



COPY

SMART EQ



A

B

COPY SLOT

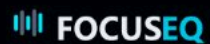
PASTE SLOT



Default Setting



RESET



CUSTOMER GUIDE · VERSION 1.0

ONE EQ. NEXT GEN WORKFLOW.

Precision shaping, connected mixing, intelligent starting points, and dynamic control—inside one focused workspace.

12 BANDS

20 HZ — 20 KHZ

FOCUS INSTANCES

SMART EQ

DYN

SIDE

DYN

INSTANCES

EQ

83

TYPE

315

Q

-2.1

S

1.08

DYN EQ

OPEN

FREQ

GAIN

WIDTH

START HERE

YOUR MAP TO FOCUSEQ.

Learn the core workflow in minutes, then use the deeper sections whenever a session calls for more control.

[03 Install & authenticity](#)[05 Interface map](#)[07 Band creation & shapes](#)[09 Focus Instances](#)[11 Smart EQ workflow](#)[13 Dynamic EQ](#)[15 Pure, Color & Tube](#)[17 Project recall & workspaces](#)[19 Guide, sleep & diagnostics](#)[04 License activation](#)[06 Analyzer & 12 bands](#)[08 Routing, solo & bypass](#)[10 Focus Monitor & cross-instance solo](#)[12 Smart roles & goals](#)[14 Dynamic sidechain](#)[16 Presets, A/B & history](#)[18 Settings, MIDI & layouts](#)[20 Troubleshooting & support](#)

1 · INSERT FOCUSEQ

2 · CREATE OR ANALYZE

3 · SHAPE IN CONTEXT

4 · SAVE THE DAW PROJECT

INSTALLATION

SIGNED. SCANNED. READY.

FocusEQ is a 64-bit Windows VST3. Close every DAW before installation so the installer can replace the plug-in safely.



01

Run FocusEQ.exe

Use the official installer delivered after your Polar purchase. Windows may ask for administrator permission because the standard VST3 location is protected.

02

Choose the VST3 folder

The recommended location is C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3. Choose another scanned VST3 folder only when your DAW requires it.

03

Finish and rescan

Open the DAW, run its plug-in scan, then insert Focus EQ on an audio, instrument, bus, or master channel.

04

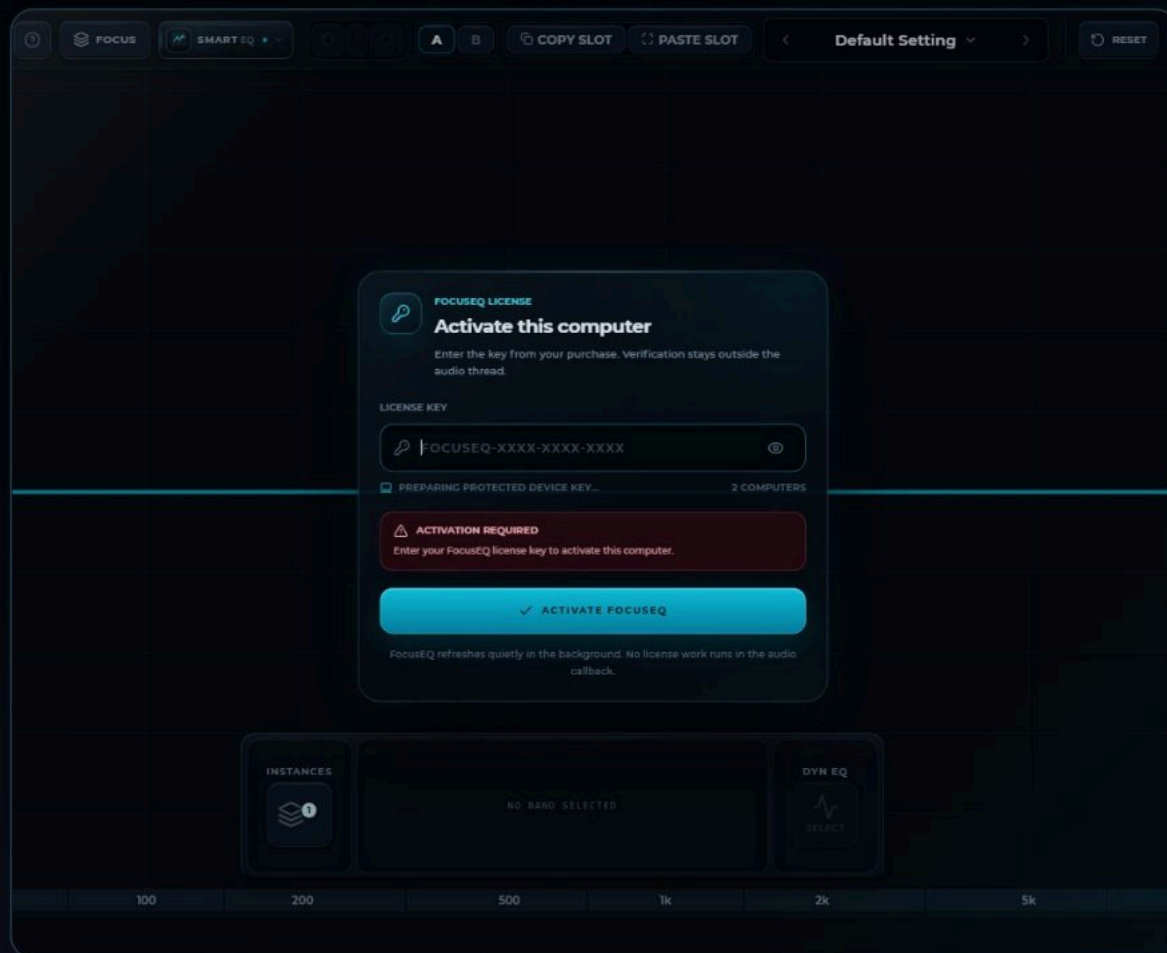
Confirm authenticity

In Windows Properties, verify the installer and plug-in report a valid Digital Signatures entry. Avoid modified copies and third-party download mirrors.

LICENSE

ONE KEY. TWO COMPUTERS.

Polar delivers your FocusEQ license key after purchase. FocusEQ asks only for that key—there is no separate email field in the plug-in.

**KEY ONLY****Activate this computer**

Paste the complete license key, then press Activate FocusEQ. The key is verified and bound to this computer.

2 COMPUTERS**Two-computer allowance**

Use the same purchase on up to two computers. Settings shows the current license state and provides device management.

NO DSP INTERRUPTION**Audio-thread safe**

Network, signature, account, and storage work runs outside the audio callback. Renewal happens quietly in the background.

SIGNED LEASE**Offline continuity**

A signed local lease keeps FocusEQ available between checks. If a license needs attention, FocusEQ explains the next step without corrupting project data.

INTERFACE MAP

EVERY DECISION IN ONE VIEW.

The graph is the center of the workflow. Header tools stay above it; the selected-band dock, Instances control, Global Out, and instance rail stay below it.

**Header**

Power, Focus, Smart EQ, history, A/B, slots, workspace, Reset, Settings, and Help.

Graph

Analyzer, combined EQ response, filter nodes, routing badges, and Dynamic movement.

Floating pill

Fast frequency, gain, Q, filter, routing, solo, bypass, and band power.

Lower dock

Deep editing for the selected band plus the dedicated Dynamic EQ entry.

Footer

Navigate physical FocusEQ instances without leaving the current editor.

ANALYZER + BANDS

SEE 20 HZ TO 20 KHZ.

FocusEQ combines a responsive spectrum view with twelve precision bands. Exactly two analyzer traces may appear: live processed energy and the source-context ghost.



SMOOTH

Smooth by default

Musical ballistics make broad energy easy to read. Precise is available for faster transient tracking.

8192

8192 FFT default

A high-resolution starting point balances useful low-frequency detail with fluid motion.

12 BANDS

Twelve independent bands

Shape corrective, tonal, stereo, Mid, Side, and Dynamic moves without leaving the graph.

VISIBLE

dB meter shown

The right-side output meter is visible on a fresh install and can be hidden from Options.

PRECISION SHAPING

CREATE. DRAG. REFINE.

Double-click the graph to create a band, drag its node to shape, then use the floating pill or lower dock for exact values.



Filter library

Bell, shelves, cuts, notch, and related shapes cover surgical and musical work.

Cut slopes

12, 24, 48, and 96 dB/oct Butterworth choices plus Wall are available where supported.

Edge cuts

Hover the low or high graph edge for the cut indicator. A new edge cut begins at 96 dB/oct.

Exact control

Type values or use the knobs when the graph gesture needs finer frequency, gain, or Q adjustment.

ROUTING + AUDITION

HEAR THE MOVE IN CONTEXT.

Each band can operate in Stereo, Left, Right, Mid, or Side. Solo isolates the region for decisions; bypass compares the selected move without destroying it.

**Stereo**

Shape the combined stereo signal for broad tonal work.

Left / Right

Correct one channel independently when the mix image is asymmetrical.

Mid / Side

Separate center energy from width for surgical image control.

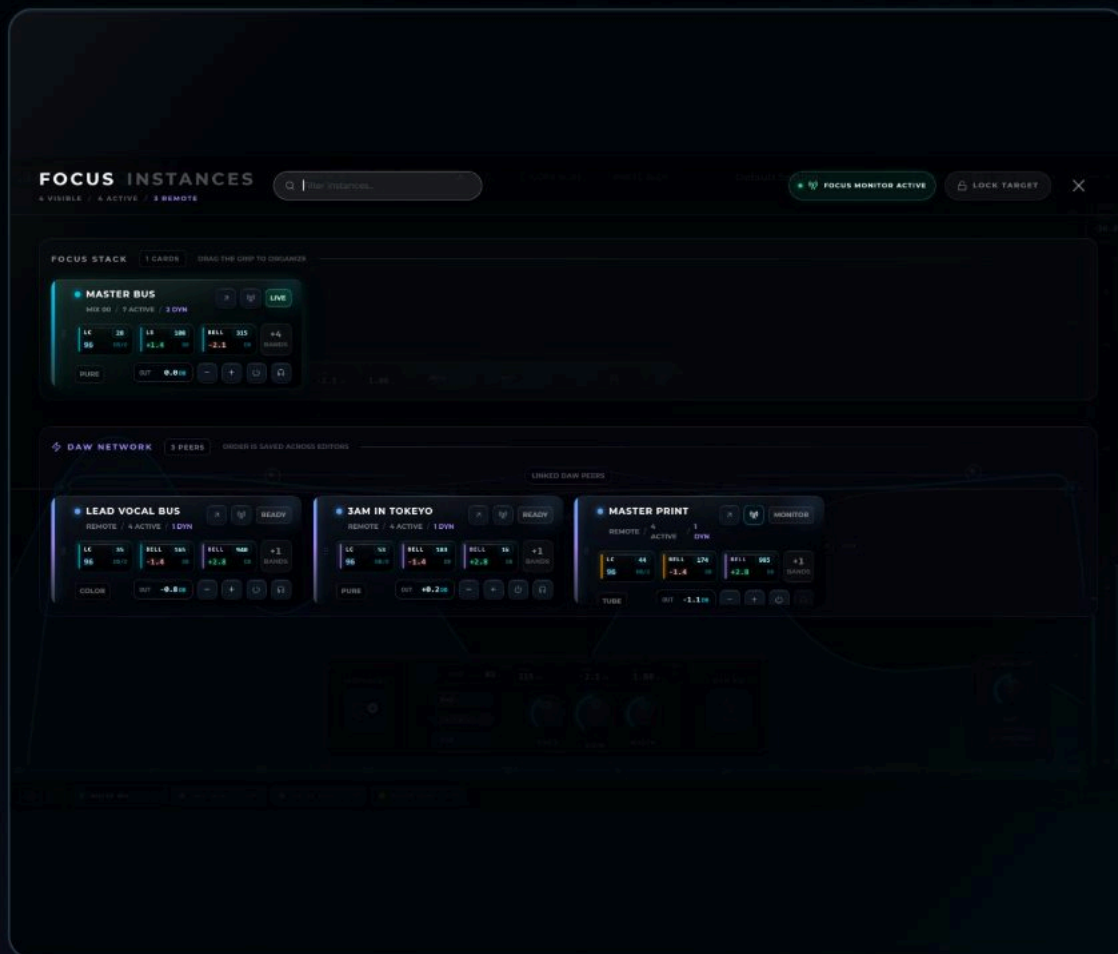
Click-safe audition

Band solo and bypass use protected transitions so decisions remain useful during playback.

FOCUS INSTANCES

ONE WINDOW. EVERY INSTANCE.

Focus opens a session-wide view of FocusEQ processors. Select, inspect, organize, and edit another instance without opening another plug-in window.

**HOST AWARE****Automatic names**

Cards follow useful host and mixer-track names instead of assigning the same generic label to every insert.

SAVED ORDER**Drag to organize**

Use each card grip to place important channels in a practical order. Local organization is remembered.

CONTEXT SAFE**Select and edit**

A card becomes the editing owner. The graph, Smart EQ, A/B, and analyzer context follow that selected instance.

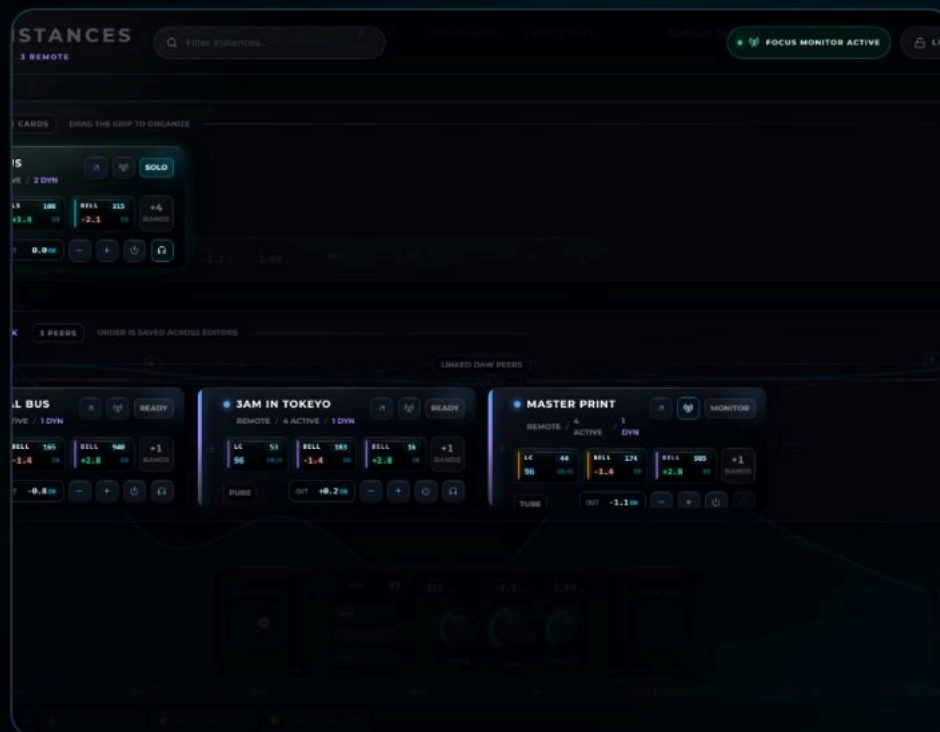
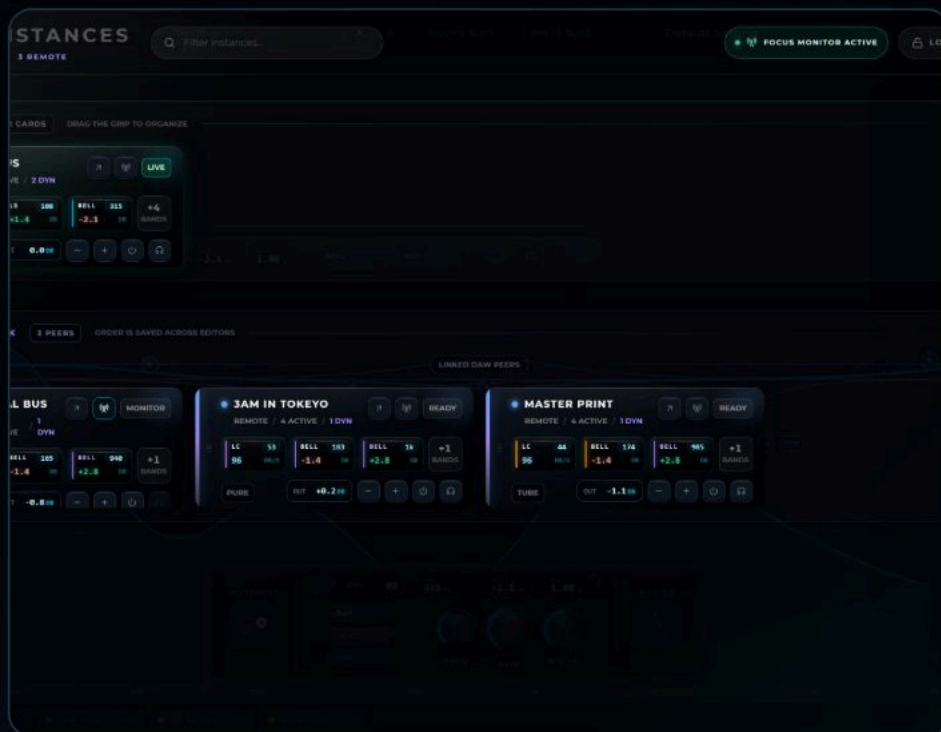
FAST ACCESS**Instances control**

The lower-left Instances control opens the focused card workflow; the footer rail gives fast previous/next navigation.

FOCUS MONITOR

SOLO ACROSS THE SESSION.

Assign one Focus Monitor, then solo a Focus card to hear that processor through the monitor path. The selected card keeps its own analyzer and EQ context.

**Active / inactive status**

Cards state whether Focus Monitor is available without framing normal setup as an error.

Selected analyzer

Solo keeps the selected card analyzer visible alongside its source-context ghost—never a third trace.

Safe ownership

The top-right Editing indicator confirms which physical processor owns the current edit.

Fail-safe lifecycle

Removing or reassigning the monitor clears active solo so the project cannot remain unexpectedly silent.

SMART EQ

CHOOSE. LISTEN. APPLY. EDIT.

Smart EQ creates a measured starting point from the selected FocusEQ instance. It listens locally, applies editable bands, and never uploads audio.



01 Choose a role and goal

02 Play representative audio

03 Analyze and apply

04 Refine the new bands normally

Smart uses the existing analyzer path on the UI/message side. No audio, filename, project name, or captured spectrum leaves the computer.

SMART PROFILES

A CLEAR GOAL, NOT A WALL OF OPTIONS.

Three roles keep the workflow direct. Replace starts fresh; Add preserves the current curve. Gentle, Standard, and Bold adjust the strength, while Dynamic Auto can introduce responsive bands.



PRODUCER

R&B · Hip-Hop · Afrobeat · Stem Space



ENGINEER

Mix Balance · Mastering Translation · Resonance Control · Low-End Control



ARTIST

Lead Vocal Polish · Vocal Clarity · Vocal Presence · Vocal De-Harsh

DYNAMIC EQ

CONTROL THAT MOVES WITH THE MUSIC.

Open Dynamic EQ from the dedicated lower dock. Manual and Smart detector modes share the same efficient, editable per-band controls.

**Threshold**

Sets when the detector begins responding.

Range

Sets the maximum positive or negative dynamic movement.

Attack

Controls how quickly the band responds after crossing threshold.

Release

Controls how smoothly the band returns after the event passes.

The node ring and lower-panel Range control represent the same protected parameter. Movement remains editable while playback continues.

SIDECHAIN + PRESETS

LET THE RIGHT SOURCE DRIVE THE MOVE.

Use self detection, a host-routed sidechain, or an eligible Focus peer. Dynamic presets provide practical starting behavior without hiding the underlying controls.

**Self**

The current processor signal drives its own Dynamic EQ band.

**DAW sidechain**

Route a source to FocusEQ's sidechain bus in the host, then choose that input in the Dynamic panel.

Focus peer

Choose a compatible linked Focus instance when the session network provides that source.

Dynamic presets

Load detector timing and range ideas, then adjust threshold, range, attack, and release to the material.

OUTPUT CHARACTER

PURE. COLOR. TUBE.

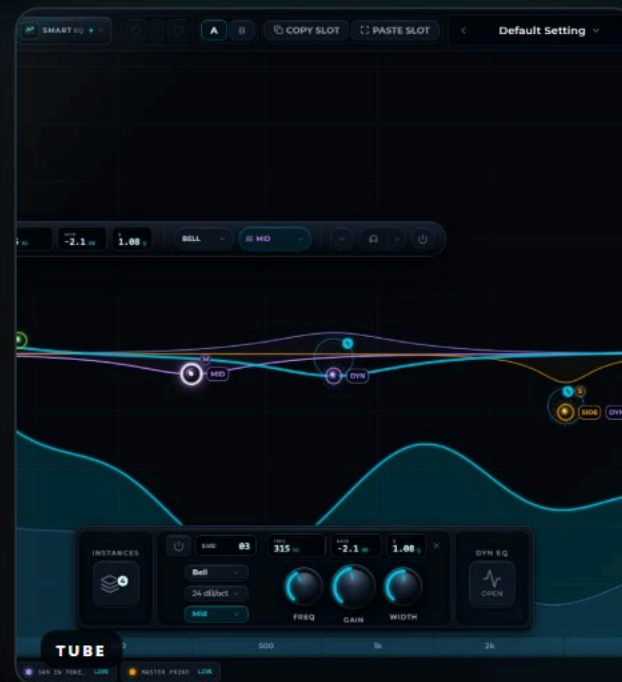
Character runs after the EQ inside the oversampled path. Global Out remains a separate final trim, making level-matched comparisons straightforward.

**Pure · transparent**

The fresh-install default. No intentional saturation and no always-on Character DC filter.

**Color · restrained polish**

Level-conscious odd-harmonic contour with subtle low-frequency emphasis; deliberately closer to Pure than Tube.

**Tube · body and density**

A stronger asymmetric curve adds more apparent even-harmonic weight and body. Color and Tube use a local 5 Hz DC blocker.

PRESETS + COMPARISON

MOVE FAST. KEEP THE DECISION REVERSIBLE.

Search and tags make the preset library quick to navigate. A/B, copy/paste slots, and readable edit history protect experimentation.



Search, tags, favorites

Find vocal, instrument, mastering, Dynamic EQ, repair, Mid/Side, cut, and utility starting points quickly.

A / B

Protect one complete state while developing another. The selected Focus card keeps its own comparison context.

Copy / paste slot

Carry a complete processing idea between slots or compatible selected instances as one deliberate action.

100-state history

Undo and redo label meaningful edits and keep a bounded history that can jump back to an earlier decision.

SAVE + RECALL

YOUR DAW PROJECT IS THE AUTHORITY.

Saving the DAW project stores each FocusEQ processor's complete mix state automatically. No separate save command is required for the song.



AUTOMATIC

Complete processor state

All twelve bands, shapes, slopes, routing, Dynamic EQ, sidechain choices, output, bypass, Character, A/B, Focus Monitor role, MIDI maps, and stable instance identity return with the project.

SEPARATE

User preferences stay personal

Editor size, analyzer response, meter visibility, user presets, and named workspaces remain preferences rather than overwriting the saved song mix.

ORGANIZED

Named workspaces

Workspace sets keep useful local Focus Stack organization ready for different projects. Processing presets stay independent.

REUSABLE

Portable presets

Save reusable processing ideas as user presets; use session import/export tools when a larger FocusEQ workflow needs to move.

SETTINGS + CONTROL

SET THE WORKSPACE TO YOUR SESSION.

FocusEQ opens at Comfort size with Smooth analyzer response, 8192 FFT, the dB meter shown, and Pure Character. Later choices are remembered.



Editor size

Compact, Comfort, Large, and Full are available. Comfort is the fresh-install default.

Analyzer response

Choose Smooth for musical reading or Precise for tighter transient following.

FFT resolution

Choose the resolution that fits the session; 8192 is the initial setting.

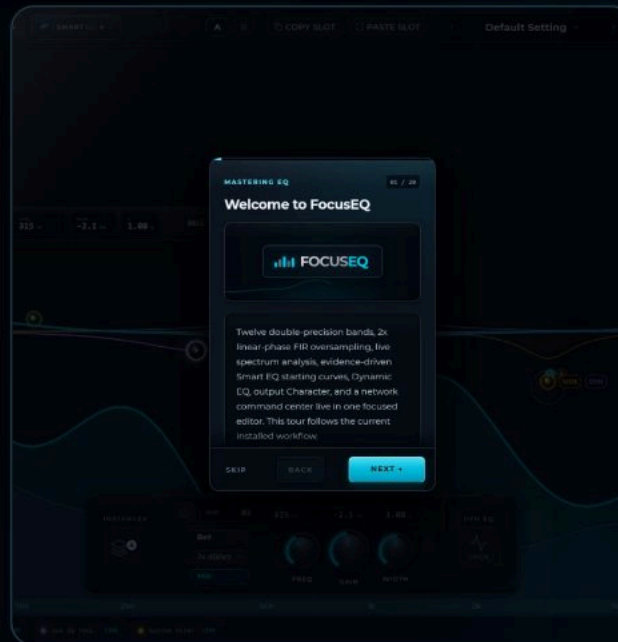
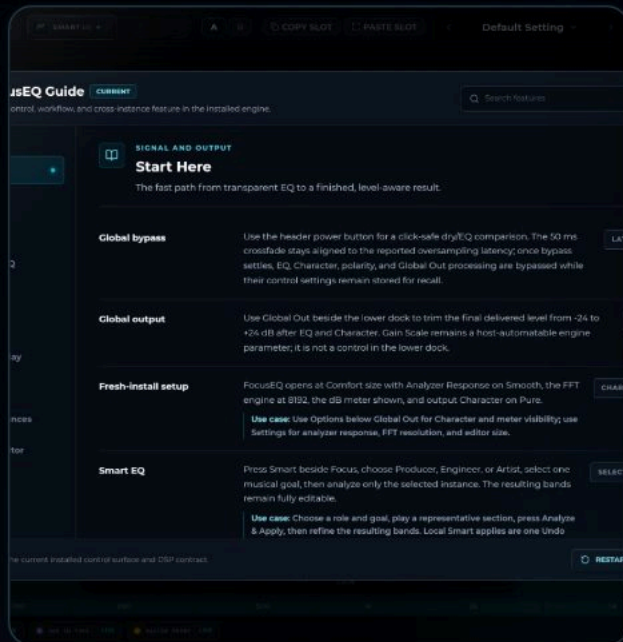
MIDI Learn

Start learn, move the desired hardware control, then store the mapping with the FocusEQ state.

GUIDE + EFFICIENCY

HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT. SILENCE WHEN YOU DO NOT.

The built-in Guide and Walkthrough use real FocusEQ controls. Visual sleep reduces inactive editor work without stopping audio, automation, sidechain, or host state.



Eight-second visual sleep

After pointer exit or editor deactivation, one exact eight-second deadline ends in a static frosted snapshot and suspended analyzer/animation work.

First-gesture wake

The first click, drag, or right-click wakes the editor, hydrates current state, and receives the original gesture.

Alt workspace peek

Hold Alt to make the lower dock, selected-band module, Global Out, and bottom rail transparent; release to restore them.

Local diagnostics

Settings > Maintenance > Copy Diagnostics places a bounded support snapshot on the clipboard. It excludes audio, track names, paths, credentials, and license material, and is never uploaded automatically.

TROUBLESHOOTING + SUPPORT

KEEP THE WORKFLOW MOVING.

Most installation and session issues can be isolated quickly. Preserve the project, gather local diagnostics, and use the official support path when you need help.

01

FocusEQ is missing in the DAW

Confirm the .vst3 bundle is inside a folder the DAW scans, then run a complete plug-in rescan. Restart the DAW after installation.

02

The license prompt returns

Confirm the complete Polar-delivered key was entered, the computer is online for activation, and the two-computer limit has not been reached. Open Settings for status or device management.

03

No analyzer movement

Confirm audio reaches the insert, global bypass is off, and the analyzer is not disabled in Settings. Click the editor once if a static sleep snapshot is present.

04

A Dynamic band does not react

Check threshold and range, verify the chosen detector source, and confirm any external sidechain is routed to FocusEQ in the DAW.

05

Prepare a support report

Use Settings > Maintenance > Copy Diagnostics, note the DAW and Windows version, and describe the exact action that reproduced the issue.



**FOCUSBETTER.
MIX FASTER.**

Official product, support, and updates: focusvst.com