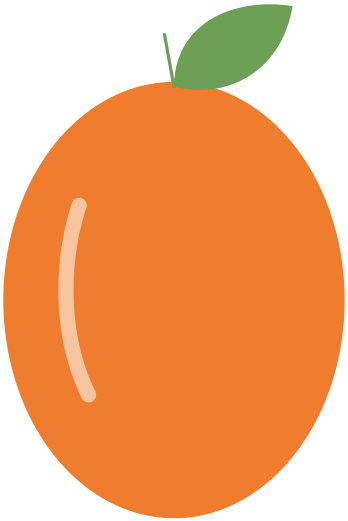


KA Auto Mixer

Instruction manual

Kumquat Audio · Edition 1.7.11 · October 2026

kumquataudio.com

NO. 10

KA Auto Mixer

Turns up whoever is speaking, on several mics.

KA Auto Mixer turns up whoever is speaking, on several mics, and turns the others down. It reads all the tracks, works out who is talking when, and rides the faders for you. It also checks which mic hears each sound first, so one person's voice in another person's mic does not open it, and a lead mic wins when it is a close call.

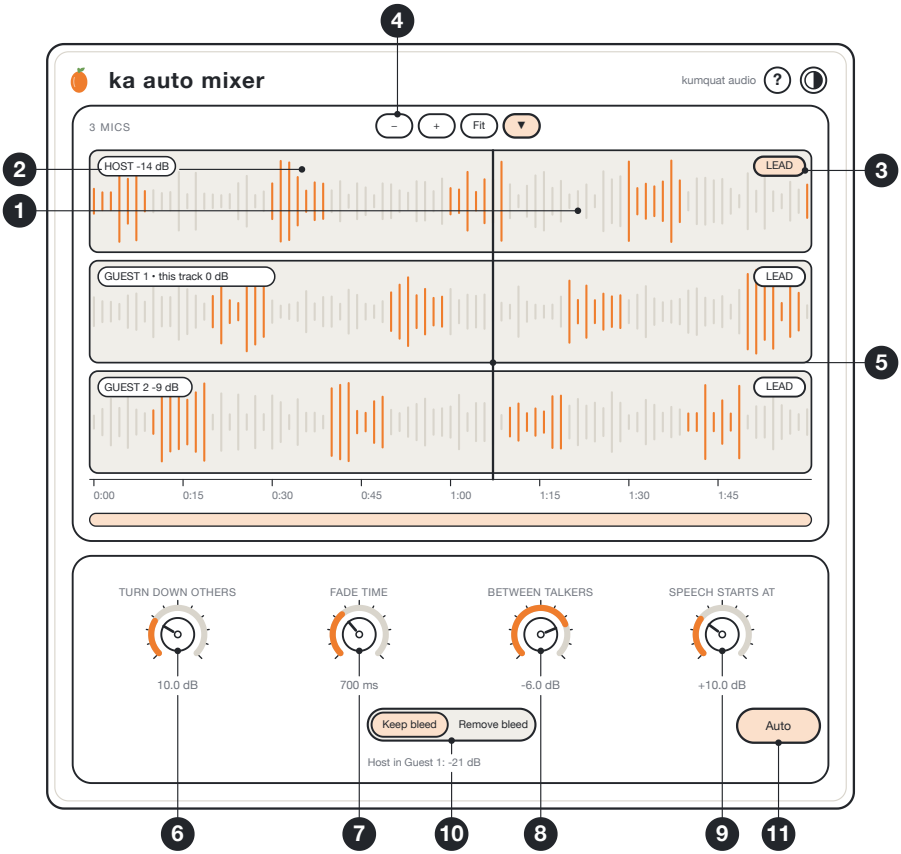


FIG. 1 The parts of KA Auto Mixer. The numbers are explained on the next page.

Parts

fig. 1

1. **A lane**
   One for each mic. Faint strokes are what the mic hears; orange is what KA Auto Mixer lets through.
2. **Name and level**
   The track's name and the dB it is being turned by now. • this track marks the one you are on.
3. **LEAD**
   Marks a lead mic (the host's, say): when it is a close call who is talking, the lead mic wins.
4. **Zoom**
   Zoom out, zoom in, fit, and follow the playhead.
5. **Playhead**
   Click anywhere to move it. Scroll to move along, pinch or Cmd+scroll to zoom.
6. **Turn down others**
   While someone speaks, the other mics go down by this much.
7. **Fade time**
   How long a mic takes to fade up or down when the person talking changes.
8. **Between talkers**
   How far the other mics go down while nobody speaks. The last speaker's mic stays open.
9. **Speech starts at**
   How far above its own noise a mic must be to count as someone talking.
10. **Keep / Remove bleed**
    Remove bleed (experimental) takes a speaker's voice out of the other mics. Under it: the bleed that was found.
11. **Auto**
    Listens to your recordings and sets everything for you.

Operation

step by step

1. Open Logic Pro using Rosetta, and put the plug-in first in the Audio FX list on every mic’s track.
2. Select the regions and press play. The picture fills with one lane for each mic. A track with no KA Auto Mixer on it is marked in red.
3. Press Auto: it listens to your recordings and sets Turn down others and Speech starts at for you.
4. Adjust Turn down others (how far the other mics go down while someone speaks) and Fade time (how long a mic takes to come up or go down).
5. Mark a lead mic with LEAD, the host’s for example: when it is a close call who is talking, the lead mic wins.
6. Between talkers sets what happens in the pauses: the mic of the last speaker stays open and the others go down by this much.

Controls and settings

range · start

Control	Range	Starts at	What it does
Turn down others	3 to 24 dB	10 dB	How far the other mics go down while someone speaks.
Fade time	100 ms to 2 s	700 ms	How long a mic takes to come up or go down.
Between talkers	–24 to 0 dB	–6 dB	How far the other mics go down when nobody speaks. The mic of the last speaker stays open, so the room noise does not pump. 0 leaves every mic alone.
Speech starts at	+4 to +24 dB	+10 dB	How far above its own mic's noise a voice must be to count as speaking. Lower it for a quiet talker; raise it if breaths open mics.
Remove bleed	Keep / Remove	Keep	Experimental: takes a speaker's voice out of the other mics.
LEAD	per mic	off	Marks a lead mic.
Auto	button		Sets it all for you from your recordings.

CAUTION Remove bleed reads the other tracks while it plays, so on long files it can cause dropouts. Try Keep bleed if you hear any.

TIP If you hear the room noise change when people stop talking, make Between talkers smaller (toward 0 dB): the mics then move less in the pauses.

Specifications

Formats	Audio Unit only (needs ARA)
Hosts	Logic Pro, run with Rosetta
Channels	mono or stereo, one instance per mic
Window	800 × 650, can be resized

How it works

a closer look

KA Auto Mixer reads all the mics at once. It measures each one against the noise of its own mic, and works out for every moment who is speaking: the mic that is clearly loudest, and above Speech starts at over its own noise. When it is a close call, a lead mic wins.

A voice is also heard a little later in the mics of the people next to the speaker. Where two or more mics are loud, KA Auto Mixer measures which one hears the sound first; a mic that hears it later, and quieter, is only hearing bleed, and is not opened.

The mic that is speaking is left where it is. The others are turned down by Turn down others, which takes out most of the bleed. Changes take Fade time to happen, so the mixing does not jump. In the pauses the mic of the last speaker stays open and the others go down by Between talkers.

Auto measures how much each mic leaks into the others and sets Turn down others a little above it, and sets Speech starts at for you.

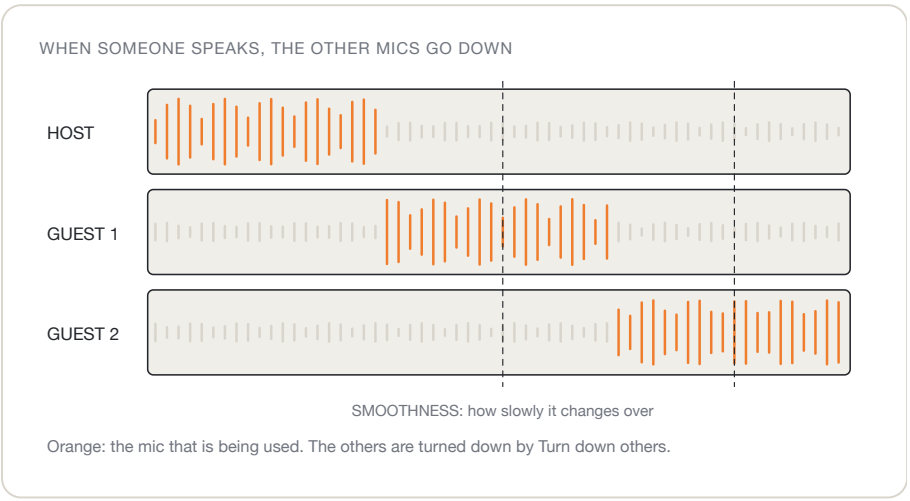


FIG. 2 Whoever speaks is used; the others are turned down.

ARA

Plug-ins that read whole recordings

KA Silence Trim, KA Drum Gate, KA Auto Mixer and KA Time Align read whole recordings, which is something only a few music programs allow: it is called ARA. They come as Audio Units only.

Today they need Logic Pro to be opened with Rosetta. Select Logic Pro in the Finder, press Cmd+I, tick “Open using Rosetta”, and open Logic again. The other plug-ins do not need it.

Put each one first in the Audio FX list of its track. Select a region and press play: the window fills as the plug-in reads the audio.

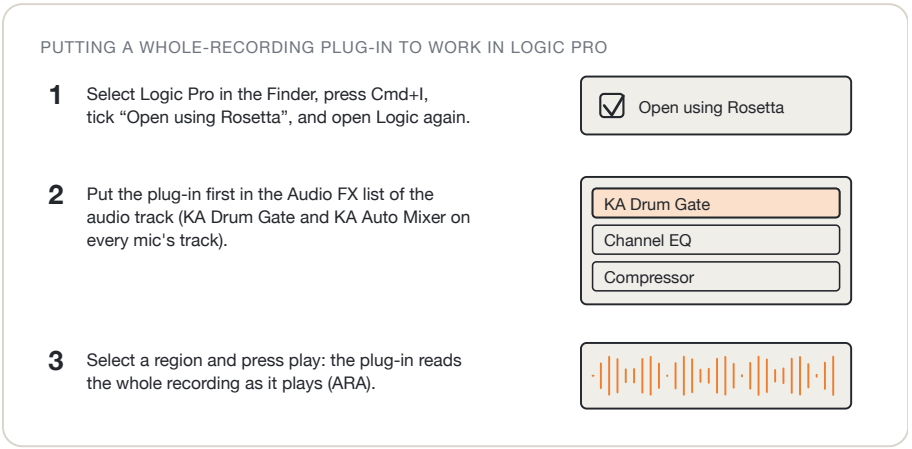


FIG. 3 Three steps to put one of them to work.

CAUTION If the window says it is not connected to Logic’s audio, one of the three steps has been missed: Rosetta, the first place in the list, or a region that is selected and playing.

CARE

Care and troubleshooting

If this happens	Do this
A plug-in does not appear in the list	Restart the music software. In Logic Pro, open the Plug-in Manager, select the Kumquat plug-ins and choose Reset & Rescan Selection.
An old name is still showing	Quit Logic with Cmd+Q and open it again. If it persists, remove the old copies from /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components.
My key was not accepted	Copy all of it, from KA1 to the end, with no spaces added or lost. A key for one plug-in does not unlock the others.
The pop-up help does not show	Press the “?” at the top of the window to turn it on. It is one choice for all the plug-ins.
Which part of the picture does a knob change?	Point at the knob, or hold it down while you turn it: the part of the picture it controls lights up, with the knob’s name and value.
KA Drum Gate, Silence Trim, Auto Mixer or Time Align shows a message instead of a picture	Open Logic Pro using Rosetta, put the plug-in first in the Audio FX list, select a region and press play.
The sound is late	KA De-Click, De-Verb, De-Noise, Contour, Mic Blend, Saturator (it oversamples), EQ (with the suppressor), Multiband (in Linear phase) and Limiter delay the sound a little and tell the music software, which lines everything up. Do not compensate by hand. For playing through a plug-in, the Saturator, EQ and Multiband have a Live switch that takes the delay away; the compressors, De-Esser, Delay, Reverb and Rider have no delay at all.
A window is too small or too big	Drag the corner at the bottom right. The size is remembered, and it is the same for all the plug-ins: make one bigger and the others open that big.
The Limiter pumps	Leave Release on Auto, or set 60 to 100 ms. A release of a millisecond or two is the dirtiest setting.

If something is not right, write to **audiokumquat@gmail.com** and say which plug-in, which music software, and what you were doing.

FOR YOUR OWN NOTES

Notes