

HOW TO SET UP YOUR COMPRESSOR

Step 1:

Set the threshold to 0dB.

Step 2:

Set the ratio as high as possible.

Step 3:

Set the attack and release as fast as possible.

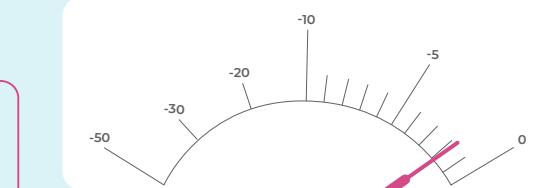
Step 4:

If you have a knee, set it to 0.0, AKA a "hard knee."

Step 5:

IF YOU'RE TARGETING THE PEAKS...

Lower the threshold until you're getting short spikes of gain reduction at the beginning of each note. If the compression doesn't return to zero quickly, you've gone too far.



THRESHOLD

-30 | -20
-40 | -50
dB

RATIO

5 | 8
3 | 2 | 1 : 1 | 30
12

MAKEUP GAIN

0 | 5 | 10 | 15
-5 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -30 | -40
dB

KNEE

0.4 | 0.6
0.2 | 0.0 | 1.0

ATTACK

5 | 10 | 20
2 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 100 | 30 | 50
ms

RELEASE

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

Step 6:

Adjust your attack and release time to match your compression style.

Step 7:

Adjust your knee to make the compression more natural.

Step 8:

Turn your ratio to 1:1, then slowly turn it up. Stop once you have the amount of gain reduction you want.

Step 9:

Adjust your makeup gain to match your compression style.

IF YOU'RE TARGETING THE VALLEYS...

Lower the threshold until you're getting gain reduction through at least half the note. If the compression never returns to zero, you've gone too far.