



# Get a good sound in 5 minutes.

Circuit-style passive program EQ with tube/transformer-style 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 passive-style LF 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
<b>Muddy after LF Boost</b>	Raise LF Atten to 35% at the same LF Frequency. That's the trick.
<b>Harsh on HF Boost</b>	Drop Width toward 0% (broader), or move HF Frequency down a notch.
<b>Louder than bypass</b>	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, passive-style LF 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. BEST PRACTICES

- TheTrick is a broad program EQ. Use a parametric EQ for surgical notches.
- Level-match before judging changes. Boosts can add loudness quickly, so pull Output down when needed.
- LF/HF frequency selectors are stepped switches. For smooth automation, automate Boost, Atten, Width, or Output instead.

**Theory curious?** Read the full manual at [mouseplugins.com/thetrick/manual](https://mouseplugins.com/thetrick/manual). But get a good sound first.