

SHARK MASTER BUS COMPRESSOR

Stereo bus compression with stepped timing, linked detection and hands-on mix control.



Quick start

1. Insert on a stereo bus. Choose 2:1 or 4:1, Attack 10 or 30 ms and Release Auto. 2. Lower Threshold until the gain-reduction meter moves around 1–3 dB. 3. Adjust Make-up and enable Gain Match for comparison. 4. Blend Mix, then set Trim while checking the DAW output meter.

Signal path

Input → linked stereo detector (internal or external, with optional SC Filter) → compression and optional Analog character → Make-up → dry/wet Mix → Gain Match → Trim → output. The dry path is latency compensated. IN bypasses the effect with a short crossfade while maintaining fixed latency.

Compression controls

Threshold — -15 to +15 dB console scale. Lower settings cause more gain reduction.

Ratio — 2:1 / 4:1 / 10:1, discrete positions.

Attack — 0.1 / 0.3 / 1 / 3 / 10 / 30 ms.

Release — 0.1 / 0.3 / 0.6 / 1.2 s / Auto. Auto responds to recent gain reduction.

SC Filter — Off or 21–500 Hz detector high-pass; does not filter audio.

Make-up — -5 to +15 dB on compressed path.

Mix — Dry to compressed blend.

Trim — -18 to +18 dB after Mix and Gain Match.

Analog — Gentle symmetric saturation; no added hum or hiss.

Gain Match — Smoothed stereo energy matching within ± 18 dB; allow time to settle.

OS — 1x / 2x / 4x / 8x / 16x, with fixed compensated latency.

Fade / Rate-S — Off → Out → In; 1–60 s for a full fade.

IN — Effect bypass with a short crossfade.

Meter, routing and headroom

The meter reports gain reduction in dB. It does not show input or output peaks. The processor has no output limiter; Make-up and Trim can drive levels over 0 dBFS. For external sidechain, enable its menu option and route the DAW sidechain bus. If enabled with silence routed, the detector will not compress.

Interface and presets

Drag a knob to adjust; Shift-drag for fine control; double-click for its default; hover to see the value. Click the SHARK logo to cycle blue, green and terracotta. Use A/B/C to store three comparisons. Undo/Redo tracks parameter edits. The preset arrows step through 60 factory presets; the star marks favorites. The + button saves a .sharkbus user preset, while the menu loads user files. Del removes a selected user preset in the default directory after confirmation. Factory presets cannot be deleted.

Menu and session recall

The menu includes zoom, sidechain, themes, a quick guide, credits and license information. The rustic credits plate lists Plugin Creator Alex Raven and Product Design & Production Sharky. Sessions restore parameters, appearance, A/B/C slots, preset name and favorites. Favorites belong to each plugin session rather than a global catalog.

Practical starting points

- Mix bus: 2:1, 30 ms, Auto release and roughly 1–2 dB reduction.
- Drum bus: 4:1, 10 ms, 0.3 s release; blend with Mix to restore punch.
- Low-heavy material: raise SC Filter until kicks or bass stop dominating the detector.

Troubleshooting

No compression? Lower Threshold, confirm IN is active, and check external sidechain routing.

Unexpected level? Check Make-up, Trim, Mix and Gain Match; inspect the DAW meter. CPU pressure?

Reduce OS. Old session behavior changed? Threshold, Make-up and Rate-S scales were revised in

v0.1.5; verify automation.

Current build status

This manual documents v0.1.7 source. Linux VST3 and standalone compilation and processor checks were reported complete. Mac AU/VST3 build and DAW listening tests remain pending; installer availability is not established.