Musician
– ON A MISSION –

VOLUME BALANCING IN 10 SIMPLE STEPS

STEP 1:
Look for any channels that are peaking and reduce the gain with a gain plugin.

STEP 2:
Loop the loudest section of the song.

STEP 3:
Turn the faders all the way down.

STEP 4:
Listen to a few reference tracks to prime your ears.

STEP 5:
Decide on the most important channel (your vocal, snare, etc.) and set it to -5 dB.

STEP 6:
Bring in the second most important channel and balance its volume with the first channel.

STEP 7:
Continue in this manner, bringing up channels in order of importance.

STEP 8:
Once all the channels are up, spend at least 10 minutes adjusting the balance.

STEP 9:
Take a short break and listen again. You will likely find some final tweaks to make before you move on.

STEP 10:
Once you've finished your initial mix, play the song from the beginning and automate the volume of each instrument to fit.