SessionSplitter user manual

Version 0.6.3. Pre-release desktop stem separation. Audio is processed on the computer where the app is installed.

This manual describes the controls in the current source. It does not authorize a public sale. Support is support@litfactorynyc.com.

What it does

SessionSplitter imports audio, separates it into stems, lets you audition the result, and writes the stems you select.

The stem modes are:

Mode	Outputs	Notes
Acapella / Instrumental	Vocals, and instrumental (drums, bass, and other together)	Uses the M02 vocals separation.
4-Stem	Vocals, drums, bass, other	Uses the M02 four-stem separation.
6-Stem	Vocals, drums, bass, guitar, piano, other	Marked experimental. May ask for a model download.
Lead / Backing	Lead vocals, backing vocals, instrumental	Marked experimental. Backing vocals here means supporting vocal performances, not pitched harmonies.
Advanced	Groups and individual instruments you tick in Advanced Stem Selection	Marked experimental. Opens the selection dialog.

The first-run setup dialog says M02 covers four-stem and vocals-only export, that M01 / Mega is experimental keep-23 processing from the same download family, and that M03 / M06 can be downloaded but are not processing-ready. If **Process** refuses 6-Stem, use Acapella / Instrumental or 4-Stem.

System and installation

The verified installed baseline in the engineering records is an Intel Mac running macOS 11.6.4. Apple Silicon and Windows are not recorded as verified customer platforms. The preference path

in code is macOS: `~/Library/Application Support/SessionSplitter`, unless `SESSION_SPLITTER_DATA_DIR` points somewhere else.

Install the SessionSplitter build you were given by the usual macOS method for that disk image or `.app`. This manual does not invent a public download URL. After installation, open **SessionSplitter** from the folder the installer used.

The app does not need a separate Python install when you are running a packaged build.

Updating means installing the newer build you were given. Removing the `.app` does not delete `~/Library/Application Support/SessionSplitter`. That folder holds `preferences.json`, `jobs.sqlite3`, imports, artifacts, exports, scratch files, and logs. Delete it only when you intend to remove local jobs and preferences. Deactivate the Mac first if a license is stored.

First launch and activation

The title bar shows `License:` and a status such as `not_activated`.

SessionSplitter setup is the activation dialog:

1. Paste the license key. The field is masked. The key is stored in the macOS Keychain after a successful activation.
2. Click **Activate**.
3. **Refresh / renew lease** contacts the license service again.
4. **Deactivate this Mac** asks the service to release the activation and clears the local license material.

The shared SGC1 specification lists 3 Macs for `session-splitter`. The license that was issued is the limit that applies if it differs.

Process does not separate audio until the app has an authorized license: a production activation, a QA entitlement, or a development checkout. Without one, the job stops and reports `license_not_authorized`. The website screenshot shows `License: not_activated` because that grab was a UI test.

You can set the model cache directory in the same dialog. The app suggests external volumes. It does not switch the cache to an external disk on its own.

The main window

The window title includes the version (`SessionSplitter v0.6.3` in the current source).

Stem mode. The segmented control lists Acapella / Instrumental, 4-Stem, 6-Stem, Lead / Backing, and Advanced. Choosing a mode that the catalog marks unavailable shows **Separation unavailable** and restores the previous mode. Choosing Advanced opens **Advanced Stem Selection**.

Batch queue. Import adds files. The queue lists them with the detected or stored BPM and key when those values exist. **Pause** holds the queue. **Process** will not start while the queue is paused. **Retry** is available for another attempt after a failure.

Stem lanes. Each lane can be included with its **Export** checkbox, muted, soloed, and auditioned with a level slider. Mute, solo, and the lane slider change what you hear. They do not rewrite the export selection. Group rows can export a combined stem.

Transport. Play, stop, loop, and return-to-start controls audition the loaded material. The A/B and bus controls exist in the window layout and are hidden on every interface level, so they do not appear. Use the lanes and the transport that stay on screen.

Dock.

Control	Choices	What it does
Format	WAV 24-bit, WAV 16-bit, WAV 32-bit float, AIFF 24-bit, AIFF 16-bit, FLAC 24-bit, FLAC 16-bit	File type and bit depth for export. The first entry, WAV 24-bit, is the combo's initial item. The 0.6.3 window grab shows WAV 24-bit selected.
Rate	44.1 kHz, 48 kHz, 96 kHz, Source	Sample rate. Source keeps the file's rate. The same grab shows 44.1 kHz.
Output	Folder button	Shows the export folder. Choosing a folder sets the destination. The button label can read `Output: /Stems/Export` before you pick a folder. That label is not a required path on your Mac.
Export Selected Stems	Button	Writes the stems whose Export boxes are ticked. The label includes the count when a count is known.
Export & Shift...	Button	Opens timing and pitch export settings. The in-window note says Export & Shift applies only when you change those controls, and the default is off.
Cancel / Pause	Button	Stops or pauses the current export or job.

Pitch and key. −1 st and **+1 st** nudge the audition or export pitch display by one semitone. **Key** shows the detected or assigned key. **Target** tempo can stay off so the source tempo is kept. Changing the target does not rewrite the detected BPM label.

Menus.

- **File** includes import and **Export Selected…**.
- **Settings** → **Model Manager…** opens Model Manager & Compute.
- Help topics and **About license status** are on the Help menu.
- Interface level (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced) and help level (Minimal, Contextual, Guided) are saved in preferences. Changing them does not change the separation settings. Hardware, Analyze, Preview, Models, A/B, and the bus buttons stay hidden on every level. Open Model Manager from **Settings** → **Model Manager…**, or from the prompt that appears when a required model is missing.

A separation

1. Click **Import Audio…** and choose a music file. **Replace…** swaps the current file.
2. Choose a stem mode. For Advanced, tick the groups or instruments you want, then **Apply Selection**. The dialog can search, expand, collapse, select all available stems, or clear the selection. It shows which models are required.
3. If the mode is marked experimental, confirm the experimental prompt when Process asks.
4. Click **Process**.
   - One file is queued as a single job.
   - More than one file is a batch. If batch auto-export is on (the default when several files are queued) and no destination is saved, the app asks for a folder before it queues the jobs.
5. The progress line reports queue and job states. A completed job reads **Completed — audition stems, then export**.
6. Audition the lanes. Tick **Export** on the stems you want to keep.
7. Set format, rate, and output folder. Click **Export Selected Stems**. **Export finished** means the write completed.

If no file is imported, Process stops with **Import an audio file first.**

Models

Model Manager & Compute lists the packs the catalog knows about, including Standard Stems, Advanced Instruments, Karaoke / Instrumental Companion, and Six-Band Instruments in the 0.6.3

grab. Each row shows whether the pack is installed or available, a size measured on that machine, and an action such as **Verify Integrity**, **Reinstall**, or **Accept Download**.

Hardware in that dialog shows the lane the app detected (CPU or Apple Silicon / GPU) and a worker RAM budget. Those readings are from the Mac that took the screenshot. They are not a second system requirement.

Accept Download stores the pack you accept. The app can also install a local pack. Sizes in an old screenshot are not the current download size. The Model Manager row is.

Some rows are labeled experimental. Read that label before you rely on the stems.

Settings that are saved

`preferences.json` in Application Support stores processing settings, interface and help levels, the export block (format, bit depth, rate policy, gain, destination, naming template), and the advanced stem selection. Jobs are in `jobs.sqlite3`.

Export file names use the naming template. The batch default is `{track}_{category}`.

Troubleshooting

What you see	What to do
`license_not_authorized` or License: not_activated when Process does nothing useful	Open the setup dialog, activate, and try Process again. A development checkout can separate without a commercial license. A packaged build cannot.
Import an audio file first	Import a file, or confirm the queue actually lists the file you expect.
Queue is paused	Resume the queue, then Process.
Separation unavailable	That mode is blocked in the catalog. Read the reason in the dialog and pick another mode.
Experimental confirmation	6-Stem, Lead / Backing, and Advanced ask you to accept experimental processing. Cancel if you want Acapella / Instrumental or 4-Stem instead.
Batch processing needs an export destination	Choose a folder you can write to.
Model missing	Use **Open Model Manager** and Accept Download or Install Local Pack for the pack the message names.
Export folder looks wrong	Click the Output button and choose the folder again. Do not assume `/Stems/Export` exists.

What you see	What to do
Stems sound unexpected	Solo one lane and compare it with the original bus. Experimental modes are marked in the UI because their results are not the standard M02 split.

The progress line and the error dialog are the recovery text. The message is also written into the help panel when help is not set to Minimal.

Limits

- This manual was checked against source version 0.6.3. It was not a listening test, a purchase test, or a run on Apple Silicon or Windows.
- The website screenshots are Gate V3 grabs of build 0.6.3 (`commit cab20596d8e26c4673283d0e247ea6f52c928d06` , built 21 November 2026). The UI Python files have not changed since the Gate V3 commit. Model download URLs changed later. Those URL changes are not visible in the workspace grab.
- The demo filenames in that grab are the session used for the capture. They are not sample content shipped inside the app.
- No active processing-progress frame was captured. The queue in the workspace grab is waiting, not mid-render.

Support

support@litfactorynyc.com

Product page: https://litfactorynyc.com/store/session-splitter