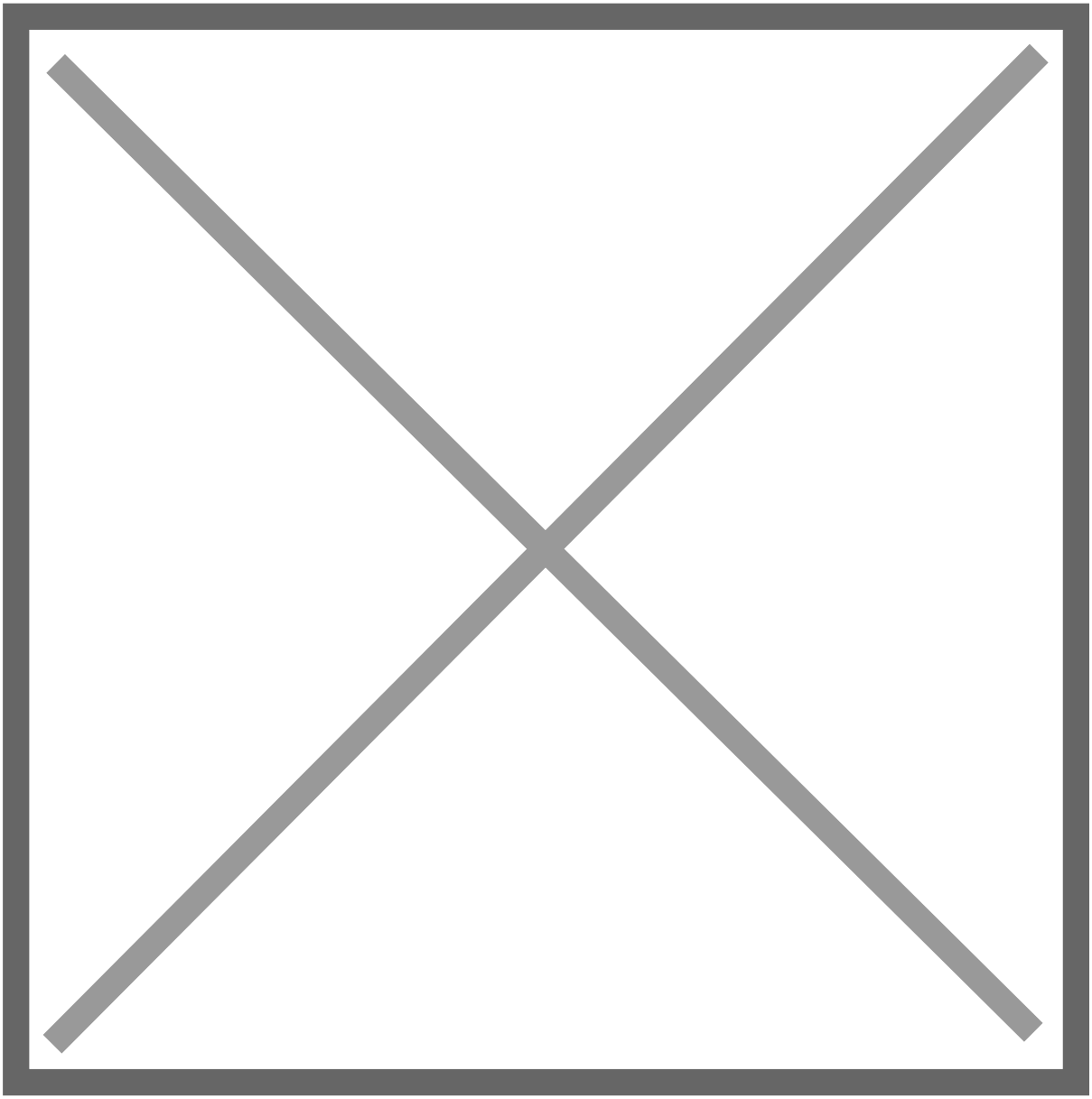
If C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins exists you have to rename it or delete it so it can be recreated as a junction folder.



You should see the C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins in your file explorer after you create it.

After you create the junction folder run "Quick Scan" in the MP Host to find the VST2 plugins.

Alternatively you can download it from here



Creating a Junction via the command line

Use /J to create a hard link pointing to a directory, also known as a directory junction:

mklink /J Link Target

mklink /J C:\LinkToFolder C:\Users\Name\OriginalFolder

This links the 2 folders (link and your vst folder) and behave as one.

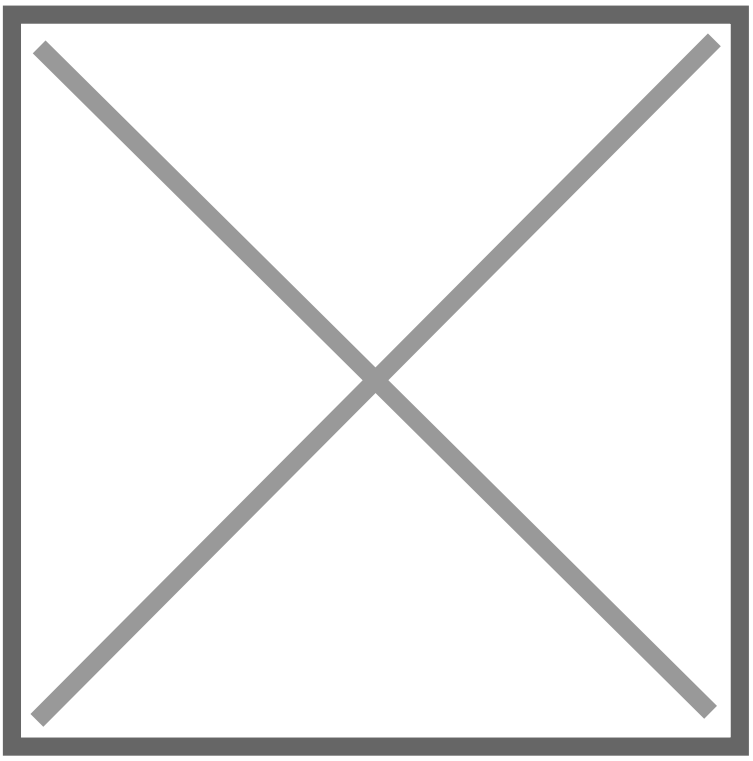
The LinkToFolder should be inside C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins

i.e. mklink /J C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins\myplugins D:\Plugins\

Think of it like a shortcut of a folder but it will behave like a folder duplicate, while not taking any space.

Here is an example:

Right click on cmd and choose to run it as an administrator.



You want your plugins in D:\Plugins\ to appear in C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins

The syntax is:

mklink /J Link Target

Keep in mind that the Link folder must not exist.

So, if the C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins exists you will need to delete it and it will be recreated.

Paste in CMD:

mklink /J "C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins" "D:\Plugins\"

Now if you navigate to C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins in Windows explorer you will see there all your plugin files that exist in D:\Plugins\

You can now scan with the MP Host and it will find all plugins that exist there.

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