

PSP FETpressor



Operation Manual

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PSP FETpressor

PSP FETpressor is a FET feedback type compressor plug-in. It's designed to provide accurate, almost instant compression with lots of character. Great for vocals, guitars, bass, drums, and whenever a classic 1970s-style FET compressor is needed.

PSP FETpressor contains everything you'd expect from a FET compressor: an internal side chain high pass filter to control amount of low frequency pumping, smoothly adjustable compression ratio, ability to select which channel to process, and a link switch. This compressor also contains a dry signal blend for parallel compression.

Additionally PSP FETpressor contains makeup amplifier and output transformer emulations to add subtle character even when set to 1:1 ratio.



Front panel controls

ATTACK knob [ms]

Controls the compression attack time. The lower the attack value the shorter amount of time the transient is passing through the compression.

Some tracks may need really short attack times in order to prevent later processing stages from overloading, or in order to achieve a really flat sound. However, in most cases it is a good idea to preserve a bit of the transients coming through the compressor. This helps the snare or a bass retain their punch through the mix or keep those tracks alive. One way to maintain transients through the compressor is to use longer attack times than the 12 o'clock 1ms setting.

RELEASE knob [ms]

Controls the compression release time. The lower the release value the higher the amount of pumping and distortion that occurs.

Although long release times (300ms and longer) provide smooth responses in many cases, it's a good idea to use 100ms or slower release times when you're going for a more responsive, energetic and pumping compression, or if you're trying to get a noticeable amount of distortion on kick or bass tracks to add extra character. A typical range of release times on widely used FET compressors refers to approximately 50ms to 1s. PSP FETpressor provides an extra short release range.

RATIO knob

Sets the compression ratio. The FETpressor contains a built-in threshold compensation which helps maintain constant compression of about -6dB. Thus, changing the ratio knob rapidly influences the internal levels of our algorithms which may result in an over/under compressed and saturated sound for a fraction of a second.

Setting a compression ratio of 1:1 may seem strange at first because with this setting there is no compression. However, we included this mode because PSP FETpressor contains an emulation of a makeup amplifier and an output transformer. Sometimes it might be useful to send your signal through those parts of the plug-in without affecting its dynamics.

S.C. HPF knob [Hz]

Sets the side chain high pass filter cutoff frequency.

S.C. HPF label

Click on the S.C. HPF label to change its state. Engages side chain high pass filter when lit. Disables the side chain filter when greyed out.

Whenever you process a drum group or overheads or any other track with a wide range of frequency content you can reduce pumping effects on low frequency sounds by using a built in side chain high pass filter. The type of side chain filter used in the PSP FETpressor provides a very smooth response even when set to its highest frequency. Use the S.C. HPF label switch to compare the results with and without using the side chain filter.

THRESHOLD knob [dB]

Controls the threshold level of the compressor. The lower the threshold value the deeper the applied compression is.

L - OO - R switch

Selects L - Left, OO - Stereo or R - Right channels for processing. Please use two separate instances of the plug-in with adequate L or R settings to process both channels with independent settings.

Gain Reduction meter [dB]

The Gain Reduction meter indicates what amount of gain reduction is being provided by the compressor. The indicator is smoothed by the inherent ballistics of a typical needle meter.

In most cases it is a good practice not to over-process your tracks. Although a soloed track may sound great (or at least interesting) with heavy equalization, compression, limiting, or saturation it is always most important how it sits in the mix. Sometimes heavy compression works well while in other situations slight compression on several tracks makes the entire mix just right. A good idea is to keep the compression working down to -6dB to keep the processing transparent.

MAKEUP knob [dB]

Sets the amount of makeup gain after the compression.

Usually a good starting point for setting up the makeup gain is to see where the gain is reduced on loud parts of the track, then readjust the makeup gain to keep the perceived energy similar or greater than the uncompressed track, depending on your mixes needs.

LINKED - UNLNKD switch

Sets the compression to linked or unlinked channels mode. This selection is designed for stereo (OO) mode only.

IN - OUT switch

Engages the compression when set to IN. The entire plug-in is internally bypassed when set to OUT.

BLEND knob [%]

Controls blending of dry and compressed (post Makeup) signals into the output of the plug-in. This control allows you to recover some transients lost during heavy compression and provides so called parallel compression.

BLEND label

Click on the BLEND label to change its state. Engages dry signal blend when lit. Disables dry blend when grey out.

There is an interesting alternative way to keep transients and a compressed track alive other than just having medium to long attack times. The technique is called “parallel compression” or “New York compression.” The PSP FETpressor has a feature called Dry and Compressed Signal Blend which allows you to achieve this kind of compression.

Simply set the compression to work pretty hard with medium or faster attack and release times as in this case the compressed component of the output sound is not intended to sound transparent in any way. Adjust the Makeup gain slightly lower than the gain reduction meter might suggest. Enable Blend and set the Blend knob between 50% and 75% depending on your track, compression settings, makeup gain and the amount of transients and natural dynamics of the track to pass through the compressor.

The About Screen

PSP FETpressor provides an about screen. This view contains your authorization details, as well as the version number of the plug-in. To access plug-in's about screen, click on the PSP FETpressor below the meter. To return to the controls view, click anywhere in the about screen.

Using presets

PSP FETpressor is provided with factory sets of presets.

The main aim of included presets is to show customers the features of the plug-in and help to learn the controls usage. In addition, the presets can be used as a starting point for further adjustments or as quick fix presets.

The PSP FETpressor presets can be accessed from the PSPaudioware standard PRESET bar at the bottom of the plug-in interface. Here you can select from among the factory presets, and load and save individual, as well as banks of presets. There are three sections to this bar, the PRESET section, the Preset window, and the BANK section.

BANK SECTION

Click the green arrow icon to load a bank from a disk.

Click the red arrow icon to save a bank.

Double click the BANK label to permanently store the default preset bank.

Press Command (Mac) or Control (PC) and double click to restore the factory default bank.

PRESET SECTION

Click the green arrow icon to load a preset.

Click the red arrow icon to save a preset.

Double click the PRESET label to permanently store the default preset.

Press Command (Mac) or Control (PC) and double click to restore the factory default preset.

PRESET EDIT BOX

Click the menu button to the right of the preset edit box to see and the popup menu of all the presets in the currently loaded preset bank and to choose a preset from the list.

Click the name of the preset to rename it.

PRESET SELECTION

Click on the bright left arrow to switch to a previous preset on the list.

Click on the bright right arrow to switch to a next preset on the list..

MEMO A and B

Both A and B are permanently stored on your disk. This allows you to compare alternative settings or share a preset between various instances of the plug-in in the same project or even between various projects.

Click the green arrow icon to load a preset from memo A or B.

Click the red arrow icon to save a preset to memo A or B.

?

Click on the question mark whenever you need to open the operation manual.

Limitations of the demo version

The demo will operate without any limitations for 14 days from its initial installation. During the demo period you will just need to click on the GUI to engage processing once the plug-in is inserted. After the end of evaluation time you would not be able use the plug-in without authorization.

Authorization

Each PSP plug-in has to be authorized using an automatic authorization application or a batch authorizer downloaded from user's account page on our site.

Minimum System Requirements

PC

VST

- Windows x32 or x64 (Vista, 7, 8 or 10)
- VST 2.4 compatible application

RTAS

- Windows x32 or x64 (XP Service Pack 2, Vista, 7 or 10)
- ProTools 8.0.0 (or later)

AAX

- Windows x32 or x64 (XP Service Pack 2, Vista, 7 or 10)
- Pro Tools 10, 11, 12 or Pro Tools HD 10, 11, 12

Mac

AudioUnit

- Mac OSX 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 or 10.11
- 32 or 64-bit host application capable of running AudioUnit plug-ins with Cocoa view

VST

- Mac OSX 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 or 10.11
- 32 or 64-bit VST 2.4 compatible host application

RTAS

- Mac OSX 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 or 10.11
- ProTools LE 8.0.0 or ProTools TDM 8.0.0 (or later)

AAX

- Mac OSX 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 or 10.11
- Pro Tools 10, 11, 12 or Pro Tools HD 10, 11, 12

Support

If you have any questions about any of our plug-ins, please visit our website <http://www.PSPAudioware.com> where you can find the latest product information, free software updates, online support forum and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

You can also contact us by e-mail: support@PSPAudioware.com. We will gladly answer all of your questions. As a rule we respond within 24 hours.

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