

ECHELON AUDIO

POCKET

One-Fader Vocal Compressor — User Manual



The POCKET interface. Hover any fader, button or lamp in the plugin for a quick tip; this manual covers every control in full.

POCKET puts a finished vocal chain behind one fader: a breath-cleaning gate, a compressor with auto-makeup built into its law (pull down for more — the vocal comes forward, it doesn't get squashed), a gain-reduction-tracking saturator with Warm and Grit voicings, and a reduce-only output trim guarded by a -0.1 dBFS safety ceiling. Set the input to the sweet spot, pull the COMP fader, done.

Presets, Lamps & Meters

Control	What it does
Presets	Use-named starting points: Lead Vocal Forward, Bright Female Lead, Deep Male Lead, Rap In Your Face, Gritty Hook, Podcast / VO, Backing Vocals Tucked, Parallel Lift, Close-Mic Plosive Tame.
+ Save / Del	Store the current settings as a USER preset you can recall anytime; Del removes the selected user preset (factory presets can't be deleted).
SWEET lamp	Lights while the detector sits in -20 ± 4 dBFS — the level the auto-makeup law assumes. Set INPUT here once, then work the COMP fader.
GR bar / readout	Live gain reduction inside the COMP fader, with a numeric dB readout below.
Gate lamp	Lit while the gate is open.
Ceiling lamp	Lit while the -0.1 dBFS safety ceiling is acting.
Harmonics lamp	Glowes with saturation drive — amber for Warm, orange for Grit.
Output meter	Output peak level inside the GAIN fader.

Controls

Main Row

Four modules, left to right: clean it, compress it, colour it, level it.

Control	Range	What it does
Gate	Off (-80) ... 0 dB	Cleans breaths and room between phrases. Slide up until the silence is clean; the lamp shows when the gate is open. Bottom = off.
Comp	0 ... 100	THE fader. Pull down for more — the vocal comes forward at the same loudness, it doesn't just get squashed. Auto-makeup is built into the law. The bar inside the fader shows live gain reduction.
Dist	Off / Warm / Grit	Warm adds 2nd-harmonic tube-ish thickness; Grit adds 3rd-harmonic tape-ish edge. Both follow how hard the compressor is working (with Auto on) and are loudness-compensated — it's tone, not volume.
Gain	-30 ... 0 dB	Output level (reduce-only trim). The safety ceiling at -0.1 dBFS catches anything wild — the red lamp means it's working.

Utility Rail

The calibration and colour fine-print.

Control	Range	What it does
Input	-24 ... +24 dB	Gain into the box. POCKET's auto-makeup is calibrated for a detector sitting around -20 dBFS — trim until the amber SWEET lamp lights and the COMP fader behaves the way it was voiced to.
SC HPF	60 ... 200 Hz	Sidechain high-pass — keeps rumble, proximity boost and plosives out of the detector only; the audio never passes through it. On a close mic, raise it until a hard “p” stops ducking the whole phrase.
Mix	0 ... 100%	Parallel compression. Blends the processed vocal against the latency-aligned dry, so you keep the transients and breath while the body stays glued. 100% = fully processed.
Drive	0 ... 200%	How hard the saturator is pushed — its own control, independent of the compressor. 100% is the classic POCKET amount.
Dist OS	2× / 4× / 8×	Saturator oversampling. 2× (with ADAA) is the clean default; 8× is a mastering-grade alias floor for hot drive on bright sources. Latency is identical either way.
Auto	On / Off	Drive also tracks gain reduction — squash harder, saturate harder (the original POCKET law). Turn it off for a constant glow that doesn't come and go with the performance.

Footer

Honest comparison tools.

Control	Range	What it does
Delta	On / Off	Hear only what POCKET changes — output minus the latency-aligned dry vocal. Great for checking the comp is grabbing syllables, not breaths.
Bypass	On / Off	Bypass the whole plugin.
= (Matched Bypass)	On / Off	Bypass compares at equal loudness — no louder-is-better trick. On by default.

Tips

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- Workflow: set INPUT until the SWEET lamp lights, then pull the COMP fader until the vocal sits in the pocket. That's the whole plugin.

- Use Delta to make sure the compressor is grabbing syllables, not breaths — then raise GATE until the breaths are handled instead.
- Warm for thickness on clean pop vocals; Grit for rap and aggressive hooks. Leave Auto on so the colour breathes with the performance.
- For parallel (New York) style, drop Mix to 40-60% instead of easing off the COMP fader.
- Matched Bypass (=) keeps A/B honest — if it still sounds better at equal loudness, it is better.
- All faders: drag (Shift = fine), double-click to reset, right-click to type a value.