

# Compressor in Logic Pro X

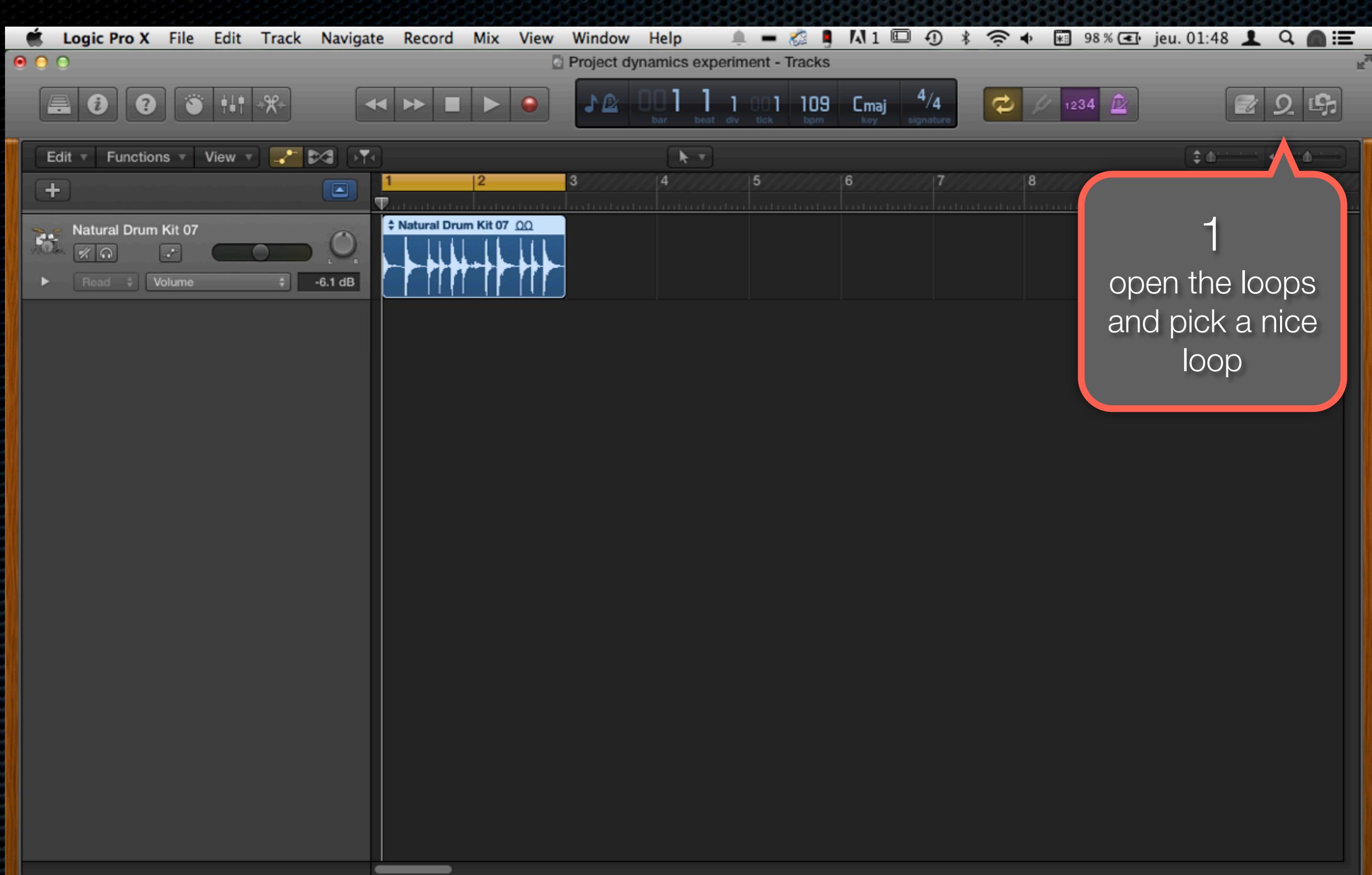
Coursera Week 4

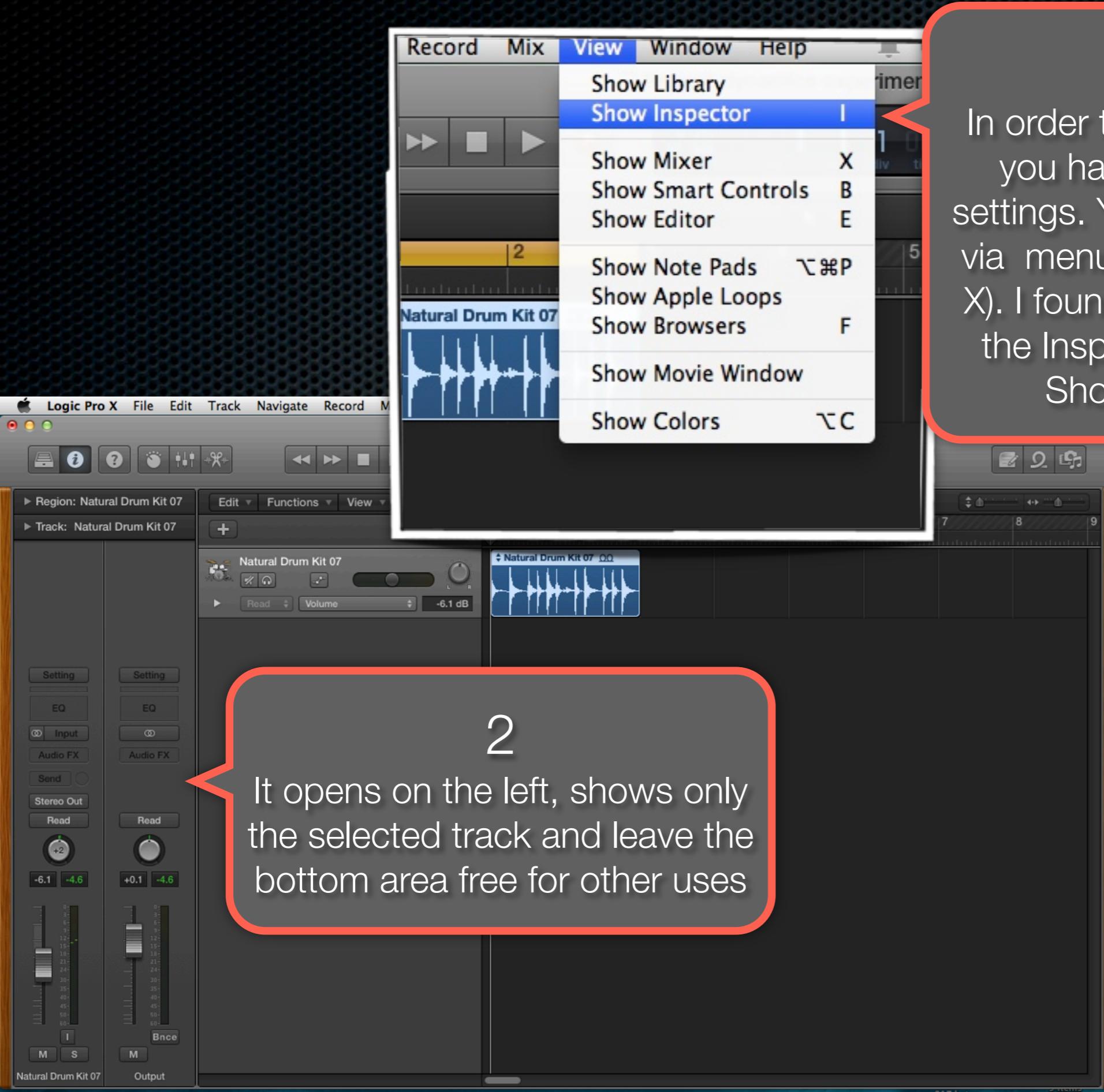
Claude Falguière

My name is Claude. I am a computer scientist and I am curious about music and computers.

This presentation is about :

- Demonstrate how to use a specific compression plugin, including threshold, ratio, attack, and release. Describe what visuals the device has, including gain reduction meters, transfer functions, and gain reduction traces if any.



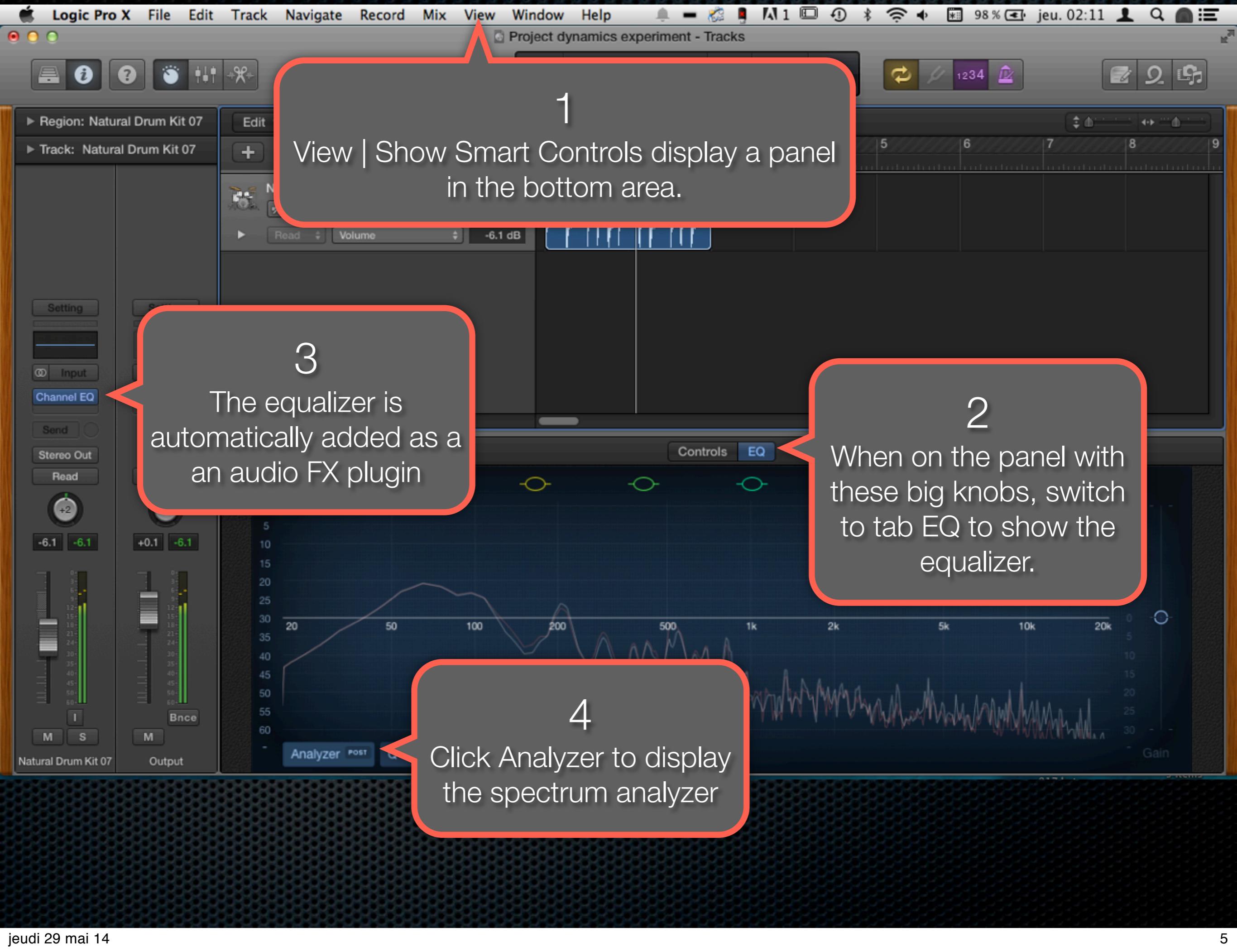


1

In order to add the compressor you have to show the track settings. You can show the mixer via menu View | Show Mixer (or X). I found it more handy to add the Inspector via menu View | Show Inspector (or I).

2

It opens on the left, shows only the selected track and leave the bottom area free for other uses



1

Click in the audio FX  
area and select a  
compressor





Logic Pro X interface showing the 'Natural Drum Kit 07' track. The Compressor settings are displayed, with the 'Auto Gain' slider highlighted. A callout box provides a tip about auto gain.

**Compressor Settings:**

- Circuit Type: Platinum
- Gain Reduction: -40 dB
- Attack: 10.0ms
- Release: 48.0ms
- Ratio: 30.0:1
- Knee: 0.7
- Compressor Threshold: -20.0dB
- Gain: -1.0dB
- Limiter Threshold: 0.0dB
- Peak / RMS: Peak
- Side Chain Detection: Max

**Callout Tip:**

1

Auto gain is on by default. Its a best practice to turn it off. The gain that should be applied after compression can be adjusted manually through the slider.

3  
Function is represented in this box.  
There is a peak on the right side  
because of the limiter

4  
This gauge shows the  
gain reduction caused by  
the compression

1  
Ratio select the  
amount of  
compression.

2  
Threshold controls the  
level above which  
compression if applied.

1

Attack controls how fast the compressor will react when the sound goes above the compression threshold and should be lowered

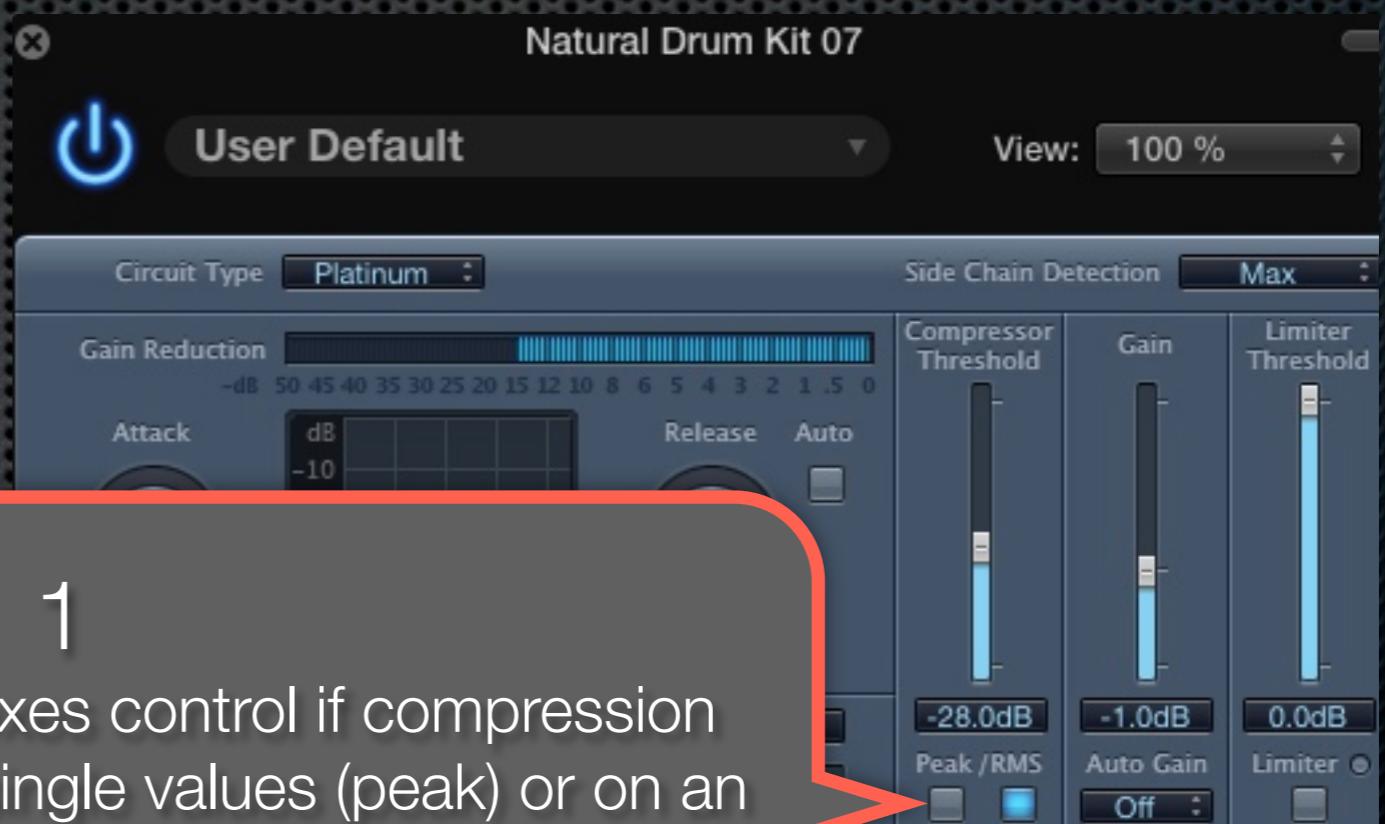
2

Release controls how fast the compressor will react when the sound returns below the compression threshold and should not be altered

3

Knee is another way to smooth the compressor effect and produce a more natural effect





1

Finally these checkboxes control if compression should be applied on single values (peak) or on an average values over a period of time (RMS which stands for Root Mean Square)





1

Equalizer's spectrum analyzer shows a more dynamic view of what happens when threshold and ratio are modified. Amplitude is the vertical axis.

# Reflection

I work in computers. My job is to write software but there are people whose job is to provide resources (servers, network, electrical power) and take care of services provided to users (ensure software is running, stop/start, backup data, fix things, run appropriate procedures to clean up data. Its called Operations or Production.

Music production job sometimes sounds like IT Production to me. They take care of noise, wrong notes and make musician life easier.