



# VCA with a bad temper.

A VCA-style bus compressor with a hardware-inspired response — now three-band. THRESHOLD picks where compression starts, COMPRESS sets how hard, GAIN makes up the level — per band, per lane. Stereo, L/R and M/S routing with Input/Output Auto Gain on top.



THREE-BAND MULTIBAND (V1.2.0)

STEREO / L/R / M/S

OVERSAMPLING 1X TO 8X

VST3 / CLAP / STANDALONE

## WHAT'S NEW: MULTIBAND IN 60 SECONDS

### THREE BANDS PER LANE

Each lane shows **LO**, **MID** and **HI** band columns. Every band has its own **THRESHOLD**, **COMPRESS** and **GAIN** (per-band makeup). Switch **LO** and **HI** on or off from the toggle in each column; **MID** is always on.

### TWO CROSSOVERS

The **LO/MID** and **MID/HI** knobs between the columns set where the bands split — defaults **180 Hz** and **3 kHz**. Turn a band off and its range folds back into **MID**, so the active bands always cover the whole signal.

### PER-BAND GR · GLOBAL SC

Each band has its own **GR** read-out with a grey peak-hold **max** — click a band's GR strip to reset its hold. The **SC FILTER** is now a single control in the **GLOBAL** panel, under the **MIX** knob.

**Collapses to single-band.** With both outer bands off by default, Mastino keeps the familiar single-band behaviour and character. v1.1 presets load onto the **MID** band with **LO** and **HI** disabled until you switch them on.

## 01. FIRST MOVE

### 1 SET THRESHOLD

Start on **MID** (always on). Pull its **THRESHOLD** down until the band's **GR** read-out 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** glue, **4:1** control, **8:1** grip, **20:1 / INF** for hard peak control. Set it per band.

### 3 ADD A BAND

Switch **LO** or **HI** on to treat the lows or highs separately. Set its crossover, dial its own **THRESHOLD/COMPRESS**, and use **GAIN** to rebalance that band.

## 02. ANATOMY AT A GLANCE

### HEADER

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

### BIG GRAPH

Live input/output traces + the transfer curve with the KNEE marker. With more than one band on, it splits into one panel per active band — each with its own knee. Right edge: overall GR meter.

### BAND COLUMNS

**LO · MID · HI**, side by side. Each = **THRESHOLD · COMPRESS · GAIN** + (LO/HI) an on/off toggle, and its own GR read-out with peak-hold max. Colour-coded per lane.

### CROSSEOVERS

The **LO/MID** and **MID/HI** knobs between the columns set the split frequencies.

### GLOBAL

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

### INPUT / OUTPUT · FOOTER

Pre/post gain with optional Link and lane-aware **AUTO GAIN**. Footer: quality (oversampling), latency, sample rate, meters, output mode, CPU, version.

## 03. BANDS & CROSSEOVERS

**MID is the anchor.** It is always on and, on its own, keeps the familiar single-band Mastino behaviour across the full signal. Everything else builds on top.

**Turn on LO and/or HI** to split off the lows or highs and compress them independently — tame a boomy low end while leaving the rest less affected, or grip harsh highs while the body stays open. The **LO/MID** and **MID/HI** knobs set the split points; whatever an outer band doesn't cover stays with MID.

**Per-band GAIN** is makeup for that band only — rebalance the bands after compression without touching the global **OUTPUT**. The global **OUTPUT** still trims the whole lane.

## 04. USEFUL STARTING POINTS

GOAL	MOVE	TIP
Mix bus glue	MID THR -18, COMPRESS 2:1, MIX 100%	Single band is plenty. Aim for 1-3 dB GR on louder sections.
Tame boomy lows	LO on, LO/MID ~150 Hz, LO THR -20, 4:1	Controls the low end while leaving the mids less affected.
Grip harsh highs	HI on, MID/HI ~4 kHz, HI THR -22, 4:1	Holds the top end while the body stays open.
Full 3-band master	LO + HI on, gentle 2:1 each, low GR	Use per-band GAIN to rebalance after.
Vocal control	MID THR -22, 4:1, SC FILTER on	Side-chain filter keeps low rumble out of the detector.
Width control	LINK off, M/S, SIDE THR -12, 4:1	Compresses the SIDE lane only.

## 05. STEREO + MID/SIDE IN 30 SECONDS

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

**Independent L/R.** Turn LINK L/R off. Each lane gets its own bands and detector — **LEFT** in green, **RIGHT** in blue. 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** (magenta), the lower processes **SIDE** (red). Use MID compression for centre-focused control and SIDE compression for width shaping.

## 06. AUTO GAIN

Each of **INPUT** and **OUTPUT** has an **AUTO GAIN** toggle. When on, that stage uses **0 VU / -18 dBFS RMS** as its level reference and hides the matching manual gain knob. Available in Stereo, L/R and M/S.

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.

## 07. MIX KNOB (PARALLEL)

The **MIX** knob in the GLOBAL panel blends compressed with dry. At **100%** you hear the fully processed signal; 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. Mix is global; it blends the whole multiband result against the dry signal.

## 08. 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 bypasses Mastino's processing. Flip **OUTPUT AUTO GAIN** on first so bypass comparisons are level-matched — louder is not the same as better.

## 09. RECIPES

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

**3-band master glue:** LO + HI on · LO/MID 150 Hz · MID/HI 4 kHz · ~2:1 each · very gentle GR. Rebalance with per-band GAIN, then compare with OUTPUT AUTO GAIN.

**Low-end tightener:** LO on · LO/MID 120 Hz · LO THR -18 · 8:1. Hard control of the lows; lift LO GAIN for body.

**De-harsh the top:** HI on · MID/HI 4.5 kHz · HI THR -24 · 4:1. Holds harsh highs without dulling the mids.

**Side-only width control:** LINK off, M/S on, SIDE THR -10, 4:1. Compresses the SIDE lane while the MID lane stays uncompressed.

## 10. 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\
Standalone	Mastino60 · Mastino60.exe	Run from the extracted folder.

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

## COPYRIGHT + CONTACT

© 2026 MousePlugins. All rights reserved.

Mastino 60, MousePlugins, the MousePlugins logo, and related product names are trademarks or trade names of MousePlugins.

### WEBSITE

[mouseplugins.com](https://mouseplugins.com)

### SUPPORT

[support@mouseplugins.com](mailto:support@mouseplugins.com)

### PRODUCT PAGE

[mouseplugins.com/en/products/mastino-60](https://mouseplugins.com/en/products/mastino-60)

## LICENCE SUMMARY

This software, its documentation, graphics, presets, audio processing design, user interface, and related materials are protected by copyright and other applicable laws. You may install and use Mastino 60 according to the licence supplied with the software. You may not redistribute, resell, sublicense, rent, lease, modify, republish, or make derivative works from the software or documentation without written permission from MousePlugins.

You may not reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble, bypass licence checks, remove copy protection, or attempt to extract proprietary implementation details from the software, except where such restriction is not permitted by mandatory applicable law.

The full licence terms, third-party notices, and governing-law clause are included in the Mastino 60 **User Manual**, available at the support page above.

## INDEPENDENCE + PRIVACY

All third-party trademarks, plugin formats, host names, and product names mentioned in this guide belong to their respective owners. MousePlugins is independent and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by any third-party hardware or software manufacturer.

Mastino 60 processes audio locally and verifies licences offline. No internet connection is required for normal use after activation.