HOW TO GAIN STAGE YOUR MIX

Gain

Stereo Out

VU Meter

| 0 |
| 3 |
| 6 |
| 9 |
| 12 |
| 15 |
| 18 |
| 21 |
| 24 |
| 30 |
| 35 |
| 40 |
| 45 |
| 50 |
| 60 |

M   S

Guitar

M   S

Stereo Out

VU
20 10 7 5 3 2 1 0 1 2 3
20 40 60 80 100
+

STEP 1:

Load up a gain plugin at the top of any tracks that are peaking above -6dBFS.

STEP 2:

Put a VU meter at the beginning of your stereo output and calibrate it to -18dBFS.

STEP 3:

Solo the loud tracks one by one, and play it around its loudest point.

STEP 4:

Turn the volume of the gain plugin up or down until the volume of the track is around 0 dB on the VU meter. That's the analog sweet spot.

STEP 5:

If you're using instrument busses, make sure you repeat the process with each bus once you've done your volume balancing.

STEP 6:

Find any channels that are peaking below -30dBFS and repeat steps 1-5, this time turning the channels up instead of down.