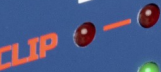


Bettermaker

PEQ_core

CLIP L R



SIG



ENGAGE



USB ON



ON/STBY



Bettermaker

USER MANUAL 06/2026

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING THE BETTERMAKER PEQ_CORE STEREO EQUALIZER!

Now you have access to many great features, such as:

- 100% analog audio signal path
- All parameters digitally controlled via dedicated VST/VST3/AAX/AU plugins
- Stereo passive equalization with an extended hi-boost section (air bands: 20 and 28 kHz)
- Adjustable output level (+/- 8 dB)
- Slim 1U design with an external power supply
- Signal/clip, engage, and USB connection indicators on the front panel



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Do not operate this unit in the presence of rain, liquids, or condensing moisture. Liquid entering the product enclosure presents a risk of electric shock, fire, or permanent failure. Use the unit in a well-ventilated environment. Make sure it is not exposed to high temperatures, as it may affect performance.

Use the provided AC/DC adapter only. It is compatible with a variety of mains voltages and the most common socket types worldwide.

There are no user-serviceable parts inside the unit. Do not remove the top lid, as this will void the warranty. In case of any questions or issues, please contact your dealer.



CONNECTIONS

For best audio performance, use balanced XLR cables and a high-quality USB cable. Please note that the USB link is for DAW control and recall only. It does not stream audio to the device; therefore, an XLR connection via AD/DA converters is required.

The unit requires an external power supply and will not operate using USB power alone.

FIRMWARE UPDATE

For the most recent versions of firmware and DAW plugins, please visit www.bettermaker.com.

Keeping your hardware and software up to date ensures full compatibility with the latest DAWs and operating systems, as well as a trouble-free workflow.

To begin the firmware update procedure, ensure the PEQ_CORE is powered on and connected to the DAW plugin. From the plugin USB MENU, select “Firmware Update” – the USB and ON LEDs will start blinking rapidly. Open the update application and follow the on-screen instructions.

If you decide to abort the firmware update procedure (not recommended if the process has already begun), hold the ON/STBY button for 5 seconds or power-cycle the unit by removing the DC plug from the back.

STATE MEMORY

Internal non-volatile memory will restore all settings after a sudden loss of mains power. It also remembers the last ON/Standby state and provides a power-cycle counter and an uptime clock (you can access all this information in the DAW plugin window).



Here is something to think about...
A live rack full of PEQ_COREs!

Two ENGAGE LEDs
indicate the bypass
state for the LEFT and
RIGHT channels

Signal presence
and clip indicators

The ON/STBY button
allows you to put the
PEQ_CORE into sleep
mode when not in use



What a nice
blue color :)



The white USB LED lights
up and blinks when the
device is connected to the
DAW plugin



The ON LED
lights up when
the unit is
powered up

DAW PLUGIN (AU/VST3/AAX)

The Bettermaker PEQ_core equalizer is delivered with a DAW plugin that allows you to control and recall all hardware settings, including gain, frequency, and output levels for both channels. Additionally, the plugin provides input and output metering, a spectrum analyzer, session snapshots, and an "Auto Audition" function—the currently selected band will be soloed, allowing you to hear the changes.



← MENU BAR

← SNAPSHOTS PANEL

← MAIN PLUGIN WINDOW

← FILTER CURVE PREVIEW with HANDLES and ANALYZER

← SMOOTH RESIZING CORNER

SETTINGS
MENU

PRESETS
MENU

UNDO
REDO

CHANNEL MODE
SELECTORS

DOUBLE
PANEL



↑
SNAPSHOTS
NAVIGATOR

↑
AUTO AUDITION
ON/OFF

↑
RTA AND FILTER
CURVE VIEW

SNAPSHOTS

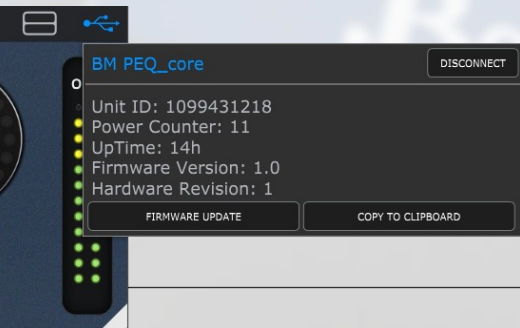
When the Snapshot button is pressed, a new panel will appear. Press the button again to hide it. You can program up to 32 states of the PEQ_core, which can be triggered using DAW automation. Each preset can contain a different set of snapshots. The Copy and Paste buttons are useful if you want to use one snapshot as a starting point for another. Use the left and right arrows to navigate or press the red numbers directly on the snapshot panel.

AUTO AUDITION

With this function is enabled, grabbing any handle will solo the corresponding band, making gain and frequency adjustments significantly easier. Using the plugin knobs will trigger the same behavior.

DOUBLE PANEL AND LINK/LEFT/RIGHT

The PEQ_CORE can operate in dual-mono or linked (stereo) mode. You can show or hide the unused channel using the Double Panel button.



CONNECTION MENU (USB icon)

A blinking icon notifies you that new hardware units are available in your system. Select a unit and click CONNECT. Your choice will be stored for future sessions. Firmware and hardware revision information, as well as the UPDATE FIRMWARE button, are also displayed in this menu.

INPUT
METERINGPASSIVE FILTER
SETTINGSOUTPUT GAIN
AND METERING**GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF ANALOG FILTERS**

The PEQ_core plugin simulates and displays the actual shape of the filter curve using mathematical calculations. Beyond providing visual feedback, the user can adjust the gain and frequency of each band using interactive on-graph handles, represented as dots.

There are four handles for the analog filters (LO BOOST, LO CUT, HI BOOST, and HI CUT). The HI BOOST curve can be adjusted using the mouse scroll wheel while hovering over the HI BOOST handle.

Double-click any knob to enter a value manually.

ANALOG LEVEL METERS AND RTA

Input and output level metering requires the hardware to be connected to the plugin. The spectrum analyzer uses audio data from the point in your DAW session where the PEQ_core plugin is inserted.

PRESETS MENU

Choose from a selection of artists' presets or save/load your own settings. Every preset may contain up to 32 automatable snapshots. All presets are stored on your computer's hard drive, not in the unit itself.

MAIN MENU ITEMS

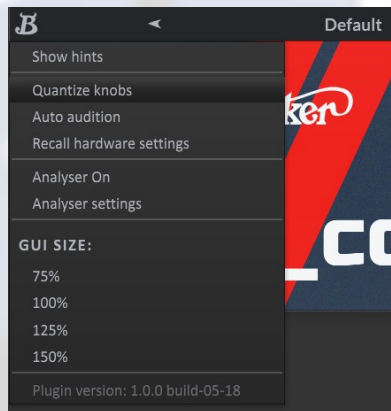
SHOW HINTS allows you to toggle the visibility of hints that appear in the bottom panel when you hover over various plugin controls.

QUANTIZE KNOBS reduces filter adjustment precision to one step per LED. Please note that this does not affect previously written DAW automation unless latch, touch, or write mode is active.

AUTO AUDITION (also available in the menu bar) allows the currently selected band to be soloed (isolated) from the audio spectrum.

RECALL HARDWARE SETTINGS is used if you have been using the PEQ_core in standalone mode (as it remembers all settings internally) and need to synchronize them with the DAW plugin.

ANALYZER ON/OFF & SETTINGS allows you to enable and configure the built-in RTA analyzer. It also displays the graphical simulation of the filter curve.



Analyzer settings window

ABOUT GUI SIZE

The menu provides a few standard GUI sizes to choose from. However, you can also adjust the size by grabbing the bottom-right corner of the plugin window (the white triangle).

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- Maximum input level: +24 dBu (balanced with 48k Ω input impedance)
- Maximum output level: +27 dBu (balanced with 50 Ω + 50 Ω output impedance)
- Nominal audio level: +4 dBu
- Frequency response: 7 Hz – 30kHz (-0.5 dB, ISO-R40 sweep)
- Frequency flatness: +/- 0.2 dB (20Hz – 20kHz, ISO-R40 sweep)
- Dynamic range: 101 dB (20kHz bandwidth, +24dBu)
- THD+N ratio: 0.009 % (20kHz bandwidth, +4dBu, 1kHz)
- THD ratio: 0.0025 % (+4dBu, 1kHz)
- CMRR: > 70dB (20Hz – 20kHz, IEC 60268-3)
- Crosstalk: > 88dB (20Hz – 20kHz, +18dBu, channel to channel)
- Max LF boost: 15 dB (set to 100 Hz)
- Max LF cut: 16 dB (set to 100 Hz)
- Max HF boost: 18 dB (all frequencies)
- Low boost/cut frequencies: 20, 30, 60, 100 Hz
- High boost frequencies: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 kHz
- High cut frequencies: 5, 10, 20 kHz
- Control Resolution: 101 steps (Lo Boost, Lo Cut, Hi Boost, Bandwidth) & 34 steps (Hi Cut)
- Output gain: +/- 8 dB (0.1 dB resolution)
- Unit height: 1U
- Depth: 140 mm
- AC power consumption: 15W (2W in standby, with included 100-240VAC power adapter)

SUPPORTED PLUGIN FORMATS

AAX Native, AU, VST3

PLUGIN MODIFIER KEYS

AU

Fine Control Shift

Set to default Alt

VST3

Fine Control Shift

Set to default Command (Mac), Ctrl (Win)

AAX

Fine Control Command (Mac), Ctrl (Win)

Set to default Alt (Mac), Alt (Win)

SUPPORTED OPERATING SYSTEMS

Mac

macOS 26 down to macOS 10.13, Intel or Apple Silicon architecture

PC

Windows 10 or 11, x64-compatible CPU

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Display resolution: 1440 × 900px or 1280 × 960px or higher

Memory: 2 GB RAM



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