



# KOENHELAEENS SIGNATURE





# KH-COMP1 ORIGINAL LEVELING AMPLIFIER

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

## A VERSATILE BEAST

### **KH-COMP1** | ORIGINAL LEVELING AMPLIFIER

Creativity and innovation have long been restrained by a set of rules on how music is to be created and how tools are intended to be used. A new generation of mix artists is here to challenge those archaic concepts that rely on the limits of 50-year-old studio gear, while still making use of our beloved vintage classics. The time has come to push the limits of sound and unleash your creativity!

When we first started working with the multi-platinum, award-winning mix engineer, producer and sound enthusiast Koen Heldens on our plugin series, we had no doubt that we were going to produce some extraordinary tools.

Koen is the expert when it comes to producing some of the best and most streamed albums in the hip-hop genre - and while his experience and understanding of music allow him to create and shape the emotional foundation of a song, he also has a deep knowledge of the technical aspects and limitations of each plugin and DAW he holds in his arsenal.

His go-to tools were missing some fine-tuning, so he was in need of a very specific, bespoke compressor solution, that was like no other on the market today. His ideas of process timing, channel linking and sidechain filtering have really pushed the team to come up with an entirely new tool.

The result of countless development hours and listening sessions is a one-of-a-kind, beast of a compressor, that is up to the standards of one of the greatest producers of the moment, and that includes the best levelling amplifier that Black Rooster Audio has developed to date.

## ABOUT

### **THE KOEN HELDENS SIGNATURE SERIES**

The collaboration between Black Rooster Audio and Koen Heldens began with a genuine artist endorsement and has evolved into a great creative partnership. We have maintained a close dialogue over the last 2 years, exchanging technical and artistic knowledge. This dialogue ultimately turned creating original software together into a very inspiring symbiosis. Koen is one of the most knowledgeable and hard-working engineers in the business and has produced music with world-renowned artists, shaping their sound in his very unique style at every opportunity. We are pleased and proud to have Koen use our plugins extensively in every mix and to create his Signature Series.

The series begins with the very unique and versatile KH-COMP1 studio compressor (AAX/VST/AU) and will be followed by three additional units, all designed by Black Rooster Audio in collaboration with Koen Heldens.

## FURTHER INFO

### **PLUGIN ACTIVATION & SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

All Black Rooster Audio plug-ins are equipped with a straightforward and easy to use, serial-based activation system. We did our best to ensure that our system works well for both online and offline users. By supporting USB key activation, mobile use is supported just as easily as permanent licence activation on your computer's hard disk is.

For detailed information on activation and the current system requirements of our plug-ins please refer to [blackroosteraudio.com/en/faq](https://blackroosteraudio.com/en/faq)

# KH-COMP1 ORIGINAL LEVELING AMPLIFIER

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

## FEATURE OVERVIEW

### 4 DETECTOR MODES-HILBERT/PEAK/VINTAGE/RMS

The KH-COMP1 Compressor offers incredible versatility for shaping the envelope that drives this unit - for broad or precise capturing of the sidechain level. The 4 detector modes allow for the most flexibility with time parameters and precise threshold control.

The Hilbert detector is a 90-degree phase shifter, that will show the signal's exact envelope, without any distortion or overshoots. Forget about true peak, this is the real deal!

### INVERTIBLE SC FILTER

The sidechain signal can be trimmed perfectly using the 2-band invertible filter. Both the low and high ends can be processed according to your needs, which will allow for more control with ducking, pumping effects and de-essing. With inverting the filter, you are able to surgically cut out the mids.

With the "listen" option, you can double-check your SC filter settings, before it will be handled by the envelope detector.

### BLENDED STEREO-LINK

Blending dual mono to stereo is very helpful when you need detailed control over the relation between the stereo channels and their processing.

### KNEE PARAMETER

The knee parameter smoothes out the compression effect beautifully, for a seamless result. If you're aiming for a harsher effect, just let your signal brush over the hard edge.

### SSE2 OPTIMIZED CODE

DSP operations are pipelined using the SSE2 instruction set. This ensures a high-performance operation despite its very complex computations.

### ZERO LATENCY

The KH-COMP1 is a zero-latency compressor that does not require sample delay compensation, making it ideal for real-time monitoring or live environments.

### HIGHDPI/RETINA SUPPORT

The user interfaces support high pixel density on both Windows and Mac OS systems, giving you the most enjoyable user experience on high DPI displays. Please refer to your DAW manual to learn whether it is HighDPI compatible if you're working on Windows.

# KH-COMP1 ORIGINAL LEVELING AMPLIFIER PLUG-IN CONTROLS



## » STEREO LINK BLEND

Blending dual mono to stereo links gives you detailed control over the relation between the stereo channels and their further processing. The "dual mono" function will process each channel (left + right) separately, whereas "stereo linked" will process the gain reduction based on the envelope of the dominating channel.



## » INVERTIBLE FILTER & LISTEN (30Hz to 1kHz | 2.5 to 28Khz)

The sidechain signal can be EQed with the 2-band (invertible) filter. This makes processing both the low and the high-end possible (frequency + Q), allowing for more control in regards to ducking, pumping effects and de-essing. With the "listen" option, you can double-check your SC filter settings, before moving onto the envelope detector.



## » 4 DETECTOR MODES

The 4 detector modes allow for the most flexibility with time parameters and precise threshold control. You can choose between Hilbert, Peak, Vintage (K2 harmonic-dominant) and regular RMS modes. The Hilbert detector is a 90° phase shifter, that will show the signal's exact envelope, without any distortion or overshoots.



## » ATTACK & RELEASE

Adjust the attack & release time for when the compression takes place, based on the given envelope. Adjusting the attack will allow for super-fast access from 0.5 to 40ms, and the release can be adjusted from 75ms up to 1.5s.



## » THRESHOLD & COMPRESSION PARAMETRIC

Adjust the threshold of the comp. to your needs using the 'threshold' control, between 0dBFS down to -48dBFS. Use the 'ratio' setting (2:1 to infinite [brick wall]) and adjust the output level of the compressor (0 to +48dB). The 'knee' control allows you to adjust the sharpness of compression around the threshold. Steplessly blend the output signal from input (dry) to processed (wet).



## » VU METER SETTINGS

Define which signal the VU meter accesses for monitoring the levels of either the input, the output or the even the gain reduction.



# KH-COMP1 ORIGINAL LEVELING AMPLIFIER

# PREFS & INSTRUCTIONS

## ADDITIONAL PLUG-IN PREFERENCES

(GEAR ICON MENU AT THE BOTTOM)

### GUI SIZE

In the GUI size menu, you can select your preferred GUI ranging from a list of four settings, if you're looking to change the default sizing. Please note that the GUI size setting is a global preference that affects all Black Rooster Audio plug-ins installed on your system.

### KNOB BEHAVIOUR & KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Use the plug-in settings menu to select your preferred knob mode globally. Please note that all of our plug-ins share the same settings across all DAW applications. Choose between "Host Setting", "Circular", "Relative Circular" and "Linear".

- By default, the knob mode is set to "Host Setting", which means that the knob mode is dictated by the DAW application. Some VST hosts allow you to change the knob mode setting in their preference menu. Our plug-ins will respect the host knob mode in that setting.
- In "Circular" or "Relative Circular" mode, all knobs will react to circular mouse gestures and you have to drag your mouse in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to change its value.
- In the "Linear" mode you have to drag your mouse up or down when selecting a knob to change its value. Use the knob sensitivity menu and adjust it to your liking. Please note that this function is only available in linear mode.

### ALL OF OUR PLUGINS SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

#### *AU Hosts on Mac OS*

Alt + Click - Reset control to its default value Shift + Drag - Fine control

Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control

#### *VST Hosts on Mac OS*

CMD + Click - Reset control to its default value

Shift + Drag - Fine control (only applicable in linear knob mode) Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control

#### *VST Hosts on Windows*

Ctrl + Click - Reset control to its default value

Shift + Drag - Fine control (only applicable in linear knob mode) Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control