



# 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 Compressor 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 Compressor 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?

## 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  
Compressor.vst3
```

For AUv2 (Component)

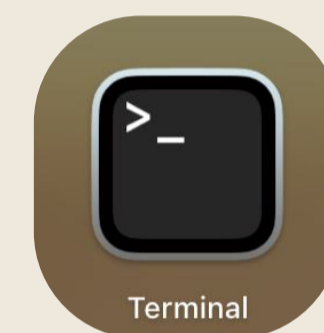
```
sudo xattr -rd com.apple.quarantine /Library/  
Audio/Plug-Ins/component/IFEA - Spectral  
Compressor.component
```

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.



```
ifeature ~ v23.7.0 11:58 > sudo xattr -rd com.apple.quarantine  
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/IFEA - Spectral Compressor.vst3
```

```
ifeature ~ v23.7.0 12:00 > sudo xattr -rd com.apple.quarantine  
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/component/IFEA - Spectral Compressor.component
```

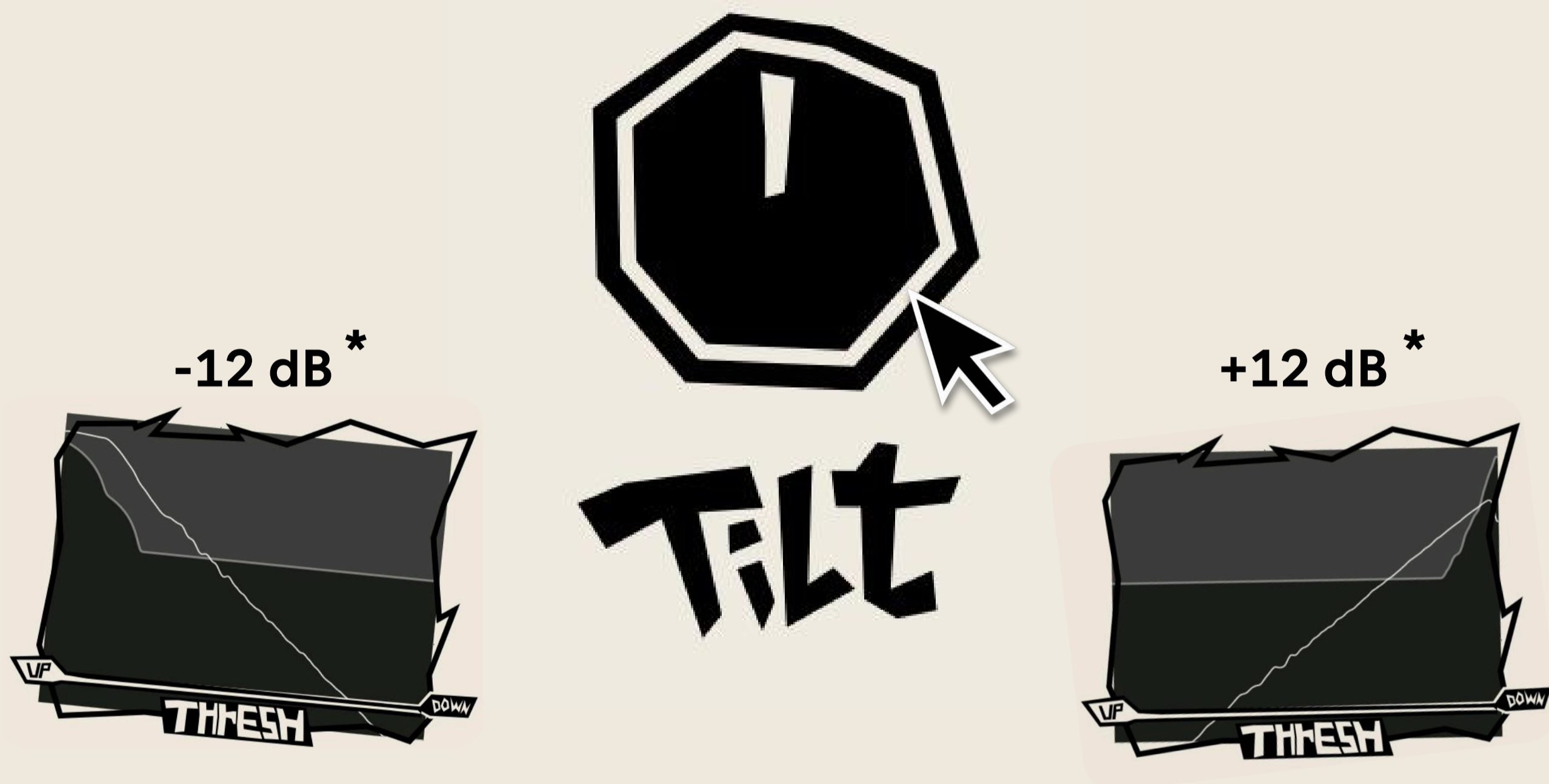




## What is Threshold in Spectral Compressor ?

In Spectral Compressor, 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.

Upwards Compression is deactivated at -70 dB.



## What is Tilt in Spectral Compressor ?

In Spectral Compressor, 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 Compressor ?**

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



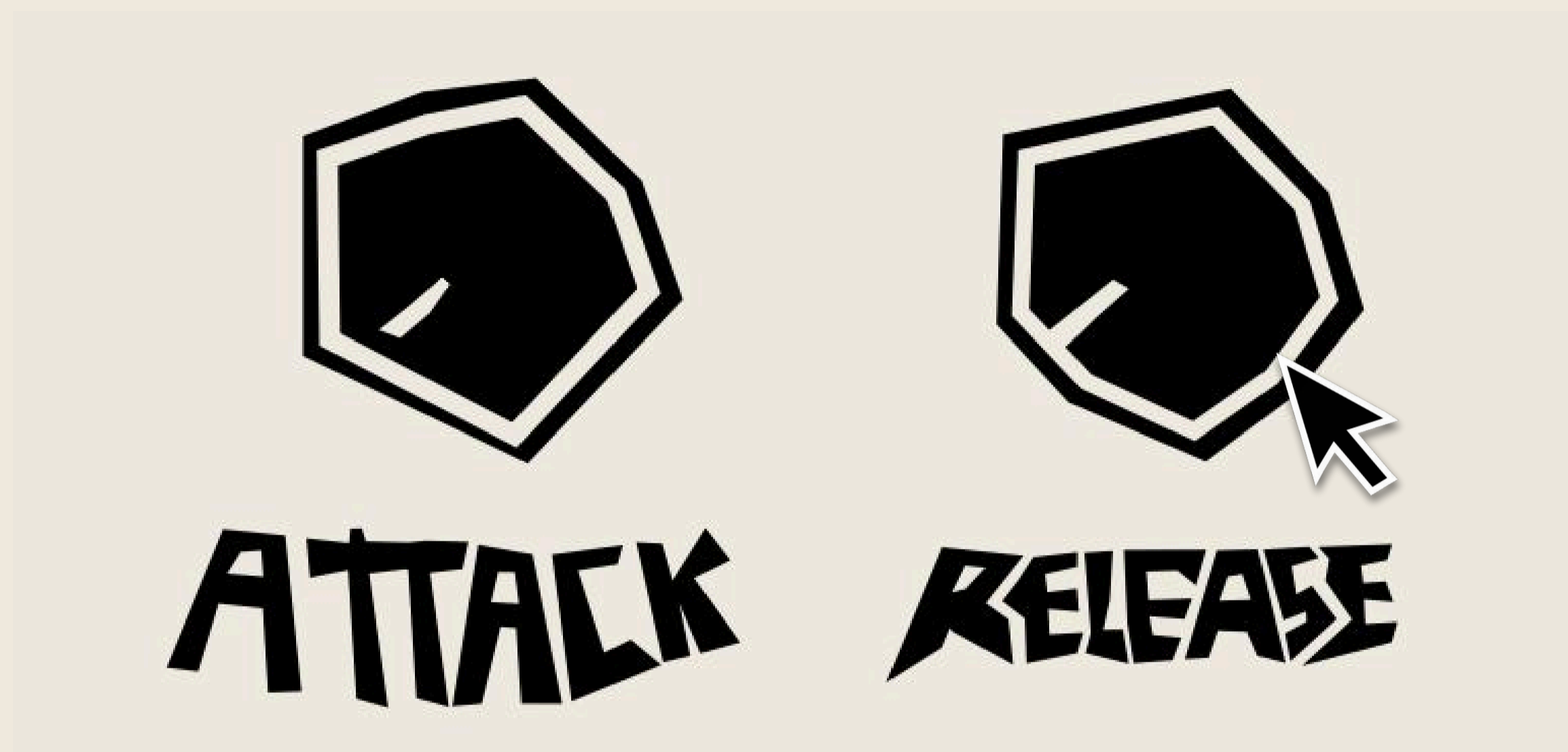
## **What is Ratio in Spectral Compressor ?**

In Spectral Compressor, 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 Compressor ?**

In Spectral Compressor, 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.



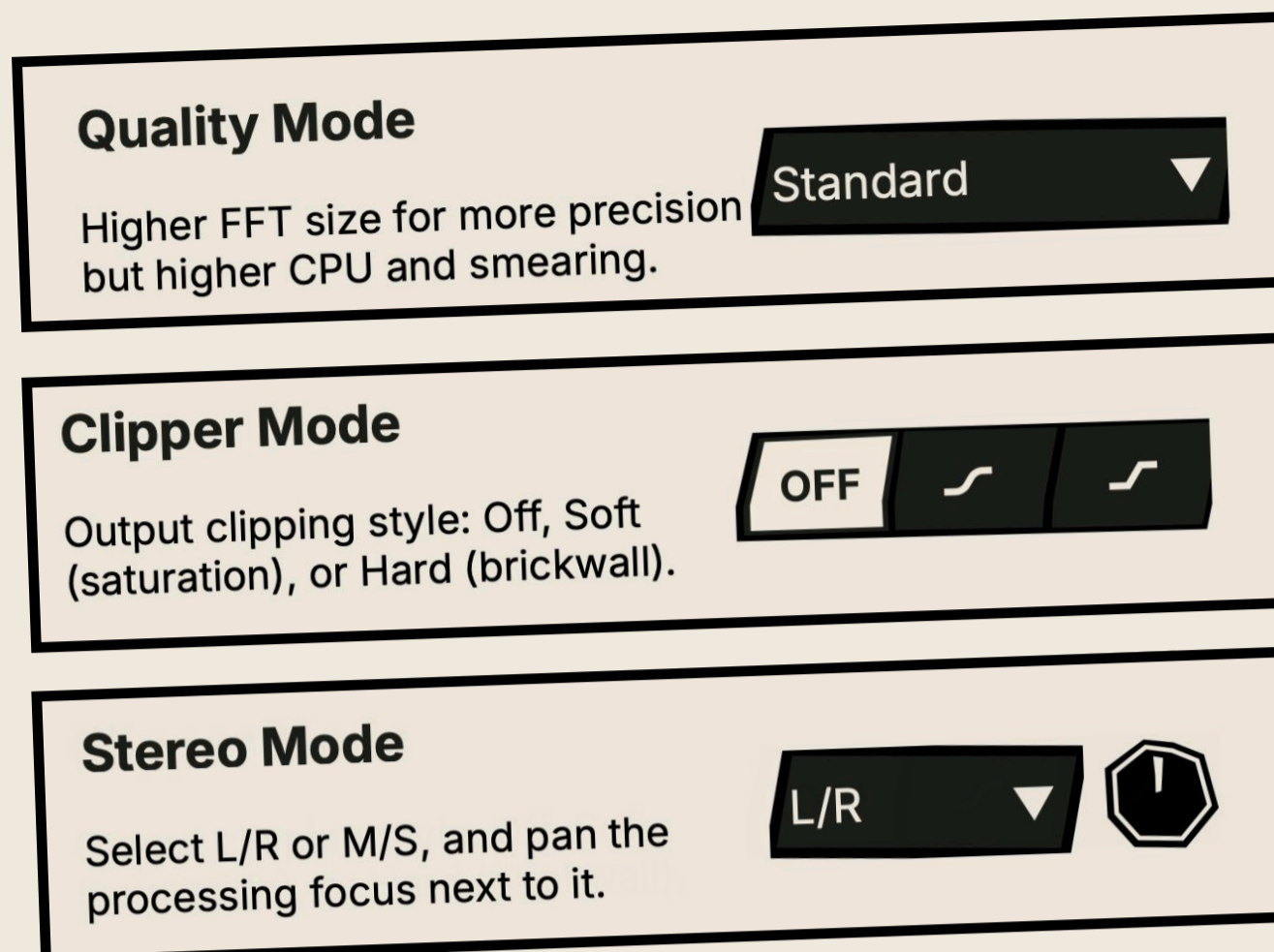
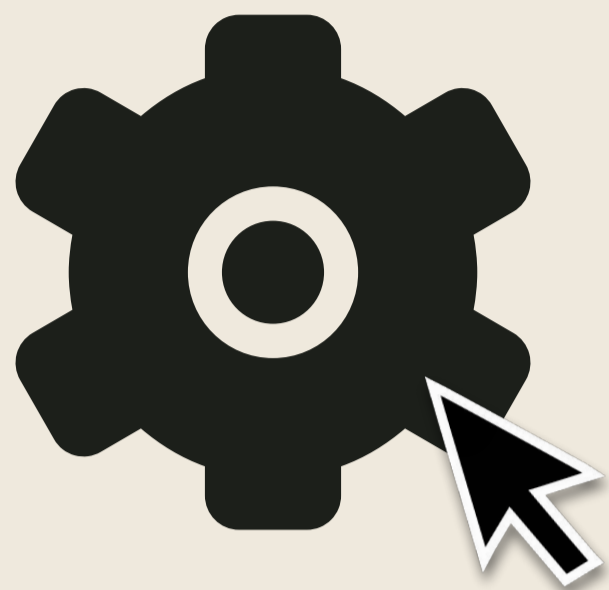
## What is Attack/Release in Spectral Compressor ?

In Spectral Compressor, “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 Compressor?

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



## What is Settings in Spectral Compressor ?

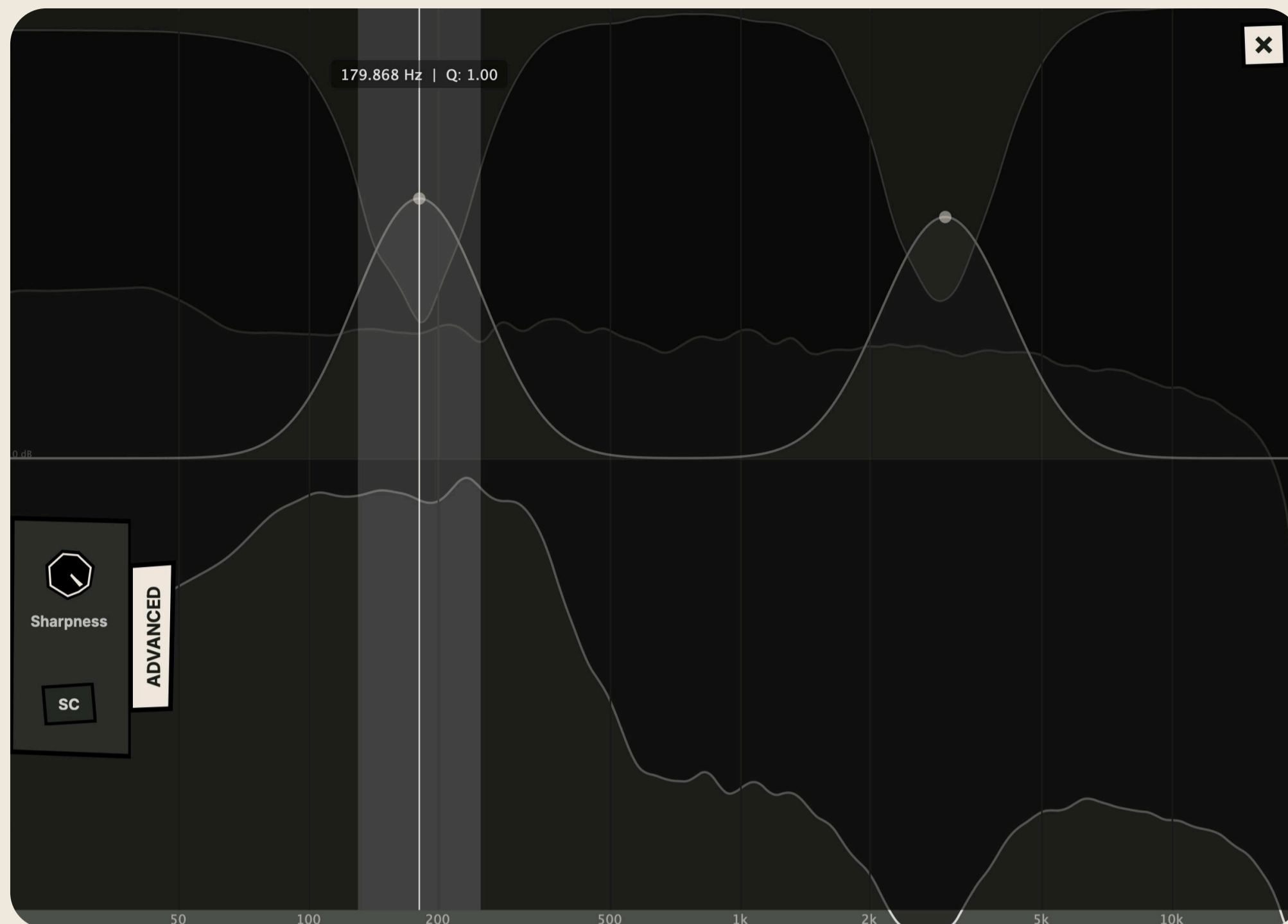
The **Quality** setting determines the spectral resolution by selecting the number of frequency bands (e.g. 256, 1024, 4096), which correspond to FFT sizes (512, 2048, 8192) and control the precision and responsiveness of the compression across the frequency spectrum.

The **Stereo Mode** determines how the stereo signal is processed. It can be set to **L/R (Left/Right)** for standard processing where both channels are treated independently, or **M/S (Mid/Side)** to encode the signal into mid (mono) and side (stereo) components, allowing for independent compression of the center and wide elements of the mix before being decoded back to stereo.

The **Clipper Mode** provides a safety Clipper at the very end of the output signal chain to prevent going over 0dB and control peaks.

It offers three styles:

- **Off:** No clipping is applied.
- **Soft:** a smooth, musical soft clipping curve.
- **Hard:** strict Hard Clip cut off any signal over 0 dB.

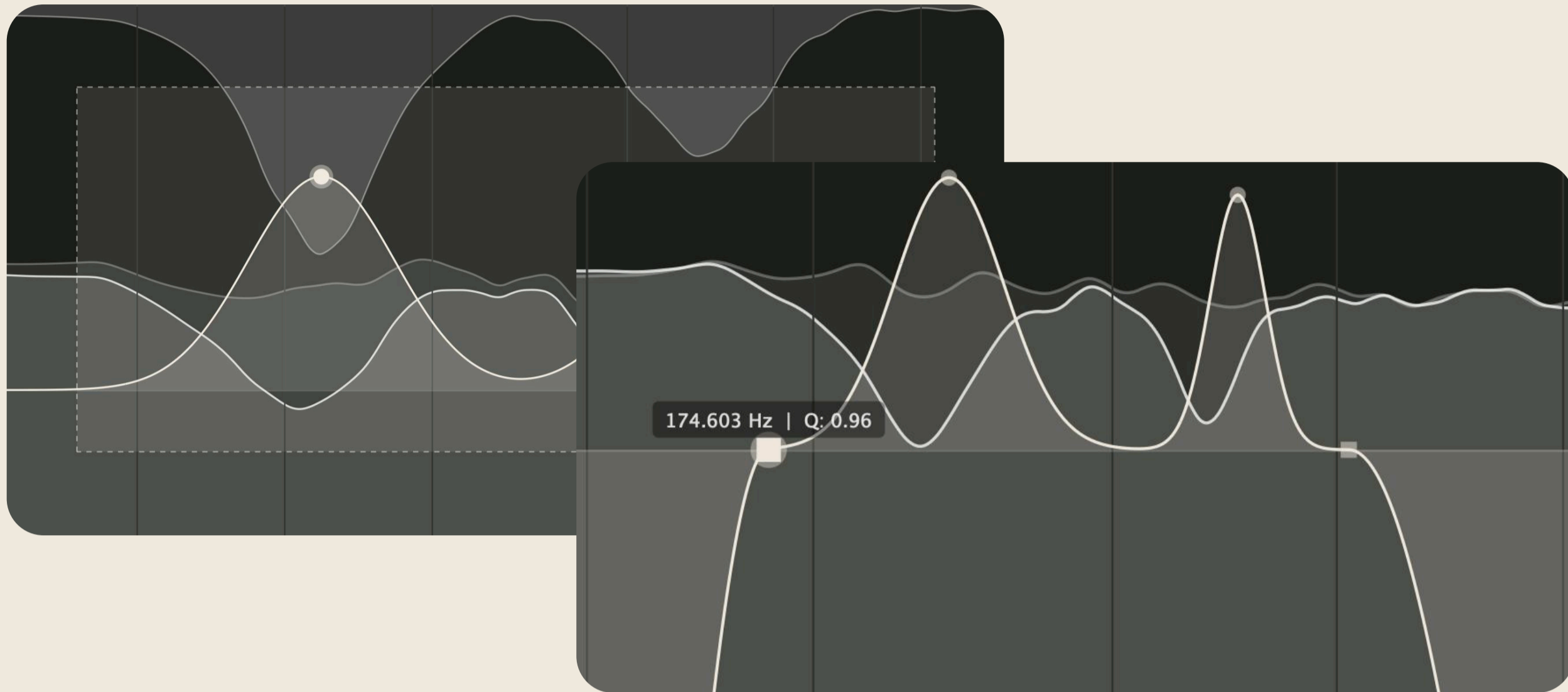


## What is the Curve Editor?

Use the intuitive **Spectral Depth Curve Editor** to draw custom curves and tell the compressor exactly which frequencies to target/compress. (**option/alt** for listening specific frequencies)

**Sharpness Control** blend the bands together for a smooth, musical response, or turn up the sharpness for laser-focused compression.

**SC** feed an external audio signal to trigger the compression. Perfect for carving out space for vocals or tightly gluing kick and bass.

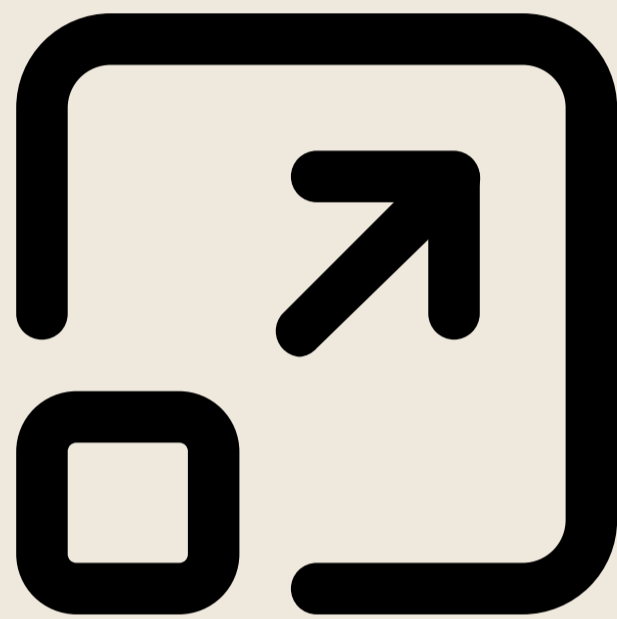


## What is the Curve Editor?

Hold shift for multi-selection/deselection

Use mouse scroll to fine tune the Q of your current points to make them sharper or broader

For a **Low-cut/High-cut** click at the beginning of the left or right middle line



## **Scale the Window**

Spectral Compressor 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 Compressor!



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