

Get a good sound in 5 minutes.

Circuit-style passive program EQ. Tube and transformer colour. Theory later.



01. 3 CHAINS (PICK ONE)

A: Program EQ

Bus: Comp/DeEss → TheTrick → Limiter. Shape tone after dynamics.

B: Mastering Colour

TheTrick first → Bus Compressor → Limiter. Useful mastering-style placement.

C: Boost & Cut

LF Boost + LF Atten both up at 60 Hz. Start at -3 dB Output, then level-match by ear.

02. 3 STARTER SETTINGS

PRESET	LF BOOST	LF ATTEN	LF FREQ	HF BOOST	HF FREQ	OUTPUT
Kick & 808	45%	35%	60 Hz	30%	5 kHz	-3 dB
Vocal Air	25%	0%	100 Hz	40%	10 kHz	-1.5 dB
2-Bus Polish	20%	20%	30 Hz	25%	12 kHz	-1 dB

03. THE BOOST & CUT MOVE

Set LF Boost and LF Atten to non-zero values at the same LF Frequency. Two independent LC networks create a resonant low-end lift followed by a scoop above it. Bigger bottom, tighter low-mids.

STEP	ACTION
1	Pick LF Frequency (60 Hz for kicks, 100 Hz for bass, 30 Hz for 808s)
2	Set LF Atten to 40% first — hear the low-mids scoop out
3	Bring LF Boost up slowly from 0% until the bottom feels replaced (usually 30–60%)
4	Nudge LF Atten around 20–50% to tune scoop tightness
5	Pull Output down to match bypass loudness (often 1–6 dB depending on boost amount)

04. 3 FIXES

IT SOUNDS...	DO THIS
Muddy after LF Boost	Raise LF Atten to 35% at the same LF Frequency. That's the trick.
Harsh on HF Boost	Drop Width toward 0% (broader), or move HF Frequency down a notch.
Louder than bypass	Small boost changes add more loudness than you expect. Pull Output down and level-match before judging.

05. MICRO-RECIPES

Bigger kick without losing punch: LF Freq = 60 Hz, LF Boost = 50%, LF Atten = 35%, Output = -3 dB. Listen for: bottom octave thickens, low-mids tighten, transient stays intact.

Vocal air with controlled top end: HF Boost = 45% at 10 kHz, Width = 30%, HF Atten = 25% at 20 kHz, Output = -2 dB. Listen for: air above the vocal with controlled sibilance.

2-bus polish & sheen: LF Boost = 20% at 30 Hz, LF Atten = 20%, HF Boost = 25% at 12 kHz, Output = -1 dB. Listen for: subtle low-end body, open top.

06. QUICK REFERENCE

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES
LF Boost	Resonant low-shelf boost (0–100%)
LF Atten	Low-shelf cut, independent LC network (0–100%)
LF Freq	Shared frequency: 20 / 30 / 60 / 100 Hz
HF Boost	Resonant RLC peak (0–100%)
Width	Boost Q: 0% broad → 100% sharp
HF Freq	Boost frequency: 3 / 4 / 5 / 8 / 10 / 12 / 16 kHz
HF Atten	Independent shelving cut (0–100%)
HF Att Freq	Atten corner: 5 / 10 / 20 kHz
Output	Post-everything trim (-12 to +12 dB)

07. DON'T DO THIS

- **Don't** use TheTrick as a surgical EQ — 4 LF and 7 HF positions. Use a parametric for notches.
- **Don't** push Output up to compensate for boost — TheTrick gets loud fast. Pull Output *down* and compare properly.
- **Don't** automate LF/HF frequency selectors rapidly — they are stepped switches, not continuous. Automate Boost/Atten instead.

Theory curious? Read the full manual at mouseplugins.com/thetrick/manual. But get a good sound first.