

LA9A Levelling Compressor

Smooth Levels. One Dial.



INTRODUCTION

The LA9A is a simple, great-sounding levelling compressor for vocals, instruments and full mixes. One main dial does the heavy lifting, so you can spend less time tweaking and more time listening. It is free to use.

Please note: the LA9A is an original design and is not related to, or a model of, the famous LA2A Opto Compressor.

FEATURES

- One-dial compression: just turn Compress until it sounds right
- Two modes (A and B) with different characters - try both
- Input gain, output gain and Auto Level matching
- Optional Side-Chain low-cut to keep bass from over-triggering
- Stereo Input and Output meters, plus a Gain Reduction meter
- Clean, simple layout - every control is on the front panel

CONTROLS

Input:	Sets the level going into the compressor (-12 to +12 dB).
Compress:	The main dial. Turn clockwise for more compression.
Side-Chain:	On/Off. Filters low frequencies from the detector.
Mode:	A or B. Two different compression characters.
Output:	Makes up the level after compression (0 to +18 dB).
Auto Level:	On/Off. Matches the output level to the input level. While On, the Output dial has no effect.
Meters:	<i>Left and right:</i> Input and Output levels. <i>Centre:</i> Gain Reduction (moves down as compression increases).

EXAMPLES OF USE

Vocals	Select Mode A. Start with Compress low and raise it until the performance sounds even. Turn Auto Level On to compare before and after at the same loudness.
Drums	Select Mode B. Increase Compress gradually and listen to how the energy of the kit changes. Use Output to restore level if Auto Level is Off.
Acoustic Guitars	Start with Mode A and gentle Compress. Switch Side-Chain On if low strums or body boom trigger too much squeeze.
Bass	Try either mode. Keep Side-Chain Off so low notes are levelled properly, and use moderate Compress.
Mix Bus	Use gentle Compress with Side-Chain On, and keep the Gain Reduction meter showing only light movement.
Anything else	Experiment! Flip between Mode A and B, and compare with Auto Level On to judge the sound, not the loudness.

QUICK TIPS

- Watch the Input meter: use Input to avoid driving the plugin too hard.
- If the sound feels flat, back off Compress.
- Trust your ears first. The meters are there to help, not to decide.

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