



VCA with a bad temper.

A classic studio VCA bus compressor with hardware-inspired response. Two knobs do the heavy lifting — **THRESHOLD** picks where compression kicks in, **COMPRESS** sets how hard. Linked Stereo, M/S routing and Input/Output Auto Gain on top.



LINKED STEREO / L/R / M/S

STUDIO VCA RESPONSE

OVERSAMPLING 1X TO 4X

VST3 / CLAP / STANDALONE

01. FIRST MOVE

1 SET THRESHOLD

Pull **THRESHOLD** down until the **GR** meter starts ticking on the loudest bits — usually **-12 to -18 dBFS** on a busy bus.

2 PICK A RATIO

COMPRESS reads as a ratio: **2:1** for glue, **4:1** for control, **8:1** for grip, **20:1** / **INF** for hard peak control.

3 MATCH LOUDNESS

Flip **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on so bypass stays level-matched, then judge tone instead of volume.

02. ANATOMY AT A GLANCE

HEADER

Title, presets, undo/redo, A/B compare, menu. Trial chip on the right of the title until activated.

BIG GRAPH

Live input/output traces over time + the transfer curve with the KNEE marker. Right edge: GR meter.

COMPRESSION CORE

THRESHOLD · **COMPRESS** · **SC FILTER**. Per-lane in independent L/R or M/S; shared detector in linked Stereo.

GLOBAL

Mix (parallel blend), Link L/R, M/S Mode, Master Bypass.

INPUT / OUTPUT

Pre and post gain with optional Link and lane-aware **AUTO GAIN** (v1.1.0).

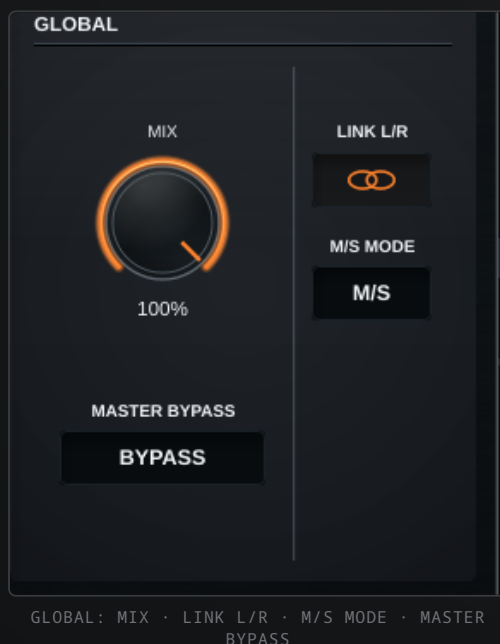
FOOTER

Quality (oversampling) · latency · sample rate · meters · output mode · CPU · version.

03. USEFUL STARTING POINTS

GOAL	MOVE	TIP
Mix bus glue	THR -18 dBFS, COMPRESS 2:1, MIX 100%	Should pull 1-3 dB GR on louder sections.
Vocal control	THR -22 dBFS, COMPRESS 4:1, SC FILTER on	Side-chain filter keeps low rumble out of the detector.
Drum bus punch	THR -14 dBFS, COMPRESS 4:1, MIX 60%	Parallel blend keeps transient snap.
Bass tightening	THR -16 dBFS, COMPRESS 8:1	Hard control, then push OUTPUT for body.
Hard peak control	THR -3 dBFS, COMPRESS 20:1 / INF	Very firm compression for peak control. Not a true limiter; use a final limiter for a strict ceiling.
Wider top	LINK off, M/S, SIDE THR -12, COMPRESS 4:1	Compresses only the sides; leaves the centre alone.

04. STEREO + MID/SIDE IN 30 SECONDS



Linked Stereo (default). **LINK L/R** on. Both channels share the same detector and apply the same gain reduction, so Mastino behaves as one stereo compressor.

Independent L/R. Turn **LINK L/R** off. Both lanes get their own THRESHOLD / COMPRESS / SC FILTER. Use it to compress a stereo imbalance asymmetrically.

Mid/Side. Turn **LINK L/R** off and **M/S MODE** on. The upper lane processes **MID**, the lower lane processes **SIDE**. Use MID-only compression for vocal glue and SIDE-only compression for width control.

05. AUTO GAIN

Each of **INPUT** and **OUTPUT** has an **AUTO GAIN** toggle. When on, that stage automatically targets **0 VU / -18 dBFS RMS** and the matching manual gain knob is hidden. Available in linked Stereo, L/R and M/S. The target is fixed in v1.1.0.

Habit: switch **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on while you compare to bypass — loudness stops biasing tone decisions. Switch it off and reach for OUTPUT when you want a deliberate level.

06. MIX KNOB (PARALLEL)

The **MIX** knob in the GLOBAL panel blends compressed with dry. At **100%** you hear pure Mastino; lower it for the classic **New York** parallel-compression sound — heavy ratio + low threshold + ~30-60% mix keeps the original transients while the squashed signal sits underneath.

07. COMPARE HONESTLY

A / B

The header has an **A / B** toggle. A and B start as the same snapshot; tweak A, click B for a fresh path, then flip to compare.

MASTER BYPASS

BYPASS in the GLOBAL panel hard-bypasses the whole plugin. Flip **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on first so bypass is level-matched — louder is not the same as better.

08. RECIPES

Bus polish: THR -18 · COMPRESS 2:1 · SC FILTER off · MIX 100%. Aim for 1-3 dB GR on chorus. Use OUTPUT AUTO GAIN to compare.

Vocal lead: THR -22 · COMPRESS 4:1 · SC FILTER on. Tight control of dynamics; flip MIX down to 70% if it sounds choked.

Drum smash: THR -12 · COMPRESS 8:1 · MIX 60%. Parallel blend keeps the click; the squash adds body.

Side-only widener: LINK off, M/S on, SIDE THR -10, COMPRESS 4:1. Compresses only the width; mid stays untouched.

Master glue: THR -16 · COMPRESS 2:1 · MIX 100%. Aim for very gentle GR, usually under 2 dB. Use OUTPUT AUTO GAIN to compare fairly.

09. INSTALL

FORMAT	FILE	DEFAULT LOCATION
VST3	Mastino60.vst3	Linux ~/.vst3/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\
CLAP	Mastino60.clap	Linux ~/.clap/ · Windows C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP\

Activation: load the plugin, click the trial / licence chip in the header, paste your licence key, and follow the offline activation steps.

Mastino 60 processes audio entirely offline. Visit mouseplugins.com/en/products/mastino-60 for support and updates. The full User Manual covers every control in depth.

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