

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

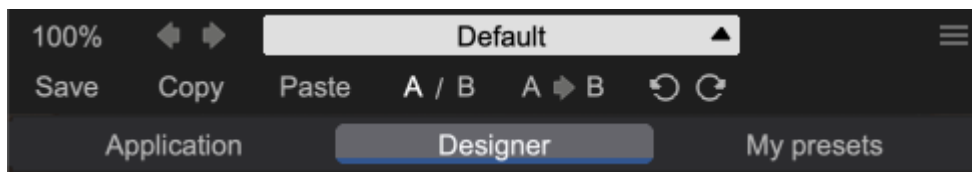
PSP FETpressor provides an about screen. This view contains your authorization details, as well as the version number of the plug-in. To access plug-in's about screen, click on the PSP FETpressor below the meter. To return to the controls view, click anywhere in the about screen.

Preset Handling & View Options

We provide all PSP plugins with a collection of factory presets. These presets can be used as a starting point for further adjustments, or for quick fixes. You access presets from the PSPaudioware standard PRESET BAR at the top of the plug-in interface.

Preset Browser

The PSP FETpressor edition features a comprehensive new preset management and browser system. To access the preset browser, you click the preset name window at the top of the plug-in (which displays 'Default' when the plug-in loads).



The new preset management bar has three main categories which can be accessed with the tabs at the top of the preset browser: **Application**, **Designer**, and **My presets**.

Application - shows all factory built-in presets grouping by application.

< **Factory presets are built into the plugin and cannot be directly edited!**
You can adjust them and save separately as user presets >

Designer - shows all factory built-in presets grouped by designer.

My presets - shows only user presets.

This view shows all of the presets you have created and saved, or downloaded and added to your custom presets for PSP Twin-L.

To add categories to the preset list, you can create new subfolders in the preset directory.

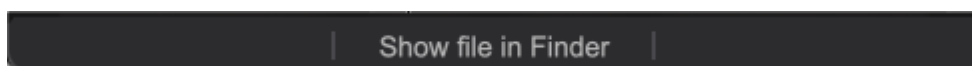
For Windows users, this is located at:

C:\Users\Username\Documents\PSPaudioware.com\User Presets\PSP FETpressor

For Mac users, this is located at:

~/Documents/PSPaudioware.com/User Presets/PSP FETpressor

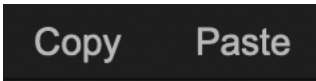
< **You can always check the exact path by clicking on the "Show file in Finder" tab at the bottom of the preset browser window.** >



To select a preset, click a preset name in the right window. When clicked, the preset will be applied so that you can audition it. To confirm the preset choice, you can click the preset name once more to load it.

Each preset has own picture, click on it to open the designer's website.

Copy / Paste



The **Copy/Paste** feature allows you to quickly transfer settings between instances of the plug-in.

To use this feature, you can click '**Copy**' at the top of the plugin below the preset browser window. Then, open a new instance of the plug-in on another track (or on the same track) and click '**Paste**' to paste the settings to the new instance of the plug-in.

This feature can be particularly useful for processing similar instruments or sounds when only a few minor tweaks are needed.

A/B System



The **A/B system** for quickly checking and auditioning changes to the plugin settings.

The **A/B Button** at the top of the interface below the preset browser window allows you to A/B between the current and previous setting of the plug-in. This can be used to audition changes made to your mix, or to audition between two presets.

The **A>B Button** quickly copies the settings of the **A** setting to the **B** setting. This allows you to save your place and apply further tweaks and the audition them with the **A/B Button**.

Undo / Redo

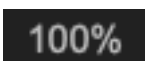


The **Undo/Redo** feature of the plugin lets you quickly navigate between setting changes.

To use this feature, use the undo/redo buttons (CCW and CW arrows, respectively) located below the preset browser window.

These buttons will undo changes to the current plug-in settings, or allow you to undo a preset change depending on the last action in the plug-in.

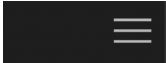
100% GUI resizing



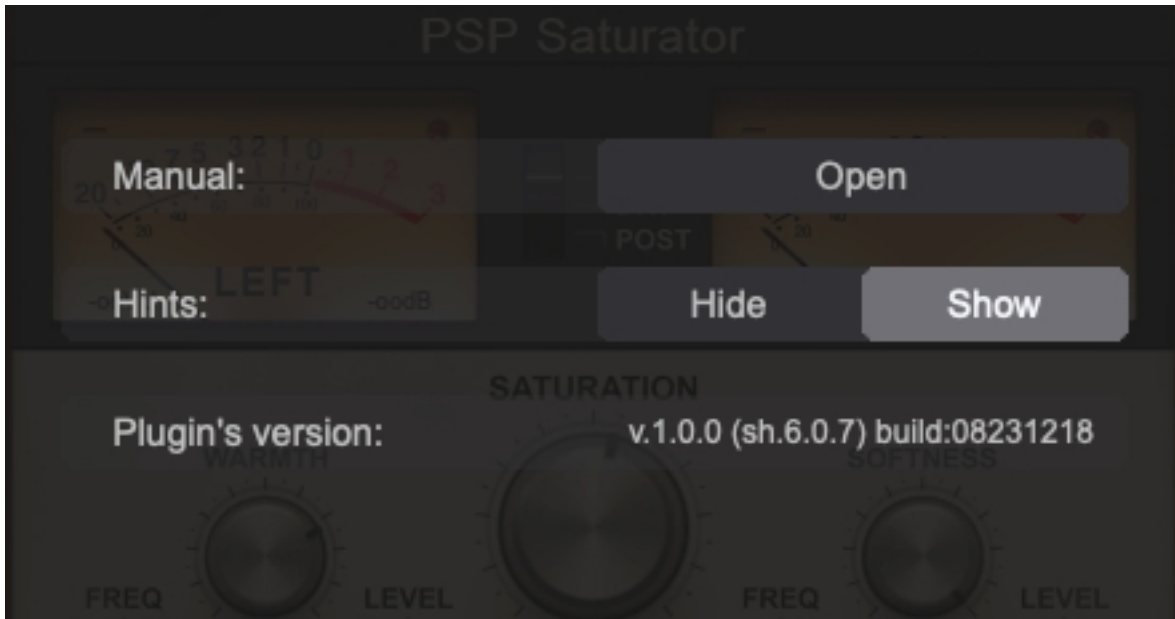
Scroll this percentage up or down to change the GUIs zoom factor. Double click to reset its state to the default size (100%).

You can resize the plug-in interface by just dragging the right bottom corner of the plug-in to any size you like.

CONFIG section



When clicking the three parallel lines glyph, the **CONFIG** menu will open and it allows you to open the manual, check the current plugin version number and turn on/off hints.



Minimum System Requirements

PC

VST3

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit VST3 compatible application

VST

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit VST compatible application

AAX

- Windows 7 – Windows 11
- 64-bit Pro Tools 11, 12 or Pro Tools HD 11, 12 or Pro Tools Ultimate

All DAWs

- The latest iLok License Manager application installed (an iLok dongle not required)

Mac (macIntel or arm AppleSilicon processors)

AudioUnit

- macOS 10.10 – macOS 12.01 Monterey
- 64-bit AudioUnit compatible host application

VST

- macOS 10.10 – macOS 12.01 Monterey
- 64-bit VST compatible host application

VST3

- macOS 10.10 – macOS 12.01 Monterey
- 64-bit VST3 compatible host application

AAX

- macOS 10.10 – macOS 12.01 Monterey
- 64-bit Pro Tools 11, 12 or Pro Tools HD 11, 12 or Pro Tools Ultimate

All DAWs

- The latest iLok License Manager application installed (an iLok dongle not required)



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Support

If you have any questions about any of our plug-ins, please visit our website 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.

Problems with the installation, activation or authorisation?
Please watch our [troubleshooting video tutorials](#) on our YouTube channel.

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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