A Short History of the Spectral Compressor

Compression began as a blunt tool.
It was designed to control volume rather than manipulate sound.
Traditional compressors treat all frequencies equally,
They smashed everything with the same settings.
However, as digital processing evolved, so did our tools.

This gave rise to the idea of compressing each frequency separately.
Thus, the Spectral Compressor was born.
Although early versions were slow and taxed CPUs heavily, the potential was clear:
surgical precision, unmatched transparency and control that mimicked the way
we hear.

Today, spectral compression is used for everything from vocals to full mixes.
It's not just a tool, it's a revolution in dynamics.

Spectral Compression is an audio effect plugin and requires a host to run.

It's available in the VST3 and AUv2 formats and is compatible with any host that supports any of these formats.

Spectral Compression is compatible with macOS (Universal), Windows.

Minimum supported OS versions
- macOS 10.13 (High Sierra)
- Windows 10

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How to Install VST3 & AUv2 Plugins?

Downloads	→	Downloads ›	→	Common Files › VST3

Spectral_Compression_Win_VST3.zip   Spectral_Compression_Win_VST3.vst3   IFEA - Spectral Compression.vst3
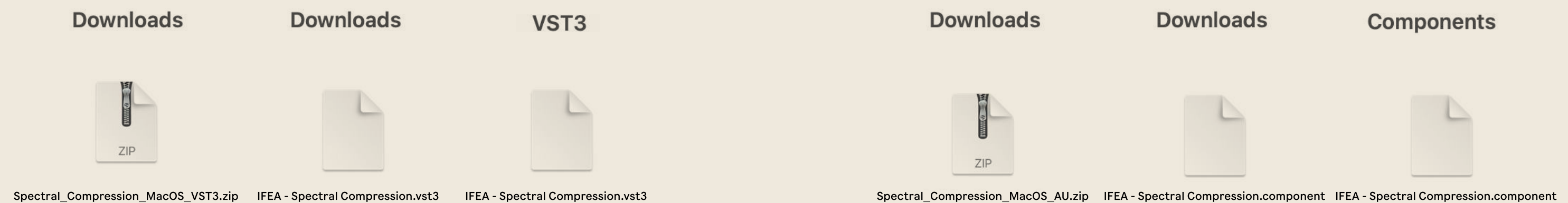
Windows (VST3 Only)

1. Locate the `.vst3` file you downloaded.

2. Copy or move the plugin into this folder:
   C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

3. Open your DAW, go to its plugin preferences, and make sure it scans the VST3 folder.

4. Rescan or refresh the plugin list inside your DAW.

5. The plugin should now appear in your DAW.

How to Install VST3 & AUv2 Plugins?

MacOS (VST3 + AUv2)

Downloads	Downloads	VST3
Spectral_Compression_MacOS_VST3.zip	IFEA - Spectral Compression.vst3	IFEA - Spectral Compression.vst3

Downloads	Downloads	Components
Spectral_Compression_MacOS_AU.zip	IFEA - Spectral Compression.component	IFEA - Spectral Compression.component

VST3 Installation

1. Find the `.vst3` file you downloaded.
2. Move or copy the plugin to one of the following folders:

   - System-wide installation (for all users):
   /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3
   - User-specific installation (just for you):
   ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3

3. Open your DAW and check that it scans the correct VST3 folder.
4. Rescan your plugin list if necessary.
5. The plugin should now be available.

AUv2 Installation

1. Locate the `.component` file (AU plugins usually have this extension).
2. Copy it to one of these folders:

   - System-wide AU install:
   /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components
   - User-specific AU install:
   ~/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components

3. Restart your DAW (Logic Pro, GarageBand, etc.).
4. Your AUv2 plugin should now show up in the plugin list.

How to Install VST3 & AUv2 Plugins?

MacOS Troubleshooting (VST3 + AUv2)

If the plugin isn't showing up or fails to load, try:

Remove Quarantine Attribute:
1. Open Terminal.
2. Run this command:

For VST3:
sudo xattr -rd com.apple.quarantine /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/IFEA - Spectral Compression.vst3

For AUv2 (Component)
sudo xattr -rd com.apple.quarantine /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/component/IFEA - Spectral Compressor.component

Allow the Plugin in Security Settings:
- Go to System Settings > Privacy & Security.
- Look for a prompt like "[Plugin] was blocked" and click Allow.

Final Checks:
- Make sure your DAW supports VST3 and/or AUv2.
- Ensure your system and plugin architectures match (e.g., ARM vs Intel).
- Try restarting your DAW or your computer.
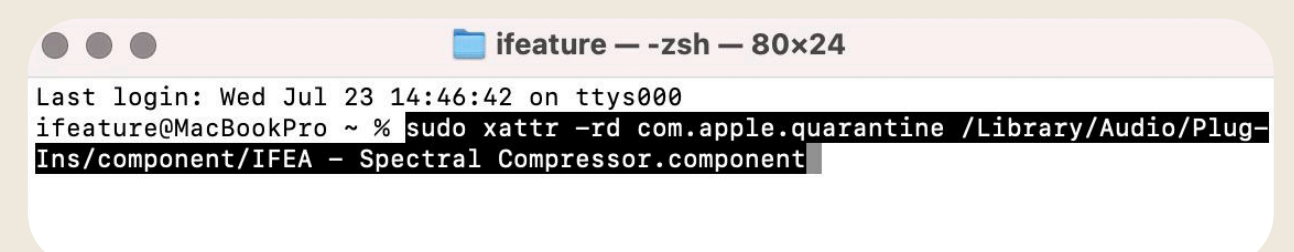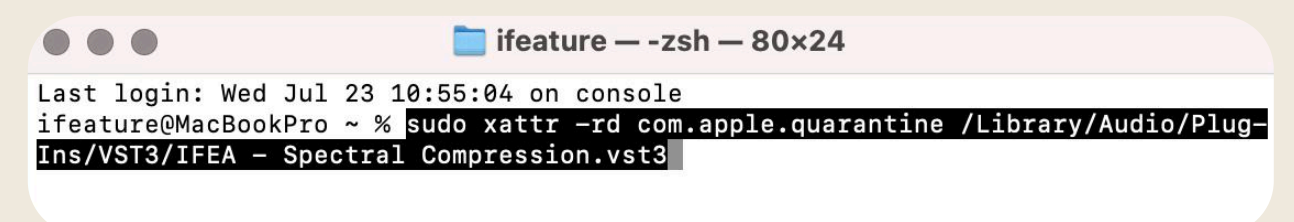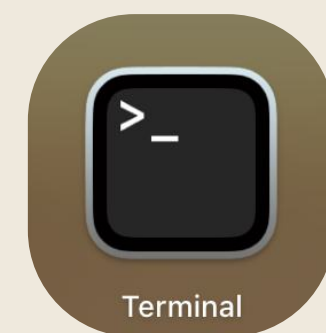
What is Threshold in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, the threshold sets the level where downward compression ("Down") reduces loud frequency bins above it, while upward compression (or "Up") boosts quiet bins below it, each applied per frequency bin for precise tonal shaping.

What is Tilt in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, Tilt adjusts the frequency-dependent sensitivity of compression by emphasizing either high or low frequencies, effectively biasing the compression curve across the spectrum.

What is Gain in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, Gain controls the overall
output level after compression, compensating for any
volume loss or boosting the processed signal
uniformly across all frequencies.

What is Ratio in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, Ratio determines how strongly each frequency bin is compressed once it exceeds the threshold, defining the amount of gain reduction applied relative to how far it surpasses the threshold.

What is Knee in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, Knee controls how gradually or abruptly compression is applied around the threshold, with a softer knee resulting in a smoother transition between uncompressed and compressed frequency bins.
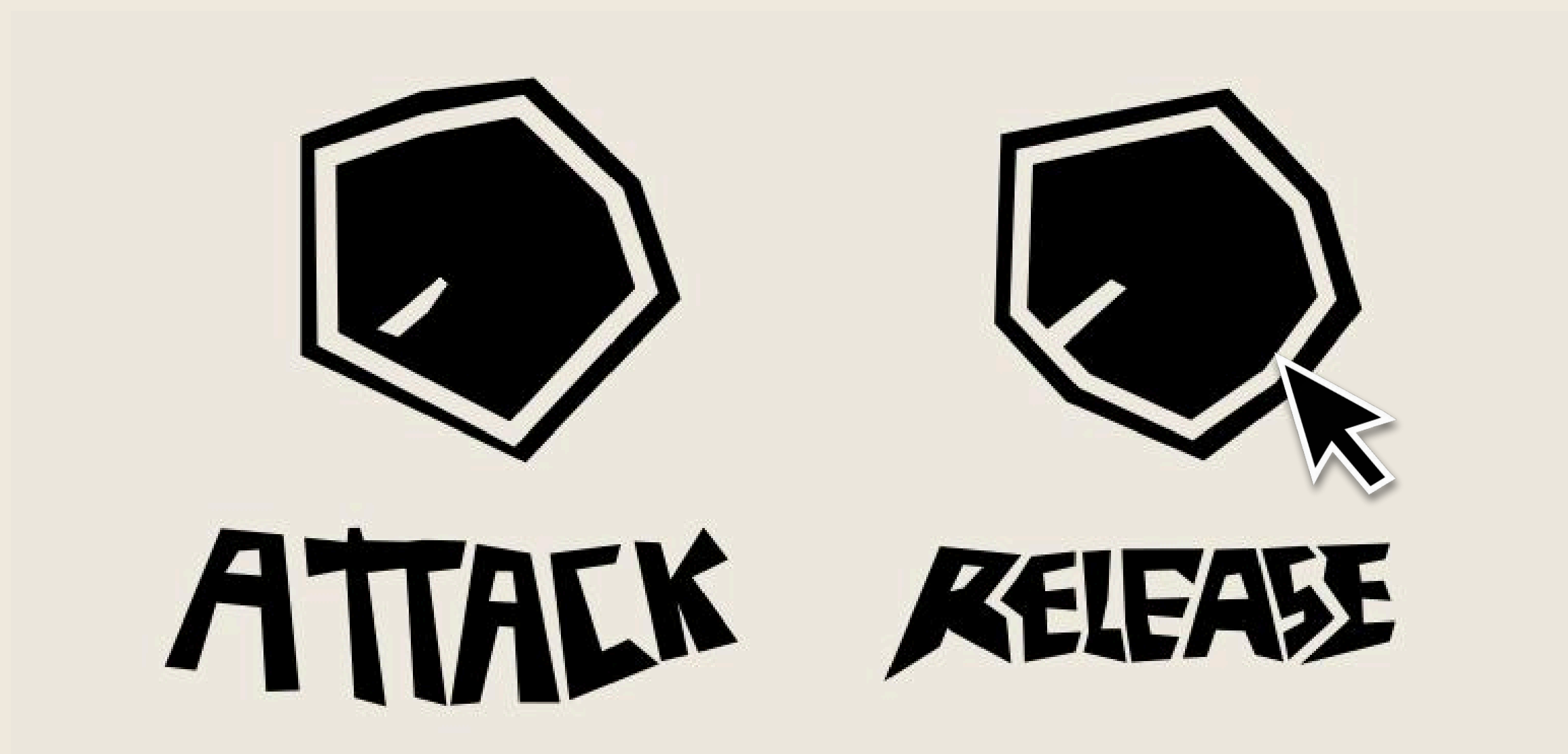
What is Attack/Release in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, "Attack" sets how quickly compression is applied to a frequency bin after it exceeds the threshold, while "Release" determines how quickly the compression stops once the bin falls below the threshold.

What is Dry/Wet in Spectral Compression ?

In spectral compression, Dry/Wet controls the blend between the unprocessed (dry) signal and the compressed (wet) signal, allowing for parallel compression and more transparent results.

Low-Latency
Normal
High-Quality
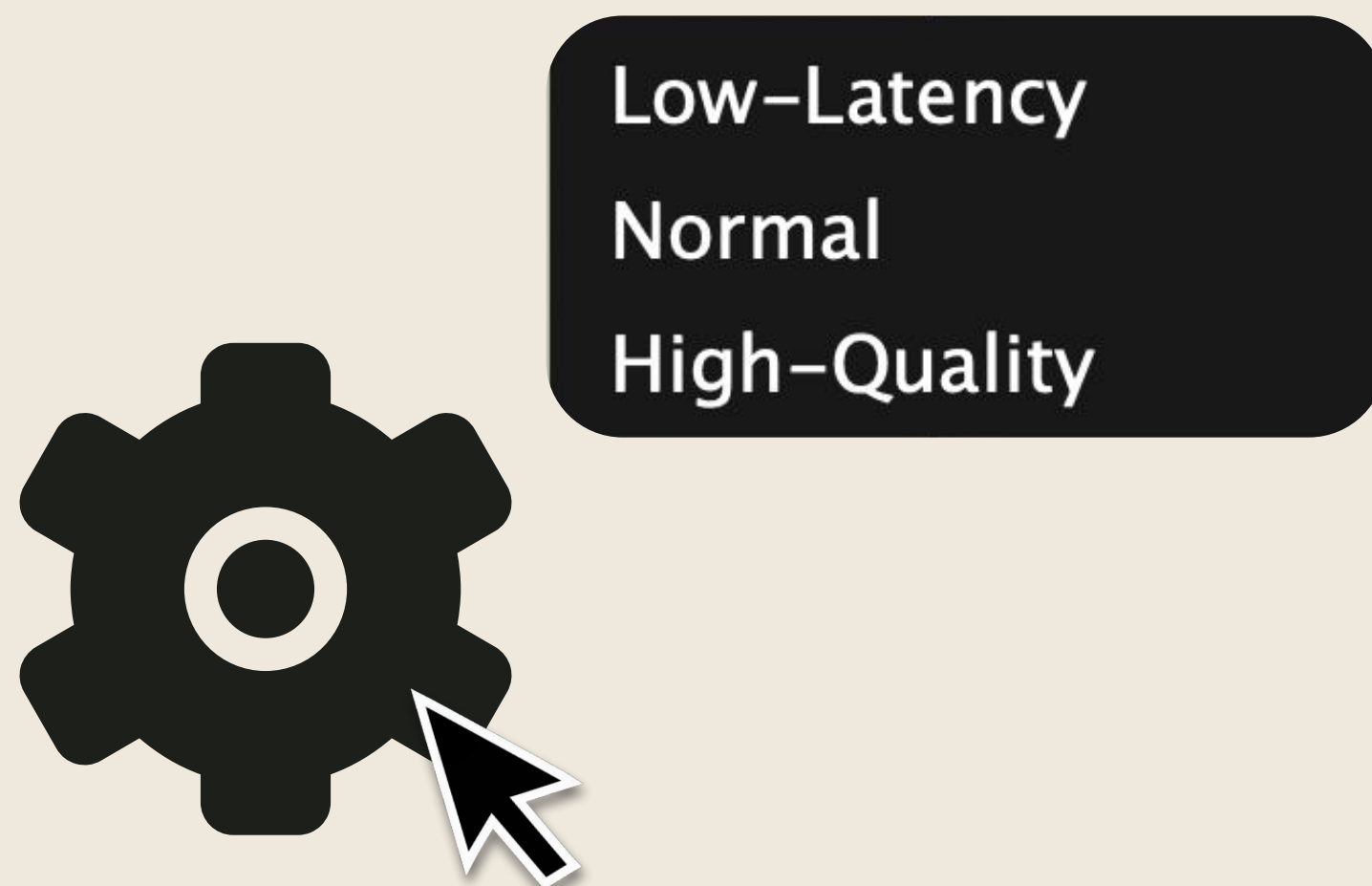
What is Settings in Spectral Compression ?

Settings determines the spectral resolution by selecting the number of frequency bands (e.g. 128, 512, 2048), which correspond to FFT sizes (256, 1024, 4096) and control the precision and responsiveness of the compression across the frequency spectrum.

Scale the Window

Spectral Compression interface is fully scalable, just drag any corner to resize the plugin window to suit your workflow and screen resolution.

That's it!

I wish you a lot of fun
w/ Spectral Compression!