

VOLUME BALANCING IN 10 SIMPLE STEPS

**STEP 1:**

Look for any channels that are peaking and reduce the gain.

**STEP 6:**

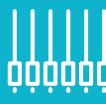
Bring in the second most important channel and balance its volume with the first channel.

**STEP 2:**

Loop the loudest section of the song.

**STEP 7:**

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

**STEP 3:**

Turn the faders all the way down.

**STEP 8:**

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

**STEP 4:**

Listen to a few reference tracks to prime your ears.

**STEP 9:**

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

**STEP 5:**

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

STEP 10:

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