

AUSTRIAN AUDIO

StereoCreator3

Introduction

About StereoCreator3

StereoCreator3 lets you choose your stereo image after the recording. Capture the separate diaphragm signals of your Austrian Audio OC818 as a four-channel recording, then switch freely between XY, MS and Blumlein in post, without touching the microphone.

StereoCreator3 is not only used by engineers looking to decide on the ideal coincident stereo format after the take, but also by artists exploring the sound and spatial impression of different stereo techniques creatively. The full creative potential unfolds through the complete automation capability of all plug-in parameters.

Use one OC818 in Dual Mode for pseudo-stereo, or stack two OC818 for true stereo. Adjust stereo width, spatiality and recording angle in post, rotate the Blumlein image virtually, and fine-tune the Mid pattern in MS mode or the L/R patterns in XY.

System Requirements

macOS 10.14 or later

Windows 11, 64 bit or later

Supported plugin formats: AAX, AU, VST3

Tested on ProTools, Cubase, Logic, Reaper

Microphone Setup and Routing

Dual Mode

Position one OC818 rotated 90° to the sound source, with the microphone's logo facing to the left. Connect the front-diaphragm signal (main XLR out) to input 1 of your audio interface, the rear-diaphragm (accessible via the OCC8 mini XLR cable) to input 2.

Route both interface inputs to a stereo track in your DAW and load StereoCreator3 as an insert.

Quad Mode

Position two OC818 at 90° to each other. The lower microphone faces to the left with its Austrian Audio logo, the upper microphone faces forward towards the sound source with its Austrian Audio logo. Connect the front-diaphragm signal of the lower microphone (main XLR out) to input 1 of your audio interface, its rear-diaphragm (accessible via the OCC8 mini XLR cable) to input 2. Then connect the front-diaphragm signal of the upper microphone (main XLR out) to input 3, its rear-diaphragm (accessible via the OCC8 mini XLR cable) to input 4.

Route the four inputs to a quad or four-channel track in your DAW and insert StereoCreator3. It will automatically open in its quad version.

Overview

The screenshot shows the Austrian Audio StereoCreator3 interface for a pseudo-m/s setup. The top bar includes 'Track' (Audio 2), 'Preset' (<factory default>), 'Auto', and buttons for 'BYPASS', 'COMPARE', 'SAFE', and 'Native'. The main area features a microphone diagram with '1 left' and 'right 2' labels. The 'Compare' section has 'A' and 'B' tabs. The 'Setup' section includes a 'pseudo-m/s' dropdown and an 'L/R channel swap' toggle. The 'Compensation Gain' section has a knob at 0.0 dB and a 'Calculate' button. The 'Input - Output Levels' section shows four level meters for L and R channels. The 'Mid Gain' and 'Side Gain' sections each have a knob at -6.0 dB. A polar plot on the right shows the microphone's response pattern. The version 'v3.0.0' is displayed in the bottom right corner.

The screenshot shows the Austrian Audio StereoCreator3 interface for a true-m/s setup. The top bar includes 'Track' (Audio 3), 'Preset' (<factory default>), 'Auto', and buttons for 'BYPASS', 'COMPARE', 'SAFE', and 'Native'. The main area features a microphone diagram with '3 front', 'back 4', '1 left', and 'right 2' labels. The 'Compare' section has 'A' and 'B' tabs. The 'Setup' section includes a 'true-m/s' dropdown and an 'L/R channel swap' toggle. The 'Compensation Gain' section has a knob at 0.0 dB and a 'Calculate' button. The 'Input - Output Levels' section shows six level meters for L, R, F, and B channels. The 'Mid Gain' and 'Side Gain' sections each have a knob at -6.0 dB. The 'Mid Pattern' section has a knob with a circular icon. A polar plot on the right shows the microphone's response pattern. The version 'v3.0.0' is displayed in the bottom right corner.

Compare

Set and compare two settings of StereoCreator.

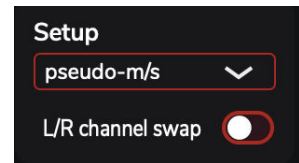
Please note: if you use the AB function of your DAW please do not use the Compare function of StereoCreator (and vice versa). Either use the AB of your DAW or StereoCreator.



Setup

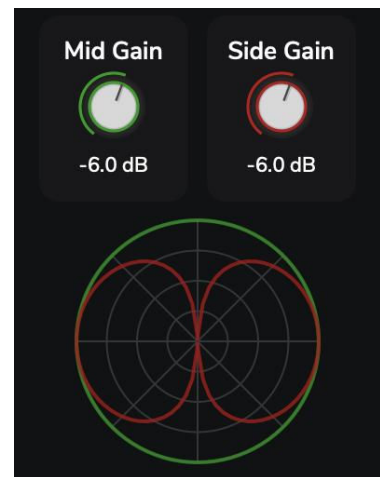
Select the mode in which the plug-in encodes the stereo image. In Dual Mode you can choose between *pseudo-m/s* and *pseudo-stereo*. In Quad Mode you can choose between *true-m/s*, *true-stereo* and *blumlein*.

An *L/R channel swap* function is also available to swap left and right in the stereo image.



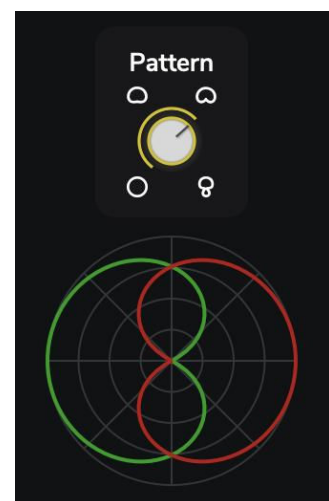
Pseudo-m/s

In *pseudo-m/s* you can encode a simplified form of M/S using only one OC818. The Mid channel is a fixed omni, the Side channel is a figure-of-eight as usual. You can adjust the level of the two channels via *Mid Gain* and *Side Gain*.



Pseudo-stereo

In *pseudo-stereo* mode, one OC818 is encoded into an XY setup with an opening angle of 180°. You can adjust the polar pattern of the two XY channels via the *Pattern* slider. Turning towards omni makes the signal more mono, turning towards supercardioid opens up a very wide stereo image, but also introduces phasiness.



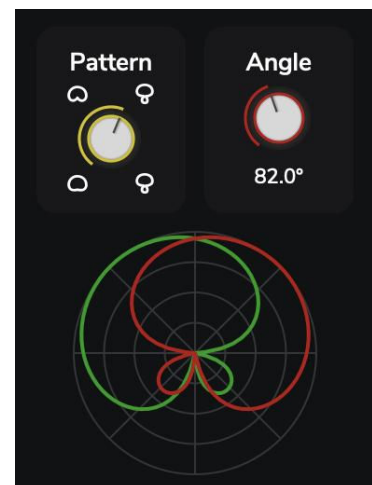
True-m/s

The **true-m/s** setting turns two OC818 into a fully flexible M/S decoding. As usual, the Side channel is a figure-of-eight. The Mid channel, however, can be adjusted in its polar pattern via the **Mid Pattern** slider. This way, even the amount of room captured by the Mid channel can be controlled and used creatively. As usual, the balance between the Mid and Side channel can be adjusted via the **Mid Gain** and **Side Gain** sliders, setting the stereo width of the image.



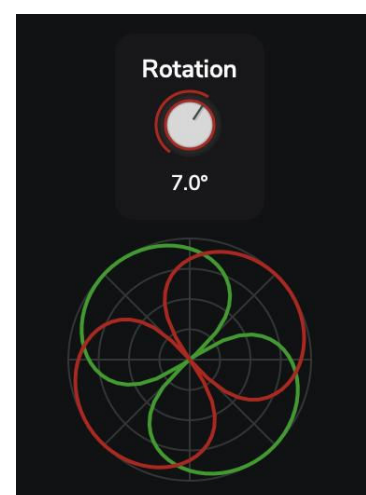
True-stereo

In **true-stereo** mode, two OC818 are encoded into a flexible XY stereo setup that can be changed after the take. The **Pattern** slider changes the polar pattern of the XY channels. Turning towards wide cardioid makes the stereo image more mono and gives you more room sound from the rear. Turning towards hypercardioid gives you a sharper channel separation between left and right and less room information. The **Angle** slider adjusts the opening angle of the microphones between 30° and 150°. Here too: turning towards a narrow opening angle gives you a more mono signal, turning towards a wide opening angle spreads the stereo image.



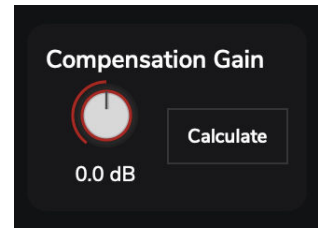
Blumlein

In **blumlein** mode, you can encode two OC818 in the Blumlein configuration. The **Rotation** slider lets you rotate the entire stereo image by +/- 30°. This is very helpful, since the Blumlein setup can be very sensitive to misalignment. Beyond that, it shows great creative potential to be able to rotate a stereo image around the listener.



Compensation Gain

The **Compensation Gain** section lets you maintain a constant output level at all times, independent of the stereo encoding (setup) mode and the chosen parameters. This is particularly important when you want to compare different setups. The **Calculate** button assists you with this. Once you have dialed in a setting, start playback of a representative passage of your content and then click **Calculate**. StereoCreator analyzes for 3 seconds, then calculates the offset gain required to compensate for the level deviation and applies it automatically. You can also readjust the gain manually via the **Gain** slider.

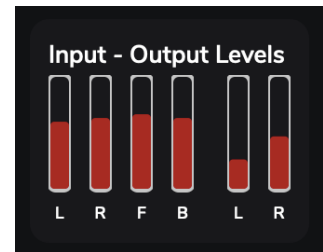


Input – Output Levels

Input and output meters are available to monitor your levels.

For further questions please contact support@austrianaudio.com

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