

TRUE>STAGE>AUDIO

STAGE FOCUS

Dynamic clarity processor for reducing masking and bringing important detail forward without simply adding brightness.

Core v1.0.0 User Manual



Overview

Stage Focus Core is a True Stage Audio dynamic clarity processor designed to help important details come forward by reducing masking and congestion in a natural, musical way. It is intended for tracks, stems, groups, and carefully chosen mix-bus use where a source needs more definition without being pushed into a brighter or more hyped tonal balance.

The central idea is simple: Stage Focus listens to the source, estimates how useful its processing is likely to be, and applies dynamic focus where it can make a musical contribution. Sources that already feel clear should usually receive less obvious processing. Sources with more masking, density, or congestion will tend to respond more noticeably.

Stage Focus is designed to work subtly across many tracks in a project. A small amount on several sources will usually sound more natural than forcing one instance to do all the work.

Quick Start

1. Insert Stage Focus on an individual track, instrument, aux, group, or stem.
2. Start with Balanced mode and Processed output.
3. Leave Guide, Follow, and Auto Gain enabled while learning the plugin.
4. Raise the Focus dial until the source becomes easier to place in the mix.
5. Use the coloured Focus Guide ring as a recommendation, then make the final decision by ear.
6. For many-track sessions, use smaller Focus values across important sources instead of applying a heavy setting to one bus.

Interface

The interface is organised around the central Focus dial. Metering sits on either side of the dial, musical intensity choices sit underneath, and utility controls are kept at the bottom so the main workflow remains immediate.

Focus Dial

Controls the amount of dynamic focus processing, from subtle support to stronger source focus. The centre number shows the current value from 0 to 100.

Input and Output Meters

Continuous left/right meters show signal entering and leaving the plugin. The readouts above the meters hold briefly so fast peaks remain readable.

Mode

Soft, Balanced, and Strong change the intensity and contour of the focus engine. Balanced is the recommended starting point for most material.

Focus Guide

Displays a three-colour recommendation around the Focus dial based on the current audio. It is a guide, not a rule.

Follow

Lets Focus adapt as the source changes. Move the dial at any time to set a new starting point; Follow continues tracking from there.

Auto Gain

Matches processed level back toward input level so you can judge the effect by clarity and tone rather than loudness.

Eco Mode

Reserved for efficiency behaviour while keeping the current audio path transparent. Use it when running large sessions where efficiency matters.

Guide Mode

The encircled G button at the bottom left opens Guide Mode. Guide Mode places an overlay over the interface and shows interactive information points for the main controls.

Hover over an information point to display a larger explanation box. Only one explanation is shown at a time, keeping the interface readable on laptops and smaller screens. Click the G button again to close Guide Mode.

Focus Guide

Focus Guide is one of the main workflow features in Stage Focus. It analyses the incoming source and displays a suggested Focus range around the dial. The guide is intentionally smooth: it should feel like an informed opinion rather than a nervous meter.

Yellow

Lower Focus settings are likely to be subtle or may not contribute much on the current source.

Green

The recommended working range where Stage Focus is most likely to provide useful clarity.

Red

A more assertive, source-dependent range. Red does not mean wrong; it means listen carefully in context.

The guide range changes from source to source. A dense guitar, drum bus, vocal, or orchestral stem may show a different recommendation than a clean synth, percussion hit, or already well-balanced track. That behaviour is intentional: Stage Focus should work harder where it can help, and stay more restrained where there is less to improve.

How Stage Focus Reacts

Stage Focus uses analysis stages to estimate where focus processing is likely to be useful. This does not mean every instance applies the same amount of change. The processing is source-aware, so a track that has less masking or congestion should usually be affected less than a track where the engine detects more opportunity.

This is especially important when using Stage Focus across a large arrangement. The goal is not to make every track brighter or more forward. The goal is to reduce small amounts of masking across the session so the mix becomes easier to read.

Using Many Instances

Stage Focus is intended to be used on many tracks simultaneously. In that workflow, subtlety matters. A small amount on vocals, guitars, drums, synths, orchestral sections, and buses can create a cumulative improvement without making the mix feel processed.

Using Stage Focus on the Master Bus

Stage Focus can also have a positive effect on the master bus when used sparingly. Start in Balanced or Soft mode, keep the Focus value modest, and use Auto Gain so level changes do not influence your judgement. If the mix becomes clearer but still feels like the same mix, you are in the right territory.

Backplate View

The button at the top left opens the backplate view. The backplate contains product, website, model, version, and design information without crowding the main mixing controls.

Use the same top-left button to return to the main interface.

Installation

Stage Focus is distributed through MuseHub in plugin formats for supported DAWs. Install only the formats required by your system and host application.

macOS

Install Stage Focus through MuseHub. The installer places the supported formats in their standard system locations.

VST3:

`/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/Stage Focus.vst3`

Audio Unit:

`/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/Stage Focus.component`

AAX:

```
/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/Stage  
Focus.aaxplugin
```

Windows

The Windows installer provides the available Windows plugin formats for supported hosts. Typical install locations are:

VST3:

```
C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\Stage Focus.vst3
```

AAX:

```
C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\Stage  
Focus.aaxplugin
```

After installation, rescan plugins in your DAW if Stage Focus does not appear immediately.

Licensing

Stage Focus is licensed through MuseHub. Keep MuseHub installed and signed in with the account that owns the product so your DAW can retrieve its authorization.

Practical Tips

- Start with Balanced mode and the Focus dial in the green guide range.
- Use Soft mode when the source already sounds polished and only needs a little extra definition.

- Use Strong mode when a source is dense, masked, or difficult to place, but keep checking the full mix.
 - Leave Follow enabled when the source changes over time, such as vocals, guitars, piano, or dynamic orchestral parts.
 - Turn Follow off if you want Stage Focus to remain fixed at the exact value you set.
 - Use Auto Gain for fair comparisons, especially on the master bus or stem buses.
 - If Stage Focus seems subtle on a clean source, that may be correct: the engine is designed to do less when there is less useful work to do.
 - When using many instances, aim for small improvements that add up across the arrangement.
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Support

For product information, updates, and support, visit truestageaudio.com.

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