

oxbow — user guide

oxbow runs FFGL video effect plugins for mixers that cannot load plugins themselves. Video leaves your mixer over NDI or OMT, passes through a chain of FFGL effects on oxbow's GPU, and comes back as a new source — a loop in the river.

It exists first for **vMix**, which has no video plugin interface but routes any input to an NDI output and (since vMix 29) speaks OMT natively. It works just as well with anything else that can send and receive NDI or OMT.

What you need

- **The oxbow binary** for your platform (macOS or Windows x64).
- **At least one transport runtime**, found at run time, never bundled:
 - *NDI</*

`input.source` is matched case-insensitively as a substring of the full source name (`"HOST (Output 3)"`), so the short form is enough.

3. Run it:

```
oxbow run --config oxbow.json
```

4. Add the processed source back into vMix: *Add Input* → *NDI / OMT* and pick `oxbow`. Open `http://127.0.0.1:8720/` for live parameter control.

Run oxbow on the vMix machine or on a second machine on the same network — the second machine keeps the GPU load away from vMix and only costs network transport.

Commands

```
oxbow probe <plugin>           plugin metadata and parameters
oxbow selftest <plugin> [--set
```

Troubleshooting

- **"connects but no frames arrive" over OMT** — look for a lingering oxbow (or other OMT sender) holding the listen port: `lsof -iTCP:6400` (macOS) / `netstat -ano | findstr 6400` (Windows), and kill it. Old processes can survive Ctrl-C if they wedged before the signal handlers were in place.
- **OMT internals** — set `OXBOW_OMT_LOG=1` for libomt's own log on stderr.
- **A plugin fails to instantiate** — run `oxbow selftest <plugin>`. If the log callback prints nothing and instantiate still fails, the plugin may reject a text-parameter default set during instantiation (a stock-SDK bug pattern); ask the plugin's author about `SetTextParameter`.
- **Logs** — a rotating log lives in the platform log directory (`~/Library/Logs/oxbow` on macOS, `%LOCALAPPDATA%\oxbow\logs` on Windows); `OXBOW_LOG=debug` raises the level.

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