Hear the difference.

Compare your stereo mix with up to 3 linked references.



Start with a level comparison

Place Reference last on your stereo mix bus. Keep the session and audio interface at 48 kHz. Click Load to choose an audio file for Ref 1, Ref 2 or Ref 3. Select A MIX to hear your mix, or B REFERENCE to hear the selected file.

Play, then match

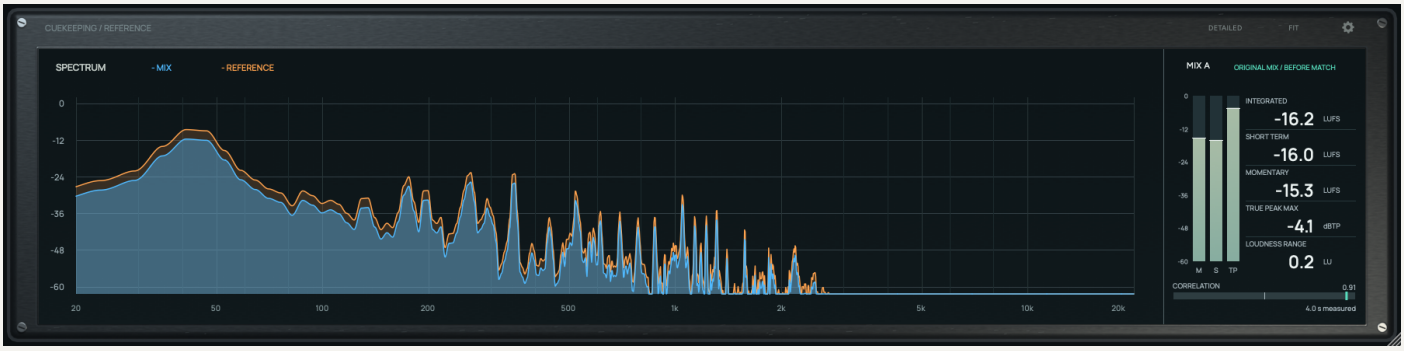
Play the passage for at least 3 seconds and click Match ref to mix. The default changes the reference level while your mix stays unchanged. The gain holds until you match again, adjust the trim or clear matching. A headroom-limit message means the scanned reference cannot reach the requested level safely.

Before recording or exporting

Offline export returns your original DAW mix. For a real-time bounce or internal resampling, select A, Full and Stereo, then click Clear match. Those recording methods capture what you are monitoring.

Focus the comparison.

Listening controls and analyzer views work independently.



Keep the same listening conditions

Full restores the full frequency range. Select a named frequency band to audition that range on both sources. Double-click a band boundary to edit it in Hz. Drag across the spectrum for a custom band; double-click the graph to return to full range. Stereo, Mono and Sides change what you hear.

Read the spectrum

Overlay Mix and Reference, choose Mid/Side, or show all 4 traces. Mid/Side can inspect either your mix or the selected reference. Simple view gives the analyzer and meters more space. Resize the window as needed; Fit toggles monitor fill and restore.

Measure the source you mean

Click the meter heading to switch between Mix A and Reference B. Meter readings are taken before matching and listening filters. M, S and TP bars show momentary loudness, short-term loudness and current true peak. The larger readings include integrated LUFS, maximum true peak and loudness range.

Start a fresh pass

Reset meters before a measurement. Play the whole cue from the beginning for a whole-track result. Readings pause when the host stops. Reset on seek starts a new pass after a jump or loop; turn it off to accumulate sections. A data-gap warning means you need a fresh pass.

Keep your references ready.

Host transport, linked files and saved collections.

Follow the DAW timeline

Reference follows your host transport and timeline, including seeks while stopped. Offset sets the DAW time where reference time 0 starts. Leave it at 0 for matching timestamps. Use the DAW timeline to seek; clicking the waveform cannot move the host transport.

Loop the passage

Choose Full track or a named section. Select an unset section to enter its start and end, or use Edit. Set in and Set out use the current reference position. Loop repeats the selected section, or the full file. Section loops wrap the host timeline inside that passage.

Save links you can find again

Save a collection from Settings > Presets. Collections hold file links, section markers, trims and settings. Existing names require Replace preset. Each saved DAW session holds its own copy of the comparison settings, so editing a collection does not rewrite old sessions. Meter measurements start fresh when a session loads.

Move or keep a source

Keep copies the selected source into Music/Cuekeeping References and links to that copy. If you move a file, use Relink to preserve its section markers. Presets do not embed audio. Keep your original recordings. Compressed or converted references are limited to 12 minutes per slot.

Use Safe comparison deliberately

Safe comparison permits shared listening attenuation on the next Match. It considers the scanned reference true peak and the observed live-mix peak. It cannot predict future peaks and is not a limiter. Clear match restores both comparison gains to 0.

Install and activate.

Choose the package that matches your computer and host.

Mac: Intel and Apple Silicon

Requires macOS 12 or later. The universal installer includes AU and VST3, with both Intel and Apple Silicon in each format. It is signed and notarized. Save your named project and close your DAW before installing. AU installs in /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components; VST3 installs in /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3.

Windows: x64 or native ARM

Use the x64 installer on Windows 10 or later with an Intel or AMD processor. Use the ARM installer on Windows 11 ARM; it includes ARM64 and ARM64EC VST3 variants for matching hosts. Both install in Common Files/VST3. Windows installers are unsigned and may display a publisher warning. Close your DAW before installation, then reopen it and rescan plugins if needed. Use Windows Installed apps to uninstall.

Verify your email

Open Settings > License. Enter your email and the verification code sent to that address to start the 14-day trial. Use your checkout email for a purchase. A purchased license supports 2 computers. Activation and account refresh need an internet connection; a verified receipt is stored locally for offline use. Manage your access at account.cuekeeping.com/account.

If something looks wrong

Use 48 kHz for playback and recording. If a reference is missing, use Relink. If loudness readings seem wrong, confirm the measured source and reset for a fresh pass. Meter validation covers specific generated cases and comparisons; formal full-suite certification is not claimed.

Get support

Visit cuekeeping.com/support. Include your operating system, DAW and version, plugin format and Reference version, plus the steps that caused the issue. Never send verification codes, activation receipts or private reference tracks.