bx_townhouse Buss Compressor

Plugin Manual

Developed by Brainworx and distributed by Plugin Alliance

PLUGIN ALLIANCE

BRAINWORX

Built in 1978 by the Townhouse maintenance staff from components supplied by Solid State Logic, this is the first outboard SSL bus compressor ever built. The Townhouse Compressor was designed and built to replicate the master buss compressor in an SSL 4000 B console.

In 1978, shortly after taking delivery of their new SSL 4000 B Series console, the staff of The Townhouse made a request to Colin Sanders, the founder of Solid State Logic, to buy a standalone version of their console's centre section compressor. SSL didn't sell a standalone version at this point (and wouldn't for another 10 years) so a deal was struck whereby the studio could buy the circuit boards and individual components. These parts in conjunction with drawings and schematics were used to build the much loved Townhouse buss compressor.

Not included in the purchase from SSL were the power supply and chassis; these were bought separately from RS (Radiospares). The input meter is also non-standard, this was not part of the original design and was added by the Townhouse staff. The Townhouse buss compressor, along with other similar processors made by the maintenance staff, were collectively known as the ,Townhouse Toys'.

The Townhouse Studios underwent many changes over the years with equipment upgrades and also alterations to room design and layout. SSL consoles including the 4000, 6000, 8000 & 9000 series were used at various times, however one detail remained consistent: the Townhouse Compressor in Studio 1.

Artists who used the Townhouse studios over the years include Phil Collins, Queen, Ozzy Osbourne, Coldplay, Muse, Oasis, Sting and many others.

Existing plugins all model the G Series version of the compressor; none of them have attempted to capture the early SSL sound, despite it being favoured by many engineers. While the Townhouse Compressor shares the same sonic signature that the SSL bus compressor is known for, it has its own character too. Brainworx has taken on the challenge to reproduce this unique SSL compressor sound which can be only found on the 4000 series console. Exclusively gaining access to this precious one-of-a-kind hardware, Brainworx felt honored to have the opportunity of modeling this piece of hardware and takes pride in the accuracy and detail achieved.
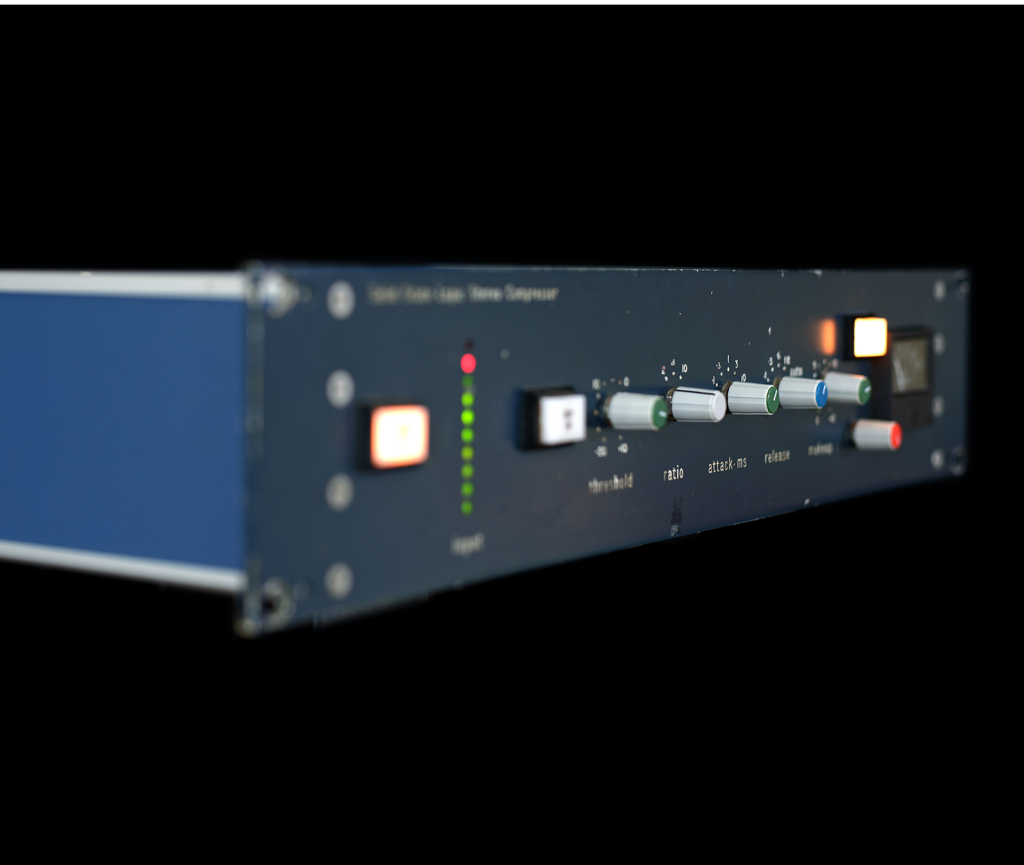
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1 Comp In

Activates the plugin or switches into bypass. Synchronized with plugin toolbar On/Off button.

2 Input Meter

Green LED indicates audio signal presence.

3 Key In

Enables external signal routing into the Sidechain.

4 Threshold

Controls the level where compression occurs. Turning the knob to the left adds more compression.

5 Ratio

Ratio defines the amount of gain reduction to be processed by the compressor. The higher the ratio, the stronger the compression, and the more "squeezed" the sound. Available Ratio values: 2:1, 4:1, 10:1

6 Attack

Sets the amount of time that must elapse once the input signal reaches the Threshold level before compression is applied. Available Attack times: 0.1ms, 0.3ms, 1ms, 3ms, 10ms, 30ms.

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1 Release

Sets the rate at which gain returns to normal after the input signal level has fallen below the Threshold. Available Release times: 0.1ms, 0.3ms, 0.6ms, 1.2s and Auto. If Auto is selected, the release time is dependent upon the duration of the program peak.

2 Makeup

The process of reducing dynamics with a compressor lowers the signal's overall level. Use the Make Up Gain to compensate by raising the output gain after the compression stage. We have extended the level to 20dB.

3 Auto Fade

When pressing Auto Fade, you will note the LED button pulsating slowly, this means your signal is **fading out** at your set 'Rate • s' (5) time. The Fade Out is completed once the pulsating LED stagnates. When pressing again, an Auto Fade In starts with the LED button pulsating faster, this means your signal is **fading in** at your set 'Rate • s' time (5). The Fade In is completed once the pulsating LED stagnates.

4 Compression Meter

Needle indicates level of compression.

5 Rate · s

Sets the Auto Fade (3) duration. Variable from 1 to 60 seconds.

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Top Toolbar

❶ Undo / Redo

You can undo and redo changes you made to the controls of the plugin at any time. The Undo / Redo will work for as many as 32 steps. This makes experimenting and tweaking knobs easy. If you don´t like what you did... just undo it.

❷ Settings (A/B/C/D)

Plugin offers four internal settings (A/B/C/D) which will be stored with every preset. So, one preset can contain up to four effects settings.

Use the A/B/C/D settings to copy a complex channel setting and alter it slightly for different parts of your song, for example.The Settings can be automated in your DAW. This way it´s possible to switch from a dry rhythm sound to a lead sound with tons of delay, for example.

❸ Copy / Paste

To set up variations of similar sounds you don´t have to dial in all the parameters several times. Let´s say you like your setting A and want to use the same sound, just without Makeup Gain, as setting B.

• Simply press Copy while you are in setting A.
• Switch to setting B by pressing 'B' in the settings section.
• Press Paste, now setting B is identical to setting A.
• Change the Makeup Gain value.

Now you can switch between A & B and play the same sound with or without Makeup Gain.

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1 Headroom

Adjusts the internal operating level so that the Plugin produces more or less gain reduction. Rotating the control clockwise will allow signals at the input to be pushed higher before they compress, this will result in less compression overall. By rotating counter-clockwise headroom is decreased resulting in a greater amount of gain reduction and more colour and compression being added to the signal. This parameter is perfect for fine tuning the effects produced and also for accurate level matching.

2 V-Gain

The V-Gain simulates the noise typically present in analog circuits.

3 SC Filter - Sidechain Filter

High-Pass Filter for the Compressor Sidechain. Deactivated when set to minimum value.
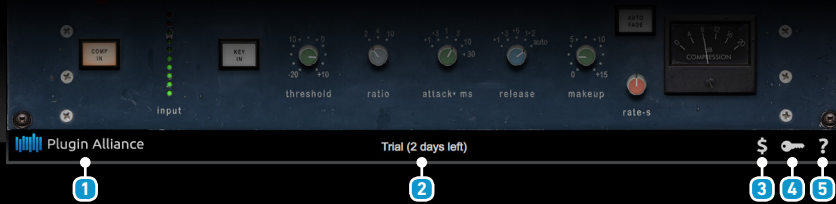
4 Mix

Controls the amount of unprocessed signal being blended with the processed (compressed) signal, effectively providing the option of parallel compression.

100% = you'll only hear compressed signal.
0% = you'll only hear un-compressed signal.

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Bottom Toolbar

1 PA Logo

Clicking the Plugin Alliance logo takes you to the Plugin Alliance website via your web browser, that´s if your computer is online.

2 License Type

The toolbar displays information about the type of license you're running: Trial licenses will be displayed along with the number of days until expiration; there is no note for full licenses as these are unlimited.

3 $ (Icon)

If you are using a demo / trial version of our products, you can always click this icon to open a browser that redirects you to the respective product page in the Plugin Alliance store. This is where you can easily purchase a product without having to look it up on our website.

4 Key (Icon)

Clicking on the key icon brings up the activation dialog, allowing you to manually reauthorize a device in the event of a license upgrade or addition. You can also use this feature to activate additional computers or USB flash drives.

5 ? (Icon)

Clicking the ? icon opens up a context menu that links to the product manual PDF, as well as other helpful links, e.g. to check for product updates online. You must have a PDF reader installed on your computer to be able to read the manual.

System Requirements & FAQ (Links)

For latest System Requirements & Supported Platforms

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/systemrequirements.html

Particular details for your product

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/products.html

Installation, Activation, Authorisation and FAQ´s

https://www.plugin-alliance.com/en/support.html