USER MANUAL

Dogma Q

Analog-matched parametric equalizer

Up to 24 free bands in 64-bit precision, each one following its analog prototype all the way to 20 kHz, with no latency. Eight shapes, slopes up to 96 dB/oct, Mid/Side, per-band solo, Auto Gain and three phase modes.



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This manual covers Dogma Q 0.3 for Windows. Screenshots may show an earlier build; the controls are the same. The latest edition is always at isaac-audio.rotabox.workers.dev/manuals/.

CHAPTER 01

Introduction

Dogma Q is a parametric equalizer built like a laboratory instrument. Every band is computed in 64-bit precision and matches the curve of its analog prototype right up to 20 kHz, where ordinary digital EQs bend and cramp. And it does that with no latency at all.

Analog-matched curves

Bells, shelves and cuts keep the shape of their analog counterparts across the whole audio band, at every sample rate, with zero latency.

24 free bands

Create a band anywhere with a double-click. Eight shapes, slopes from 6 to 96 dB/oct, a Q from 0.025 to 40.

Three phase modes

Zero Latency, Analog Phase (the analog phase response as well as its magnitude) and Linear Phase in five resolutions.

Mid/Side and per-band placement

Each band works on both channels, left, right, mid or side; switch the whole EQ between Left/Right and Mid/Side.

Listen to one band

Solo plays only the part of the spectrum a band acts on, so you can find a resonance before you cut it.

Gain Scale and Auto Gain

Make a whole curve stronger or gentler with one knob, and compare at matched loudness with Auto Gain.

Thirty factory presets in five categories, A/B comparison, undo and redo, MIDI Learn, a high-resolution analyzer and a resizable window complete the picture.

CHAPTER 02

Installation and activation

Dogma Q installs in about a minute. One installer puts every format in the folder your DAW already scans.

System requirements

- **Windows 10 or 11**, 64-bit, and a 64-bit DAW. *A macOS version (Apple Silicon and Intel, macOS 11 or newer) is on its way; it is included in your license at no extra cost.*
- A host for one of the formats below, or none at all.
- **Microsoft Edge WebView2 Runtime**, which draws the plugin window. It is part of Windows 11 and almost every Windows 10. If it is missing, the installer offers to open Microsoft's download page.
- Administrator rights: plugins are installed in the shared Windows folders.

FORMAT	HOSTS
VST3	Cubase, Nuendo, Studio One, Ableton Live, FL Studio, REAPER, Bitwig, Cakewalk and most others
CLAP	REAPER, Bitwig Studio, FL Studio, Studio One
AAX	Pro Tools (the AAX is signed by PACE, as Pro Tools requires)
Standalone	No DAW needed: Dogma Q runs as its own application with your audio interface

Installing

1. **Close your DAW.** Windows locks a plugin file that is loaded, and the installer cannot replace it. Pro Tools in particular must be closed.
2. **Run** `Dogma-Q-…-Windows-Setup.exe` (double-click) and approve the Windows permission request.
3. If Windows shows **"Windows protected your PC"**, click `More info` and then `Run anyway`. SmartScreen warns about any installer it has not seen many times before.
4. Choose the language and accept the license agreement.
5. **Choose the formats.** The default installs all of them. Untick what you do not need, for example AAX if you do not use Pro Tools.
6. Click `Install`, then `Finish`. The Start menu now has an **Isaac Audio › Dogma Q** folder with the standalone application.

Where the files go

ITEM	FOLDER
VST3	`C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\Dogma Q.vst3`

ITEM	FOLDER
CLAP	`C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\Dogma Q.clap`
AAX	`C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\Dogma Q.aaxplugin`
Standalone	`C:\Program Files\Isaac Audio\Dogma Q\Dogma Q.exe`

Updating and removing

Updating: run the new installer over the old one. There is no need to uninstall first, and your presets and settings are kept.

Removing: `Settings › Apps › Installed apps`, then **Dogma Q › Uninstall**. Your own presets stay in your Documents folder.

> INSTALLING FROM THE ZIP INSTEAD
>
> Extract the whole zip to a folder first (right-click › Extract All); do not run anything from inside the zip. Double-click **Install Dogma Q.bat** and approve the permission request: it copies the plugin formats to the folders above. **Uninstall Dogma Q.bat** removes them.

Activation

Dogma Q needs a license file to pass audio. There are two kinds: the license of a purchase, tied to your computers, and the personal license of the beta programme.

If you bought Dogma Q

Your license covers **two computers**. Activating one takes a minute:

1. **Open Dogma Q** in your DAW. Without a license, the window shows a short notice with a button: `Activate this computer`.
2. Click it. Your browser opens **your account** on our website, with this computer's code already filled in. Sign in with the link from your purchase email if you are asked to.
3. Optionally give the computer a name ("Studio PC"), then click `Activate and download the license`.
4. **Leave the downloaded file in your Downloads folder.** The plugin finds it within a few seconds and starts working; you do not need to restart the DAW. It shows its terms once: click `I agree`.

> GOOD TO KNOW
>
> The license file is valid for 60 days, and the plugin renews it by itself in the background whenever the computer is online. If a computer stays offline longer than that, activate it again from your account: it is the same computer, so it does not use another slot. To move the license to a new computer, release the old one under **Active computers** in your account (up to three times a year; write to us if you need more).

If you are a beta tester

Testers use one personal file for all the Dogma plugins: `ISAAC-AUDIO-Beta-License.isaaclic`, issued in your name.

- **Downloaded the zip from the beta site?** The license is already inside it, and both the installer and **Install ... .bat** copy it to `Documents\Isaac Audio\Beta`. Nothing to do.
- **Don't have it?** Sign in to the beta site and click `Download license` on the downloads page. On Windows you can leave it in Downloads: the plugin finds it there.
- The first time you open the plugin, it shows the beta terms with your name once. Click `I agree`.

License details and status

Click the **version number** under the plugin's name, in the top-right corner of the window, to see whom the license is issued to and until when, and to open the feedback page.

> WITHOUT A LICENSE
> The plugin passes no sound and shows a "license required" notice with buttons to the website and the license folder. As soon as a valid file is in place, it unlocks by itself within a few seconds.

CHAPTER 03

Loading Dogma Q in your DAW

After installing, open your DAW. Most hosts scan the plugin folders at launch. The plugin is called **Dogma Q**, the vendor is **Isaac Audio**, and it is listed under **EQ**.

HOST	IF IT DOES NOT APPEAR	WHERE TO FIND IT
Pro Tools (AAX)	Scans at every launch: if Pro Tools was open while you installed, quit and reopen it.	Insert › plug-in › EQ › Dogma Q
Cubase / Nuendo	Usually automatic. Otherwise: Studio › VST Plug-in Manager › Rescan.	Insert slot › EQ › Dogma Q, or by vendor: Isaac Audio
Studio One	Options › Locations › VST Plug-ins: tick Scan at startup, or Reset Blocklist; restart.	Browser › Effects › Isaac Audio › Dogma Q, drag to the channel
Ableton Live	Settings › Plug-Ins: turn on Use VST3 Plug-In System Folders, then Rescan.	Browser › Plug-Ins › VST3 › Isaac Audio › Dogma Q. Open the window with the small wrench icon in the device title.
FL Studio	Options › Manage plugins › Find installed plugins; tick the star next to it to add it to the menu.	A free Mixer insert slot › Dogma Q
REAPER	Options › Preferences › Plug-ins › VST › Re-scan (CLAP: Plug-ins › CLAP › Re-scan).	FX button on the track, search "Dogma"
Bitwig Studio	Automatic. The VST3 and CLAP folders are active under Settings › Locations › Plug-ins.	Browser › Devices › Isaac Audio › Dogma Q (CLAP preferred)

Menu names are those of current versions and may differ slightly in yours.

Everyday behaviour in every host

- **Keyboard:** the space bar and all your DAW shortcuts (`Ctrl+S`, `Ctrl+Z`, transport keys) keep working while the plugin window is open and focused.
- **Window size:** drag the window's bottom-right corner, or pick a size in the plugin. A bigger window is drawn with more pixels, so it is also sharper.
- **Recall:** every setting, the preset name and the window size are saved with your project.
- **Automation:** every continuous control can be automated; the knob in the window follows the automation.

CHAPTER 04

Quick start

From an empty instance to a finished curve in a minute.

1. **Insert Dogma Q** on a track and start playback.
2. **Start from a preset** if you like: click the preset name in the top bar and pick one of the 30 presets, for example *Vocals › Vocal Clean-Up*. Or start empty.
3. **Add a band**: double-click the graph at the frequency and height you want. A bell appears there and its panel opens.
4. **Shape it**: drag the point to change frequency and gain; turn the mouse wheel over it to change Q (the width).
5. **Find a problem frequency**: click the headphones icon in the band panel (Solo). You now hear only the region the band acts on. Sweep it until the resonance jumps out, then turn Solo off and cut.
6. **Change the shape**: choose Low Cut, High Shelf and so on from the shape menu in the panel, or right-click the point.
7. **Compare**: press BYPASS (top right of the graph) to hear the track without the EQ, or turn on AUTO GAIN to compare at the same loudness.

> A QUICK CLEAN-UP
>
> Most tracks benefit from a gentle Low Cut below the instrument's lowest note: it clears rumble and lets the mix breathe. Double-click near the bottom-left, choose Low Cut, and move it up until the sound thins, then back a little.

CHAPTER 05

The interface

The graph is the heart of Dogma Q: you create, move and shape bands directly on it. Everything else sits around it.



Dogma Q with a five-band vocal curve, the band panel open, and the input and output spectrum.

1. **Preset bar**: the preset name, previous / next and SAVE.
2. **Undo / Redo**.
3. **A / B** and **COPY**: two settings to compare.
4. **RESET**: deletes every band (undoable).
5. **SIZE**: S, M, L, XL and full screen.
6. **INPUT**, with the polarity switch Ø above it.
7. **OUTPUT**.
8. **GAIN SCALE**: scales every band's gain at once.
9. **AUTO GAIN**: keeps the loudness steady.
10. **Band points**: drag, scroll, right-click.
11. **Band panel** for the selected band.
12. **BYPASS**, with a 20 ms crossfade.
13. **Meters**: input and output, peak readouts.
14. **PHASE MODE** and the latency it adds.
15. **STEREO MODE**: Left/Right or Mid/Side.
16. **SPECTRUM**: what the analyzer shows, and how.
17. **SCALE**, **KEYBOARD** and **MIDI LEARN**.

Working with the controls

ACTION	RESULT
Drag up / down	Changes a knob. Hold `Shift` for fine adjustment.
Mouse wheel	Changes the knob under the pointer.
Double-click	Returns the control to its default.
Click a value box	Type a value and press `Enter`. Units and shorthands are understood: `-3.5`, `2.5k`, `40 ms`.
Hover	Shows a short explanation of the control.

CHAPTER 06

Working with bands

Creating and editing bands on the graph

ACTION	RESULT
Double-click an empty spot	Creates a bell at that frequency and gain, and selects it.
Right-click an empty spot	Creates a band of any shape; also Select all and Delete all.
Drag a point	Frequency and gain together. For cuts, notch and band pass, vertical dragging changes Q. Hold `Shift` for 10× finer moves.
Mouse wheel over a point	Q (the width). With `Alt`: the slope.
`Alt`**-click a point**	Bypasses the band (and back).
`Ctrl`**-click, or drag a rectangle**	Selects several bands: they then move together, and menu changes apply to all of them.
Right-click a point	Shape, slope, stereo placement, bypass, solo and delete.
Double-click a point, or `Delete`	Deletes the selected band(s).
`Ctrl+Z` **/** `Ctrl+Shift+Z`	Undo / redo (also the arrows in the top bar). `Ctrl+A` selects every band.

All other keys, including the space bar, go to your DAW.

The band panel

The panel floats over the graph for the selected band. From left to right: the band's on/off switch and number (the arrows step to the neighbouring band), the shape and slope menus, the **FREQ**, **GAIN** and **Q** knobs, the stereo placement (**L / ST / R**, or **M / ST / S** in Mid/Side mode), **Solo** (headphones), delete, and close. Drag the panel by its background to move it; double-click the background to put it back.

FREQ shows the musical note too (*450 Hz A4*), and you can type a note: `A4`, `C#2`.

Shapes

SHAPE	WHAT IT DOES	SLOPES
Bell	Boosts or cuts around a frequency. Q sets the width.	—
Low Shelf / High Shelf	Raises or lowers everything below / above the frequency.	6 or 12 dB/oct
Low Cut / High Cut	Removes everything below / above the frequency. Q above 0.71 adds a resonant peak at the corner.	6 – 96 dB/oct
Notch	A narrow, deep cut for hum or a single resonance.	—

SHAPE	WHAT IT DOES	SLOPES
Band Pass	Keeps only a band around the frequency: telephone and radio effects, or finding a range.	up to 48 dB/oct
Tilt Shelf	Tilts the whole spectrum around the frequency: one side up, the other down by the same amount.	6 or 12 dB/oct

Ranges

CONTROL	RANGE	DEFAULT
Freq	10 Hz – 30 kHz	1 kHz
Gain	−30 to +30 dB	0 dB
Q	0.025 – 40	1.0
Slope	6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, 72, 96 dB/oct	12 dB/oct
Stereo	Stereo, Left, Right, Mid, Side	Stereo

Solo

Solo (the headphones in the band panel, or right-click › Solo) plays only the part of the signal the band acts on: the region around a bell, what a cut removes, what a shelf lifts. Only one band can be soloed at a time; a label on the graph reminds you it is on.

Stereo placement and Mid/Side

Each band can act on both channels, or on one: in **Left/Right** mode on the left or right channel, in **Mid/Side** mode on the mid (what is common to both channels: the centre) or on the side (the difference: the width). Switch the mode in the bottom bar. Typical Mid/Side moves: a low cut on the side to keep the bass centred, a gentle high shelf on the side for air and width.

CHAPTER 07

Global controls and display

CONTROL	RANGE	WHAT IT DOES
INPUT	±24 dB	Gain before the EQ. Ø above it inverts the polarity.
OUTPUT	±24 dB	Gain after the EQ.
GAIN SCALE	0 – 200 %	Scales the gain of every band at once: 50 % halves the whole curve, 200 % doubles it, 0 % flattens it. Cuts and Q are not changed.
AUTO GAIN	Off · On	The output follows the EQ, so boosting does not simply sound louder. The correction in dB is shown under the switch.
BYPASS	Off · On	Compares with the dry signal, crossfading in 20 ms: no click. It is the same bypass your DAW's button controls.

A / B, undo and reset

A and **B** hold two complete settings. Work on one, switch to the other to compare; `COPY` copies the current one to the other. Undo and redo cover every change. **RESET** deletes every band, and can be undone too.

The analyzer

SPECTRUM chooses what is drawn behind the curve: Off, Input, Output or In + Out. The second menu sets the resolution (Coarse to Finest), the speed (Slowest to Fastest), the tilt (4.5 dB/oct makes a mix look flat, as the ear hears it) and Freeze.

Display

- **SCALE**: the graph's range, ±3, 6, 12 or 30 dB. Use ±3 or ±6 for mastering moves.
- **KEYBOARD**: a piano keyboard along the bottom of the graph, to see which note a frequency is.
- **SIZE**: S, M, L, XL and full screen, or drag the corner.

MIDI Learn

1. Set **MIDI LEARN** to ON in the bottom bar.
2. Click a knob or control.
3. Move a controller knob or fader. The menu next to it lists the mappings (and lets you clear them).

CHAPTER 08

Phase modes

Every equalizer changes phase as well as level. Dogma Q lets you choose how.

MODE	LATENCY AT 48 KHZ	USE IT FOR
Zero Latency (default)	none	Everything: tracking, live, mixing. The magnitude is analog-matched.
Analog Phase	0.67 ms (32 samples)	The phase response of the analog prototype as well as its magnitude, for the sound of an analog EQ in every detail.
Linear Phase 1	48 ms	No phase shift at all: parallel paths, drum mics, and mastering. Each step doubles the resolution in the low end, and the latency.
Linear Phase 2	96 ms	
Linear Phase 3	192 ms	
Linear Phase 4	384 ms	
Linear Phase 5	768 ms	The finest resolution, for very low and narrow moves on a master.

The latency stays about the same in milliseconds at every sample rate (at 96 kHz the filter simply has twice the taps). Your DAW compensates it, so the track stays in time with the others; the bottom bar shows the current figure next to the menu.



Linear Phase on a master: a Mid/Side curve with the piano keyboard and a narrow cut.

SWITCHING MODES

A change of phase mode changes the latency. Dogma Q makes the switch live, with a short fade, and tells the DAW the new latency. A few hosts restart the plugin instead; that is normal.

WHICH ONE?

Stay in Zero Latency unless you have a reason. Linear Phase avoids phase shift between tracks that share a source (multi-miked drums, a DI and an amp), but a linear-phase filter rings slightly before a sharp transient: keep steep, narrow boosts gentle in that mode.

CHAPTER 09

Presets and working tips

Using presets

1. Click the **preset name** in the bar at the top of the display. The browser opens with the factory presets in categories, and your own.
2. Hover a preset to read what it is for; click to load it. The arrows on either side of the name step to the previous or next preset, so you can audition them while the track plays.
3. A dot next to the name means the settings have changed since the preset was loaded.
4. To keep your own, type a name and click `SAVE`. User presets are stored in `Documents\Isaac Audio\Dogma Q\Presets`, so you can copy them to another computer.

The factory presets also appear in the preset browsers of hosts that read VST3 presets (Cubase, Nuendo, Studio One) and CLAP presets (Bitwig).

Factory presets



The preset browser at XL size: the factory categories and the Vocals list.

CATEGORY	PRESETS
Utility	Default · Rumble Cut 30 Hz · Low Cut 80 Hz · High Cut 16 kHz · Mono Bass below 120 Hz · Wide Air (Side) · Telephone · AM Radio
Vocals	Vocal Clean-Up · Vocal Presence · Vocal De-Mud · Vocal Air · Vocal Sibilance Dip · Podcast Voice

CATEGORY	PRESETS
Drums	Kick Punch · Kick Sub · Snare Crack · Overheads · Room Tame
Instruments	Bass Definition · Acoustic Guitar Sparkle · Electric Guitar Focus · Piano Clarity · Pad Warmth
Mix & Master	Mix Bus Smile · Master Bright Tilt · Master Warm Tilt · Master Air & Weight · Master Mid/Side Width · Master Mud Control

A preset sets the bands, Gain Scale and Auto Gain. Input, Output, polarity, bypass and the phase mode stay as they are, so a preset never changes your latency or your gain staging.

Working tips

- **Cut narrow, boost wide.** Resonances are narrow: find them with Solo and a high Q. Tonal boosts sound most natural with a low Q.
- **Use Gain Scale to judge a curve.** Turn it from 100 % to 0 % and back: if the track sounds better at 60 %, keep it there.
- **Level-match.** Louder sounds better to everyone. Turn on Auto Gain, or match OUTPUT by ear, before deciding.
- **Mid/Side on the master**: a low cut on the side below about 120 Hz (the *Mono Bass* preset) tightens the low end on every playback system.

CHAPTER 10

Troubleshooting

WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT TO DO
The track drifts out of time after choosing Linear Phase	Make sure your DAW's delay compensation is on (Pro Tools: Delay Compensation; most hosts do it always).
The curve looks right but nothing changes	Check that BYPASS is off, that the band is on (its point is lit), and that no other band is soloed.
The plugin does not appear in the DAW	Rescan (chapter 3). Check that the file is in the folder listed in chapter 2 and that the DAW is 64-bit. If the host put it on a blocklist ("failed" plugins), reset the list and scan again.
It does not appear in Pro Tools	Check that `Dogma Q.aaxplugin` is in the AAX folder. Quit Pro Tools, delete `%APPDATA%\Avid\Pro Tools\InstalledAAXPlugIns` and launch again: Pro Tools rescans everything.
The window is empty, or the DAW shows only a list of parameters	Install the Microsoft Edge WebView2 Runtime (search "WebView2 Runtime" on microsoft.com) and restart the DAW.
No sound, and a "license required" notice	Activate the computer (chapter 2). The plugin unlocks a few seconds after the license file arrives.
"Windows protected your PC" or an antivirus warning	Click More info › Run anyway. If an antivirus quarantines the file, restore it or add an exception for its folder.
Clicks or dropouts	Raise the buffer size of your audio interface, and compare with another plugin on the same track. If it persists, please write to us (see the Support chapter).

CHAPTER 11

Specifications and support

Formats	VST3, CLAP, AAX (PACE-signed), Standalone · Windows 10 / 11, 64-bit
Channels	Mono and stereo
Processing	64-bit floating point; analog-matched band design at every sample rate
Bands	Up to 24; Bell, Low / High Shelf, Low / High Cut, Notch, Band Pass, Tilt Shelf
Ranges	10 Hz – 30 kHz, ±30 dB, Q 0.025 – 40, slopes 6 – 96 dB/oct
Latency	0 (Zero Latency), 32 samples at 48 kHz (Analog Phase), 48 – 768 ms (Linear Phase 1 – 5); reported to the host
Sample rates	44.1 kHz to 768 kHz
Presets	30 factory presets in five categories, unlimited user presets, VST3 / CLAP host presets

Getting help

We answer every message ourselves. Please include:

- What you did, what you expected, and what happened instead.
- The DAW and its version, the format (VST3, CLAP, AAX, Standalone), your Windows version, the audio interface, the sample rate and buffer size.
- A screenshot of the plugin window, and the version number shown under the plugin's name.
- For a sound issue: a short audio clip before and after, and the preset or settings.
- In Pro Tools: the newest log from `Documents\Pro Tools\Logs`.

Email	isaac.sound.studio@gmail.com
Beta testers	The feedback page, isaac-audio.rotabox.workers.dev/beta/feedback/ (also from the plugin: click the version number › Report a problem / feedback). You can attach files and follow the answers there.
Manuals	isaac-audio.rotabox.workers.dev/manuals/

Safety

> **PROTECT YOUR EARS AND SPEAKERS**
>
> Every band can boost by up to +30 dB and OUTPUT by up to +24 dB. Start at a low monitoring level, especially when trying presets or typing values.

License agreement

Dogma Q is licensed, not sold, under the Isaac Audio End User License Agreement shown by the installer and published at isaac-audio.rotabox.workers.dev/legal/eula/. The software is provided as is. Beta versions are for testing and may contain faults: keep backups of your projects.

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