

# PREMIUM TUBE SERIES ENHANCED EQ

Manual



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Special thanks to the Beta Test Team, who were invaluable not just in tracking down bugs, but in making this a better product.

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# 1 Welcome to ENHANCED EQ

Thank you for purchasing ENHANCED EQ, a professional EQ created by Native Instruments and Softube.

The following manual will give you an overview of the features of the ENHANCED EQ, as well as explain how to use the software.

## 1.1 What is an EQ?

EQ is short for **E**qualizer. Technically, an equalizer (or EQ) is an audio processing unit that is used to alter the frequency content of an audio signal. It can be used as a subtle effect, in order to help mix tracks, or it can be used as a creative tool to radically manipulate the spectral content of a sound.

### EQ Types

Variations of EQ effects are very common and can be found built into many mixing desks, guitar amplifiers, and even mp3 players. Sometimes, like in a guitar amplifier, the EQs are fixed and you can only alter the gain of the bands. Sometimes EQs can be parametric, meaning you are able to alter all of the parameters: frequency, bandwidth and gain.

There are also several variations of the shapes of EQ bands:

- **Bell:** this is the standard EQ shape: a symmetrical selection of frequencies around the central frequency.
- **Shelf:** in shelf EQs, the amplitude control affects all of the frequencies above or below the central frequency, dependent on whether the shelf is a high shelf or a low shelf.
- **Filter:** filters out and removes a set of frequencies. These are commonly found on subtractive synthesizers.

Like all effects, at the professional level certain specific characteristics are desired and a handful of equipment gains popularity for being better than the rest.

## 1.2 The ENHANCED EQ

The ENHANCED EQ is a 3 band EQ with different control sets per band. It is modeled after an analog EQ famous for its tube-amplified, smooth sound, which is very popular among the most renowned professional engineers and producers.

The combination of high and low shelf filters, with a parametric middle band, makes the ENHANCED EQ ideal for processing instruments or single channels in your mix. However, it can also lend itself to many situations.

## 2 Using the ENHANCED EQ

### 2.1 The Menu Bar

At the very top of the ENHANCED EQ interface, you will see the menu bar. This is primarily used for saving and loading presets, but also has a few other functions.



The Menu Bar is located at the top of the interface.

#### Loading Presets

In the center part of the menu bar, you will see the preset menu. To navigate through presets, either:

- ▶ Click on the left and right arrows to cycle through and load the presets one at a time, or
- ▶ Click on the dropdown menu to view a list of all available presets.

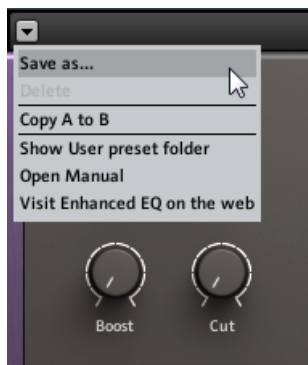
When using the second option, a preset is loaded when you click on its name.

#### Saving and Deleting Presets

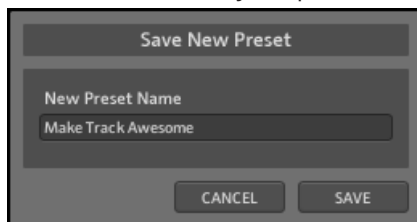
To save a preset:

1. Click on the dropdown arrow to the very left of the menu bar to open the file menu.

2. Select *Save as...* from the menu:



3. Enter the name of your preset in the area under the label [New Preset Name](#).



4. Click the [SAVE](#) button to finish the process and close the dialog box.



If you wish to remove a preset you no longer want, you can delete it by selecting *Delete* from the file menu. Please note: you are not able to delete factory content.

## A/B Comparisons

ENHANCED EQ offers an A/B comparison system to help you fine tune your settings.

Basically, this feature gives you two slots into which you can enter different parameter settings. You can then quickly switch between the two slots to quickly compare the settings and use whichever sounds better.

By default, you edit the parameters of slot A. To **switch to slot B**:

- Click on the **A/B** switch located beside the preset menu.



→ You will now be editing and listening to the parameters of slot B, until you click on the switch again.

To **copy the settings of slot A to slot B**:

- ▶ Go to the File menu on the left side of the menu bar and select *Copy A to B* from the list. You can also copy from B to A when editing the parameters of slot B.

### Other functions

The File menu also offers the following options:

- *Show User preset folder*: opens a system window in the location of where your presets are saved.
- *Open Manual*: opens this PDF document for reference.
- *Visit Enhanced EQ on the web*: opens your default web browser and takes you to the ENHANCED EQ page on the Native Instruments website.

## 2.2 The Main Interface



The ENHANCED EQ Interface.

The ENHANCED EQ has three frequency bands, each with their own character and control sets.

To the right of the interface is a master **Output Gain** knob that can be used to control the output level of the EQ, compensating for any boosts or cuts applied in any of the three bands.

For most of the controls, the value is displayed in place of the control label when the mouse pointer hovers over the control, or when you are interacting with the control.

### The Low Frequency Shelf Area

The band area to the left of the interface contains the controls for the low frequency shelf:

- **Low Frequency:** selects the starting frequency for the shelf.
- **Boost:** controls the increase in amplitude for the band.
- **Cut:** controls the decrease in amplitude for the band.

You can use both the **Boost** and **Cut** controls at the same time, and although you may think these would cancel each other out, they in fact interact in an unusual, yet useful way: if both controls are turned up, a small cut will occur at the starting frequency, below which the signal will be boosted.

### The High Frequency Area

The middle area, to the right of the low frequency shelf, contains the controls for the high frequency EQ band. This band works like a common bell shaped EQ:

- **High Frequency:** selects the central frequency for the band.
- **Boost:** controls the amount of amplitude gain applied to the band.
- **Bandwidth:** this knob is signified with the icon of a bell frequency curve, and controls the width of the band around the central frequency.

### The High Cut Area

The High Cut (or high frequency shelf) area is located to the right of the interface. It contains only two controls:

- **Frequency:** The topmost knob selects the starting frequency of the shelf.
- **Cut:** controls the amount the amplitude of the shelf is reduced.

## The Output Gain Area

The Output Gain area is located in the rightmost area of the interface. It contains only one control:

- **Output Gain:** adjusts the overall output volume of the EQ. Use this control to increase the output volume after it has been attenuated by cutting frequencies, or to decrease an output volume that is too loud because of boosted frequencies.

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## 3 Credits

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