



**MDWEQ6-AAX+/MDWEQ6-Native+  
User Guide**

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

Introducing MDWEQ6-AAX+ and MDWEQ6-Native+  
MDWEQ6 Plug-in Features

## **Chapter 2: Installation and Authorization**

System Requirements and Compatibility  
Activate Your Plug-in  
Removing Plug-in

## **Chapter 3: Using MDWEQ6**

Plug-in Window (5-band)  
Plug-in Window (3-band)  
Parameters  
Hi Shelf HiQ/Low Shelf HiQ  
EQ Display corresponds to Pro Tool's EQ Curve Display  
EQ Control Points (Node)  
Keyboard controls for each parameter  
ToolTip/Change Analyzer Color  
ToolTip/Positive & Negative IsoPeak®  
MDWEQ6 Controls  
Adjusting MDWEQ6 Controls  

- With Mouse
- With Keyboard

Copy and Paste Band Setting within a Plug-in  
Preferences

**Chapter 1:**

# **Introduction**

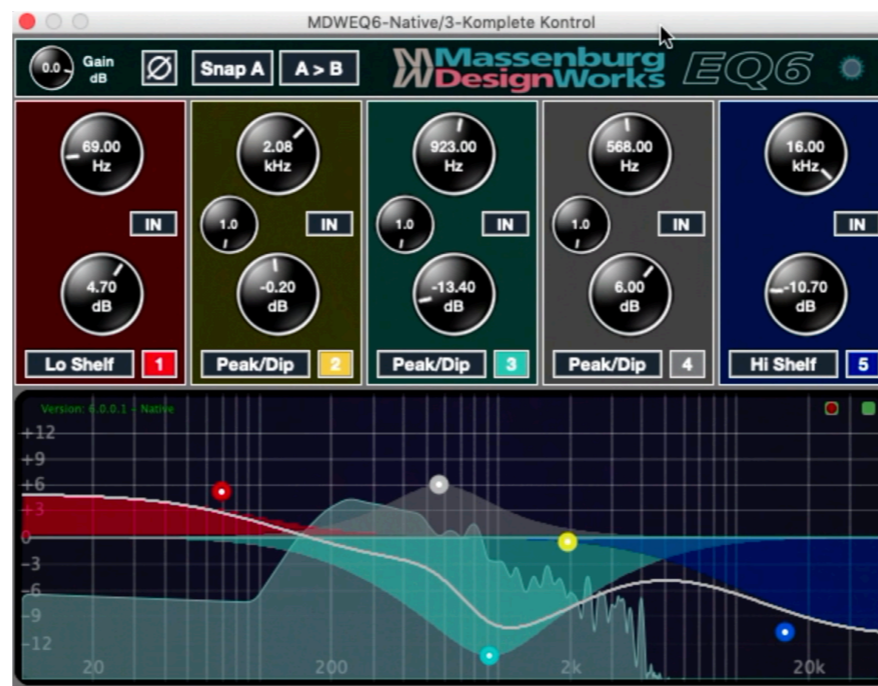
# 01 Introduction

## Introducing MDWEQ6-AAX+ and MDWEQ6-Native+

At Massenburg DesignWorks® (MDW), we have been dedicating our work to provide the high resolution, state of the art of digital plug-in to the Pro Audio business since early 2000s. Over the course of decades, the audio recording technology has evolved and so has our products. We're excited to introduce you our latest products, MDWEQ6-AAX+ and MDWEQ6-Native+.

As always, with its unprecedented clarity, unmatched smoothness, low noise, and consistent high-frequency response, the MDWEQ6-AAX+ and MDWEQ6-Native+ are designed for unequaled sonic performance.

MDW Hi-Res Parametric EQ is implemented in double-precision 64-bit floating-point processing, and takes advantage of the maximum capability of your DAW. In 44.1 kHz and 48 kHz sampling rate sessions, MDWEQ upsamples to 88.2 kHz or 96 kHz respectively for all EQ processing, resulting in unprecedented high-frequency curve consistency. This plug-in emulates the constant shape reciprocal filter curves of George Massenburg's legendary GML 8200 equalizer—the industry-standard reference. The MDWEQ6-AAX+ offers a choice of either three or five bands of equalization with support for an ultra-wide frequency range from 10 Hz to 41 kHz.



## MDWEQ6 Plug-In Features

MDWEQ6-AAX+ and MDWEQ6-Native+ both come with all of the industry standard plug-in formats to accommodate professionals all around the world on their choice of DAWs such as Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Logic Pro and many others that MDWEQ previously did not run on. Regardless of your format, functionality of both products are EXACTLY the same.

### **MDWEQ6-AAX+:**

**Pro Tools AAX DSP/Native  
(32 & 64 bit, 5B & 3B)  
VST & AU  
(64 bit, 5B only)**

### **MDWEQ6-Native+:**

**Pro Tools AAX Native  
(32 & 64 bit, 5B & 3B)  
VST & AU  
(64 bit, 5B only)**

## Features

- High-resolution 96 kHz sample-rate processing for audio recorded at 48 and 96 kHz, and 192 kHz sample-rate processing for 192 kHz audio
- Wide frequency selection, from 10 Hz to 41 kHz, with variable Q and a choice of three- or five-band EQ
- Double-precision 64-bit processing for unprecedented clarity and low noise.
- Emulates GML8200 constant shape reciprocal filter curves—the industry-standard reference for parametric workflow.
- IsoPeak® functionality solos a target frequency quickly and precisely
- Real Time frequency analysis on the Spectrum Display to help users dive into more surgical EQ
- A/B snapshots for quick and easy settings comparisons
- AAX plug-in format with support for HDX and Native hardware (MDWEQ6-AAX+)
- Support to show the EQ Graph in Pro Tools 2018.7 and later (Avid)

Chapter 2:

# Installation and Authorization

## System Requirements and Compatibility

To use the MDWEQ plug-in, you need the following:

- An iLok USB Smart Key (iLok 2 or 3 required)
- An iLok.com account for managing iLok licenses
- iLokLicenseManager application
- AAX version requires a qualified Pro Tools System. For The VST3 and Audio Unit versions require a host which supports the relative format, i.e.) Apple Logic (AU), Reaper (AU and VST3), Ableton Live (VST3) and many more. AU is a macOS only format.

Please redirect your questions specific to DAW software, please visit corresponding software company's site.

## Activate Your Plug-in

In order to activate your plug-in, you will need to install the latest “[iLok License Management Application](#)” and iLok USB



An iLok can hold hundreds of licenses for all of your iLok-enabled software. Once a license for a given piece of software is placed on an iLok, you can use the iLok to authorize that software on any computer.

An iLok USB Smart Key is not supplied with plug-ins or software options. You can use the iLok included with certain Pro Tools systems or purchase one separately.

## Installation Destinations

Each plug-in format will be installed to its own destination as below:

### Mac OS X:

**AAX:** /Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins folder

**VST:** Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3

**AU:** Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

### Windows:

**AAX:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

**VST:** C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

## Removing Plug-Ins

If you need to remove a plug-in from your Pro Tools system, follow the instructions below for your computer platform.

### Mac OS X:

- 1) Locate and open the Plug-Ins folder on your Startup drive (see previous page for the installation destination for each format).
- 2) Do one of the following:
  - Drag the plug-in to the Trash and empty the Trash.
  - Drag the plug-in to the Plug-Ins (Unused) folder

### Windows:

- 1) Choose Start > Control Panel.
- 2) Click Programs and Features.
- 3) Select the plug-in from the list of installed applications.
- 4) Click Uninstall.
- 5) Follow the on-screen instructions to remove the plug-in.

**Chapter 3:**

# **Using MDWEQ6**

## Plug-In Window (5-band)

(From left to right)  
 In Level (Input Level)  
 Phase Reverse Switch  
 Snapshot A/B Selector  
 Copy Snapshot A->B, B->A

Filter Type Selector

Frequency Selector

Filter In/Out

Cut/Boost

Filter Bands/  
IsoPeak®

Filter Q Selector

Spectrum Display Scale

## Plug-In Window (3-band)

(From left to right)  
In Level (Input Level)  
Phase Reverse Switch  
Snapshot A/B Selector  
Copy Snapshot A->B, B->A

Gain dB

Snap A A > B

Massenburg DesignWorks EQ6

80.00 Hz

2.00 kHz

16.00 kHz

Frequency Selector

Filter In/Out

0.00 dB

1.0

0.00 dB

Cut/Boost

Filter Type Selector

Lo Shelf 1

Peak/Dip 2

Hi Shelf 3

Version: 4.0.3r11

Filter Q Selector

Filter Bands/  
IsoPeak®

+12

+9

+6

+3

0

-3

-6

-9

-12

20

200

2k

20k

Spectrum Display Scale

The image shows the Massenburg DesignWorks EQ6 plug-in window. At the top, there is a gain control set to 0.0 dB, a phase reverse switch, and snapshot controls (Snap A, A > B). The main interface is divided into three frequency bands: Lo Shelf (80.00 Hz), Peak/Dip (2.00 kHz), and Hi Shelf (16.00 kHz). Each band has a filter type selector (Lo Shelf, Peak/Dip, Hi Shelf), a filter in/out switch, and a cut/boost control. A Q selector is located between the bands. Below the EQ controls is a spectrum display scale with a frequency axis from 20 Hz to 20 kHz and a gain axis from -12 dB to +12 dB. Three filter bands are visible on the spectrum display: a red dot at approximately 80 Hz, a yellow dot at 2 kHz, and a cyan dot at 16 kHz.

## Parameters

The Massenburg DesignWorks High Resolution Equalizer has five (or three) independent filter bands connected in series. EQ Bands 2 through 4 (5-band) or EQ Band 2 (3-band) can be individually set to one of nine filter types (or bypassed):

- Peak/dip
- High-frequency shelf
- Low-frequency shelf
- High-pass 6 (6 dB/octave slope)
- Low-pass 6 (6 dB/octave slope)
- High-pass 12 (12 dB/octave slope)
- Low-pass 12 (12 dB/octave slope)
- Lo Shelf HiQ
- Hi Shelf HiQ

Filter Bands 1 and 5 (or 3 for 3-band) can be individually set to one of thirteen filter types (or bypassed):

- Peak/Dip
- Lo Shelf
- Hi Shelf
- Lo Shelf HiQ
- Hi Shelf HiQ
- High-pass 6 (6 dB/octave slope)
- Low-pass 6 (6 dB/octave slope)
- High-pass 12 (12 dB/octave slope)
- Low-pass 12 (12 dB/octave slope)
- High-pass 18 (18 dB/octave slope)
- Low-pass 18 (18 dB/octave slope)
- High-pass 24 (24 dB/octave slope)
- Lowpass 24 (24 dB/octave slope)

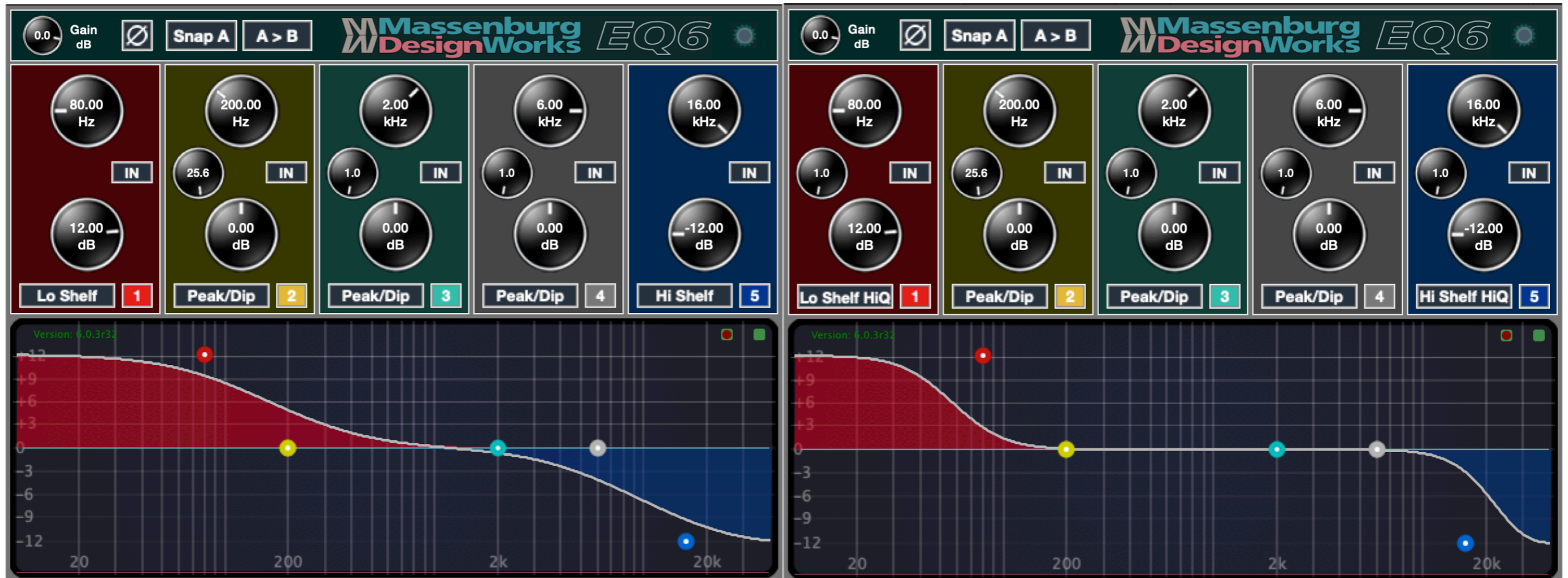
In addition to the traditional Shelf filters, **MDW® EQ6 now comes with a Lo and Hi Shelf with Hi-Q Option\***. A scalable display shows the overall EQ frequency response curve. All filter parameters can be independently automated.

\*more information on page 9

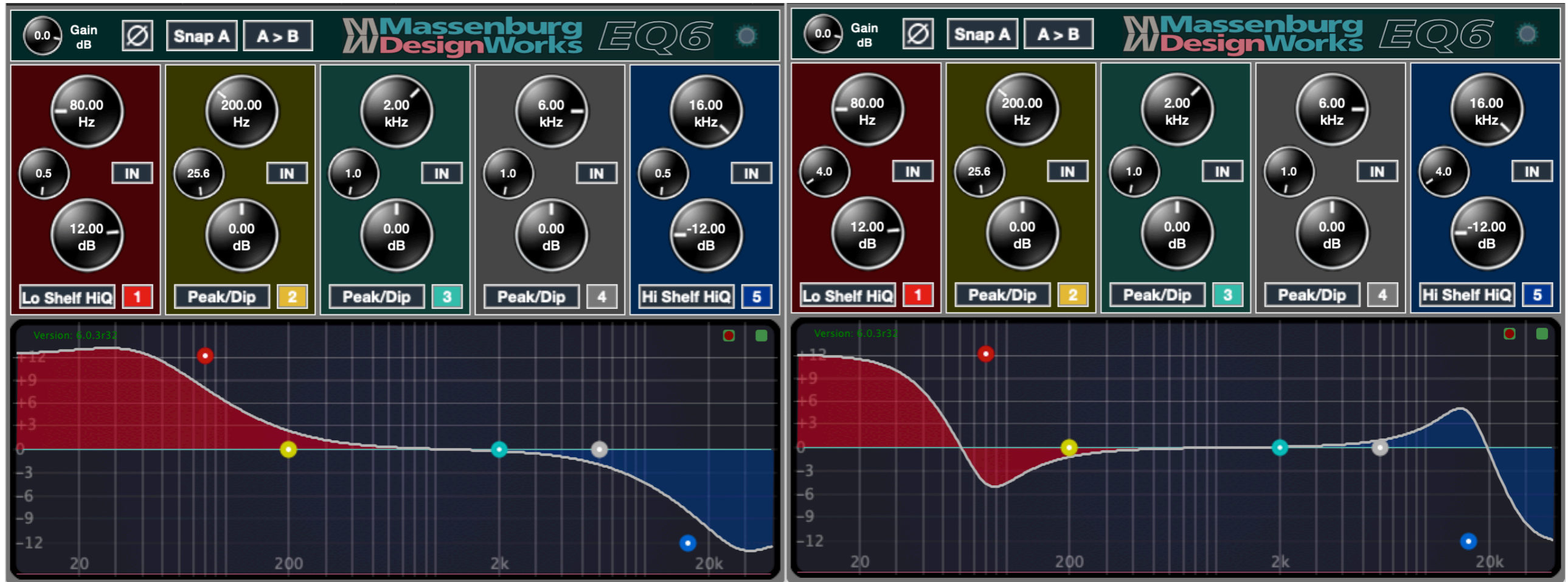
# 03 Using MDWEQ6

## Hi Shelf HiQ/Low Shelf HiQ

Figures below: left - Standard Shelf, right - HiQ Shelf  $Q=1.0$



Figures below: left – HiQ Shelf  $Q=0.5$ , right HiQ Shelf  $Q=4.0$



Note the effect of the “Hi-Q Shelves”; one observes higher selectivity as one increases the “Q” of the shelf. In the example above where one boosts “80Hz” a HiQ Low Frequency Shelf with a Q of 4.0, one raises the lowest frequencies while at the same time reducing timbres centered around 200Hz.

## EQ display corresponds to Pro Tools' EQ Curve Displays:

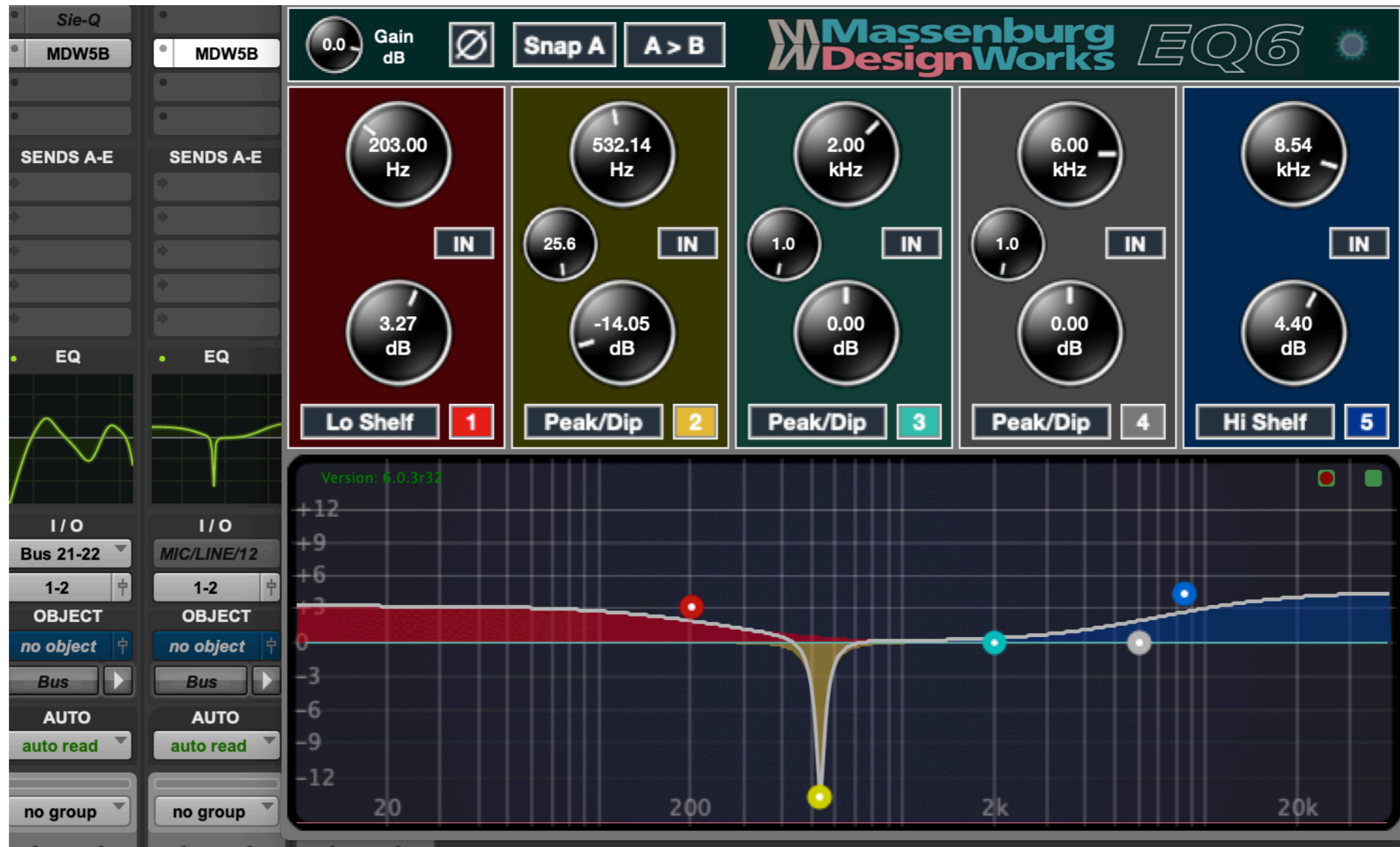


Figure above: Example display of EQ6 Display corresponding with Avid's EQ Curve Display

Avid introduced composite EQ curve displays, which provide a simple, focused view into each track's EQ plug-in activity. MDWEQ6's graphic display now corresponds to its function. As you move your frequency/Q and cut/boost control on both MDWEQ6's graphic display along with Avid's EQ curve display

## 03 Using MDWEQ6

### EQ Control Points (Node):

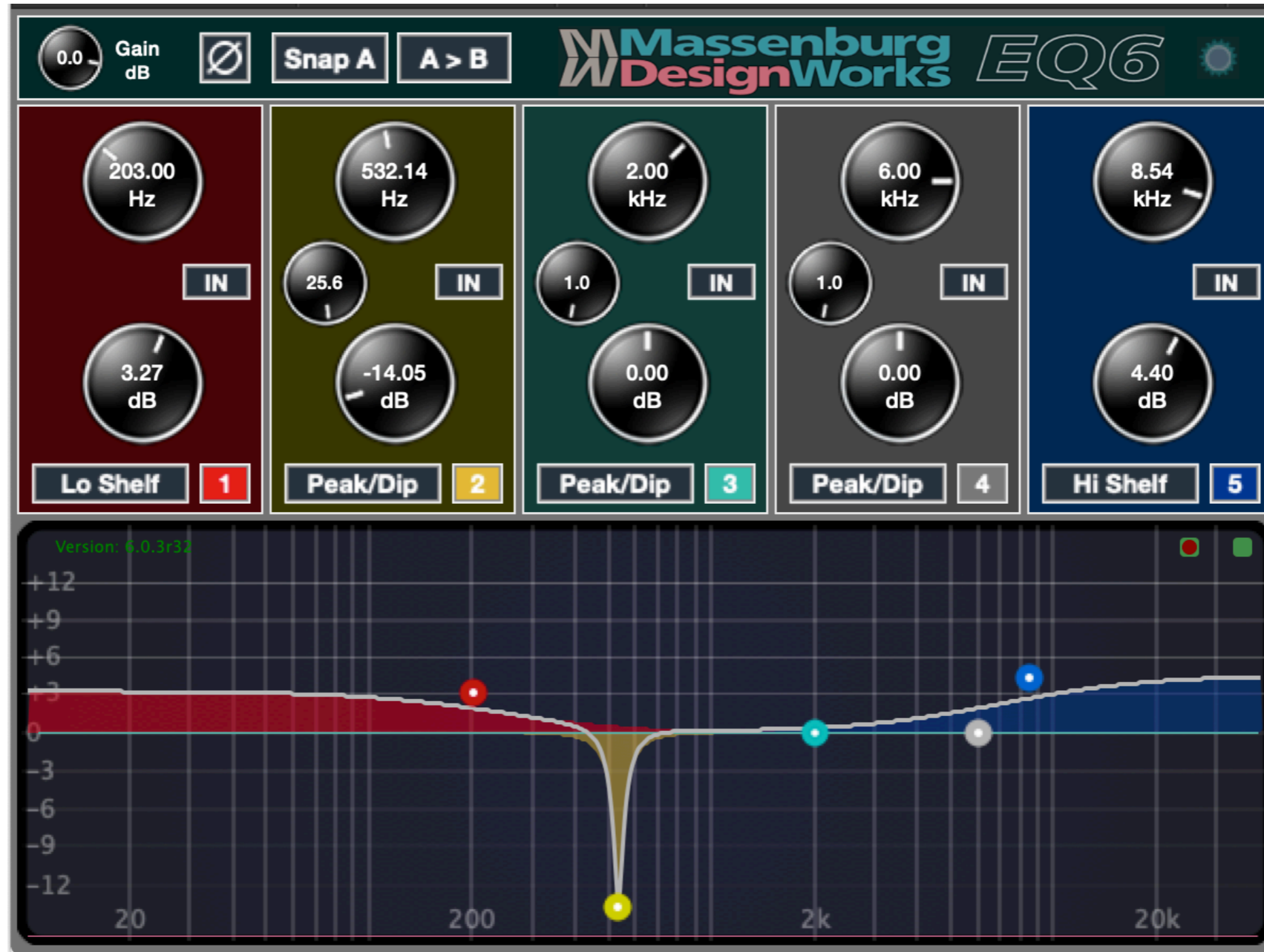


Figure above: New MDWEQ6 EQ Control Points (Node) and color shading

MDWEQ6 has significantly improved graphics and now adds control points, or “Nodes”, for this version. You can easily adjust Frequency, Gain, and Q parameters by the following commands in the EQ display.

## Keyboard controls for each parameter:

### Mac OS X:

**Option/Alt:** on a node resets the band to default.

**Control+Drag:** a node adjusts the Bandwidth

**Command+Drag:** a node for high resolution adjustments

**Control+Shift:** toggles the band In/Out button

**Control+Command+Drag:** adjusts the Q with higher resolution

### Windows:

**Option/Alt:** on a node resets the band to default.

**Start+Drag:** a node adjusts the Bandwidth

**Control+Drag:** a node for high resolution adjustments

**Start+Shift:** toggles the band In/Out button

**Start+Control+Drag:** adjusts the Q with higher resolution

## ToolTip | Change Analyzer Color:

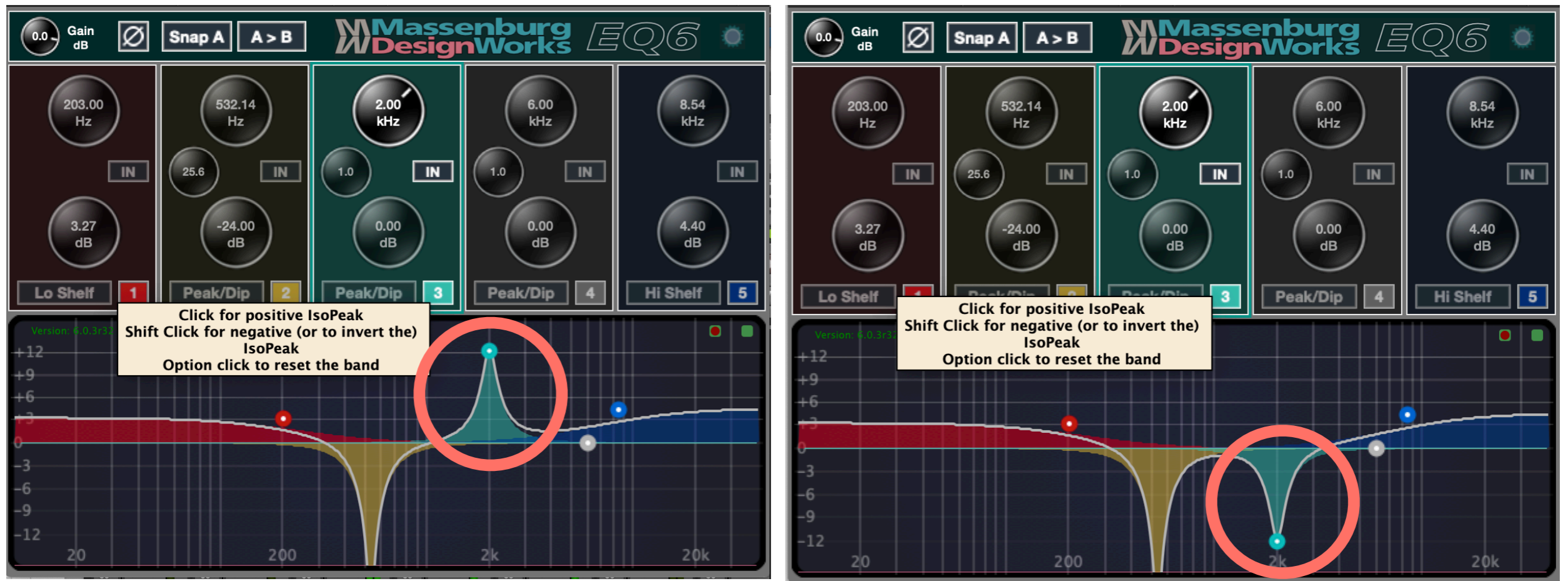


Figure above left - ToolTip in the upper corner. Right - Color change made is reflected

MDWEQ6 also added a ToolTip in the upper right corner of the graph which let user to change the color of the Analyzer in real time. To do so, just click the ToolTip. Click outside of the Color Chooser to close the color chooser. Change can be seen on the above.

# 03 Using MDWEQ6

## ToolTip | Positive & Negative IsoPeak®



Figures above: ToolTip over IsoPeak® Positive (right) and Negative (left)

Hover over any of the IsoPeak® will display ToolTip message shown above. New IsoPeak functions include:

Click for **POSITIVE** IsoPeak®

Shift + Click for **NEGATIVE** IsoPeak®

Option + Click to reset the band

## MDWEQ6 Controls

These controls let you adjust the parameters of an MDWEQ plug-in inserted on a track.

### Spectrum Display Scale

Click anywhere within the spectrum display to view the Spectrum Display Scale pop-up menu and choose the desired vertical scale of the display. The available choices are  $\pm 6$ ,  $\pm 12$  or  $\pm 24$  dB. Selecting a  $\pm 6$  dB scale is useful for viewing more subtle equalizer adjustments. Changing the scale of the display has no effect on the equalizer's audio output.

### In Level (Input Level)

The In Level adjusts the audio input to the plug-in from  $-24$  dB to  $+6$  dB. Drag or double-click and enter numerical data to adjust this control. It is often useful to lower the operating level at this point when you want to decrease the level to the next device or process.

### Phase Reverse Switch

Click the Phase Reverse button to reverse the absolute phase of the audio. If the EQ is linked to other channels, it will invert the phase of those as well— maintaining the phase relationship between them, but reversing their relationship to the audio in the rest of the session.

### Snapshot A/B Select

The A & B snapshot feature allows you to compare two snapshot settings. Toggle between the two snapshots settings by pressing the A/B Snapshot Button.

### Copy Snapshot A->B, B->A

While Snapshot A is selected, you may duplicate all settings to Snapshot B.

### Filter Bands

Bands provide precise filtering of the audio signal in series. Filter type for each band is individually selectable. Frequency Selector This Selector sets the frequency of the selected filter band. Frequency range is from 10 Hz to 41 kHz.

### Filter Q Selector

The Q Selector sets the Bandwidth of the Peak/Dip filter of the selected filter band.

### Cut/Boost

This feature provides up to  $\pm 24$  dB of frequency cut or boost.

### Filter Type Selector

This Selector provides a choice of high-pass (6 or 12 dB/oct), low-pass (6 or 12 dB/oct), high-shelf, low-shelf, peak/dip, or bypass operation. For the MDW 5-Band EQ, Band #5 and for the MDW 3-Band EQ, Band #3, each offers additional filter choices which include high-pass 18 and high-pass 24 (18 or 24 dB/oct).. Additionally, EQ6 comes with new filter types: Lo and Hi Shelf with Hi-Q options.

### Filter In/Out

The In/Out button allows you to switch a filter band on or off.

## MDWEQ6 Controls (cont.)

### IsoPeak ®

IsoPeak ® provides a function in Peak/Dip filter mode whereby this band is soloed, and a sharp peak is temporarily set. Click on the colored band number button to initiate IsoPeak for that band (the other bands become unavailable while IsoPeak is engaged). Click and hold or right click on the background area of the band to reveal a pop-up menu allowing you to adjust the IsoPeak Q value.

### Band Pop-up Menu

Click and hold or right click on the background area of each band to reveal a pop-up menu to adjust the IsoPeak Q value as well as the option to copy and paste individual band settings.

## Adjusting MDWEQ Controls

The best way to use MDWEQ is to insert it on a track and adjust its controls during playback to hear the changes in real time. You can adjust MDWEQ knob control values by dragging the knobs or by double-clicking the knob and then typing a value into the knob's text display.

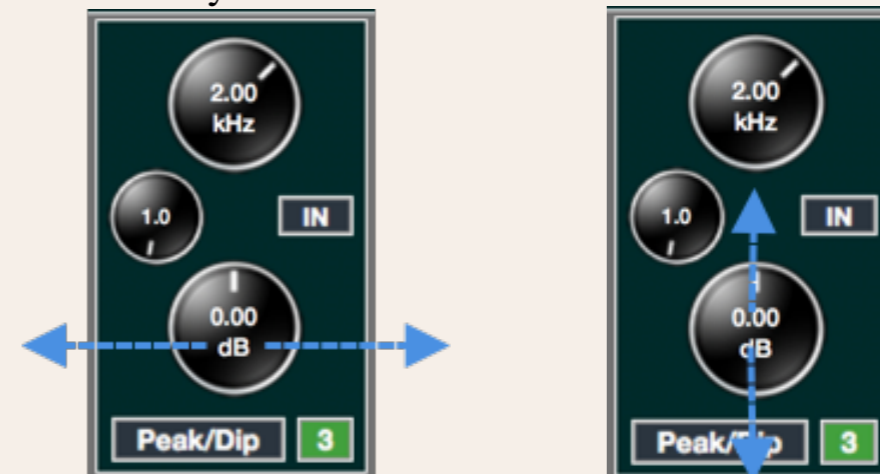
### - With a Mouse

When using a mouse, MDWEQ knob controls are adjusted by dragging horizontally or vertically. Values increase as you drag upward or to the right. Values decrease as you drag downward or to the left.

You can also enable your mouse wheel to adjust the values in the preferences.

### To adjust a control with a mouse:

- 1 Begin audio playback so that you can hear parameter changes in real time.
- 2 From the Filter Type selector pop-up menu on the desired band, select the filter type.
- 3 Drag the knob horizontally or vertically to adjust the parameters for the effect you want.



*Dragging a knob either horizontally or vertically*

## - With a Mouse (cont.)

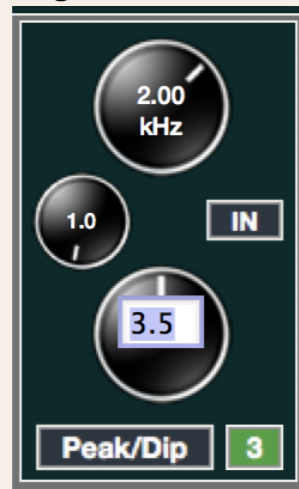
### Keyboard Shortcuts

- For finer adjustments, Command-drag the control.
- To return a control to its default value, Option-click the control.

## - With a Keyboard

Knob controls display their current value. You can edit this value by double-clicking and entering a value with your computer keyboard. If multiple plug-in windows are open, click the Target button on the plug-in whose controls you want to adjust.

When lit (red), the Target button indicates its window is targeted. When unlit (gray) the Target button indicates its window is not targeted.



*Displaying a control manually (after double-clicking)*

### To adjust a control with a computer keyboard:

1 Double-click the numerical text you want to edit.

2 Select a numerical value for editing by doing one of the following:

- Type the desired value. For negative values, type a minus sign in front of the number.
- Press the Up Arrow on your keyboard to increase a value. Press the Down Arrow to decrease a value.

*Tips: In fields that support values in kilohertz, type “k” after a number value to multiply the value by 1000. For example, type “1.2k” or “1k2” to enter a frequency of 1200 Hz.*

3 Do one of the following:

- Press Enter on the numeric keyboard after typing a value to input the value without leaving the selected text box.
- Press Return on the alpha keyboard to enter the value and leave keyboard editing mode.

## 03 Using MDWEQ6

### Copy and Paste Band Setting within a Plug-in

To copy band settings:

- Click and hold, or right (control) + click, on the background of the band whose settings you want to copy and choose Copy Band Settings

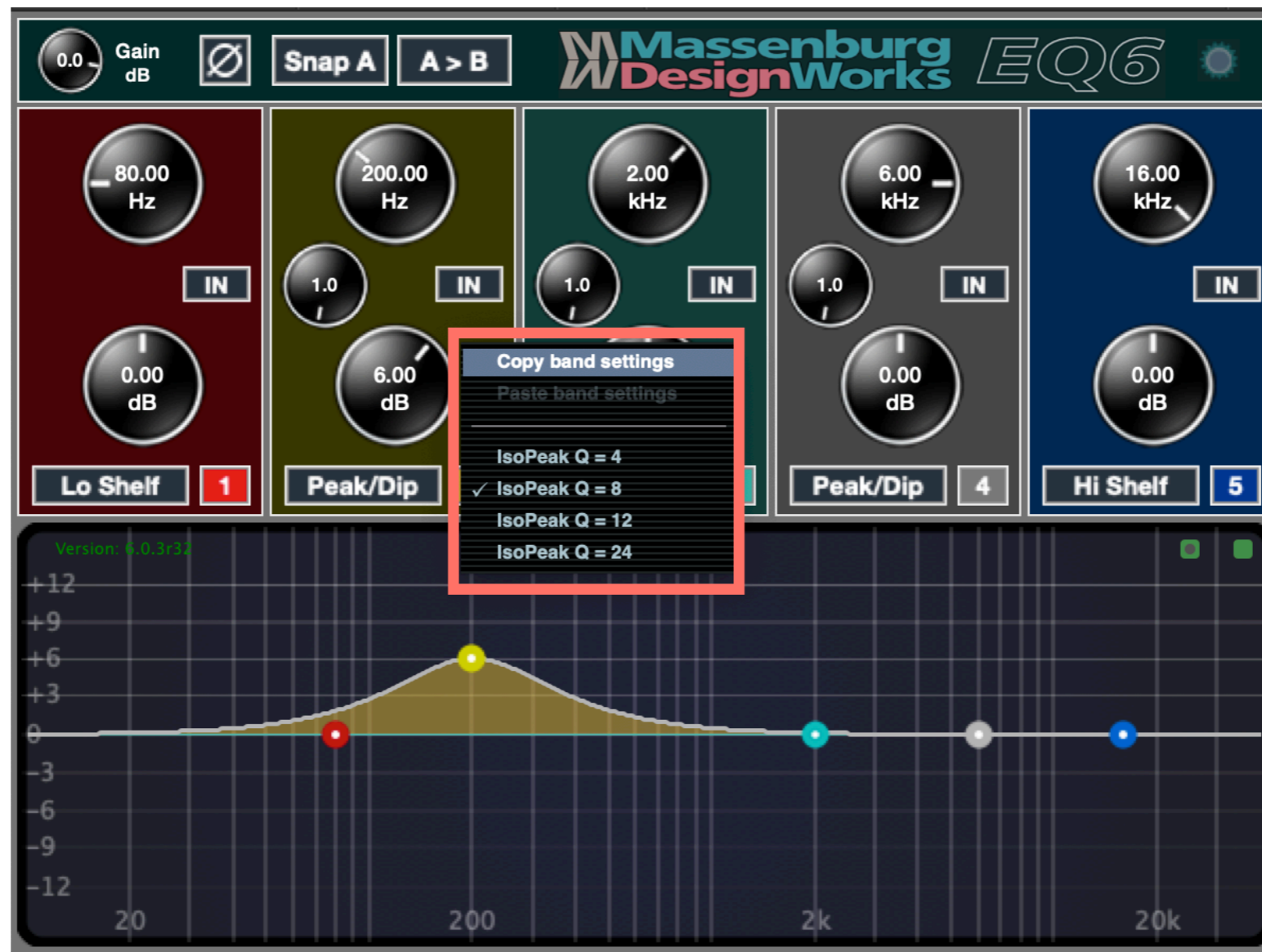


Figure above: Copying band parameters

## 03 Using MDWEQ6

### To paste band settings:

- Click and hold, or right (control) + click, on the background of the band where you want to paste the settings and choose Paste Band Settings.

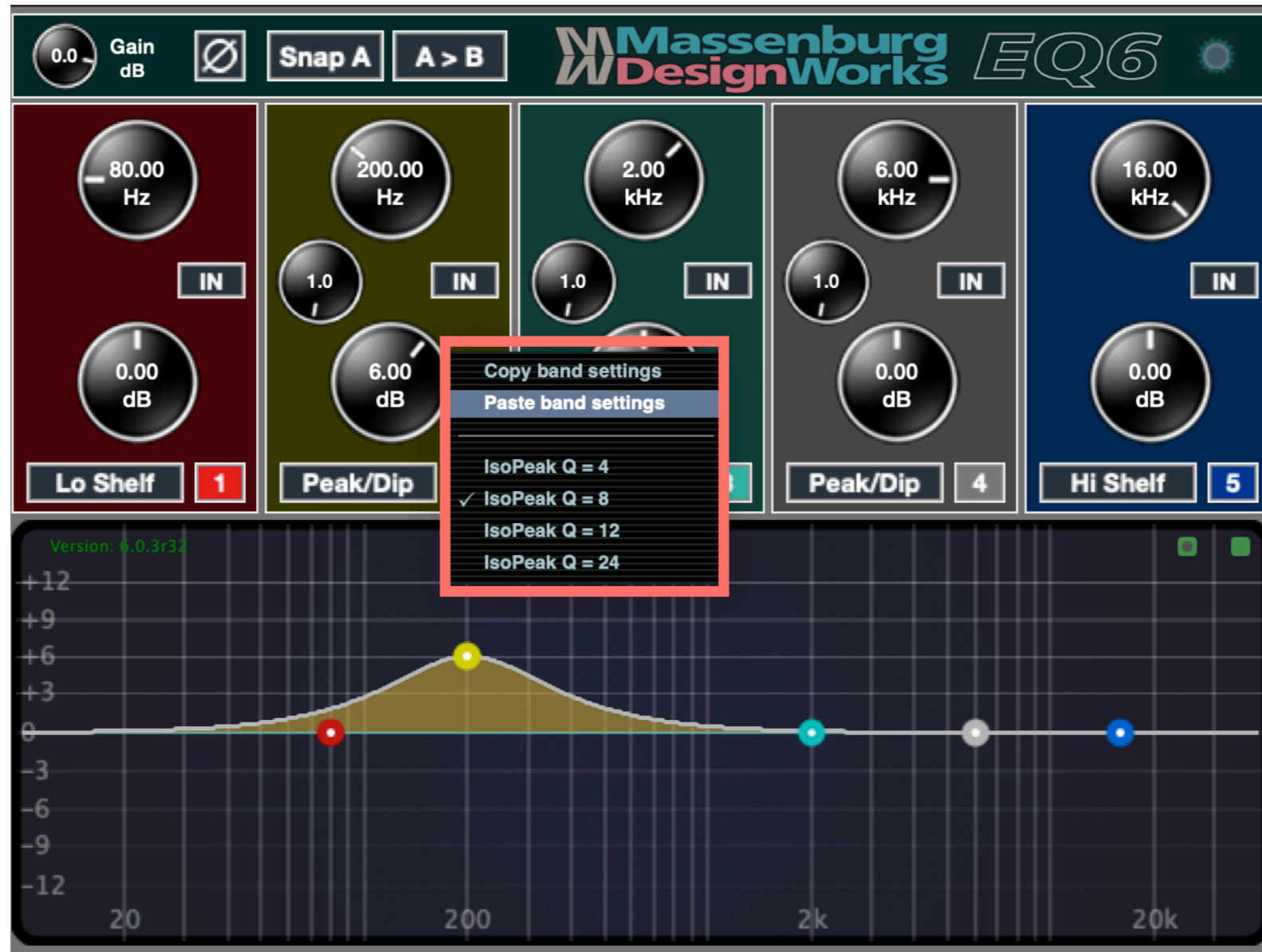


Figure above: Pasting band parameters

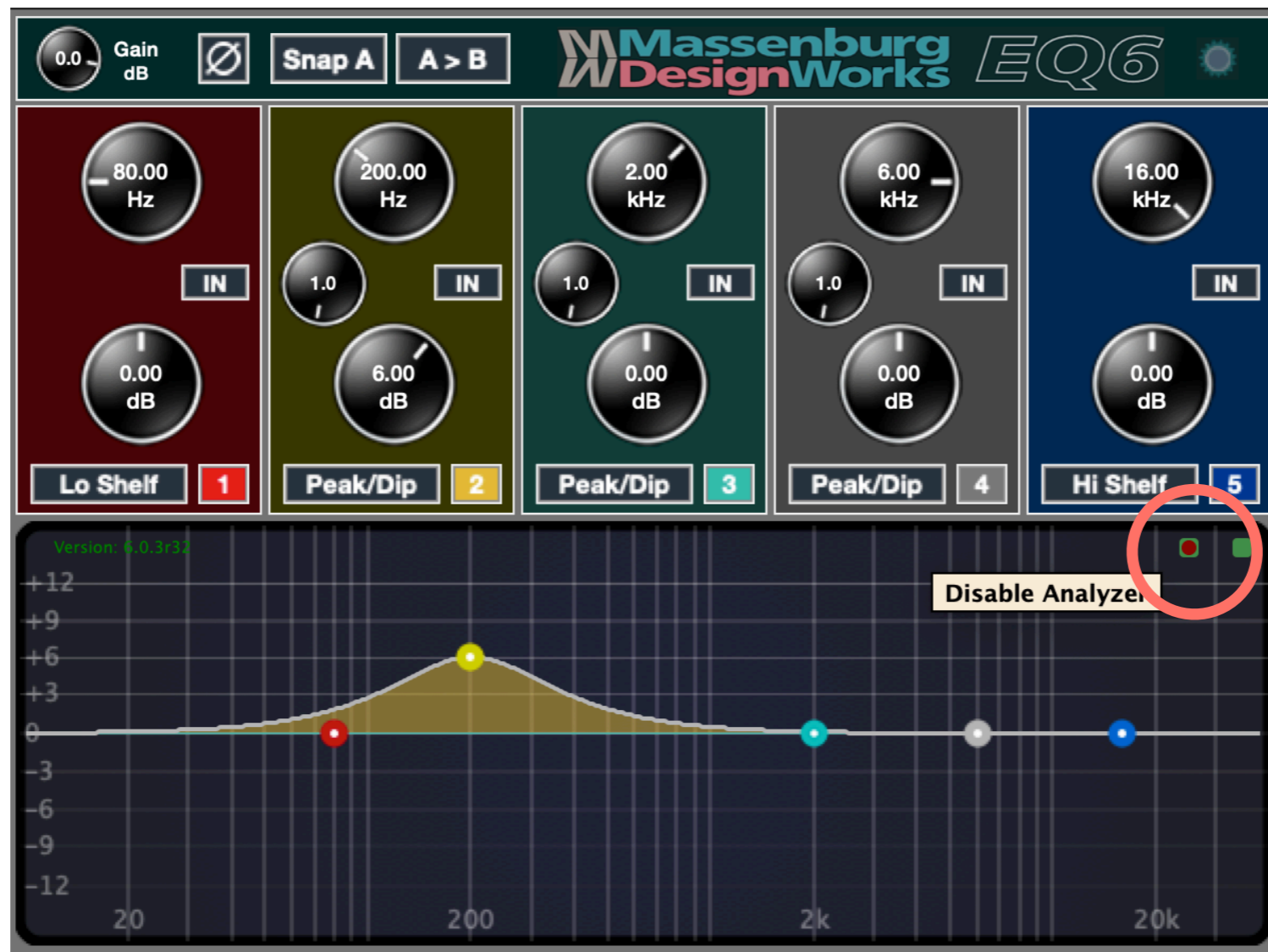
## 03 Using MDWEQ6

### Preferences:

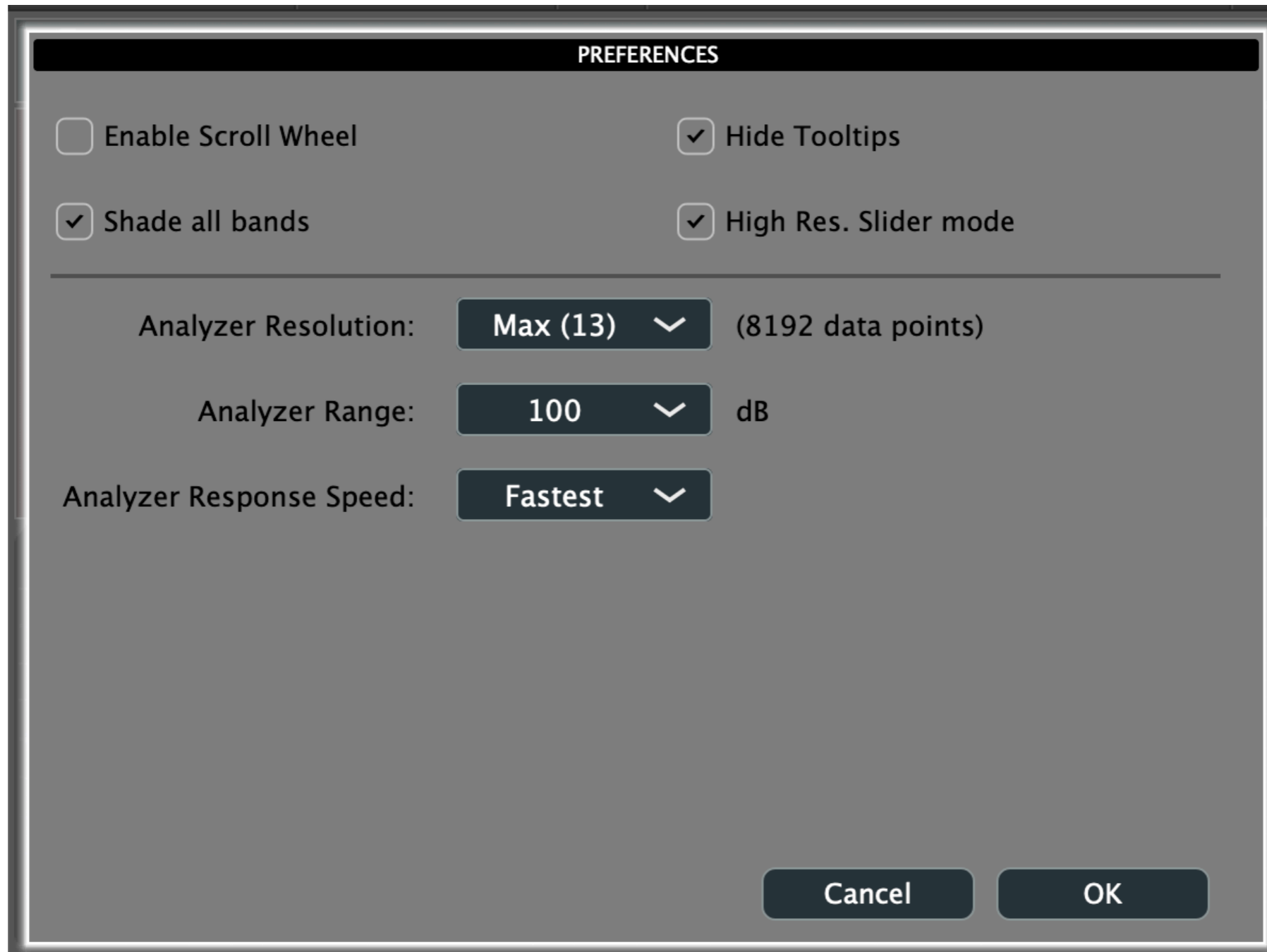
The MDW plug-in preferences let you fine tune plug-in performance. To open this screen, click the gear/cog button in the upper right corner of the main UI (shown below).



You can turn on/off your analyzer graphics by clicking this button. Red means it is on (as shown below) and green means off.



In the preferences, you will see the screen below which allows some adjustments for the plug-in.



## Preference Menu:

### Enable Scroll Wheel

Lets you adjust the values by using your mouse's scroll wheel

### Shade All Bands

By default EQ6 shades all bands drawn in the EQ graph display with the corresponding color as in the Bands' solo buttons. Disabling this option only shades the band which is actively being adjusted by a Control Point (node).

### Hide Tooltips

Turn on/off Tooltips over parameters.

### High Res. Slider Mode

When it's on, mouse can be use to make fine adjustment by holding command (Mac)/ windows (Win) and drag mouse curser.

### Analyzer Resolution

Lets you select how many data points are used to analyze the audio data. The more data points, the more cpu processing is required but gives better low frequency resolution (#'s in parentheses are data points)

*Max (8192) > High (4096) > Medium (2048) > Low (1024)  
> Min (512)*

### Analyzer Range

Defines the vertical range of the Analyzer graph in decibels.

*60 < 80 < 90 < 100 < 120 dB*

### Analyzer Response Speed

This changes how often the Analyzer updates and the fall time. Slower values update less regularly, but let you examine the spectrum for a longer period.

*Slowest < Slow < Medium < Fast < Fastest*

*Higher the values are, more machine power it requires to run smoothly.*



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