

USER GUIDE • CHICKEN EQ

CHICKEN EQ *user guide*

Thank you for choosing the world's most chicken-shaped free dynamic EQ plug-in.

Chicken EQ is a zero-latency equalizer for cleaning resonances, shaping tone and adding a final top-end lift. Tenderizer works first, six cut-first radial bands handle broad or precise moves, and Pop Top completes the signal path.

COVERS THE STANDALONE CLAP, VST3 AND AUDIO UNIT PLUG-IN.



INPUT → TENDERIZER → CHICKEN EQ → POP TOP → OUTPUT

A USEFUL START

1 LOAD CHICKEN EQ

Insert the plug-in on a mono or stereo track. A fresh instance opens flat, with the complete path available and reported latency at 0 samples.

2 SET THE LEVEL INTO THE CHAIN

Use **Input Trim** when the incoming level needs correction. Leave comfortable headroom for any later boost.

3 CLEAN BEFORE SHAPING

Turn on **Tenderizer**, raise Tender until protruding resonances settle, then use Focus to make each cut broader or tighter. Hold Listen to hear the removed part.

4 DRAW THE EQ MOVE

Double-click the arc to add a band, or select one of the six, then drag its node. Angle follows frequency. Distance sets gain: inward cuts, while the outer zone provides up to 3 dB of regular lift.

5 FINISH AND COMPARE

Use Pop Top for the final high-frequency lift, set Output Trim, then compare complete sounds with A/B at a matched listening level.

SIGNAL ORDER MATTERS

Tenderizer receives the input before the six-band equalizer. Pop Top follows the equalizer. Input and Output Trim sit at the ends of that path.

PRECISE CONTROL

KNOBS

Drag vertically to change a value. Hold Shift for finer movement. The mouse wheel and arrow keys also change the focused control.

EXACT VALUES

Click a dial and type a number, or press Return to edit the value shown. Return applies it and Escape leaves the value as it was. One click opens a band's frequency the same way, to type it in hertz, in kilohertz or as a note such as A4.

DEFAULTS

Double-click a parameter control, or press Home while it is focused, to restore its default.

STAGE POWER

Each processing stage has its own power control. This makes it practical to judge one part of the chain while the rest of the sound stays in place.

INPUT TRIM — TENDERIZER — SIX BANDS — POP TOP — OUTPUT TRIM

TENDERIZER CLEARS THE WAY

SET THE RESPONSE

TENDER

Sets how deep each cut goes. Small moves count anywhere on the dial.

FOCUS

Widens or tightens each cut around its resonance. Broad reaches into the neighbouring region, while Narrow stays close to the peak.

TARGET

Chooses a useful tonal emphasis: Even, Open Top, Mid Punch or Warm.

SC 125 HZ

Reduces low-frequency influence on the response when bass energy is steering the result too strongly.

AUDITION THE REMOVED SIGNAL

Hold **Listen** to hear the part Tenderizer is taking away, lifted close to the level of your mix. Ringing tones mean it has found resonances. When the body of the music comes through, lower Tender or turn Focus toward Narrow.

Release Listen to return to the complete output. Listen is an audition control, so it is best used briefly while making a decision.

STARTING POINT

Raise Tender from zero until the problem sits back, then adjust Focus. Check the result in the full mix before adding more.

FREQUENCY AROUND THE RIM

PLACE A BAND

Double-click an empty point on the arc to add a band there. A single click on the arc clears the selection. The fan spans 20 Hz through 20 kHz. Pull a node inward for cut, or move it into the narrow outer lift zone for regular boost up to 3 dB.

Right-click a node to change its shape, rest it or delete it. Delete or Backspace removes the selected band.

Bell and Notch cover focused work. Low Shelf and High Shelf tilt the ends. High-Pass and Low-Pass remove material beyond their frequency. The control shelf follows the selected shape.

SHAPE THE CURVE

Q changes the width of a bell or notch and appears where the chosen shape supports it. A narrow setting isolates a small region. A broad setting moves more of the sound. With a band selected, the] and [keys step its Q, N switches to a narrow Q of 12 and back, and the two small ticks either side of the node set the width when dragged.

Slope sits where Q would on a High-Pass or Low-Pass band. It sets how steeply the band removes material beyond its frequency, in steps of 12 dB per octave up to 48.

Mute rests the selected band: it stops sounding and keeps its settings. Option-click a node, or press M, to rest or wake it.

FIXED

A CURVE THAT STAYS PUT

Fixed mode applies the drawn filter continuously. Use it for steady tonal balance, deliberate cuts and pass filtering.

ADAPTIVE

EXTRA REDUCTION WHEN NEEDED

Adaptive mode keeps the fixed curve and adds downward movement when the chosen region crosses its threshold. Switched on while music plays, a band whose threshold you have not set starts it where that region sits on the louder moments, so the band moves from the first press. Threshold and Ratio set the response, and a dot on the Threshold dial follows the band's level, lighting once it passes. Attack and Release shape its timing. GR Limit caps the movement.

FIND

LOCATE THE PROBLEM

Press F or click Find Mode. While its window is open, Chicken EQ analyses the incoming audio and numbers likely problem frequencies on the arc, each with a measured width. Tab visits them, holding A plays one exaggerated by 24 dB, and C cuts it into a free band at 6 dB. Shift+C cuts to the suggested depth. Find stays open and moves on to the next candidate. The thin trace behind the curve draws the same analysis after your EQ, so a peak Find numbers is visible there too.

FLIP

CHECK A CUT YOU MADE

Hold V, or hold Command while pressing a node, to hear that band's cut played as a 12 dB boost at the same frequency and width. Add Shift for 24 dB. Let go and the cut is exactly as you left it. Nothing is written to the project.

LISTENING AT A MATCHED LEVEL

Hold the S button to hear what a band adds or removes on its own. Hold Option with it, or hold B, to hear the mix without that band. A band still at 0 dB can also search: drag it outward past the boost edge to sweep a narrow 24 dB probe, then let go to move the band to the frequency you found. Every listen plays at the loudness of your mix, weighed as a loudness meter weighs it, and none of them is stored in the project.

05

FINAL STAGE

POP TOP LIFTS THE FINISH

CHOOSE THE REACH

Pop Top offers 10 kHz / 20 kHz / 40 kHz. Lower settings reach farther into the audible top end. Higher settings place more of the move above it.

SET THE LIFT

Raise Lift toward 12 dB while listening to the upper spectrum. Pop Top follows the six-band equalizer, so judge it after the main EQ work is settled.

LEVEL CHECK

Use Output Trim to compare at a similar loudness. A slightly louder result can seem clearer even when the tonal choice is less useful.

COMPARE COMPLETE SOUNDS

A/B

A and B hold two complete Chicken EQ sounds. Copy the current sound to the other slot, change one decision, then switch between them.

UNDO AND REDO

Use Undo to step back through edits and Redo to move forward again. These controls cover ordinary parameter changes made from the editor.

AUTOMATION

The processing controls are available to the host for automation. Record or draw automation using the parameter names shown by your DAW.

PROJECT RECALL

The plug-in saves its complete state with the host project, including both A/B sounds. Reopen the same plug-in format when moving a session between systems.

WHEN SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

NO SOUND

Confirm that the track is routed to the output, then check Input Trim, Output Trim and the host bypass state. Review any pass filter that could remove the part of the signal you expect to hear.

ADAPTIVE MOVEMENT STAYS STILL

Lower Threshold until the dot on its dial lights. A dot that never rises means the selected frequency is missing from the incoming signal. Check that GR Limit is above zero.

A LISTEN KEEPS PLAYING

Release the mouse and any held key: A, B, V or Shift. If the host captured the pointer, click the plug-in once. Listening never changes a band's settings.

THE SESSION REPORTS A MISSING PLUG-IN

Open Bitsnacks Vending Machine and run Repair for Chicken EQ. Restart the host so it scans the restored formats.

STILL STUCK?

BRING THE USEFUL DETAILS

Include your DAW, operating system, plug-in format and the shortest sequence that reproduces the problem.

GET CHICKEN EQ SUPPORT

OPEN THE VISUAL TOUR