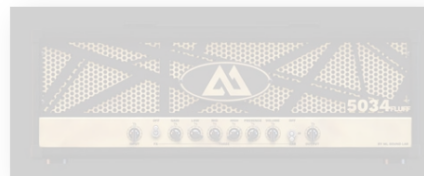# Top FREE Plugins 2023

By: Bobby Balow
Mixing/Mastering Engineer, Producer
Raytown Productions
www.RaytownProductions.com
Updated: 07/23/2023

The Following Is a List of my Favorite FREE Plugins
For Mixing & Mastering

Thank you for downloading this e-Book! I hope these plugins inspire you to create incredible music that you will cherish forever.

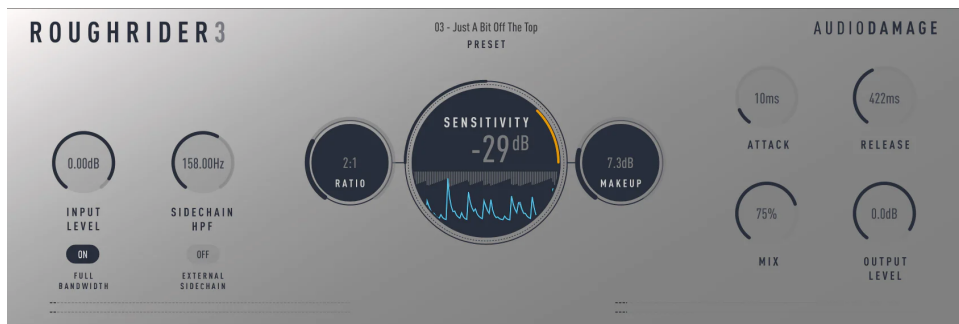**Please share your favorites from this list with the Home Studio Fast Track Facebook Community!**

https://bit.ly/FB-HSFT

COMPRESSORS I

1. **Tokyo Dawn Records (TDR) - Kotelnikov**

Great mastering grade compressor!
https://www.tokyodawn.net/tdr-kotelnikov

2. **AudioDamage - RoughRider 3**

All around compressor
https://www.audiodamage.com/pages/free-downloads

3. **Xfer Records - OTT**

Great for drums and EDM
https://xferrecords.com/freeware
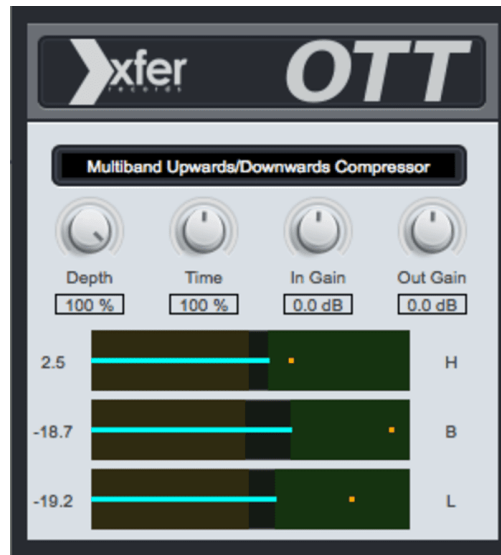
4. **Klanghelm - MJUC Jr.**

Vari-Mu compressor - great for glue and leveling group busses
https://klanghelm.com/contents/products/MJUCjr.php

5. Auburn Sounds - Couture

Level independent dynamics control
https://www.auburnsounds.com/products/Couture.html

EQs I

1. **Tokyo Dawn Records (TDR) - Nova**

Powerful dynamic EQ!
https://www.tokyodawn.net/tdr-nova/

2. **AudioThing - Blindfold EQ**

EQ that doesn't have any numbers visible! You must use your ears.
https://www.pluginboutique.com/product/2-Effects/16-EQ/6070-Blindfold-EQ

3. **Kiive Audio - Warmy EP1A V2**

A great PulTec style EQ. Great for tone shaping.
https://www.kiiveaudio.com/plugins/Warmy-EP1A-V2-p320123815

Guitar Amp Simulators I

1. **ML Sound Lab - Amped Roots**

Great sounding distortion amp (5150iii style) with IR loader
https://ml-sound-lab.com/products/amped-roots

2. **Audiority - L12X Solid State Amplifier**

Lower Gain Rock Amp Sim
https://www.pluginboutique.com/product/2-Effects/18-Amp-Simulator/6084-L12X-Solid-State-Amplifier

Guitar Amp Simulators 2

3.   **LePou - Various Guitar Amps**

These amps STILL sound great 10 years later.
NOTE: Only 32-bit plugins available so may not work in your DAW.
https://plugins4free.com/dev/258/

4.   Ignite Amps - Emissary

High gain amp. Great for hard rock and metal.
http://www.igniteamps.com/#emissary

5.   IK Multimedia - Amplitube 5 CS

Several amps, reverb, FX, microphone and guitar cabinet.
Good clean guitar tones!
https://www.ikmultimedia.com/products/amplitube5cs/?pkey=amplitube-5-cs

Bass Amp Simulators

1. **Ignite Amps - SHB-1**

Adds some grit to your bass guitars.
https://www.igniteamps.com/#shb-1

2. **TSE Audio - BOD v3**

Sansamp model that sounds really good!
https://www.tseaudio.com/software/tseBOD

Guitar Cabinet Impulse Response (IR) Loader I

1. **Ignite Amps - NadIR**

Versatile cabinet impulse loader. Two channels
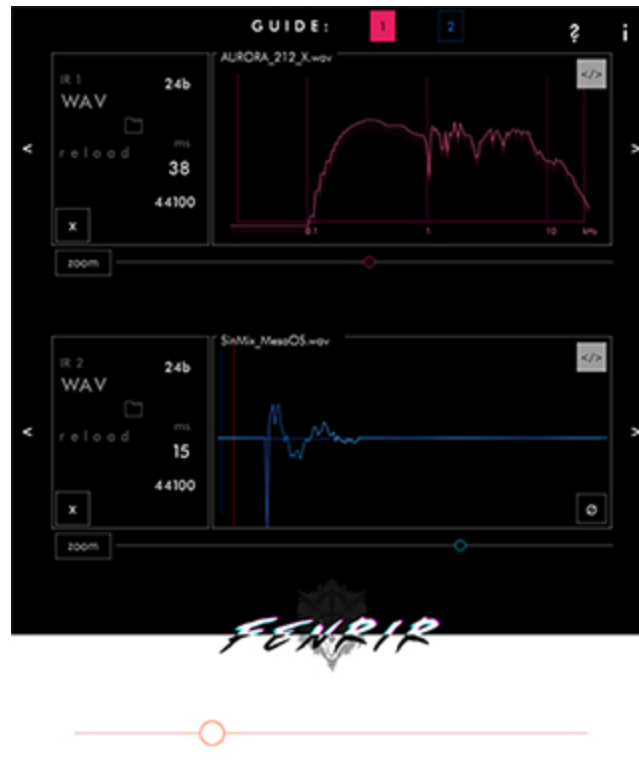http://www.igniteamps.com/#nadir

2. **Ignite Amps - Libra**

Advanced, multichannel impulse response loader.
https://www.igniteamps.com/#libra

3.   **Aurora DSP - Fenrir**

Simple drag and drop impulse loader
https://auroradsp.com/fenrir

Saturation & Distortion I

1. **Softube - Saturation Knob**

Great for fattening up drums and bass and thickening vocals
https://www.softube.com/saturationknob

2. **Bedroom Producers Blog - Saturator**

Simple, CPU efficient distortion/saturator.
https://bedroomproducersblog.com/free-vst-plugins/bpb-saturator/

Saturation & Distortion 2

3.   **ChowDhury DSP - Chow Tape**

Great for vibey tape saturation
https://chowdsp.com/products.html

4.   **Wave Arts - Tube Saturator Vintage**

Great triode tube emulation!
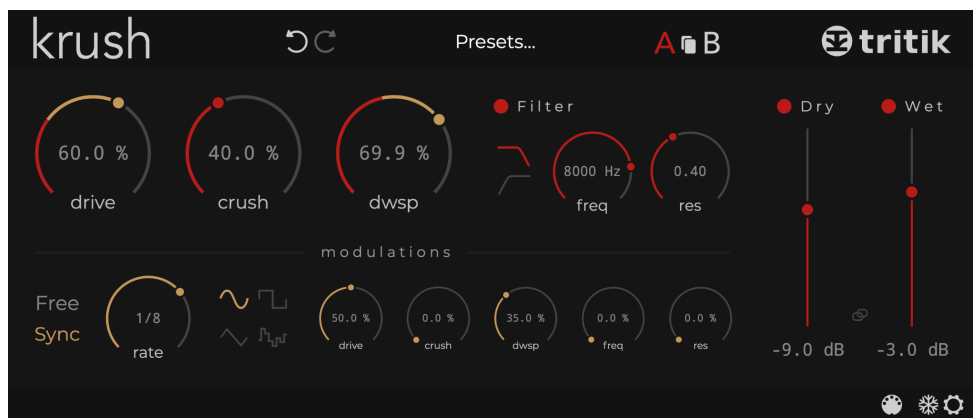https://wavearts.com/products/plugins/tube-saturator-vintage

5. **Klanghelm - IVGI Saturation and Distortion**

Everything from subtle distortion and saturation that sounds great on a mixbus to dirty gritty distortion for individual tracks.
https://klanghelm.com/contents/products/IVGI.php

6. **Tritic - Krush**

Bitcrusher and Distortion In One! Unique Textures
https://www.tritik.com/product/krush/

Clippers and Limiters I

1.   **TDR - VladG No6**

Very Powerful Limiter For Mastering Situations
https://www.tokyodawn.net/vladg-limiter-n6/

2.   **Venn Audio - Free Clip**
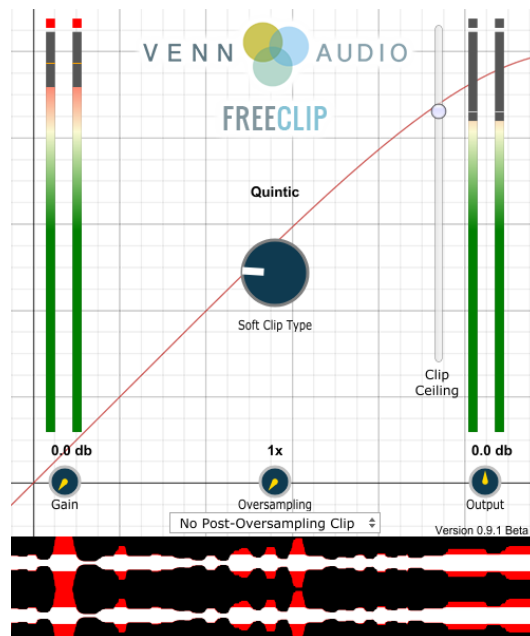
MY GO TO CLIPPER. Super clean (recommend using oversampling!)
https://www.vennaudio.com/free-clip/

Clippers and Limiters 2

3.   **GVST - GClip**

Great Clipper with Soft Clipping Function
https://www.gvst.co.uk/gclip.htm

4.   **Thomas Mundt - Loudmax**
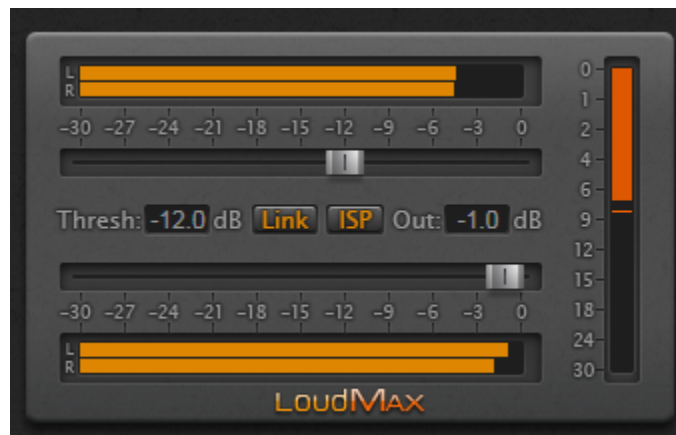
Similar to Waves L1 and L2. Clean brickwall limiter.
https://www.kvraudio.com/product/loudmax-by-thomas-mundt

Effects I

1. **Cableguys - Pancake 2**
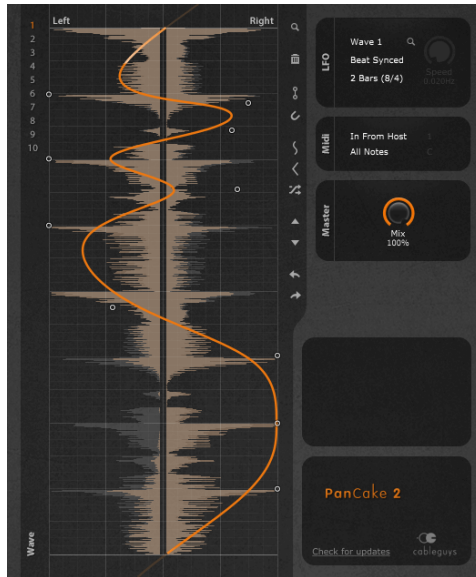
Great Substitute for SoundToys PanMan. Cool Panning Effects!
http://www.cableguys.com/pancake.html

2. **Valhalla - FreqEcho**
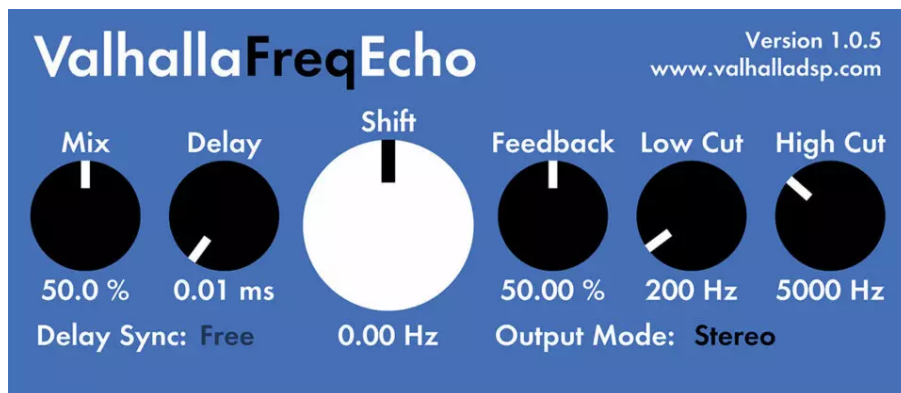
Bode-Style Frequency Shifter + Analog Echo Emulation create surprising sonic effects.
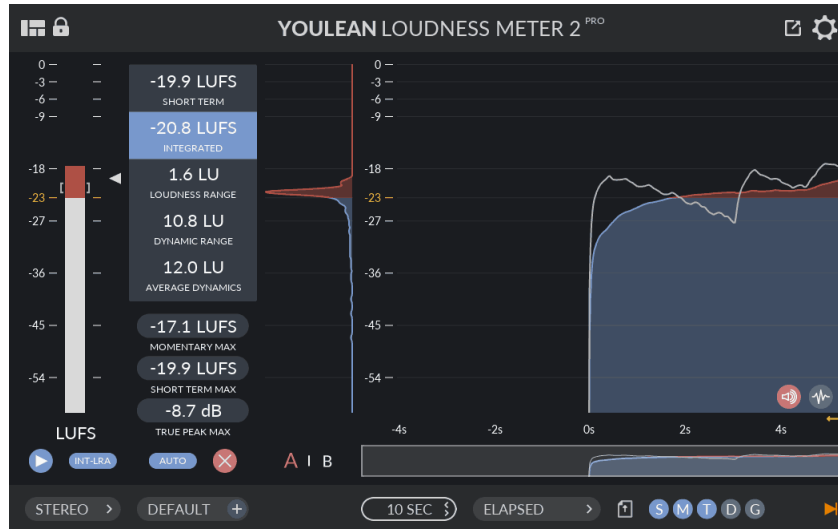https://valhalladsp.com/shop/delay/valhalla-freq-echo/

3.   **iZotope - Vinyl**

Simulates the dust, scratches, and warp of a worn record and the electrical and
mechanical noise of a turntable.
https://bit.ly/3CUzDTu

Spectral Analyzers and Tools I

1.   **Youlean - Loudness Meter 2 Free**

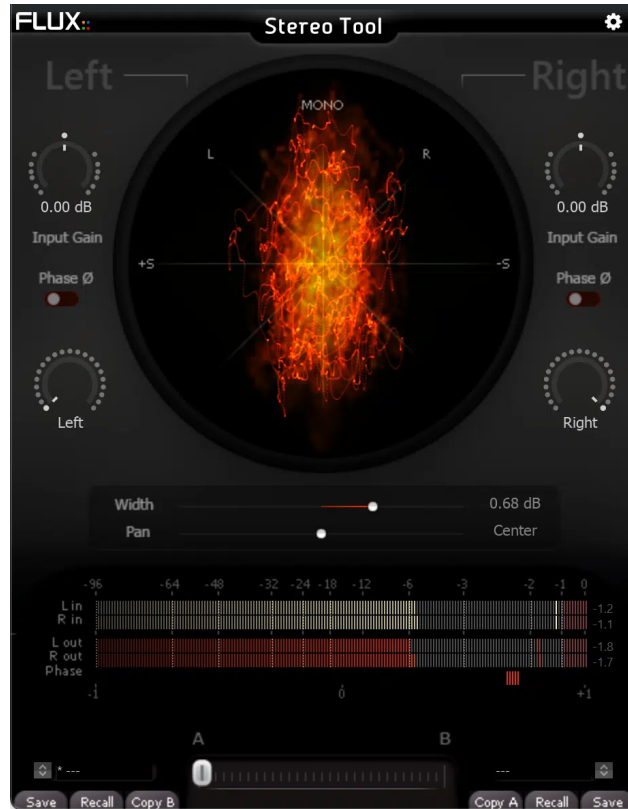Great free tool that gives you accurate metering based on ITU-R BS.1770
https://youlean.co/youlean-loudness-meter/

2.   **Voxengo - SPAN**

VERY accurate and customizable Spectral Analyzer.
https://www.voxengo.com/product/span/

3.   **Flux Audio - StereoTool v3**

Excellent Goniometer (aka vectorscope). Helps to identify panning and phase
problems in your songs.
https://www.flux.audio/project/stereo-tool-v3/

De-Essers

1. **Technivation - T-De-Esser-Plus**

Powerful De-Essing tool that works differently than other De-Essers I've used before.
https://techivation.com/t-de-esser-plus/

Synths I

1. **Newfangled Audio - Pendulate**
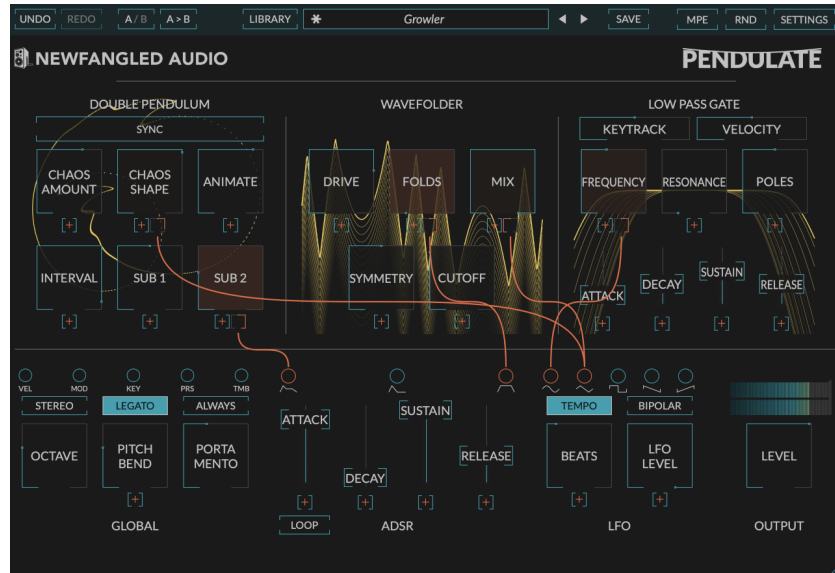
A chaotic mono-synth for unique and aggressive textures.
https://www.eventideaudio.com/plug-ins/pendulate/

2. **Vember Audio - Surge**

Incredibly powerful free subtractive synth.
https://surge-synthesizer.github.io/

Synths 2

3.　**IK Multimedia - Syntronik 2 CS**

Free virtual synthesizer with 100 instrument presets and 2.4 GB of sound content.
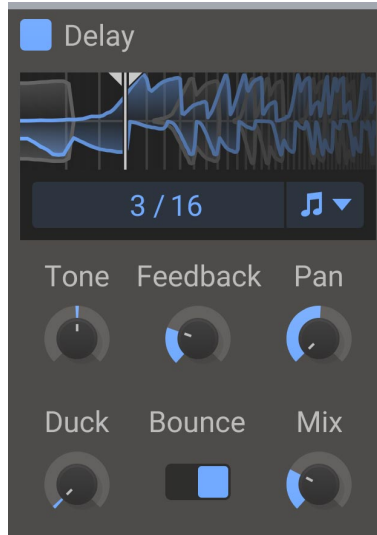https://www.ikmultimedia.com/products/syntronik2/

4.　**ChowDSP - Chow Kick**

kick drum synthesizer based on physical modeling of old drum machine circuits.
https://chowdsp.com/products.html

Delays and Reverbs I

1.   **KiloHertz - Delay**

Easy To Use Delay With Ducking Feature
https://kilohearts.com/products/delay

2.   **TAL - Reverb 4**

Versatile Algorithmic Reverb
https://tal-software.com/products/tal-reverb-4

3. **Valhalla - Super Massive**

Simple and Lush Reverb for HUGE Soundscapes - One of my Favs!
https://valhalladsp.com/shop/reverb/valhalla-supermassive/

Free Samples I

1. **The Metal Kick Drum**

Aggressive metal and rock drum samples (not just kicks)
https://www.themetalkickdrum.com

2. **ProducerSphere Best Free Samples**

Lot's of samples for making beats (kicks, 808s, snare, chants etc.)
https://bit.ly/3oShIIH

3. **Modern Metal Songwriter Post-Production Sample Pack**

Lots of good samples including impacts, subdrops, ambience, and more.
https://www.modernmetalsongwriter.com/blogs/free/free-post-fx

Drum Sample Player/Sampler

1.   MT-PowerDrumkit 2

A multi-layer drum sampler with free drum samples and grooves. Great substitute for Superior Drummer, Steven Slate Drums, EZ Drummer, GGD, etc.
I can't believe this is free.
https://www.powerdrumkit.com/

2.   Steven Slate Drums 5.5 Free

Very good sounding kit. The free version is somewhat limited in drum sounds.
https://stevenslatedrums.com/ssd5/#SSD5FREE

Stereo Enhancers I

1. **Voxengo - MSED**

Great Substitute for Waves Center! Control Mid/Side Volume.
https://www.voxengo.com/product/msed/

2. **iZotope - Ozone Imager 2**
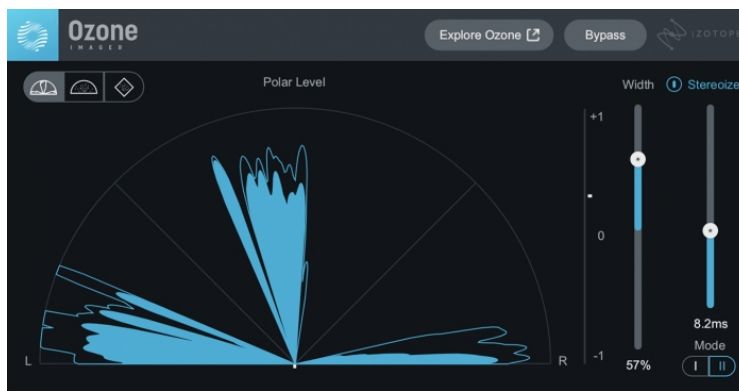
Simple Audio Widening Tool. Can be used During Mastering.
https://bit.ly/3Os6jvV

3. **Polyverse - Wider**

Phase Coherent Widening Tool. Good MIXING tool.
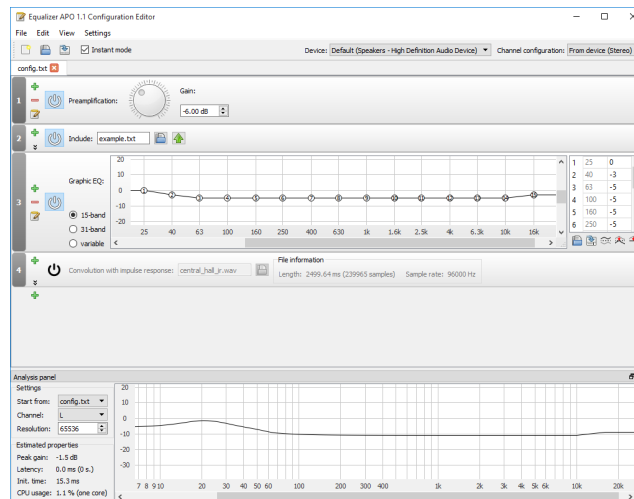https://bit.ly/3Kc82CK

Room Analysis and Correction

1. **Room EQ Wizard (REW)**
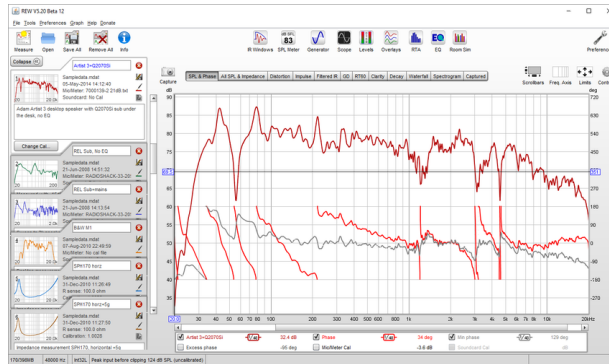
Powerful room analysis software to measure the EQ response of your studio and so much more. Very powerful software.
https://www.roomeqwizard.com/
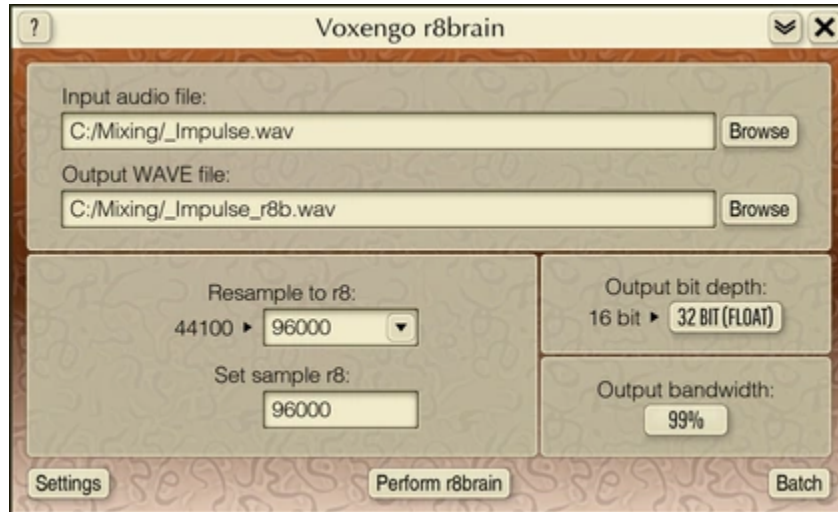
2. **Equalizer APO**

A system wide equalizer to correct your listening environment. Works perfectly with REW above to generate a flat listening environment.
Great Sonarworks replacement.
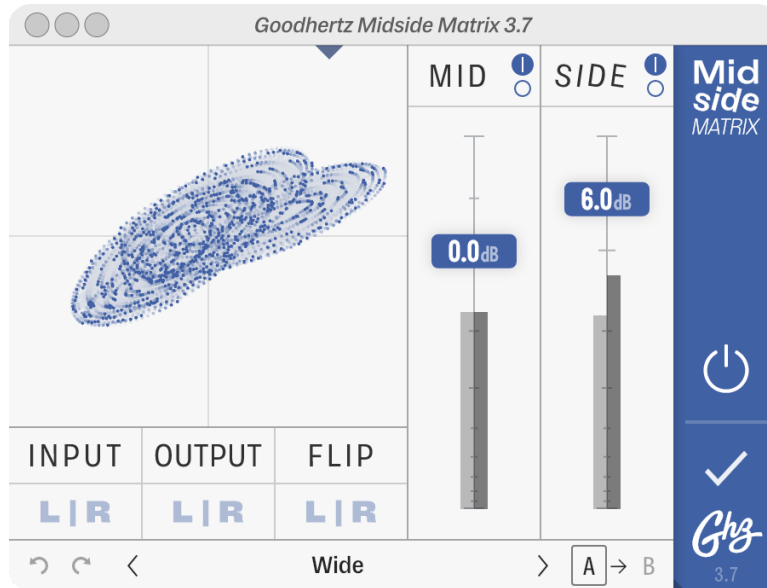https://sourceforge.net/projects/equalizerapo/

Sample Rate Conversion

1. **Voxengo - r8 Brain**

SUPER Clean Standalone Sample Rate and Bit Depth Converter
https://www.voxengo.com/product/r8brain/

Mid Side Encoder/Decoder

1. **Goodhertz - Midside Matrix**

Easy to use Mid/Side encoder/decoder. Perfect for unlocking Mid/Side processing in any DAW.
https://goodhertz.com/midside-matrix/

2. **Voxengo - MSED**

Another, slightly more complicated Mid/Side encoder decoder.
Has additional features for more options. https://www.voxengo.com/product/msed/

Helpful Resources

1.   **Audio Mix Club**
A private audio mixing community to get feedback on your mixes. Has monthly mixing challenges to help you grow as a mixer and free downloadable multitracks to practice with! I'm part of this community - come hang out!
https://www.audiomixclub.com

2.   **RP YouTube Channel**
For Video Tutorials and Deep Dives into Modern Mixing, Mastering, and Recording Techniques.
https://YouTube.com/c/RaytownProductions

3.   **Home Studio Fast Track FB Group**
Learn With Fellow Recording, Mixing, and Mastering
Engineers, Musicians and Producers From Around The World!
https://facebook.com/groups/homestudiofasttrack

4.   **RP Blog**
Incredible Resource for All Things Home Recording!
https://www.raytownproductions.com/blog/

Thank You!

If you have any questions, or need help getting your music sounding pro, feel free to reach out!

- Bobby

Email: bobby@raytownproductions.com
Socials: @RaytownProductions