



USER MANUAL

Less Comp

A clean compressor with level history, spectrum and stereo output meters.

macOS: AU and VST3, Apple silicon · Windows: VST3, 64 bit
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Overview

Less Comp is a clean single-band compressor. Blue input, green output and amber gain reduction share a six-second history, with a left-channel spectrum and stereo output meters. Sidechain input and lookahead are built in.

Installation

Run the installer for your platform. On macOS the AU and VST3 versions install for all users; on Windows the VST3 installs under Common Files. Factory presets install into your user preset folder and are never overwritten: presets you save land in the same folder and stay yours.

MACOS PRESETS	~/Library/Application Support/MixLess/Presets/Less Comp
WINDOWS PRESETS	%APPDATA%\MixLess\Presets\Less Comp

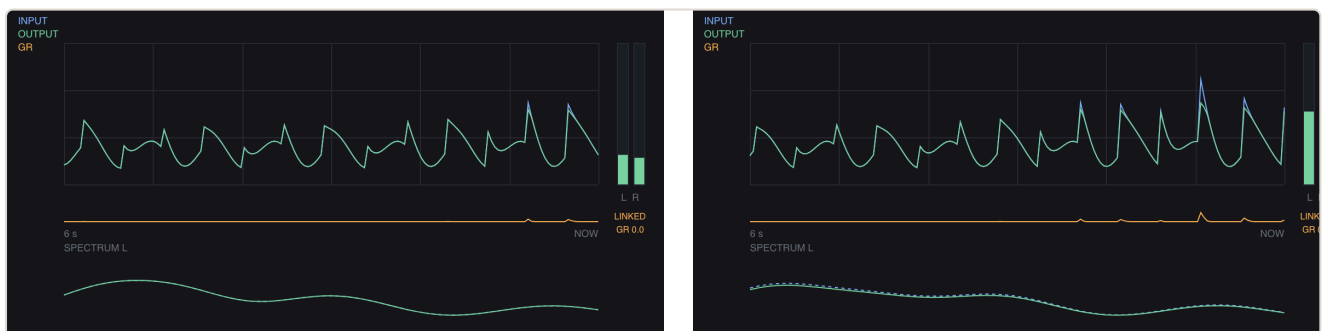
The interface



Press **I** in the plugin to toggle the same control descriptions as cursor tooltips.

The screen while it works

Two moments from the simplified display on the how-to page: at rest, and with material running through it. Print cannot move, so these are frames of that animation.



Controls

THRESHOLD	Threshold: level where compression starts
RATIO	Ratio: how hard levels above the threshold are reduced
ATTACK	Attack: how fast the compressor grabs. Slow lets transients through
RELEASE	Release: how fast gain recovers. Too fast pumps, too slow chokes
KNEE	Knee: 0 dB is a hard corner; wider bends in gradually
MAKEUP	Makeup: output gain to compensate the reduction
MIX	Mix: blend dry and compressed for parallel compression
SC HPF	Sidechain high-pass frequency, keeps bass from pumping the mix
LOOKAHEAD	Lookahead: reacts before the transient. Adds that much latency
AUTO MAKEUP	AUTO: makeup gain follows threshold and ratio automatically
SC HPF	Enable the sidechain high-pass filter
SC EXTERNAL	EXT SC: key the compressor from the sidechain input instead of the signal
CURVE	Transfer curve: input level in, output level out; the dot is the current signal
MOTION	Six seconds of stereo peak input and final output. Input is aligned to lookahead. GR shows the compressor detector reduction before makeup, mix and bypass
AUTO G	AUTO G: loudness-matched output (K-weighted), honest A/B against bypass
DELTA	DELTA: hear only what the compressor changes (output minus dry)
BYPASS	Click-free bypass

Workflows

Level a vocal

Start from the Vocal Leveler preset. Lower the threshold until the GR meter shows 3 to 6 dB on the loud phrases; the amber history shows the reduction and its recovery between phrases.

Parallel drum compression

Set Ratio high and Attack fast, then pull Mix to about 50%. The dry path is delay aligned, so blending is free of comb filtering.

Duck a bass under the kick

Route the kick to the sidechain input in your DAW and enable EXT SC. The detector listens to the kick while the audio path carries the bass.

Tips

The ratio you dial is the slope you get: 4:1 compresses to a tested 1/4 slope above the knee.

Lookahead catches fast transients cleanly; the added latency is reported to the host exactly.

Blue is input, green is final output and amber is detector GR. Makeup and Mix change output without changing the detector GR trace.

Specifications

FORMATS	AU, VST3
LATENCY	0 samples, 240 at 5 ms lookahead
SIDECHAIN	internal or external bus
FACTORY PRESETS	8

Support

Questions and problems: support@mixlessaudio.com. Legal notices, the privacy notice and third-party licences: mixlessaudio.com.