

Bark24 | Dyn version 1.1.0 User Manual

Welcome to Bark24 | Dyn!

Bark24 | Dyn is an advanced 24-band dynamics processor plug-in. Based on the legendary psychoacoustic “Bark” scale, it divides audio into 24 frequency bands and applies one of four dynamics processes to each band. The result is an extraordinary range of dynamic frequency sculpting — from surgical correction to beautifully controlled chaos, and everything in between.



What Makes it Different?

Perceptual Frequency Processing

Bark24 | Dyn divides audio based on the psychoacoustic [Bark scale](#). Each band represents a chunk of frequencies that have a similar perceptual “weight,” even though the bandwidth varies across the spectrum. Because these bands match how the ears naturally group sound, adjustments feel clear and intuitive.

Dynamic Timbre Control

Bark24 | Dyn is not simply a spectral processor—it is a **dynamic** processor operating across perceptual bands. Each Bark band responds independently to the energy present within that band, allowing the character of a sound to evolve with its dynamics.

Four Dyn modes define how each band reacts:

- Limit – restrains excessive energy
- Gate – suppresses low-level content
- Expand – increases dynamic contrast
- UpComp – raises lower-level energy

Built for Speed

Bark24 | Dyn is designed so that complex spectral adjustments can be made quickly and visually.

- Draw and slide threshold and gain curves.
- Swipe across solos or mutes to quickly compare settings.
- Adjust all bands at once with group controls. Now available for Solo, Mute, and Power. **NEW!**
- Adapt to incoming audio using Auto Threshold, Auto Gain, and Auto Output. **NEW!**
- Multi-select bands to adjust them as a group. **NEW!**

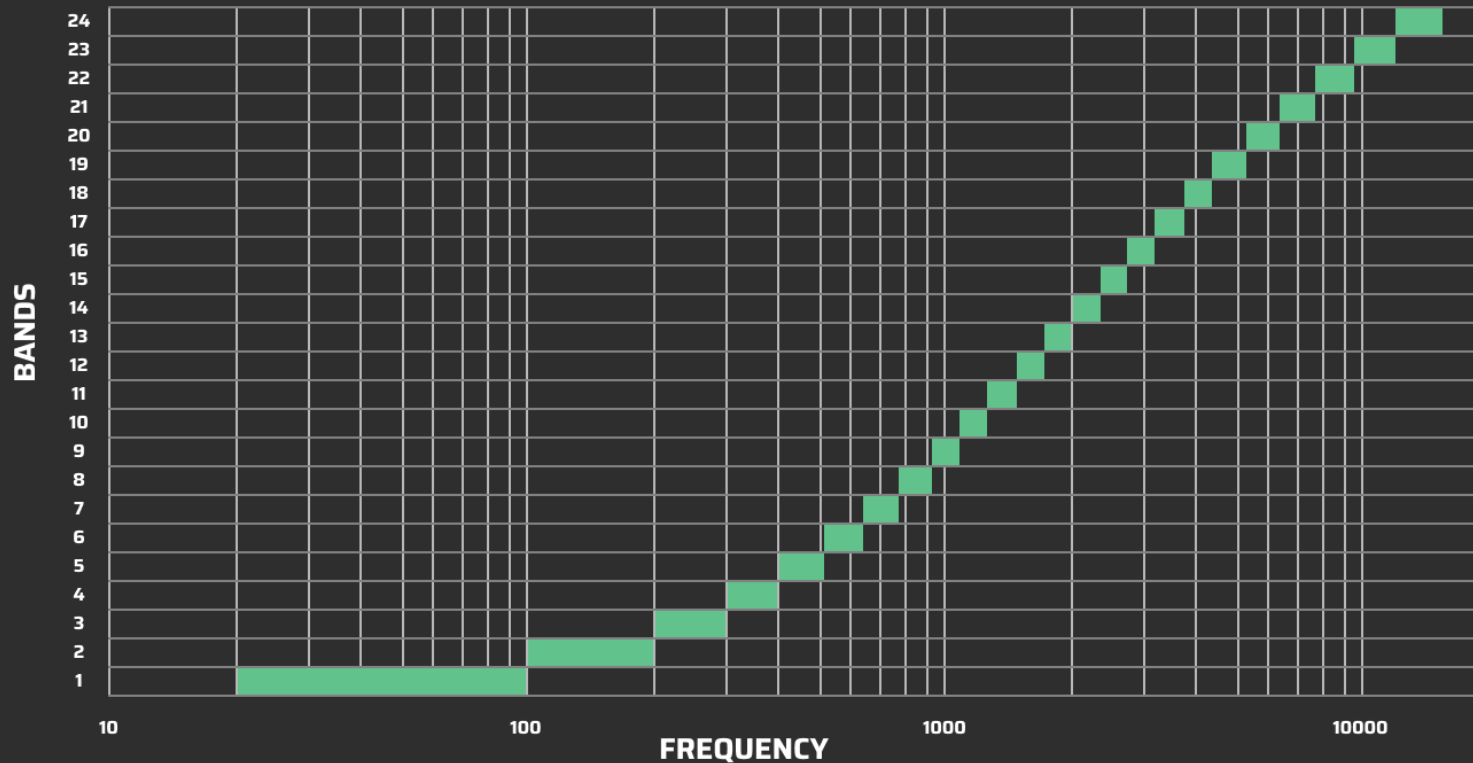
What can you do with this thing?

- Transparent limiting thanks to frequency aware processing.
- Transient enhancement or softening only on the frequencies you want.
- Pull up hidden textures and artifacts from your source material.
- Add body and presence in a wholly unique way.
- Sculpt and control timbre to fit your audio perfectly into a mix.
- Explore everything from subtle mix correction to chaotic sound design!

Visit and follow the [FSK Audio YouTube channel](#) for frequently updated tips and tricks. Also take a look at the [Tips and Tricks](#) section of this document.

About the Bark Scale

- Bark24 | Dyn's frequency bands are based on the **Bark scale**. The Bark scale is based on **psychoacoustics**, or how the human brain perceives sound, so **Bark24 | Dyn's frequency bands match how our ears naturally hear**.
- The width of each band is based on the concept of **critical bands**, meaning there is minimal masking between adjacent bands, resulting in a cleaner and more direct control over the tone.
- Some parts of the spectrum are more important for perception (like clarity, presence, or warmth). The **Bark scale gives more resolution in these perceptually critical areas and less in areas we don't hear as distinctly**.



Installation & Authorization

1. Download the installer from fskaudio.io and run it.
2. After the installation, launch your DAW and instantiate a Bark24 | Dyn.
3. A prompt for activating Bark24 | Dyn will appear. You will be asked to sign into your iLok account.
 - a. Alternatively, you can authorize Bark24 | Dyn using [iLok License Manager](#) prior to opening Bark24 | Dyn on your DAW.

The installer will install the following plug-in formats:

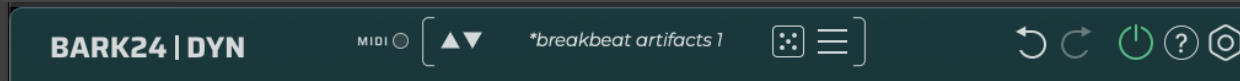
- AAX
- VST3
- AU (Mac only)

Using Bark24 | Dyn

Keyboard Shortcuts

- **Fine control** for parameters
 - Hold the **Command** (Mac) or **Ctrl** (Windows) key while adjusting knobs or sliders.
- **Reset** continuous parameters to default value
 - Hold **Option** (Mac) or **Alt** (Windows) and click on knobs or sliders.
- **Direct input**
 - **Double-click** on parameters to type in values.
 - Click directly on numeric readouts for sliders.
- **Contextual menus**
 - **Right-click** or **Control+click** (Mac only) to open contextual menus on select items.
- **Do to All** on buttons
 - Hold **Option** (Mac) or **Alt** (Windows) and click on button (Band Solo, Mute, and Power)

The Header



The Header contains preset management, undo/redo, power, help links, and preferences.

Logo

Click on the logo to display production information.

MIDI Input Signal Indicator



The indicator lights up when MIDI signal is being received.

Presets Management



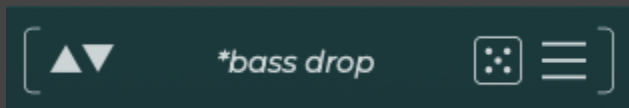
Previous/Next Preset (Up/Down buttons)

Use these buttons to load the previous or next preset.

Preset Name Display

Displays the name of the currently loaded preset.

- The preset name will be italicized and display an asterisk (*) if settings have been changed.



Click on the display to open a menu showing other presets.

Select Random Preset

Selects a random preset from your presets folder.

Presets Menu

Provides further options for managing your presets.

- Load
 - Opens Bark24 | Dyn preset files from any location.
- Import
 - Copies Bark24 | Dyn preset files into the preset folder.
- Save
 - Overwrites the currently loaded preset.
 - Saves a new preset if there is no preset loaded.
- Save As....
 - Saves the current setting as a new preset.
- Initialize Settings
 - Unloads the current preset, and resets all settings to their default values.
- Delete
 - Deletes the current preset.
- Open Preset Folder
 - Reveals the Bark24 | Dyn Preset folder in the Finder or Explorer.

Undo/Redo

Click on the corresponding button to undo or redo edits.

Power

Toggles processing on/off.

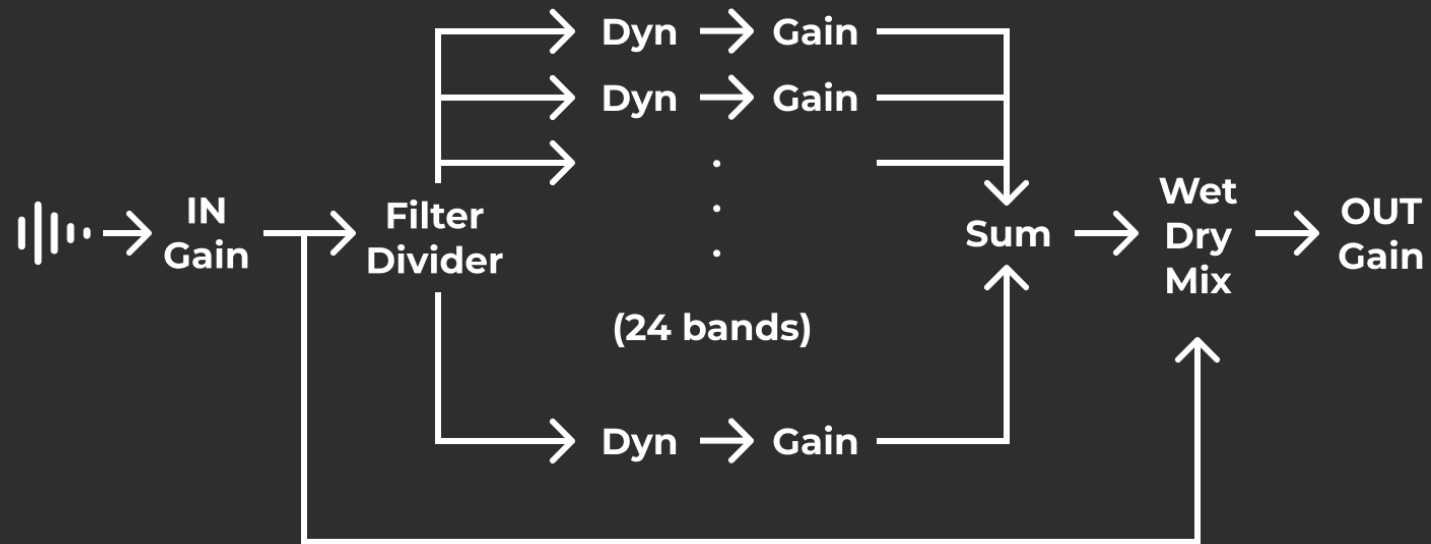
Help

Opens a menu with more help resources.

Preferences

- Window Size - A few zoom settings are provided to resize the plug-in window.

Signal Flow



Input Section



- Input peak level readout
 - Displays the peak input level.
 - Click to reset.
- Input Meter
 - Displays the level of the input signal after Input Gain.
- Input Gain
 - Adjusts the incoming signal level before it is split into frequency bands.
 - Double-click to directly enter value.
 - Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

⚠ Because Bark24 | Dyn allows extreme EQ settings up to ± 48 dB, we recommend monitoring your input source carefully and using the plug-in's input and output gain controls to maintain proper levels.

Operation Parameters



Along the top, you'll find global parameters that affect all bands.

Dynamics Modes

Determines the behavior of the gain change relative to threshold.

- **Limit** - Gain is **reduced** on signals **above** the threshold.
 - Clamps down on the loud parts.
- **Gate** - Gain is **reduced** on signals **below** the threshold.
 - Silences the quiet parts.
- **Expand** - Gain is **increased** on signals **above** the threshold.
 - Emphasizes the loud parts.
- **UpComp** - Gain is **increased** on signals **below** the threshold.
 - Brings up the quiet parts.

Each Dynamics Mode retains its own threshold settings.

⚠ Switching Dynamics Modes during playback may cause audible glitches. We recommend disengaging playback before switching modes.

Dynamics Attack and Release

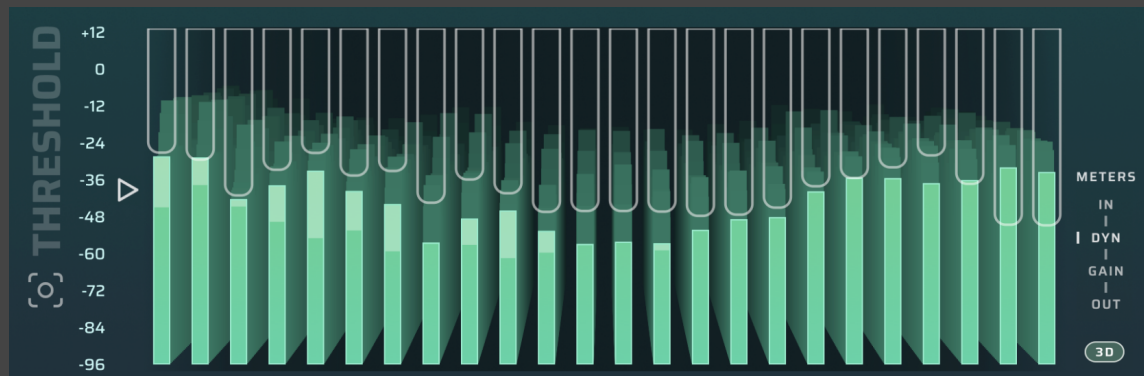
- Sets the attack and release times for the dynamics processor.

Band Contour

Determines the slope of the filters.

- High Q - Uses very steep filter slopes to isolate frequencies between bands.
- Medium Q (default) - Uses moderate filter slopes with less isolation.
- Low Q - Uses gentle filter slopes that are similar to typical graphic EQs.

Threshold Section



Band Thresholds

- Sets the threshold individually for each band.
- Drag across to draw a curve.
- Shortcuts
 - Command/Ctrl-drag up/down: Fine adjustment.
 - Option/Alt-click: Resets to default value.
 - Right-click: Opens contextual menu. (see [MIDI Learn](#))
 - Control-click (Mac only): Opens contextual menu.
 - Double-click to directly enter value.
 - Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

Threshold Group - Triangular handle on the left side.

- Indicates the average of all the threshold settings.
- Drag up/down to move all thresholds at the same time.
- Drag left/right to slide all thresholds left/right.
- Shortcuts
 - Command/Ctrl-drag: Fine adjustment.
 - Option/Alt-click: Reset all thresholds to default value.

- Double-click to directly enter value.
- Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

Auto Threshold



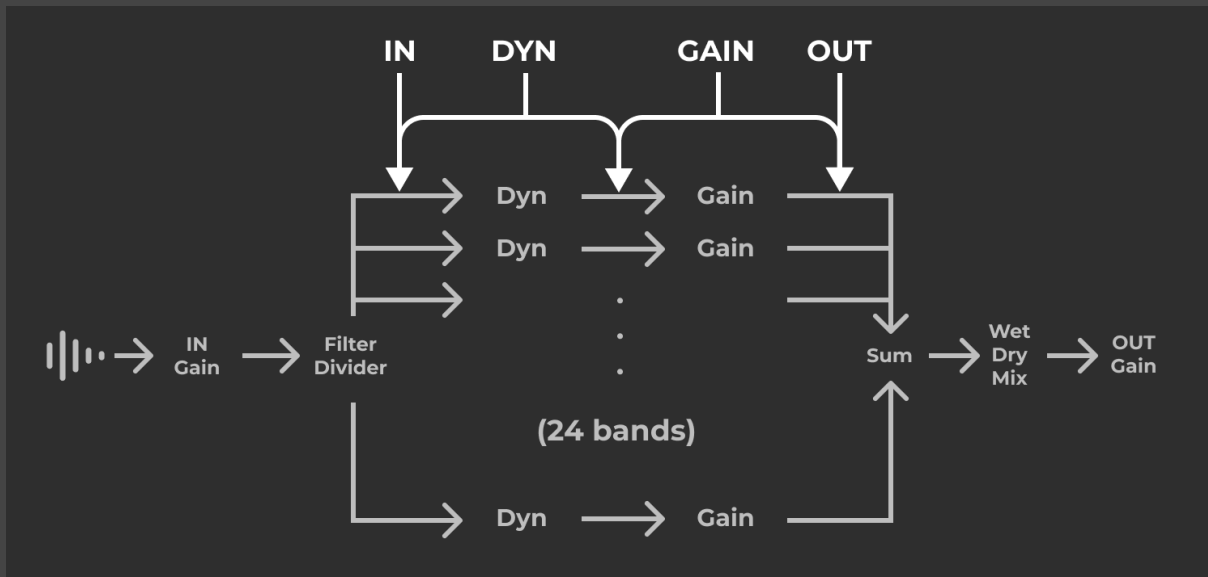
- While enabled, Bark24 | Dyn will automatically set the thresholds based on the incoming peaks.
- Option/Alt-click to toggle Auto Threshold, Auto Gain, and Auto Output at the same time. **NEW!**

Band Meters

- The central area displays the per-band signal level.

Metering Modes - Selects the metering type for the band meters.

- In - Displays the signal level before any processing.
- Dyn - Displays the levels before and after dynamics processing.
- Gain - Displays the levels before and after gain processing.
- Out - Displays the signal level after dynamics and gain processing.



- 3D - Displays the level history as a cascading trail.

Multi-Selection **NEW!**



Multiple frequency bands can be selected so that they can be adjusted as a group.

Behavior

Parameters on multi-selected bands are adjusted as a group.

- Sliders (Threshold & Gain)
 - Moving one slider will move all others in the multi-selection. Relative offsets are retained.
 - Shift-drag a slider up/down to temporarily disable the multi-selection behavior.
 - Shift-swipe left/right to draw a curve with the multi-selected sliders.
 - Option/Alt-click a slider to reset all sliders in the multi-selection.
- Buttons (Solos/Mutes/Power)
 - Clicking one button will set all other in the multi-selection to the same state.
 - Shift-click a button to temporarily disable the multi-selection behavior.
 - Option/Alt-click a button to toggle all buttons, regardless of multi-selection.

Band Selection

- Click on a frequency label to toggle between selected and unselected.
- Selected bands will display a white line under the frequency label.

Shortcuts & Gestures

- Swipe left/right: Toggles multiple bands at once.
- Option/Alt-click: Toggles all bands.

Group Controls



When there is at least one band in a different state than the others, the group control for multi-selection will become available.

- Drag left/right to slide all multi-select states left/right.

Band Control Section



Band Controls

Provides per-band control for the following.

- Solo
- Mute
- Power

Shortcuts & Gestures

- Swipe left/right: Toggles multiple bands at once.
- Option/Alt-click: Toggles all bands.
- Right-click: Opens contextual menu. (see [MIDI Learn](#))
- Control-click (Mac only): Opens contextual menu.

Group Controls **NEW!**



When there is at least one band control that is in a different state than the others, the group control for that row will become available.

- Drag left/right to slide all Solos, Mutes, or Power left/right.

Gain Section



Band Gain

- Sets the post-dynamics gain for each band.
- Shortcuts
 - Command/Ctrl-drag: Fine adjustment.
 - Option/Alt-click: Resets to default value.
 - Right-click: Opens contextual menu. (see [MIDI Learn](#))
 - Control-click (Mac only): Opens contextual menu.
 - Double-click to directly enter values.
 - Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

Gain Group - Triangular handle on the left side.

- Indicates the average of all the gain settings.
- Drag up/down to move all gains at the same time.
- Drag left/right to slide all gain settings left/right.
- Shortcuts
 - Command/Ctrl-drag: Fine adjustment.
 - Option/Alt-click: Resets all gains to default value.
 - Double-click to directly enter value.
 - Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

Gain change display



- The amount of gain change from the dynamics processing is displayed on each band gain fader.

Auto Gain **NEW!**



- While enabled, Bark24 | Dyn will automatically set the gains based on the direction and amount of dynamics processing.
- Option/Alt-click to toggle Auto Threshold, Auto Gain, and Auto Output at the same time.

⚠ Auto-Gain is NOT available for Gate mode as it would result in extreme gain changes.

Wet/Dry Mix



Blends the non-processed signal (dry) with the processed signal (wet).

Output Section



- Output peak level readout
 - Displays the peak output level.
 - Click to reset.
- Output Meter
 - Displays the level of the output signal after Output Gain.
- Output Gain
 - Adjusts the outgoing signal level after Wet/Dry Mix.
 - Double-click to directly enter value.
 - Click the numeric readout to directly enter value.

Auto Output **NEW!**



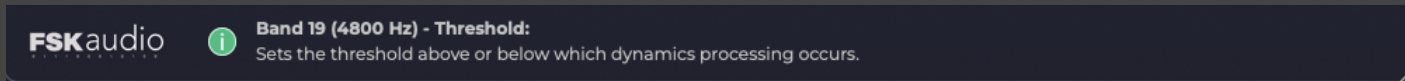
- While enabled, Bark24 | Dyn will automatically set the output gain to minimize level change.
- Option/Alt-click to toggle Auto Threshold, Auto Gain, and Auto Output at the same time.

⚠ Because Bark24 | Dyn allows extreme EQ settings up to ± 48 dB, we recommend monitoring your input source carefully and using the plug-in's input and output gain controls as well as the Auto Output feature to maintain proper levels.

Output Limiter **NEW!**

A brickwall limiter will engage when the output signal exceeds +12dB to protect hearing and equipment from signal spikes.

The Footer



Tooltips

Hover over different objects in the plug-in to display their names and descriptions.

- Click on the “i” button to enable or disable the tooltips.

Window Resize Handle

Drag the lower right corner to resize the window.

- The windows size can also be changed and reset from the Preferences menu.

MIDI Learn

Many Bark24 | Dyn parameters can be assigned to follow MIDI CC messages. This is useful for controlling parameters from a hardware control surface, or modulating it with LFOs (such as FSK Audio's own ModPlay LFO plug-in).

Right-click menu

Right-clicking on a MIDI mappable parameter opens a menu with the following:

- MIDI Learn
 - Select this to start “listening” for MIDI input. When a MIDI control message is detected, it is assigned to the parameter.
 - While a parameter is listening, select again to stop.
 - When a parameter is listening, a red “X” button will be displayed:
 - Click on the X button to stop..
- Clear
 - If a parameter has a MIDI assignment, the assigned MIDI CC number will be displayed.
 - Select to clear the MIDI assignment of that parameter.
- Clear All
 - Clears all MIDI assignments in the current instance of Bark24 | Dyn.



Multiple Assignments

Multiple parameters can be assigned to the same MIDI CC number.

- For example, multiple bands can be controlled by a single control surface encoder.
- Use the right-click menu to enable MIDI Learn on multiple parameters, or use MIDI learn on one parameter at a time.

Parameters that can be controlled by MIDI

- Power
- Attack & Release
- Band Contour

- Band Thresholds
- Band Gains
- Band Solo, Mute, Power
- Input & Output Gain
- Wet/Dry Mix

Tips and Tricks

Limit mode

The lower the threshold, the stronger the effect.

Focused Control

Limit only certain bands to control them without pulling down other frequencies (e.g. snare can keep more brightness and crack).

Gate mode

Set the threshold to where the signal comes in and out. Too low and nothing will happen. Too high and the gate will be permanently closed.

Transient Softener

Use a slow attack to soften transients.

Frequency Conforming Noise Gate

Set the threshold curve to conform to the noise profile to create a more transparent noise gate. Great for suppressing guitar pickup hum!

Chopping/Dripping Effect

Set the thresholds just around each band's peak level to create chopping/dripping sounds as different frequency bands drop in and out.

Expand mode

The lower the threshold, the stronger the effect. Be careful though! This mode can overload the signal pretty easily.

Focused Enhancement

Gate just one or a few frequency bands to enhance specific characteristics of the source audio (e.g. just the bottom on a kick).

Transient Enhancer

Use a fast attack and release to aggressively emphasize the transients.

UpComp mode

The higher the threshold, the stronger the effect. Be careful with slow attack settings as there will be positive gain remaining as the signal exceeds the threshold, and may cause some overloads.

Weirdness Processor

Set the threshold slightly below the peaks to bring out all kinds of interesting low level sounds in specific frequency ranges.

Transient Enhancer

Use a slow attack to tastefully enhance the transients.

Other

Automate Wet Mix

Fade in/out the crazy (or subtle) effect you've created by automating the Wet/Dry Mix.

Use Auto Threshold

The Auto Threshold function gives you a great starting point for many workflows by auto-setting the thresholds to conform to the incoming signal. Then quickly add more or less dynamics processing by moving the Threshold Group handle.

Option/Alt-click any of the “Auto” buttons

Option/Alt-clicking any one of the Auto Threshold, Auto Gain, or Auto Output buttons will toggle all three at once. This can quickly get you a great starting point.

Use the Band Power buttons

Turn on/off the processing on any band with the Power buttons. Swipe across them to toggle multiple bands at once for quick A/B or as an effect.

Compatibility

Operating Systems

- Mac (Intel, Apple silicon)
- Windows

Plug-in Formats

- AAX
- VST3
- AU

Sample Rates

- 44.1kHz
- 48kHz
- 88.2kHz
- 96kHz
- 176.4kHz
- 192kHz

Latency

- 512 samples @ 44.1/48kHz