



Lurssen Mastering EQ



Mastering Tips from the Pros

Featuring the Lurssen Mastering EQ



To celebrate the release of the IK Multimedia Lurssen Mastering EQ, legendary mastering engineers Gavin Lurssen and Reuben Cohen have shared their essential tips for mixing and mastering. Whether you're a seasoned producer or refining your first mix, this guide offers practical wisdom and professional insight to help your tracks sound fuller, translate better, and feel more musical in any listening environment.





Make sure your speaker monitors are telling you the truth.

If your monitors aren't translating properly, your mix decisions will be compromised. First, find a reliable pair of studio monitors known for accurate translation — the IK Multimedia **iLoud series** is an excellent choice. Additionally, use the IK Multimedia **ARC system** to help integrate your monitors into your specific room for optimal results.





Use trusted song references.

Build a library of about 10 songs you respect for their sonic quality. Choose tracks that reflect the style and genre you're working in. Listen to them in various environments to develop an understanding of how they translate. This practice will deepen your knowledge of each listening environment and serve as a benchmark when comparing your mixes and masters.

See how far you can get by just leveling.

Many new mixers struggle with balance. A good starting point is focusing on leveling your mix without any processing. By creating a solid rough balance, you'll gain clearer insight into what actually needs EQ or compression, if anything at all.



Don't get stuck on frequency numbers.

Frequency charts can feel overwhelming, especially for beginners. It's more productive to think in broad tonal areas: Lows, Low-Mids, Mids, High-Mids, and Highs. The **Lurssen Mastering EQ** makes this intuitive, with carefully chosen frequency points such as 60 Hz, 120 Hz, 3 kHz, 6 kHz, and 10 kHz. It works beautifully on your mix bus, during mastering, or even on individual elements like drums, bass, guitars, and vocals.





Avoid filtering below 20 Hz by default.

There's a myth that you should always high-pass filter below 20 Hz, as it's considered "inaudible." However, that low-end information still affects how a mix feels. Only filter when necessary. Applying a high-pass filter by default can thin out your low end and create harshness in the highs, compromising the mix.

Use stereo wideners with caution.

Stereo widening can sound exciting, but it often comes at a cost: phase issues and unnatural imaging. Instead of applying a global widening plug-in, consider creative panning and layering of individual elements. Use wideners sparingly and only for deliberate, musical effects.

The mix bus is sacred.

The processing on your mix bus directly influences all your mix decisions. If you mix into a processing chain, keep it static throughout the session. Changing it midway can skew your earlier balances and weaken the mix. If you must adjust it, do so thoughtfully and with intent.

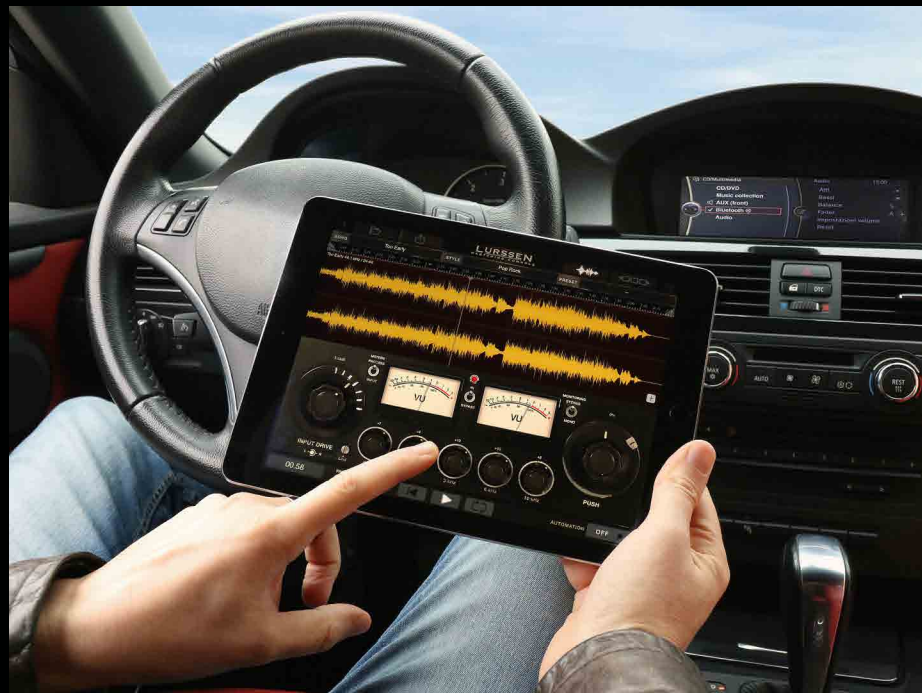
Don't chase LUFS values.

Some engineers target specific LUFS values to satisfy streaming platforms, but each platform has slightly different standards. Instead, focus on what sounds right. If your mix sits between -13 and -6 LUFS, you're in an acceptable range. (Note: -6 LUFS is extremely loud and only suitable for very dense material.)



Get to know your car's sound system.

Most modern cars have reliable, well-balanced sound systems. Use your car as a secondary reference point. With the **Lurssen Mastering Console** app on your iPhone or iPad, you can import session settings and make final tweaks on the go, then return to your studio to finalize.



Mix for the song.



Ultimately, your mix should serve the song, not your favorite plug-ins. Choose your processing tools thoughtfully. Identify the song's focal point (usually vocals or a lead instrument), and ensure everything else supports it. Allow the song to guide your decisions. It will always point you in the right direction.



Ready to take your sound further?



The Lurssen Mastering EQ plug-in brings decades of mastering expertise to your DAW.

Explore more resources and video walkthroughs here:

ikmultimedia.com/lurssen-mastering-eq

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