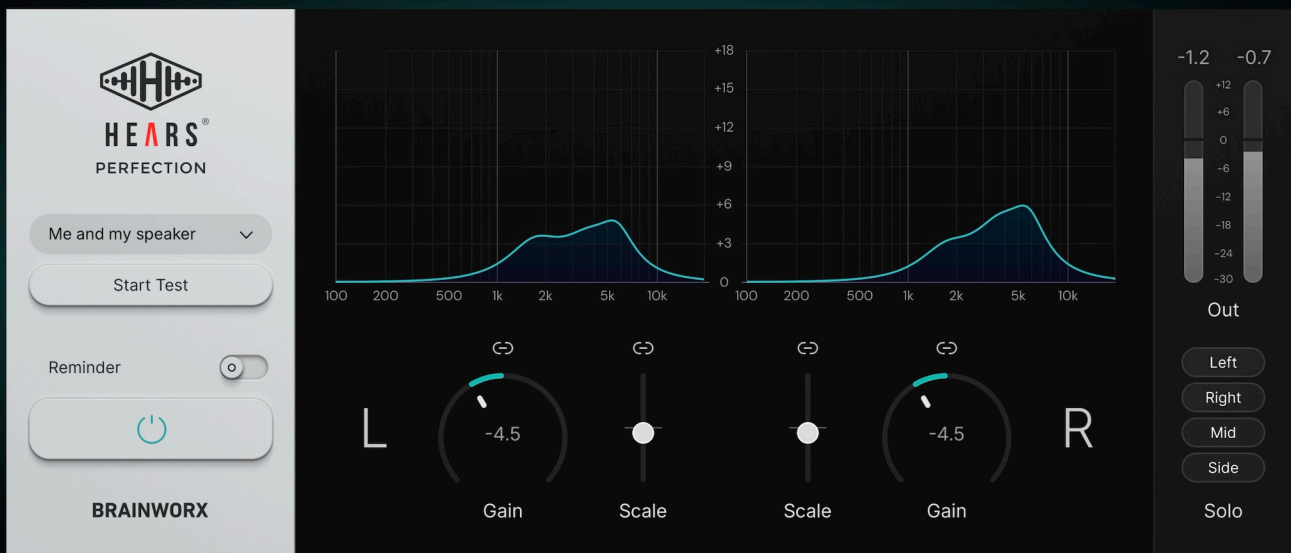


HEARS Perfection

Plugin Manual



BRAINWORX



Plugin Alliance

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1. Welcome to HEARS Perfection

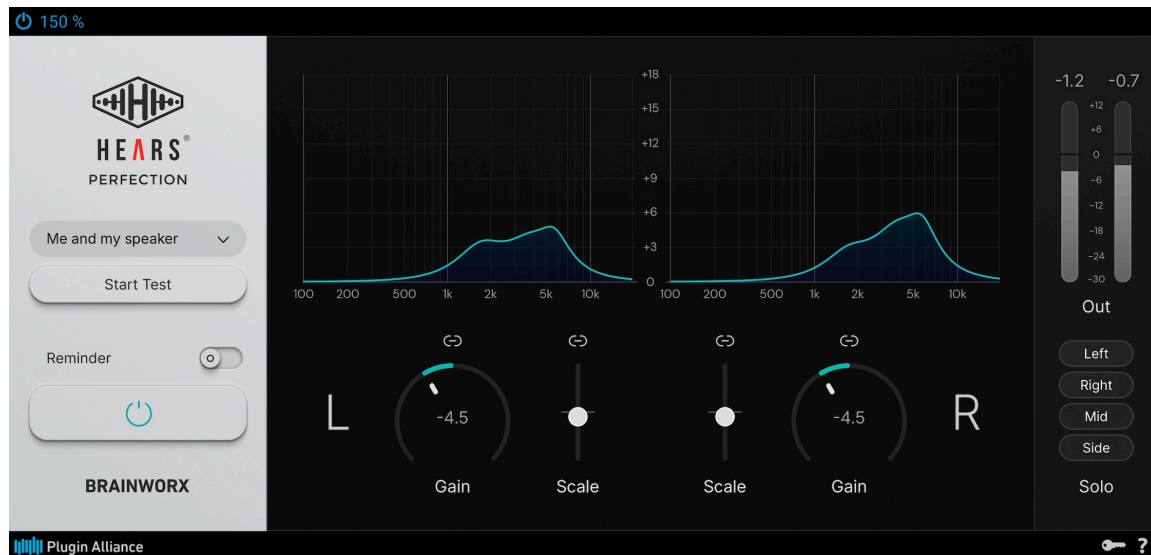
HEARS Perfection is based on a simple principle: If we can pinpoint exactly which unique frequencies we are lacking in our hearing (because everyone's hearing is different), then boost those frequencies accordingly, we can truly hear our mixes flat.

Flat/Correct monitoring = Better Mixes.

HEARS Perfection was developed to correct the critical mid-range and high frequencies where most hearing loss occurs. These problems affect nearly all mix and mastering engineers, especially musicians!

 Download and install your plugin using our Installation Manager:
<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/installation-manager.html>

Thank you for choosing HEARS Perfection. We hope you enjoy it!



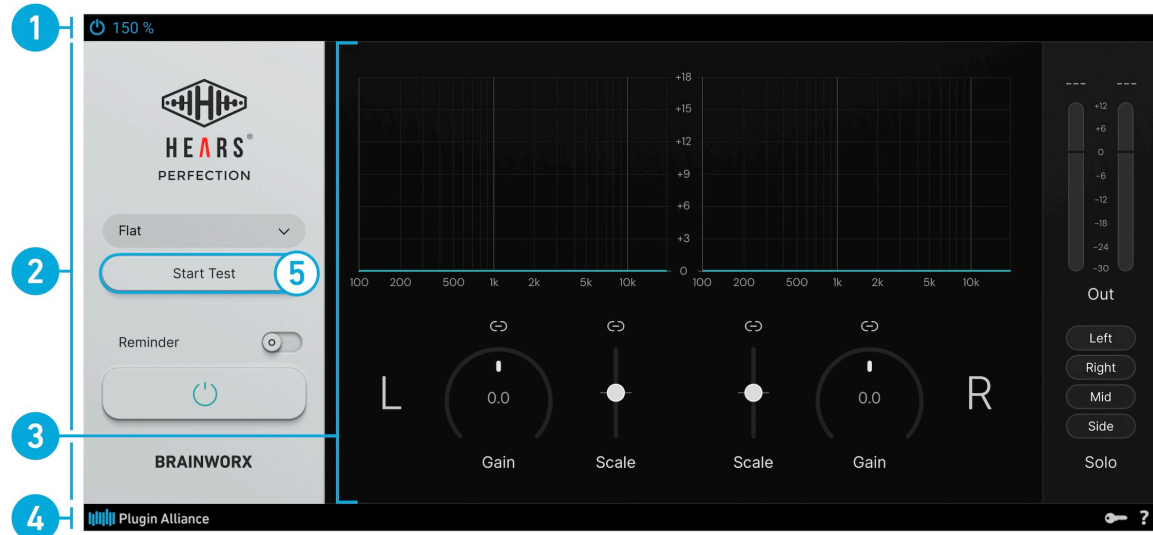
2. Key features

The following list gives you an overview of HEARS Perfection's key features:

- Corrective EQ for hearing deficiencies
- Create individual hearing test profiles (i.e for speakers and headphones)
- Scalable correction EQ curve
- New monitoring controls (solo left, right, mid or side signal)
- Reminder feature to remind the customer that HEARS Perfection is active
- Rewritten from scratch for improved stability and improved user experience
- New UI Design

3. HEARS Perfection overview

HEARS Perfection consists of the following areas and main controls:



1. **Top toolbar:** Additional global controls relevant to the plugin's processing. For more information, refer to [Top toolbar](#).
2. **Main settings:** Access to the test environment, switching between user profiles, bypass and an optional reminder for safe bouncing. For more information, refer to [Main settings](#).
3. **EQ-Curve and options:** Corrective EQ curves and helpful tools to compensate the personal EQ correction. For details refer to [EQ-curve and options](#).
4. **Bottom toolbar:** Preferences, license information, and documentation. For more information, refer to [Bottom toolbar](#).
5. **Start Test:** Before HEARS Perfection can have any corrective effect, at least one initial personal profile must be created by completing the hearing test accessible via this button. For a detailed guidance refer to [Getting started](#).

i Disclaimer: This plugin is not a substitute for a professional hearing test or medical advice. Consult a medical professional if you have concerns about your hearing.

4. Getting started

How to get started with HEARS Perfection

HEARS Perfection works by creating a custom profile of your hearing and then adjusting for it by boosting certain frequencies. In the following guide we will show you how to create your first profile and get the best results.

This will take about 5-10min.

1. If you haven't already, install the HEARS Perfection plugin.
2. Load the HEARS Perfection plugin as the last plugin in the monitoring output of your DAW, but before any speaker or room correction plugin that you might be using.



Make sure your environment is free from distractions, with any room and speaker correction you are using already configured and activated. Also make sure to be located in a good listening position.

With additional room and speaker correction applied, also refer to [HEARS Perfection and room correction](#).

3. Click **Start Test** to begin the hearing test and create a personal profile.
4. Click **Next**.



Make sure your overall monitoring volume (DAW and/or your main output) is set to your usual listening level. Please don't change the volume after you have started the test.

5. Click **Try Test Tone** to try out the hearing test tone.



If you are not hearing the test tone, you might have to start playback in your DAW. In some rare cases an actual signal has to be present in the master bus. In that case, just add a track to your project and start playback.

6. Click **Start Test** when you are ready to start your hearing test.
7. The test now will play the first test tone for your left ear - Click **Yes** or **No** if you are able to hear the tone.
8. The test now will continue by playing tones at different volumes and frequencies and asking for your input - you can see your progress in the top progress bar. If you have made a mistake you can click **Back** to go to the previous test tone.
9. We have also included a **Mute** button to help you evaluate easier.
10. After all tests are completed you can save your profile and start using HEARS Perfection with the newly generated profile.
11. Activate **Gain Link** and adjust the **Gain** value so the meter does not exceed 0.0 db in your monitoring scenario.

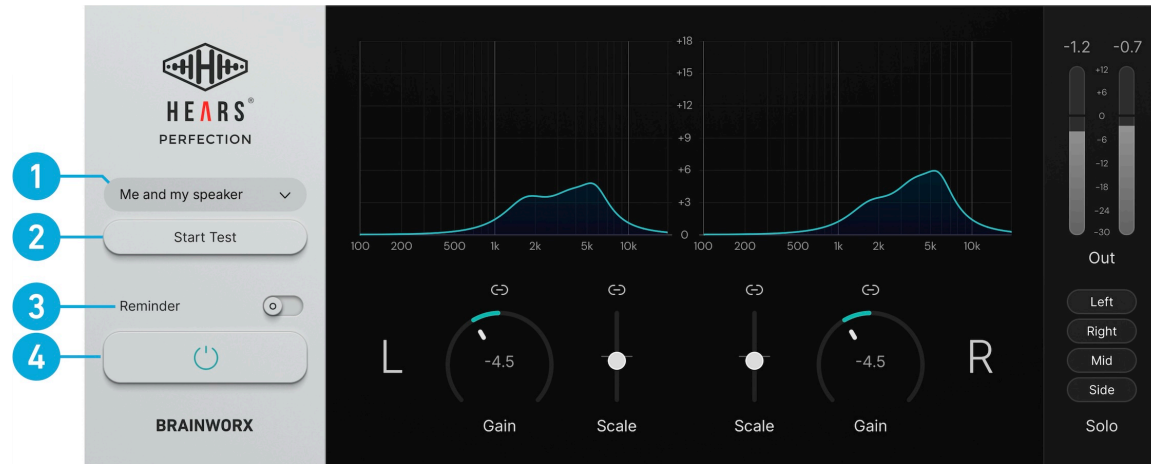


Please always remember to turn off/bypass the plugin before bouncing your final track.

5. Main settings

Enter the test environment to add a personal correction, switch between user profiles, and bypass HEARS Perfection when bouncing your project. The most frequently used controls found here.

This section consists of the following controls:



1. **User Profile:** Use the drop-down-menu to select, save or delete your different hearing profiles.



This is useful for creating multiple profiles according to your different monitoring situations and listening levels.

You can for instance have one profile for headphones and one for speakers.

2. **Start Test:** Click to perform the hearing test and create a personal profile. For a detailed guidance refer to [Getting started](#).
3. **Reminder:** When activated, the reminder is periodically emitting a noise burst to remind you it is still active. This is helpful to not accidentally bounce your mix with the HEARS Perfection plugin activated.
4. **[Power Button]:** Dis-/Engages (bypasses) the plugin's processing. Same function and listed as **Power** from the top toolbar.

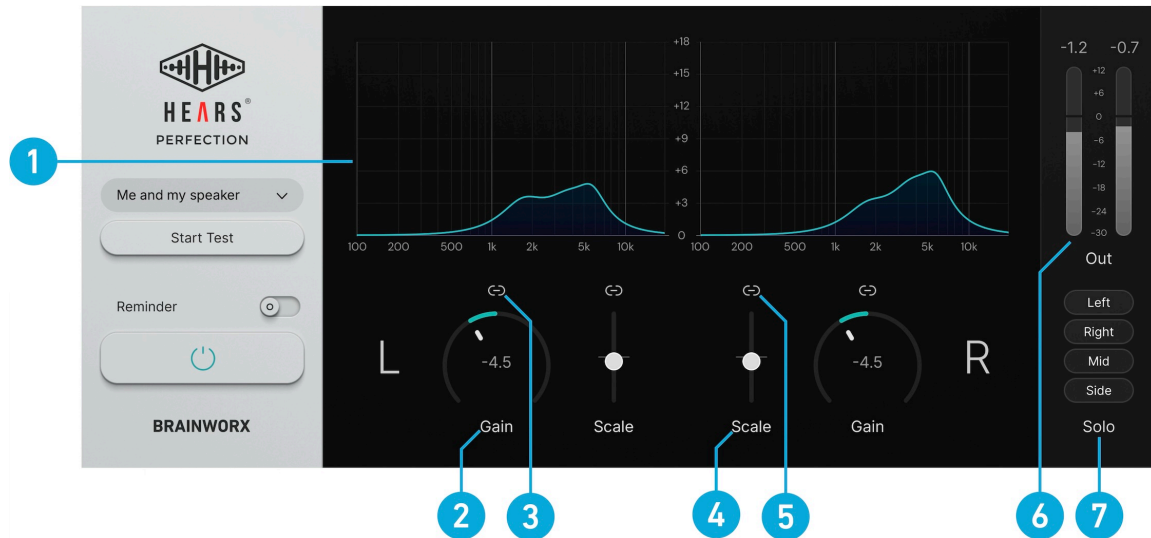


Clicking the HEARS logo will open a splash screen containing team credits.

6. EQ-curve and options

Tweak your profile to your demands if your personal EQ correction seems too drastic when applied, and prevent HEARS Perfection from clipping.

This section consists of the following controls:



1. **[EQ-curve display]:** Visualizes the selected left and right corrective curve.
2. **[Channel] Gain:** Constant gain-compensation on each channel.
3. **[Gain Link icon]:** Links one gain control to the other to ensure the stereo image is not affected.
4. **[EQ] Scale:** Individually scales the correction EQ curve for each channel.
5. **[Scale Link icon]:** Links one scale control to the other.
6. **[Output meter]:** For quick gain compensation when HEARS Perfection is active, the output meter will help to find correct settings.
7. **Solo [channel]:** Isolates the selected channel for monitoring purposes by clicking a channel name.

i Just like with new speakers, it sometimes takes your ears a while to get used to the new sonic signature. Use **Scale** to reduce this effect until you get used to the full scale compensation.

7. Toolbars

Top toolbar

Additional global controls related to plugin settings and processing are available in the top toolbar.



1. **Power:** Bypasses the processor when disengaged.
2. **UI Size:** Sets the size of the plugin's user interface.

Bottom toolbar

Preferences, license information, and documentation are available in the bottom toolbar.



1. **Plugin Alliance Logo:** If your computer is online, clicking the Plugin Alliance logo will take you to the Plugin Alliance website via your web browser.
2. **License Info:** The toolbar displays information about the type of license you're running. Trial licenses are displayed along with the number of days until expiration; there is no note for full licenses, as these are unlimited.
3. **Dollar Icon:** If you are using a demo/trial version of a Brainworx product, you can click this icon to open a browser that redirects you to the respective product page in the Plugin Alliance store. Here, you can purchase a product without searching for it on the Plugin Alliance website.
4. **Key Icon:** Clicking on the key icon brings up the activation dialog, allowing you to manually reauthorize a device in the event of a license upgrade or addition. You can also use this feature to activate additional computers or USB flash drives.
5. **Help Icon:** Clicking the help icon opens a context menu that links to the product manual PDF and other helpful links, such as checking for product updates online. You must have a PDF reader installed on your computer to read the manual.
 - **Open Manual...** with your operation system's preferred PDF reader. A PDF reader is required to read the manual.
 - **Product Info...** will take you to the product page of HEARS Perfection if your computer is online.
 - **Download Updates...** leads you to the product page's Downloads-Section.
 - **Legal Info...** opens a pop-up window declaring legal usage of third party technology.
 - **Plugin Alliance Website...** will take you to the Plugin Alliance website via your web browser.
 - **Usage Data Tracking...** will open a pop-up window to activate or deactivate [Usage Data Tracking](#).

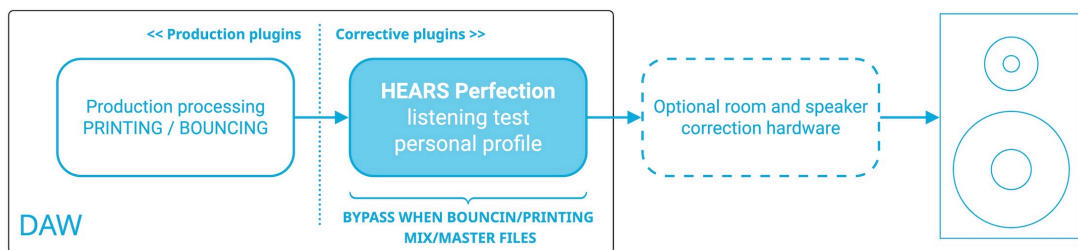
8. HEARS Perfection and room correction

Our recommendation for smooth operation in a tandem case

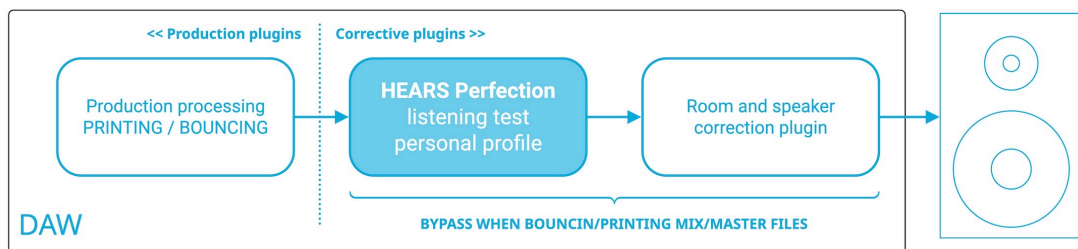
HEARS Perfection is designed to provide a personalized, flat monitoring reference based on your unique hearing profile. Typically HEARS Perfection would be placed after all other plugins, processing and effects of your production have been applied.

However, when used in conjunction with a room and speaker correction tool (for example Sonarworks or ARC), we and our acoustic experts recommend to put HEARS Perfection in the position in your signal chain relative to these other processors, as shown below.

- Start to setup HEARS Perfection personal correction based on the given knowledge of your room and speaker setup along with any physical room treatment and speaker placement which is already configured. This ensures you establish a monitoring baseline with your environment and equipment, before you engage HEARS Perfection to run the listening test within your particular monitoring environment - which you of course know best!
- If you are not using a room and speaker correction plugin, HEARS Perfection should be placed **last** in the monitoring output channel of your DAW. This is a very clear situation:



- If you are using a room and speaker correction plugin, we recommend placing it **between** HEARS Perfection and your monitoring output.



9. Additional information

Online resources

System requirements & supported platforms:

<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/systemrequirements.html>

Details about your product:

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/products/hears_perfection.html

Installation, activation, authorisation and FAQ:

<https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/support.html>

Usage data tracking

Help us improve your experience.

Plugin Alliance by Native Instruments is using data tracking to improve the user experience and usability of our products. Data tracking can be deactivated at any time in the help menu. This data is collected according to our [Privacy Policy](#).

Credits

Original Concept: Doug Holmquist, Toby Tomplay, James Peltier

Programming and Algorithms: Joscha S. Rieber, Florian Göbel, Matthias Heinz

UI-Design: Nico Lezim

QA: Matthias Monhof-Lohmeier, Niko Haug, Steffen Baldo

Product Management: David Stoll, Christoph Tkocz

Documentation: Albert Gabriel