



A mastering EQ for confident moves.

Stereo parametric equaliser tuned for mastering and bus polish. Five sections per channel, BROAD mode for wide musical bell curves, M/S routing when the centre and the sides need different treatment.



STEREO / M/S

DISCRETE FREQUENCY STEPS

0 SAMPLE LATENCY

VST3 / CLAP / STANDALONE

01. FIRST MOVE

1 LINKED STEREO

Leave **LINK L/R** on for normal stereo work. v1.1.0 collapses both strips into a single **STEREO** lane with one set of knobs and a full-height EQ graph.

2 PICK A BAND

LO for weight, **MID** for body or presence, **HI** for brightness and air. Five EQ sections.

3 HALF A DB

Start small. On a master bus, **0.5 dB** with BROAD on is often the whole move. Flip **AUTO GAIN** on if you want bypass to stay level-matched.

02. ANATOMY AT A GLANCE

HEADER

Title, presets, undo/redo, A/B compare, copy/paste, menu. Trial chip on the right of the title until activated.

LEFT STRIP

Five sections: Lo Shelf · Lo · Mid · Hi · Hi Shelf. Lime / green / spring band accents. Becomes **MID** in M/S mode, or merges into the single **STEREO** lane when LINK is on.

RIGHT STRIP

Same five sections, cool palette: cyan / blue / indigo. Becomes **SIDE** in M/S mode. Hidden in linked Stereo.

GLOBAL

Character (post-EQ tone), Link L/R, M/S Mode, Master Bypass. Link L/R now drives the single-lane Stereo layout.

INPUT / OUTPUT

Pre-EQ and post-EQ gain, with optional Link and lane-aware **AUTO GAIN** (v1.1.0). Use OUTPUT or Auto Gain to level-match bypass before judging tone.

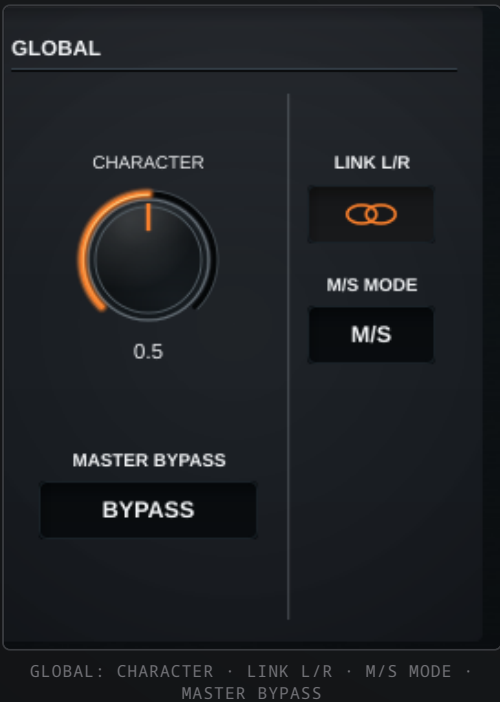
FOOTER

Oversampling · latency · sample rate · meters · BROAD toggles · output mode · CPU · version. BROAD shows one LO/MID/HI set in linked Stereo.

03. USEFUL STARTING POINTS

GOAL	MOVE	TIP
Sub cleanup	LO SHELF -1 to -2 dB @ 50 Hz	Try BROAD off; shelves are already wide.
Bass punch	LO +1 dB @ 100 Hz, BW 11	Narrow the BW knob if it muddies up.
Mastering glue	MID +0.5 dB @ 800 Hz, BROAD on	Use both channels linked.
Vocal presence	MID +1 dB @ 3 kHz, BW 11	BROAD off - you want focus here.
Air	HI SHELF +1 dB @ 12 kHz	Toggle to high turnover for "air" rather than "shine".
Wider top	M/S, SIDE HI SHELF +0.5 dB	Keep MID untouched.

04. STEREO + MID/SIDE IN 30 SECONDS



Linked Stereo (default). **LINK L/R** on, **M/S MODE** off. v1.1.0 collapses both strips into a single **STEREO** lane with one set of knobs, a full-height EQ graph, and a single set of BROAD toggles. Output meters and the spectrum take on the linked-Stereo orange so the whole view reads as one.

Independent L/R. Turn **LINK L/R** off. Both strips appear with their own knobs - use it to correct a stereo imbalance or shape the channels asymmetrically.

Mid/Side. Turn **LINK L/R** off and **M/S MODE** on. Upper strip becomes **MID** (centre), lower becomes **SIDE** (width). BROAD headers flip to **M / S**. Use MID for vocal, kick, bass, centre weight; use SIDE for width, air, and room tone.

05. AUTO GAIN

Each of **INPUT** and **OUTPUT** has an **AUTO GAIN** toggle (centred under the gain knob). When on, that stage automatically targets **0 VU / -18 dBFS RMS** and the matching manual gain knob is hidden so the section has one clear gain mode. Available in linked Stereo, L/R, and M/S workflows. The target is fixed in v1.1.0.

Habit: switch **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on while you compare to bypass — loudness stops biasing your tone decisions. Switch it off and reach for the OUTPUT knob when you want a deliberate level.

06. BROAD MODE

Each LO / MID / HI band has a **BROAD** toggle in the footer. When BROAD is on, the band's BW knob displays its effective Q (e.g. 0.10 to 0.30) instead of the integer label, and the chart bell visibly widens. Linked Stereo shows one shared LO / MID / HI set; L/R and M/S show two. Use BROAD for sweeping mastering moves; switch off when you want surgical correction.

07. COMPARE HONESTLY

A / B

The header has an **A / B** toggle. A and B start as the same snapshot. Make a move on A, click B to start a fresh path; flip back and forth to compare.

MASTER BYPASS

BYPASS in the GLOBAL panel is for honest comparison. Always level-match with **OUTPUT** first - louder almost always feels better.

08. RECIPES

- Mastering polish:** LO SHELF -1 dB @ 50 Hz · MID +0.5 dB @ 800 Hz BROAD on · HI SHELF +1 dB @ 12 kHz. Linked, both channels.
- Wider mix:** M/S mode · SIDE HI SHELF +0.5 dB @ 12 kHz · SIDE MID +0.5 dB @ 1 kHz BROAD on. Leave MID untouched.
- Vocal bus:** MID +1.5 dB @ 3 kHz BW 11 · HI SHELF +2 dB @ 12 kHz. Use OUTPUT to match bypass.
- Bass tighten:** LO SHELF -2 dB @ 50 Hz · LO +1.5 dB @ 100 Hz, BW 11. Bass-heavy material; BROAD off for focus.

09. INSTALL

FORMAT	FILE	DEFAULT LOCATION
VST3	SmithIslandEQ.vst3	Linux ~/.vst3/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\
CLAP	SmithIslandEQ.clap	Linux ~/.clap/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\

Smith Island EQ processes audio entirely offline. Visit mouseplugins.com/en/products/smithislandeq for support and updates. The full User Manual covers every control in depth.

COPYRIGHT + CONTACT

© 2026 MousePlugins / MouseDSP. All rights reserved.

Smith Island EQ, MousePlugins, the MousePlugins logo, and related product names are trademarks or trade names of MousePlugins / MouseDSP.

WEBSITE

mouseplugins.com

SUPPORT

support@mouseplugins.com

PRODUCT PAGE

mouseplugins.com/en/products/smithislandeq

LICENCE SUMMARY

This software, its documentation, graphics, presets, audio processing design, user interface, and related materials are protected by copyright and other applicable laws. You may install and use Smith Island EQ according to the licence supplied with the software. You may not redistribute, resell, sublicense, rent, lease, modify, republish, or make derivative works from the software or documentation without written permission from MousePlugins / MouseDSP.

You may not reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble, bypass licence checks, remove copy protection, or attempt to extract proprietary implementation details from the software, except where such restriction is not permitted by mandatory applicable law.

The full licence terms, third-party notices, and governing-law clause are included in the Smith Island EQ **User Manual**, available at the support page above.

INDEPENDENCE + PRIVACY

All third-party trademarks, plugin formats, host names, and product names mentioned in this guide belong to their respective owners. MousePlugins is independent and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by any third-party hardware or software manufacturer.

Smith Island EQ processes audio locally and verifies licences offline. No internet connection is required for normal use after activation.