INDEPENDENT AUDIO SOFTWARE

LYNCH Gain Stage

Give the next insert the right signal.



Set a sensible operating level by hand or capture representative audio with Learn. Review a bounded gain proposal, apply it once and keep the trim fixed. RMS, sample peaks and a selectable VU reference make the decision easier to judge.

Complete colour user guide · version 0.2.0 · Apple Silicon Mac AU · macOS 12+

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Start with the part

Set a sensible operating level by hand or capture representative audio with Learn. Review a bounded gain proposal, apply it once and keep the trim fixed. RMS, sample peaks and a selectable VU reference make the decision easier to judge.

01 / Input Trim sets gain from-36 to+24dB.

02 / Choose Auto, play a representative passage and press Learn.

03 / The proposal aims for the chosen Nominal RMS reference, while respecting the Peak Headroom target from the measured8x peak estimate plus0.3dB reserve.

04 / A proposal becomes stale after relevant target/trim/mode changes or state resets.

Inside the sound

Manual

Input Trim sets gain from-36 to+24dB.

Auto

Choose Auto, play a representative passage and press Learn.

Presets And Help

Auto Profiles choose target settings; they do not magically change gain without Learn/Apply.

Sound and approach

Set sensible operating level before the next insert, with clear input/output RMS, peak and VU-inspired readings. This is gain staging; it is not mastering loudness normalization or a continuously riding vocal compressor.

Manual

Input Trim sets gain from-36 to+24dB. Output Trim adjusts the level after the optional analog stage. Polarity reverses both channels. Mix0 and Bypass use the same96-sample delayed dry signal. Silence remains silence. Clean Init adds no analog color. The fixed96-sample latency is reported to the host.

Auto

Choose Auto, play a representative passage and press Learn. Capture uses complete 100mswindows and needs at least6seconds of useful audio; quiet/silent/DC-only windows do not count. Learn Duration chooses6–20seconds of useful material. Stop can finish earlier once6seconds are available; an insufficient capture cannot be applied. Capture stops after60seconds of wall time if useful material is missing. Any NaN/Inf encountered during capture rejects the proposal. DC-only material does not qualify; a DC Material warning explains why the useful counter stalls.

The proposal aims for the chosen Nominal RMS reference, while respecting the Peak Headroom target from the measured8x peak estimate plus0.3dB reserve. If the signal is very dynamic, peak headroom takes precedence; Peak Limited explains why the average level stays lower. Gain changes are bounded-36 to+18dB. Measurements, useful seconds, suggestion and warnings remain visible. Apply commits the suggestion to Input Trim with a smooth change. Gain then stays fixed until you change it or learn again. Auto/Manual switching does not itself change gain. Undo restores only the last Apply trim if it has not been manually edited since.

A proposal becomes stale after relevant target/trim/mode changes or state resets. Learn again for new material. Auto stages the signal BEFORE analog coloration; Drive and Output can change the final output level. Watch the output peak meter. Future peaks not in the capture can be higher, and a clipped source cannot be repaired by lowering its level. These are practical limits of any gain estimate.

Presets And Help

Auto Profiles choose target settings; they do not magically change gain without Learn/Apply. Init resets to neutral Manual. Save/Load stores your own settings; all sound parameters are exposed to DAW automation. Use ? for contextual help, Guide/Escape for this integrated page and Scale for six screen-bounded sizes.

Published context: Focusrite's official gain/headroom guidance, Sound Devices' VU/peak reference explanation and SSL Meter's selectable analog reference. This original software does not adjust physical interface gain or input voltage.

Reference And Color

Nominal reference is selectable-24 to-12dBFS, default-18. VU-inspired readings show300ms RMS relative to this chosen reference. They are not a calibrated analog voltage measurement;0VU does not universally equal one particular digital level. Peak readings and RMS are separately labeled. Optional Sample Protect is sample protection, not a true-peak limiter.

Clean bypasses analog coloration. Valve adds asymmetric tube-inspired saturation; Transformer adds a transistor/ClassA-inspired low-frequency saturation branch. Circuit On and Drive are independent from Auto. There is no forced hiss.

Install and choose the right host slot

Apple Silicon Mac, macOS 12 or later. Audio Unit only; no Intel Mac, Windows, VST3 or standalone application is included. Use an AU-compatible host and insert on an audio track, instrument audio output or bus.

Save your session before installation. Use the verified current installer and follow its installation prompts, then restart the host if the newly installed AU is not listed. Select the product under Lynch Audio Lab in the appropriate slot.

Trial and permanent licensing

Download the trial installer shown on the product page; the same installer is used for trial and purchase. No card is needed for the trial.

Open the plug-in, click Trial & Activation at the bottom and press Start trial to begin its full 14 days. Installing, opening a preset or downloading a guide does not start a new trial. Each product has its own trial. There is no subscription, automatic charge or periodic noise burst.

For a permanent purchase, use the exact Buy link on the product page. Lemon Squeezy supplies a license key in the receipt. Connect this Mac to the internet, click Trial & Activation at the bottom, paste the receipt key for this exact product and choose Activate. A permanent license allows a maximum of three computers. After successful activation, work offline.

To free a Mac’s activation, connect it to the internet, open Trial & Activation and choose Deactivate this Mac. This releases that computer without renewing or resetting trial dates. Presets, project settings and updates do not renew the trial and retain settings.

The login Keychain stores trial and license-key records separately from presets. If it is locked, unlock it normally and press Refresh in Trial & Activation. Keep the system date correct.

At expiry, audio effects return latency-aligned dry audio with normal reported latency; instruments are silent; MIDI tools stop output and release held notes. Presets and project settings remain. Purchase activation restores licensed processing rather than a new trial.

Save, recall and automate

Save the host project to retain the AU instance. Use the product-specific preset operations described in the control chapters for reusable sounds. Preset files, complete project state and controller assignments can have different scopes; do not treat them as interchangeable.

When using host automation, choose an exposed sound parameter, record a short test pass and replay from before the first change. Check module enables, routing and output level. Only use product-local MIDI Learn when this manual explicitly documents it; otherwise use the host’s controller-assignment workflow.

Troubleshooting and support

If the AU is missing, save your session, install the current package and restart the AU-compatible host. Check the required macOS version and Apple Silicon architecture, then review the host's plug-in manager. Do not delete a working production project to troubleshoot an insert.

For no sound or no processing, first check the correct slot, track input/output, incoming audio or MIDI, bypass/mute, module enables, mix/return amounts and trial or activation status. Test a simple documented starting point before adding a complex chain.

If the sound is too loud or distorted, reduce drive or output and inspect later inserts and the host master. Sample-peak protection does not guarantee intersample peaks. Source clipping cannot be repaired simply by lowering a later trim.

For dropouts, reduce active polyphony, unison, long returns or dense processing where applicable, or use the host's freeze/bounce workflow. A larger buffer can help scheduling; it cannot cure sustained processing overload.

For activation trouble, check the internet connection and use the key for this exact product from the Lemon Squeezy receipt. For help, contact info@lynchaudiolab.com with product version, macOS version, AU host and a short description. Never send your private license key publicly.

About this guide

Lynch Audio Lab · Music records a brighter tomorrow. This guide describes the released Audio Unit package. The control chapters preserve the supplied public operating documentation, with current-operation addenda integrated and obsolete private-test release labels removed. Images show the real product interface; some original panel lettering may predate the current package version. Original TXT documentation remains available separately.

Original Lynch designs are not measured hardware replicas or equipment-maker endorsements. Listen in context, maintain headroom and check the final deliverable after downstream processing. Support: info@lynchaudiolab.com.