

KiiveAudio

the new image of sound

XBus Manual



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1. Introduction

The XBus Compressor combines classic bus-compression behavior with modern flexibility:

- **Stereo/Dual-Mono & Mid/Side:** Choose how channels are routed and linked.
- **Advanced Sidechain:** HPF, MF EQ, LPF shaping, soloable for precise triggering.
- **Integrated Saturation Module:** Additional soft clipping with harmonics and tone shaping.
- **Global Link & ADV Panel:** Quickly link parameters or hide the extra controls.

Ideal for glueing mixes together, parallel drum compression, or adding analog style mix bus compression.

System Requirements / Formats

- Mac 64bit / M1 Native: VST3, AU, AAX
 - Windows 64bit: VST3, AAX
- 1 GHz Intel Dual Core Processor or AMD equivalent (PC)
 - 4GB of RAM
- Mac OS X 10.7 or higher, 10.14 or higher recommended
 - Windows 7 & Above

- Screen res: 1024 x 768 or higher
- 64 bit DAW support only

1. Setup

1.1 Installation

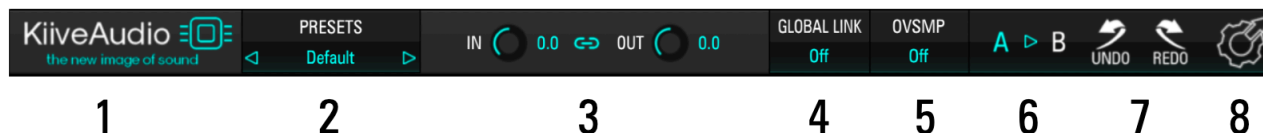
For Mac users: The included installer should install the plugin's VST, VST3, AU, and AAX formats automatically, you may need to restart your DAW to see the plugin listed.

For Windows users: you can either use the included installer or move the plugin formats into their respective folders. Common locations for each format are as follows:

```
VST:
    C:\Program Files\VstPlugins
    C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VstPlugins
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST2
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\Steinberg\VST2
VST3:
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3
AAX:
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins
```

If after restarting your DAW, you still don't see the plugin listed, check your DAW's plugin folder settings, and be sure that is in the proper location for your software.

2.1 Menu Controls



1. Kiive Audio Logo (Far Left)

- Opens the General Settings panel.
 - License Status – Displays Trial or Registered mode.
 - Version Number – Shows the plugin version.
 - Kiive Website Link – Opens the Kiive Audio website.
 - Updater – Checks for plugin updates and allows downloads inside the plugin.

2. Preset Browser

- Left/Right Arrows – Navigate through all presets (no folder restrictions).
- Preset Drop Down Menu:
 - Factory – Built-in presets.
 - User – User-created presets.
 - Load – Load a preset from any folder.
 - Save – Save the current state over the selected preset.
 - Save As – Save a new preset with a custom name.
 - Save as Default – Makes current state the default on plugin load.

3. Input / Output Controls

- IN – Global input gain (pre-processing).
- OUT – Global output gain (post-processing).
- Link Icon – Enables relative linking:
 - Moving the input knob will offset the output level to maintain loudness.
 - Output can still be adjusted freely.

5. Oversampling (OVSMP)

- Options: Off, 2x, 4x, 8x, 16x.
- Latency (samples): 0 (Off), 93 (2x), 114 (4x), 123 (8x), 126 (16x).
- Uses linear-phase oversampling.
- 2x is recommended for best balance of sound quality and CPU usage.

6. A/B Comparison

- A / B Buttons – Switch between two different versions of plugin settings.
- Arrow Button – Copies settings from A to B or B to A.

7. Undo / Redo

- Undo – Revert previous parameter changes.
- Redo – Re-apply changes that were undone.
- Tracks parameter changes made in the plugin.

8. Gear Icon (Far Right)

- Opens the Plugin Settings menu:
 - UI Scaling / Resize Options.
 - About section with additional plugin info.

2.2 Utility Functions & Shortcuts

General Plugin Controls:

- Double-click a knob or slider – Resets the control to its default value.
- Alt (Option) + Click – Also resets the control to default.
- Shift + Click – Opens a text box to manually enter a value.
- Alt + Click + Drag – Enables fine control for precise adjustments.

Pro Tools Only:

- Command + Option + Control + Click on a parameter
(in the plugin window) – Opens the Plug-in Automation dialog
to assign automation control to that parameter.
- Setting Automation in pro tools will now also highlight the UI parameter when any
mode of PT automation is active.

3. Main Controls and Parameters

3.1 COMP (Compressor)

Handles the core compression behavior with threshold, ratio, timing, and makeup.

- **Threshold (THR): -20 dB → +20 dB**
Sets the level at which gain reduction begins. As you raise the Ratio, the effective knee tightens, so identical threshold settings feel “steeper” at higher compression ratios.
- **Makeup Gain (MKP): -20 dB → +20 dB**
Compensates for the gain lost during compression. When Global LINK is on, THR & MKP mirror between channels.
- **Ratio: Stepped Values (1.5:1 → 20:1)**
Click through detented ratios: 1.5:1, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 10:1, 20:1. Higher ratios produce more aggressive clamps on peaks.
- **Attack (ATK): Stepped Times**
 - **MOD Off:** Each click selects a fixed time (e.g., 0.1 ms → 30 ms) as labeled on the UI.
 - **ATK MOD On:** Dynamic attack follows incoming crest, giving time-varying attack between the fixed steps.
- **Release (REL): Stepped Times & Auto**
 - **MOD Off:** Fixed, detented release times (e.g., 0.1 ms → 1.6 s).

- **REL MOD On:** Smooth, input-dependent release between steps.
 - **Auto Mode:** A custom program-dependent curve designed for extra “glue,” deviating from the hardware-exact timing for a more musical feel.
 - **Mix (Dry/Wet): 0 % → 100 %**
Smooth, linear blend of compressed vs. dry signal. ideal for parallel compression.
 - **Modes (MN / ST / MS):**
 - **MN (Dual-Mono):** Left and right channels compress independently.
 - **ST (Stereo):** Channels linked for identical gain reduction.
 - **MS (Mid/Side):** Separately compress mid (sum) and side (difference) signals, each in dual-mono mode.
 - **Global LINK:** When engaged, THR, MKP, ATK, REL, RATIO, and MIX all move in unison across L/R (or M/S) channels.
-

3.2 (Saturation Module)

An optional soft-clipper for harmonic coloration; off by default.

- **Engage Button:** Turns the module on/off.
- **Pre/Post Switch:** Places the soft clipper before or after the compressor DSP.

- **Sat Mix: 0 % → 100 %**
Balances pure saturation vs. clean signal.
 - **Odd Harmonics (ODD): ±100 units**
Adds third-order harmonic content. Turning right increases odd harmonics and automatically compensates output level.
 - **Even Harmonics (EVEN): ±100 units**
Introduces second-order harmonics for warmth.
 - **Tone Shelf (TONE): 87 Hz LF Shelf / 10 kHz HF Shelf**
A shelving EQ that's active regardless of module bypass. used to sculpt overall character.
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4. Advanced Sidechain Section (ADV Panel)

Shows or hides the sidechain & saturation controls. Toggle is global across all instances and does not affect DSP when hidden.

4.1 Headroom

Controls detector input level to alter perceived breakup.

- **Range:** -12 dB → +12 dB (default 0 dB)
- **Placement:** Applies **before** the compressor's sidechain detector (does not alter audio I/O level directly).
- **Behavior:** Lowering headroom drives more THD into the detector (more breakup/glue), raising headroom yields cleaner compression.

4.2 Sidechain Filters & EQ

Shape which frequencies trigger compression.

- **HPF / LPF:**
 - **12 dB/oct Slope**
 - **Purpose:** Remove unwanted lows/highs from the detection path.
- **Midband EQ (MF Gain & Q):**
 - **Gain:** ± 12 dB
 - **Proportional Q:** Wider Q at smaller gain settings; tightens as gain increases.
 - **Function:** Sculpt the sidechain's center frequencies for surgical triggering.
- **Solo (Headphone Icon):** Isolates the filtered sidechain signal so you can hear exactly what the compressor "listens" to.

4. Troubleshooting

1. Be sure to re-read through the **Setup** section of this manual just in case.
2. Check the **Kiive Audio FAQ** to see if your issue is already listed.
3. If not, contact **support@kiiveaudio.com** with your plugin version, the details of the issue, and the steps to reproduce it.