

START HERE

fMeter Offline

Offline Loudness Analyser (Application)

Windows application (.exe) - free

The same measurement engine as the fMeter plugin, pointed at files that already exist rather than at a live signal. It never plays anything, which is how it reads an hour-long file in a few seconds. It is free, with no licence, no key, no machine limit and no expiry.

Installing it

This zip holds the .exe application, the .vst3 plugin, a guide for each and a manual for each. The .exe does not go in your plugins folder. Keep it wherever you like and run it from there.

Your browser may warn you while downloading, because the file is new and unsigned. Choosing Keep is safe. Windows may warn you again the first time you run it. A blue box appears reading "Windows protected your PC". Click More info, then Run anyway. Nothing is wrong. That warning appears for any Windows program the system has not seen many times before, and it says nothing about whether the software is safe.

Getting a reading in two minutes

- 1 Run the .exe.
- 2 Press LOAD and pick a file. Any finished file: a mixdown, a master, anything you want to measure.
- 3 It is measured and a row appears. INTEGRATED is how loud it is, TRUE PEAK is whether it will distort.
- 4 Set TARGET to the figure you were asked for. Anything more than 1 LU away turns red, and so does a true peak above your threshold.
- 5 Double-click a row to open that file on the Loudness page.

You can drop a whole folder in at once and get a row each. Comparing them down a column is the thing this does that the plugin cannot. 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 three pages rather than one. Two questions matter most once something is finished. **How loud is it?** is answered by the loudness figures, which is what a streaming service or a broadcaster will look at. **Is it going to distort?** is answered by the peak figures, which is what decides whether a file plays cleanly on somebody else's system.

They are not the same question and they do not have the same answer. A file can be quiet and still distort, or loud and perfectly clean. Everything here exists to separate those two things and give you a number for each.

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, page by page. Installation help is at fboxaudio.com/install.html. Stuck on any step? Email info@fboxaudio.com and tell us exactly which one.