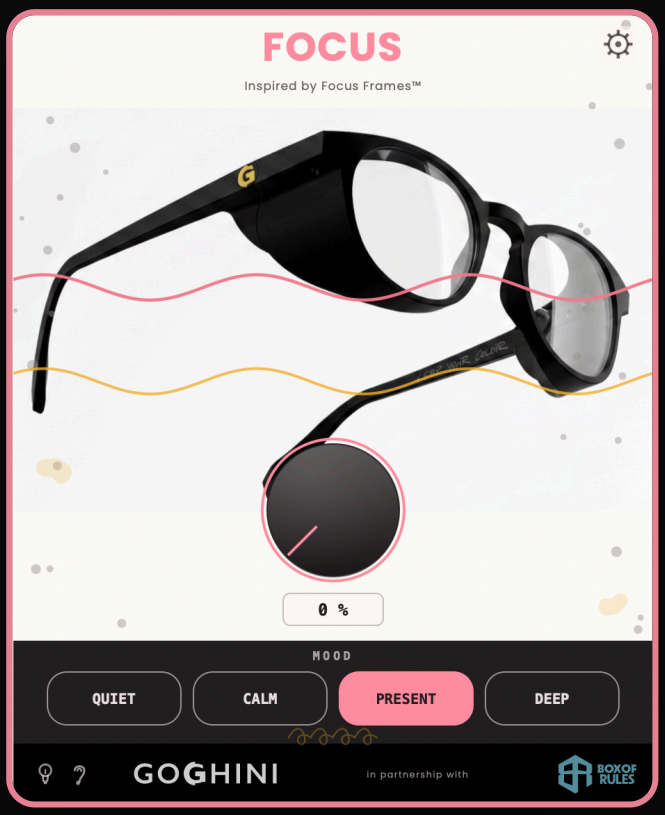
USER GUIDE · V1.0.1

FOCUS

Remove the peripherals. One dial closes the shields on a stereo image: the sides shut out, the middle comes forward. Inspired by Goghini's Focus Frames™, invented by the same person.



GOGHINI in partnership with BOX OF RULES

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WHAT IT IS

Focus is a stereo-width effect. Turn the dial and the stereo sides close in while the mono middle comes forward, the way the side shields on Focus Frames™ quiet the visual noise at the edges so your attention stays on what's in front of you. It is a hypermono-niser: the opposite of a widener.

Put it on a stereo bus where one element has to win: a vocal bus, a wide synth that fights the bass, drum overheads that need to tighten, a reverb return, or a whole mix for a mono-compatibility check.

STEREO ONLY · ZERO LATENCY · 0% IS BIT-EXACT · AU · VST3 · LV2 · FREE

02

INSTALL

MUSEHUB

Install from the Hub. macOS gets the AU, VST3 and LV2 in the system plug-in folders; Windows gets the VST3. Restart your DAW so it scans the new plugin. It appears under the manufacturer **Box of Rules**.

LOADING IT

Insert Focus on a **stereo** track or bus. It will not load on a mono track, by design: a mono signal has no peripherals to remove. If it seems to be missing from a track's list, check the track is stereo.

FIRST OPEN

A few seconds after the first open on a machine, a one-time notice explains the anonymous usage counts and offers OK or OPT OUT. Opting out stops all reporting immediately. No login, no activation, no serial, ever.

03

THE DIAL

REMOVE PERIPHERALS

0% to 100%. At 0% the plugin is a bit-exact passthrough. As you turn it up, black shutters sweep across the picture and the two waves (pink and yellow) converge; at 100% they meet as one line. That is the sound: two channels folding toward one. Double-click the dial to reset it. The readout beneath shows the exact value, and the dial is automatable with no zipper noise.

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THE FOUR MOODS

The MOOD keys decide *how* the shields close. Pick one. CALM is the default.

QUIET

Pure side attenuation. The side (stereo difference) is turned down; the mid (mono sum) is never touched. Surgical, mono-compatible by construction.

CALM

QUIET plus slow loudness make-up. Wide material loses energy as the sides go, so a ~300 ms level tracker restores it. The image narrows but the room stays as loud.

PRESENT

QUIET plus the middle coming forward: a presence bell on the mid around 2.5 kHz (up to +3 dB) and gentle saturation, both scaled by the dial.

DEEP

Frequency-dependent shields. A high-pass on the side sweeps 20 Hz to 20 kHz with the dial, so lows fold to mono first, highs last. 100% is exactly mono.

WHICH ONE

- **CALM** for most things: narrows without a level drop.
- **QUIET** when the level change should be audible, or for mastering-style side trims.
- **PRESENT** when the element should come forward as it narrows: vocals, leads.
- **DEEP** for low-end control: a wide bass or synth tightens without losing its top-end width until you push further.

MONO SAFETY

In QUIET, CALM and DEEP the mid is never modified, so a mono fold-down of the output keeps the character of the input; only the width changes. PRESENT is the one MOOD that touches the mid, by design.

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SYS AND THE FOOTER

The cog opens SYS: live sample rate, block size, format and CPU; the **Send anonymous usage data** toggle; **Animate waveform** (turn the wave motion off for a still picture, sound unaffected); PRIVACY; and a copy key for the stats.

In the footer, the lightbulb opens the ideas form (an idea that ships in a paid plugin earns a lifetime licence) and the ear opens the listener survey. The Goghini and Box Of Rules marks link to their sites. There is no bypass in the plugin: use your DAW's.

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QUESTIONS

It is not in my DAW.
Restart the DAW. Logic: Plug-In Manager, full rescan. Live, REAPER, Cubase: check VST3 scanning includes the standard folder.

It will not load on my track.
The track is mono. Focus is stereo only. Use a stereo track or bus.

I turned the dial and nothing changed.
Focus works on the difference between left and right. A mono source has no peripherals to remove. Try a wide source: overheads, a stereo synth, a reverb return.

Does it add latency?
No. Zero samples. Safe for tracking and live use.

Does it change my mono sum?
Not in QUIET, CALM or DEEP. PRESENT adds a small presence lift and saturation on the mid.

Can I use it while mastering?
Yes. QUIET at small amounts is a clean side trim; DEEP at small amounts is a low-end mono fold with a sweeping corner. No oversampling artefacts, 0% is bit-exact.

What does it send home?
Anonymous usage events: a random install id, plugin version, OS and DAW version, which features were used. Never audio, never personal data, never file or session names, no IP addresses stored. Opt out in the first-run notice or in SYS at any time. Policy: boxofrules.com/privacy

How do I update?
Through MuseHub.

Is it really free?
Yes, for any use, commercial productions included. A Goghini and Box Of Rules collaboration.

07

TECHNICAL

- Mid/side engine: side gain, ~300 ms loudness tracker, 2.5 kHz presence bell (up to +3 dB) with soft saturation, swept one-pole high-pass on the side (20 Hz to 20 kHz), selected per MOOD and scaled by the dial.
- All parameters smoothed (~30 ms). 0% skips the stage entirely.
- Parameters: REMOVE PERIPHERALS (0 to 100%), MOOD (QUIET, CALM, PRESENT, DEEP). Both automatable.
- Identity: manufacturer Box of Rules (BxRl), code Fcus, AU type aufx, bundle com.boxofrules.focus. macOS 10.13+, universal. Windows 10+, 64-bit.
- Built with JUCE 8. Proprietary software, © Box Of Rules. Goghini, the G monogram and Focus Frames™ are trademarks of Goghini, used in partnership.

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