QUICK START GUIDE

FRACTAL AUDIO SYSTEMS

VP4
VIRTUAL PEDALBOARD

THE VP4 IS A VIRTUAL PEDALBOARD WITH FOUR SIMULTANEOUS EFFECTS — AND MUCH MORE

CONTROLS

Press **HOME** at any time to show the Home page.

Press **SAVE** to save the current Preset. Press **ENTER** 2x to confirm.

Press **HOME+SAVE** at the same time to show the **MODE SELECT** screen and tap a footswitch to make a choice (See FOUR MODES on p. 3)
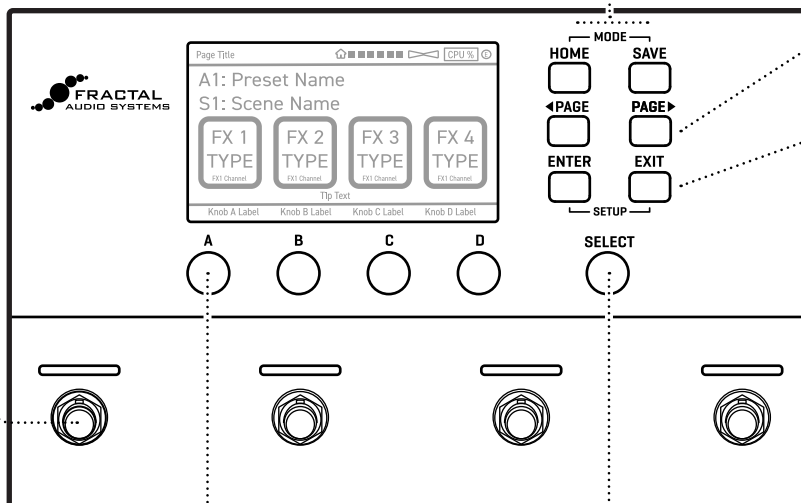
Depending on the selected **MODE**, use the footswitches to:

Change **Presets** (green), Select **Scenes** (red), Toggle **FX** (blue) ON/OFF, ...or access the **TUNER/TEMPO** (yellow). There are also various press and hold options for each mode. See p. 4

PAGE buttons step left and right through menu pages.

Use **ENTER** and **EXIT** to confirm or cancel various options.

SETUP

ENTER   EXIT

SETUP

Press **ENTER+EXIT** at the same time to open the **EXIT** menu. Use the page buttons to access Audio, Footswitches, Pedals, MIDI, Global, Reset, and more. Press **EXIT** to leave SETUP and return to wherever you were.

NOTE: Changes in the Setup menu are stored as you make them. You do NOT need to press SAVE. As you make changes, the VP4 will display "SAVING..." in the title bar. Do not power the VP4 off while it is saving, or your most recent changes could be lost.
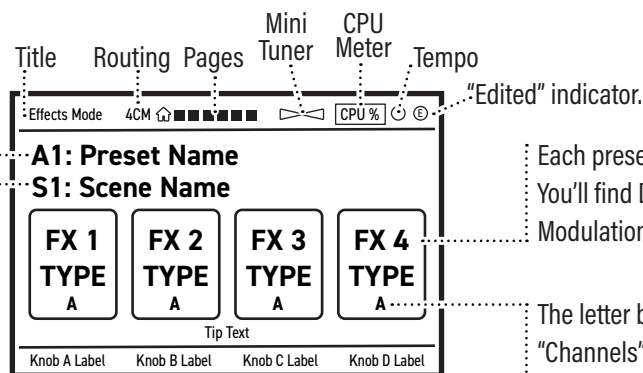
Turn the **ABCD** knobs to adjust settings and values

Turn **SELECT** to highlight various on-screen areas. On the **Home** page, **SELECT** also changes the **MODE**.

THE MAIN DISPLAY

The top line shows the PRESET Name. The VP4 contains 104 presets grouped in lettered BANKS (A–Z) containing four presets each.

The second line shows the SCENE Name. Each preset contains four Scenes. Scenes are a power user feature that can switch FX without "tap-dancing", change channels, and more. See your Owner's Manual for more on Scenes.

Title   Routing   Pages   Mini Tuner   CPU Meter   Tempo

"Edited" indicator.

Effects Mode   4CM   CPU %

A1: Preset Name
S1: Scene Name

| FX 1 TYPE A | FX 2 TYPE A | FX 3 TYPE A | FX 4 TYPE A |

Tip Text

Knob A Label   Knob B Label   Knob C Label   Knob D Label

Each preset contains four effects. You'll find Drives, Delays, Reverbs, Modulation FX, EQs, and many more.

The letter beneath each effect shows its current CHANNEL. "Channels" are a power user feature that can add greater sonic flexibility within a single preset. See your Owner's Manual for more on Channels.

Labels on some pages show ABCD knob functions. Tips help you to navigate the VP4.
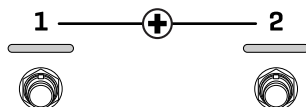
VP4 FOOTSWITCHES & GIG MODE

A convenient master footswitch setting called GIG MODE is enabled by default.
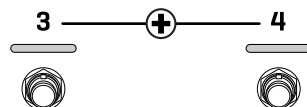It allows you to access Presets, Banks, Scenes, Effects, Channels, Tuner, and Tap Tempo.

ANYWHERE, ANYTIME...

▾ **TAP** these switch combos for special actions:

MODE SELECT

1 ──⊕── 2

TUNER/TEMPO

3 ──⊕── 4

ON THE MODE SELECT PAGE

▾ **TAP** any switch choose a mode.

1	2	3	4
PRESET MODE	SCENE MODE	FX MODE	TUNER +TAP TEMPO

IN PRESET MODE

▾ **TAP** any switch to load a **Preset** from the current **Bank**.

1   2   3   4

⯯ HOLD 1:
Previous Bank

⯯ HOLD 4:
Next Bank

IN SCENE MODE

▾ **TAP** any switch to load a **Scene** in the current **Preset.**

1   2   3   4

⯯ HOLD 1:
Previous Preset

⯯ HOLD 4:
Next Preset
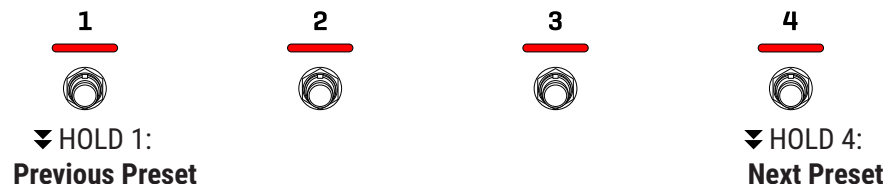
FX MODE

▾ **TAP** any switch to **Bypass or Engage** the corresponding effect.

1   2   3   4

⯯ **HOLD** any Switch to show the four **Channels** for that effect.

CHAN **A**   CHAN **B**   CHAN **C**   CHAN **D**
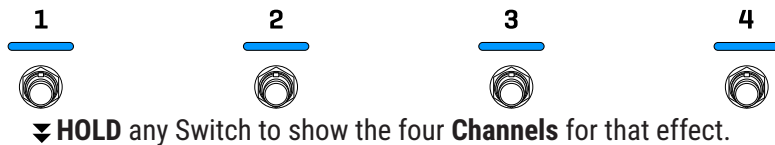
▾ **TAP** to select a channel and exit. ⯯**HOLD** to select and stay.

TUNER/TEMPO MODE

1   2   3   4

▾ **TAP** Switch 1
for TAP TEMPO

▾ **TAP** Switch 3
to Mute/Unmute

▾ **TAP** Switch 4
to EXIT the Tuner

NOTE: The default press and hold options in "Gig Mode" cause effects and other footswitches to fire when you release the switch instead of when you press it down. To disable or customize press and hold, use the **SETUP>Footswitches** page. See your Owner's Manual for more.
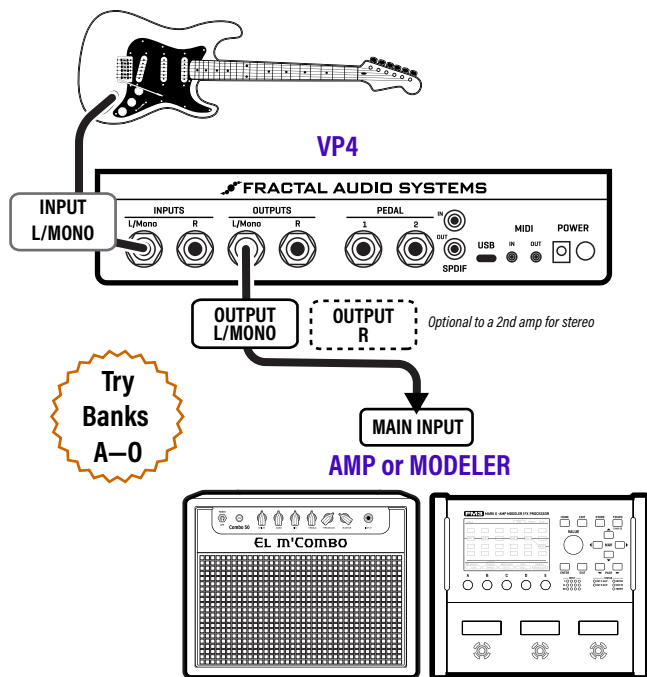
THE VP4 CAN BE USED FOR "PRE" OR "POST" FX IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SETUPS.
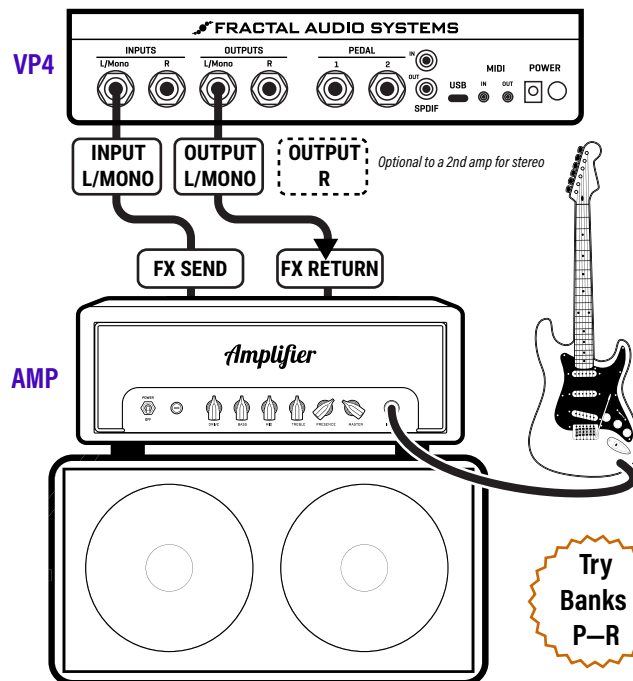THE UNIT HAS POP SUPPRESSION BUT AMPS AND SPEAKERS SHOULD STILL BE TURNED ON *LAST*, AND OFF *FIRST*.
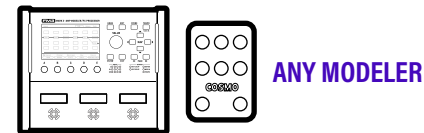
PRE-FX, BETWEEN GUITAR AND AMP

VP4

INPUT
L/MONO

OUTPUT
L/MONO

OUTPUT
R

Optional to a 2nd amp for stereo

MAIN INPUT

Try
Banks
A—O

AMP or MODELER

POST-FX, LOOP OF AN AMP

VP4

INPUT
L/MONO

OUTPUT
L/MONO

OUTPUT
R

Optional to a 2nd amp for stereo

FX SEND

FX RETURN

AMP

Try
Banks
P—R

⚠ WARNING: Never connect the VP4 to the Speaker output of an amp.

POST-FX w. MODELER

ANY MODELER

Connect the line level output(s) of your
modeler to the input(s) of the VP4
(See note below, "Mono vs. Stereo")

VP4

Connect the output(s) of the VP4
to your power amp, FRFR, mixer, etc.

4CM SETUP

The VP4 also supports "four cable method"
setups ("4CM"). See your Owner's Manual for
important details before setting up a 4CM rig.

INPUT LEVELS

The VP4 comes set for a typical guitar with hot
pickups. If the **IN CLIP** warning appears in the
display, it means the input levels are too high. To
adjust, go to **SETUP > Audio > Input Pad** and turn
the **A** knob to increase the pad setting until
clipping stops. If the VP4 still clips at the maximum
pad setting of 18 dB, reduce the output level of the
connected guitar or device.
See your Owner's Manual for more, including how
the VP4 makes automatic Input Pad adjustments.

OUTPUT LEVELS

With no effects or custom settings, the VP4 outputs a
unity gain signal. However, overall output levels can
vary based on the settings of your effects, presets,
and scenes. If output clipping occurs, an **OUT CLIP**
warning will be displayed, indicating that you need to
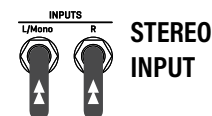lower the levels of your effects, preset, or scene.

See your Owner's Manual for more on Output Levels.

MONO vs. STEREO

The VP4 defaults to "MONO" **Input Mode**.
In mono, use only the **L/Mono** input.
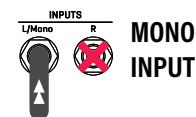
MONO
INPUT

For stereo input signals, connect to both
L/Mono and **Right** inputs and change
SETUP > Audio > Input Mode to "STEREO."

STEREO
INPUT

The VP4 defaults to "STEREO" **Output Mode**
which is also compatible with mono setups.
For more on Mono vs. Stereo, see your Owner's Manual.

First, select any preset by entering Preset Mode.

SELECT OR CHANGE FX BLOCKS

- Change to FX Mode.
- Turn **ABC** or **D** to change the corresponding Block Type (for example Chorus, Delay, Drive)
- Press **ENTER**.

EDIT FX SETTINGS

- Turn **SELECT** to highlight any effect.
- Press **ENTER** to show the **Basic Editor**
- Use knobs **ABCD** to adjust settings. Turn **SELECT** to change rows.
- Use **PAGE** buttons for FX with more options. The left-most page allows you to change Effect Type.
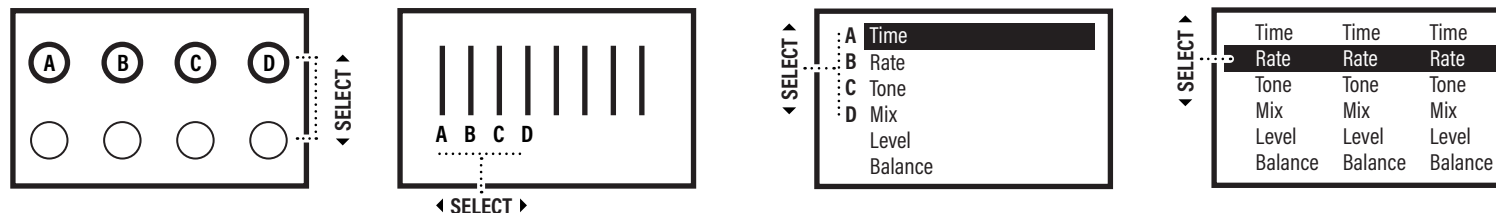
SAVING CHANGES

- Press **SAVE**. Use **ABCD** and **SELECT** to choose a location and edit names. Press **ENTER** to confirm.
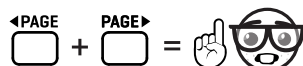
FAQ: Block Type vs. Effect Type?

Effects on the VP4 are organized as high level "Blocks" like "Reverb" or "Drive". Blocks contain an "Effect Type" picker for sub-types like "Deluxe Verb" or "Face Fuzz". The TYPE PICKER appears automatically the first time you edit a new effect. To change Effect Type later, edit the effect and Page Left to the type page.

EFFECT EDIT PAGES

The VP4 uses many different types of page layouts allowing you to edit effects and other settings.
Use **SELECT** and **ABCD knobs** to navigate and make changes.

FAQ: What is a Preset?

Every preset is a complete virtual pedalboard with its own four effects. In every preset, you can choose FX, dial them in, and save your settings. Every preset in the VP4 can be customized or even overwritten.

Some players may use only a single preset. Others might create one preset for every gig, every guitar, or even parts of a song.

Every preset also contains extra settings. Press **HOME** and use the **PAGE** buttons to find the **Noise Gate, Levels, EQ,** and more.

FAQ: What is a Scene?

A **SCENE** is like a traditional pedalboard at a particular moment: effects are either ON or OFF and can even have different "channel" settings. To learn more about Scenes, see the VP4 Owner's Manual.

FAQ: What is a Channel?

A channel is one of four independent sets of settings within a block, labeled A, B, C, and D. Channels allow you to switch between different configurations of the same effect block without needing multiple instances. For example, a Drive block could use Channel A for a clean boost, Channel B for overdrive, Channel C for distortion, and Channel D for fuzz. This provides a greater range of tones while saving CPU by using one block with multiple settings.

For a menu of channels, press and hold the footswitch for any effect.

Gear Nerd? Expert Tweaker?

◄PAGE [ ] + PAGE► [ ] = ☝️🤓

The VP4 was designed to be easy to use, with minimal options like those you would expect from traditional pedals.
Fractal Audio is also known for extensive depth and flexibility, however, allowing creative players and FX nerds to dive deep into sound design.

If this sounds like you, then **Expert Edit** may be of interest. This special mode reveals expanded options for editing effects, modifiers, and the noise gate.
To open Expert Edit, press **PAGE LEFT** and **PAGE RIGHT** at the same time while editing. Press **EXIT** at any time to leave Expert Edit.

CONNECT PEDALS & SWITCHES

BYPASS THE VP4

The VP4 has two jacks for expression pedals or switches.
When you first connect a pedal or switch it needs to be configured:

SET UP AN EXPRESSION PEDAL

- Expression pedals should have a linear taper and max resistance in the range of 10–100kΩ.
  The Fractal Audio EV-1 and EV-2 are ideal.
- Connect using a TRS-to-TRS cable.
  Guitar patch cables will not work!
- To configure a pedal, open **SETUP > Pedals.**
- For the desired pedal (#1 or #2), set **Pedal Type** to "Expression"
- Select the **Calibrate** line, press **ENTER**, and follow the prompts.
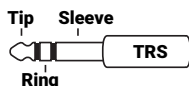
SET UP A SWITCH

- Instead of a pedal, you can connect one switch to one Pedal jack.
- To configure a pedal jack to work with a switch, open **SETUP > Pedal** and set **Pedal Type** to one of the "Switch" options. (*Choose "Virtual Toggle" to change the action of a momentary switch to latching. Switches do NOT require calibration.*)

USING PEDALS TO CONTROL SOUND

Modifiers provide an easy way to use a connected pedal or switch to control sound settings like the sweep of a Wah or Whammy, the rate of a Rotary, the mix of a Delay or Reverb, or hundreds of other settings.

To set up a modifier, look for the Modifier symbol while editing any effect. It appears as a small **yellow circle** in the center of a knob, or near a dropdown or menu parameter.

Select the desired knob/control and press **ENTER** to open the modifier screen.

Choose a **Source**, such as "PEDAL 1" to assign it. You can set the range and more. Press **EXIT** when you're finished, and don't forget to save the preset.

See your Owner's Manual for more on Modifiers and other ways to use pedals or switches using the **SETUP > MIDI Remote** menu.

The VP4 features buffered analog bypass. This passes signal directly from the input to the output with no digital conversion, latency, or processing.

If you want analog bypass to turn on automatically whenever all four effects are bypassed, enable **SETUP > Global Settings > Automatic VP4 Bypass.**

CPU

As you add effects or use settings that are more demanding, the CPU level will increase.
A meter in the upper right shows the current CPU level. The normal limit is about 80%.
If the limit is exceeded, the VP4 will switch to **Bypass** and show a warning, "CPU LIMIT: Bypassed".
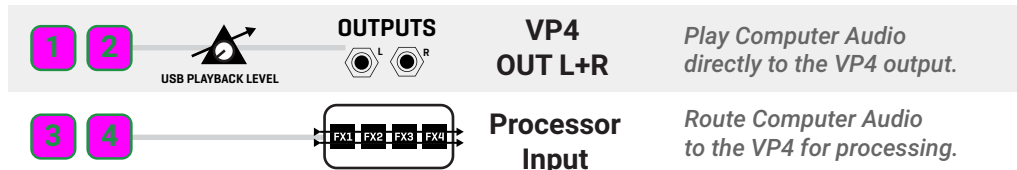See your Owner's Manual for more on CPU.

USB

The VP4 can connect over USB to a Mac or PC. This offers capabilities including audio recording, playback, the use of VP4-Edit with Fractal-Bot, and direct MIDI integration with a DAW.
NOTE: Windows requires a driver, available at https://www.fractalaudio.com/vp4-downloads

USB INPUTS (RECORDING)

FX1 FX2 FX3 FX4	1 2	**VP4 OUT L+R**	*Record stereo processed audio from the VP4 output*
INPUTS	3 4	**IN 1 L+R**	*Record unprocessed audio from the VP4 input.*

USB OUTPUTS (PLAYBACK)

1 2 — USB PLAYBACK LEVEL — OUTPUTS		**VP4 OUT L+R**	*Play Computer Audio directly to the VP4 output.*
3 4	FX1 FX2 FX3 FX4	**Processor Input**	*Route Computer Audio to the VP4 for processing.*

❷ Hum with USB Connected? Computers can create a ground loop with a guitar amp, causing hum when the VP4 is connected to both. To address this, consider a USB Audio Ground Loop Eliminator (Type C > C) between the VP4 and the computer, or an audio isolation transformer between the VP4 and the amp. Changing your computer between AC power and battery may also affect hum.

PRESET EXTRAS

Every preset has additional features besides effects. From Home, use the **PAGE** buttons to navigate. Remember, the title bar shows where you are. 🏠☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

The **Noise Gate** reduces noise when you're not playing. Increase **Threshold** to close the gate on louder noise. Setting it too high may gate your playing. **Ratio** adjusts how powerful the gate is — from no effect to extreme. Note: Some gate types rely on a global setting. For Europe, Australia and other regions with 50 Hz AC power, change **SETUP > Global Options > AC Line Frequency** to 50 Hz.

The **Main Levels** page lets you adjust the overall levels of the current Preset and each Scene in it.

If you set levels too high, a "clipping" warning may appear. Lower the levels of effects, the preset, or the scene to address this.

The **Preset EQ** page provides a 10-band EQ which can be set differently for every preset — a great tone shaping tool. If you make dramatic boosts, you may need to lower the overall level of the preset to avoid clipping.

The **Preset Mix/Routing** page provides a central place to adjust Mix, Level, Bypass, Channel, and more for every effect in the current preset. Since these options are also found in the regular FX edit pages, most people will probably never need to use this area, but it is still a convenient tool to make adjustments, dial in scenes, etc.
You can also change effect Routing, Kill Dry, Bypass Mode, and more. See your Owner's Manual for additional details.

Use the **Tools** page to RESET any channel of any effect in the current preset to its default settings— useful for a fresh start or during troubleshooting.

You can also reset the Noise Gate, Preset EQ, or the Controllers menu for the current preset.

Remember to save if you want any changes to be permanent.

The **Controllers** page is actually the gateway to another menu. In the same way that an expression pedal can be used as a modifier (p. 5), you can also assign an **Envelope Follower**, **ADSR**, **LFO**, and **Sequencer** to make creative sound changes in real time. Also included are a **Tempo** page and a **Modifiers** overview. All settings in the Controllers sub-menu are part of the preset and can be dialed in and saved. See your Owner's Manual for more.

MANUAL & DOWNLOADS

The VP4 has a detailed Owner's Manual providing essential guidance on setup, operation, and troubleshooting.

Available downloads also include the Windows USB driver as well as any new firmware updates for the VP4.

https://www.fractalaudio.com/vp4-downloads

SUPPORT

Fractal Audio offers support via email. If you need help with the VP4, please visit https://support.fractalaudio.com

VP4-EDIT

VP4-Edit is a companion editor/librarian app for Mac or Windows, providing a powerful way to dial in every aspect of the VP4.

https://www.fractalaudio.com/vp4-edit

FORUM

Our forum is also a great resource, with members helping members around the clock: https://forum.fractalaudio.com

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The failure of either party to exercise in any respect any right provided for herein will not be deemed a waiver of any further rights hereunder of FAS and or its licensors. If any provision of this Agreement is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision will be limited or eliminated to the minimum extent necessary so that this Agreement will otherwise remain in full force and effect and enforceable. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of New Hampshire without regard to the conflict of laws provisions thereof. You agree that this Agreement is the complete and exclusive statement of the mutual understanding of the parties and supersedes and cancels all previous written and oral agreements, communications and other understandings relating to the subject matter of this Agreement, and that all modifications to this EULA, or any commercial license that you may have obtained from FAS and or its licensors must be in a writing signed by you, FAS and or its licensors, where applicable, except as otherwise provided herein. No agency, partnership, joint venture, or employment is created as a result of this Agreement and you do not have any authority of any kind to bind FAS and or its licensors in any respect whatsoever. In any action or proceeding to enforce rights under this Agreement, the prevailing party will be entitled to recover costs and attorneys' fees. All notices under this Agreement will be in writing and will be deemed to have been duly given when received, if personally delivered; when receipt is electronically confirmed, if transmitted by facsimile or e-mail; the day after it is sent, if sent for next day delivery by recognized overnight delivery service; and upon receipt, if sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.