



ESION Leveler

User Guide

an Acclaim Audio product

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing from Acclaim Audio! To get the most out of your new Acclaim Audio software, please take a moment to read this user guide.

For information about installation, troubleshooting, specifications, company contact information, and Acclaim Audio support news, see www.acclaim-audio.com/support

Product Overview

ESION Leveler is the first app in a series of pioneering AI audio tools for post-production dialogue & speech recordings. With the demanding needs of the professional in mind, this AI tool produces quick accurate results reliably with a single button push.

ESION Leveler eliminates time consuming tasks such as manual clip gain adjustment, drawing volume curves or fine-tuning plugin parameters. By intelligently lowering the louder parts and boosting the quieter sections at the “*right time*”.

ESION Leveler has been used on numerous Emmy winning television productions. With ESION, your audio will sound like it was mixed by a professional audio engineer every time.

System Requirements

The ESION Leveler technical requirements are listed below.

- Intel processors (Mac and Windows)
- Silicon processors (Mac)
- Mac OS: Monterey version 12.01 and higher
- Windows OS: Version 10 and higher
- 1GB RAM
- Internet connection (needed for installation, activation)
- 3GB of free space for installation
- iLok account

Installation

Note: The ESION installation can be performed without an iLOK account, however, to use ESION Studio, an iLOK account must be present and an ESION Studio license deposited into the account.

To install ESION leveler, click the installer you purchased on the store.

- ESIONleveler_Installer_Win.exe
- ESIONleveler_Installer_SiliconMac.dmg or
- ESIONleveler_Installer_IntelMac.dmg

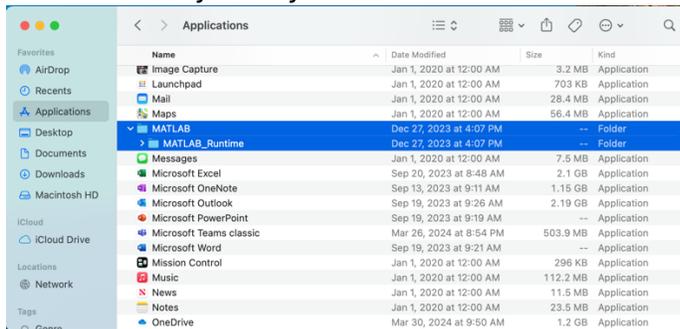
ESION LEVELER – USER GUIDE

For the Windows installer simply open the ESIONleveler_Installer_Win.exe and follow the installation prompts.

Both the Intel and Silicon Mac installers once opened contain the User Guide, Readme and **ESIONleveler_Installer.pkg**. Open the .pkg file and the installer will guide you through the installation process.

If this is the first ESION product installed, the total install size will be just over 3GB. All subsequent ESION products will utilize shared libraries and, as such, require substantially less space.

Note: This version of the ESION Leveler utilizes a third-party library (Matlab Runtime) for some of its key library functions.



Do not delete the MATLAB Runtime from the Applications folder, ESION Leveler depends on it.

iLOK

ESION Leveler requires an iLok account/access to authorize your software. You will need to connect the iLok license to your computer to use it. You can deposit your license to a host computer (free of charge) or to an iLok2 or iLok3 USB Smart Key for authorization. If you don't already have an iLok account, you'll need to create one and install the iLok License Manager app. **Each ESION Leveler software contains one activation per authorization.**

If you already have an iLOK account, skip the iLOK account creation.

If you don't have an iLOK account:

1. visit www.ilok.com and click **Create Free Account** to create an Account ID and password.
2. Store the ID and password to allow login to the iLOK License Manager account.

If you purchased ESION Leveler thru **Shopify**:

1. The first time ESION Leveler is opened it will present a series of prompts to apply the iLOK license
2. On the Apply Activation Code press the Skip button at the bottom of the screen.
3. The next screen will list your license and the locations where the license can be applied. Choose either your local host (machine) or your USB iLOK (if you have one plugged in)
4. Select Activate and you are done!!!

If you purchased ESION Leveler through any **other online store**:

1. Assign a license to the ESION Leveler. You should have an activation code listed for each product in your electronic receipt.
2. Log into your iLok account via the iLok License Manager application.
3. Go to the LICENSE menu at the very top and select REDEEM ACTIVATION CODE. Then the authorization will be in the AVAILABLE section of your account.
4. Right click and select ACTIVATE and assign it to a location (your computer) or an iLok2 or an iLok3, or you can also drag it from the list to an iLok2 or an iLok3.

For further information regarding iLOK technology please visit:

<https://www.ilok.com/#!ilok-intro>

<https://www.ilok.com/#!registration>

<https://www.ilok.com/#!license-manager>

<https://help.ilok.com/videos.html>

How to use

Since the primary GUI is the same (for Mac and Windows) and the only differences are the title bar, from this point forward, all screen shots will be from a Mac.

Windows:

Navigate to the \Program Files\ESIONleveler\application\ folder and open the ESIONleveler.exe. *Note: the very first time it opens may be slower due to library initialization. Subsequent opens will be faster.*

Mac:

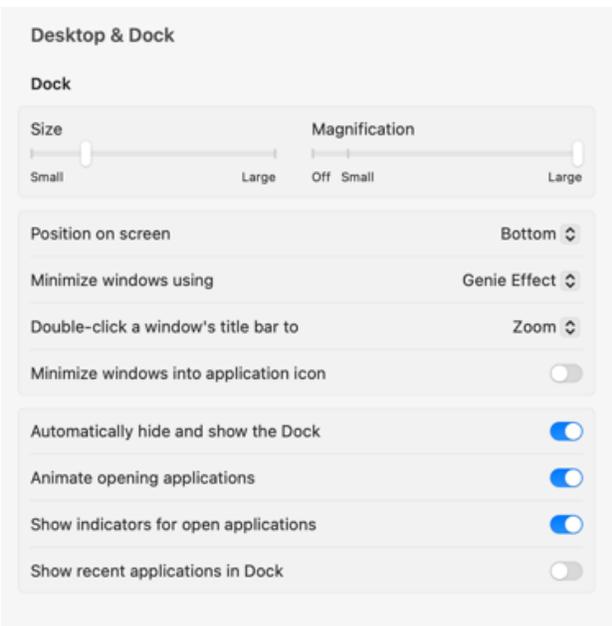
To open ESION Studio on a Mac, navigate to the /applications/ESIONleveler/application/ folder and open the ESIONleveler.app Icon. Alternatively you can drag the ESIONleveler.app to the dock and then click on the ESIONleveler icon in the doc.



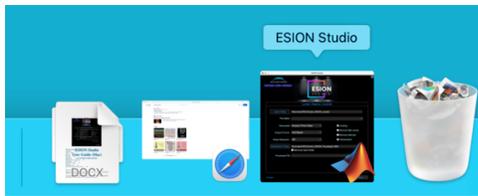
IMPORTANT Mac NOTE: Once the ESION leveler opens, In the Dock there will be two icons, ESIONleveler and MATLABWindow.



To minimize the ESION Leveler app, use the minus sign or quick key as you would for other applications.



If, in Settings/Desktop & Doc, the “Minimize windows into application” icon is **unchecked**, then a new icon will appear that contains the ESION studio icon with the MATLAB Window icon embedded within it. This is the recommended setting to use with ESION Leveler. To FOCUS the ESIONleveler app, click the ESIONleveler with the embedded MATLAB Window icon.



If, in Settings/Desktop & Doc, the “Minimize windows into application” icon is **checked**, both the ESIONstudio and Matlab Window Icon will be present in the Dock. To FOCUS the ESIONstudio app, click the MATLAB Window icon, not the ESIONstudio icon.

We understand this is a bit clumsy, but the next release will eliminate the MatlabWindow Icon and Matlab Runtime library completely. When we publish an update, we will notify you and allow you to download the new version free of charge.



ESION leveler main window

When the Leveler first opens, the stage lights are off. Once it is ready for operation the stage lights turn on.

Note: There is a slight delay in processing after the Leveler first opens while AI libraries initialize. All subsequent processing runs at optimum speed.

Hint: You can get explanations to UI controls by hovering the mouse over any field, tooltips will appear.



Key controls

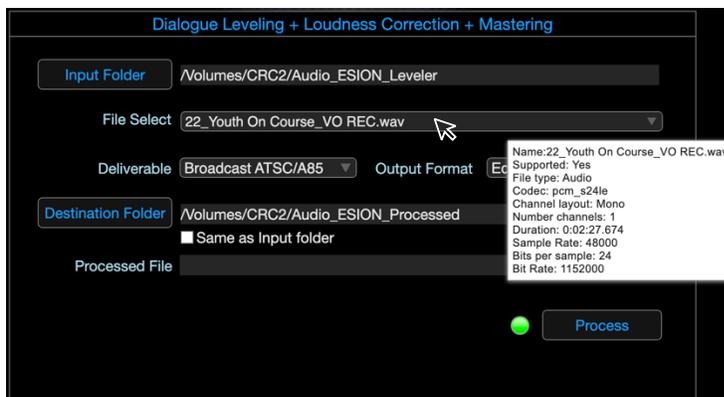
To set Preferences, click the gear icon in the upper right corner. For more information, see the **Preferences** section.

Input Folder

Select the **Input Folder** to navigate to the drive and folder the audio resides. To simplify operations and save time, the Input folder is retained between sessions.

File Select

Click the **File Select** drop down list to select the audio or video file to process. To display audio file metadata, hover over the file name. A tooltip will appear displaying audio/video file details. Below is a sample of the tooltip metadata.



ESION Leveler supports both audio and video files. If a video file is selected the audio will first be extracted and then processed.

Note: This version of ESION Leveler will not replace the new/processed audio into the original video file. In a future release we will implement a “same as source” option which replaces the audio within the video.

Supported audio files:

aac, ac3, aif, eac3, flac, mp3, m4a, ogg, pcm, ts, wav

Supported video files:

3gp, avi, mkv, mxf, mp4, m4v, mov, ogv, wmv

Channel formats supported:

Mono

Stereo

Multi-channel (up to 8 channels)

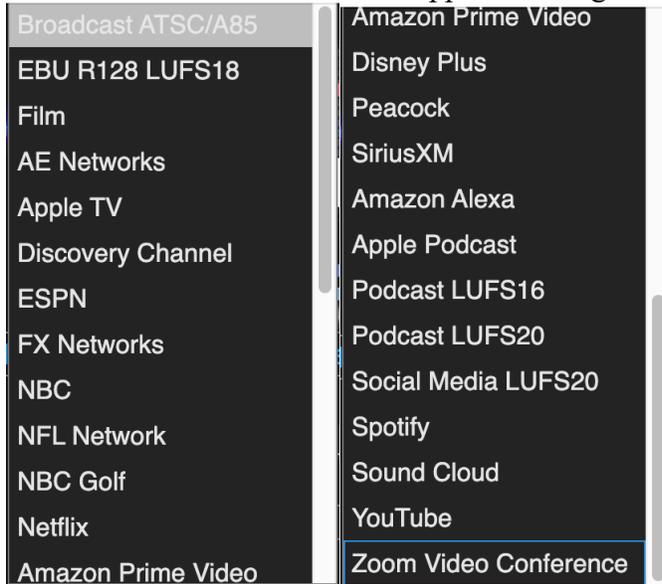
Surround sound formats not supported

In multi-stream containers, only the 1st stream is supported

Deliverable

The most important selection is the provider/platform deliverable from the dropdown menu. ESION Leveler comes packed with a library of the top industry audio specifications. This allows the user to focus on the content instead of remembering all the technical details for each deliverable.

Below are screenshots from the app illustrating the available deliverables.



Each Deliverable is tied to a provider/platform audio specification, which include loudness, true peak, audio codec, channel format, and many other specifications. For example, if you choose Broadcast/ATSC/A85, a few of the specifications are LKFS-24, TP -2dbFS, 24bit, 48kHz, wav.

The deliverable library has been organized by

- 1) Major category (film/ tv/ streaming/ radio/ podcast and social media, others)
- 2) Generic specifications, Network specifications, etc.

Note: Generic specifications are those that are not tied to a specific provider. These can be selected in the case where a specific provider is not listed.

Generic providers:

Broadcast ATSC/A85

EBU R128 LUFS18

Film

Podcast LUFS16

Podcast LUFS20

Note: to see detailed specifications visit www.acclaim-audio.com/support/deliverables

Output Format

Select **Edit Master** if you will be importing back into a DAW or NLE for further editing. Edit Master always produces a 48kHz, 24-bit, wav file, regardless of the deliverable selected.

Select **Final Master** if you will be delivering final audio to the deliverable platform. Final Master produces a final output file that meets the audio format specifications for the deliverable selected. For instance, a deliverable of YouTube will return a 48kHz, 320kbs, mp3 audio file.

ESION Leveler includes high-quality audio transcoding and dithering to produce artifact-free final audio.

Destination Folder

Open **Destination Folder** to select a drive and folder to write the processed audio files to. To simplify operations and save time, the Destination Folder is remembered between sessions.

Note: The **Same as Input folder** check box will auto-set the Destination folder to match the Input Folder. For many workflows this simplifies the process.

Dialogue Leveling + Loudness Correction + Mastering

Input Folder /Volumes/CRC2/Audio_ESION_Leveler

File Select 22_Youth On Course_VO REC.wav

Deliverable Broadcast ATSC/A85 Output Format Edit Master

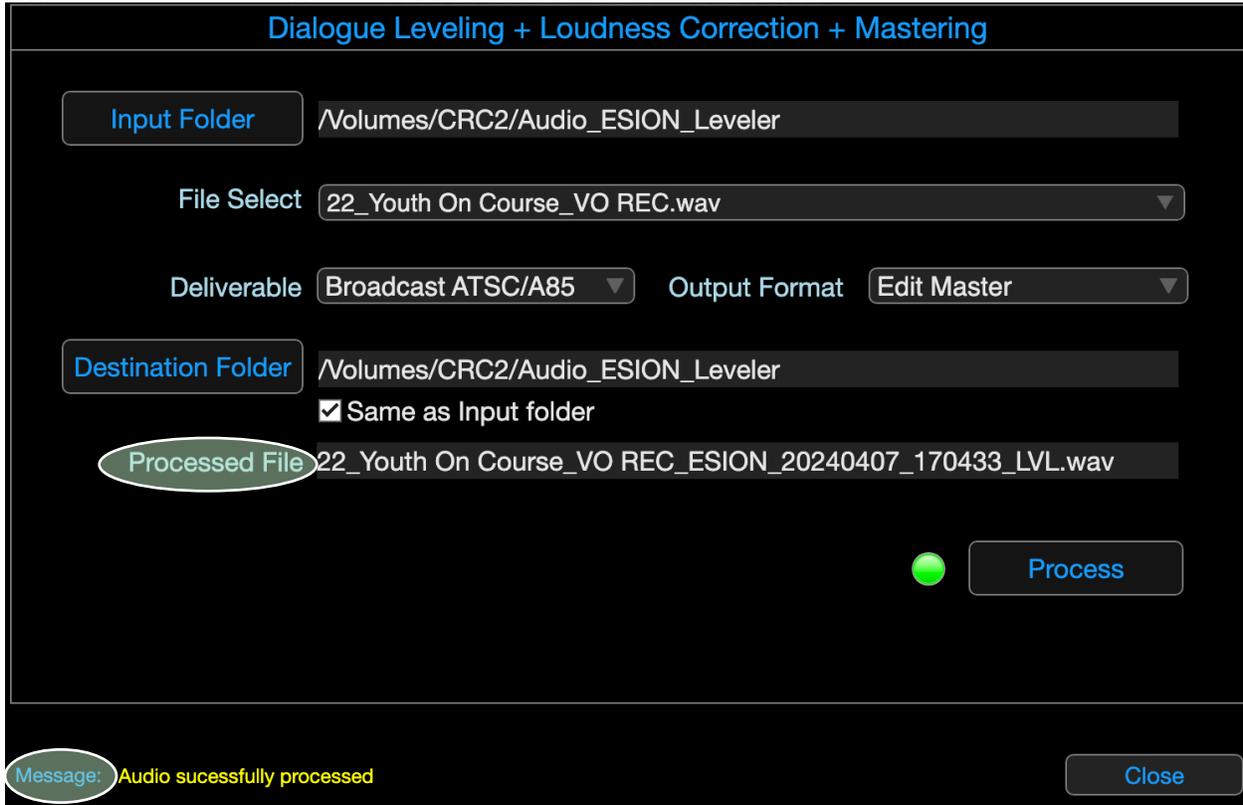
Destination Folder /Volumes/CRC2/Audio_ESION_Leveler

Same as Input folder

Processed File

Process

Processed File At the conclusion of processing, the name of the processed audio file appears. The fields appended to the file name are defined within Preferences.



Process Button



Once the Process button is pressed and ESION Leveler will engage, the Process button turns dim, a progress indicator spins, and a progress bar appears.

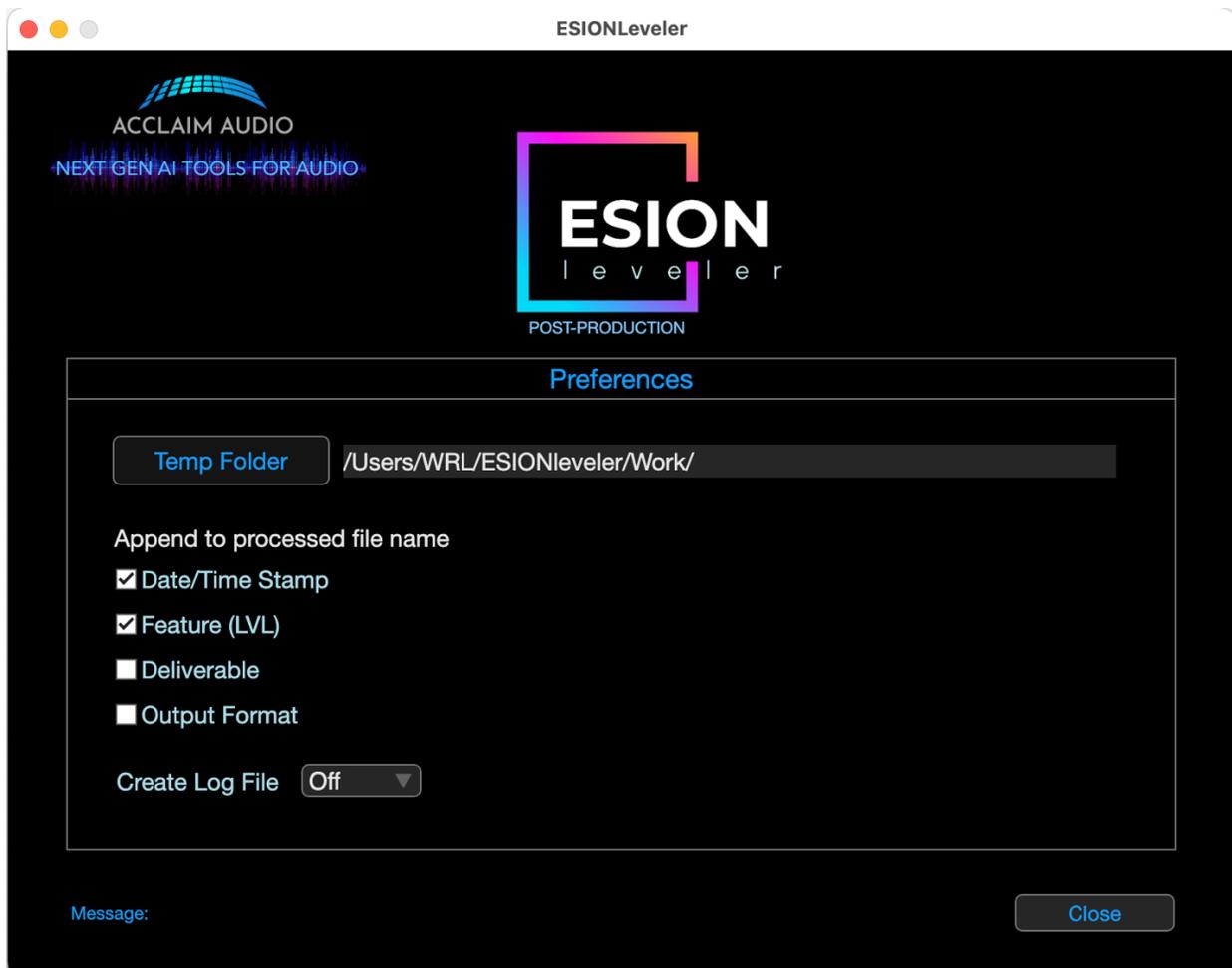
Messages

At the bottom of the app a message box exists. It displays operations or error messages.

Preferences

To set Preferences, click the gear icon in the upper right corner. For more information, see the **Preferences** section.

Preferences is where configuration items are set, which are utilized on all subsequent leveling operations.



Preference controls:

Because ESION utilizes a 64-bit audio engine, the temporary files are typically much larger than the original input file. When installed, the location of the temporary files is on the system drive within the /Users folder. We strongly recommend moving this location to another drive, preferably an SSD drive. The standard folder we recommend creating is

/SSD drive name/ESION/Leveler_Work

When you purchase another ESION product it's temporary files will fit within this same structure. For instance, the ESION Restore (noise reduction) product would use:

/SSD drive name/ESION/Restore_Work

Once the user has created the Temp folder on another drive click the “**Temp Folder**” button and navigate to the drive/folder created.

The following table illustrates the approximate temporary disk space required for leveling audio files. While ESION Leveler utilizes temporary files during processing, at the conclusion of processing the temporary files are removed.

Input file duration	Disk Space
5 minutes	500 MB
15 minutes	1.5 GB
30 minutes	3 GB
1 hour	6 GB
2 hours	11 GB

Preferences also provides the ability to customize what metadata is appended to the processed (leveled) audio file name. When leveling for multiple deliverables, output formats, and so on, it's sometimes nice to place identifiers within the file name to assist with identification. The four identifier options are:

Date/Time Stamp

If selected, the leveler will provide a date and time identifier at the end of the file name.

Feature (LVL)

If selected, the leveler will append the characters “_LVL” to the end of the file name to indicate this file has been leveled.

Deliverable

If selected, the leveler will append the selected deliverable to the end of the file name.

Output Format

If selected, the leveler will append the selected Format (Edit master/Final master) to the end of the file name.

An example processed file name with all preferences activated.

22_Youth On Course_VO REC_ESION_20240406_140520_LVL_FX_Edit Master.wav

In the rare event that you encounter an error, or unexpected results are returned, the ESION team may request you to turn on the logging option.

Create Log File (On/Off)

When the logging option is turned on, the next processing will generate a detailed log of events that the Leveler performed. The file is located at: */Users/your userid/ESIONLeveler/Logs*

When requested by the ESION team, please email the log file to:

resolution@acclaim-audio.com

Note: When the Log option is turned on it is only active for the next file processed and then auto turns off.

FAQs:

Does ESION correctly level “stereo” audio files?

Yes, if your files metadata is correctly set as “stereo”, ESION will level each channel and the final stereo LUFs will be correct.

How many channels does ESION support?

ESION currently supports between 1 to 8 channels.

Does ESION support Surround sound audio channel formats?

No, currently ESION does not support Surround sound formats, i.e. 2.0, 5.1, 7.1, etc.

What is supported is: Mono, Stereo, blank.

Note: Blank is the standard audio channel format when “multi-channel” encoding is utilized, i.e. 8-channel recorded audio. Multi-channel can be 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 channels. If a 2-channel audio file does not have the audio channel format metadata set it will be treated as a multi-channel file instead of a Stereo file.

Does ESION support folder names with embedded spaces?

Yes, ESION will support both top level and sub-folder names with spaces.

Does ESION support file names with embedded spaces?

Yes, ESION will support file names with embedded spaces.

Note: One exception will cause an ESION error. That condition is if a space exists just prior to the final dot (.) before the file extension. For instances, “File Example.wav” will process. However, “File Example .wav” will cause an error. If you have a file with this condition, rename it to remove the final space prior to processing by ESION.

Does ESION process 2 or more audio channels in parallel?

No, ESION will process each channel individually, one channel at a time. Future versions will support parallel processing of multi-channel audio.