

HOW TO USE A COMPRESSOR

STEP 1:

Set the ratio to 3:1.

STEP 2:

Lower the threshold until you're getting around 10 dBs of gain reduction.

STEP 3:

Set your attack time very slow (100 ms).

STEP 4:

Set your release time very fast (5 ms).

STEP 5:

Decrease the attack until you hear the transients of the sound become dull and lifeless. Then back off a bit.

STEP 6:

Increase the release until the compressor is "breathing" in time with the song. This will likely be between 50–150 ms.

STEP 7:

Increase the threshold until you get the desired amount of attack, thickness, and dynamic control. Use your ears instead of looking at the meter.

STEP 8:

Adjust the ratio to taste. Lower the ratio if you want more subtle compression. Raise the ratio if you want more aggressive compression.

STEP 9:

Apply makeup gain to compensate for the volume you lost during compression.

