Audio Processing Pipeline Diagrams

PURPOSE: Visual reference for the complete audio processing chain from API enqueue through queue management, decoder chains, buffer management, mixer, and audio output.

AUDIENCE: Developers, architects, and technical documentation readers

RELATED DOCUMENTATION:

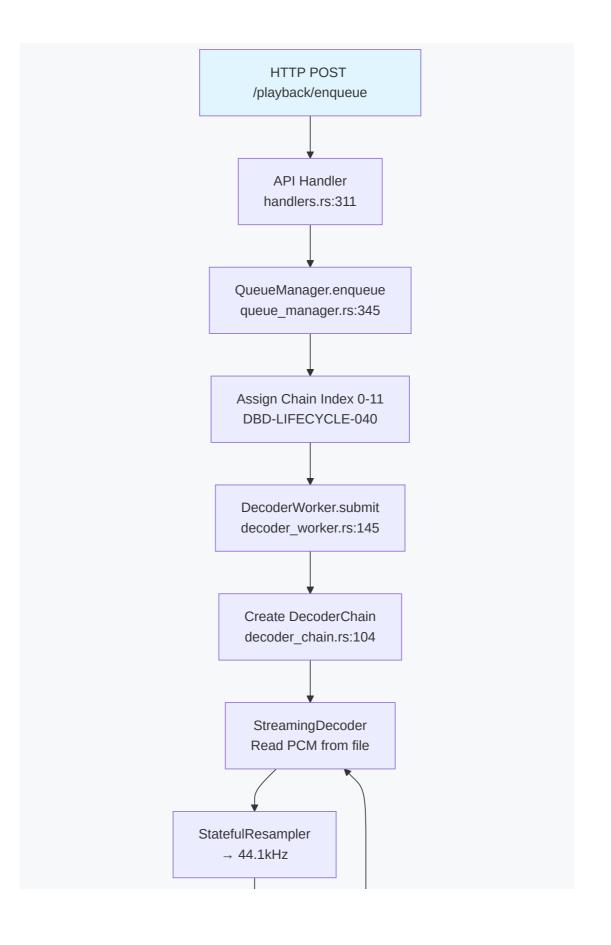
- SPEC016 Decoder Buffer Design
- SPEC013 Single Stream Playback
- SPEC014 Single Stream Design
- SPEC002 Crossfade Design

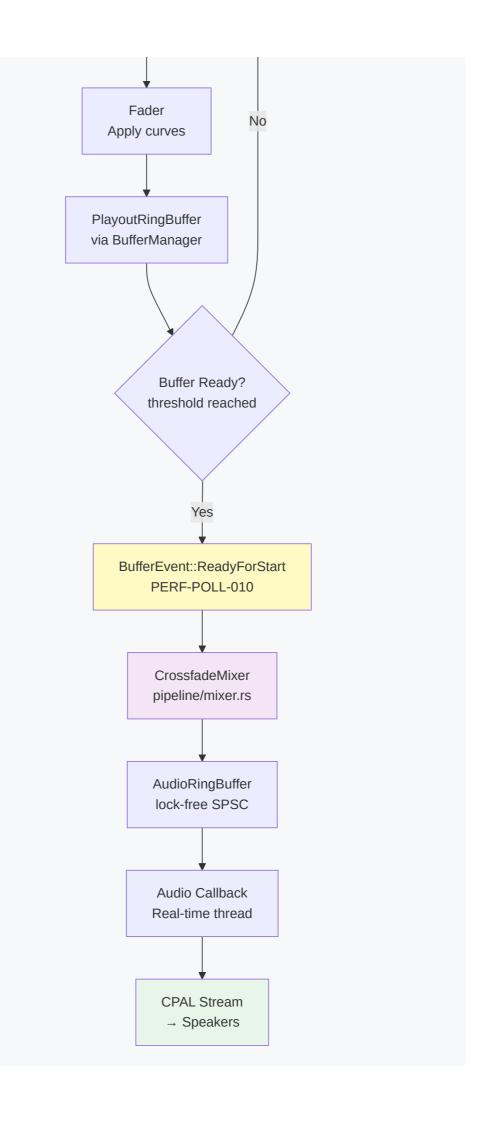
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- 2. Interaction Flow (Mermaid Sequence Diagram)
- 3. Buffer Lifecycle (Mermaid State Diagram)
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- 5. DBD-PARAM Parameter Mapping

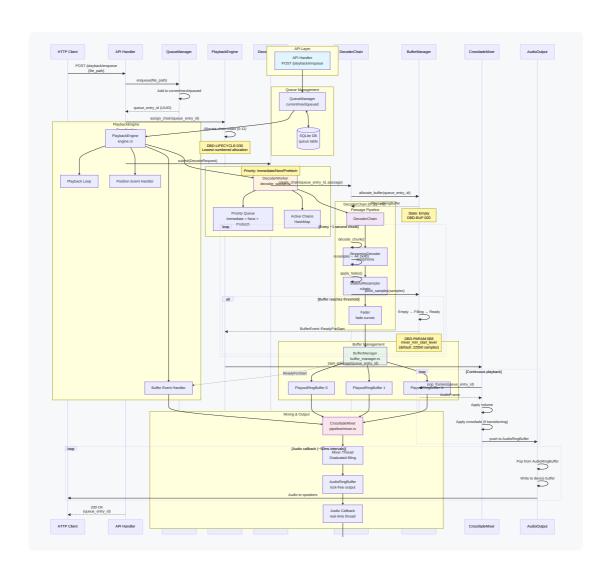
1. High-Level Overview

Linear Pipeline Flow





Component Architecture



2. Interaction Flow

Sequence Diagram: Enqueue to Playback

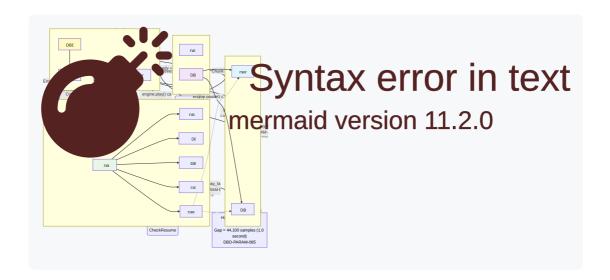
Event-Driven Architecture



3. Buffer Lifecycle

Buffer State Machine

Decoder Pause/Resume State Machine



Mixer Mode State Machine

Complete ASCII Pipeline Diagram

```
WKMP-AP AUDIO PROCESSING PIPELINE
                   (API → Queue → Decode → Mix → Output)
1. API REQUEST (handlers.rs:311-366)
  HTTP POST /playback/enqueue
       | EnqueueRequest { file_path }
   [API Handler: enqueue_passage]
       | PathBuf::from(file_path)
   engine.enqueue_file(file_path)
       | Emits: QueueChanged, QueueStateUpdate (SSE)
        └─→ Returns queue_entry_id (UUID)
2. QUEUE MANAGEMENT (engine.rs + queue_manager.rs:90-451)
   engine.enqueue_file()
       ├→ [Load/Create Passage from DB]
        • passages::get_passage_with_timing()
        • OR passages::create_ephemeral_passage()
       ├→ [QueueManager::enqueue]
          • State: current → next → queued[]
          • Updates play_order in database
       ├→ [Chain Assignment - DBD-LIFECYCLE-040]
        • Allocate chain_index (0-11 from pool)
        • chain_assignments[queue_entry_id] = chain_index
          • DBD-PARAM-050: maximum_decode_streams = 12
        └→ [Submit Decode Request]

    decoder_worker.submit(queue_entry_id, passage, priority)

           • priority = Immediate (current), Next, or Prefetch
3. DECODER WORKER (decoder_worker.rs:1-200)
  DecoderWorker receives DecodeRequest
       | Priority queue: Immediate > Next > Prefetch
       | DBD-PARAM-060: Check priority every 5000ms
   [Worker Loop - Single-threaded serial decoding]
       ├─→ Pending Request?
        ├→ Active Chains?
           └→ Process one chunk (~1 second audio)
               DBD-PARAM-065: 25,000 samples/chunk (at 44.1kHz)
```

```
└→ Retry if buffer has space
4. DECODER CHAIN (pipeline/decoder_chain.rs:1-200)
   DecoderChain::new(queue_entry_id, chain_index, passage)
        —→ [StreamingDecoder]
          • symphonia-based audio decoder
           • Reads from file (start_ms → end_ms)
           • Outputs PCM samples at source rate
        ├→ [StatefulResampler]
        • rubato-based resampler
        • Source rate → 44.1kHz (TARGET_SAMPLE_RATE)
        • DBD-PARAM-020: working_sample_rate = 44,100 Hz
           • Maintains state for streaming
        ├→ [Fader]

    Applies fade-in curve (at fade_in_point)

        • Applies fade-out curve (at fade_out_point)
        • 5 curve types: linear, exponential, etc.
        ∟→ [Buffer Allocation]
           • buffer_manager.allocate_buffer(queue_entry_id)
           • Creates PlayoutRingBuffer
           • DBD-PARAM-070: playout_ringbuffer_size = 661,941 samples (15.01s)
           • DBD-PARAM-080: playout_ringbuffer_headroom = 4,410 samples (0.1s)
           • DBD-PARAM-085: decoder_resume_hysteresis = 44,100 samples (1.0s)
   DecoderChain::process_chunk()
        [DBD-DEC-110] Process ~1 second chunks
        ├→ STEP 1: Decode
        decoder.decode_chunk() → Vec<f32> (PCM samples)
        ├→ STEP 2: Resample
           resampler.process(samples) → Vec<f32> (44.1kHz)
          DBD-PARAM-065: 25,000 samples output per chunk
        ├→ STEP 3: Fade
        fader.apply_fades(samples) → Vec<f32> (with curves)
        └─→ STEP 4: Push to Buffer
           buffer_manager.push_samples(queue_entry_id, samples)
            ∟→ Result:
               • ChunkProcessResult::Processed → Continue
               • ChunkProcessResult::BufferFull → Yield
                 (free_space ≤ playout_ringbuffer_headroom)
               • ChunkProcessResult::Finished → Done
5. BUFFER MANAGER (buffer_manager.rs:1-300)
  BufferManager maintains HashMap<Uuid, ManagedBuffer>
        ├→ [ManagedBuffer]
          • PlayoutRingBuffer (lock-free ring buffer)
          • BufferMetadata (state machine)
        • States: Empty → Filling → Ready → Playing → Finished
        \longmapsto [State Transitions - DBD-BUF-020 through DBD-BUF-060]
```

└─→ Yielded Chains?

```
├─→ Empty → Filling (first sample written)
          ├─→ Filling → Ready (threshold reached)
              • DBD-PARAM-088: mixer_min_start_level = 22,050 samples (0.5s)
               • For first passage: may use lower threshold (500ms)
              └→ Emits BufferEvent::ReadyForStart (PERF-POLL-010)
           ├─→ Ready → Playing (mixer starts consuming)
           ⊢→ [Decoder Pause Logic]
           • Pause when: free_space ≤ playout_ringbuffer_headroom (4,410)
           • Resume when: free_space \geq resume_threshold (48,510)
          • Resume threshold = DBD-PARAM-085 + DBD-PARAM-080
                  = 44,100 + 4,410 = 48,510 samples
          • Hysteresis gap = 44,100 samples (1.0 second)
        └→ [PlayoutRingBuffer Operations]
           • push_samples() - Decoder writes here
           • pop_frames() - Mixer reads here
           • Lock-free ring buffer with capacity tracking
           • DBD-PARAM-070: Capacity = 661,941 samples (15.01s @ 44.1kHz)
6. PLAYBACK ENGINE COORDINATION (engine.rs:346-530)
   engine.start() spawns multiple tasks:
   A. Playback Loop (playback_loop)
       • Monitors queue state
       • Triggers passage transitions
       • Calculates decode priorities
       • Submits decode requests
   | B. Buffer Event Handler
       (buffer_event_handler)
       • Receives BufferEvent::ReadyForStart
       • Triggers mixer to start passage
       • PERF-POLL-010: Instant startup
   | C. Position Event Handler
       (position event handler)
       • Receives PlaybackEvent from mixer
       • Updates SharedState
       • Emits PlaybackPosition SSE
   D. Mixer Thread
       (fills AudioRingBuffer)
       • DBD-PARAM-111: Check every 10ms
       • Graduated filling strategy:
```

- Critical (<25%): No sleep - Low (25-50%): 512 frames/wake

- Optimal (50-75%): 256 frames/wake

(DBD-PARAM-112)

(DBD-PARAM-113)
- High (>75%): Sleep

```
CrossfadeMixer::get_next_frame()
       | [State Machine - SSD-MIX-010]
        ├→ None (idle)
         └→ Check buffer_manager for ready passages
               • DBD-PARAM-088: Require 22,050 samples before start
               └→ Transition to Playing or Crossfading
        \longmapsto Playing (single passage)
           ├─→ Read frame from PlayoutRingBuffer
           • buffer_manager.pop_frames(queue_entry_id, 1)
          ├→ Apply master volume
        • frame.left *= volume
             • frame.right *= volume
           ├-→ Check for crossfade trigger
              • At fade_out_point_ticks
              • If next passage ready → Start crossfade
           L→ Emit PositionUpdate events (every ~1 second)
              • PlaybackEvent { queue_entry_id, frame_position }
        ├─→ Crossfading (two passages)
           \longmapsto Read from BOTH buffers simultaneously
           • old_frame = pop_frames(old_queue_entry_id)
           • new_frame = pop_frames(new_queue_entry_id)
          ├→ Apply crossfade curves
              • old_weight = fade_out_curve(progress)
           new_weight = fade_in_curve(progress)
           —→ Mix frames
           • mixed = (old_frame * old_weight) + (new_frame * new_weight)
           ├→ Apply master volume
           • Transition to Playing (new passage)
               • old_queue_entry_id marked Finished
               queue.advance()
        └─→ PausedDecay (pause mode)
            \longmapsto Start from last played sample
           \longmapsto Apply exponential decay per sample
              • sample *= decay_factor
               • DBD-PARAM-090: pause_decay_factor = 0.96875 (31/32)
            ├→ Check decay floor
            • If |sample| < pause\_decay\_floor \rightarrow Output 0.0
              • DBD-PARAM-100: pause_decay_floor = 0.0001778
            └→ On play: Linear fade-in over 500ms
8. AUDIO RING BUFFER (ring_buffer.rs)
  AudioRingBuffer (lock-free SPSC ring buffer)
       | DBD-PARAM-030: output_ringbuffer_size = 88,200 samples (2.0s)
       ├→ [Producer Side - Mixer Thread]
       • producer.push(AudioFrame)
       • Check interval: DBD-PARAM-111 = 10ms
```

```
    Graduated filling strategy:

             - Critical (<25%): Fill without sleeping
            - Low (25-50%): 512 frames (DBD-PARAM-112)
             - Optimal (50-75%): 256 frames (DBD-PARAM-113)
             - High (>75%): Sleep
        \sqsubseteq [Consumer Side - Audio Callback]

    consumer.pop() → Option<AudioFrame>

            • Real-time thread (no locks allowed)
           • Underrun detection with grace period
   Mixer Thread continuously:
        | DBD-PARAM-111: mixer_check_interval_ms = 10ms
        ├-→ Check fill level
        • occupied_len() / capacity()
        \longrightarrow Get frames from mixer
          • mixer.get_next_frame() → AudioFrame
        producer.push(frame)
           • Batch size depends on fill level (256 or 512)
9. AUDIO OUTPUT (audio/output.rs:1-200)
   AudioOutput::start(consumer: AudioRingBufferConsumer)
        [CPAL Stream with Real-time Callback]
        | DBD-PARAM-110: audio_buffer_size = 2,208 frames (50.1ms @ 44.1kHz)
        ├→ Build stream with data callback
```

```
└→ Audio Callback (runs in separate thread)
      [ISSUE-1] Lock-free ring buffer read
      ├─→ For each output_sample in output_buffer:
      \mid Pop frame from ring buffer
      • consumer.pop() → Option<AudioFrame>
         ├-→ Apply master volume
         • frame *= volume
          • output_buffer[i] = frame.left
             • output_buffer[i+1] = frame.right
      ├─→ Underrun handling
      • If pop() returns None → Output silence
      • Track underrun with CallbackMonitor

    Total callbacks

          • Underrun count
          • Timing statistics
└→ Stream plays continuously
   • DBD-PARAM-020: 44.1kHz, stereo, f32 samples
   • Buffer size: DBD-PARAM-110 = 2,208 frames
   • ~50ms latency @ 44.1kHz
   • Callback frequency: ~21.5 times per second
```

```
HTTP Request
API Handler (enqueue_passage)
QueueManager.enqueue(entry) + DB Insert
Engine: Assign Chain Index (0-11) [DBD-PARAM-050]
DecoderWorker.submit(DecodeRequest)
   1
DecoderWorker creates DecoderChain[chain_index]
| DecoderChain Pipeline (per chunk):
  StreamingDecoder (read file)
        1
| StatefulResampler (→ 44.1kHz) [DBD-PARAM-020]
  Fader (apply curves)
         1
| PlayoutRingBuffer (via BufferManager)
[DBD-PARAM-070: 661,941 samples = 15.01s]
[DBD-PARAM-080: 4,410 headroom = 0.1s]
[DBD-PARAM-085: 44,100 hysteresis = 1.0s]
{\tt BufferManager\ tracks\ state:}
   Empty → Filling → Ready → Playing → Finished
   Ready threshold: [DBD-PARAM-088] 22,050 samples (0.5s)
   Emits ReadyForStart event
Buffer Event Handler notifies Mixer
CrossfadeMixer reads frames from PlayoutRingBuffer:
   • Single passage: Playing mode
    • Two passages: Crossfading mode
    • Pause: Exponential decay [DBD-PARAM-090, DBD-PARAM-100]
Mixer Thread pushes AudioFrame to AudioRingBuffer
   [DBD-PARAM-030: 88,200 samples = 2.0s]
   [DBD-PARAM-111: Check every 10ms]
   [DBD-PARAM-112: 512 frames when low]
   [DBD-PARAM-113: 256 frames when optimal]
Audio Callback (real-time thread) pops from AudioRingBuffer
   [DBD-PARAM-110: 2,208 frames/callback = 50.1ms]
CPAL Stream → Audio Device → Speakers
   [DBD-PARAM-020: 44,100 Hz stereo]
 KEY CONCURRENCY NOTES
1. Single-threaded Decoder Worker (DBD-DEC-040)
  • Processes chains serially for cache coherency
  • Maintains HashMap of active DecoderChains
  • DBD-PARAM-050: Up to 12 chains (configurable)
  • DBD-PARAM-060: Priority check every 5000ms
2. Lock-free Ring Buffers (ISSUE-1)
  • PlayoutRingBuffer: Decoder → Mixer (per passage)
    - DBD-PARAM-070: 661,941 samples capacity
  • AudioRingBuffer: Mixer → Audio Callback (output)
    - DBD-PARAM-030: 88,200 samples capacity
  • No mutexes in audio callback path
```

- 3. Event-driven Architecture
 - BufferEvent channel: BufferManager → Engine
 - PlaybackEvent channel: Mixer → Position Handler
 - SSE broadcast: SharedState → HTTP clients
- 4. Graduated Filling Strategy (mixer thread)
 - DBD-PARAM-111: Check interval 10ms
 - DBD-PARAM-112: 512 frames when buffer <50%
 - DBD-PARAM-113: 256 frames when buffer 50-75%
 - Prevents underruns with adaptive batch sizes
- 5. Chain Assignment Pool (DBD-LIFECYCLE-030/040)
 - DBD-PARAM-050: 0-11 chain indices (default 12 chains)
 - Lowest-numbered allocation strategy
 - Persistent queue_entry_id → chain_index mapping

TRACEABILITY REFERENCES

- SSD-FLOW-010: Complete playback sequence
- DBD-BUF-010 through DBD-BUF-080: Buffer lifecycle management
- DBD-DEC-040, DBD-DEC-090, DBD-DEC-110: Decoder architecture
- DBD-PARAM-020 through DBD-PARAM-113: Configurable parameters (see next section)
- PERF-POLL-010: Event-driven buffer readiness (instant startup)
- ISSUE-1: Lock-free audio callback using ring buffer
- REQ-AP-ERR-010/011: Error handling and event emission

5. DBD-PARAM Parameter Mapping

Parameter Overview Table

Parameter	Name	Default	Unit	Applied Where
DBD-PARAM-010	General	N/A	-	Settings table storage
DBD-PARAM-020	working_sample_rate	44,100	Hz	Resampler output, throughout pipeline
DBD-PARAM-030	output_ringbuffer_size	88,200	samples	AudioRingBuffer capacity (2.0s)
DBD-PARAM-040	output_refill_period	90	ms	Mixer check interval (deprecated)
DBD-PARAM-050	maximum_decode_streams	12	count	Chain pool size, max concurrent decoders
DBD-PARAM-060	decode_work_period	5,000	ms	Priority queue check interval
DBD-PARAM-065	decode_chunk_size	25,000	samples	Resampler output per chunk (~1s @ 44.1kHz)
DBD-PARAM-070	playout_ringbuffer_size	661,941	samples	PlayoutRingBuffer capacity (15.01s)
DBD-PARAM-080	playout_ringbuffer_headroom	4,410	samples	Decoder pause threshold (0.1s)
DBD-PARAM-085	decoder_resume_hysteresis	44,100	samples	Pause/resume gap (1.0s)
DBD-PARAM-088	mixer_min_start_level	22,050	samples	Buffer ready threshold (0.5s)
DBD-PARAM-090	pause_decay_factor	0.96875	ratio	Exponential decay per sample in pause mode
DBD-PARAM-100	pause_decay_floor	0.0001778	level	Minimum level before outputting zero
DBD-PARAM-110	audio_buffer_size	2,208	frames	CPAL callback buffer size (50.1ms)
DBD-PARAM-111	mixer_check_interval_ms	10	ms	Mixer thread wake frequency
DBD-PARAM-112	mixer_batch_size_low	512	frames	Frames filled when buffer <50%
DBD-PARAM-113	mixer_batch_size_optimal	256	frames	Frames filled when buffer 50-75%
DBD-PARAM-114	Batch size rationale	-	-	Design documentation
DBD-PARAM-120	Default value rationale	-	-	Design documentation

Visual Parameter Mapping

Parameter Application Points

1. Chain Pool Configuration

- DBD-PARAM-050 (maximum_decode_streams = 12)
 - Applied in: engine.rs:289 Initialize available chains pool
 - Purpose: Limits concurrent decoder chains
 - Memory impact: Each chain allocates a PlayoutRingBuffer (~5.3 MB)
 - Total memory: 12 chains \times 5.3 MB = \sim 64 MB for playout buffers

2. Decoder Pipeline

• DBD-PARAM-020 (working_sample_rate = 44,100 Hz)

- o Applied in: decoder_chain.rs:148 StatefulResampler target rate
- Purpose: Standardizes all audio to 44.1kHz for mixing
- Affects: All downstream components (fader, mixer, output)
- **DBD-PARAM-065** (decode_chunk_size = 25,000 samples)
 - Applied in: decoder_chain.rs:145 Chunk size calculation
 - Purpose: Balances decode granularity vs overhead
 - Equivalent: ~566ms of audio @ 44.1kHz per chunk
- **DBD-PARAM-060** (decode work period = 5,000 ms)
 - o Applied in: decoder worker.rs:190 Priority queue check interval
 - Purpose: Prevents low-priority long decodes from starving high-priority
 - Behavior: Check priority between chunks, yield if higher priority pending

3. PlayoutRingBuffer Configuration

- **DBD-PARAM-070** (playout_ringbuffer_size = 661,941 samples)
 - Applied in: playout_ring_buffer.rs:126 Buffer capacity
 - o Purpose: Holds decoded audio per passage
 - Equivalent: 15.01 seconds @ 44.1kHz stereo
 - Memory: $661,941 \times 8$ bytes (f32 stereo) = ~ 5.3 MB per buffer
- **DBD-PARAM-080** (playout ringbuffer headroom = 4,410 samples)
 - Applied in: buffer_manager.rs:264 Decoder pause threshold
 - o Purpose: Reserves space for in-flight resampler output
 - Equivalent: 0.1 seconds @ 44.1kHz
 - **Behavior:** Decoder pauses when free_space ≤ 4,410
- DBD-PARAM-085 (decoder_resume_hysteresis = 44,100 samples)
 - Applied in: buffer_manager.rs:124 Hysteresis configuration
 - Purpose: Prevents pause/resume oscillation
 - Equivalent: 1.0 second gap @ 44.1kHz
 - **Resume threshold:** 44,100 + 4,410 = 48,510 samples free space

4. Buffer State Machine

- DBD-PARAM-088 (mixer_min_start_level = 22,050 samples)
 - Applied in: buffer_manager.rs:282 Ready threshold calculation
 - Purpose: Ensures sufficient buffer before playback starts
 - Equivalent: 0.5 seconds @ 44.1kHz
 - First passage optimization: May use 500ms instead of 3000ms
 - Event: Emits BufferEvent::ReadyForStart when threshold reached

5. Mixer Pause Mode

- **DBD-PARAM-090** (pause decay factor = 0.96875)
 - Applied in: mixer.rs (pause decay logic)
 - Purpose: Exponential decay to zero in pause mode
 - Formula: sample *= 0.96875 recursively each sample
 - Effect: Reduces "pop" when pausing
- **DBD-PARAM-100** (pause_decay_floor = 0.0001778)
 - Applied in: mixer.rs (pause floor check)

- Purpose: Threshold for switching to silence
- Behavior: When |sample| < 0.0001778, output 0.0 instead

6. Mixer Thread Configuration

- DBD-PARAM-111 (mixer_check_interval_ms = 10 ms)
 - Applied in: engine.rs:421 Mixer thread wake interval
 - Purpose: Controls mixer thread frequency
 - Trade-off: 10ms = lower CPU, more stable vs 5ms = more responsive
- DBD-PARAM-112 (mixer_batch_size_low = 512 frames)
 - o Applied in: engine.rs:488 Low fill level batch size
 - **Purpose:** Aggressive recovery when buffer <50%
 - o Behavior: Fill 512 frames per wake when critically low
- DBD-PARAM-113 (mixer_batch_size_optimal = 256 frames)
 - o Applied in: engine.rs:500 Optimal fill level batch size
 - **Purpose:** Steady-state operation when buffer 50-75%
 - Behavior: Fill 256 frames per wake to maintain level

7. Output Ring Buffer

- **DBD-PARAM-030** (output_ringbuffer_size = 88,200 samples)
 - Applied in: ring_buffer.rs AudioRingBuffer capacity
 - Purpose: Lock-free buffer between mixer and audio callback
 - o Equivalent: 2.0 seconds @ 44.1kHz stereo
 - **Memory:** 88,200 × 8 bytes = ~706 KB

8. Audio Output

- DBD-PARAM-110 (audio_buffer_size = 2,208 frames)
 - Applied in: output.rs:144 CPAL StreamConfig buffer size
 - Purpose: Audio device callback buffer size
 - Equivalent: 50.1 ms @ 44.1kHz
 - Callback frequency: 44,100 / 2,208 = ~21.5 times per second
 - Latency impact: Direct contribution to output latency

Parameter Interdependencies

Configuration Access Pattern

All DBD-PARAM parameters are:

1. Stored: SQLite settings table (see IMPL001 Database Schema)

- 2. Loaded: Once at startup in engine.rs:173-194
- 3. Applied: Throughout component initialization
- 4. Restart required: Changes require application restart

Example: Loading Parameters at Startup

This parallel loading pattern (PERF-INIT-010) reduces startup time from ~45ms (sequential) to ~10ms (parallel).

References

Primary Documentation

- SPEC016 Decoder Buffer Design Complete parameter definitions
- SPEC013 Single Stream Playback Architecture overview
- SPEC014 Single Stream Design Design details
- SPEC002 Crossfade Design Crossfading mechanics

Implementation Files

- engine.rs Playback engine coordination
- decoder_worker.rs Single-threaded decoder loop
- decoder_chain.rs Decode → resample → fade → buffer pipeline
- buffer manager.rs Buffer lifecycle state machine
- pipeline/mixer.rs Crossfade mixer
- audio/output.rs CPAL audio output
- ring_buffer.rs Lock-free AudioRingBuffer
- playout_ring_buffer.rs Lock-free PlayoutRingBuffer

Traceability

- SSD-FLOW-010 Complete playback sequence
- DBD-BUF-010 through DBD-BUF-080 Buffer lifecycle management
- DBD-DEC-040, DBD-DEC-090, DBD-DEC-110 Decoder architecture
- DBD-LIFECYCLE-010 through DBD-LIFECYCLE-060 Chain assignment lifecycle
- PERF-POLL-010 Event-driven buffer readiness
- ISSUE-1 Lock-free audio callback

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