KIT BB A5

EQ Plugins

User Guide :

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Version 1.0.0

Table of Contents

Introduction

“ Thank you for purchasing. This guide gives you a complete overview of the complete plugin collection. If you have any questions or support requirements, please visit kitplugins.com and reach out to help@kitplugins.com. Be sure to join our newsletter and connect with us on social media for new releases and product updates! ”

— Matthew Kleinman, Founder & CEO

Every great mix starts with character—and few EQs have defined musical character quite like the legendary API equalizers that powered countless hit records. Each **KIT BB A5 EQ Plugin** brings that unmistakable API tone straight from **Blackbird Studio’s API Legacy Consoles** in Nashville (Studios B and D) into your DAW, with three distinctive EQ models designed to complement each other and inspire your creativity.

At the heart of the collection are the **BB 55A**, **BB 55L**, and **BB 56L**—faithful digital recreations of API’s iconic analog equalizers. Each plugin captures the essence of its hardware counterpart, from the sweet, musical proportional-Q curves to the bold transformer coloration and focused midrange punch that made API gear a studio staple.

BB 55A – A 3-band classic inspired by the API 550A, perfect for shaping punchy drums, clear vocals, and vibrant guitars.

BB 55L – A 4-band evolution of the API 550L, offering expanded control for detailed tone sculpting and mix-bus refinement.

BB 56L – A 10-band graphic EQ modeled after the API 560L, delivering fast, intuitive control for broad tonal shaping or precise correction.

Whether you’re mixing, mastering, or simply adding analog vibe to your tracks, each EQ brings a unique flavor that blends power, precision, and personality.

For even greater value, you can experience the full console sound with our flagship **BB A5** channel strip, **which includes these separate EQ plugins “FREE”**, alongside its additional preamp, filters, analog hum and master buss console modeling features.

Choose - Your - Flavor !!!

Installation & Requirements

After purchasing from our website, you will be asked at the **Order Status** page to enter and submit your **iLok ID** (e.g. the "**username**" you use to login to **iLok License Manager**) for validation and license deposit to your iLok account. If you do not yet have a **FREE iLok Account**, you may create one at ilok.com, and download the required **iLok License Manager** application.

* If you miss this step, you may return to the '**Order Status**' page from the link provided in your order receipt email.

Once done, you may proceed to launch the **iLok License Manager** application on your system, login with the **iLok ID** for your account (and that you used for the deposit process above), select the '**All Licenses**' tab, select the license and right-click and active to your desired location.

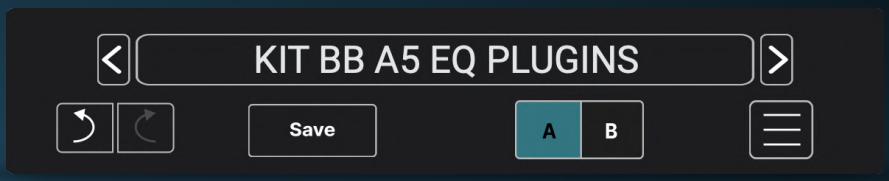
System Requirements & Compatibility:

- macOS 10.14 or above
- Windows 7 or above
- An Intel or M-Series processor
- 16 GB RAM or above (recommended)
- Internet Access for download, authorization and intermittent validation request
- A compatible Host or DAW for plugin format use

* This plugin supports **iLok Cloud**, **iLok 2** or **iLok 3** (generation) keys, and **Machine** activation.

Installation contains **64-Bit** versions of applicable plugin formats – **VST3**, **AU**, **AAX** – for the aforementioned **macOS** and **Windows** platforms.

Top Bar

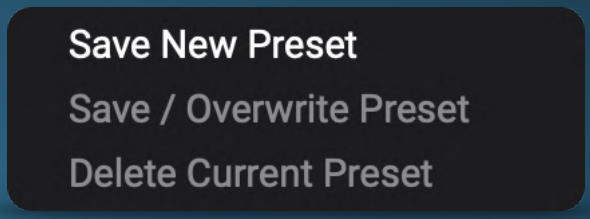


Undo/Redo:

- Select to Undo or Redo your last performed action/parameter value change.

Save Menu:

- Click to view the save menu options — **Save New Preset**, **Save / Overwrite Preset**, and **Delete Current Preset**.



Save New Preset

- Click to open the Save dialog window, allowing you to — create a preset bank or save to one already created by selecting from the drop-down menu, and enter a preset name.

- Click the '**Save**' button to save the preset to your **User Presets** folder, or '**Cancel**' to exit.

Save / Overwrite Preset

- If you make a modification to a loaded User preset, this option will appear and allow you to '**Save / Overwrite**' your preset on disk.

Delete Current Preset

- Deletes the currently loaded preset from your User Presets folder.

* The preset will remain loaded so you may further edit and resave as desired. If you do not save a new preset and close and recall your session, a temporary preset will be automatically generated to recall your settings, and you may then save as needed.

Preset Manager:

The '**Preset Manager**' displays your current selected preset and navigation arrows for quick load (next/previous).

You may click the preset name to open its corresponding drop-down menu to show **Factory**, **Collaborator**, **Team** and **User** saved presets and options.

At the very bottom of the presets list you will see the following options…

Import Preset

- Click to open **Finder** (**macOS**) or **Explorer** (**Windows**). From here you may navigate your system and select an available/shared preset file to '**Import Presets**' into your **User Presets** folder.

Refresh Presets

- Click to '**Refresh Presets**'. If you have imported user shared presets, be sure to click this option to update the preset listing.

Reload Current Preset

- Click to '**Reload**' the currently selected preset and, recall its saved state parameter settings.

Open Presets Folder

- Opens your **Finder** (**macOS**) or **Explorer** (**Windows**) window, to view and organize your User presets and folders. Should you may and changes, click the 'Refresh Presets' option to update the preset listing.

A/B Preset

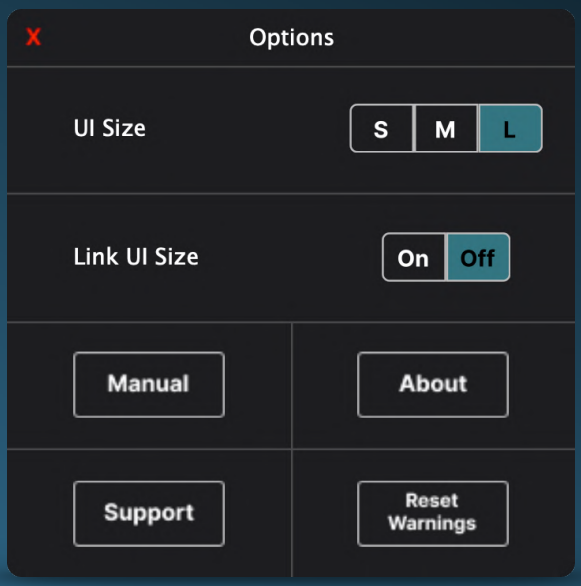
- Select between A/B buttons to load a preset, adjust and quickly audition between two sets of parameter value settings. You may also copy your settings between each A or B with a right-click mouse action.

Note;

Factory Presets have been curated as a general guide for noted instrumentation with a pre-input control level of -18 dBFS (Transient-Peak) for the desired effect process based on the designer's source material. The output has been adjusted accordingly as make-up gain.

Options Menu:

The '**Options Menu**' (clicking the **Menu** button in the Top Bar) opens the window panel display to view and set global preferences — **UI Size**, **Link UI Size**, view the **Manual**, **About**, **Contact Support**, **Reset Warnings**.



UI Size

- Select a preset '**UI Size**' for the plugin. Custom sizing may be set by clicking a dragging the bottom right-hand corner of the interface.

Link UI Size

- Turn on to link all instances and set their UI Size the same. Note; this option links same plugin formats only (i.e AAX with AAX, VST3 with VST3, etc).

Manual

- Opens the ("this") User Guide in your default PDF viewer/application.

About

- Click to view the about information for the plugin.

Support

- Click to contact customer support. Your default mail application will open to send a new email to our support team.

Reset Warnings

- Click to reset warning dialog windows if you have suppressed them to not show again.

BB 55A

Few EQs have earned a reputation as iconic as the API 550A. Born in the late 1960s and refined through decades of studio use, this 3-band equalizer became a go-to tool across countless hit records.

From drums tracked through vintage API desks to vocals sculpted in modern hybrid studios, the 550A's signature punch and musical proportional-Q behavior have long defined what engineers call "the API sound."

Core Functionality

The BB 55A plugin captures the soul of the API 550A found in Blackbird Studio's API Legacy Consoles in Nashville—specifically those housed in Studios B and D. Meticulously modeled, it offers the same bold tone and responsive behavior that made the original hardware so addictive.

Like the classic 550A, the BB 55A provides three fully selectable frequency bands, each with boost/cut capability of ±12dB. Thanks to the proportional-Q design, the bandwidth automatically narrows as you boost or cut more—keeping your EQ moves natural and musical at subtle settings, and focused and punchy when pushed harder.

In plugin form, the BB 55A offers both stepped and continuous gain controls, giving you the choice between vintage-style recall precision and modern surgical flexibility.

Controls

HF Curve Toggle

- Change the EQ (‘Q’) curve of the High Band (Grey is a **bell**, Green is a **shelf**).

(HF) High Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the High Band provides a selectable bell or shelf curve selected by the curve toggle button with fixed frequency points (**2.5 kHz**, **5 kHz**, **7 kHz**, **10 kHz**, **12.5 kHz**, **15 kHz**, and **20 kHz**).

(MF) Mid Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the Mid Band provides a bell curve with fixed frequency points (**200 Hz**, **400 Hz**, **600 Hz**, and **800 Hz**, **1.5 kHz**, **3 kHz**, and **5 kHz**).

(LF) Low Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the Low Band provides a selectable bell or shelf curve selected by the curve toggle button with fixed frequency points (**30 Hz**, **40 Hz**, **50 Hz**, **100 Hz**, **200 Hz**, **300 Hz**, and **400 Hz**).

LF Curve Toggle

- Change the EQ (‘Q’) curve of the Low Band (Grey is a **bell**, Green is a **shelf**).

BP Band Pass Filter

- When engaged; removes frequencies **below 50 Hz** and **above 15 kHz**.

Stepped Gain

- Provides selectable options for stepped gain control—values indicated around the gain pot, or continuous gain (Grey is a **continuous**, Green is a **stepped**).

Output Fader

- Provides output volume control post-eq with a range of **-96 dB** to **+10 dB**.

BB 55L

When API introduced the 550L in the early 2000s, it wasn't about reinventing the wheel—it was about refining a legend for modern consoles.

Borrowing the musical DNA of the revered 550A but expanding its flexibility, the 550L delivered an extra band of EQ and an updated interface designed for the 500-series and later, the Legacy Plus consoles. The result was unmistakable: that same API punch and clarity, now with even more control over your tone.

Core Functionality

The BB 55L plugin faithfully recreates the API 550L modules from Blackbird Studio's API Legacy Consoles (Studios B and D). Captured with precise detail, it delivers the analog drive, proportional-Q behavior, and tone shaping precision that define the API heritage.

With four independent bands—each offering seven selectable frequency points and ±12dB of boost/cut—the BB 55L lets you sculpt with both surgical precision and broad, musical strokes. Like the hardware, its proportional-Q ensures your adjustments stay natural and cohesive, even when you make bold moves.

Toggle between stepped gain mode for fast, classic workflow or continuous mode for modern, detailed fine-tuning—making it an EQ equally at home in a creative session or a mastering chain.

Controls

HF Curve Toggle

- Change the EQ (‘Q’) curve of the High Band (Grey is a **bell**, Green is a **shelf**).

(HF) High Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the High Band provides a selectable bell curve selected by the curve toggle button with fixed frequency points (**2.5 kHz**, **5 kHz**, **7 kHz**, **10 kHz**, **12.5 kHz**, **15 kHz**, and **20 kHz**).

(HMF) High Mid Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the High Mid Band provides a bell curve with fixed frequency points (**800 Hz**, **1.5 kHz**, **3 kHz**, **5 kHz**, **8 kHz**, **10 kHz**, and **12.5 kHz**).

(LMF) Low Mid Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the Low Mid Band provides a bell curve with fixed frequency points (**75 Hz**, **150 Hz**, **180 Hz**, **240 Hz**, **500 Hz**, **700 Hz**, and **1 kHz**).

(LF) Low Band EQ

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB**, the Low Band provides a selectable bell or shelf curve selected by the curve toggle button with fixed frequency points (**30 Hz**, **40 Hz**, **50 Hz**, **100 Hz**, **200 Hz**, **300 Hz**, and **400 Hz**).

LF Curve Toggle

- Change the EQ (‘Q’) curve of the Low Band (Grey is a **bell**, Green is a **shelf**).

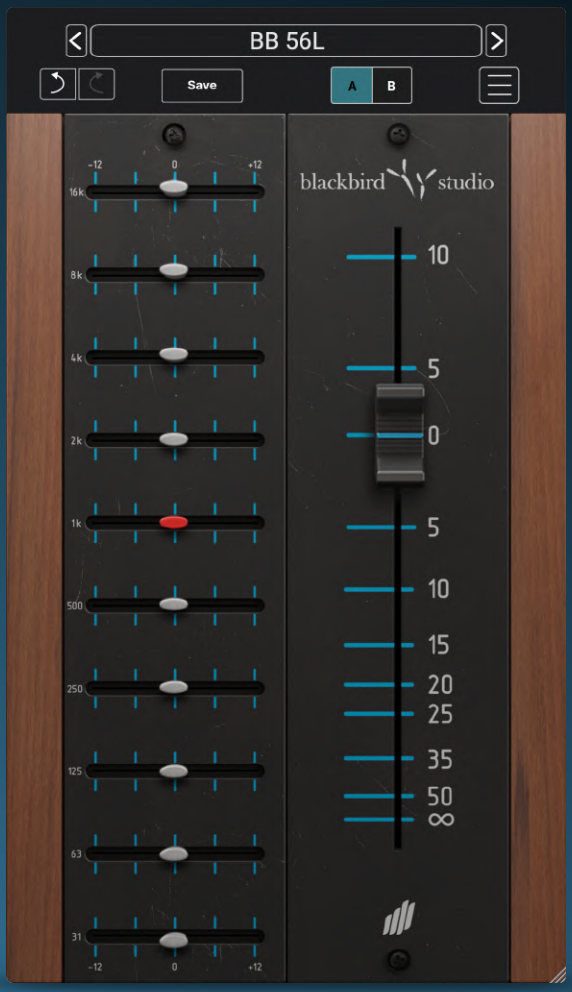
Stepped Gain

- Provides selectable options for stepped gain control—values indicated around the gain pot, or continuous gain (Grey is a **continuous**, Green is a **stepped**).

Output Fader

- Provides output volume control post-eq with a range of **-96 dB** to **+10 dB**.

BB 56L



When precision meets personality, you get the API 560. Originally introduced in the early 1970s and later reissued as the 560L for API's Legacy consoles, this 10-band graphic equalizer became a studio favorite for its speed, transparency, and musical tone.

Whether shaping drums, vocals, or entire mixes, engineers relied on its fixed frequency bands and signature proportional-Q design to make decisive, musical adjustments in seconds.

Core Functionality and Controls

The BB 56L plugin brings the character and workflow of the API 560L modules found in Blackbird Studio's API Legacy Consoles (Studios B and D) straight into your DAW. Modeled from the real hardware, every curve, every nuance, and the proportional-Q behavior have been recreated in musical detail.

Each of the 10 fixed frequency bands (centered from 31 Hz up to 16 kHz) can be boosted or cut ±12 dB. The proportional-Q ensures wide, gentle adjustments when you make small moves and tighter, focused cuts or boosts as you dig deeper—making it ideal for both broad tonal shaping and corrective work.

The interface mirrors the hands-on workflow of the classic graphic EQ: instant visual feedback, intuitive control, and unmistakable API tone.

Controls

EQ Bands

- With **Boost / Cut** gain control **±12dB** and proportional-Q, the fixed frequency points may be adjusted (**31 Hz**, **63 Hz**, **125 Hz**, **350 Hz**, **500 Hz**, **1 kHz**, **2 kHz** , **4 kHz**, **8 kHz**, and **16 kHz**).

Output Fader

- Provides output volume control post-eq with a range of **-96 dB** to **+10 dB**.

Functional Commands

Reset Parameters / Controls

- **Mac:** Option + Click
- **Windows:** Alt + Click

Fine Control

- Hold Shift and drag the functional control.

Manual Value Entry

- Double-click an applicable control and enter a numerical value.

Credits

Development:

- Austin James
- Adam Murdock

Conceptual Design:

- John McBride and Matthew Kleinman

Team Management:

- Jim Collett

QC / Beta Management / Preset Designer:

- Ashley Smith

Marketing:

- Tom Edwards & Jesse Mancia (Mix Buss Marketing)
- Taven Romesser