

Portico II Master Buss Processor Plug-in

User Guide



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Introduction

Originally released in 2011, the Master Buss Processor quickly became indispensable for audio professionals worldwide, whether it be for mixing & mastering in the studio, FOH & MON mixes for top tier Live Sound, or finalizing critical broadcast mixes. Now all the power and prestige of this legendary hardware is available in plug-in form.

We recommend diving in to the MBP by placing the stereo version on your Master Bus. The different sections of the MBP are tailor-made for finalizing a mix/master. Increasing loudness, color and stereo width are instantly attainable by activating the compressor and/or limiter, SILK texture control and SFE section. Once you get a feel for the controls on the master bus then we also recommend trying it on literally any mono or stereo source. With any luck you're sure to uncover new ways to use it - ways we never even thought of...



Compressor Controls



ATTACK

Adjusts the attack time of the compressor once the signal has exceeded the threshold. When set to its fastest setting (20 ms), the compressor will usually attenuate the leading edge of a fast transient. When set to slower attack settings, the compressor will ignore most of a fast transient and attenuate the transient's decay instead.



RELEASE

Adjusts how fast the compressor will return to unity gain after the signal level crosses below the threshold. Generally, slower release times will minimize compression artifacts, especially when combined with slower attack times. Faster release times are often used to maximize apparent loudness but may introduce additional compression artifacts.



THRESHOLD

Adjusts the threshold of the compressor within a signal level range of -50 to 0 dBFS. This is a wide range that is especially useful when using compression as an effect (with ample amounts of gain reduction) or for compressing lower level signals.



RATIO

Adjusts the Ratio of the compressor within a range of 1:1 to 40:1. It's important to note that the values for RATIO settings only apply to OUT/FF mode. IN/FB mode will reduce the overall compression ratio range.

Compressor & Limiter Controls



GAIN

When used with the compressor, the GAIN control adjusts the 'Make-Up Gain' of the compressed signal as needed. When used with the limiter, the GAIN control allows you to set the desired "ceiling" of your mix with the "Limit" control. In this case you can increase the Gain until the average mix level hits the desired loudness. The Gain control drives the level of the mix up to the set Limiter threshold but will not exceed it.



S/C HPF (Side-Chain High Pass Filter)

Engages a 12dB/octave high pass filter into the compressor side-chain. This allows you to remove low frequency information from the compressor side-chain detector, which means the frequencies below the set frequency selected will not be compressed. Using this control can help minimize compressor 'pumping', resulting in overall smoother compression.



BLEND %

Controls the wet/dry mix ratio of the uncompressed (0%) signal with the compressed (100%) signal. It's important that this control blends the total amount of gain reduction applied between the compressor and the limiter.



LIMIT

Controls the threshold of the soft-clip limiter section. The limiter is disengaged until you move the control from the 'Off' position. The limiter's release time will gradually increase as the threshold control is rotated further counter clock-wise. The limiter can also be utilized as a maximizer by setting the Limit potentiometer to the desired maximum level in dBu, then increasing the amount of Gain until the desired program loudness is achieved.

Compressor & Limiter Controls (continued)



SC ENABLE & SC LISTEN

SC Enables activates the 'external' side chain input of the plugin. When this is enabled, the signal feeding the 'key input' of the plugin will be the 'control signal', informing the compressor and/or limiter on when to apply gain reduction based on the THRESHOLD setting/s. SC Listen allows you to audition the key input routed to the plugin to make sure you've routed the right signal.



COMP IN

Engages the compressor and/or limiter. Engaging or disengaging the "Comp In" button does NOT affect the SILK settings or the SFE settings. It's important to note that the limiter will NOT be engaged unless this switch is turned on.



RMS/PEAK

Toggles between two different compressor detection modes: RMS (Root Mean Square) and PEAK. RMS/OFF uses an average loudness reading over time, while PEAK/ON responds directly to the incoming compressor audio signal, which can help prevent clipping and maximize overall loudness.



FF/FB

Toggles between two different compression modes: Feed-Forward and Feed-Back. When in FF/OFF mode, the side-chain detector is fed from the compressor input, before the gain control. When in FB/ON mode, the side-chain detector of the compressor is fed from the compressor output, after the gain control. It's important to note the RATIO values reduce in FB mode.



LINK

Activates control linking function on the 2-channel plug-in instance. Engaging this links all the compressor, limiter and SILK controls to each other. This can be used in DUAL MONO, STEREO or M/S processing modes. It's important to note that engaging LINK will maintain the relative offsets of each channel's controls when in DUAL MONO or M/S mode.

*** Please make sure to engage link first if you want the controls stay matched as you adjust one channel ***

SFE Section, SILK & 2-Channel Processing Modes



DEPTH & WIDTH

The SFE Section uses M/S encoding to provide maximum flexibility when processing your stereo image.

DEPTH adjusts the overall level of the Mid information. Center-panned elements like vocals, drums, & bass can be brought to the forefront by moving the DEPTH control towards MAX or de-emphasized by moving towards MIN. If the DEPTH control is at the “0” position then no processing will be audible, even if DEPTH IN is engaged.

WIDTH adjusts the overall level of the Side information. Elements panned towards left & right will increase by moving the WIDTH control towards MAX, resulting in a wider perceived stereo image. Conversely, if the WIDTH control is at the “0” position then no processing will be audible, even if WIDTH IN is engaged.

DEPTH & WIDTH EQ engages the 4-position filter switch for each, allowing you to select between four different EQ settings for DEPTH processing: Low Frequency (LF), Low Mid (LM), High Mid (HM), and High Frequency (HF). These filter settings give you the ability to focus in on a certain frequency range to be either emphasized or de-emphasized within the stereo image.



SFE POST

The default signal flow of the MBP plugin is: SFE section > Compressor > Limiter > SILK > Output. This switch allows you to change the order by placing the SFE section post compressor & limiter section. The signal flow when this switch is engaged is: Compressor>Limiter>SFE section>SILK>Output.

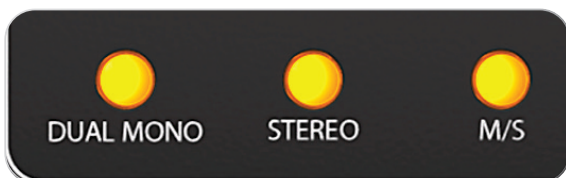


SILK

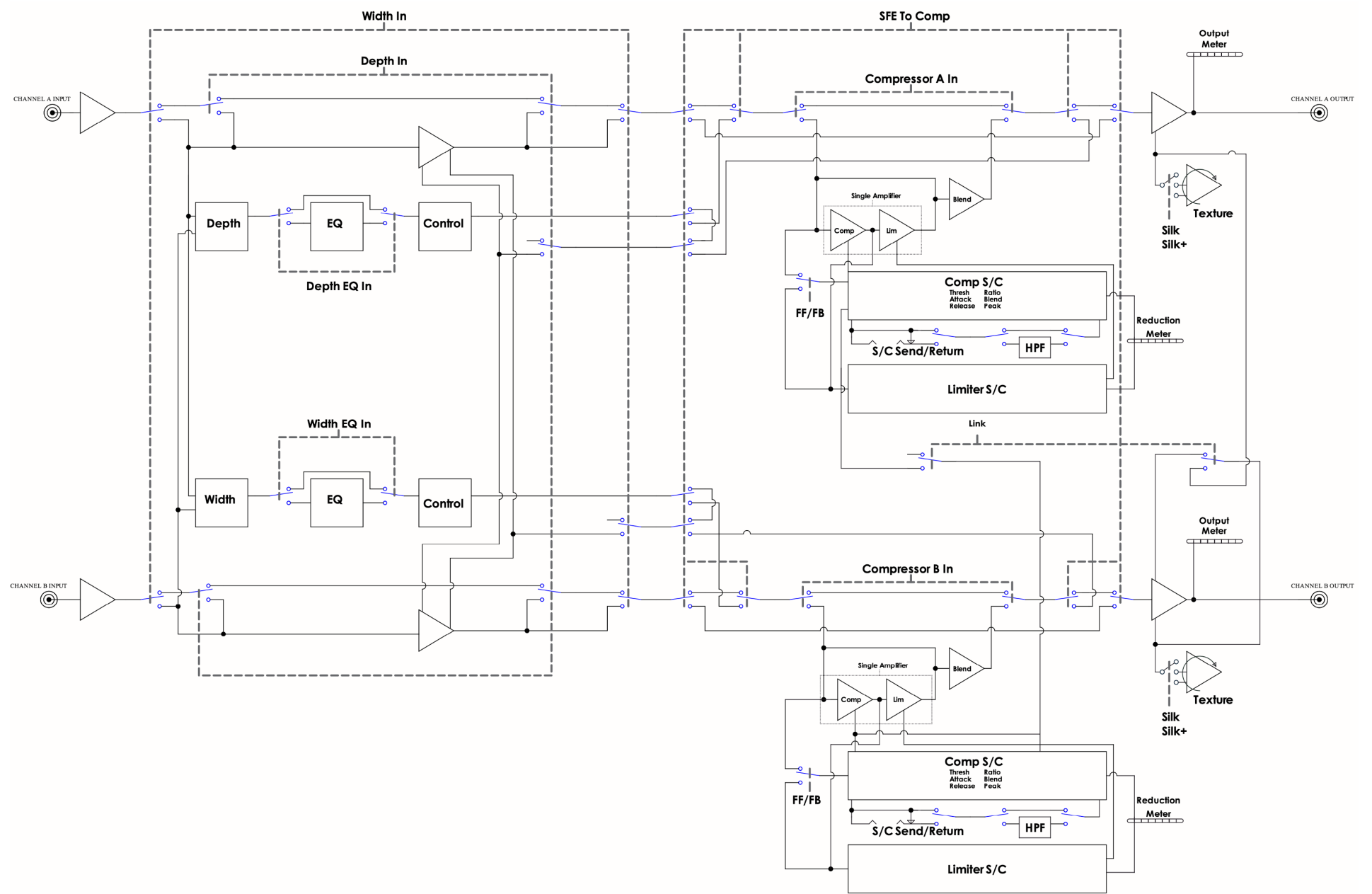
Controls the exact amount of musical harmonics added. This section is modeled after the custom transformers found in the MBP hardware. The SILK Red/Blue switch has 3 states, RED, BLUE & OFF. Red SILK focuses the harmonics in the upper mids and highs while Blue SILK focuses the harmonics in the low mids and lows. The TEXTURE control allows you to fine-tune the ideal amount of harmonics added to the signal.

2-CHANNEL Processing Modes

This section increases the flexibility of potential processing techniques. Once a ‘stereo’ or ‘multi-channel’ instance of the plug-in is opened, you will see these 3 modes available. DUAL MONO mode allows you to process each channel individually, STEREO mode assigns CH A controls to CH B and links the gain reduction, and M/S mode assigns the mid channel to CH A and the side channel to CH B.



MBP Plug-in Block Diagram



Technical & Support Information

You can demo any Rupert Neve Designs plug-in for a period of 14 days.

To start a demo of any RND plug-in, simply download and install the desired plug-in(s). Upon launching your DAW, you can start a demo by clicking the “Try” button for any RND plug-in. You will be asked to log into your iLok account, and the demo authorization period will begin.

Downloads for each Rupert Neve Designs Plug-in Installer can be found here:

<https://plugins.rupertneve.com/downloads>

For additional information, including Plug-in User Guides, FAQs, System Requirements or to contact our support team, please visit this link:

<https://plugins.rupertneve.com/support/>