LUKAS BACHMANN'S 2025

Mastering Chain

Flow of Plug - ins

Disclaimer

This is my own personal mastering chain. I am not recommending this as an end-all-be-all approach to mastering, but rather as a reference. Every setting in this chain should be experimented with to find a mastering style that works for you. It is critical to source from experts across the music industry to ensure that you find a mastering chain that sets you up for success.

I primarily focus on house music, and this mastering chain seeks to achieve higher perceived volume in exchange for slight distortion.

1: EQ

Goal: Remove mudiness from the sides. Allow drums, vocals, and instruments to come through clear.

Simple 18 dB/oct curve somewhere between 150 and 170 hz.
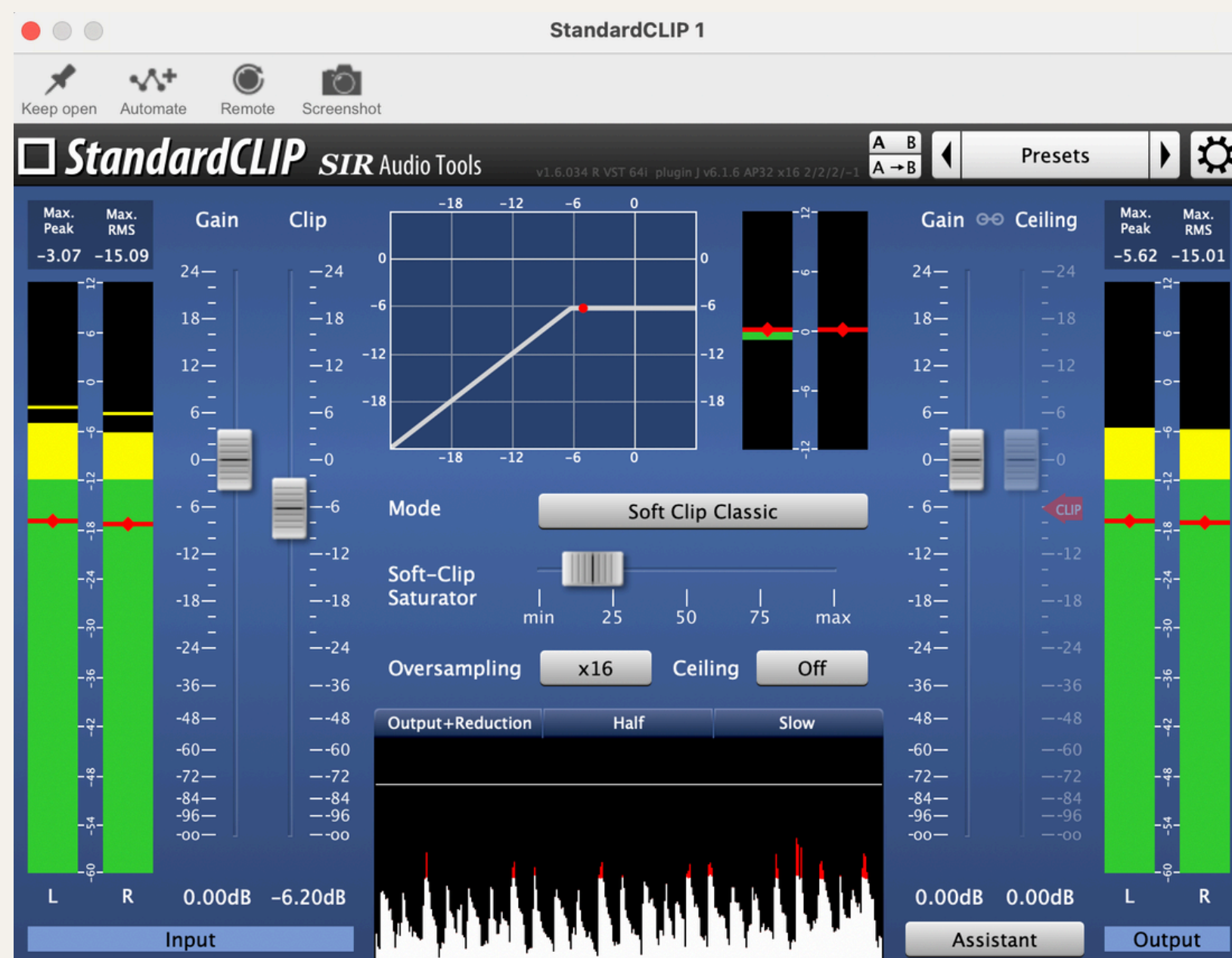
Ensure that "Side" is selected.

2: Clipping

Goal: Cut loudest dB spikes (most often from kick+drums) to clear headroom for the limiter.

Select "Soft Clip Classic."

Set oversampling to 16X or higher.

Push Soft-Clip Saturator to between 10-20 percent.

Reduce clip nob till it is slightly cutting off the peaks, but without creating overly audible distortion.

3: Limiter

Goal: Increase volume and perceived volume.

Select Transparent Style.

Set oversampling to 16X or higher.

True Peak Limiting off.

0.2 Lookahead time.

Release all the way to the left.

Output set to -0.2dB.

Attack knob all the way to the right.

Transients and release all the way to the left.

Dither off.

4: Oxford Inflator

Goal: Increase perceived volume.

Set effect knob anywhere between 10% to 80%.   Set curve knob anywhere between 0 and 15.

5: Additional EQ

Goal: Clean up muddiness and slightly boost high end for clarity.

Low Cut

Find muddy area somewhere between 160-200hz and create a narrow dip.

Right click to make the dip dynamic and place in the range of -0.5 to -2.5 dB.

High Boost

Create a median width boost at 5000hz.

Boost by 0.5 to 1.5 dB

Additional Resources

For weekly production tips, as well as track recommendations and more: <u>subscribe to my newsletter</u>.

<u>Personal Links</u>

<u>SoundCloud</u>

<u>Website</u>

<u>Instagram</u>

<u>Tik Tok</u>

<u>YouTube</u>

<u>YouTube Creators With Great Tutorials</u>

<u>Big Z</u>

<u>Streaky</u>

<u>Sage Audio</u>

<u>Sam Smyers</u>

<u>Zen World</u>

<u>Plug-ins Used</u>

<u>FabFilter ProQ-3</u> *(now the ProQ-4)*

<u>StandardCLIP - SIR Audio Tools</u>

<u>Oxford Inflator</u>

<u>FabFilter Pro L-2</u>