

## Wavelab 6 - The Master Level Pane

### The Master Level Pane



The faders in the Master level pane govern the final output level. Use these in conjunction with the level meters (those next to the fader, or even better, the meters in the Level/Pan Meter window) and the clip indicators to optimize the level of the signal sent to the audio hardware.

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*It's particularly important to avoid clipping (signal levels exceeding the available headroom), especially when mastering. Clipping is indicated by the Master Section's clip indicators*

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To adjust the level, use the following methods:

- To make coarse adjustments, click a fader handle and drag it. You can also click directly anywhere along the fader scale to move the fader handle there immediately.
- For fine adjustments, click on the upper or lower half of the fader handle. This raises or lowers the level by a small amount.
- To reset a fader to 0.00 dB, press [Ctrl] and click anywhere on the fader. When both faders are set to 0.00 (and the Mono button isn't activated), the Master level section will not affect the signal at all. This is indicated by the red indicator for the Master pane going dark.
- You can control the faders using a wheel mouse. This has to be activated in the Preferences–Environment tab. The fader settings are shown numerically below each fader.

## The Meters



The Master Section meters show the signal level of the signal before dithering (Or any other plug-in you have applied post-master fader.)

- The numeric fields above the faders show the peak levels (the highest signal levels reached) for each channel. They will hold these values until you click on them to reset them.
- The red “LEDs” above the meters are clip indicators, which will light up whenever the signal clips (exceeds the maximum available headroom). If this happens, you should lower the faders, reset the clip indicators by clicking on one of them, and play back the section again until no clipping occurs.

## The Mono Button



If you activate the Mono button, the two channels will be summed to mono. Furthermore, the output level is automatically reduced by -6dB, to avoid clipping. The Mono button is useful for checking mono compatibility of stereo mixes, etc.

- If the Mono button is activated, the red indicator for the Master level pane will be lit, even if the master level isn't adjusted. This helps you avoid accidentally leaving the Mono button activated.

## The Dropout Indicator



This indicator lights up whenever WaveLab fails to properly play back as little as a single sample of the currently selected wave. A dropout is most likely to occur when your computer does not have the processing power to adequately handle all effect processors you have inserted.