sheenQ

Five Bands and a Sheen

noizplay

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Overview



sheenQ is a musical equalizer with sheen: five fixed bands with a character of their own, a sweepable mid band, and the SHEEN high shelf that adds air from 2.5 kHz all the way up to 40 kHz.

the bands are not surgical. Boosting one lifts the whole spectrum a little, and the bands sum in parallel, so stacked boosts stay musical instead of piling up. Cuts stay narrow and go deep.

mid reaches what the fixed bands cannot target: a narrower bell you sweep from 300 Hz to 8 kHz — for boxiness, honk or presence.

sheen is the air band above them: a wide shelf whose corner you choose between 2.5 and 40 kHz — on both channels, or on the mid or the side signal only.

lo cut and **bass mono** tidy up the bottom end before and after the bands, and **gain** follows the trim stored in each preset, so presets compare at equal loudness.

Signal Flow

lo cut → coloration → sub · 40 Hz · 160 Hz · 650 Hz · 2.5 kHz · mid · SHEEN (parallel) → bass mono → gain

A fixed subsonic filter (12 dB/oct at 10 Hz, always on) keeps sub boosts from lifting inaudible energy below the audio band. It has no control and is skipped by the host's bypass.

EQ Controls

sub	Bell at 10 Hz. Range: −5 … +5
40 Hz / 160 Hz / 650 Hz	Bells. Range: −5 … +5 each
2.5 kHz	High shelf. Range: −5 … +5
mid	Sweepable bell, narrower than the fixed bands. Range: −5 … +5. At 0 it is out of the signal path, so it has no on/off switch.
mid freq	Centre of the mid bell. Range: 300 Hz – 8 kHz.
sheen	Gain of the SHEEN high shelf — the air band on top. Range: 0 … 20. The header button switches SHEEN on and off.
sheen band	Corner of the SHEEN shelf: 2.5, 5, 10, 20 or 40 kHz. The higher the corner, the more the shelf turns into pure air.
sheen mode	**stereo** — SHEEN on both channels. **mid** / **side** — SHEEN on the mid or the side signal only, the other one untouched. Ignored on mono tracks.

> **Knob values:** the five bands and mid are marked −5 … +5 like the panel they are modelled on, not in dB. On the five bands, full cut reaches about −12 dB; full boost between +16 and +20 dB depending on the band, with the pedestal lifting the rest of the spectrum a little. mid has no pedestal: it reaches about ±10 dB at its frequency and leaves the rest alone.
>
> **mid** is not the same as the *mid* button of sheen mode, which means the mid signal (the centre of the stereo image).

The Curve

Below the 160 Hz, 650 Hz and 2.5 kHz knobs sits the response curve: the combined result of all bands, SHEEN, lo cut and bass mono, drawn from the same code as the audio path.

- **solid** — the mid signal (or the whole signal on mono tracks).
- **dashed** — the side signal, shown whenever it differs: SHEEN in mode mid or side, or bass mono active.

The vertical scale is fixed: ±24 dB with 0 dB in the middle, so the same setting always looks the same. The slopes of lo cut and bass mono run out at the bottom of the display.

Low sample rates

The curve ends at half the session's sample rate, and the display is dimmed beyond that point: nothing above it reaches the output. At 44.1 or 48 kHz the limit lies past the right edge, so the whole curve shows. It becomes visible when the DAW runs at a low rate — REAPER, for example, follows the audio device, and a Bluetooth headset in its headset (microphone) profile runs at 16 kHz; the curve then stops at 8 kHz and the rest of the display is dark. The audio is not affected. Switching to another output device brings the full curve back.

Input & Output Section

lo cut	24 dB/oct high-pass on the input, ahead of everything else. Range: 20 – 200 Hz. The header button switches it on and off.
bass mono	Everything below this frequency is summed to mono; above it the stereo image stays as it is. Range: 60 – 250 Hz. The header button switches it on and off.
gain	Output level. Range: −24 … +12 dB, 0 dB at the centre. The header button **gain follow** is lit while gain follows the trim stored in each preset (see *Presets*). Turning the knob takes over and switches follow off; a double-click on the knob follows the preset again. Clicking the header switches follow on or off by hand.
True Peak Meter	Level after gain. Peak-hold remains until you click the meter or restart the DAW. Values > 0 dB shown red.

Switchable Controls

sheen, lo cut and bass mono have an on/off switch in their header button. Switched off, the stage is fully bypassed and its knob is greyed out.

- Clicking a greyed-out knob switches the stage back on — activate and drag in one gesture.
- Clicking a greyed-out value display switches the stage on and opens direct entry right away.
- The sheen band and sheen mode buttons work while sheen is off; the choice takes effect once sheen is switched on.
- All switches are automatable and stored in presets.

Operation

Sliders	Drag vertically, or click the value display for direct entry. Type plain numbers — units are optional (lo cut and bass mono also accept “Hz”, gain accepts “dB”). mid freq takes Hz or kHz: “450”, “3.2” or “3.2 kHz”
Double-click	Set slider to default value — on gain: follow the preset trim again
Undo / Redo	Cmd+Z / Cmd+Shift+Z (Ctrl on Windows)
a/b	Compare / copy two independent settings
Presets	Factory and user presets via the menu in the header.
Info Menu	Buy / enter a license, About dialog, links to useful information and the update group: what’s new, “Check for update” or “New version available”, “Auto-check for updates”.
Update Icon	While the automatic check is on and a newer version is out, the info icon turns into an arrow down in the same circle, until you skip that version. A click opens the info menu as usual.
UI Size	via the icon in the top right corner

Presets

The factory presets are organized by instrument in six groups, up to fourteen presets each:

vocals	Lead and backing vocals: presence, air, weight and warmth, plus fixes for boxy, muddy, thin or harsh takes; rap and spoken word.
drums	Kick, snare, hi-hat, toms, cymbals, percussion, overheads, room mics and the drum bus.
bass	Electric and synth bass: DI cleanup and weight, fingerstyle, pick, slap, growl, mud and clank cut, mono foundation, 808 sub.
guitars & keys	Acoustic and electric guitars, piano, Rhodes, organ, pads and synth strings.
horns	Trumpet, trombone, sax, flugelhorn, French horn, low brass, brass stabs and the horn section.
mix bus	Bus and master starting points: smile, tilts bright and warm, forward, sub focus, mud control, sheen wide, stem air, presence and vocal pocket, master low tight and polish.

Default sits below the groups — the flat starting point.

Each factory preset carries a gain trim that keeps the loudness close to the unprocessed signal, so presets can be compared without the louder one winning. While *gain follow* is lit, gain takes that trim with every preset; turn gain by hand and it stays where you put it across preset changes. A preset stores every control.

Renaming a Preset

1. Save the preset under a new name
2. Preset menu / Options “Open preset folder”
3. Delete the old preset file
4. Preset menu / Options “Refresh preset menu”

Renaming the preset file directly does not work.

Demo & Licensing

There is only one download of sheenQ — the license unlocks the build you already installed.

Demo mode

Without a license the output fades to silence for a moment from time to time; nothing else is restricted, and the demo never expires.

Buying a license

Buy sheenQ at noizplay.com (or *Info menu → Buy license*). After checkout your personal license is

- shown directly on the confirmation page, and
- sent to you by email (from *team@licenses.noizplay.com* — check your spam folder if it doesn't arrive).

The license is a short block of text:

```
---COPY LICENSE STARTS WITH THIS LINE---
Product: sheenQ
Licensed to: Jane Doe <jane@example.com>
mF4kZXIiOi...
---COPY UP TO AND INCLUDING THIS LINE---
```

Entering your license

1. Copy the whole block, **including the COPY lines**.
2. In the plugin: *Info menu → Enter license…* — or click the DEMO hint at the bottom right.
3. Paste the block and click *Activate*.

The bottom right now reads *Licensed to <your name>*, and the demo fade is gone — in every format and every DAW on this machine.

Activation is offline — your license keeps working forever, even if noizplay ever disappears.

The license file

Activating stores a license file on your machine (exact location per platform: see *Files & Folders*). To license another computer, simply paste the same block there — or copy the license file into the same place.

Lost your license?

Write to support@noizplay.com and the license will be re-sent to you. Keeping the license email (or a copy of the block) with your backups is a good idea.

Notes

Why the bands sum in parallel

Each band is a pedestal plus a shape: a small lift across the whole spectrum with the bell or shelf on top. Because the five run side by side and are summed afterwards, two boosts next to each other add up to a broad, gentle lift instead of a peak on a peak — that is what keeps stacked boosts musical. Deep cuts are the exception: they run in series, so stacked cuts stay as deep as they look. mid joins the same sum, without a pedestal.

mid

The fixed bands are wide on purpose, and they leave gaps: between 160 and 650 Hz, where boxiness sits (about 250 – 450 Hz), and around 800 Hz – 1 kHz, where horns and voices honk. mid closes them, and higher up it adds or tames presence (2 – 5 kHz). Its bell is narrower than the fixed bands, it boosts and cuts like them — narrower on boost, wider on cut — and it does not lift the rest of the spectrum. Above 8 kHz, SHEEN takes over.

sheen on mid or side

In mode *mid*, SHEEN brightens only what sits in the centre — a lead vocal or a kick — and leaves the width alone. In mode *side* it opens up the stereo information only: room, reverb, doubled guitars, backing vocals. The curve shows the side signal dashed whenever it differs from the mid.

gain follow

Factory presets are trimmed to sit at about the same loudness as the dry signal. With *gain follow* lit, switching presets is a fair comparison; once you turn gain yourself, the link breaks and your level is kept across presets. Double-click gain to follow the preset again.

lo cut

lo cut sits at the very input, ahead of the bands. Use it to take rumble and handling noise out before a sub or 40 Hz boost can lift it; the steep 24 dB/oct slope keeps the cut tight.

bass mono

bass mono sums only the low end to mono and leaves everything above its frequency in stereo — for a solid centre on bass, kick and the mix bus without narrowing the rest.

Bypass

sheenQ has no bypass control of its own. The DAW's bypass fades the plugin out and in click-free while its latency stays reported, so the host's delay compensation keeps the track in time.

Update Check

sheenQ checks for a newer version when its window opens, at most once per day. The request goes to noizplay.com and carries the product, its version, the plug-in format, the operating system, the processor type and the host application — nothing that identifies you or your computer, and nothing about your license. Without a connection nothing happens. "Auto-check for updates" in the info menu switches the check off; the choice is kept in the settings file (see *Files & Folders*).

"Check for update" in the info menu asks at once, also while the automatic check is off, and shows the answer in a note. While the automatic check knows a newer version, the entry reads "New version available" and its note offers the download. After the download: quit your DAW, run the installer and start the DAW again. "Skip version" in the note turns the arrow back into the info icon; the entry stays, and the next version is announced again. If noizplay.com cannot be reached, the note says so.

Files & Folders

Where sheenQ places its files. The installer lets you choose the plug-in formats — only the ones you tick are installed.

macOS

Plug-in (VST3) `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/sheenQ.vst3`
Plug-in (AU) `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/sheenQ.component`
Plug-in (AAX, Pro Tools) `/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/sheenQ.aaxplugin`

User presets `~/Music/Audio Music Apps/noizplay/sheenQ/presets/`
License file `~/Music/Audio Music Apps/noizplay/sheenQ/.license`
Settings file `~/Music/Audio Music Apps/noizplay/sheenQ/.settings`
Legal documents `/Library/Application Support/noizplay/sheenQ/Documentation/`
(license agreement and third-party notices; each plugin also carries a copy inside its bundle, under `Contents/Resources/Documentation/`)
Preset file extension `.nppreset`

> ~ is your user home folder.
> /Library (without ~) is the system-wide library.
> Files starting with a dot are hidden in Finder — press Cmd+Shift+. to show them.
> `Audio Music Apps` is Apple's folder for audio-plugin data. It is the one place every host can reach, including sandboxed ones like GarageBand, so your license and presets are the same in all of them.

Windows

Plug-in (VST3) `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\sheenQ.vst3`
Plug-in (AAX, Pro Tools) `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\sheenQ.aaxplugin`

User presets `C:\Users\%USERNAME%\Documents\noizplay\sheenQ\presets`
License file `C:\Users\%USERNAME%\Documents\noizplay\sheenQ\.license`
Settings file `C:\Users\%USERNAME%\Documents\noizplay\sheenQ\.settings`
Legal documents `C:\ProgramData\noizplay\sheenQ\Documentation\`
(license agreement and third-party notices; each plugin also carries a copy inside its bundle, under `Contents\Resources\Documentation\`)
Preset file extension `.nppreset`

> %USERNAME% is your Windows account name.

OneDrive

Many Windows setups move the Documents folder into OneDrive (“PC folder backup”). sheenQ follows this redirect, and the noizplay folder is then inside your OneDrive, e.g. `C:\Users\%USERNAME%\OneDrive\Documents\noizplay\sheenQ\` (the exact name varies, e.g. `OneDrive - <company>`, or a translated name for `Documents`).

- **Keep the files on this PC.** With *Files On-Demand* turned on, OneDrive may keep only an online copy of a file. If that happens while you’re offline, sheenQ may not be able to read your license or presets, and it will run as demo. To avoid this, right-click the `noizplay` folder and choose *Always keep on this device*.
- **Syncing between PCs works.** The license is not tied to one computer, so your license and presets appear on every PC that uses the same OneDrive. The license agreement says which machines you may use.

Uninstall

macOS

Remove the plugin by deleting the items located in /Library:

- `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/sheenQ.vst3`
- `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/sheenQ.component`
- `/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/sheenQ.aaxplugin`
- `/Library/Application Support/noizplay/sheenQ/`

These are system-wide and require administrator rights.

Windows

Uninstall sheenQ via *Settings / Apps / Installed apps*. This removes the plugins and the legal documents:

- `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\sheenQ.vst3`
- `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\sheenQ.aaxplugin`
- `C:\ProgramData\noizplay\sheenQ\`

These are system-wide and require administrator rights.

Your presets and license are kept

Your user presets, your license file and the settings file (see *Files & Folders* above for the exact locations on each platform) are **not** touched by the steps above. Leave the noizplay folder in place if you might reinstall sheenQ later. If you delete it as well, keep a copy of your license email — you’ll need the license block to activate again.

More Info & Disclaimer

Find more info at noizplay.com

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