

EGO compressor®

WAMPLER®

BUILT IN USA

Ego Compressor



Compressors are often misunderstood. A compressor, in the most straightforward terms, makes loud sounds quieter and quiet sounds louder, "compressing" the signal's dynamic range. The loudest part of your instrument's note is the pluck, strum, or pick. That's referred to as the "transient" or the "attack" of the note, and it is usually quite percussive. The signal gets really loud for a fraction of a second before the note resonates and fades out. The actual character of the transient is a huge part of what defines the sound of a given instrument. Controlling its level is part of what compressors do, but there's more.

Compressors work to control the overall level of your playing, keeping peaks from getting too loud and raising the level of the note as it starts to fade out. Think of it like an automatic volume knob that turns down for loud signals and turns up for quiet signals. Raising the Sustain control makes it work harder to make lower volume sounds louder. Raising the Sustain is useful when playing clean. Careful, though, compressors don't know the difference between notes and noise, so the more you raise the Sustain, the more noise you can expect. A compressor usually works best early in the signal chain if you're concerned about noise!

Some compressors have a really noticeable "pop-in" effect, where they squash the transient and then quickly raise up to the level of the note. That's because they are reacting to what they see as a HUGE volume jump in the transient. An "Attack" knob, which adjusts how quickly the compressor responds, offers some control. Slower attack will mean less pop-in, but it also won't do as much to control the loud transient. Faster attack is great for chicken-pickin'!

The most flexible compressors are compressors with "Blend" functionality. A blend compressor lets you mix clean signal with the compressed signal. That lets the loud transient through, preserving your playing dynamics, but seamlessly takes over to add sustain and fullness. You can adjust the balance of clean to compressed signal for your needs.

At Wampler Pedals, we make the Ego Compressor, which gives you control over every aspect of an instrument compressor, including Sustain, Attack, Blend functionality, and even a special Tone knob Brian cooked up over time that can add some extra sparkle for tones that jangle with the best of 'em. It's a no-compromises compressor that offers the best of all worlds. What else would you expect from Brian Wampler?

To get the most out of your new pedal, you'll want to become very familiar with the controls. For the Compressor side of things, it features Volume, Sustain, and Attack controls to dial in your preferred compression behavior, as well as a special Tone control which lets you go from nothing added to lots of sparkle and chime on top of your signal, adjustable to your preference. It also features the fantastic Blend knob, letting you easily adjust the degree of compressed to natural signal. If you've never tried a blend compressor before, you're in for a treat! As with all Wampler Pedals products, the Ego Compressor includes a high-quality true-bypass switch which takes it completely out of the signal path when bypassed. Experiment and enjoy!

Bypass Switch – A true-bypass soft touch relay switching footswitch that completely bypasses the signal when the pedal is off.

Volume – This control adjusts the output level of the Ego Compressor. There's plenty of volume on tap, so whether you want to go farther than your input level or just make sure it can do unity volume (the same level of signal going out as you feed it, when active), you're covered. The Sustain and Blend controls will have an effect on the total output volume, so you're probably better off waiting to adjust the Volume until you've dialed in the other controls. Re-adjustment might be necessary if you get it to the desired level and still need to tweak the sound.

Sustain – Sustain controls how hard the Ego Compressor works to maintain the signal within its compression threshold. Higher sustain settings will let your notes go on for a very long time, but be careful, because higher sustain settings also raise the noise floor. If you are running your compressor after overdrive or distortion, you will want to pay close attention to the Sustain knob and maybe back off of it quite a bit so as not to raise the amount of noise to unbearable levels. The Ego Compressor is quiet, by compressor standards, but when the whole point of a pedal is to take a signal, even it out, and make the quiet parts louder and the loud parts quieter, you can expect added noise as part of the process.

Attack – Attack controls how quickly the compression action starts to take effect. At slower attack settings, it will more gradually begin to compress the signal, which can leave your early note less affected. With quicker attack settings, it gets a noticeable pop-in, because it clamps down on the high signal level of the initial note and then quickly raises the output level after that to begin its compression action. This is integral to the classic country chickin' pickin' sound. Dialing this control in is all about feel, and where your ideal setting ends up will be entirely based on what you need the compressor to do for your sound.

Tone – Not content to merely have a great sounding compressor, Brian has created what we feel is a virtually ideal Tone knob for use with compressors. At fully counter-clockwise, it doesn't have any impact on the signal at all. As you raise it clockwise, it adds extra sparkle and presence to the sound, and with the right gear it can be very "jangly," a characteristic that a lot of players in Nashville especially look for. If you're wanting a little more presence in your signal, the Tone knob will let you dial it in quite precisely!

Blend – Having established that the Ego Compressor has everything you need to dial in a fantastic sounding compressed signal, now it's time to learn about the Blend functionality. At about noon on the Blend knob, the compressed signal and the (enhanced, boosted, and slightly warmed) clean signal are even in level. Because the signals are in parallel inside the pedal before mixing down to mono at the output, the Blend control acts as a mixer knob. At 50/50, your clean signal's natural note attack is almost 100% unaffected by the Ego Compressor, but once the clean signal naturally fades, the Ego Compressor's compressed signal seamlessly fills in the gaps. This is a process no ear will hear because it's perfectly even and smooth, and the end result is all the benefits of a great compressor but a real, authentic transient. Counterclockwise, you get less and less Ego Compressor and more and more clean signal. Clockwise, more and more Ego Compressor and less and less clean signal. It's not too hard to grasp, but it is the sort of thing that rewards careful experimentation to see what all it can do before you settle in on what it is specifically that you want to do.

Suggested Settings (volume to suit)



Chickin' Pickin'
Blend fully clockwise, Sustain at 1-2 o'clock, Attack at 2 o'clock, Tone to taste



Gentle Tone Sweetener
Blend at noon, Sustain at 10 o'clock, Attack fully clockwise, Tone at 9 o'clock



Squashed, But Perfect Transients
Blend at 11 o'clock, Sustain at 2 o'clock, Attack fully clockwise, Tone to taste



Just A Hint Of The Clean
Blend at 2 o'clock, Sustain at 1 o'clock, Attack at 1 o'clock, Tone to taste

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When emailing to inquire about a returned product, always refer to the Return Authorization Number. If WAMPLER determines that the unit was defective in materials or workmanship at any time during the warranty period, WAMPLER has the option of repairing or replacing the product at no additional charge, except as set forth below. All replaced parts become a property of WAMPLER. Products replaced or repaired under this warranty will be returned via ground shipping within the United States freight prepaid. WAMPLER is not responsible for costs associated with expedited shipping, either to WAMPLER or the return of the product to the customer.

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FOR YOUR PROTECTION. Please complete the online warranty registration within (10) ten days of the date of purchase so that we may contact you directly in the event of a safety notification issued in accordance with the 1972 Consumer Product Safety Act. This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation.

This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures.

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and the receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's warranty to operate the equipment.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT. Our dedicated staff is ready to help you with any warranty or product questions – please email us at help@wamplerpedals.com or call us on (765) 352-8626. Please remember to register your pedal as soon as possible after purchase at the following web page to ensure quicker service if you should ever need to make a warranty claim:

www.RegisterYourWampler.com