

# Frequently asked questions

## What is Mastermind EQ?

A five-band equalizer with two processing banks for stereo, dual-mono or Mid/Side work. It combines tone shaping, high-pass and low-pass filters, stereo tools, harmonic coloration and a preset browser.

## Do the three themes change the sound?

No. Regular, Vintage and Digital are visual looks. Click either Shark logo to cycle through them. The selected look is saved with your DAW session, separately from the sound presets.

## How many presets are included?

66 factory presets: the original 41 starting points plus 25 original Shark presets organized under five fictional engineer personas. Each fictional group contains five presets.

## Are the engineer names real people or guest contributors?

No. Juno Vale, Cass Rowan, Mara Voss, Niko Slate and Elian North are fictional creative personas for this collection. The presets are original Shark Plugs settings, not real engineers' presets or endorsements.

## How do I add a favorite?

Click the star beside the preset name. Click it again to remove that favorite. Open Favorites in the preset browser to find it. The star does not open the browser.

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## How do I load a preset and close the browser?

Double-click a preset row. A single selection lets you inspect the name; Load applies it while keeping the browser open. Clicking outside the browser closes it.

## Why does the input meter move when I turn Input?

It measures the signal after the Input gain control and before EQ. Output is measured after processing, gain match and the plugin's bypass blend.

## What do the meter colors mean?

Green is the lower range, orange begins near -6 dBFS and the red warning lights during the last dB below 0 dBFS. These are sample-peak meters, not true-peak or LUFS meters. They are not limiters.

## How do I read correlation and balance?

The upper strip fills from the center toward positive correlation in green or negative correlation in red. +1 means strongly in-phase; -1 means opposite polarity. The lower amber strip fills toward the louder side. Negative correlation is a cue to check mono compatibility.

## What does EQ Amount do?

It scales the ten band gains from 0 to 200%. It does not scale filter cutoffs, width, Input or Output. At 0%, other active processing can still change the sound.

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## What is the difference between Stereo, Dual and M/S?

Stereo couples bank edits in the interface. Dual allows independent left/right edits with Link off. M/S assigns the left bank to Mid and the right bank to Side; turn Link off for different Mid and Side shapes.

## Why does the other bank follow my edits?

Stereo mode links edits regardless of Link. In Dual or M/S, turn Link off to edit the banks independently. Host automation remains separately addressable.

## How do I switch Bass Mono on?

Click the value area under the Bass Mono knob. OFF changes to the selected frequency. It progressively removes low-frequency Side content; it is not a brick-wall crossover.

## Why is there no sound with Solo enabled?

Solo M auditions Mid; Solo S auditions Side. If both are active, the output is silent. A mono signal also has no Side content to audition. Turn both solos off for normal playback.

## Does Gain Match provide exact loudness matching?

It is an automatic energy-based comparison aid. Let it settle for several seconds, then judge by ear. It is not LUFS matching and does not guarantee equal perceived loudness.

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## Does Mastermind EQ add latency or use oversampling?

This version reports zero latency and uses no lookahead or oversampling. Harmonics is a non-oversampled coloration control; keep it at zero for the cleanest path.

## Can I save my own settings?

Yes. Enter a name and use Save new in the browser. Rename and Delete apply to user presets. Factory presets are protected. Your DAW session also stores the current sound, A/B/C states, selected theme, zoom and favorites.

## Where are user presets stored?

They use the .mmeq extension in the operating system's application-data folder under Shark Plugs/Mastermind EQ/Presets. Back up that folder when moving systems.

## Why is a very high cutoff less audible at a lower sample rate?

Band and filter frequencies are internally capped at 45% of the sample rate. At 44.1 kHz, that is about 19.85 kHz, even when the displayed control value is higher.

## How do I return to a clean starting point?

Load Init - Clean Start. It restores neutral band gains, 100% width and EQ Amount, 0 dB Input/Output, and switches off filters, Harmonics, Bass Mono, Gain Match, Invert and solos.

## Which plugin formats should I install?

Use the format supplied with your download and supported by your DAW. The current project targets AU and VST3 on Mac; check the product page for available installers and platform requirements. Do not treat a source ZIP as an installer.