

Compression

Music

What each control does, and starting points for common sources.

A compressor reduces the loudest parts, so the quiet parts can be raised.

Control	Does	Start at
Threshold	Level where it starts working	-18 dB
Ratio	How hard it reduces	3:1
Attack	How fast it clamps down	10–30 ms
Release	How fast it lets go	100 ms / auto
Knee	How gradually it engages	Soft
Makeup gain	Restores lost volume	Match bypassed level

Slow attack lets the transient through, keeping punch. Fast attack catches it, giving control and less life.