Bettermaker Mastering Compressor
Plugin Manual

Introduction

The Bettermaker Mastering Compressor DSP is a cutting-edge dynamic processing plug-in designed to bring the clarity, punch, and character of world-class analog mastering tools into your digital workflow. Engineered with precision and musicality in mind, it delivers the sonic excellence Bettermaker is known for—now in an entirely digital form.

At its core, the plug-in features three distinct compression styles tailored for different production needs. From the smooth and transparent response of our renowned analog mastering compressor, to a tight and punchy mode inspired by a legendary British bus compressor, and finally, a fast, character-rich style modeled after a classic American unit celebrated for its aggressive snap.

The three-band Sidechain EQ and adjustable High Pass Filter give you surgical control over how the compressor reacts to different frequency content. Add warmth and edge with hardware-modeled THD and a Drive section featuring two types of harmonic coloration for enhanced analog flavor. For added flexibility, independent Mid/Side processing opens the door to advanced stereo field sculpting—perfect for mastering engineers and creative producers alike.

Whether you're tightening up a full mix, adding glue to a drum bus, or sweetening a vocal track, the Bettermaker Mastering Compressor DSP gives you powerful tools to shape your sound with precision, depth, and character.

Front Panel

Engage

Engages the compressor. When it is off the Mastering Compressor channel is unaffected.

Input HPF

This filter removes low frequencies on whole signal, not only on sidechain.

Compressor Mode

Changes the mode to transform the whole character of the compressor as if you would just switch to another hardware. You can choose different mode for every channel.

Feed

The sidechain signel that triggers the compressor can be sourced either before or after VCA - this is known as feed-forward and feed-back VCA.

Detector

Lets to select the sidechain signal detection circuit: PEAK mode will make the compressor more sensitive for quick transients, while RMS for average signal level changes.

Sidechain EQ

Engages the sidechain equalizer. Equalizer lets to shape compressor character. Filtering low frequencies off helps to reduce effect of bass pumping the mix.

Front Panel

Threshold

Controls the level above which compression occurs. Turning the knob to the left adds more compression.

Attack

Sets the amount of time that must elapse once the input signal reaches the Threshold level before compression is applied.

Release

The amount of time the compressor will still be working after the signal has moved below the threshold. Auto release lets the Compressor set the release time, based on music content.

Auto Release

Let's the compressor set the release time, based on music content.

Ratio

Defines the amount of gain reduction to be applied by the compressor. The higher the ratio, the stronger the compression, and the more "squeezed" the sound.

Range

Sets gain reduction range. This lets to set maximum amout of gain that you want to apply on the processed signal.

Knee

Lets to set sharpness of transition between a non-compressed and compressed state.

Comp Mix

Let's you mix the uncompressed signal with VCA processed signal for parallel compression. This does not affect the VCA THD MIX setting, though.

Front Panel

THD

Adds harmonic content that simulates VCA THD.

Soft Clip

Sets mode of the soft clipper. It can be set to symmetrical, asymetric or both clippers can be turned on simultaneously.

Drive

Adjusts level of the signal that is processed by soft clipper.

Drive Mix

Lets to set proportion of the signal processed by soft clipper and unproceddes signal.

Makeup

Compensates for gain reduction or the THD related level increase, by raising or lowering overall makeup gain.
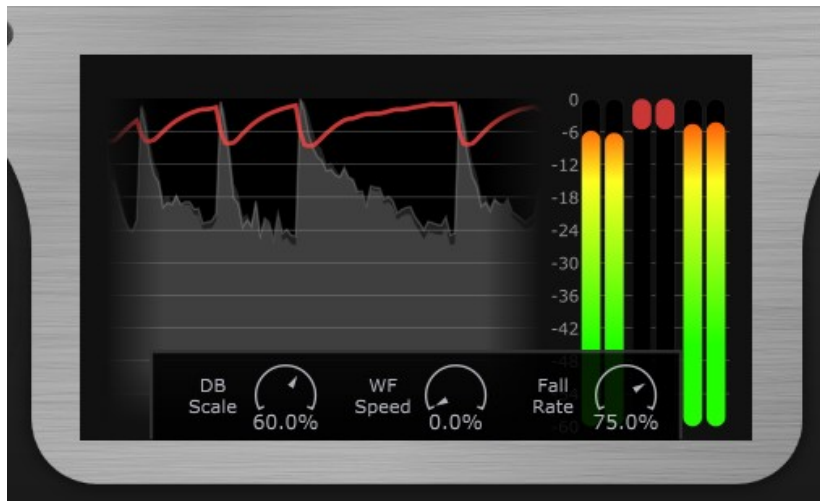
Width

Sets the gain of the side signal. This parameter allows to control the width of the stereo base of the processed signal.

Output

Sets final level of signal on the output of the plugin.

Visualization

Vert. Zoom / DB Scale

Adjusts the waveform display gain range.

WF Speed

Adjusts the speed of the waveform movement. With slower speeds you can see more content whereas with faster speeds you can see more details.

Fall rate

Adjusts fall rate of meters on main screen.

Top toolbar

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Opens the settings menu. You can show or hide hints, change plugin size and check plugin version.

⏻ Power button

It turns off the processor so that the signal passes through unchanged.

Preset name (and arrows)

Clicking on the preset name opens the preset menu. You can save and load presets to/from a file and select the preset to be used.
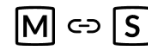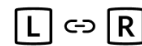
Undo / Redo (Arrows)

Offers 32 steps of parameter history.

Settings (A / B / C / D)

These functions allow you to switch between totally different settings instantly. This feature allows you to make quick mixing or mastering decisions, by hearing the difference between four full settings without taking the time to manually change all the knobs needed and potentially losing perspective.

Copy / Paste / Reset

This functions allows you to copy and paste between settings banks or reset parameters to default values.

⌶ ⟷ ⌶   ⌶ ⟷ ⌶   Channel mode

When channel link is active then on both channels are applied the same settings. If channels are linked pressing L, R, M or S buttons automatically unlink them.

⎗ External sidechain

This button switches between using an external sidechain signal and the internal sidechain (i.e. the input signal itself).
If turned off, it will use the internal sidechain.
If turned on (with MS mode on) 1st sidechain channel will affect Mid signal and 2nd channel will affect Side signal.
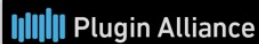
⧈ Waveform

Opens/closes the waveform display.

▭▭▭ Panel size

You can choose small, medium or large height of the analyzer.

Bottom toolbar

Plugin Alliance	Trial (4 day(s) left)	$ ⚷ ?

PA Logo

Clicking the Plugin Alliance logo takes you to the Plugin Alliance website via your web browser, that´s if your computer is online.

License Type

The toolbar displays information about the type of license you're running: Trial licenses will be displayed along with the number of days until expiration; there is no note for full licenses as these are unlimited.

$ (Icon)

If you are using a demo / trial version of our products, you can always click this icon to open a browser that redirects you to the respective product page in the Plugin Alliance store. This is where you can easily purchase a product without having to look it up on our website.

Key (Icon)

Clicking on the key icon brings up the activation dialog, allowing you to manually reauthorize a device in the event of a license upgrade or addition. You can also use this feature to activate additional computers or USB flash drives.

? (Icon)

Clicking the ? icon opens up a context menu that links to the product manual PDF, as well as other helpful links, e.g. to check for product updates online. You must have a PDF reader installed on your computer to be able to read the manual.

System Requirements & FAQ (Links)

For latest System Requirements & Supported Platforms

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/system-requirements.html

Particular details for your product

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/products.html

Installation, Activation, Authorisation and FAQ´s

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/support.html