



Nx Germano Studios

User Guide



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Introduction	3
Troy Germano/Germano Studios	3
Product Overview	3
Quick Start	4
Nx Germano Controls	5
Studio Monitors	5
Surround Speakers	6
Meters	7
Rotate Studio	8
Head Tracking	9
Head Tracking Controls	9
Head Modeling	11
Head Measurements Presets	13
Tips for Better Camera Tracking	13
Selecting a Headphone EQ Curve	14
The Waves Nx HeadTracking Application	15
Camera Tracker Tab	15
Disable Auto-Launch	16
Bluetooth Tracker Tab	17
Setting Up the Nx Head Tracker	19
Troubleshooting Guide	20



Introduction

Thank you for choosing Waves! To get the most out of your new Waves plugin, please take a moment to read this user guide. To install software and manage your licenses, you need to have a free Waves account. Sign up at www.waves.com. With a Waves account you can keep track of your products, renew your Waves Update Plan, participate in bonus programs, and keep up to date with other important information.

We suggest that you become familiar with the Waves Support pages, www.waves.com/support, where you will find technical articles about installation, troubleshooting, specifications, contact information, and more.

Troy Germano/Germano Studios

Troy Germano began his career in 1975 at The Hit Factory in New York. He learned the business from the ground up. In particular, he learned what makes for a great control room. He designed and built the world-famous, state-of-the-art rooms that would become The Hit Factory's headquarters. By 2002, Troy had sixteen recording/mixing rooms under his supervision in New York and Florida—and he continued to build great rooms. Studios that Troy has owned and designed have been associated with over 150 Grammy Award winning recordings and over 500 RIAA Gold and Platinum awards. Among these lauded mix rooms, Studio One stands out. Its lows are very tight, its midrange is precise, and its highs are smooth. It can get really loud without breaking apart.

A consistent output of modern, high-profile productions has made Germano Studios a top choice for celebrity artists of every genre, including John Lennon, Stevie Wonder, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson, Travis Scott, Adele, Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna, Post Malone, and Kanye West. Germano Studios does not dwell on its legacy: it is very actively working with the greatest artists of today and tomorrow.

Product Overview

The Waves Nx Germano Studios plugin is a tool that lets you mix on headphones while monitoring in the acoustic environment of Germano Studio One. It delivers an immersive surround mixing experience that actually puts you in the mixer's seat of the Germano control room, so you can trust what you hear and mix with confidence. Nx Germano Studios does not change the processing of the mix itself, but rather the environment in which you monitor it. You'll know what your headphone mix would sound like in this “no excuses” mix room.

To provide greater immersion when mixing on headphones, Nx Germano Studios links to the optional Nx Head Tracker, which changes your stereo headphones into a real-world acoustic space with real-world surround. It recreates a room in your headphones that behaves just like the Germano New York Studio One.



Quick Start

Here are the essential steps for setting up Nx Germano Studios to monitor your stereo mix. Each step is described in detail in later chapters.

1. INSERT THE PLUGIN

Insert one instance of the plugin on your master buss. (Note: don't use Nx Germano Studios on individual tracks.)



Please Note: Before you bounce the final mix, make sure that the Nx Germano Studios plugin is bypassed.

2. ESTABLISH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR HEADPHONE MONITORING

Studio Monitors

There are three loudspeaker types. This selection affects your perception of the sound of the speaker itself, as well as its interaction with the room. Refer to [Studio Monitor Select](#) in the next section.

Headphone EQ Curve

You have the option to apply a standardized EQ correction curve to your headphone signal. Refer to [Selecting a Headphone EQ Curve](#) later in this user guide.

3. SET UP HEAD TRACKING

Head Tracking is an important feature that coordinates your head movements with the sound imaging of the control room. It provides the same aural feedback that you experience in the studio—the information you need to make vital mix and sound field decisions. To get the most from Nx Germano Studios, we recommend that you always work with Head Tracking on. Refer to [Head Tracking](#) later in this user guide.



Nx Germano Studio Controls



Studio Monitors

The Germano New York Studio One control room is outfitted with three sets of studio monitors.

Speaker Type	Description
GA2	APS/Germano Acoustics AEON 2 is a nearfield monitor with an internal Class AB amplifier. It's loud and faithful to the original signal.
NS-10M	The NS-10 is a classic nearfield monitor that's famous for finding shortcomings in recordings. NS-10M is one of many later variants—this one without the tissue paper.
EXIGY	Custom-designed monitor speakers from SGD and Troy Germano.



Surround Speakers

In the surround components, GA2 loudspeakers are used for front and surround positions. There is no monitor selector.



STEREO COMPONENT
Note Studio Monitors selector



SURROUND COMPONENT (5.1 SURROUND SHOWN)
No speaker selection



Meters



INPUT METERS

The input signal has a full-scale meter with an infinite-hold clip indicator. Click on the clip indicator to reset it. Each channel has mute and solo buttons at the bottom of the input meter.

Range: -infinity to 0 dBFS

MONITOR LEVEL AND METERS

The binaural stereo headphone output is represented by a full-scale stereo meter with infinite-hold clip indicators. Use the Level knob below the meter to control the headphone monitor level.

Range: -infinity to 0 dBFS

Output volume control: -24 dB to +6 dB; Default: 0 dB



Please note: Nx can introduce clipping at the output, especially when fed with a signal whose levels are controlled by a limiter. In such cases, use the output gain fader to reduce the output.



Rotate Studio



The **Rotate Studio** wheel rotates the studio around your position at the mixing desk. What you see and what you hear are defined by your orientation. This is what you experience when using Head Tracking, except that here, Rotate Studio is controlled manually.

Click the **0°** button or Alt+Click on the Rotate Studio wheel to reset rotation to its default position.



Ambience increases or decreases the amount of ambience in the room compared with the model.

The specific and accurate sound signature of the Germano Studios control room is modeled with impulse responses (IR). When you select a studio monitor type, the associated IR loads. This IR describes everything about the room: the speakers and how they interact with the space, the reflections, and the ambience of the space itself.

The Ambience control lets you adjust room ambience to taste. The default Ambience setting of 100% presents the modeled room ambience exactly as captured by the IR. By increasing or decreasing the Ambience setting, you can subjectively alter the amount of room ambience. Your monitoring reference will no longer precisely match the Germano control room, but it will provide a personalized mixing environment.

Range: -60% to 160%

Save and load presets, compare settings, and undo/redo adjustments using the WaveSystem toolbar, which is located above the plugin. Refer to the [WaveSystem User Guide](#) to learn more.



Head Tracking

When Head Tracking is **on**, the virtual room does not move. Instead, it's you—your headphones—that changes the orientation. This is how you experience a sound in the real three-dimensional world. This interaction with the studio space is vital in making critical imaging decisions. The wireframe head indicates the orientation of the engineer's head with respect to the studio. The head is grayed out when the user's head is outside the tracking range, when there is insufficient ambient light for camera tracking, or when Head Tracking is turned off.

When Head Tracking is **off**, the soundscape moves with you as you turn your head. This is normal stereo headphone behavior.

Head Tracking Controls



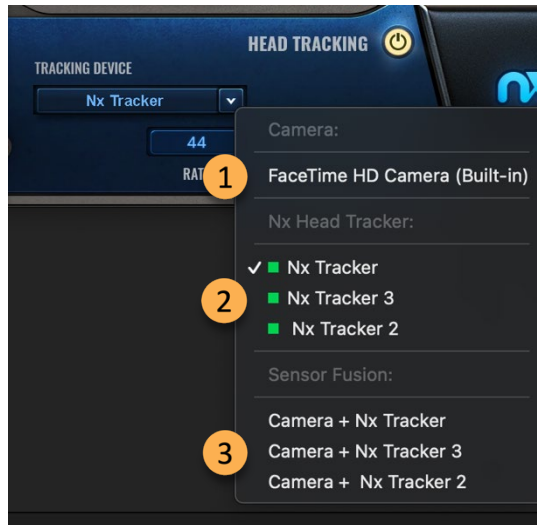
HEAD TRACKING ON/OFF

Toggles Head Tracking on or off. This does not affect Nx sound processing, which is always active.



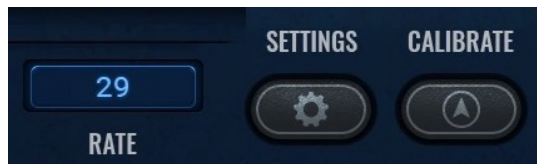
TRACKING DEVICE MENU

Use this drop-down menu to select the device used for head tracking. Nx Germano Studios can track head movement from two sources: **Camera** and **Nx Head Tracker**.



- 1 **CAMERA** activates the computer's camera for head tracking. If more than one camera is available, choose from the list.
- 2 **NX HEAD TRACKER** selects the Nx Head Tracker that will be used by Nx Germano Studios. Choose one Head Tracker from the list.
- 3 The **SENSOR FUSION** mode uses the selected camera and one of the available Nx Head Trackers together. Using these two kinds of sensors simultaneously yields a tracking rate of up to 80 fps.

The **SETTINGS** button takes you to the HeadTracker application's control panel. Use it to reopen the application if it has been closed or if you want to tweak certain Head Tracker controls.



CALIBRATE defines your head position as the center position. Hold your head centered, look straight forward, and click the button to let the system know where your center listening position is. Each time you start the system or change either your position or the camera's placement, you can recalibrate.

RATE indicates the rate of head tracking in frames per second (fps). The optimal rates are:

Camera: 25 fps to 30 fps

Nx Head Tracker: 35 fps to 50 fps

Sensor Fusion: 45 fps to 80 fps



Please note: The Sensor Fusion mode can be used by only one person at a time. That is, the camera must be aimed at the person who is wearing the Nx Head Tracker.



When you are *not* using the Sensor Fusion mode, you can have several instances of the Nx Virtual Mix Room plugin with a different tracking device for each instance. This will enable you to have more than one Nx listener with individual head tracking for each in the same session. Note that each Nx Germano Studios plugin needs to be routed to a separate headphone output per listener; a simple headphone split will not work for this use case.

Head Modeling



You can significantly improve the accuracy of the Nx psychoacoustic effect by providing your head measurements: circumference around your head (over the ears) and a half circle from ear to ear, over the back of your head.

Nx is a binaural effect, so it incorporates these measurements to calculate the inter-aural delays, filters, and gains for each ear. If you do not provide these measurements, the default settings will be used.

! Please note: Entering values completely unrelated to your personal head measurements will compromise the effect. If you do not enter your individual measurements, it is advised that you use the default values.

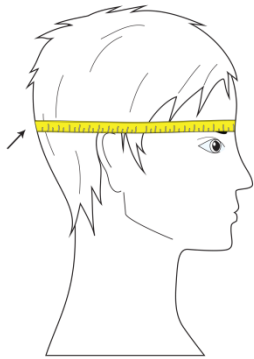


UNITS

Choose head measurement units: centimeters or inches.

CIRCUMFERENCE

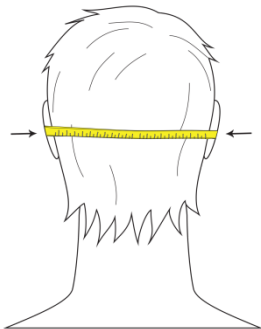
To find your head circumference, use a measuring tape to measure the longest distance around your head: over the back of the head, around your ears, and around your eyebrows. Enter values directly by dragging up or down over the value box.



Default: 55 cm / 21.7 in (average adult circumference)

Range: 35 cm to 75 cm / 13.8 in to 29.5 in

EAR-TO-EAR is the distance from ear to ear around the back of your head, on a plane parallel to the floor.



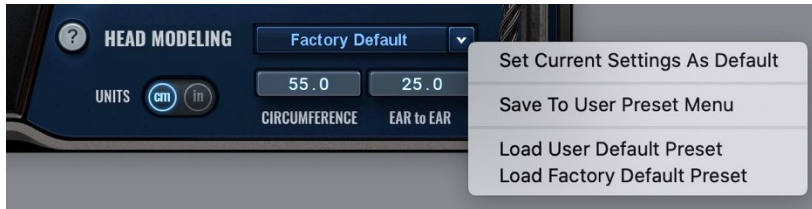
Default: 25 cm / 9.8 in (average adult ear-to-ear measurement)

Range: 15.0 cm to 40 cm / 5.9 in to 15.8 in



Head Measurements Presets

Head modeling measurements can be saved as user presets. This makes it easy to switch between mixers, for several people to participate in the mix, and to move your head tracking measurements from one system to another. Click on the arrow next to the Units panel to open the Head Modeling menu. Use this menu to save and load measurement presets.



When you open or enable the plugin, the factory preset is loaded. This sets the head measurements to their default values, even if the host session includes measurement settings. If you have saved your settings as the default preset, this will load when the plugin is opened or activated. You can also create user presets and add them to the Preset menu. Save a preset to a new file to move it to another host.

Click the **HELP BUTTON (?)** to learn more about head modeling.



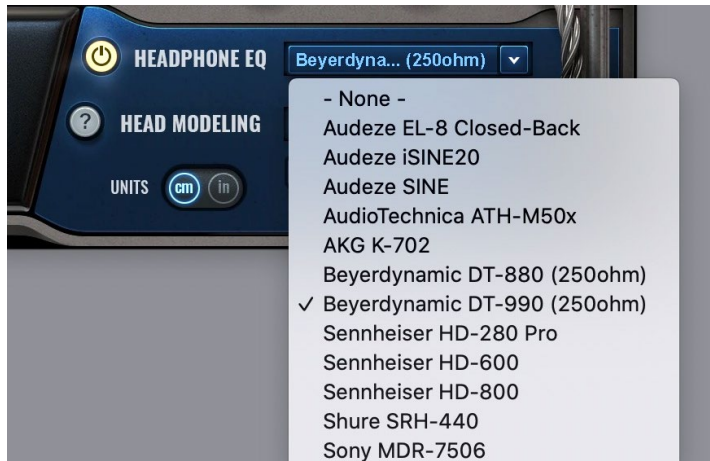
Please note: The Head Modeling menu is used to save and load measurement presets only. These presets do not contain settings for the plugin as a whole. Plugin presets are managed with the WaveSystem toolbar at the top of the interface. General presets do not affect the Head Modeling settings. Learn more about the [WaveSystem](#) at the Waves Download page.

Tips for Better Camera Tracking

1. Make sure there is enough light in the room to enable a tracking rate of at least 20 fps. Webcams generally have a tracking rate of up to 30 fps. The optimal rate is anywhere between 25 fps and 30 fps. The frame rate is shown on the Head Tracking panel.
2. Sit no more than 5 ft to 6 ft (150 cm–180 cm) away from the camera (optimal distance varies by camera).
3. Move no further than 30 degrees left or right, relative to the camera.



Selecting a Headphone EQ Curve



Nx Germano Studios lets you monitor your stereo mix through headphones—with the loudspeakers and the room acoustics of this famous studio. It does not, however, affect the color of the mix. To create a headphone mix that reliably translates to other spaces, you can choose to modify the EQ curve of your headphones. If you are familiar with the way your headphone mixes sound elsewhere, turn off Headphone EQ.

The Headphone EQ section provides EQ correction curves for specific popular headphone models. These curves are based on precision headphone measurement data provided by www.headphones.com/.

Use this feature only if you are working with one of the specific headphone models provided in the menu. Otherwise, we recommend that you leave it set to “None.”



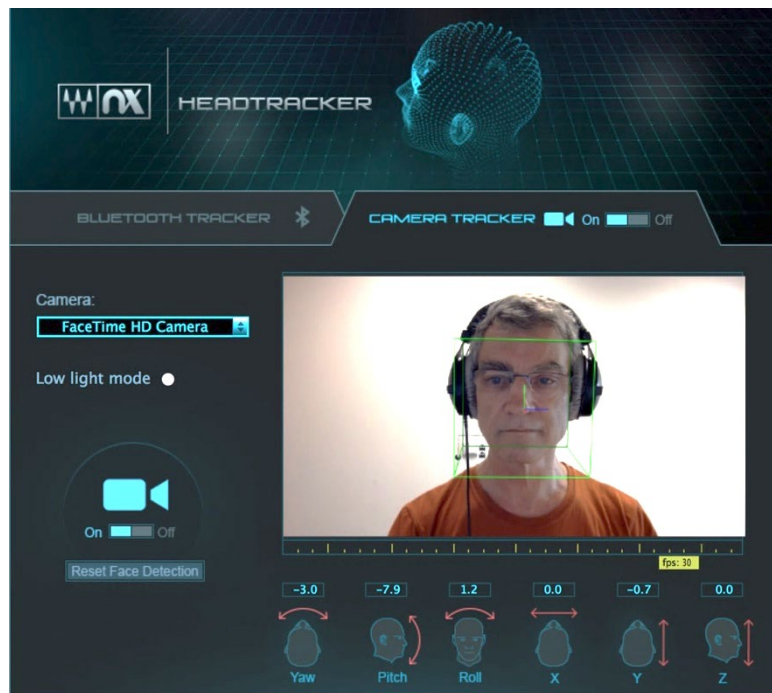
The Waves Nx HeadTracking Application

Waves Nx is the engine behind Nx Germano Studios. Nx creates the space and converts speaker feed channels into a binaural headphone signal. Nx HeadTracker is the Nx utility that uses camera and/or Bluetooth Head Tracker information to interpret the mix engineer's head movements. The Nx application opens or closes automatically when you open or close the Nx Germano Studios plugin.

If the application closes, head tracking will stop. This will not affect the plugin or your DAW in any way; you can restart the application and re-establish head tracking. Click the Settings button in the Nx Germano Studios Head Tracking section to bring the application forward, or to reopen it if it's been closed.

The Camera Tracker and the Bluetooth Tracker are set up on separate tabs.

Camera Tracker Tab



ON/OFF SWITCH lets you turn camera tracking **on** for tracking or **off** to save CPU resources.

CAMERA SELECT MENU selects the camera to track with if you have more than one camera connected to the computer. *You can also select a camera in the Head Tracking panel of the plugin.*

RESET FACE DETECTION resets the face detection algorithm. Reset face detection whenever you change users or if you suspect that the tracking sensor is not tracking correctly.

LOW LIGHT MODE increases the frame rate in poor lighting conditions. It is available only when you are working with a “FaceTime HD” camera built into certain MacBook Pro computers.



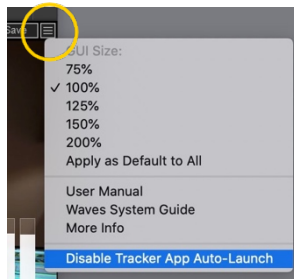
FRAME RATE INDICATOR displays the current frame rate. Higher frame rates indicate greater tracking resolution, and therefore greater tracking accuracy.

TRACKING DATA value boxes display the continuously refreshed head positions captured by the camera tracking device.



The Camera Tracker can follow motion on these axes: yaw, pitch, roll, x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis. Each type of motion is illustrated in the head diagrams.

Disable Auto-Launch



By default, the Nx HeadTracker application launches when you instantiate the Nx Germano Studios plugin. If you do not want to use HeadTracking or you don't want the application to open automatically, you can disable Auto-Launch.

Click on the icon on the upper right corner of the window and select "Disable Tracker App Auto-Launch" from the menu.

Bluetooth Tracker Tab

The Bluetooth Tracker tab is used to connect Nx Head Tracker devices.



DEVICE LIST shows all available Nx Head Tracker devices, and indicates their status (Connected, Disconnected, Connecting, Unavailable). Up to seven Nx Head Tracker devices can be detected and connected simultaneously.

CONNECT (check box) – Check or uncheck this box in order to connect or disconnect an Nx Head Tracker device that appears in the device list.

REFRESH DEVICE LIST clears the list and rescans for Nx Head Tracker devices.

OPEN BLUETOOTH SETTINGS is used to manually unpair a device when needed as a troubleshooting step.

RENAME lets you rename your Nx Head Tracker device. Renaming is permanent. The device will advertise itself with the new user-defined name.

1. Click the “Rename” button. A text box will open.
2. Enter a new name for the Nx HeadTracker device (between five and fifteen characters) and click OK. This process can take up to three minutes.



3. The device will restart and reconnect automatically with the new user-defined name. This process can take up to twenty seconds to complete.

UPDATE initiates a firmware update on the selected Nx Head Tracker device. A message in red text will appear when a firmware update is available. If a firmware update is available, click Update. A dialogue box will open; follow its instructions to complete the update procedure.

IDENTIFY causes a light on the selected Nx Head Tracker device to blink. This helps to identify the specific head tracking device when you have more than one connected.

FW VERSION displays the current Head Tracker device firmware version.

AUTOMATIC CONNECT automatically creates a connection with any Nx Head Tracker device (when On). When Automatic Connect is unchecked, the application will automatically detect Nx Head Tracker devices and add them to the list, but the user will have to initiate the connection using the Connect button in the list.

We suggest that you select Off when there are several available Nx Head Trackers on different systems, in order to have better control of which system works with each Nx Head Tracker. This control is On by default.

TRACKING DATA value boxes display the continuously refreshed head positions captured by the Bluetooth tracking device.



The Bluetooth Tracker can follow motion in these directions: yaw, pitch, and roll. Each type of motion is illustrated in the head diagrams.



Setting Up the Nx Head Tracker

CONNECTING THE NX HEAD TRACKER

1. Mount the Nx Head Tracker on top of the headphone band, with the logo facing forward. Nx Head Tracker L and R identification should have the same orientation as the L and R on your headphones. Inaccurate positioning of the Nx Head Tracker will result in inaccurate head tracking.
2. Power up the Nx Head Tracker device. Make sure your computer's Bluetooth is on and that it supports Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE). The head tracking application will automatically connect to the Nx Head Tracker(s).
3. Select a Head Tracker device from the drop-down Tracking Device menu.
4. To take a device online or offline, rename it, or check battery status, go to the Bluetooth tab of the Nx Head Tracker app. You can bring Nx Head Tracker to the front by clicking the Settings button on the Nx Germano Studios interface.
5. Calibrate Head Tracking in the Nx Germano Studios plugin.

BASIC OPERATION

1. Move your head left and right, then up and down, to confirm that the virtual head in the Nx Germano Studios interface moves in sync with you. Note that, with some DAWs, you will need to play a bit of audio for the virtual head to wake up.
2. Position yourself where you want to be located while you mix. Press the **Calibrate** button in the Head Tracking section. This will now be your center position in the studio.
3. Listen to some program material, preferably a high-quality reference that you're familiar with. Take a few minutes to let your ears adjust to the effect.

The default values of the plugin's controls are a good place to start.

Now you're ready to monitor your mix through headphones, as though you were in the Germano Studios mixer's chair, using head tracking to realistically experience the three-dimensional space.



Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Possible Solutions
Head does not move in interface – no tracking	1. Verify head tracking is on in the plugin interface. 2. Check if tracker app is running. 3. Play audio through the plugin (plugin on CPU). 4. Check tracking rate box in plugin GUI.
Head tracking application is not running	1. Restart head tracking through the plugin. 2. Inactivate/reactivate plugin.
Low tracking rate in the head tracking app (<20 fps) (Camera)	1. Improve lighting conditions. 2. In MacBook only, select “low light” mode in the tracker app. 3. Point the camera up slightly for a brighter frame. 4. Make sure that your face is well lit and not shadowed.
Low tracking rate in plugin interface (<20 fps) (Camera)	1. Check the tracking rate in the head tracking app. 2. Verify audio buffer size is 1024 samples or lower.
Head tracking app often loses track of your head (Camera)	1. Position the camera closer and straight in front of your face. 2. Remove sunglasses, hat or anything covering your face. 3. Improve lighting conditions. 4. Stay within +/-30 degrees off the center of the camera. 5. Make sure you're no further than 5-6 feet away from camera.
Nx Head Tracker will not connect (Windows only)	Make sure that the Nx Head Tracker is NOT currently paired to your computer in the Bluetooth Settings menu. If it is paired with the computer, remove it manually.



Problem	Possible Solutions
Nx Head Tracker loses connection and doesn't move smoothly	1. Try using a new battery. 2. Try moving the Nx Head Tracker and the Bluetooth receiver closer together. 3. If you are using a BT-USB dongle on a desktop, connect the dongle on the front panel, or on an extension for better BT reception.
Nx Head Tracker is tracking my movements but in wrong directions	Make sure the Nx Head Tracker is mounted on the top of the headphone arc with the logo side facing forward (L & R on the Nx Head Tracker should correspond to L & R on your headphones). Inaccurate positioning of the Nx Head Tracker will result in inaccurate head tracking.
Audio is not externalized enough; the virtual positions are not clear	1. Verify L/R placement and routing of your headphones. 2. Verify that Nx is inserted at the last summing buss in the signal flow, with no other channels bypassing it. 3. Verify that head tracking is working. 4. Recalibrate head tracking. 5. Mute/unmute individual virtual speakers using the mute/solo section under the input meters to listen to their positions. 6. Measure and set your personal Head Modeling parameters. 7. Make sure the head modeling section is set to your individual measurements or to the factory default settings. Unreasonable head size settings can ruin the spatial effect.
No communication between head tracking app and the plugin	Close the head tracking app, inactivate and reactivate the plugin.
Head tracking shows some latency	1. Try to increase the tracking rate, optimally up to 30 fps. 2. Try to lower the buffer size. 3. In some DAWs, Nx must be on the master buss or on a live input AUX path in order to run with the user-set buffer size.
FW update fails in the middle of the process.	Replace the battery.

