



VCA with a bad temper.

A VCA-style multiband bus compressor with a hardware-inspired response. THRESHOLD picks where compression starts, RATIO sets how hard, GAIN makes up the level — per band, per lane. New in v2.0.0: **GR Intelligence** — pick a source profile, set the gain reduction you want, and Mastino moves the threshold to reach it. Stereo, L/R and M/S routing with Input/Output Auto Gain, plus per-band CLIP for density and drive.



GR INTELLIGENCE (V2.0.0)

THREE-BAND MULTIBAND

PER-BAND CLIP (V2.0.2)

STEREO / L/R / M/S

VST3 / CLAP / STANDALONE

GR INTELLIGENCE IN 60 SECONDS

1 PICK A PROFILE

Choose a source profile — **Kick**, **Snare**, **Drum Bus**, **Bass**, **Vocal**, **Mix Bus**, **Master** or **Custom**. It sets a sensible **TARGET** and the range the guidance line reads you against.

2 SET A TARGET

TARGET is the gain reduction you want, **0–12 dB**. Watch the live **AVG GR**, **PEAK GR** and **CREST** read-outs as the band works.

3 TURN AUTO ON

Mastino steers the band's threshold toward your target and holds the level with matching make-up. The threshold shows the live value — drag it to take over.

Still single-band when you want it. MID is always on and, on its own, keeps the classic single-band Mastino character. LO and HI switch on only when you need them, and v1.x presets load with both outer bands off.

01. FIRST MOVE

1 SELECT A BAND

Click a band on the graph — the **coloured** one is active, the others dimmed. COMPRESSION CONTROLS and GR INTELLIGENCE bind to it. Start on **MID** (always on).

2 THRESHOLD + RATIO

Pull **THRESHOLD** down until the GR read-outs tick on the loudest bits. On a busy bus, the threshold often lands around **-12 to -18 dBFS**. **RATIO: 2:1** glue, **4:1** control, **8:1** grip, **20:1/INF** hard.

3 OR AIM FOR A RESULT

Prefer to dial by feel? Pick a GR Intelligence **profile**, set a **TARGET**, turn **AUTO** on, and let Mastino find the threshold. Level-match with **OUTPUT AUTO**, then trim **OUTPUT** manually if needed.

02. ANATOMY AT A GLANCE

HEADER

Title, presets, undo/redo, A/B compare, copy/paste, menu (incl. **Help / F1**). Trial chip by the title until activated.

BIG GRAPH

Live traces + transfer curve with the KNEE. Splits into one panel per active band, with crossover handles, a per-band Mix control (a draggable **Mix: 100%** label) and per-band Mute/Solo + CLIP buttons. Right edge: GR meter.

COMPRESSION CONTROLS

THRESHOLD · RATIO · GAIN for the active band + lane. The chain icon is **LINK / UNLINK**; the indicators show the lane and active band.

GR INTELLIGENCE

Profile, live **AVG / PEAK GR** + **CREST**, a **TARGET**, an **AUTO** toggle, and a plain-language guidance line.

GLOBAL

MIX (parallel blend), Master Bypass, **SC FILTER**, stereo **LINK** and **M/S MODE**.

INPUT / OUTPUT · FOOTER

Pre/post gain with **LINK** and **AUTO**. Footer: oversampling rate, latency, sample rate, meters, output mode, CPU, version.

03. COMPRESSION CONTROLS

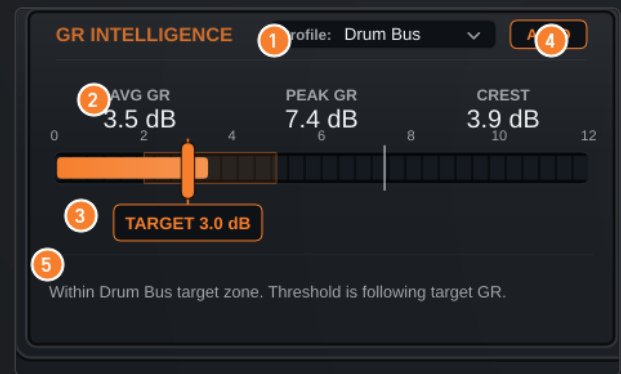
One band at a time. COMPRESSION CONTROLS always shows **THRESHOLD**, **RATIO** and **GAIN** for the band and lane you selected on the graph — the indicators in the panel header tell you which. The chain icon is the stereo **LINK**: leave it on for one stereo compressor, or click to **UNLINK** and edit the two lanes independently.

04. GR INTELLIGENCE

1 PROFILE · 2 LIVE GR · 3 TARGET · 4 AUTO · 5 GUIDANCE

GR Intelligence reframes the compressor around the result you want — the **gain reduction** — not just the threshold.

Profile is a starting point for common sources; it sets a default TARGET and the range the guidance line measures against. **AVG / PEAK GR** and **CREST** are live read-outs — average, loudest, and how peaky the reduction is.



TARGET + AUTO: set the gain reduction you want and turn AUTO on. Mastino steers the band's **effective threshold** to reach it and holds the level with matching make-up. The threshold control shows the live value; **drag it to turn AUTO off** and continue by hand. Profile is global; TARGET and AUTO are per band and per lane.

05. BANDS, CROSSOVERS, MIX + CLIP

MID is the anchor — always on, classic single-band behaviour. Switch **LO** or **HI** on to split off the lows or highs and compress them on their own; whatever an outer band doesn't cover stays with MID.

Crossovers: drag the two handles on the graph (**LO/MID**, **MID/HI**) to set the split frequencies. **Per-band GAIN** is makeup for that band only — rebalance after compression without touching the global OUTPUT.

Per-band MIX: each band carries its own parallel Mix control on the graph. Pull a band's MIX down for parallel compression on that band alone — hammer the lows and blend them back under the dry, while MID and HI stay at **100%**.

Per-band MUTE / SOLO + CLIP: with two or more bands active, each band's top-right corner shows **M** (mute) and **S** (solo, overrides mute and is additive) — the fast way to audition a band while you dial it in (hidden on a single band). Beside them sits a **CLIP** selector: **Clean** (no clipping, default), **Soft** (rounds peaks into 0 dBFS for density) or **Hard** (a firm 0 dBFS clip for weight and drive), acting on that band's compressed signal only.

06. STEREO + MID/SIDE IN 30 SECONDS

Linked Stereo (default). **LINK** on. Both channels share one detector and the same gain reduction, so Mastino behaves as one stereo compressor. The bands use the **orange colour family**.

Independent L/R. Turn **LINK** 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** off and **M/S MODE** on. The upper lane processes **MID** (magenta), the lower processes **SIDE** (red). MID compression for centre-focused control, SIDE compression for width shaping.

07. AUTO GAIN + MIX

Auto Gain. Each of **INPUT** and **OUTPUT** has an **AUTO** toggle. When enabled, AUTO stages that point in the signal path to **0 VU / -18 dBFS RMS** and its manual GAIN knob is **greyed** (the plugin is setting the level) — switch AUTO off to make the knob live again from the current value. **LINK** keeps the two lane gains moving together when the lanes are independent.

Mix (parallel). The **MIX** knob in GLOBAL blends compressed with dry. At **100%** you hear the fully processed signal; lower it for the classic **New York** sound — heavy ratio + low threshold + ~30–60% mix keeps the original transients while the squashed signal sits underneath. (This global MIX is separate from each band's own Mix control.)

08. COMPARE HONESTLY

A / B

The header has an **A / B** toggle. A and B start as the same snapshot; tweak A, click B to switch to the other snapshot, then flip between A and B to compare.

MASTER BYPASS

BYPASS in GLOBAL bypasses Mastino's processing. Use **OUTPUT AUTO** as a level-staging aid, then bypass and trim OUTPUT manually if needed — louder is not the same as better.

09. USEFUL STARTING POINTS

GOAL	MOVE	TIP
Mix bus glue	MID THR -18, RATIO 2:1, MIX 100%	Single band is plenty. Aim for 1-3 dB GR on louder sections.
Target-driven glue	Profile Mix Bus, TARGET ~2 dB, AUTO on	Let GR Intelligence find the threshold; level-match with OUTPUT AUTO, then trim manually if needed.
Tame boomy lows	LO on, LO/MID ~150 Hz, LO THR -20, 4:1	Controls the low end while the mids stay 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.
Drum bus punch	Profile Drum Bus, RATIO 4:1, MIX 60%	Parallel blend keeps the transient snap.
Width control	LINK off, M/S, SIDE THR -12, 4:1	Compresses the SIDE lane only.

10. RECIPES

Bus polish with GR Intelligence: Profile *Mix Bus* · TARGET ~2 dB · AUTO on. Watch AVG GR settle near target and the guidance line read "within range", then flip OUTPUT AUTO on and bypass to confirm.

Manual bus glue (1-band): MID THR -18 · RATIO 2:1 · MIX 100%. Aim for 1-3 dB GR on chorus, then compare with OUTPUT AUTO.

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

Low-end tightener: LO on · LO/MID ~120 Hz · LO THR -18 · 8:1. Hard control of the lows; lift LO GAIN for body, or pull LO MIX down to keep the dry weight.

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

11. 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 (Linux) · Mastino60.exe (Windows)	Run from the extracted folder.

Activation: load the plugin, click the trial / licence chip in the header, paste your licence key and activate locally. One activation unlocks all formats. The full feature set, parameter reference and host notes are in the Mastino 60 **User Manual**.

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