LYDTROLD AUDIO / MADE IN DENMARK

The 4K

VCA bus compressor



User Manual

English | Manual edition 1.0 | October 2026

Product version: 0.3.14

Native: VST3 and AAX Native; AU on Mac

AAX DSP + Native edition available for compatible HDX systems

lydtrold.com

01 / START HERE

Meet The 4K

VCA bus compression with selectable attack, ratio and release, Auto release, sidechain high-pass filter and parallel Mix.



Your first session

1. Insert on a track or bus and start with modest compression.

2. Play the loudest section. Increase compression until peaks are controlled, then set timing so the musical attack and recovery remain natural.

3. Match output loudness to bypass. Check quieter passages before saving a preset.

02 / REFERENCE

Controls and behaviour

Names follow the front panel; alternate host parameter names are included where useful. Ranges describe control values, not recommended settings.

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	HOW TO USE IT
Threshold	-20 to +20 dB	Sets the detector operating point.
Attack	0.1 / 0.3 / 1 / 3 / 10 / 30 ms	Sets how much transient passes before compression acts.
Ratio	1.5 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 10:1	Sets compression strength.
Release	0.1 / 0.2 / 0.4 / 0.8 / 1.6 s / AUTO	Sets manual recovery or programme-dependent Auto release.
Make-up	0-20 dB	Restores level after compression.
S/C HPF	Off / 30 / 60 / 105 / 125 / 185 Hz	Reduces low-frequency influence on detection, without removing that bass from the main audio.
Mix	0-100%	Blends dry and compressed audio.
Comp In	On / Off	Engages compression.
Ext S/C	On / Off; host routing	Allows external detection. A connected host key can select the external route automatically.

03 / IN PRACTICE

Workflows and troubleshooting

Keep the attack

Use a slower attack for more initial punch; faster settings restrain transients more strongly.

Set the recovery

Listen between notes. A release that is too short can distort or pump; one that is too long can keep the next phrase compressed.

Compare fairly

Match makeup or output to bypass before deciding whether compression improves the source.

Bus glue

Start with a gentle ratio and slower attack. Lower Threshold until a small amount of reduction follows the groove.

External key

Route a mono key from the host; in Pro Tools select it in the host Key Input menu. Verify the key carries audio and compare with the internal detector.

If the result is unexpected

Little gain reduction. Check the enable switch, input level and compression amount. A routed external key must also carry audio.

Pumping or lost punch. Reduce the amount, slow the attack, or adjust release to the phrase.

04 / INSTALLATION AND SESSIONS

Install, recall and get help

Download and install

Visit https://lydtrold.com/installer and download the public Lydtrold Installer for your platform. Close your DAW before installing or updating. For AAX, Pro Tools must be fully closed. Enter the licence key associated with your purchase or Free Collection, select the product and required formats, then install.

Choose the format

Use AU in compatible Mac hosts, VST3 in compatible Mac or Windows hosts, or AAX Native in Pro Tools. The AAX DSP edition runs on compatible Pro Tools HDX systems and includes the Native formats. Select the edition covered by your licence.

System compatibility

The public Mac plug-ins support Intel from macOS 10.15 and Apple silicon from macOS 11. The current public Mac installer requires macOS 12 or later. Use a compatible 64-bit DAW and check the product page for current platform and format availability.

Recall and automation

Save the DAW session and use supported host presets to retain parameter settings. Automate sound controls exposed by the installed edition in the host. Display-only meters and analysis results are not sound parameters. Save a preset before resetting or making major changes.

Support

Visit https://lydtrold.com/contact. Include the product name and installed version, operating system, DAW version, plug-in format and relevant routing. Describe the steps that reproduce the problem and the expected result.

Manual edition 1.0, 26 October 2026. Covers the public product version shown on the cover. Manual editions and plug-in versions are separate. Illustrations show the published product interface.