learn:limit

Contents

learn:limit is an AI-powered limiter designed to help users achieve competitive loudness and transparent dynamics – while building a solid understanding of limiting in the process. Whether you're preparing a track for streaming or learning how to avoid distortion and pumping, learn:limit delivers both polished results and valuable insight.

Powered by sonible's AI engine, the plug-in analyzes your signal and applies optimized limiting settings tailored to your material. With intuitive controls, clear visual feedback and helpful metering, learn:limit makes mastering dynamics accessible – turning loudness optimization into a learning experience.

System requirements

CPU
Intel Core i5
AppleM1
RAM
4GB

Operating systems
Windows 10+ (64 bit)
Mac OS 10.14+

OpenGL Version 3.2+

⚠ You will need admin privileges to successfully install the learn:limit plug-in.

Mac OSX

To start the installation process, please open the disk image **sonible_learnlimit_osx_x.x.x.dmg**. This will mount the image and open a finder window showing the content of the installation package.

To install learn:limit on your system, run the installation file **learnlimit.pkg**.

The installer will now guide you through the necessary steps to install learn:limit on your computer. learn:limit will automatically be installed in the default locations for audio plug-ins.

Default folders:

Audio Unit
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

VST
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/

VST3
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/

AAX
/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/

Windows

To start the installation process, extract the downloaded zip-file **sonible_learnlimit_win_x.x.x.zip** onto your hard disk and run the installer.

The installer will now guide you through the necessary steps to install learn:limit on your computer. learn:limit will automatically be installed in the default locations for audio plug-ins.

Default folders:

VST3
C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\

VST
C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST\

AAX
C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

Licensing system

You can select between two licensing systems: machine-based or iLok (USB dongle or cloud).

By creating a user account on www.sonible.com and registering your products – if they are not already visible in your Dashboard, you can manage your plug-in activations.

Machine-based
Each license key allows you to install learn:limit on two computers with unique system IDs. These system IDs are computed during license activation.

The same license can be used by multiple users, but each user has to individually unlock the full version of learn:limit under their account.

In case a system-ID is changed (e.g. replacement of the hard drive), you can revoke/activate the plug-in next to the respective system-ID in the Dashboard of your sonible user account.

iLok
If you want to transfer one activation to your iLok, just make sure the plug-in is registered in your sonible user account. Click on the button „transfer to iLok" next to the plug-in in your Dashboard and follow the instructions.

Note: 1st gen iLok dongles and machine based iLok activations are currently not supported.

Unlocking

If you purchased a license for learn:limit online, you receive your license key via email.

Machine-based unlocking
When opening learn:limit for the first time, a notification window will be displayed asking you to unlock learn:limit with a valid license key.

Please make sure that your computer is connected to the internet before starting the registration process.
Enter your license key and click „register." The plug-in will now communicate with our server to check if the license is valid. If it is – enjoy! :)

iLok
If you transferred your license to an iLok, simply attach the iLok to your computer or start a iLok cloud session. The plug-in will then be automatically registered – enjoy!

If you don't receive the email within minutes please check your junk folder first before contacting our support (**support@sonible.com**).
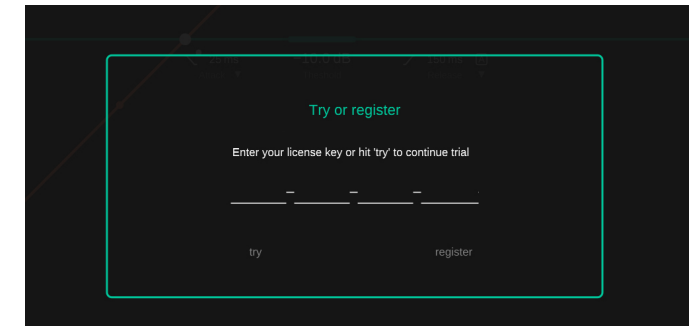
Trial version

To run learn:limit in demo-mode, simply click "try" and you will then be able to use learn:limit for a couple of days without any limitations. (Please refer to our website to find out more about the current demo period of learn:limit)
When the demo period expires, you will need to purchase a full license in order to continue using the plug-in.

Internet connection requirements
sonible plug-ins only needs an internet connection during the trial period and for initial license activation. During the trial period, the plug-in needs to go online every time it is used. Once the license of your plug-in has successfully been activated, an internet connection is no longer needed.

Try or register

Enter your license key or hit 'try' to continue trial

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____

try   register

My Licenses

XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX   Register license key   Need help?

Product	License Key	Type	Description	Status	Date	Action
learn:limit Download	XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX	PC	XXXXXX	active	2000-00-00	revoke
				not activated		transfer to iLok

View Switch (Assisted / Advanced)
Switch between Assisted View for guided limiting and Advanced View for detailed control, including fine-tuning options for the Tweaking Modules.

Profiles & Learning
Select a profile and start the learning process to adapt the limiting behavior to your source material. After learning, learn:limit sets optimized limiting parameters that suit the dynamics and loudness characteristics of your signal.

Gain
Adjust the level of the incoming signal before limiting. Use it to optimize how strongly the limiter responds.

Meter
Monitor how much gain reduction is applied and ensure levels remain within safe boundaries.

Styles
Choose from three limiting styles (Modern, Neutral, Hard) to instantly shape the overall character of the limiting process. Each style adjusts how aggressively the limiter responds, giving you the right feel and tone for your mix.

Quality Indicators
Monitor the three real-time indicators to assess the technical quality of your signal and ensure it's ready for delivery. These indicators offer instant visual feedback on mix for loudness, level balance and peak safety.
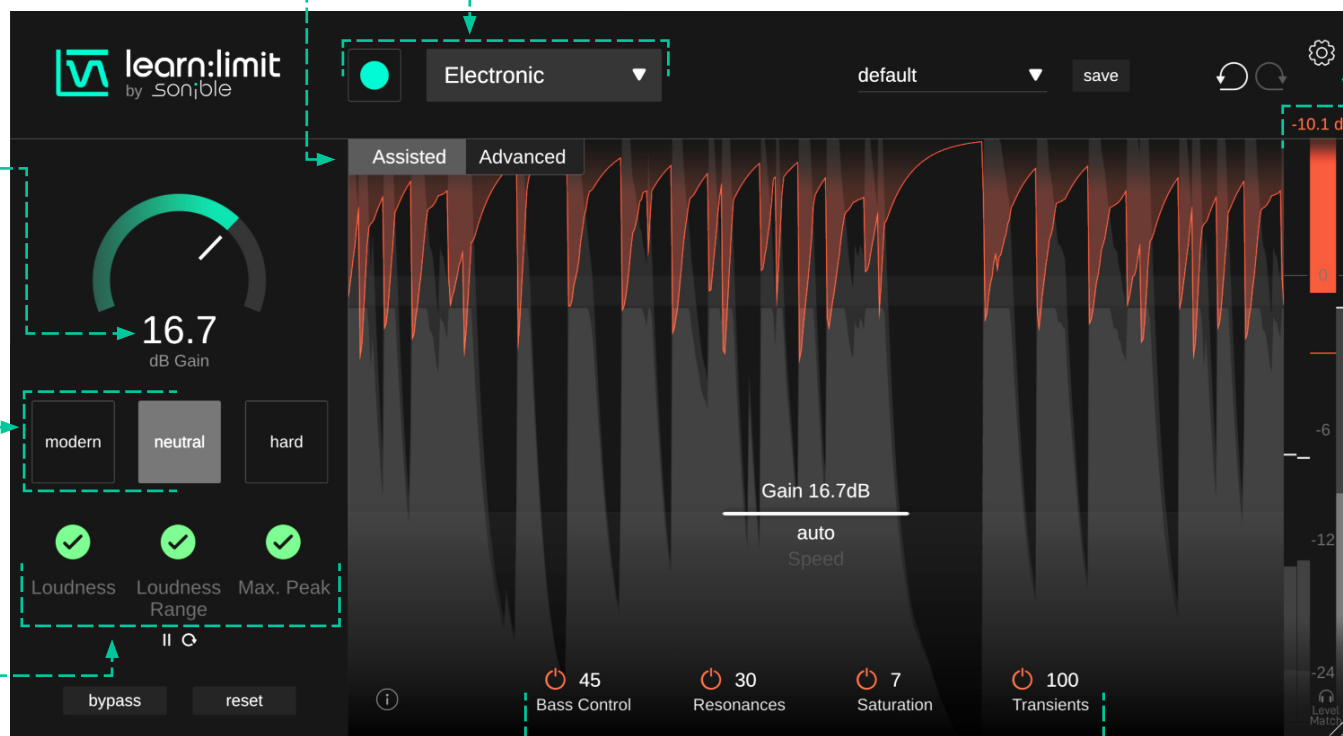
Tweaking Modules
Use four Tweaking Modules to easily adjust the spectral and dynamic behavior of the limiter. You can emphasize transients, smooth out dynamics or shape the tonal balance to better suit your material.
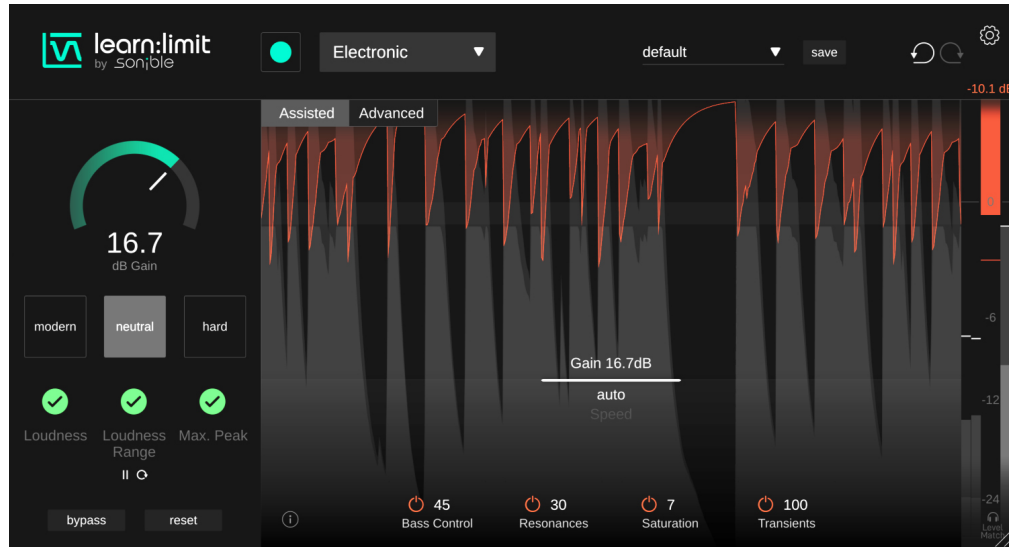
Level Match
Toggle Level Match to compare your processed and unprocessed signal at the same perceived loudness.This ensures you're judging the effect of limiting based on tonal and dynamic changes – not just volume differences.
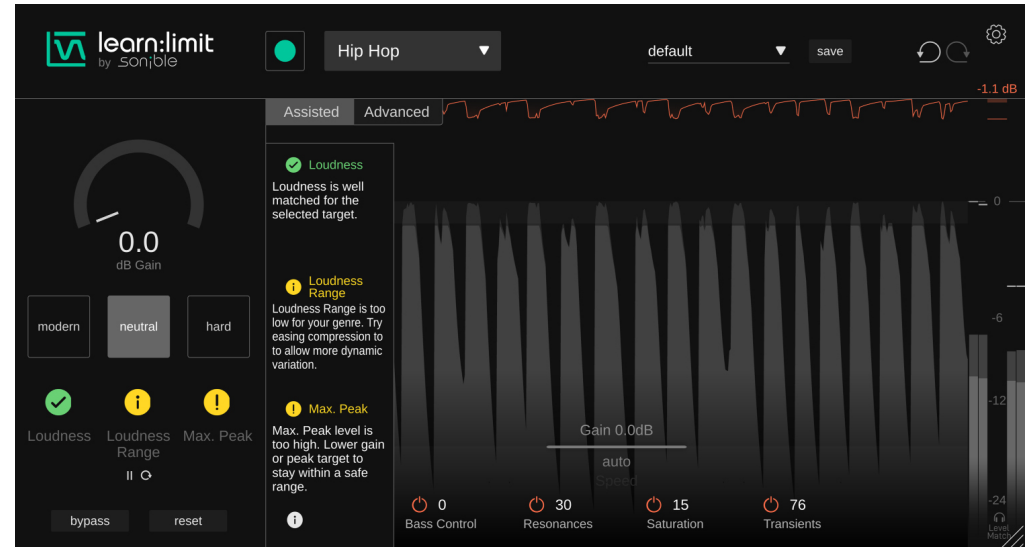
learn:limit offers two interface modes designed to support different workflows and experience levels:

Assisted View

Assisted View provides a streamlined, content-aware layout based on your selected profile. It focuses on essential parameters like input gain, limiting speed and style options – plus direct feedback through loudness indicators and quality hints. This view helps you make fast, confident loudness adjustments without getting lost in technical detail.
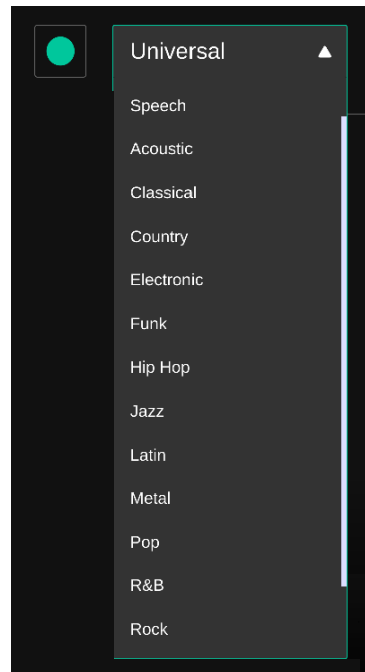
Advanced View

Advanced View gives you full access to every tweakable parameter, including precise control over limiting behavior, spectral shaping modules (like Bass Control or Transients), and style refinements. It's ideal for users who want to dig into the fine print and tailor the limiter to their exact needs.

Switch between views anytime using the toggle above the waveform display. All settings carry over, so you can shape your sound in Assisted View and refine it later in Advanced View without starting over.
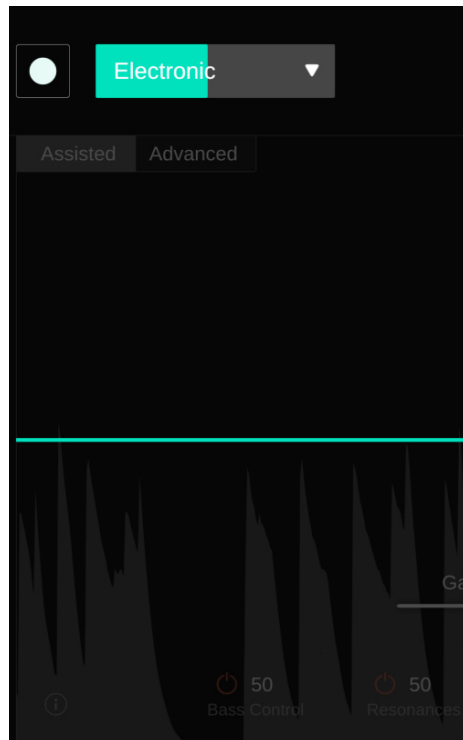
The core of learn:limit is its ability to automatically find the right limiting settings for your material. That's why selecting a profile and starting the learning process is typically your first step when using the plug-in.

During learning, the plug-in not only sets limiter parameters like gain and limiting speed – it also enables and adjusts the Tweaking Modules to fine-tune the spectral and dynamic behavior of your track.

1. Choose a Profile
Choose a genre profile that best matches your audio material. If none fit perfectly, select "Universal." You can also load a Reference Track from your hard drive to guide the analysis.

2. Play Your Audio
Start playback in your DAW, ideally from a loud section of your track (e.g. the chorus).

3. Start the Learning Process
Click the Learn button to begin analysis. A progress indicator will appear within the button to show the learning status. During this phase, learn:limit analyzes the signal and calculates a corrective EQ curve.

4. Listen to the Result
Once complete, learn:limit applies a well-balanced limiter setup and activates the Tweaking Modules. You'll see three visual elements in the waveform display:

- **The input signal** (darg grey)
- **The output signal** (light grey)
- **The gain reduction curve** (red)

INFO:
- *You can repeat the learning process at any time by clicking the Learn button – for example, if you want the plug-in to analyze a different section of your track.*

- *You don't need to re-learn when switching Profiles – learn:limit adjusts its parameters based on the original analysis.*

Working in Assisted View

1 Adjusting the Gain

Use the Gain handle to control the amount of input gain. Raising the gain will increase the input level, causing more peaks to be limited. This results in higher loudness and reduced dynamic range. The changes are reflected in real time within the Waveform Display, where you can observe the effect on the output signal.
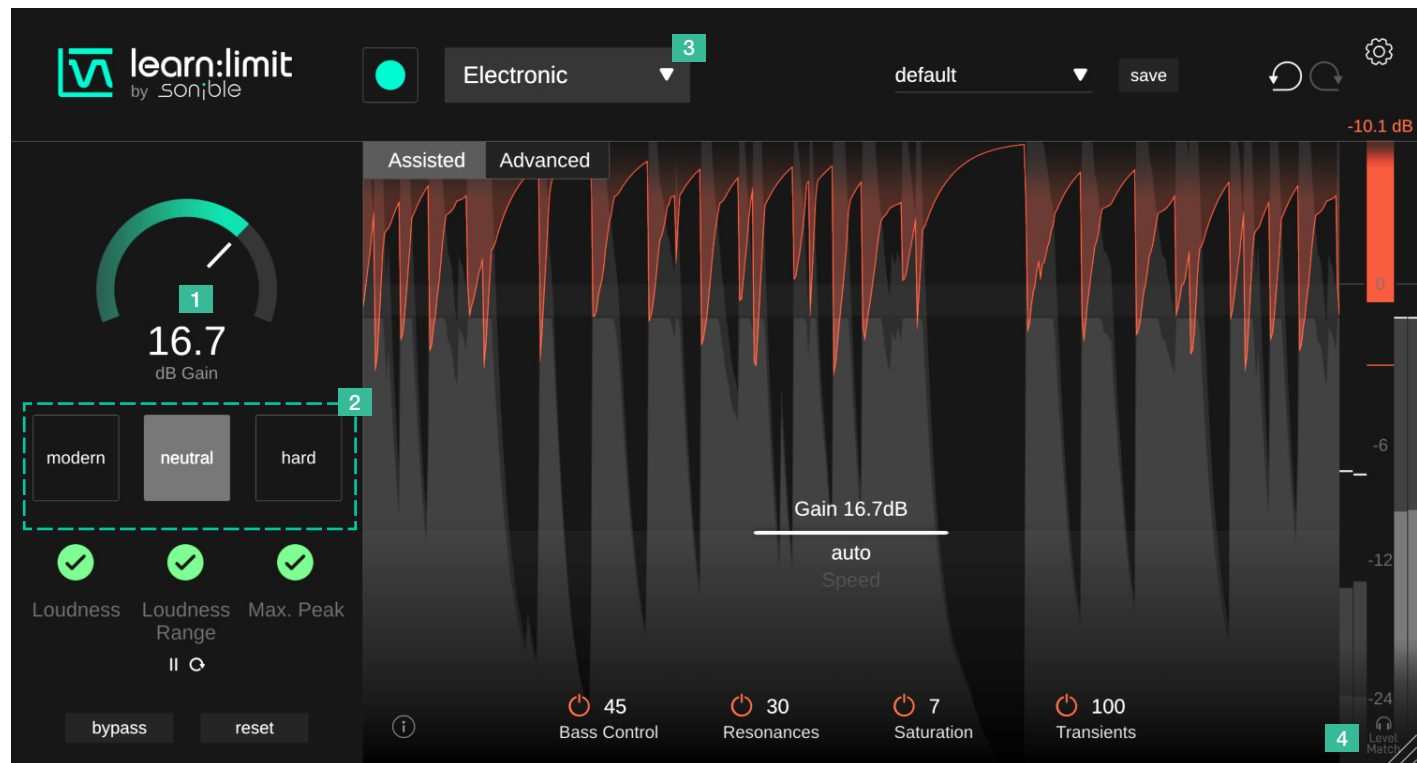
2 Choose a Style

Select from three Style buttons (modern, neutral, hard) to instantly shape the overall character of your sound. After choosing a style, you can fine-tune the result using the Gain handle and the Tweaking Modules in Assisted View, or use the detailed parameters in Advanced View (see next page)

3 Change Profiles

You can switch the Genre Profile at any time without re-starting the learning process. However, note that this will reset all parameters to their default state and discard any manual adjustments.

4 Level Match

Enable Level Match to match the loudness of the pro- cessed signal to the unprocessed input. This allows for an objective A/B comparison without being influenced by perceived loudness differences.
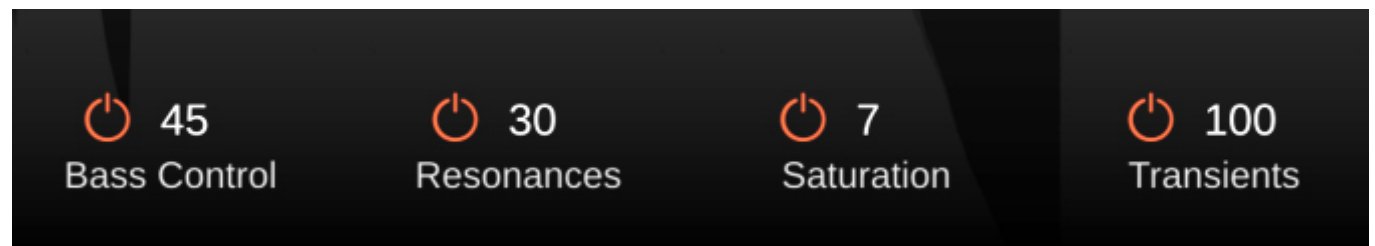
learn:limit features four dedicated tweaking modules that let you shape the spectral and dynamic character of your track with precision. Each module offers intuitive controls to fine-tune your audio and add the finishing touches to your sound.

Each module includes:

- A main parameter to adjust the overall effect
- An additional control (available in Advanced View) for deeper customization
- A visual indicator that reflects the module's current impact on the signal

Modules can be toggled on/off or pinned open for easier access.

Bass
Enhance the low end to add weight and clarity. Use the frequency control to define the cutoff – only frequencies below this point will be affected.

Resonances
Tame harsh resonances and smooth out tonal imbalances. This module is ideal for subtle spectral polishing. Adjust the resolution to control how precisely resonances are detected and reduced.

Saturation
Add harmonic content and increase perceived loudness without affecting peak level. The saturation effect gives your track a richer, more energetic feel. Select from different saturation characters to shape the color of the effect.

Transients
Refine the punch and definition of your signal. This module helps preserve the natural attack of transients or enhance impact when needed. Use the sensitivity setting to control how strongly the transient shaping responds to your material.

learn:limit constantly monitors three key loudness-related metrics to help you prepare your track for streaming or other publishing formats. These values are displayed both in Assisted View (with large quality indicators) and in Advanced View (as numeric values with additional icons and tooltips).
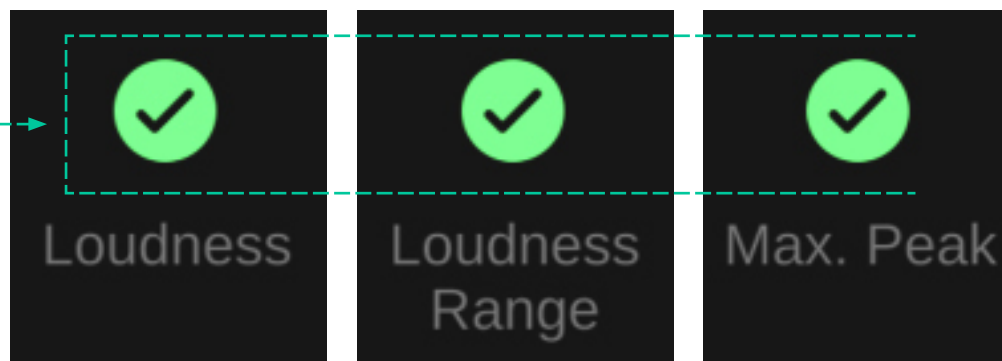
Reference Target

- INFO: By default, learn:limit assumes your mix is intended for streaming platforms (e.g., Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music) and uses a reference loudness level of –14 LUFS. If you're mastering for CD or broadcasting, you can change the target reference loudness on the Settings page.

Interacting with the Measurement

- **Pause / Play Icon:** Start or pause the live measurement.
- **Restart Icon:** Resets the measurement of all loudness-related values. This is useful after major changes or to measure a complete track from beginning to end.
- **Info Icon:** Click the small info icon to show helpful hints based on the current reading. These can guide you toward optimal values for your target platform.

Quality Indicators

- A green check means your values are in a good range for streaming – no action needed.

- A yellow warning indicates a potential issue, such as low loudness or excessive dynamics. Hover over the icon or click the info button to learn more.

- A gray circle means the measurement is still in progress. Continue playback to allow learn:limit to gather enough data.

Loudness [LUFS]
Shows the integrated loudness of the processed signal in LUFS (Loudness Units relative to Full Scale). This value reflects the average perceived loudness and is important for streaming platforms, which normalize audio playback.
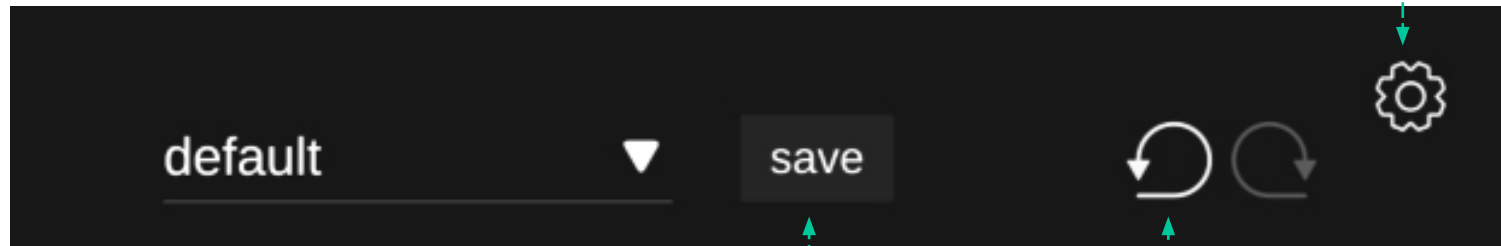
Loudness Range [LU]
Indicates the difference between the quietest and loudest parts of your track. This metric gives insight into how dynamically your material behaves over time – a helpful measure when adjusting compression and limiting.

Max. Peak [dBTP]
Displays the maximum true peak level of the output signal. True peak measurements account for inter-sample peaks and are especially relevant to avoid clipping during digital-to-analog conversion or encoding.

Settings
To visit the settings page, click the cogwheel in the upper right corner.

Save and Load Presets
To save a preset (including all current parameter settings), click the Save icon in the Control Section. To load a preset, simply select it from the dropdown menu.

If you'd like to rename or delete a preset, open the preset folder in your file system. You can also copy presets between workstations to share your settings easily.

Presets are saved with the file extension .spr in the following default locations:

• macOS: ~/Library/Audio/Presets/sonible/learnlimit
• Windows: C:\Users\<User>\Documents\sonible\
  learnlimit\Presets

Undo / Redo
Step backward or forward through your recent changes.

Start in Advanced View
Enable this option if you prefer Advanced View as your default. The plug-in will open in Advanced View each time you load it.

Use OpenGL
OpenGL might cause rendering issues on certain computer hardware. Use this option to disable OpenGL.

Show tooltips
Enable/Disable tooltips on hover.

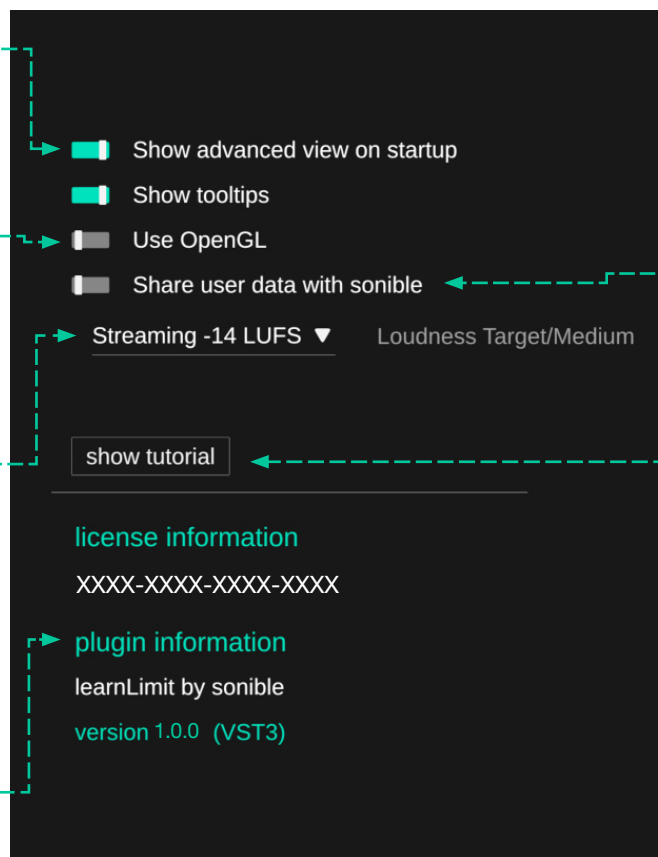## Loudness Target
Choose your intended publishing format: Streaming, CD, or Broadcasting.

The selected target determines the reference loudness level and influences how the quality indicators evaluate your output signal.

Plug-in & Licensing Information
Here you can find the name and version of your plug-in as well as the license key (when not licensed via iLok)

Show advanced view on startup
Show tooltips
Use OpenGL
Share user data with sonible
Streaming -14 LUFS ▼   Loudness Target/Medium

show tutorial

license information

XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX

plugin information

learnLimit by sonible

version 1.0.0 (VST3)

Share anonymous user data with sonible
Enable to share fully anonymous user data with sonible and help us improve our plug-ins.

Take Guided Tour
Click this button to restart the Guided Tour. This will walk you through the key features of the plug-in step by step.

Update notice
When a new version of the plug-in is available, you'll receive a notification here and it's also indicated by a little dot on the cogwheel in the main view of learn:limit. Click on the green text to download the latest version.

www.sonible.com/learnbundle

All specifications are subject to change without notice.

www.sonible.com