HOW TO SET UP MIXBUS COMPRESSION

STEP 1:

Set the ratio to 3:1.

STEP 2:

Lower the threshold until you're getting around 10 dBs of gain reduction.
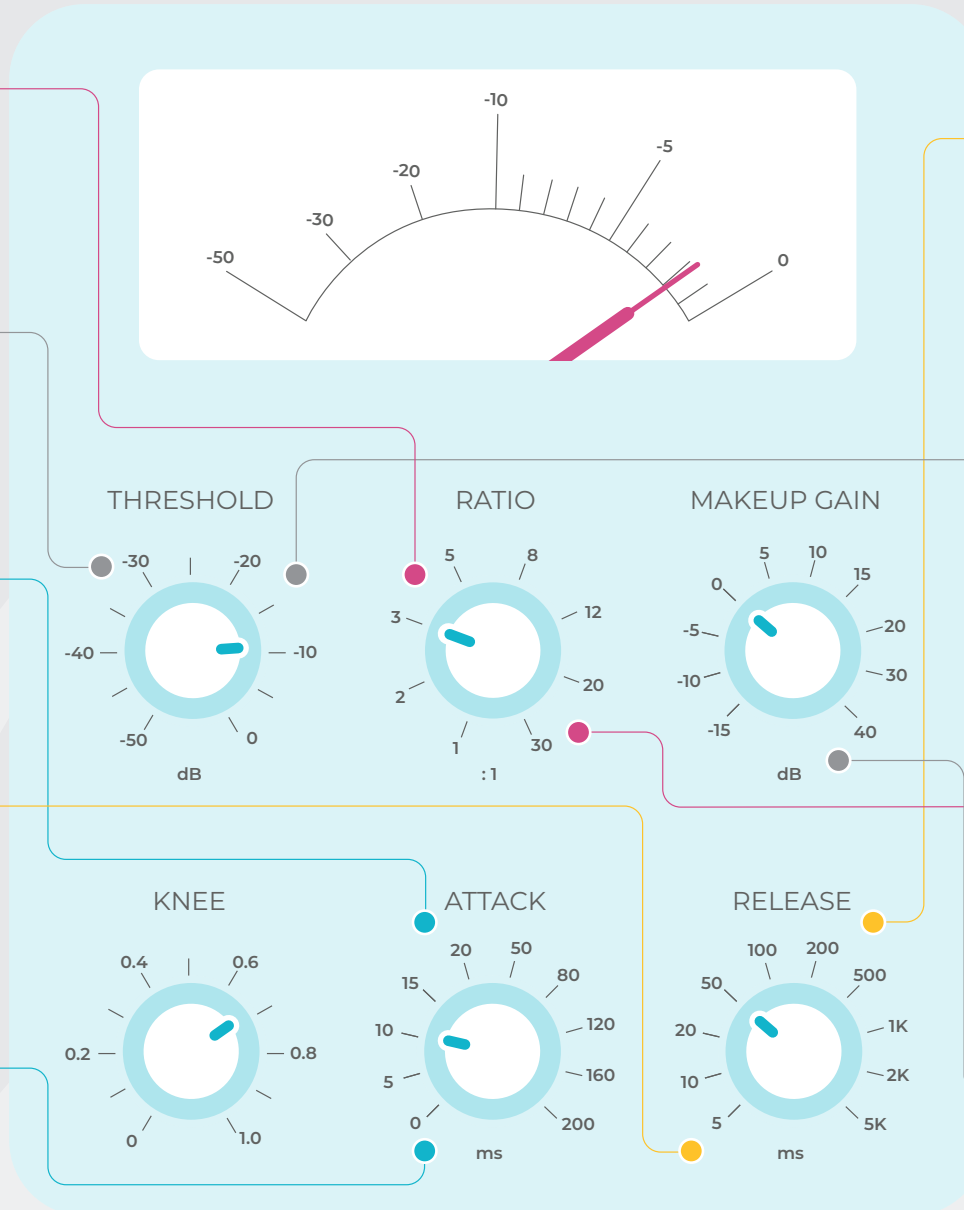
STEP 3:

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. Try soloing the kick and snare - make the gain reduction meter falls back to zero between each hit.

STEP 7:

Increase the threshold until you get the desired amount of aggression, thickness, and dynamic control - usually around 1-2dB of gain reduction.

STEP 8:

Adjust the ratio to taste. Lower the ratio (2:1) if you want more subtle compression. Raise the ratio (4:1) if you want more aggressive compression.

STEP 9:

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

THRESHOLD
-30 -20
-40 -10
-50 0
dB

RATIO
5 8
3 12
2 20
1 30
:1

MAKEUP GAIN
5 10
0 15
-5 20
-10 30
-15 40
dB

KNEE
0.4 0.6
0.2 0.8
0 1.0

ATTACK
20 50
15 80
10 120
5 160
0 200
ms

RELEASE
100 200
50 500
20 1K
10 2K
5 5K
ms

-10 -5
-20 0
-30
-50