Overview

Streaming services are huge now. And most of them have so-called loudness management algorithms. If the mix is too loud (compressed), they turn them down. If the mix is quieter than a certain threshold, they leave it quiet (well, most of them), so they will play back quieter than other music on a given platform. Each platform has its own target levels, different ways to measure them and different rules, and most of them don't tell you what exactly they are looking for loudness-wise, so it gets confusing pretty quickly. You can still choose to upload a more dynamic or more compressed mix than compared to platform's "target" level, but obviously you might want to keep it healthy. So how to keep your loudness in check?

StreamMaster is designed to help you with that. Switch it to Learn mode, play your mix through it so it can detect your source's loudness. Then switch to Master mode, choose your desired platform – and it's ready to print your mix! It lets you monitor intersample peaking (TP) and dynamic range (PSR) of your master. It also has more advanced Ceiling and Adjust controls to let you keep your intersample peaks in check and have more control over target loudness, respectively.

If you're a busy engineer and want to save extra time for quick turnaround projects, you will find it useful. If you don't know technical side of loudness management and want to focus on fun and creative side of work – if will be helpful for you as well!

Installation

MAC

Use the provided DMG installer of manually copy plugin of your format choice in its respective folder.

Usual directories are:

VST: /Libraries/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST2

AU: /Libraries/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

AAX: /Libraries/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins

Dont forget to restart your DAW or re-scan plugins in order fot it to appear in your plugin catalogue.

PC

Use the provided installer of manually copy plugin of your format choice in its respective folder.

Usual directories are:

VST: (depends on your DAW)

AAX: C:/Program Files/Common Files/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins

Dont forget to restart your DAW or re-scan plugins in order fot it to appear in your plugin catalogue.

How it works?

• It is intended to be used as a last plugin in your mastering chain (save for metering plugins and dithering).

• Workflow is represented by three modes: Learn, Master and Off

• Learn mode measures your mixes loudness while you play your mix through it (1x speed only!)

• For more precise results, you should play the whole song through the plugin in Learn mode. But if you want to save extra time, you can also play just the song's loudest section – the results have proven to be quite close that way too.

• Master mode applies a basic hard limiter to your mix according to measurements acquired in Learn mode and your settings

• Off mode is self explanatory. Also has a dedicated Bypass button for your convenience.

Target platforms

• Spotify & Tidal, Youtube. Target loudness values are based on Ian Shepherd's research. Please note that those values are empirical values since most streaming platforms do not disclose their algorithms. Those settings are the loudest you can get without your tracked being turned down and losing dynamic range.

• Broadcast. Quietest setting (-23 LUFS), based on EBU R128 guideline. Useful for podcasts, dialogue & vlog videos, and other sources that involve mostly speech.

• Apple music. Based on AES recommendations and Ian Shepherd's research. Ideal for Apple music (obviously), also is considered a reasonable middle-ground loudness for music.

• 00's Radio. Loudest setting (-6 LUFS). Initially intended as a gimmick – this is roughly where the most top-40 radio hits sit loudness-wise. Mixes with such amount of compression will be turned down in volume on all popular platforms that implement loudness management and will have considerable amount of distrotion (unless mixed specifically for loud masters). Not recommended to use in production unless absolutely needed to.

Features and controls

- Measures loudness in LUFS (integrated) based on EBU R128 standard

- Supports any sample rate

- 2-channel audio only

- Lets you choose sample peaking (limiter ceiling) to avoid intersample peaks. Range is -2..0 dB

- Lets you adjust target loudness in -6..+6 LUFS range, so you don't have to stick with the loudest master for any given platform

- Displays current integrated and short term loudness in Learn and Master mode

- Displays current and maximum gain reduction in Master mode

- Displays true peaking (TP) of the track (a.k.a. intersample peaking) in Master mode. Applies 4x oversampling for 96kHz sample rate and below, 1x for 192kHz and 2x for anything in between for TP measuring. If it peaks above zero, it's a good idea to adjust Peaking control to keep them below zero.

- Displays dynamic range as PSR in Master mode. PSR = $TP_{shortterm}$ - $LUFS_{shortterm}$ with 3s window. PSR = 8dB is used as a healthy dynamic range guideline. While LUFS is affected by volume, PSR is not, so it's a good way to monitor the amount of dynamics of your mix.

- Loudness and GR meters are resettable – just click on them! Resetting loudness meter in Learn mode also resets the LUFS metering filter.

- Learn mode is online (1x) only, Master mode allows you to print your master offline or online Works in most DAWs, including ProTools, Logic, Cubase, Reaper, Studio One and video editors (see available formats below)

- Supports Generic UI view

- Supports both macOS and Windows