Troubleshooting Effects When You Have Problems

Sometimes you have every effect working, but something doesn't look or sound quite right. Maybe a reverb tail is too long, a delay is too quiet, or the wet signal sounds thin.

Effects Not Heard

Check that the effect is actually turned on, that the wet/dry mix is not set to 0% wet, and that the output routing sends the signal to a bus you can hear. Solo the effect's bus to confirm it is receiving signal.

Effects Sound Too Quiet

Raise the wet/dry mix or the effect's output level. Check the bus fader and the master fader downstream — a quiet effect may be masked by other loud signals. Solo the bus to hear it clearly.

Effects Sound Too Loud

Lower the wet/dry mix or the effect's output level. Reverb and delay are easy to overdo; start with the wet/dry mix below 50% and raise it only if you need more presence.

Effects Sound Thin or Muddy

Reverb and delay can add low-frequency buildup. Try a shorter reverb time or a shorter delay time, and consider adding a high-pass filter on the effect bus to keep the low end clean.

Effects Sound Harsh

Reverb and delay can add high-frequency buildup. Try a darker reverb or a longer delay time, and consider adding a low-pass filter on the effect bus to keep the high end smooth.