LYDTROLD AUDIO

The Limiter

Loudness, character and peak control



User Manual

English | Manual edition 1.0 | September 2026

Mac + Windows | AU on Mac, VST3 and AAX Native

AAX DSP edition for compatible Pro Tools HDX systems

lydtrold.com

01 / START HERE

Meet The Limiter

The Limiter is a finishing processor for mixes, masters and buses. Loudness drives the limiting stage, Release changes its recovery and Ceiling sets the output peak target. Soft, Balanced and Hard offer three responses. Use the gain-reduction display to see how much the peaks are being reduced while judging the result by ear.



Your first session

1. Insert The Limiter near the end of your mix or master chain. Turn down monitoring before increasing loudness.

2. Start with Loudness at 0 dB, Ceiling at -1 dBTP, Balanced style and Level Match off.

3. Play the loudest section. Raise Loudness gradually until the mix has the desired density, then back off if transients flatten or distortion becomes audible.

4. Adjust Release and compare all three styles. Use Level Match for a fairer listening comparison; switch it OFF before bouncing, printing or exporting.

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
Loudness	0 to +24 dB	Raises the level entering the limiter. More drive usually means more gain reduction and a denser result.
Release	0 to 100%	Changes how the limiter recovers after a peak. This is a relative control, not a time in milliseconds. Judge recovery with sustained bass and repeated drum hits.
Ceiling	-3 to 0 dBTP	Sets the true-peak ceiling target while processing is engaged. Leave headroom appropriate to the destination and check the final exported file.
Style	Soft / Balanced / Hard	Selects the limiting character. Compare at the same listening level and choose the response that preserves the desired punch and texture.
IN / Limiter	On / Off	Engages the limiter. Off passes the unprocessed signal; the ceiling does not protect a bypassed signal.
Level Match	On / Off; monitor function	Temporarily reduces the processed monitoring level for comparison. It is not a target-loudness setting and is not host-automatable. Turn it off for export.
Gain reduction	Display only	Shows the attenuation applied by the limiter. Larger or sustained readings indicate heavier processing.

03 / IN PRACTICE

Workflows and troubleshooting

A restrained master

Set Ceiling first. Increase Loudness only until the loudest passages feel controlled. Compare quiet and loud sections so the whole song retains movement.

More aggressive drums

Insert on a drum bus and try Hard against Balanced. Raise Loudness in small steps, listening to the snare attack and cymbal tail. A bus setting can be stronger than a full-master setting.

Comparing styles

Loop the same passage, leave Loudness and Ceiling unchanged and toggle Level Match while judging the processed sound. A louder presentation is not evidence of a better style.

Export checklist

Turn Level Match off, leave IN engaged, check downstream processing and export with sufficient headroom. Check the rendered file's peak and loudness readings in your DAW or a suitable meter.

If the result is unexpected

The export is quieter than expected. Check that Level Match was off during export, and inspect output trims or normalisation elsewhere in the session.

Bass distorts or the mix pumps. Reduce Loudness first, then adjust Release and compare styles. A limiter cannot restore transient detail lost through excessive drive.

The final file exceeds the intended peak target. Confirm IN is on and check for gain, EQ, sample-rate conversion or encoding after the limiter. Measure the final delivery file.

INSTALLATION AND SESSIONS

Install, recall and get help

1. Get Lydtrold Installer

Go to https://lydtrold.com/installer and download Lydtrold Installer for Mac or Windows. Use this shared installer to install plug-ins and receive updates.

2. Choose the product and formats

Close your DAW before installation. Select The Limiter and the formats used by your DAW. Pro Tools must be fully closed before installing or replacing AAX plug-ins.

3. Open the DAW

After installation, open your DAW and rescan plug-ins if needed. Insert the plug-in on a suitable audio path. For purchased editions, sign in or complete the activation steps presented by Lydtrold Installer.

Formats and editions

Native formats are VST3 and AAX Native on Mac and Windows, plus Audio Unit on Mac. The DSP + Native edition also includes AAX DSP for compatible Pro Tools HDX systems. Select the edition covered by your licence.

Save and automate

Save your DAW session to recall parameter settings and use the host preset system for reusable starting points. Available audio parameters can be automated in the host; meters and other display-only elements are not sound controls. Level Match is a monitoring control and is not host-automatable.

Keep a sound you have captured

Save a host preset before a factory reset or a major setting change. Recheck audio routing and format availability when opening the session on another system.

Support

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

About this guide: manual edition 1.0, September 2026. Illustrations show the published product interfaces. Manual edition numbers are independent of plug-in release versions.