PSP ClassicQ
PSP ClassicQex





Operation Manual

www.PSPaudioware.com

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements....3
Special thanks go out to:....3
End User License Agreement....4
PSP ClassicQ....5
  PSP ClassicQ Controls....5
PSP ClassicQex....7
  PSP ClassicQex Controls....7
Preset Handling & View Options....9
  Preset Browser....10
  Favorite Presets....12
    Default preset....12
    Favorite preset slots....12
    Assign mode....12
  Copy / Paste....13
  A/B System....13
  Undo / Redo....13
  100% GUI resizing....14
  Config section....14
    Global settings....14
    Plugin information....15
    Product news....15
    Update notification....16
Specifications....17
Licensing / System Requirements....18
Support....19

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Finally, thanks to all our users around the world for ideas and help in development of new plug-ins!

Thanks to all our customers around the world for your ideas and help in the development of new plug-ins!

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05-806 Komorów,
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PSP ClassicQ



PSP ClassicQ is inspired by various classic British-style equalizers. It captures the sound and flavor of famously musical high and low filters (such as those in early Neve EQs), melded to very precise mid-range filter. In addition, PSP ClassicQ offers a selectable simulation of class A circuitry and output transformer for a unique, vintage-style color. To its classic features PSP ClassicQ adds extremely useful features such as an adjustable high pass filter, switchable Q for low- and high-shelf filters, and a sweepable midrange bell-type filter. The design of PSP ClassicQ lends it especially well to fixing and shaping individual tracks.

PSP ClassicQ also includes our unique second generation SAT(uration) option in the output section. This both protects against digital clipping in software or hardware following the plug-in, and adds a smooth, overdriven sound to hard-driven signals. The SATuration algorithm is located after output level control in PSP McQ's internal chain and its ceiling reference level is setup a fraction of dB below 0dBFS.

PSP ClassicQ Controls

EQL (EQ alL): Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage all the filters. Note that this does not bypass the plug-in, so the output level, the SIMulation algorithm and SAT feature are still operational.
SIM: This button engages (when illuminated) or disengages the Class A circuitry and transformer simulation. The Class A algorithm is located pre-output level control, and the transformer's simulation is post-output level control (followed by the SAT algorithm).
HPF: This button engages (when illuminated) or disengages the high pass filter.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the frequency of the high pass filter from 20Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 400 Hz (full clockwise).

Low Shelf Filter Section:
LF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the low frequency filter.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the frequency of the low frequency filter in four steps from 35 Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 220 Hz (full clockwise).
Hi Q: When engaged (illuminated), this function offers a steep, resonant, and punchy low-end characteristic of classic British EQs. Disengaged, the filter is more "polite" sounding.
dB Knob: This knob adjusts the boost or attenuation level of the low filter from -20 dB to +20 dB.

Midrange Filter Section:
MF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the midrange filter.
Q Dial: This knob adjusts the Q factor for the midrange filter. You can select a Q factor in five steps between .5 and 5.
Auto Q: When engaged, the plug-in enters “auto Q” mode in which the Q factor will increase progressively as you increase the amount of boost or attenuation of the signal and reach the nominal value at maximum of boost or cut. This is typical for bell-type filters in classic equalizers. Disengaged, the midrange filter works more like a surgical, static Q regardless of the level of boost or attenuation.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the nominal frequency of the mid filter from 50 Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 1000 Hz (full clockwise).
Hz x 10: This button, when engaged (illuminated), multiplies the frequencies of the Hz knob In other words, the range of the Hz knob when this button is engaged becomes 500 by 10. Hz to 10 kHz.
dB Knob: This knob adjusts the boost or attenuation level of the low filter from -20 dB to +20 dB.

High Shelf Filter Section:
HF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the high frequency filter.
Hz Dial: Turn this knob to adjust the frequency of the high filter in four steps from 5 kHz to 16 kHz.
dB Knob: This knob adjusts the boost or attenuation of the high filter from -20 dB to +20 dB.
Hi Q: When engaged (illuminated), this function offers a steep, resonant, and characteristic of classic British EQs. Disengaged, the filter is more “polite” sounding.
Output Section:
dB Knob: This knob boosts or attenuates the global output level. The output level is variable between -20 dB (full counter-clockwise) and +20 dB (full clockwise).
SAT: This turns on or off the Saturation algorithm described in the overview.
Output digital peak meter: This LED type meter indicates output level in the range of -20 to +3dBFS.

PSP ClassicQex



PSP ClassicQex is extended version of the PSP ClassicQ. All features of the previous version are available, and a new Low Mid section is added.

PSP ClassicQex Controls

EQL (EQ alL): Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage all the filters. Note that this does not bypass the plug-in, so the output level, the SIMulation algorithm and SAT feature are still operational.
SIM: This button engages (when illuminated) or disengages the Class A circuitry and transformer simulation. The Class A algorithm is located pre-output level control, and the transformer's simulation is post-output level control (followed by the SAT algorithm).
HPF: This button engages (when illuminated) or disengages the high pass filter.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the frequency of the high pass filter from 20Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 400 Hz (full clockwise).

Low Shelf Filter Section:
LF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the low frequency filter.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the frequency of the low frequency filter in four steps from 35 Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 220 Hz (full clockwise).
Hi Q: When engaged (illuminated), this function offers a steep, resonant, and punchy low-end characteristic of classic British EQs. Disengaged, the filter is more "polite" sounding.
dB Knob: This knob adjusts the boost or attenuation level of the low filter from -20 dB to +20 dB.

Low Midrange Filter Section:
LMF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the low midrange filter.
Hi Q: When engaged (illuminated), the Q factor for the low midrange filter is set to narrow range 3, otherwise it is set to 1 resulting in a wide bell range. The Q behavior works like in the Auto Q mode of the high midrange filter.
Hz Knob: Turn this knob to adjust the nominal frequency of the mid filter from 50 Hz (full counter-clockwise) to 1000 Hz (full clockwise).
dB Knob: This knob adjusts the boost or attenuation level of the low filter from -20 dB to +20 dB.

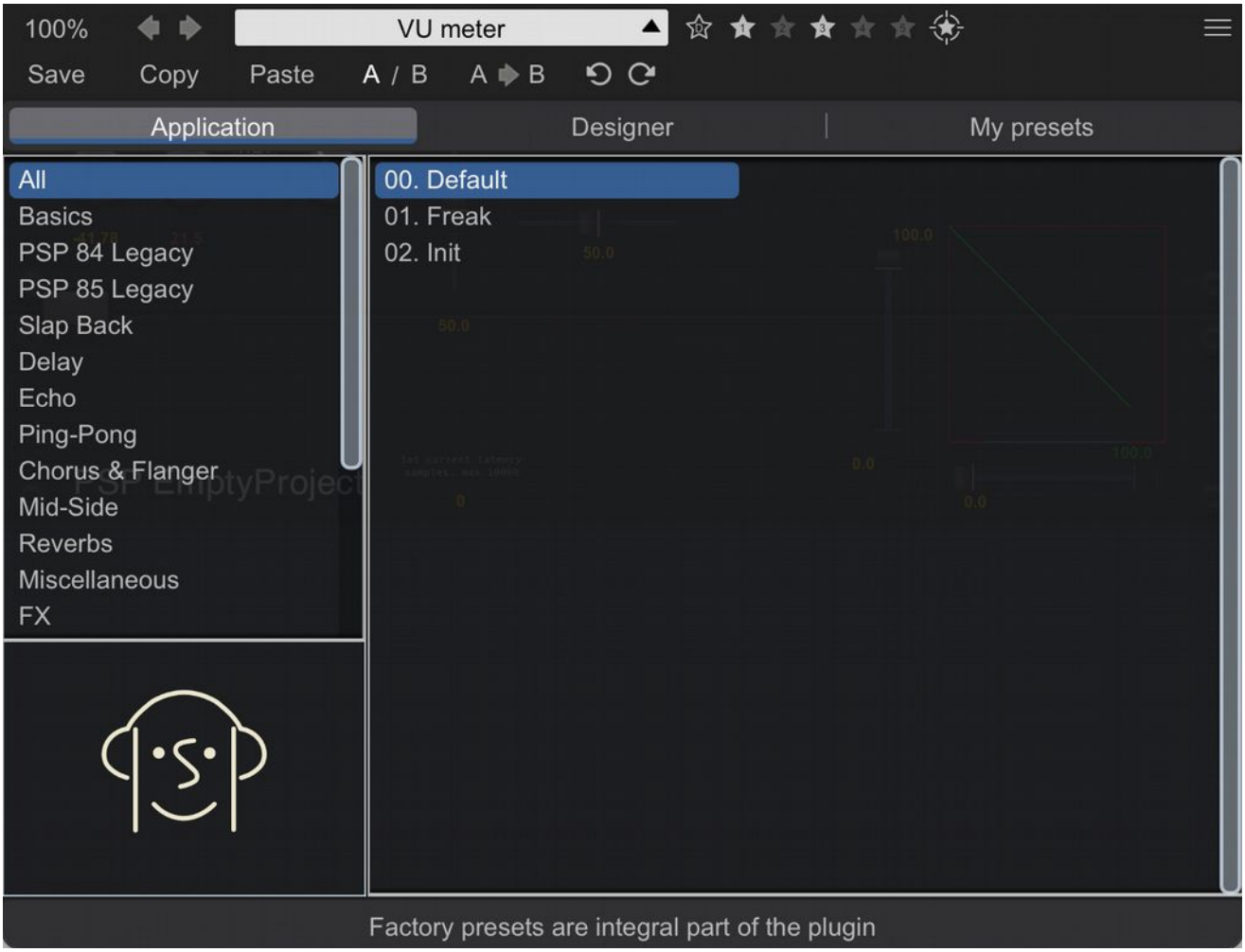
High Midrange Filter Section:
HMF: Click this button to engage (when illuminated) or disengage the midrange filter.
Q Dial: This knob adjusts the Q factor for the midrange filter. You can select a Q factor in five steps between .5 and 5.
Auto Q: When engaged, the plug-in enters “auto Q” mode in which the Q factor will increase progressively as you increase the amount of boost or attenuation of the signal and reach the nominal value at maximum of boost or cut. This is typical for bell-type filters in classic equalizers. Disengaged, the midrange filter works more like a surgical, static Q regardless of the level of boost or attenuation.
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Hi Q: When engaged (illuminated), this function offers a steep, resonant, and characteristic of classic British EQs. Disengaged, the filter is more “polite” sounding.
Output Section:
dB Knob: This knob boosts or attenuates the global output level. The output level is variable between -20 dB (full counter-clockwise) and +20 dB (full clockwise).
SAT: This turns on or off the Saturation algorithm described in the overview.
Output digital peak meter: This LED type meter indicates output level in the range of -20 to +3dBFS.

Preset Handling & View Options

PSP plug-ins include a selection of factory presets.
These presets provide useful starting points for further adjustments or quick drop-in settings for specific tracks.

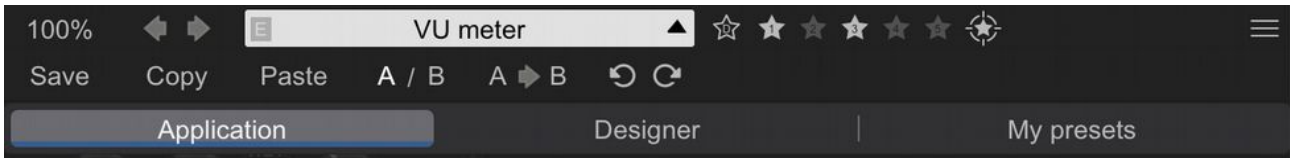
Presets are accessed via the standard PSPaudioware Preset Bar, located at the top of the plug-in interface.



Preset Browser

PSP plug-ins feature a comprehensive preset management and browser system.

The preset browser is opened by clicking the preset name field at the top of the plug-in interface.



The new preset management bar has three main categories which can be accessed with the tabs at the top of the preset browser: **Application**, **Designer**, and **My presets**.

Application - shows all factory built-in presets grouping by application.

< *Factory presets are built into the plugin and cannot be directly edited! You can adjust them and save separately as user presets.* >

Designer - shows all factory built-in presets grouped by patch designer.

My presets - shows only user presets.
This view shows all of the presets you have created and saved, or downloaded and added to your custom presets for PSP ClassicQ and PSP ClassicQex.
To add categories to the preset list, you can create new subfolders in the preset directory.

For Windows users, this is located at:

PSP ClassicQ: **C:\Users\Username\Documents\PSPaudioware.com\User Presets\PSP ClassicQ**
PSPClassicQex: **C:\Users\Username\Documents\PSPaudioware.com\User Presets\PSP ClassicQex**

For Mac users, this is located at:

PSP ClassicQ: **~/Documents/PSPaudioware.com/User Presets/PSP ClassicQ**
PSPClassicQex: **~/Documents/PSPaudioware.com/User Presets/PSP ClassicQex**

< *You can always check the exact path by clicking on the "Show file in Finder" tab at the bottom of the preset browser window.* >



To select a preset, click a preset name in the right window. When clicked, the preset will be applied so that you can audition it. To confirm the preset choice, you can click the preset name once more to load it.



The name of the currently selected preset can be edited by clicking the Edit Name (E) icon in the preset name bar, or by right-clicking the preset name field. The edited name is used as the proposed preset file name when the preset is saved or adding it to favorites.
Preset names can be up to 255 characters long.

Each preset has its own picture. You can click on it to open the patch designer's website.

Favorite Presets

The Favorite Presets system provides a fast and consistent way to recall and store a small set of user-defined presets directly from the plug-in interface. This mechanism is designed as a global concept and is shared across all PSP plug-ins that support Favorite Presets, ensuring identical behavior and workflow regardless of the specific product.



Default preset



This button recalls the currently assigned default favorite preset.
The default favorite preset defines the initial preset for all newly created plug-in instances and is automatically loaded whenever a new instance of the plug-in is created.
This allows the user to define a preferred starting state that replaces the factory initial behavior.

Favorite preset slots



The numbered star buttons represent user favorite preset slots.
Clicking a numbered star recalls the preset stored in that slot.
If a star icon is displayed in gray, no preset has been assigned to that slot yet. Once a preset is stored, the star becomes active and can be recalled instantly with a single click.

Assign mode



This button activates Assign mode for storing the current plug-in state into a selected favorite slot.
When Assign mode is enabled, the assign icon is highlighted with a reddish tint, indicating that the system is armed .
The mode remains active for approximately 10 seconds.
While armed:

- Clicking any star stores the current settings into that slot.
- Shift-clicking any star resets the preset slot to the factory initial state.

Assign mode is automatically canceled when:

- A favorite slot is selected and the preset is stored.
- Any other GUI control is adjusted.
- The timeout period expires.

Copy / Paste



The **Copy/Paste** feature lets you quickly transfer settings between instances of the plug-in.

To use this feature, you can click **Copy** at the top of the plugin below the preset browser window. Then, open a new instance of the plug-in on another track (or on the same track) and click **Paste** to paste the settings to the new instance of the plug-in.

This feature can be particularly useful for processing similar instruments or sounds, when only a few minor tweaks to the starting settings are needed for each specific track.

A/B System



The **A/B system** is for quickly checking and auditioning changes to the plug-in settings.

The **A/B Button** at the top of the interface below the preset browser window allows you to A/B between the current and previous setting of the plug-in. This can be used to audition changes made to your mix, or to audition between two presets.

The **A>B Button** quickly copies the settings of the **A** setting to the **B** setting. This allows you to save your place, so you can apply further tweaks and audition them with the **A/B Button**.

Undo / Redo



The **Undo/Redo** feature lets you step back and forth through the changes you make in the plug-in. Use the undo/redo buttons (CCW and CW arrows, respectively) located below the preset browser. An arrow is dimmed when there is nothing left to undo or redo in that direction.

Every move you make in the plug-in interface is one undo step: dragging a knob or slider from the moment you grab it until you release it, clicking a switch or a button, typing a value into a value box, loading a preset, recalling a favorite, pasting settings, switching between the A and B settings, or copying A to B. Undo restores the complete state of that step, including the preset name and the edited marker next to it. A step that did not change anything (a knob grabbed and released in place, the same preset loaded twice) is not recorded.

Changes that do not come from the plug-in interface are not recorded: automation playback, loading a session, and hardware controllers mapped on the host side. These belong to the host, so use the host's own undo for them. Undo and redo in the plug-in are themselves visible to the host as parameter changes and can be undone there as well.

The history holds the last 32 steps and is cleared when a session is loaded. Switching

between A and B is a step like any other, so undoing after a switch first returns to the previous setting and then continues with the changes made there.

100% GUI resizing



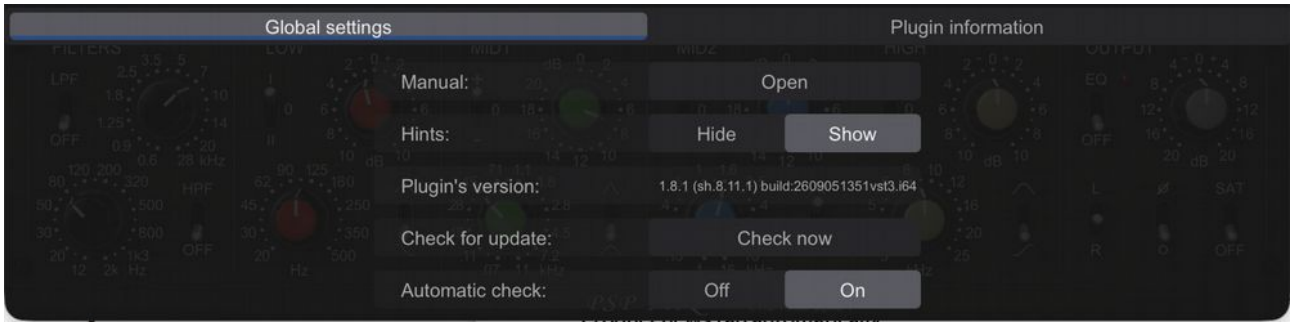
PSP McQ's window size is easily changed to suit your needs. To change the GUI zoom factor, simply hover your mouse over the zoom percentage number and scroll up or down with your mouse wheel or a two-finger touch on your touchpad.

Double-click the size number to reset the window to the default size of 100%. You can also resize the window simply by dragging its right bottom corner. For quick and precise size adjustments, single-click on the size number to pop up a menu of commonly-used sizes.

Config section



Clicking the three parallel lines icon in the top right corner will open the **CONFIG** menu. Here, you can open the manual, check the current plug-in version number, and choose to hide or show mouse-over hints. Click anywhere in the window to exit.



Global settings

The Global settings tab lets you open this manual, hide or show mouse-over hints, and read the exact plug-in version number. The two bottom rows control the update checker.
Check for update runs a check immediately. The result appears in the same row: Update found or Up to date. When the check finds anything to show, the menu switches to the Product news tab automatically.
Automatic check turns periodic checking On or Off. When On, the plug-in checks for updates when its window is opened, no more than once every 12 hours. When Off, the plug-in never connects to the network on its own. You can still check manually at any time with Check now. This switch is shared by all PSP plug-ins on your computer.

Plugin information

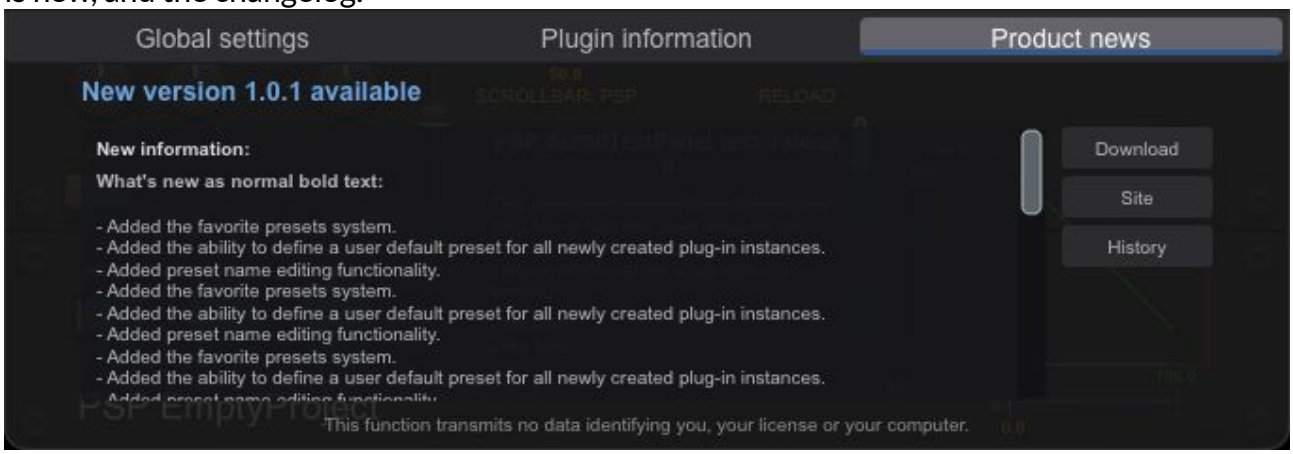
The Plugin information tab shows the plug-in name and its version number, as well as the current latency of the plug-in. The latency is indicated both in milliseconds and in samples.

This tab can also be accessed directly by clicking the plug-in's logo on the front panel.



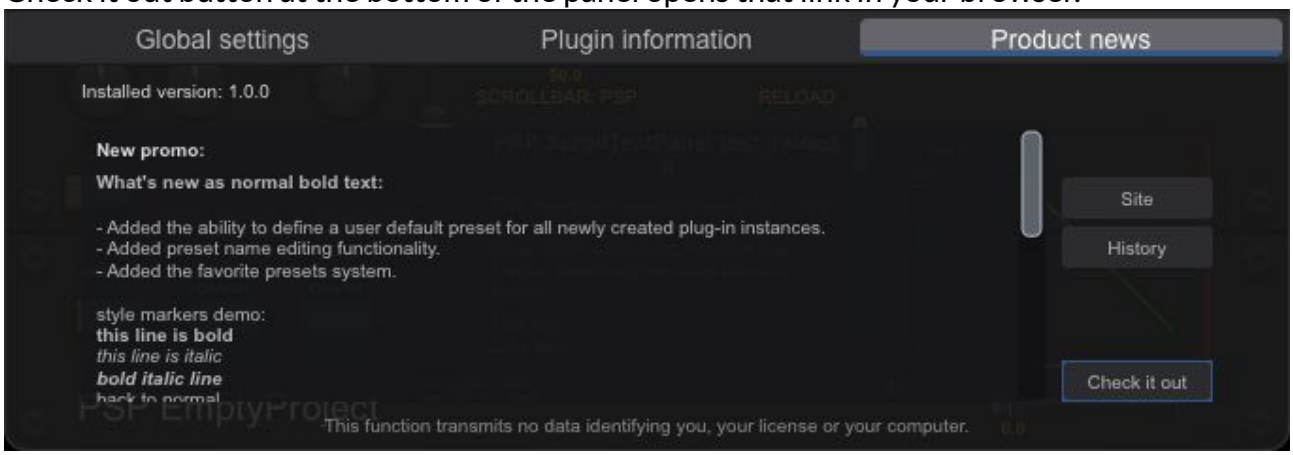
Product news

The Product news tab presents information delivered by the update checker. The top line shows the new version number when an update is available, or the currently installed version otherwise. The panel below carries the accompanying information, a short summary of what is new, and the changelog.



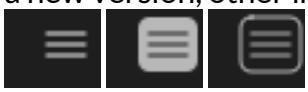
Action buttons appear next to the panel depending on the message. Download opens the download link for the new version in your web browser. Site opens the product page, History the version history, and Account your user account page. The set of buttons may vary from product to product.

Occasionally the news carries a link to related material, for example a video or an article. The Check it out button at the bottom of the panel opens that link in your browser.



Update notification

When the update checker has something to show, the CONFIG icon changes its look. A new version is signalled by the inverted icon, any other information by a thin outline around the icon. Opening the Product news tab restores the normal look. From the left: the normal icon, a new version, other information.



The update checker only downloads a small information file from our server. It transmits no data identifying you, your license, or your computer. If the computer is offline, the check quietly does nothing.

Specifications

- Double precision floating point computations.
- 32 and 64 bit floating point audio streams supported.
- Supports project sample rates up to 384 kHz.

Licensing / System Requirements

In order to run PSP plugins, you need to install the free **iLok License Manager** application, but you don't need a hardware iLok key (“dongle”). By default we provide 3 licenses which can be activated in 3 separate locations, each of which can be either a computer or an iLok dongle (2nd generation or above). You can move these licenses at any time using PACE's iLok License Manager software.

Windows

VST

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit VST3 compatible application

VST3

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit VST3 compatible application

AAX

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit Pro Tools

All DAWs

- Up to date iLok License Manager application installed

macOS Intel or macOS AppleSilicon

AudioUnit

- macOS 10.14 – macOS 26 Tahoe
- 64-bit AudioUnit compatible host application

VST

- macOS 10.14 – macOS 26 Tahoe
- 64-bit VST3 compatible application

VST3

- macOS 10.14 – macOS 26 Tahoe
- 64-bit VST3 compatible host application

AAX

- macOS 10.14 – macOS 26 Tahoe
- 64-bit Pro Tools

All DAWs

- Up to date iLok License Manager application installed



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Support

If you have any questions about any of our plug-ins, please visit our website:

www.PSPaudioware.com

Where you can find the latest product information, free software updates, online support forum and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Problems with the installation, activation or authorization?
Please watch our troubleshooting video tutorials on our YouTube channel.

You can also contact us by e-mail: support@PSPaudioware.com.
We will gladly answer all of your questions. As a rule we respond within 24 hours.

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