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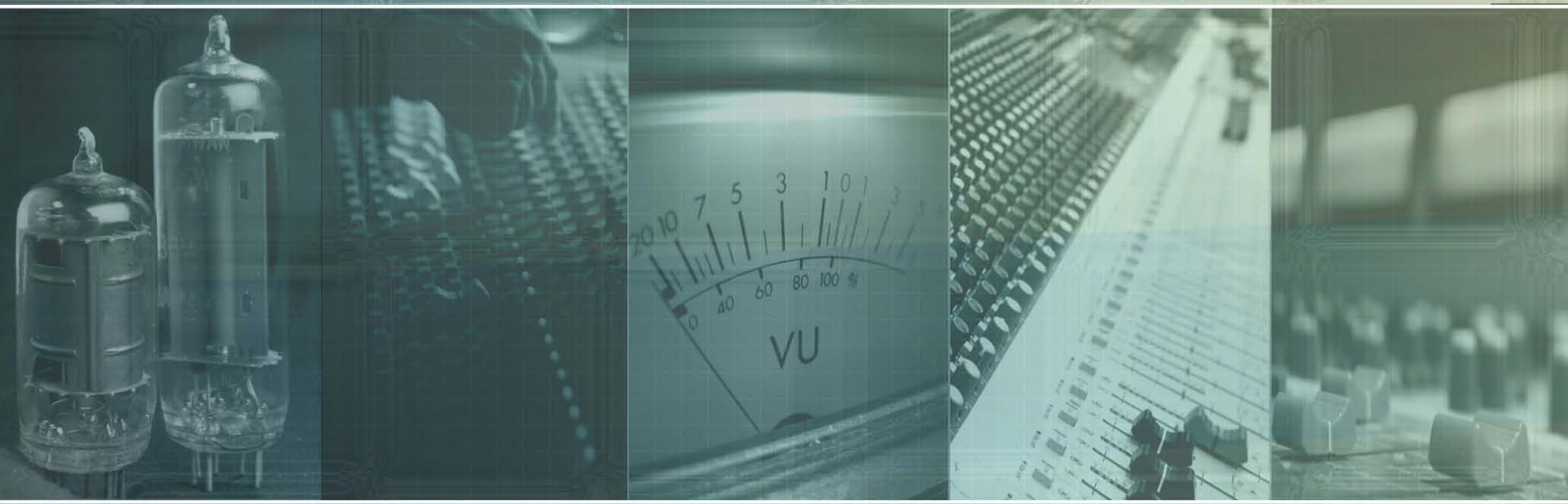
Snap Compressor

MANUAL



www.analoginthebox.com

1. Introduction

Welcome and thank you for purchasing the Snap Compressor library for Nebula. We hope our software will help to make your mixes sound more pleasant, unique and analog. If you have any trouble with our software please do not hesitate to contact us:

support@analoginthebox.com

We will be glad to help!

2. System requirements

In order to use our software you need at least:
- An Intel or AMD CPU based PC / An Intel CPU based Mac
- 60 MB free disk space
- Up to 50 MB **free** Ram per instance
- Nebula3Pro with installed commercial license

3a. Installation (PC)

The installation is fairly straightforward:

- Start the installer and read the End-User-License-Agreement ("EULA") carefully before you agree and proceed!
- You need to choose 2 different paths:

  The first one is your "nebulatemprepository" directory where your programs and vectors will be copied to.

  The second is the directory where this manual and the uninstaller will be saved.

  Our installer will automatically detect the correct path of your "nebulatemprepository" as well as your standard "Program Files" directory. If, for any reason, this does not happen, please be sure that you manually select the correct folders.

- In the next step Start Menu shortcuts will be created.
  If you wish to skip this step just check the "Do not create shortcuts" button in the lower left corner.
- Finally click on the "Install" button and the installer will do the rest. Please be patient as this process could take a few minutes.

3b. Installation (Mac)

- Open / mount the disk image
- Run the included installer package
- Please read the End-User-License-Agreement ("EULA") carefully before you agree and proceed!
- Enter your administrator password when asked for and start the installation.
- (Optional): Copy the manual to your hard disk.

4. Authorization

Before you can start using Snap Compressor you will need to authorize the library in a few simple steps:

- Open Nebula in your DAW
- Load a preset that is included in the Snap Compressor library.
- Loading this program will fail - Nebula will load its internal "init" program instead and create a challenge file (SNAPCOMP.SER) in your nebulatemprepository (*) folder.
- Log in to the analoginthebox.com website, navigate to "My Account" and click the "authorize" button for Snap Compressor.
- Upload your challenge file and wait until your authorization file has been created.
- Close the window, click on the "download.AUT" button and download your authorization file (SNAPCOMP.AUT) (**)
- Copy the file to your nebulatemprepository folder where the challenge file is located as well.
- You have successfully authorized Snap Compressor!

(*) The nebulatemprepository folder location can vary for PC users. For Mac users it is usually: /Library/Audio/Presets/AcusticaAudio/Nebula3

(**) PC users can download and use a license installer instead of copying the authorization file manually.

5. About Snap Compressor

The Snap Compressor library for Nebula is based on the bus compressor found in the worlds most successful consoles. It is the first choice of many top audio engineers to "glue" a mix together.

In order to achieve a slightly more colored compressor we did not sample only the compressor, but used different stages of the console for sampling as well.

Special thanks to Thorsten Rentsch (Renaissance Studio Cologne).
We are looking forward to the next releases based on our cooperation.

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6. The programs

The Snap Compressor consists of 18 different programs:

SnapCmp 10:1 FF	SnapCmp 10:1 FS	**SnapCmp 10:1 SF**
SnapCmp 10:1 SF+	**SnapCmp 10:1 SS**	SnapCmp 10:1 SS+
SnapCmp 4:1 FF	SnapCmp 4:1 FS	**SnapCmp 4:1 SF**
SnapCmp 4:1 SF+	**SnapCmp 4:1 SS**	SnapCmp 4:1 SS+
SnapCmp 2:1 FF	SnapCmp 2:1 FS	**SnapCmp 2:1 SF**
SnapCmp 2:1 SF+	**SnapCmp 2:1 SS**	SnapCmp 2:1 SS+

Naming scheme for the programs:

SnapCmp	2:1	S	F	+
Name	*Ratio*	*Attack indicator*	*Release* indicator	*RTE indicator*

Attack / Release indicator:

Attack time fast (F): 0.1ms, 0.3ms, 1ms
Attack time slow (S): 1ms, 10ms, 30ms
Release time fast (F): 0.1s, 0.3s
Release time slow (S): 0.6s, 1.2s

To dial in to values without interpolation turn Nebula's fader/knob fully up/down (or use ctrl + click for attack time parameter to dial in to the in-between setting).

RTE indicator:

Programs marked by "+" use shorter kernels to achieve a faster program rate.

Example:

Using the "SnapCmp 2:1 SF+" program you could dial in to 1-30ms attack time and 100-300ms release time. The program rate is running at a faster rate than by default.

7. The parameters in Detail

We included 18 programs instead of just 3 (one for each ratio) to ensure our customers have the flexibility to use the Snap Compressor the way the like it.

If you want to be on the "safe side": Avoid all experimental programs by using only those, that have a shorter attack time and no "+" RTE indicator: SnapCmp 10:1 SS, SnapCmp 10:1 SF, SnapCmp 4:1 SS, SnapCmp 4:1 SF, SnapCmp 2:1 SS, SnapCmp 2:1 SF.

For adventurous users we applied common tweaks to change Snap Compressor's standard behaviour. This way you can try out different tweaks without spending time on learning about the Nebula engine and how to tweak.

Let us take a closer look at two specific examples:

1) The attack time of 0.3ms of the original hardware cannot be achieved with Nebula. We can get the results a little bit closer if we force Nebula to use very short kernels and decrease the program rate a lot. But this leads to a much higher CPU usage, making the programs unusable for common projects.

2) Even if we use a program with a slower attack time like "SnapCmp 4:1 SF" we will introduce some randomness. To reduce this we force Nebula to run at a faster rate as well. Again, we have to reduce kernel length.