

MIKE TUCCI MASTERING

# MASTER SPLIT

STEM SEPARATOR



USER MANUAL · VERSION 1.0

MACOS · APPLE SILICON

# WELCOME

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**Master Split** separates a finished stereo mix into its individual stems — vocals, drums, bass, and more — using a cascade of state-of-the-art AI models, entirely on your Mac. No uploads, no cloud, no subscription: your audio never leaves your machine.

It is built by a mastering engineer for real studio work: stems are exported as 32-bit float WAV at the source sample rate, and the stems of every separation sum back to the original mix with sample-accurate precision — they null against the source.

## CONTENTS

1 · Getting started	Requirements, installation, first launch
2 · Activation	License keys, trials, moving between Macs
3 · Separating a track	The three modes and what they produce
4 · Working with stems	Split Vocals and the Clean Up tools
5 · Batch processing	Separating many tracks unattended
6 · Export & sessions	Getting audio out, saving your work
7 · Updates & troubleshooting	Staying current, fixing common issues
8 · Acknowledgments	Open-source thanks

### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Mac with **Apple Silicon** (M-series)
- macOS 13 or later · 16 GB memory recommended
- ~2 GB free disk space for AI models (downloaded on first use)
- Internet connection for activation, model download, and updates (after activation, Master Split runs offline for up to 30 days)

## 1 · GETTING STARTED

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1. Open the downloaded DMG and drag **Master Split** into your **Applications** folder.
2. Launch it. The app is notarized by Apple — it opens without security warnings.
3. On first separation, Master Split downloads its AI models (~2 GB total). This happens once; afterwards everything runs locally.

## 2 · ACTIVATION

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Master Split requires a license key, delivered by email when you purchase or start a trial. Keys look like:

```
MASTERSPLIT-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX
```

Enter the key in the activation window (or **Master Split** → **Activate License...**) — typing and pasting both work. The status bar shows your license state at all times.

### GOOD TO KNOW

- **Two Macs per license.** Use the **DEACTIVATE** button to release a machine and move your license to a new one — self-service, no support ticket.
- **Trials** are full-featured keys with an expiry date. The status bar counts down the days remaining.
- **Offline use.** Once activated, Master Split works without internet for up to 30 days at a stretch; it re-checks your license automatically whenever you're online.

## 3 · SEPARATING A TRACK

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1. Drop a stereo audio file onto the drop zone (or click it to browse). WAV, AIFF, FLAC, MP3 and M4A are supported.
2. Choose a **Separation Mode**.
3. Press **SEPARATE**. Stems appear below with individual waveforms when processing completes.

MODE	STEMS	BEST FOR
QUICK · 2 STEM	Vocals + Instrumental	Acapellas, instrumentals, karaoke, remix prep — the fastest mode
FULL · 4 STEM	Vocals · Drums · Bass · Other	Remixing, stem mastering, live performance stems
DEEP · 6 STEM	Vocals · Drums · Bass · Guitar · Piano · Other	Detailed deconstruction, sampling, transcription, restoration

**Engineering fidelity.** Every mode preserves the source sample rate, exports 32-bit float WAV, and guarantees that the sum of all stems reconstructs the original mix to sample accuracy. Source metadata (title, artist, album, BPM) is carried into each stem.

Under the hood, each mode runs a cascade of several AI models with different architectures: a primary separation pass, followed by dedicated cleanup passes that catch vocal content the first model missed, so vocal bleed in instrumental stems is minimized.

## 4 · WORKING WITH STEMS

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### SPLIT VOCALS

After any separation, **SPLIT VOCALS** divides the vocal stem one level further into **lead vocals** and **backing vocals** — useful for isolating a lead performance or lifting harmony beds.

### CLEAN UP

Each stem can be individually post-processed with dedicated AI cleanup models from the **CLEAN UP** menu:

TOOL	WHAT IT REMOVES
DE-REVERB	Room reverb baked into the stem
DE-ECHO	Discrete echoes and delay tails
DE-BREATH	Breath sounds between vocal phrases
DE-NOISE	Broadband noise and hiss

Cleanups can be stacked — each application is counted on the stem so you can see what has been applied.

**Restore Original.** The first cleanup on a stem automatically preserves the untouched audio. Restore it at any time — cleanup is never destructive.

## 5 · BATCH PROCESSING

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Switch the workflow toggle from **SINGLE TRACK** to **BATCH**, drop multiple files into the queue, choose a mode, and press **PROCESS QUEUE**. Tracks are separated one after another and exported automatically with a consistent naming convention — start a queue before lunch, come back to finished stems. Per-track status (pending / processing / done) is shown in the queue list.

## 6 · EXPORT & SESSIONS

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### EXPORT

- **EXPORT ALL** writes every stem of the current track; individual stems can be exported from their stem card.
- All exports are **32-bit float WAV** at the source sample rate, named with the track and stem name.
- **File → Show Output Folder** jumps straight to your exported files in Finder.

### SESSIONS

- **File → Save Session...** preserves your current track, stems, and state; reopen any time via **Open Session...** Or **Open Recent Session**.
- Undo / redo are available from the **Edit** menu.

## 7 · UPDATES & TROUBLESHOOTING

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### UPDATES

Master Split checks for updates automatically on launch and downloads them in the background. When one is ready, a gold **UPDATE READY** banner appears — click **RESTART & UPDATE** and the new version installs itself. You can check manually via **Master Split** → **Check for Updates...**

### COMMON QUESTIONS

SYMPTOM	FIX
"License key not found"	Check for missed or doubled characters; ambiguous symbols (0/O, 1/I/L) are never used in genuine keys. Copy-paste from your email is the most reliable entry.
First separation is slow	The AI models (~2 GB) download once on first use. Subsequent separations skip this entirely.
License blocked after weeks offline	Connect to the internet once and relaunch — the license re-validates automatically. Offline grace is 30 days.
Want the previous sound of a stem	Use Restore Original on the stem's cleanup menu — cleanups are never destructive.

### SUPPORT

Questions, license transfers, anything else: [mastersplit.app](https://mastersplit.app)

## 8 · ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Master Split builds on open-source work from the audio research community — with credit and thanks to **Anjok07**, **aufr33**, **KimberleyJensen**, **Andrew Beveridge**, and **Meta AI**. Master Split is an independent product of Mike Tucci Mastering and is not affiliated with or endorsed by these developers.

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