Volume Logic 1.0 Frequently Asked Questions

1. iPod Support – Many of you have asked for this. Octiv would like to offer Volume Logic for Apple's iPod. In fact, we have already ported our code to the chip inside the iPod. But to complete the process, we need access to Apple's technical expertise. If you want Volume Logic for your iPod, please add your support to our iPod feedback forum at:
http://www.octiv.verioiponly.com/wwwboard/wwwboard.html

2. iTunes Volume Setting - Keep the iTunes Volume all the way up, and use the Volume Logic volume slider for volume adjustment. We recommend turning iTunes Sound Check off.

The Volume Logic plug-in essentially overrides the iTunes Volume and Sound Check features, since we process the audio after it leaves iTunes. So these iTunes features don't do very much when Volume Logic is on. Generally, Volume Logic works best with the iTunes volume all the way up, so it has the full audio signal to work with. Use the Volume slider in the Volume Logic window to adjust the output level along with your system Output Volume setting.

3. iTunes EQ Setting - The Volume Logic plug-in works in conjunction with the iTunes EQ. Since Volume Logic adjusts the audio after the EQ processing, you will not hear as much effect from the iTunes EQ.

4. iTunes Sound Check Setting - We recommend that you turn it off. Volume Logic does a more thorough job. We have a white paper available at http://www.octiv.com/pdf/VolumeLogic_and_SoundCheck.pdf.

5. Burning CDs/Encoding MP3/AAC -The enhancements done in Volume Logic apply only to "played" music, so will not carry over to "burned" music from iTunes to CD or while encoding to MP3 or AAC. We process the audio as it exits iTunes. We do not have access to the audio while burning or encoding for technical reasons. We need Apple's technical assistance to do so.

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6. Bass Boost on Small Speakers Lowers Volume - If you are using a laptop's speakers, or are using speakers with limited bass, the Bass Boost feature will lower your volume when increased. This is because the increased bass is not heard on these speakers, and Volume Logic reduces the other bands (midrange, treble) at the same time for relative bass volume increase.

7. CPU Usage - This type of complex audio processing does take a lot of CPU cycles. Broadcasters and CD mastering engineers are used to buying dedicated hardware with custom processors to do this work off-line. Only Octiv has patented technology to accomplish this type of audio processing on 3 to 5% of a 1.4 Ghz G4. This may be a problem on older or underpowered machines. To reduce CPU overhead, hide the meters by clicking in the Meters check box, or clicking on the green button in the window title bar.

8. Just Louder? - Aren't the cuts just louder? It's not that simple. Just cranking the volume up results in overdriving the bass, clipping the treble and considerable reduction in perceived quality. People know the sound of overdriven speakers, and identify this problem very quickly and immediately turn down the volume. Also, simply turning up the volume increases background noise and hiss, which can reduce intelligibility.

Increases in perceived loudness are achieved differently than just turning up the overall gain. Octiv processing achieves greater loudness, clarity and intelligibility by working with audio elements that the ear can perceive--not by a gross adjustment to the overall volume. Low levels are intelligently raised and loud signals are kept under control, all in real-time.