



# Passive EQ. Sharp at both ends.

A program-style passive EQ built around the classic passive-EQ trick: boost and attenuate the lows at the same selected frequency to create weight with a tightening dip above it. Add a focused high boost, a smooth high-cut shelf, and linked or independent Stereo, L/R, and M/S workflows. Two knobs for the low trick, one high boost, one high cut — that's the whole idea.



LINKED STEREO / L/R / M/S

PROGRAM PASSIVE EQ

INTERNAL 2X OVERSAMPLING

VST3 / CLAP / STANDALONE

## 01. FIRST MOVE

### 1 THE LOW TRICK

Pick a **LOW FREQ**, then raise **BOOST** a few dB and **ATTEN** a similar amount. Boost and cut at the same frequency — that's the curve.

### 2 HIGH AIR

**HIGH BOOST** is a bell: pick **FREQ** (3-10 kHz), add 1-3 dB **BOOST**, set **BW** for width. **HIGH CUT** tames anything above.

### 3 MATCH LOUDNESS

Use **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN**, or trim **OUTPUT** manually, so bypass comparisons are close in loudness. Then judge tone instead of volume.

## 02. ANATOMY AT A GLANCE

### HEADER

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

### CHANNEL LANE

EQ graph + spectrum, then the three control banks: LOW, HIGH BOOST, HIGH CUT.

### GLOBAL

Mix (parallel blend), Link L/R, M/S Mode, Master Bypass.

### MID LANE (M/S)

Upper lane in M/S mode — magenta sweep. EQs the centre image.

### SIDE LANE (M/S)

Lower lane in M/S mode — red sweep. EQs the stereo width.

### INPUT / OUTPUT

Pre and post gain with optional Link and lane-aware **AUTO GAIN** (v1.1.0).

### 03. USEFUL STARTING POINTS

GOAL	MOVE	TIP
The low trick (kick / bass)	LOW 60 Hz, BOOST +5, ATTEN +5	Boost-and-cut at the same frequency is the whole signature.
Bass body	LOW 100 Hz, BOOST +3, ATTEN +1	More weight without thickening the sub.
Vocal air	HIGH BOOST 8 kHz, BOOST +2, BW 60%	Tame anything sharp with HIGH CUT 15 kHz.
Cymbal silk	HIGH BOOST 12 kHz, BOOST +2, BW 80%	Wider BW = smoother sheen.
Mix bus glue	LOW 60 Hz, BOOST +1, ATTEN +0.5 HIGH BOOST 10 kHz, BOOST +1.5	Gentle moves on the whole bus.
Wider top (M/S)	LINK off, M/S, SIDE HIGH BOOST 12 kHz +1.5	Brightens the side signal only; centre stays untouched.

### 04. STEREO, L/R + MID/SIDE IN 30 SECONDS



**Linked Stereo (default).** **LINK L/R** on. Both channels share the same parameter values, so The Trick behaves as one stereo EQ.

**Independent L/R.** Turn **LINK L/R** off. Both lanes get their own LOW / HIGH BOOST / HIGH CUT. Use it to shape the two channels asymmetrically.

**Mid/Side.** Turn **M/S MODE** on. With **LINK L/R** on, both lanes share values; with **LINK L/R** off, the upper lane processes **MID** and the lower lane processes **SIDE** independently. Use MID-only EQ for the centre image, SIDE-only EQ for width.

### 05. AUTO GAIN

Each of **INPUT** and **OUTPUT** has an **AUTO GAIN** toggle. When enabled, that stage targets the plugin's nominal **0 VU / -18 dBFS RMS** reference and hides the matching manual gain knob. 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 comparing with bypass so loudness is less likely to bias tone decisions. Switch it off and reach for OUTPUT when you want a deliberate level.

## 06. MIX KNOB (PARALLEL)

The **MIX** knob in the GLOBAL panel blends the processed signal with dry. At **100%** you hear pure Trick; lower it for parallel EQ — the EQ moves stay audible but the original tone is still in the mix.

## 07. COMPARE HONESTLY

### A / B

The header has an **A / B** toggle. A and B start as the same snapshot; tweak A, click B for a fresh path, then flip to compare.

### MASTER BYPASS

**BYPASS** in the GLOBAL panel hard-bypasses the whole plugin. Flip **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on, or trim OUTPUT manually, so the processed and bypassed signals are close in loudness — louder is not the same as better.

## 08. RECIPES

**The trick on kick:** LOW 60 Hz, BOOST +4, ATTEN +4. The same-frequency boost/cut adds low-end punch while pulling back some low-mid bloom above it.

**Bass focus:** LOW 100 Hz, BOOST +3, ATTEN +1.5. Pushes weight at 100 and tucks back the body just above so the bass sits with the kick.

**Vocal sheen:** HIGH BOOST 8 kHz, BOOST +2, BW 60% · HIGH CUT 15 kHz, ATTEN 3 dB. Adds air, removes sibilant edge.

**Side-only widener:** LINK off, M/S on, SIDE HIGH BOOST 12 kHz, BOOST +2, BW 80%. Brightens the sides only; centre stays clean.

**Master glue:** LOW 60 Hz, BOOST +1, ATTEN +0.5 · HIGH BOOST 10 kHz, BOOST +1.5, BW 50%. Tiny moves on the whole bus; use OUTPUT AUTO GAIN to compare.

## 09. INSTALL

FORMAT	FILE	DEFAULT LOCATION
VST3	TheTrick.vst3	Linux ~/.vst3/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\
CLAP	TheTrick.clap	Linux ~/.clap/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\
Standalone	TheTrick (executable)	Included in the package folder

**Linux installer:** from the extracted folder, run `./install.sh` (or `bash install.sh`) and choose VST3, CLAP, or both. If your system blocks execution, run `chmod +x install.sh uninstall.sh` first.

**Activation:** load the plugin, click the trial / licence chip in the header, paste your licence key, and follow the offline activation steps.

The Trick processes audio entirely offline. Visit [mouseplugins.com/en/products/thetrick](https://mouseplugins.com/en/products/thetrick) for support and updates. The full User Manual covers every control in depth.

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