suave

DE-ESSER · USER MANUAL



Smooth, open vocals.
Harsh S sounds, handled.

VERSION 1.0 · AU · VST3 · MACOS · WINDOWS · TMF.TODAY

Welcome

Thanks for choosing Suave.

Suave is a de-esser. It turns down harsh S, T and SH sounds the moment they happen, and leaves everything between them untouched. One fader sets how much, one knob sets where, and a few buttons shape how it reacts.

This manual covers installing and activating Suave, every control on the panel, and a few ways to get the most out of it. In a hurry? The **Quick start** on page 5 gets you going in three steps.

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> NEED HELP?
>
> Every question we've been asked is answered at **tmf.today/support**. Still stuck? Email **support@tmf.today** and we'll help.

Getting started

System requirements

- **Mac:** macOS 11 (Big Sur) or newer. Suave runs natively on Apple silicon and Intel Macs.
- **Windows:** Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit.
- **A 64-bit DAW** that loads AU or VST3 plug-ins, such as Logic Pro, GarageBand, Ableton Live, FL Studio, Cubase, Studio One, Reaper or Bitwig.
- **Pro Tools:** AAX support is on the way. We're in the middle of registering with Avid for AAX.
- **An internet connection** once, to activate.

Installing on a Mac

1. Download Suave for macOS from tmf.today and open `suave-1.0.0-Mac.dmg`.
2. Double-click **Install Suave** and follow the steps. It installs the AU and VST3 plug-ins into `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins`.
3. Open your DAW (restart it if it was open) and insert **Suave**.

Installing on Windows

1. Download Suave for Windows from tmf.today and run `suave-1.0.0-Windows-x64-Setup.exe`.
2. Choose **VST3 plug-in and standalone app**, or **VST3 plug-in only**. The plug-in goes into `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3`.
3. Open your DAW, rescan plug-ins if needed, and insert **Suave**.

IF MACOS OR WINDOWS WARNS YOU

Suave isn't signed with a paid Apple or Microsoft developer certificate yet, so your computer asks you to confirm the first time. You only need to do this once.

- **Mac, "Apple could not verify...":** click **Done**, open **System Settings › Privacy & Security**, scroll down and click **Open Anyway**, then **Open Anyway** again and enter your Mac password.
- **Windows, "Windows protected your PC":** click **More info**, then **Run anyway**.
- **Windows 11 Smart App Control:** it can't make an exception for one app. To install Suave, turn it off in **Windows Security › App & browser control › Smart App Control settings**.

Activation and your license

Try it free for 14 days

Suave runs fully for 14 days from the first time you use it. There's no account and no sign-up. While the trial runs, Suave shows a **TRIAL · DAYS LEFT · ACTIVATE** tag.

When the trial ends, Suave passes audio through unprocessed until you activate, so your sessions still open and play.

Activating

1. Copy your license key from the email **"Your Suave license key"**. It looks like `SUAVE-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX`.
2. In Suave, click the **Suave** logo at the top left, or the trial tag.
3. Press **Paste & Activate**.

Suave checks the key with our license server once. After that it works offline.

Updating

Click the Suave logo. The top right of the license window shows **Up to date**, or **Update available** when there's a newer version: click it to open the download page. Quit your DAW, run the new installer, and your license stays active.

One computer at a time

A license runs on one computer at a time, but it isn't stuck there. Activate the same key on another computer and Suave moves there. The first computer switches off the next time it's online.

You can move it up to 3 times in 30 days. Need more? Email us.

Studios without internet

Click the Suave logo and press **Copy code** under **This computer's code**. Email that code with your license key to support@tmf.today, and we'll send you a key that works on that computer without internet.

What Suave sends

- **When you activate:** your license key and an anonymous code for your computer (a hash, not your hardware ID).
- **After that:** about once a day when online, a check that your key is still active on that computer.
- **When you open the license window:** a request for the newest version number. No key, nothing about you.

Suave never sends audio, files or usage data, and nothing in the background during the trial.

Quick start

Three steps to smoother vocals.

1

Insert

Put Suave on a vocal track, or any track with harsh S sounds, and press play.

2

Raise REDUCTION

Raise the **REDUCTION** fader until the S sounds sit right. The **GR** meter shows how much Suave is turning them down.

3

Tune FREQUENCY

Catching the wrong sounds, or not enough of them? Turn **FREQUENCY**. Set **LISTEN** to **ON** to hear what Suave hears, then back to **OFF**.

That's it. Everything else on the panel fine-tunes how Suave reacts, and the next pages explain each control.

> TIP
>
> Flip the **bypass switch** at the top right now and then. It's the quickest way to hear that you're only taking away harshness.



The panel at a glance



1. **Suave logo**
   License window: license, version, updates
2. **GR meter and readout**
   How much Suave is turning the sound down
3. **REDUCTION**
   How hard Suave works on S sounds
4. **FREQUENCY**
   Where Suave listens for S sounds
5. **DRY / WET**
   Blends the untreated sound back in
6. **LISTEN**
   Hear what Suave hears
7. **ø / FILTER**
   What LISTEN plays
8. **RESPONSE**
   How Suave reacts to S sounds
9. **SPEED**
   How quickly it grabs and lets go
10. **BAND-SPLIT**
    Whole signal, or the highs only
11. **HQ**
    Look-ahead for smoother control
12. **Bypass switch**
    Turns Suave off to compare

Make Suave bigger or smaller by dragging the bottom-right corner of the window (70% to 200%). Suave remembers the size.

Controls in detail

1 Suave logo

Click the logo to open the license window. There you activate Suave, see who it's licensed to, or copy this computer's code for an offline key. Its top right shows your version, or **Update available** when there's a newer one: click that to download it. During the trial, the TRIAL tag also opens this window.

2 GR meter and readout

0 to −20 dB

The meter shows how much Suave is turning the sound down right now. The small display below it holds the deepest recent reduction, so you can read it at a glance.

3 REDUCTION

0 to 20

How hard Suave works on S sounds. 0 is the gentlest setting. Raise it to tame S sounds more. The display below the fader shows the setting.

4 FREQUENCY

2.00 to 15.4 kHz

Where Suave listens for S sounds, shown in kHz. It starts at 5.40 kHz. Lower voices usually want a lower setting, brighter voices a higher one. The ring of lights shows where the knob is.

5 DRY / WET

0 to 10

Blends the untreated sound back in. 10, the default, is fully processed. Lower it for a lighter touch.

6 LISTEN

AUTO · ON · OFF

ON plays what Suave is working on instead of the track, so you hear exactly what it reacts to. **AUTO** does that only while you're turning FREQUENCY, and switches back by itself when you let go. **OFF** is normal playback.

7 ⌀ / FILTER

Chooses what LISTEN plays. **⌀** plays what Suave removes. **FILTER** plays the part of the sound Suave listens to, so you can tune FREQUENCY until it's mostly S sounds.

8 RESPONSE

O · V · X

Three characters for how Suave reacts to S sounds. **V** is the default. Try **O** and **X** by ear on your material.

9 SPEED

+6 · +3 · 0 · −3 · −6

How quickly Suave grabs and lets go of each S. **+6** is the fastest, **-6** the slowest, **0** the default.

10 BAND-SPLIT

on · off

Off, the default: Suave turns the whole signal down for the length of each S. On: it turns down only the high frequencies and leaves the rest of the sound alone. The light shows when it's on.

11 HQ

on · off

Looks about 3 ms ahead, so each S is already under control the moment it starts, and smooths the reduction on long S sounds. HQ adds about 3 ms of latency, which your DAW compensates for automatically. The light shows when it's on.

12 Bypass switch

Turns Suave off so you can compare. Switching is smooth, with no clicks and no jump in timing.



Working with Suave

Finding the right frequency

Select **FILTER** and set **LISTEN** to **AUTO**. Now, whenever you turn FREQUENCY, you hear what Suave listens to. Turn until it's mostly S sounds and let go. Suave switches back to your track by itself.

Whole signal, or highs only

By default, Suave dips the whole signal briefly on each S. If you can hear the rest of the vocal duck with it, switch on **BAND-SPLIT**, so only the high frequencies are turned down.

When to use HQ

Turn on **HQ** when the start of an S slips through, or when long S sounds flutter. It adds about 3 ms of latency, which your DAW compensates for. Leave it off while recording through Suave, when every millisecond counts.

Response and speed

RESPONSE changes the character of how Suave reacts. **SPEED** changes how quickly it grabs and lets go. There's no wrong setting: start at **V** and **0**, then try the others by ear.

A lighter touch

Keep REDUCTION where it catches every S, and lower **DRY / WET** to let a little of the original back in.

Handy shortcuts

- **Double-click** a fader or knob to reset it. **Option-click** (Alt-click on Windows) does the same.
- Hold **Shift** while dragging or scrolling for fine control.
- **Scroll** over a fader or knob to adjust it.
- Every control can be **automated** in your DAW.

Specifications

PLUG-IN FORMATS	AU (macOS), VST3 (macOS and Windows). AAX for Pro Tools is on the way.
STANDALONE APP	Windows, optional in the installer
MACOS	11 (Big Sur) or newer, Apple silicon and Intel
WINDOWS	10 or 11, 64-bit
CHANNELS	Mono and stereo
SAMPLE RATES	44.1 kHz to 192 kHz
LATENCY	Under 1 ms. About 4 ms with HQ. Reported to your DAW.
FREQUENCY	2.00 to 15.4 kHz
REDUCTION	0 to 20
DRY / WET	0 to 10
RESPONSE	O, V, X
SPEED	+6, +3, 0, -3, -6
WINDOW SIZE	70% to 200%, remembered
TRIAL	14 days, full version
LICENSE	One computer at a time. Moves up to 3 times in 30 days.
ACTIVATION	Online once, then works offline. Offline keys for studios without internet.
UPDATES	The license window shows when a new version is out. Click to download.

Troubleshooting and support

Suave doesn't show up in my DAW

Restart your DAW or rescan plug-ins. In Logic Pro, open **Logic Pro › Settings › Plug-in Manager**, select Suave and click **Reset & Rescan Selection**. To check it's installed, look for `suave.component` and `suave.vst3` in `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins` on a Mac, or `suave.vst3` in `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3` on Windows.

"Couldn't reach the Suave license server"

The computer needs internet for a moment. Check the connection, or pause a VPN or firewall that blocks your DAW. No internet in your studio? Ask us for an offline key.

"That key has a typo"

Copy the key again from your email. **Paste & Activate** avoids typos.

"This key has moved to a different computer 3 times in the last 30 days"

Email us and we'll move it for you.

"Your Suave key was activated on another computer"

Your license moved to another computer. Activate it here again to move it back.

Suave stopped processing

Your trial has ended. Activate a license to continue. Your settings are saved in your sessions, so Suave picks up right where you left off.

MORE HELP

Answers to every question we've been asked:
tmf.today/support

CONTACT

Email **support@tmf.today**. Tell us whether you're on Mac or Windows (and which version), which DAW you use, and what you see. A screenshot helps.

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