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fMeter

Metering Instrument (Plugin)

VST3 plugin for Windows - free

A meter that reads what goes past and hands it on untouched. It is free, with no licence, no key, no machine limit and no expiry. The same zip holds fMeter Offline, an application for measuring finished files, which has its own guide and its own manual.

Installing it

This zip holds the **.vst3** file, the **.exe** application, a guide for each and a manual for each. Copy the **.vst3** into:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

Then restart your recording software, or find the rescan button in its plugin preferences. It will not appear until you do. The **.exe** is fMeter Offline and does not go in that folder.

Your browser may warn you while downloading, because the file is new and unsigned. Choosing Keep is safe.

Getting a reading in two minutes

- 1 Put fMeter on a track. Any track: a vocal, the drums, the mix bus, whatever you want to look at.
- 2 Play something. You are on the VU page and the two needles are the left and right levels.
- 3 Try the second selector. VU and PPM are two kinds of needle; Levels and Loudness are two screens of numbers.
- 4 Look at all four with music playing and see which one tells you what.
- 5 Leave one on the mix bus for good. It costs almost nothing and adds no delay.

In your recording software the track fader usually comes after the plugins, so moving the fader will not change the reading. To meter what it is actually sending, put fMeter on the bus the track feeds. The first time it runs it offers the fBox mailing list: not an activation screen, the close button works, and it appears once.

New to metering?

A meter is not one thing, which is why there are four pages rather than one. **How loud does this sound?** is a question about your ear, and it needs a slow meter that ignores brief spikes, because your ear largely ignores them too. That is the VU page. **Am I about to distort?** is a question about the numbers in the file, and it needs a fast meter that catches everything, because a spike too short to hear can still wreck a file. That is the Levels page.

PPM is a faster needle that shows the spikes as they happen, and Loudness is the formal version of the first question, the one streaming services and broadcasters use. If all of this is new, live on the VU page for a week.

You do not need the rest of it

fBox is a whole studio, but nothing in it depends on anything else. Every plugin works on its own, on one track, in whatever software you already use. **fBox Console** is a 32-channel mixing desk and **fBox Rack** is a channel strip that hosts other plugins. Both are worth having and neither is a hub the rest runs through. Leave them until you want them.

The full manual is in this zip and goes far deeper, control by control. Installation help is at fboxaudio.com/install.html. Stuck on any step? Email info@fboxaudio.com and tell us exactly which one.

fBox Audio · fboxaudio.com · built by flakebelly