noshigeSound



USER MANUAL

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73

Vintage Tone Enhancer

VST3 AU AAX

2026-11

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Contents

1 Introduction . . . 3
1.1 What you get . . . 3
1.2 About this manual . . . 3
2 Installation . . . 4
2.1 System requirements . . . 4
2.2 Getting the installer . . . 4
2.3 Installing on macOS . . . 4
2.4 Installing on Windows . . . 5
2.5 Where things are installed . . . 5
2.6 Updating . . . 5
2.7 Uninstalling . . . 5
3 Quick Start . . . 6
4 The Interface . . . 7
4.1 Front panel . . . 7
4.2 Header bar . . . 8
4.3 Bottom buttons . . . 8
4.4 Working with knobs and switches . . . 9
4.5 Resizing the window . . . 9
4.6 The Config menu . . . 11
4.7 Checking the version . . . 11
5 Controls . . . 13
5.1 Reference values . . . 14
5.2 Stereo tracks . . . 14
5.3 Bypass . . . 14
6 Auto Gain . . . 15
6.1 Switching it on . . . 15
6.2 The three modes . . . 15
6.3 The gain it applies . . . 16
6.4 Good to know . . . 16
7 The Processing Engine: GPU and CPU . . . 17
7.1 Requirements for GPU processing . . . 17
7.2 Latency . . . 17
7.3 Choosing the engine . . . 18
7.4 Remember Engine . . . 18
7.5 If the GPU cannot keep up . . . 18
8 Presets . . . 19
8.1 What a preset contains . . . 20
8.2 Where presets are kept . . . 20
9 Licensing and Activation . . . 21
9.1 Getting the free license . . . 21
9.2 The 14-day trial . . . 22
9.3 Activating online . . . 22
9.4 Activating a computer that is offline . . . 24
9.5 Managing your computers . . . 26
9.6 Staying activated . . . 27
9.7 The License panel . . . 27
10 Troubleshooting . . . 28
10.1 Getting help . . . 28
Specifications . . . 29
Parameters seen by the DAW . . . 29
Legal . . . 30

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is a free tone enhancer. It is the high-shelf section of a legendary vintage preamp EQ, parametrically modeled by AI: the plugin follows the hardware at every knob position, across the whole range of the control.

There is one knob. With the knob at zero the response is flat, but the signal already carries the small nonlinearities of the hardware. Turn the knob up and the shelf opens: the high frequencies rise, by up to about 17 dB at the top of the range.

1.1 What you get

- **One knob** for the high shelf of the hardware, on a panel scale from 0 to 100.
- **Lite and Pro quality**: a lighter mode and the full-quality mode, switched with one click.
- **Auto Gain** in three modes (Track, Static, Snap) to keep the level steady while you compare.
- **GPU or CPU processing**, chosen automatically and switchable per instance.
- **User presets, a bypass button linked to your DAW**, and a window you can resize from 50 % to 300 %.
- **A free perpetual license** that can be active on up to 3 computers.

1.2 About this manual

Words printed in the plugin window are shown like this: AUTO GAIN. Keys and mouse actions are shown like this: `Shift` + click. File and folder names are shown like this: `Presets`.

The boxes below mark three kinds of remarks.

Important
Something that can cost you sound or settings if you miss it.

Tip
A way of working that we find useful.

Note
Background that explains why the plugin behaves as it does.

CHAPTER 2

Installation

2.1 System requirements

Item	Requirement
Plugin formats	macOS: VST3 / AU / AAX Windows: VST3 / AAX
macOS	macOS 10.13 or later on Intel Macs, macOS 11 or later on Apple Silicon Macs (Universal).
Windows	Windows 10 or later, 64-bit (x64).
Sample rates	44.1 / 48 / 88.2 / 96 kHz
Channels	Mono or stereo. The input and output of a track must have the same channel count.
GPU processing (optional)	Mac: Apple Silicon (M1 or later) with macOS 11 or later. Windows: NVIDIA GeForce GTX 10 to RTX 40 series with driver 452.39 or later. Without one of these the plugin runs on the CPU. See the chapter on the processing engine.
License	One license can be active on up to 3 computers.

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is free. To use it beyond the 14-day trial you need a free noshigesound.com account and the free license. An internet connection is needed once, for online activation. The trial and offline activation work without one. See “Licensing and Activation”.

2.2 Getting the installer

Download the installer from noshigesound.com/downloads. The same installer serves the trial and the activated plugin, so there is nothing to download again when you activate. Once the free license is on your account, its page under noshigesound.com/account/licenses also offers the installer.

2.3 Installing on macOS

1. Open `EnhancerVintage-73-x.x.x.dmg` (`x.x.x` is the version number) and double-click the package inside it.
2. Read and accept the license agreement.
3. Choose the formats to install. **VST3**, **Audio Unit**, **AAX (Pro Tools)** are all selected to begin with; untick the ones you do not need.
4. Enter your Mac’s administrator password when asked, and let the installer finish.
5. Start your DAW. If the plugin is not listed, run the DAW’s plugin scan.

> **Note**
> The installer is signed and notarized by noshigeSound Co. Ltd. If macOS says it cannot verify the developer, the download is probably damaged; download it again.

2.4 Installing on Windows

1. Run `EnhancerVintage-73-x.x.x.exe` (`x.x.x` is the version number). Windows asks for administrator permission.
2. Read and accept the license agreement.
3. Choose the components. `VST3 plug-in` and `AAX plug-in (Pro Tools)` are both ticked to begin with; untick the one you do not need.
4. Finish the installer, start your DAW and run its plugin scan if needed.

2.5 Where things are installed

What	macOS	Windows
VST3	`/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73.vst3`	`C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\ENHANCER VINTAGE-73.vst3`
Audio Unit	`/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73.component`	—
AAX	`/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73.aaxplugin`	`C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins\ENHANCER VINTAGE-73.aaxplugin`
Presets	`~/Documents/noshigeSound/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73/Presets`	`Documents\noshigeSound\ENHANCER VINTAGE-73\Presets`

Everything the plugin needs is inside the plugin itself. Nothing else has to be installed, and the GPU engine needs no extra runtime beyond the graphics driver. The `Presets` folder is created the first time the plugin is loaded.

2.6 Updating

Run the newer installer over the existing one. Your presets, your settings and your activation stay as they are. To see which version is installed, click the gear icon at the top right of the plugin and choose `About`.

2.7 Uninstalling

Windows: open Settings, Apps, find `ENHANCER VINTAGE-73` and choose Uninstall, or use `Uninstall ENHANCER VINTAGE-73` in the Start menu.

macOS: there is no uninstaller. Delete the plugin files listed in the table above.

Your presets and settings are not removed by either method. Delete the `noshigeSound/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73` folder in Documents yourself if you no longer want them.

CHAPTER 3

Quick Start

1. **Insert ENHANCER VINTAGE-73** on a mono or stereo track in your DAW. It is listed under the manufacturer noshigeSound. DAWs that sort plugins by category show it among the EQs.
2. **Start the trial or activate.** The first time, the plugin offers a 14-day trial that needs no account: click `Start 14-day Trial`. If you already have your free license, click `Not now` and enter your email, password and license key instead (see “Licensing and Activation”).
3. **Play the track with the knob at 0.** The frequency response is flat, and the signal already carries the character of the hardware.
4. **Turn the knob up** to open the high shelf. Around 25 the top end rises by about 3.5 dB, around 50 by about 7 dB.
5. **Compare.** Click the power button in the header to bypass the plugin. Click `AUTO GAIN` at the bottom left if you want the plugin to match the processed level to the input while you compare.
6. **Save.** Type a name in the preset box and click the save icon.

> **Tip**
> Try it on a vocal, on a drum bus or on the master. To keep the plugin after the trial, claim the free license at noshigesound.com/products/enhancer-vintage-73. It takes a free account and no payment.

CHAPTER 4

The Interface

The window has two parts: the header bar at the top and the front panel below it. Three buttons sit along the bottom edge of the front panel, and the grip for resizing is in the bottom-right corner. All text in the plugin is in English.



Fig. 1 The ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 window

4.1 Front panel



Fig. 2 The front panel (shown without the header bar and the bottom buttons)

1	**Knob**	The one sound control. Opens the high shelf.
2	**Pointer**	Shows the position of the knob.
3	**Scale**	21 dots from `0` to `100`, one dot for every 5.

4.2 Header bar

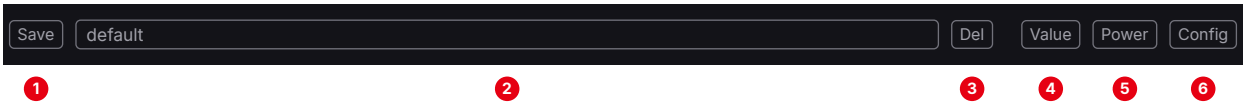


Fig. 3 Layout of the header bar (schematic)

1	**Save**	Disk icon. Saves the current settings as a preset.
2	**Preset box**	Shows the current preset; shows `default` when none is loaded. The arrow opens the preset list.
3	**Delete**	Trash icon. Deletes the current preset.
4	**Value display**	Small knob icon with a bar under it. Shows the value on the knob. Blue when on.
5	**Power**	Bypasses the plugin. Linked to the bypass switch of the DAW. Red when bypassed.
6	**Config**	Gear icon. Opens the Config menu.



Fig. 4 The header bar

4.3 Bottom buttons



Fig. 5 Layout of the buttons along the bottom edge of the front panel (schematic)

1	`AUTO GAIN`	Switches Auto Gain on and off. When on, it reads `AUTO` and the gain being applied. Right-click for the modes.
2	**Engine**	`GPU` or `CPU`: the engine in use. Click to switch.
3	`Quality`	`Lite` or `Pro`: the quality mode. Click to switch.



Fig. 6 The bottom buttons

4.4 Working with knobs and switches

Action	Result
Drag the knob up or down, or left or right	Turns the knob. Up and right turn it up.
Double-click the knob	Opens a small box where you type the value, from 0 to 1 (0.5 is `50` on the panel). `Enter` or a click elsewhere applies it, `Esc` cancels.
Right-click the knob (or `Ctrl` + click on a Mac)	Returns the knob to its default value, 0.
Click `AUTO GAIN`	Switches Auto Gain on or off.
Right-click `AUTO GAIN`	Opens the menu of Auto Gain modes.
Click `GPU` or `CPU`	Switches the processing engine.
Click `Quality`	Switches between `Lite` and `Pro`.
Click the arrow of the preset box	Opens the list of your presets.
Click the text of the preset box	Lets you type a preset name.
Mouse wheel over the preset box	Steps through your presets.

Showing the values

The value of the knob is hidden to begin with, also while you drag. Click the value button in the header (the small knob icon with a bar under it), or choose `Always Show Values` in the Config menu, to show it in the centre of the knob. The button is blue while the display is on. The readout runs from 0.00 to 1.00; see “Reference values” in the next chapter. The setting applies to every instance of ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 on this computer.



Fig. 7 The value readout on the knob

4.5 Resizing the window

Drag the grip in the bottom-right corner to resize the window between 50 % and 300 %. The proportions are kept. `Shift` + click the grip to return to 100 %.

Each instance remembers its size in the DAW project. The last size you set also becomes the starting size for new instances.

The grip is drawn as three thin diagonal lines. If the DAW gives the window a shape with other proportions, the panel is fitted and centred inside it, with black bars beside it.

4.6 The Config menu

Click the gear icon at the right end of the header. The menu has these items, from top to bottom:

Item	What it does
Always Show Values	Shows the value on the knob. Same as the value button in the header. Ticked when on.
Auto Gain	Submenu: Auto Gain (on/off), the modes Track (follows the material), Static (controls only) and Snap (measured once on enable), and Snap again. See the chapter “Auto Gain”.
ENGINE: GPU, CPU	Chooses the processing engine. The tick shows the engine in use.
Remember Engine	Saves your engine choice in the DAW project. On by default.
Open Presets Directory	Opens the Presets folder in Finder or Explorer.
Web Site	Opens noshigesound.com in your browser.
License...	Opens the License panel.
About	Shows the version of the plugin. Its Visit Website button opens noshigesound.com.

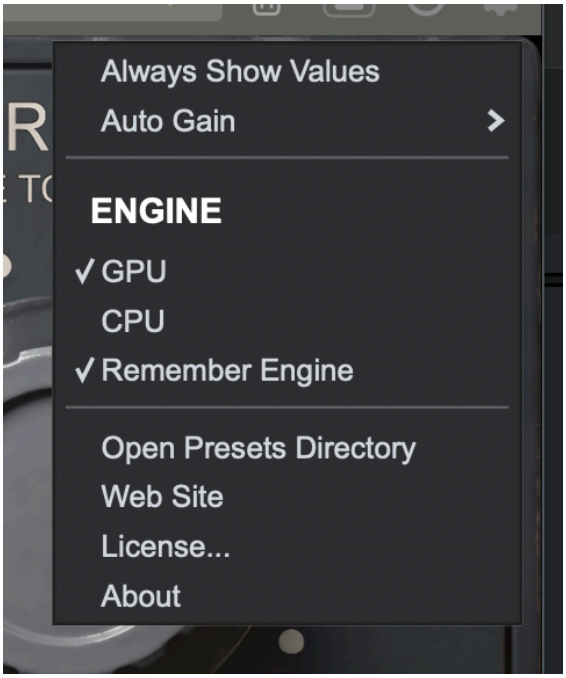


Fig. 8 The Config menu

4.7 Checking the version

1. Click the gear icon at the right end of the header to open the Config menu.
2. Choose About.
3. The panel shows the product name and the version, in the form Version x.x.x, followed by a build code in brackets.

Close the panel with Close, with Esc, or by clicking outside it. The newest version and what changed in it are listed at noshigesound.com/changelog.

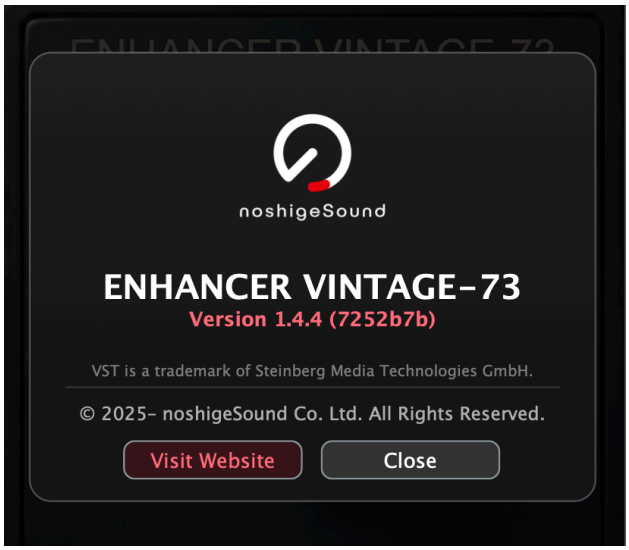
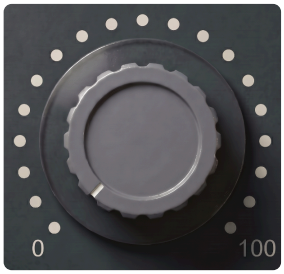


Fig. 9 The About panel

CHAPTER 5

Controls

The knob

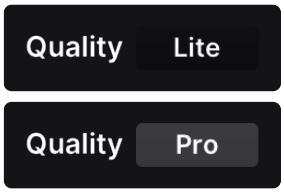


Range: 0 – 100 on the panel (0.00 – 1.00 as a value) Default: 0

Sets how far the high shelf is opened. At 0 the frequency response is flat, but the plugin is not a bypass: the signal still carries the small nonlinearities of the hardware. Turning the knob up raises the frequencies above about 1 kHz, following the curve of the hardware all the way to 100. The scale is the panel's own and does not correspond to decibels; the table under "Reference values" gives the boost at each position.

The plugin has no output level control. Because the boost also raises the overall level, switch AUTO GAIN on when you want the processed level matched to the input. A move of the knob reaches the sound after a short delay, so use gradual moves for automation. In the DAW the parameter is called Gain.

Quality : Lite / Pro



Default: Pro

Selects the quality mode. Pro is the full-quality mode. Lite is lighter on the computer. Click the button at the bottom right of the front panel to switch; the button shows the mode in use. Both modes are available in the trial and with the free license.

Lite follows the same curve as Pro within about 1 dB. Right after you switch, the audio passes through unprocessed until the new mode is ready. The setting is saved in presets and can be automated.

AUTO GAIN

Default: Off

The button at the bottom left of the front panel (see "Bottom buttons" in the previous chapter). A click switches Auto Gain on or off; a right-click opens the menu of modes. While Auto Gain is on, the button reads AUTO and the gain being applied. The chapter "Auto Gain" describes the modes.

GPU / CPU

Default: GPU where it can be used, otherwise CPU

The button to the right of AUTO GAIN. It shows the engine that is processing, orange for GPU and light blue for CPU, and a click switches to the other one. A dark CPU cannot be clicked: the GPU cannot be used with the current setup. See the chapter "The Processing Engine: GPU and CPU".

5.1 Reference values

Boost at each knob position

The table shows how much the level changes in each frequency band, relative to the input, for five knob positions. The figures were measured on version 1.4.4 with pink noise at −20 dBFS RMS in third-octave bands, at 48 kHz, in `Pro` with Auto Gain off. They are approximate.

Knob	1 kHz	2 kHz	4 kHz	8 kHz	12 kHz	16 kHz
0	−0.1 dB	−0.1 dB	0.0 dB	+0.1 dB	−0.2 dB	−0.7 dB
25	−0.1 dB	+1.5 dB	+2.9 dB	+3.6 dB	+3.5 dB	+2.9 dB
50	−0.1 dB	+3.0 dB	+5.9 dB	+7.3 dB	+7.4 dB	+6.9 dB
75	−0.1 dB	+4.1 dB	+8.7 dB	+11.7 dB	+12.3 dB	+12.1 dB
100	+0.1 dB	+4.8 dB	+10.4 dB	+15.1 dB	+16.9 dB	+17.1 dB

In words: at 0 the response is flat within a fraction of a dB. The boost starts above about 1 kHz and reaches roughly +3.5 dB at 25, +7 dB at 50, +12 dB at 75 and +17 dB at 100 between 8 and 16 kHz. Around 500 Hz the level falls slightly as the knob goes up, by about 1 dB at 100. `Lite` follows the same curve within about 1 dB.

Panel scale and value

The panel is printed from `0` to `100`. The value readout, the box that opens on a double-click, and the DAW (parameter Gain) use a value from 0.00 to 1.00 in steps of 0.01.

Panel	0	25	50	75	100
Value	0.00 (default)	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00

5.2 Stereo tracks

On a stereo track the left and right channels are processed independently, with the same settings. There is no mid/side mode.

5.3 Bypass

Power button



Default: Off (not bypassed)

The power button in the header bypasses the plugin and follows the bypass switch of your DAW in both directions. The pictures show it in normal use (left) and while bypassed (right, red). While bypassed, the front panel is dimmed with the word `Bypassed`. The controls under it do not respond until you switch bypass off; the header stays usable.

Switching is free of clicks, and the bypassed signal is delayed by the plugin's latency, so the timing does not shift. Bypass is saved with the DAW project, not in presets. Bypassing does not lower the CPU or GPU load.

CHAPTER 6

Auto Gain

Turning the knob changes the level as well as the tone, and a louder signal is easy to mistake for a better one. Auto Gain adjusts the output level so that the processed signal is about as loud as the input, and you can judge the tone itself.

6.1 Switching it on

There are two ways, and they do the same thing:

- Click the `AUTO GAIN` button at the bottom left of the front panel.
- Choose `Auto Gain` in the Config menu, then `Auto Gain` in the submenu.

Auto Gain is off in a new instance, and the button reads `AUTO GAIN` in a dim color. While it is on, the button reads `AUTO` followed by the gain being applied in dB, for example `AUTO -0.9 dB`. The level is ramped when you switch, so there is no jump.

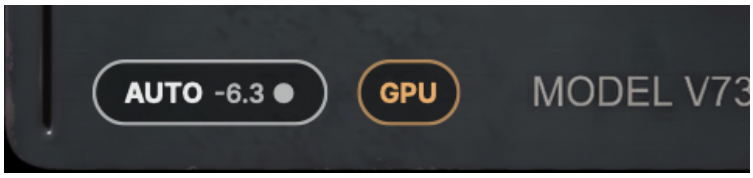


Fig. 10 The AUTO GAIN button while Auto Gain is on

6.2 The three modes

Choose the mode in the Config menu under `Auto Gain`, or right-click the `AUTO GAIN` button. The menus list the modes as `Track (follows the material)`, `Static (controls only)` and `Snap (measured once on enable)`. A new instance uses Snap.

Mode	Button reads	Behavior
`Snap`	`AUTO -0.9 ●`	Measures the material once. After you switch Auto Gain on, the plugin measures about two seconds of audio (the dot blinks), then keeps that correction. The gain still follows the knob when you move it, but it no longer reacts to the audio. This is the default.
`Track`	`AUTO -0.9 dB`	Follows the material. The plugin keeps comparing the loudness of input and output and slowly corrects the gain to keep them matched.
`Static`	`AUTO -0.9 S`	Uses only the knob position. Nothing is measured, so the same setting always gives the same gain. Depending on the material, the match can be several dB off.

In Snap mode, `Snap again` in the same menus measures the material once more; while it measures, the item reads `Snap again (capturing...)`. Use it after the material changes, for example when you move to a louder section. Snap also measures again each time you switch Auto Gain off and on. If you change from Track to Snap, the correction that Track had reached is kept without a new measurement. Snap needs audio to measure: if nothing is playing when you switch Auto Gain on, the dot keeps blinking until about two seconds of audio have passed.

6.3 The gain it applies

Static mode applies a gain that depends only on the knob. It is about 0 dB with the knob at 0 and falls to about −1.8 dB with the knob at 100, in `Lite` and in `Pro` alike. The gain is negative because the boost makes typical program material that much louder.

Knob	0	25	50	75	100
Static gain, approx.	0.0 dB	−0.1 dB	−0.4 dB	−1.0 dB	−1.8 dB

Snap and Track start from the same value and add the correction they measure on your material, so the figure on the button can be higher or lower than in the table.

6.4 Good to know

- Auto Gain and its mode belong to the instance. They are saved in the DAW project, together with the correction that Snap measured, but not in presets. Loading a preset leaves them as they are.
- Auto Gain and its mode cannot be automated.
- Auto Gain is the only gain stage in the plugin. With Auto Gain off, or while the plugin is bypassed, no gain is applied.

CHAPTER 7

The Processing Engine: GPU and CPU

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 needs far more computation than a conventional plugin. To take that load off the CPU, it can run on your graphics processor (GPU) instead. The two engines do the same job. They differ in where the load goes and in latency.

7.1 Requirements for GPU processing

Item	Requirement
Mac	Apple Silicon (M1 or later) and macOS 11 or later. Intel Macs always use the CPU.
Windows	NVIDIA GeForce GTX 10 series to RTX 40 series, with driver 452.39 or later. PCs with other graphics hardware always use the CPU.
Sample rate	44.1 / 48 / 88.2 / 96 kHz
DAW buffer size	A multiple of 256 samples, from 256 to 4096 (256, 512, 768, 1024 and so on).
Extra software	None. Only the graphics driver is needed.

When all of these are met, a new instance uses the GPU. In every other case the plugin runs on the CPU by itself. You do not have to set anything.

7.2 Latency

The CPU engine has a fixed latency. The GPU engine adds two DAW buffers to it, so its latency depends on the buffer size.

Engine and buffer size	At 44.1 / 48 kHz (time at 48 kHz)	At 88.2 / 96 kHz (time at 96 kHz)
CPU, any buffer size	256 samples (5.3 ms)	256 samples (2.7 ms)
GPU, 256	768 samples (16 ms)	768 samples (8 ms)
GPU, 512	1280 samples (26.7 ms)	1280 samples (13.3 ms)
GPU, 1024	2304 samples (48 ms)	2304 samples (24 ms)
GPU, 2048	4352 samples (90.7 ms)	4352 samples (45.3 ms)

The plugin reports its latency to the DAW, and the DAW compensates for it during playback. When you switch engines, the new value is reported.

> **Tip**
> For recording or playing through the plugin, where you hear the delay directly, choose `CPU`. For mixing, where the DAW compensates the delay, `GPU` takes the load off the CPU.

7.3 Choosing the engine

The engine indicator is the button to the right of `AUTO GAIN`, at the bottom left of the front panel. It shows the engine in use, and a click switches between `GPU` and `CPU`. The Config menu has the same choice under `ENGINE`.

Indicator	Config menu	Meaning
`GPU`, orange	`GPU` ticked	Running on the GPU. Click to switch to the CPU.
`CPU`, light blue	`CPU` ticked	Running on the CPU. Click to switch to the GPU.
`CPU`, dark	`GPU (unavailable: block size)`	The buffer size does not meet the requirement. Change it in the DAW.
`CPU`, dark	`GPU (not available)`	This computer has no supported GPU.

7.4 Remember Engine

`Remember Engine` in the Config menu is on by default. While it is on, an engine you choose yourself is saved with that instance in the DAW project and applied again when you reopen the project. An instance where you never chose stays automatic: GPU when the requirements are met, CPU otherwise.

A project saved with `GPU` and opened on a computer without a supported GPU runs on the CPU. `Remember Engine` itself is a setting of this computer, not of the project.

7.5 If the GPU cannot keep up

With many instances on the GPU, it may not finish a buffer in time. The plugin then covers the gap on the CPU without changing the latency, so playback continues, and it returns to the GPU by itself. If this happens often, switch some instances to `CPU`.

> **Note**
> Offline bounce and export work with either engine.

CHAPTER 8

Presets

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 does not come with factory presets, and a new instance shows `default` in the preset box. The preset list shows the presets you have saved.

To	Do this
Load a preset	Click the arrow of the preset box and choose a preset, or turn the mouse wheel over the box.
Save a new preset	Click the text of the preset box, type a name and click the save icon. `Preset Saved` confirms it.
Overwrite	Save under the same name and confirm `Are you sure you want to overwrite it?` with `OK`.
Delete a preset	Load it, click the trash icon and confirm `Are you sure you want to delete it?` with `OK`. `Preset Deleted` confirms it.
Rename a preset	There is no rename command. Save the preset under the new name, then delete the old one.

An asterisk after the name (`Name*`) means the settings differ from the loaded preset. It disappears when they match again.



Fig. 11 The preset list

Messages

Message	Meaning
`Please insert the preset name!`	You clicked the save icon with no name in the preset box. Type a name and save again.
`Please select the preset!`	You clicked the trash icon with no preset loaded.
`This preset is not saved!`	You clicked the trash icon, but the name in the preset box is not a saved preset.

Important
The plugin has no undo of its own. Loading a preset replaces the knob and Quality settings, so save the current settings as a preset first if you want to return to them.

8.1 What a preset contains

Saved in a preset	Not saved in a preset
The knob, Quality (Lite / Pro)	Bypass (header power button), Auto Gain and its mode, the engine (GPU/CPU), the window size

Everything in the right-hand column is saved with the DAW project instead; the engine is saved only when you chose it yourself and Remember Engine is on. Always Show Values and Remember Engine are settings of this computer.

8.2 Where presets are kept

macOS	Windows
`~/Documents/noshigeSound/ENHANCER VINTAGE-73/Presets`	`Documents\noshigeSound\ENHANCER VINTAGE-73\Presets`

Each preset is one file with the extension `.preset`. Only the files directly in `Presets` are listed; folders inside it are not shown. Open Presets Directory in the Config menu opens the folder in Finder or Explorer.

> **Tip**
> To back up your presets or move them to another computer, copy the `Presets` folder. Updating or uninstalling the plugin does not delete it.

CHAPTER 9

Licensing and Activation

The essentials first:

Question	Answer
Can I use it without a license?	Only during the trial. After that, ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 has to be activated.
Is there a trial?	Yes: 14 days with every feature. It starts inside the plugin and needs no account. One trial per computer.
Where do I see the days remaining?	Config menu, `License...`: the `Status` row shows `Trial - N days left`.
What happens when the trial ends?	The output is silent and the activation screen is shown until you activate with the free license.
What do I need to activate?	The email address and password of your noshigesound.com account, and the license key. All three are entered in the plugin.
Can I activate without internet?	Yes, with a perpetual license, by carrying a file to a device that is online.
On how many computers?	Up to 3 at the same time per license.
Does it cost anything?	No. The license is free and does not expire. You need a free noshigesound.com account to receive it.

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is free, but it must be activated before it processes audio. There are two ways to start:

- **Claim the free license** on noshigesound.com and activate the plugin with it. The license is perpetual: it does not expire, and it can be active on up to 3 computers.
- **Start the 14-day trial** that is built into the plugin. It needs no account. To keep using the plugin after the 14 days, activate it with the free license.

The trial and the activated plugin are the same installation and have the same features.

> **Important**
> While ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is neither activated nor in its trial, its output is silent, and the activation screen covers the window so that the controls cannot be used.

9.1 Getting the free license

1. Open noshigesound.com/products/enhancer-vintage-73. The plugin's activation screen has a link to this page, `Get a free license`.
2. Click `Claim free license`.
3. If you are not signed in, choose `Create an account` or `Sign in`. A new account has to confirm its email address first: open the verification link we send you, return to the product page and click `Claim free license` again.
4. Click `Issue my license`.
5. The next page shows your license key. We also send it to you by email, and it stays on your license page at noshigesound.com/account/licenses.

No payment and no card are involved. Each account can claim one free license.

9.2 The 14-day trial

1. Open the plugin window on a computer where ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 has been neither activated nor tried before. `Start Free Trial?` appears. Click `Start 14-day Trial`.
2. `Trial Started!` confirms that the trial is running. Click `OK`.

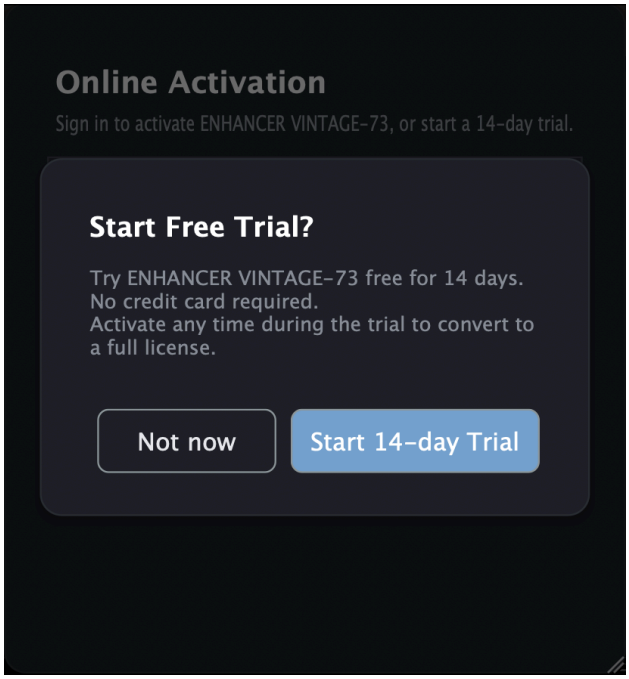


Fig. 12 The trial offer

The trial needs no account, no license key and no internet connection. It runs once per computer and cannot be restarted: a second attempt is answered with `Trial Unavailable`.

Checking the days remaining

1. Click the gear icon at the right end of the header to open the Config menu.
2. Choose `License...`.
3. The `Status` row shows `Trial - N days left`.

To activate before the trial ends, click `Activate License` in the same panel.

When the 14 days are over, the message `Free Trial Expired!` appears with the buttons `OK` and `Purchase Now!`. From then on the output is silent and the activation screen is shown until you activate.

> **Note**
> Some wording in these dialogs is shared with our other plugins, for example “No credit card required” and the button `Purchase Now!`. ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is free and there is nothing to buy: `Purchase Now!` opens the product page, where you claim the free license.

9.3 Activating online

You need three things: the email address and the password of your noshigesound.com account, and the license key. The key is shown on your license page at noshigesound.com/account/licenses and in the email you received with the license. Keys for ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 start with `NEV73-`.

1. Open the plugin window. While ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is not activated, the activation screen (Online Activation) is shown over the controls. If Start Free Trial? appears first, click Not now . During a trial, open the screen from the Config menu: License... , then Activate License .
2. Enter your email address, your password and the license key. All three go on the same screen (see the table below).
3. Click Activate . The computer must be connected to the internet at this moment.
4. Activation Complete! appears, with the number of computers now using the license.

ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is now unlocked on this computer: every instance, in every plugin format and for every user account.

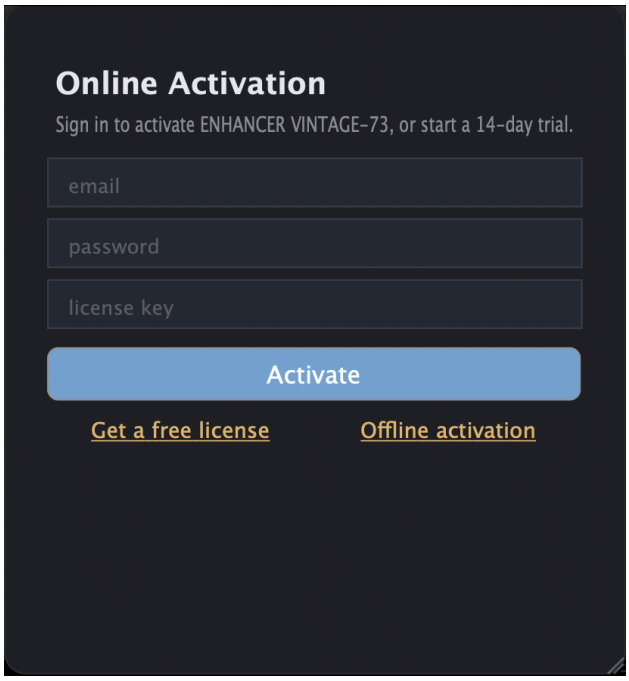


Fig. 13 The activation screen

On the activation screen	What it is for
email	The email address of your noshigesound.com account.
password	The password of that account. It is shown as dots.
license key	The license key, starting with `NEV73-`. You can paste it.
Activate	Sends the three entries and activates this computer. `Enter` does the same.
Get a free license	Opens noshigesound.com in your browser.
Offline activation	Opens the panel for a computer that cannot go online (next section).

> **Note**
> If you use two-factor authentication on the website, nothing changes here. The plugin asks only for your email, password and license key, never for a code.

If activation fails

Message	What to do
Email or password is incorrect.	Check the address and password of your noshigesound.com account. You can reset the password from the sign-in page.
The license key is invalid.	The key belongs to another product. Keys for ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 start with `NEV73-`.
License key not found. Please check and try again.	Copy the key again from your license page.
This license is registered to another account. …	Sign in with the account that owns the license.
Maximum activation count reached for this license. …	All 3 computers are in use. Free one on your license page (see “Managing your computers”).
Couldn't connect to noshigesound.com…	Check the internet connection and firewall, then try again. For a computer that cannot go online, use offline activation.

9.4 Activating a computer that is offline

A computer that never connects to the internet can be activated by carrying two small files between it and any device that is online. The panel in the plugin has three steps. Open it with `Offline activation` on the activation screen.

Step 1 of 3: save the request file (on the offline computer)

On the panel	What to do
`license key`	Enter the license key.
`device name`	The name this computer will have in your license list. The computer’s name is filled in; change it if you like.
`Machine ID` and `Copy`	The ID of this computer. You need it only if you cannot carry a file to the online device (see the note below).
`Save request file…`	Saves the request file. Its name ends in `.nsreq`, and the Desktop is offered as the place to save it.
`I already have a license file`	Jumps to step 3.

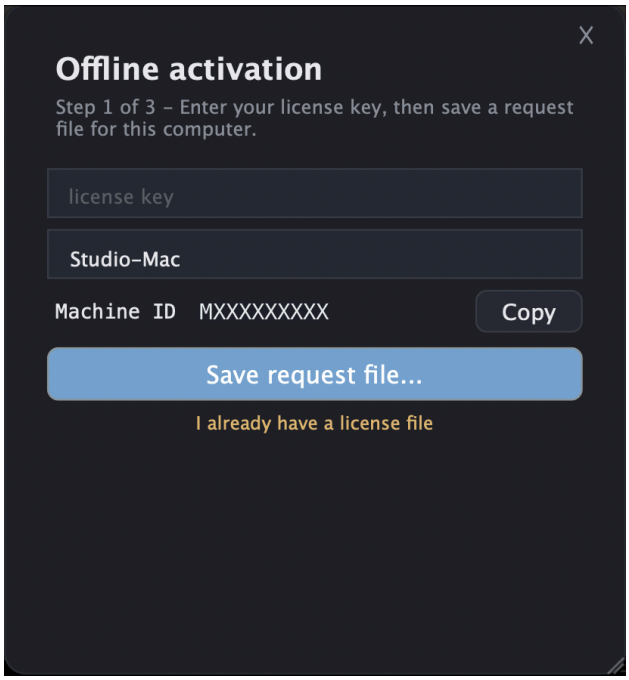


Fig. 14 Offline activation, step 1

Step 2 of 3: get the license file (on a device that is online)

1. Move the `.nsreq` file to a computer, tablet or phone that is online.
2. Sign in at noshigesound.com/account/activate-offline. The panel shows this address, with Copy link and Open in browser.
3. Upload the request file and click Continue. Check that the computer name and Machine ID are the ones the plugin shows, then click Generate license file.
4. A file ending in `.nslic` is downloaded. Move it back to the offline computer.
5. In the plugin, click Next: load the license file.

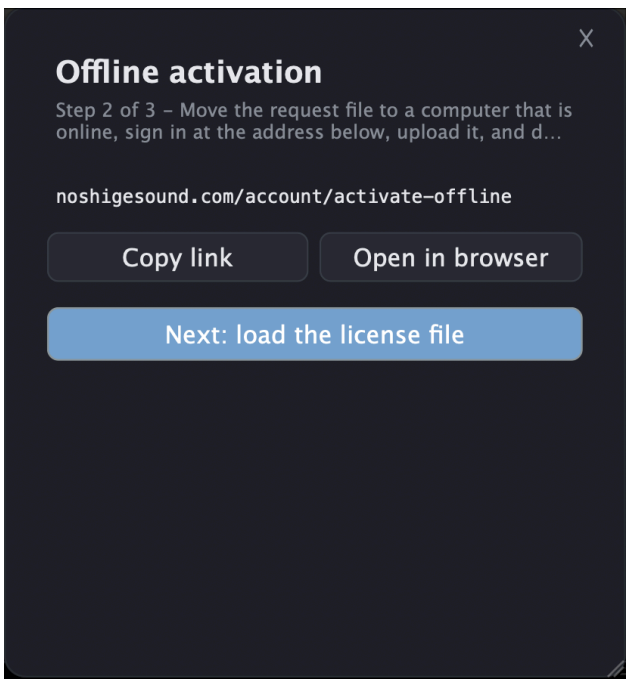


Fig. 15 Offline activation, step 2

Step 3 of 3: load the license file (back on the offline computer)

On the panel	What to do
`license key`	Enter the same license key as in step 1.
`Drop the license file (.nslic) here`	Drag the `.nslic` file onto this area.
`Choose file...`	Picks the file in a file dialog instead.
`Back`	Returns to the previous step.

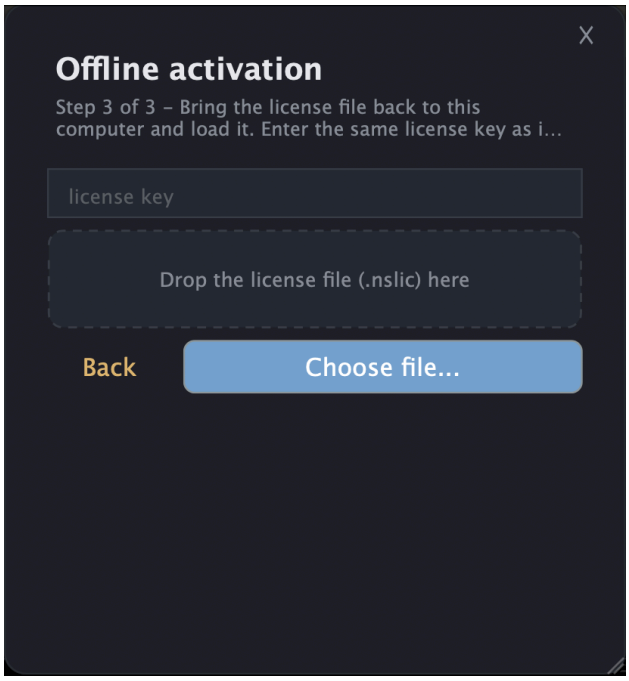


Fig. 16 Offline activation, step 3

The plugin then shows `Activation Complete!`. No internet connection is needed from here on.

> **Note**
> The license file works only on the computer that made the request. Uploading the same request again gives you the file again without using another of your 3 computers. If you cannot carry a file off the offline computer, the website also accepts the Machine ID shown in step 1, typed by hand.

Offline activation needs ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 1.4.0 or later.

9.5 Managing your computers

One license can be active on up to 3 computers at the same time. Computers are managed on the website; the plugin has no deactivate button.

1. Sign in and open noshigesound.com/account/licenses, then the license.
2. Under `Activations`, click `Deactivate` next to the computer you no longer use.
3. Activate the new computer as described above.

The deactivation reaches that computer the next time its plugin goes online. As the website states, this can take up to 30 days for a perpetual license. From then on the plugin on that computer is locked until it is activated again. You can also open your account from the plugin with `Manage License` in the License panel.

9.6 Staying activated

A perpetual license keeps working without an internet connection. When the computer is online, the plugin confirms the license with noshigesound.com by itself from time to time. It sends no audio and no project data.

9.7 The License panel

The License panel shows the state of the license on this computer. To open it: Config menu, `License...`.

Row	Shows
Status	`Activated`, `Activated (offline)` or, during the trial, `Trial - N days left`.
Plan	`Perpetual License` or `Free Trial`.
Account	The email address used to activate (online activation only).
License key	The full license key.
Expiry	`Never Expire` for the license, or the day the trial ends.

Important
The License panel shows your full license key. Hide it before you share a screenshot or a screen recording.

CHAPTER 10

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Cause and remedy
No sound, and the window is covered by the activation screen	The plugin is not activated, or the trial has ended. See “Licensing and Activation”.
The activation screen says `Please enter a valid email address!`	A field is empty or not filled in correctly. The message names the field: email address, password or license key. Fill in all three.
`Contacting noshigesound.com...` stays on the screen	The plugin is waiting for the server. Wait, or click `Cancel`, check the internet connection and try again.
The panel is dimmed and says `Bypassed`	The plugin is bypassed. Click the power button in the header, or switch off bypass in the DAW.
The sound is not processed right after inserting the plugin or switching `Quality`	The plugin is getting ready. The audio passes through unprocessed until then.
The message `Unsupported sampling rate!` appears	The project sample rate is not supported and the audio passes through unprocessed. Set the project to 44.1, 48, 88.2 or 96 kHz.
The engine button shows a dark `CPU` that cannot be clicked	The GPU cannot be used with the current setup. Most often the DAW buffer size is not a multiple of 256. See “Requirements for GPU processing”.
The engine keeps changing from `GPU` to `CPU`	The DAW is changing its buffer size, or the GPU cannot keep up. Set a fixed buffer size that is a multiple of 256, or choose `CPU`.
High CPU load	The plugin needs more computation than a conventional EQ. Use the GPU engine where it is available, switch `Quality` to `Lite`, or freeze finished tracks. Bypassing the plugin does not lower the load.
A preset file does not appear in the list	Only `.preset` files directly in the `Presets` folder are listed. Move the file out of any subfolder.
The plugin cannot be inserted on a mono track with stereo output	ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 works mono to mono or stereo to stereo. Use a mono or a stereo track.
The plugin is not in the DAW’s list	Run the plugin scan of the DAW. Check that the format your DAW uses was selected in the installer (AU for Logic Pro, AAX for Pro Tools, VST3 for most others).

10.1 Getting help

Answers to common questions are at noshigesound.com/support. If you cannot find yours, write to us through noshigesound.com/contact. We reply within a few business days. For a bug report, please include:

- The plugin and its version (see “Checking the version”).
- Your operating system and DAW, with versions.
- The sample rate and buffer size of the project, the engine in use (GPU or CPU) and the number of instances.
- The steps that lead to the problem, what you expected, and what happened.

Specifications

Item	Value
Plugin formats	macOS: VST3 / AU / AAX Windows: VST3 / AAX
Category	Effect, EQ. Manufacturer: noshigeSound.
Channels	Mono to mono, stereo to stereo (dual mono).
Sample rates	44.1 / 48 / 88.2 / 96 kHz
Internal processing	32-bit float.
Quality modes	Lite and Pro (default Pro).
High-shelf boost	0 dB at knob 0 to about +17 dB at knob 100 (8 to 16 kHz, approximate).
Latency	CPU: 256 samples. GPU: 256 samples + 2 buffers. Reported to the DAW.
Side-chain input, MIDI	None.
Window	347 × 375 at 100 %; 50 % to 300 %.
Preset format	`.preset` (XML)
License	Free perpetual license, up to 3 computers. Key prefix `NEV73-`.

Parameters seen by the DAW

Name in the DAW	Control	Range	Automation
Gain	The knob	0.00 – 1.00, step 0.01	Yes
Enable Dual-Mono	None in the window	Off, On	Yes
Quality-Mode	Quality	LITE, PRO	Yes
Auto Gain	AUTO GAIN	Off, On	No
Auto Gain Mode	Auto Gain menus	Track, Static, Snap	No
Bypass	Header power button	Off, On	Yes

Enable Dual-Mono is on by default. Off sums left and right to mono and sends the same processed signal to both outputs, so leave it on.

Legal

Use of ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 is governed by the noshigeSound Terms of Service at noshigesound.com/legal/terms. If the license agreement shown by the installer differs from the Terms, the Terms prevail. Our privacy policy is at noshigesound.com/legal/privacy.

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This manual describes ENHANCER VINTAGE-73 as of November 2026. Later versions may differ.

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