# V-23

VOICE PROCESSOR

23audio

Guide · version 1.1.0

V-23 is a channel strip for the spoken voice: narration, audiobooks, podcasts and voice-over. It puts the chain from a classic analogue voice studio on one screen, from the mic level coming in to a voice that's ready to deliver. This guide gets you from download to a finished-sounding voice in a few minutes.

## 1 Install

**Mac**

Quit your DAW, open the **.pkg** and follow the steps. Click **Customise** to leave out any format you don't need: Audio Unit (Logic, GarageBand), VST3 (most other DAWs), AAX (Pro Tools) and the V-23 app, which runs on its own without a DAW. The individual strips (section 9) come with each plugin format.

Needs macOS 11 or later, on Apple Silicon or Intel.

**Windows**

Quit your DAW and run the **.exe**. If Windows says "Windows protected your PC", that's only because the installer is new: click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. It installs VST3, AAX (Pro Tools) and the V-23 app, with the individual strips (section 9).

Needs Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit.

## 2 Unlock it

Open V-23 in any DAW and either **drag your licence file onto the V-23 window**, or copy your licence code and click `INSTALL LICENCE` in the info panel (the `i` beside the name). You only do this once: every DAW on that computer then sees it. A licence works on up to three computers of your own, and there's no account to make.

Without a licence V-23 runs as a demo: everything works, but the sound dips out for a second and a half every 15 to 25 seconds and a `DEMO` badge shows.

## 3 Find it in your DAW

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| **Logic Pro** | Audio FX › Audio Units › 23audio › V-23 |
| **Pro Tools** | Insert › plug-in › Dynamics › V-23 |
| **Reaper, Cubase, Studio One, Ableton Live and others** | Look for V-23 under 23audio in the effects list. If it isn't there, rescan your plugins (in the DAW's plugin settings). |
| **Adobe Audition** | Effects › Audio Plug-In Manager › Scan for Plug-Ins, then Effects › VST3 › 23audio |

Put V-23 on the voice track as an insert, first in the chain. On a small screen it opens at 90% so it fits; change the size from the percentage at the bottom right.

## 4 A good sound in a few minutes

1. **Pick a preset.** Click the preset name at the top and choose the one closest to your job: Podcast, Voice-Over, Streaming & Video, Repair & Character, or a single stage on its own. The arrows step through them; the whole strip follows.
2. **Set the level coming in.** Turn `INPUT TRIM` so your loudest words peak around **-12 to -6** on the IN meter (under LEVELS in the INPUT stage), well clear of the top. That's the sort of level the presets are made for.
3. **Listen, then adjust.** Too many S's: turn the DE-ESSER `THRESHOLD` down. Boxy or muddy room: turn `CLARIFY` up. Breaths and room tone too loud between words: turn the EXPANDER `THRESHOLD` up ( `RANGE` sets how far down they go; 10 to 15 dB keeps a little room sound). Level jumping about: turn the COMPRESSOR `THRESHOLD` down.
4. **Compare.** `BYPASS` at the top switches the whole strip out and back, so you can hear what it's doing.
5. **Save it.** Click the disk icon beside the presets, type a name in the box and click **Save**. Everything is saved, including the order of the stages. Your own presets appear in the preset list, where you can rename or delete them.




The full window: seven stages from left to right, then LOUDNESS. Presets across the top; help and views along the bottom.

## 5 Getting around

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| **Help as you go** | Point at any control and the line along the bottom says what it does. The `?` at the bottom left switches the help on and off. |
| **Switch a stage in or out** | Click the power button at the right of its title. Lit means in; dark means switched out, and the sound passes straight through. |
| **Hear one stage on its own** | Option-click (Alt-click on Windows) its power button. Option-click again to bring the others back. |
| **Change the order** | Drag the five middle stages (de-esser to limiter) by the six dots left of their title. INPUT always comes first and OUTPUT last. |
| **EQ** | Turn the knobs, or drag the dots on the curve: sideways for frequency, up and down for gain. |
| **FULL and SLIM** | `FULL` is the whole strip. `SLIM` is one short strip to sit under the track you're recording, with each stage's most-used knobs; click a stage's name to open all its controls. V-23 opens in whichever you used last. |
| **Window size** | The percentage at the bottom right makes the window bigger or smaller. V-23 remembers it. |



SLIM: the whole strip in one row.

## 6 Stage View

`STAGE` opens a window of its own showing what each stage is doing to the voice as you speak. Move it anywhere, a second screen too, and size it how you like; it comes back where you left it. Click `STAGE` again to close it.

- The graph shows the voice coming in and going out, with each stage's effect drawn over it in that stage's colour.
- `SMOOTH` draws the voice calmer; `FINE` shows more detail, to pin down a ring.
- Point at a stage's card along the bottom to pick out its line. Click the card to solo it; click again to see them all.
- The EQ's dots can be dragged right there on the graph, as on the EQ stage.



Stage View: the voice, each stage's effect on it, and a card per stage.

## 7 Recording through it

V-23 adds under a millisecond of delay (36 samples), so you can hear yourself through it while you record. Any delay you notice comes from your audio interface: set its buffer to 64 or 128 samples while recording, and raise it again for editing.

## 8 Loudness and audiobooks

Switch on **LOUDNESS** (far right) to bring the voice to a standard level: Podcast -16, Streaming -14, Broadcast -23 or Audiobook -19 LUFS. For your own target, click the number beside **CUSTOM** and type it in. While LOUDNESS is on it sets the final level, and peaks stay under the **CEILING** you pick.

`AUTO` gently rides the level as you go, which suits streaming and recording. `MEASURE` is the accurate way for finished recordings: press it, play a section through, then press `APPLY` to set one fixed gain that lands it on target.

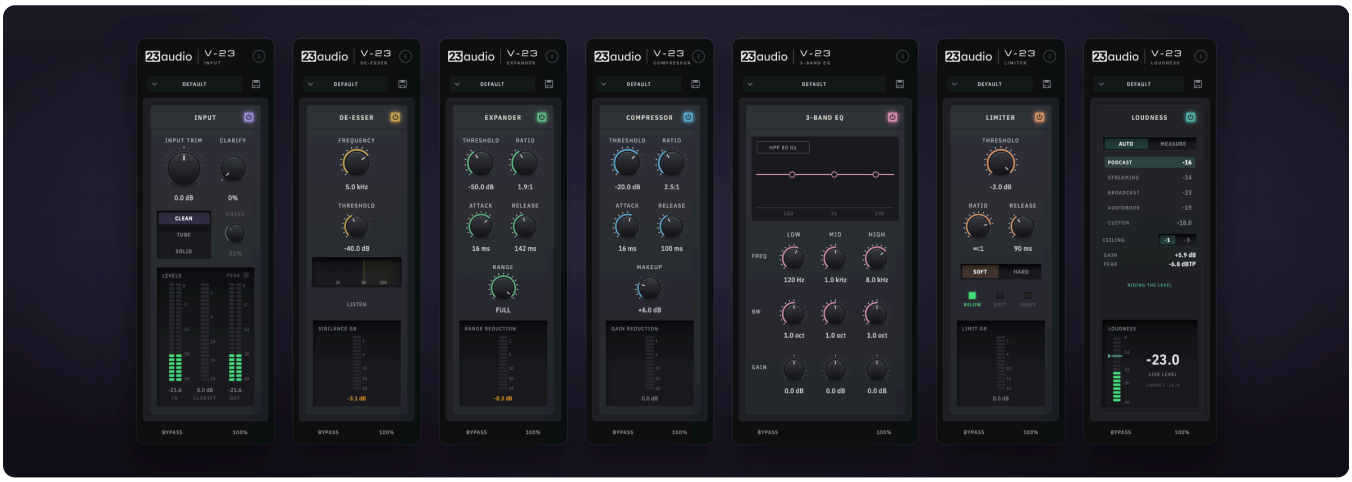
Picking **AUDIOBOOK** also sets the ceiling to -3 dB, as Audible's ACX asks. With AUTO on AUDIOBOOK, `CHECK` runs ACX's level check: press it, then play or bounce the whole file through once, and the readings turn green if they meet ACX's rules.

**Before you export with AUTO:** AUTO takes several seconds to find the level when it starts from scratch, so the start of a file can rise or dip while it settles. Play a minute or so through it first (it keeps the level it found), or use MEASURE, which is steady from the first word.

## 9 Individual strips

Each strip of V-23 also comes as its own plugin, for when you only need one effect: **V-23 Input**, **V-23 De-Esser**, **V-23 Expander**, **V-23 Compressor**, **V-23 EQ**, **V-23 Limiter** and **V-23 Loudness**. They install with V-23 and sit beside it in your DAW's list, under 23audio.

- **The same sound.** Each one is that strip from V-23, unchanged: the same controls, the same meters, the same sound.
- **Your licence covers them.** Once V-23 is unlocked, so are all seven. There's nothing else to install or type in.
- **Presets.** Each has the settings for its strip from V-23's own presets. Your own presets for one are kept with it, apart from V-23's.




The individual strips: V-23 Input, De-Esser, Expander, Compressor, EQ, Limiter and Loudness.

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Using V-23 means agreeing to the licence agreement shown when you install it (also at 23audio.com/legal/eula).