

# WAVES

# CLA DRUMS

## USER GUIDE



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# Chapter 1 – Introduction

## 1.1 Welcome

Thank you for choosing Waves! In order to get the most out of your Waves processor, please take the time to read through this manual.

In conjunction, we also suggest that you become familiar with [www.wavesupport.net](http://www.wavesupport.net). There you will find an extensive **Answer Base**, the latest **Tech Specs**, detailed **Installation** guides, new **Software Updates**, and current information on **Authorization** and **Registration**.

By signing up at [www.wavesupport.net](http://www.wavesupport.net), you will receive personalized information on your registered products, reminders when updates are available, and information on your authorization status.

## 1.2 Product Overview

The Waves Artist Signature Series is our exclusive line of application-specific audio processors, created in collaboration with the world's top producers, engineers, and mixing engineers. Every Signature Series plug-in has been precision-crafted to capture the artist's distinct sound and production style. For experienced and aspiring audio professionals alike, the Waves Signature Series allows you to dial up the sound you're looking for quickly, without interrupting the creative flow.

The CLA Artist Collection consists of six plug-ins, each designed to handle a specific mixing task:

- CLA Vocals
- CLA Drums
- CLA Bass
- CLA Guitars
- CLA Unplugged
- CLA Effects

## 1.3 Concepts and Terminology

### Sensitivity Control/Sensitivity LED

The Sensitivity LED's 3 colors indicate when appropriate levels are reached:

- ❖ Led Off (too low)
- ❖ Green (good)
- ❖ Yellow (optimal)
- ❖ Red (very hot)

Push the Sensitivity Control upwards until the LED lights up. We recommend adjusting the Sensitivity Control as soon as you open the plug-in, using the section of your song with the highest peaks for best results.

In most cases, the Sensitivity LED indicates that your levels hit the processor in a way that will give you the intended output result. However, it's important to keep in mind that optimal results for your source material may be achieved even when the Sensitivity LED does not display "optimal" levels (yellow). As always, trust your ears.

### Modes

The CLA Drums plug-in is designed primarily for multi-track drum kit recordings. Each of the plug-in's six Drum Modes is optimized for a different element of the drum kit or microphone position: Kick, Snare, Toms, Cowbell (also suitable for cymbals, hi-hats, and bells), Overheads, and Room.

### Color

Each fader on CLA Artist Signature Collection plug-ins controls a specific function, such as compression or reverb. Each function has a color-coded selector which controls the internal characteristics of that function, resulting in a different sound character or "Color." You can mix and match different colors across the different faders.

## 1.4 A Few Words from Chris

"One of my favorite activities is to work on drums. When creating the **CLA Drums** plug-in, I had one thing in mind: Anyone who uses it can get a great drum sound for any song and any mix and just have fun! There are six different modes: Kick, Snare, Toms, Overheads, Room and, of course, my favorite, Cowbell. There are three color-coded presets for bass EQ, treble EQ, compression, and reverb, plus a noise gate so you can even get rid of leakage. The faders let you control the amount of each effect and, especially important for drums, we've included a phase switch so you can find the best setting for the kit."

## 1.5 Components

WaveShell technology enables us to split Waves processors into smaller plug-ins, which we call **components**. Having a choice of components for a particular processor gives you the flexibility to choose the configuration best suited to your material.

The Waves CLA Drums has two components:

- CLA Drums Mono-to-Stereo – Mono in to Stereo out component
- CLA Drums Stereo – Stereo in to Stereo out component

## Chapter 2 – Quickstart Guide

- Insert the CLA Drums plug-in on a drum track.
- Select the correct Drum Mode.
- Adjust the Sensitivity control until you achieve proper levels, as indicated by the Sensitivity LED and the input meter.
- The current plug-in settings now represent Chris's default setup.

Tweak the following controls to fit your mix:

- Adjust the Bass and Treble faders. Toggle through the Colors to find the EQ that works best for the song.
- Use Compress for dynamic range control. Toggle through the Colors to find that which works best for the song.
- The Gate is used to reduce spill or bleed from other elements of the kit. Choose hard or soft gating.
- Adjust Reverb and Delay effect levels. Toggle through the Colors to find that which works best for the song.

Please note:

- When all colors are set to clear (Bypass/Mute), some fixed processing as designed by Chris is still active.
  - EQ adjustment will take effect once the EQ faders are moved. At zero, cycling through the EQ Colors will have no effect.
  - All other faders are active and set to Chris's default setup when at zero.
  - Delay control is available in Cowbell mode only; Gate control is not available in this mode.
- > If the Output meter goes into the red, use the Output fader to lower the Output level.

## Chapter 3 – Interface and Controls

### 3.1 Interface



## 3.2 Controls



**Drum Mode** toggles between the six drum types.

Range: Kick, Snare, Toms, OH (Over Heads), Room, Cowbell (cymbals, hi-hats and bells).



**Input Sensitivity** is used to achieve optimal plug-in input level.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Input Meter** displays input signal peak level.

Range: -26 to 0 dBFS

**Clip LED** lights up when levels exceed 0 dBFS. Click inside the meter area to reset.





**Balance** adjusts the offset between left and right signals. (*Stereo component only*)

Range: +/- 6 dB (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Sensitivity LED** indicates the presence of proper levels.

Range: LED off (too low), Green (good), Yellow (optimal), Red (very hot)



**Phase Switch** engages input phase reversal.

Range: On/Off

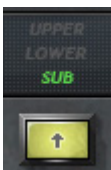
Default: Off



**Bass** controls low frequency gain.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Bass Color** toggles between low frequency filters.

Range: Clear (Bypass), Green (Sub), Blue (Lower), Red (Upper)

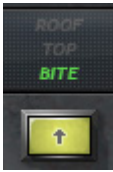
Default: Green (Sub)



**Treble** controls high frequency gain.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Treble Color** toggles between high frequency filters.

Range: Clear (Bypass), Green (Bite), Blue (Top), Red (Roof)

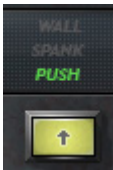
Default: Green (Bite)



**Compress** controls the dynamics range.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Compress Color** toggles different compression characters.

Range: Clear (Bypass), Green (Push), Blue (Spank), Red (Wall)

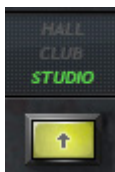
Default: Green (Push)



**Reverb** controls the reverb wet mix.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Reverb Color** toggles between reverb environments.

Range: Clear (Mute), Green (Studio), Blue (Club), Red (Hall)

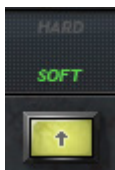
Default: Green (Studio)



**Gate** controls the gate threshold. *(Not available in Cowbell mode.)*

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Gate Color** toggles between gating shapes. *(Not available in Cowbell mode.)*

Range: Clear (Bypass), Green (Soft), Red (Hard)

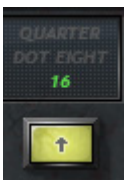
Default: Green (Soft)



**Delay** controls the delay wet mix. (*Cowbell mode only.*)

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Delay Color** toggles delay times and character. (*Cowbell mode only; delay time syncs to session BPM.*)

Range: Clear (Mute), Green (16 – 1/16 note), Blue (Dot Eight – Dotted 1/8 note), Red (Quarter note)

Default: Green (16)



**Output** controls the output level.

Range: +/- 10 (in 0.1 steps)

Default: 0



**Output Meter** displays output signal peak level.  
Range: -26 to 0 dBFS

**Clip LED** lights up when levels exceed 0 dBFS. Click inside the meter area to reset.

## Chapter 4 – The WaveSystem

### 4.1 The WaveSystem Toolbar

All Waves processors feature the WaveSystem toolbar which takes care of most administrative functions you will encounter while working with your Waves software. The features of the WaveSystem toolbar are the same on practically all Waves processors, so familiarity with its features will be helpful whichever processor you are using.

#### Toolbar Functions

<b>Undo</b>	Undoes the last 32 actions.
<b>Redo</b>	Redoes the last 32 undone actions.
<b>Setup A/B</b>	Toggles between two presets. This is useful for close comparison of different parameter settings
<b>Copy A-&gt;B</b>	Copies the current settings to the second preset register
<b>Load</b>	Recalls presets from file
<b>Save</b>	Saves presets in the Waves file formats
<b>?</b>	Opens the manual for the processor you are using

### 4.2 Preset Handling

#### Preset Types

**Factory Presets** are permanent presets in the Load menu. Factory presets cannot be over-written or deleted. When applicable, different component plug-ins may have different factory presets.

**User Presets** are your favorite settings of the plug-in saved as a preset in the Load menu, under 'User Presets'. User Presets can be over-written and deleted.

**Setup Files** may contain more than one preset. For example, a single file can contain all the presets for a session. When you open a Setup File, all its setups become part of your Load pop-up menu for fast access. This can be particularly useful with multiple instances of a plug-in in a single session. By saving all the settings you create into a single Setup File, they can all be quickly available for every instance of that plug-in.

## Loading Presets and Setups



Click on the Load button to see the Load pop-up menu. The menu is divided into four sections. If a section is not currently available it will not appear in the Load pop-up menu.

**Open Preset File...** Select to open any setup or preset file, whether from the Library or your own creations.

**'Filename.xps':** Displays any currently loaded Setup File and its presets.

**Factory Presets:** Displays the default Factory Presets.

**User Presets:** Displays any loaded User Presets.

## Saving Presets and Setups



Click on the Save button to see the Save pop-up menu. Four options are available. If an option is not currently available it will be grayed out and inaccessible.

**Save to New File...** Select this to start a new Setup file. There are two prompts - first for the setup filename, then for the preset name. You must provide a name for both the setup file and the preset. Click OK (ENTER) to complete the save. It is a good idea to create a folder in which to save several setup files for a project.

**Save 'File Name' – "Preset Name"** Overwrites the settings of the loaded preset (whether a User Preset or a preset from a Setup File) with the current settings. If a Setup File is currently loaded, the name of the Setup File is displayed followed by the name of the preset itself. If a User Preset is loaded, its name is displayed.

**Save to 'File Name' As...** Saves the current settings as a new preset into the Setup file that is open (if one is not open, the option is grayed out). You will be prompted to give the preset a name.

**Put into Preset Menu As...** Save the current settings into a User Preset that will always be in your Load menu (until deleted). You will be prompted to give this preset a name. User Presets are stored in the plug-in's preference file.

## Deleting Presets

You may delete User Presets and presets within a Setup File. Factory Presets and Setup Library files cannot be deleted or overwritten.

1. Hold the Command (Mac)/Control (PC) key down.
2. Click-and-hold the Load button to see the pop-up menu.
3. While still holding the Command/Control key, select the preset or setup to delete.
4. A confirmation box will appear, allowing you to cancel or 'OK' the deletion.

## A/B Comparison and Copying



The Setup A/Setup B button may be clicked to compare two settings. If you load a preset in the Setup B position, this will not affect the preset loaded into the Setup A position, and vice-versa.

If you want to slightly modify the settings in Setup A, you can copy them to Setup B by clicking on the Copy to B button, then alter Setup A and compare with the original Setup B.

The name of the current setup will be shown in the title bar (on platforms which support it), and will switch as you change from Setup A to Setup B.

Note: an asterisk will be added to the preset name when a change is made to the preset.

## 4.3 Interface Controls

**Controls can be in one of three states:**

- **Not Selected** where the control is not the target of any user entry
- **Selected** where the control is the target of mouse control entry only
- **Selected and Active** where the control is the target for both mouse and keyboard entry

## Toggle Buttons

Toggle buttons display the state of a control, and allow switching between two or more states. **Single-click** to change the control's state. Some toggle buttons have a text display which updates with the current setting, and others (bypass, solo, or monitoring toggles) illuminate when the control is active.

Some processors have **link buttons** between a pair of toggle buttons, allowing click-and-drag adjustment while retaining the offset between the controls.



## Value Window Buttons

Value windows display the value of a control and allow **click-and-drag** adjustment, or **direct control via the keyboard**.

- **Using the mouse**, click-and-drag on the value window to adjust. Some value windows support left/right, some up/down (as you hover over a button, arrows will appear to let you know which direction of movement that button supports).
- **Using the arrow keys**, click once with mouse to select the button, and then use up/down – left/right (depending on the direction supported by that button) to move in the smallest incremental steps across the button's range (holding down the arrow keys will move faster through the range).
- **Using key entry**, double click on the button to open the value window, and directly enter the value from your keyboard. If you enter an out of range number, the button stays selected but remains at the current setting (system beeps? If system sounds are on?)

Some processors have **link buttons** between a pair of value windows, allowing click-and-drag adjustment while retaining the offset between the controls.

## Sliders

Click on the slider itself or anywhere within the sliders track. The numerical value of the slider settings is displayed in a hover window above/below the slider path.

## Hover Box

Hovering boxes will appear and display the control value when hovering with the mouse over the control.

## TAB Functions

TAB moves the 'selected' status to the next control, with shift-TAB moving in the reverse direction.

Additionally, the Mac has an option-TAB function for 'down' movement and shift-option-TAB for 'up' movement where applicable.

If you have several Value Window Buttons selected, TAB functions will take you through the selected controls only.

Hitting Esc or Return will return the 'focus' to the DAW application.

## 4.4 Waves Preferences (Pro Tools only)

When launching Pro Tools, hold Shift to view the Waves plug-in Preferences window. The following options are available:

- Don't use AudioSuite plug-ins
- Dont use RTAS plug-ins
- Don't use TDM plug-ins
- Rescan all plug-ins
- HUI control surfaces support (low res)
- Enable single-click text entry