

SUPERCHARGER ***GT***



Manual



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Software version: 1.0 (02/2014)

Special thanks to the Beta Test Team, who were invaluable not just in tracking down bugs, but in making this a better product.

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1 Welcome to SUPERCHARGER GT

SUPERCHARGER GT is part of Native Instrument's Komplete Instruments & Effects series. Designed for use with your host software, SUPERCHARGER GT lets you explore the sound of high-end tube compression with expansive yet straightforward control. Not only a musical compressor inspired by boutique hardware, SUPERCHARGER GT also allows you to dial in three different flavors of saturation and spectral shaping.

Whether you need subtle harmonic and spatial enhancement or scorching tube drive and crushing sonic impact, SUPERCHARGER GT is a powerful and versatile tube compressor plugin for all your production duties.

1.1 What Is a Compressor?

Technically speaking, a compressor is an audio processing unit that reduces the dynamic range of an incoming signal, i.e. reduces the level difference between the signal's quiet and loud sections. This way, it can help to increase the perceived loudness of a signal and attract the listener's attention.

For many studio and live music applications, the usage of compressors is inevitable: they let you “glue” the individual instruments of an instrument group together and make them “sit” in the mix more naturally, which is particularly helpful when mixing drum recordings. Compression can also stretch the decay phase of instruments, mostly drums, and add sustain to the tone of the electric guitars.

However, compression can be used for a wide range of applications. Here are just a few examples:

- **Electric guitars and basses:** Compression is applied to picked string instruments in order to smooth the varying intensity of the individual strokes, thus increasing the perceived overall level. At extreme settings, you can get a “wall of sound” effect!
- **Drums:** Adding compression to a bass drum or snare track will add punch and help define its sound in your mix.
- **Vocals:** Adding compression to vocals can make them sound more balanced by levelling the soft and loud sounds in the voice.

- **Mixing/pre-mastering:** A slight compression applied to the overall mix (or some specific subgroups) can add cohesion between the various instruments.

1.2 What is SUPERCHARGER GT?

SUPERCHARGER GT is a superb character compressor with a simple but powerful interface, which makes compression easy to use.

SUPERCHARGER GT can be used on a single channel or a group of channels (often referred to as a “bus”) within your host software. It contains factory presets that lend themselves to compression scenarios you are likely to encounter in your productions.

For example, you might want to use the compressor on an audio channel containing a bass instrument in order to make it sound fatter and cut through the mix. Another example would be when mixing drums, where you will want to apply compression on the whole drum group in order to “melt” it together and add extra punch.

2 The Main Interface

This section describes the SUPERCHARGER GT interface and controls in detail.



The SUPERCHARGER GT Interface

(1) Input Trim knob: This is the first control you should grab when you open up SUPERCHARGER GT. Use this control to adjust the input signal to SUPERCHARGER GT's perfect operating level.

(2) Input level indicator: Indicates if SUPERCHARGER GT's input level is set correctly, in which case the input level indicator's main LED is lit green. If the level of the input signal is too low; the *left* arrow LED will glow red, whereas if too high, the *right* arrow will glow red.

(3) **High-Pass Filter switch:** You can prevent SUPERCHARGER GT from reacting primarily to low-frequency signal peaks as induced by kick drums or bass instruments by moving the high-pass filter. This is especially useful when you use SUPERCHARGER GT on a stereo mixdown. When on, the high-pass filter will cut the internal detector signal below the selected frequency. Switch between the two cutoff frequencies to figure out which one works best.

(4) **Saturation knob:** Use the [Saturation](#) knob to dial in the amount of saturation, and add dirt, warmth and loudness to your signals.

(5) **Saturation Mode selector:** SUPERCHARGER GT offers three different Saturation modes you can use to shape your signals. [Mild](#) mode is a nice way of coloring signals while retaining a clean sound, while [Moderate](#) mode will tastefully add more noticeable harmonics. Switch to [Hot](#) mode for maximum saturation and audible distortion.

(6) **Gain reduction level meter:** This shows the amount of gain reduction in dB.

(7) **Compress knob:** The more you turn the Compress knob to the right, the more the compression will be applied to the input signal, while retaining an even loudness level. Note that in order to make this work you need to set the input level correctly (by adjusting the [Input Trim](#) knob).

(8) **Output level meter:** The [Output](#) level meter indicates the output volume level (in dB) from the compressor.

(9) **Menu bar:** Save and load presets using the controls in the Menu bar. See section [↑3.1, Presets](#) for more information.

(10) **Character knob:** Use the equalizer controlled by the [Character](#) knob to fatten signals lacking substance, or to smoothen signals that are a too aggressive due to heavy saturation.

(11) **Character selector:** The [Character](#) selector provides access to three character modes, with [Fat](#) mode emphasizing low and high frequencies, and [Warm](#) mode rolling off some highs while enhancing the lower frequency spectrum. [Bright](#) mode enhances the top end and attenuates the bottom end of the signal, which is great for making boomy instruments stand out in the mix.

(12) **Mix knob:** Use the [Mix](#) knob to dial in parallel compression (also known as New York Drum compression trick). The uncompressed (dry) signal will be mixed with a compressed version of the same signal. It gives the excitement of a compressed signal without losing its dynamic

and transients. If the **Mix** knob is set to the left (**Wet**) end stop, you only hear the compressed signal. With the **Mix** knob set to the right end stop you only hear the **Dry** signal. Every setting in-between is a mix of both signals.

(13) Sidechain level indicator: Indicates if the input level of the Sidechain input is set correctly. When the Sidechain input level is set correctly, the Sidechain level indicator's main LED is lit green. If the level of the Sidechain input signal is too low; the *left* arrow LED will glow red, whereas if the level is too high, the *right* arrow will glow red.

(14) Sidechain knob: Use this control to adjust the Sidechain input signal to SUPERCHARGER GT's perfect operating level.

(15) Sidechain switch: Clicking the **Sidechain** button switches the compressor into external side-chain mode, meaning that the compressor reacts to a source other than its own input. Typically the side-chain input is fed by a bass drum track that is used as a control signal to trigger the compressor on the bass guitar track, or to create an audible pumping effect on a synthesizer track.

(16) Attack knob: Use the **Attack** knob to dial in how fast the compressor reacts to incoming signals.

(17) Compression Mode selector: Use the Compression Mode selector to quickly access typical Attack and Release settings. To select a setting, click its button. **Gentle** is an allround setting that will work with a wide variety of signals, while **Punch** is great for drums; **Slam** is a very fast setting that is capable of extreme FX compression.

(18) Release knob: Use the **Release** knob to adjust the length of compressor's release phase, i.e. the time it takes for the compressor to return to its standby state.

(19) Output knob: Use this knob to adjust the output level of the compressor.

(20) Channel Link selector: Use this selector to select one of three stereo modes. **Stereo Link** will apply the same amount of gain reduction to both the left and right channels. **Stereo Link** is the most common mode because it eliminates the risk of image shifting. In **Dual Mono** mode, both channels will be compressed individually. Some engineers prefer this mode over **Stereo Link** mode because it helps to widen the mix. In **MS** mode, the input signal will not be split into a left and right channel, but processed as Mid and Side signals instead. **MS** mode enhances the side signal to a certain extent, so signals processed using this mode will sound wider.

3 Using SUPERCHARGER GT

3.1 Presets

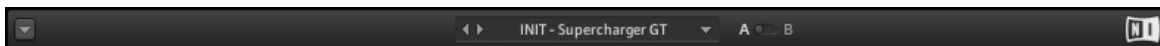
SUPERCHARGER GT equips you with 25 factory presets for a variety of different compression scenarios. When you open up the SUPERCHARGER GT within your host software, you'll find the preset menu located at the top of the interface.



The Preset Menu

For those using the SUPERCHARGER GT within Native Instruments' MASCHINE software, to reveal the presets menu:

- Click on the pen icon in the top left corner of the interface.



The Menu bar is located at the top of the interface

The compressor's default preset is labeled **INIT - Supercharger GT**. By default, this has no compression applied. It is recommended that you spend some time familiarizing yourself with the factory presets, and ultimately testing them out on your tracks. Whether its bass, vocal, snares, you'll be able to find a preset that's tailored to your compression needs.

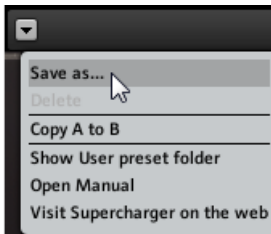


Experiment with adjusting the parameters within SUPERCHARGER GT's presets to find more unique compression settings.

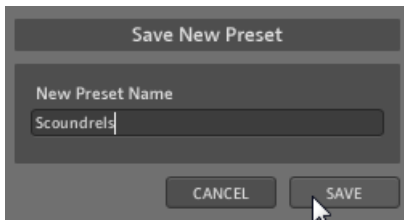
3.1.1 Saving and Deleting Presets

To save a preset:

1. Click the drop-down arrow at the very left of the Menu bar to open the File menu. Select *Save as...* from the File menu:



2. Enter the name of your preset in the area under the label **New Preset Name**:



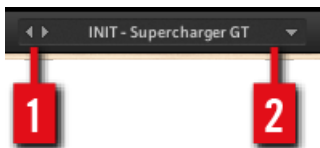
3. Click the **SAVE** button to finish the process and close the dialog box.



If you wish to remove a preset you no longer want, you can delete it by selecting *Delete* from the File menu. Please note: you are not able to delete factory content.

3.1.2 Loading Presets

In the center part of the Menu Bar, you will see the Preset menu.

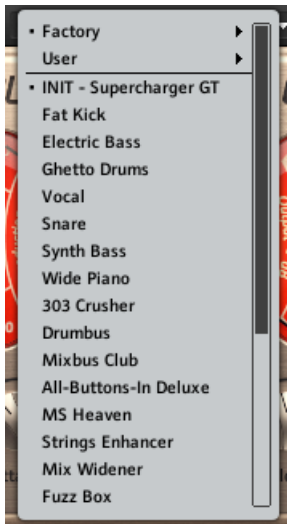


The Preset Menu

- (1) **Left/Right Arrows:** Click the left and right arrows to cycle through and load the presets one at a time.
- (2) **Preset Menu:** Click the drop-down menu to view a list of available presets. A preset is loaded when you click its name.

3.1.3 Loading a Saved Preset

When you save a preset, the Preset menu is automatically split in two submenus, one containing *Factory* presets and one containing *User* presets. By selecting a preset from the *User* submenu, the list of presets you have saved is brought to the front of the Preset menu and displayed below the *Factory* and *User* options.



The User submenu of the Preset Menu

By loading one of the presets from the *Factory* submenu, the factory presets are brought back to the front.



The Factory submenu

3.1.4 A/B Comparisons

SUPERCHARGER GT offers an **A/B** comparison system to help you fine tune your compression settings. You will find this located to the right of the Preset Menu.



The A/B comparison switch

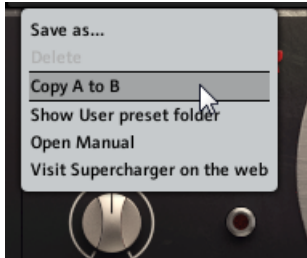
This feature provides two slots into which you can enter different parameter settings. You can then quickly switch between the two slots to compare the settings and use whichever you prefer.

By default, you edit the parameters of slot A. To **switch to slot B**:

- Click the **A/B** switch
- You will now be editing and listening to the parameters of slot B, until you click the **A/B** switch again.

3.1.5 Copying to another Slot

SUPERCHARGER GT provides you with the feature to copy compression settings between slots **A** and **B**. Copying to another slot is particularly useful when, for example you have already saved a set of compression parameters as a preset, but wish to further adjust the parameters, and perform **A/B** comparisons without altering the saved preset.



The Copy A to B menu option

To copy the settings of slot A to B:

- Go to the file menu on the left side of the Menu bar and select *Copy A to B*

4 Other File Menu Options

The File menu also has the following options:

- *Show User preset folder*: opens a system window in the location of where your presets are saved. Note that you can rename your presets by changing the file names.
- *Open Manual*: opens this PDF document reference.
- *Visit Supercharger GT on the web*: opens your default web browser and takes you to the SUPERCHARGER GT page on the Native Instruments website.

5 Credits

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