DN504 Plus
OPERATORS MANUAL

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DN504Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter Operators Manual
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In line with the company's policy of continual improvement, specifications and function may be subject to change without notice. This Operators Manual was correct at the time of writing. E&OE.

KLARK TEKNIK
SIGNAL PROCESSING BY DEFINITION

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

These symbols are internationally accepted symbols that warn of potential hazards with electrical products.

The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated “dangerous voltage” within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with a dry cloth.
7. Do not block any of the ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments / accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
13. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus is damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

KLARK TEKNIK GROUP

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Company Registration No: 2414018

KLARK TEKNIK SIGNAL PROCESSING BY DEFINITION MIDAS DESIGNED FOR A PURE PERFORMANCE

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We, **Klark Teknik Group (UK) PLC**

of, Klark Teknik Building, Walter Nash Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7HJ

Declare that a sample of the following product:-

Product Type Number	Product Description	Nominal Voltage (s)	Current	Freq
DN504 Plus	Quad Compressor / Limiter	115V AC 230V AC	200mA 100mA	50/60Hz

to which this declaration refers, is in conformity with the following directives and/or standards:-

Directive(s)	**Test Standard(s)**
89/336/EEC Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive amended by 92/31/EEC & 93/68/EEC 73/23/EEC, Low Voltage Directive, amended by 93/68/EEC	
Generic Standard Using EN55103 Limits and Methods	EN50081/1
Class B Conducted Emissions Pavi	EN55103
Class B Radiated Emissions Pavi	EN55103
Fast Transient Bursts at 2kV	EN61000-4-4
Static Discharge at 4kV	EN61000-4-2
Electrical Stress Test	EN60204
Electrical Safety	UL6500-99
	EN60065:1998
	E60065-00

Signed:..... Date: 15th September 2003

Name: Simon Harrison

Authority: Research and Development Director, Klark Teknik Group (UK) PLC

Attention!
Where applicable, the attention of the specifier, purchaser, installer or user is drawn to special limitations of use which must be observed when these products are taken into service to maintain compliance with the above directives. Details of these special measures and limitations to use are available on request and are available in product manuals.

Contents

The Klark Teknik DN504 Plus

Thank you for selecting the Klark Teknik DN504 Plus quad compressor / limiter. The unit continues the Klark Teknik tradition of providing superb audio performance, technical accuracy and rugged reliability.

Precautions

Do not install this unit in a location subjected to excessive heat, dust or mechanical vibration.

Voltage Selection and Power Connection

Connection is made by means of an IEC standard power socket. The rear panel text indicates the voltage range required for satisfactory operation of the unit.

Before connecting this unit to the mains supply, ensure the fuse fitted is the correct type and rating is as indicated on the rear panel, adjacent to the fuse holder.

Safety Warning

This unit is fitted with a standard fused IEC mains inlet: For safety reasons the earth lead should never be disconnected.

To prevent shock or fire hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture. To avoid electrical shock do not remove covers. Refer servicing to qualified personnel only.

Attention! Cables

This product should only be used with high quality, screened twisted pair audio cables, terminated with metal bodied 3-pin XLR connectors. Any other cable type or configuration for the audio signals may result in degraded performance due to electromagnetic interference.

Electric Fields:

Should this product be used in an electromagnetic field that is amplitude modulated by an audio frequency signal (20Hz to 20kHz), the signal to noise ratio may be degraded. Degradation of up to 60dB at a frequency corresponding to the modulation signal may be experienced under extreme conditions (3V/m, 90% modulation).

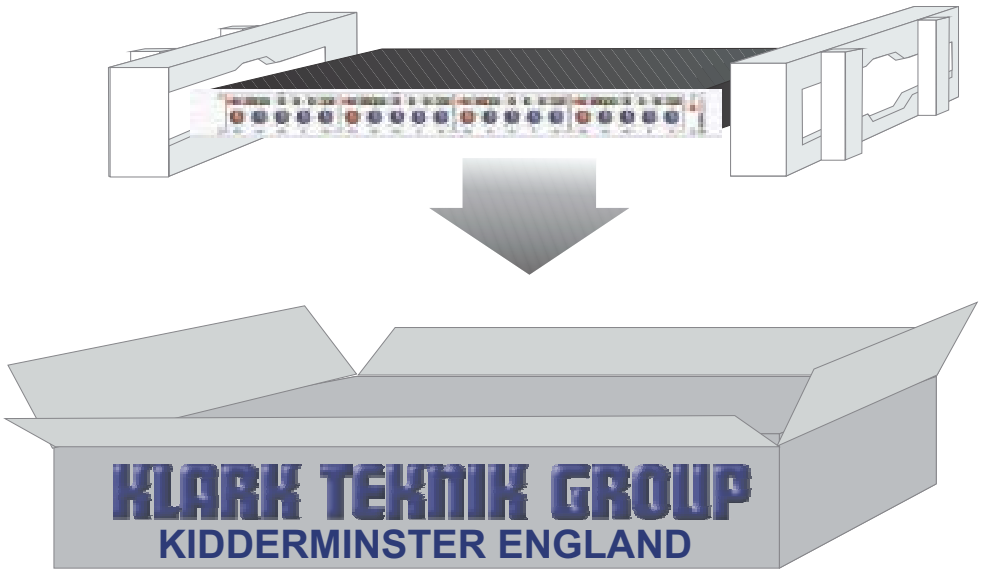
After You Have Unpacked The Unit

Save all the packing materials - they will prove valuable should it become necessary to transport or ship this product.

Please inspect this unit carefully for any signs of damage incurred during transportation. It has undergone stringent quality control inspection and every possible effort has been made to ensure that it left the factory in perfect condition.

If, however, the unit shows any signs of damage, please notify the transportation company without delay. Only you, the consignee, may institute a claim against the carrier for damage during transportation.

If necessary, contact your supplier or as a last resort, your Klark Teknik importing agent, who will fully co-operate under such circumstances.



Introduction

The Klark Teknik DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter has been designed to give the studio or PA engineer comprehensive and convenient automatic control over gain and level. Four channels of compression are available in one unit of nineteen inch rack space. Even at this high packing density, the degree of control over each channel of audio is greater than that found on many conventional two channel compressor/limiters.

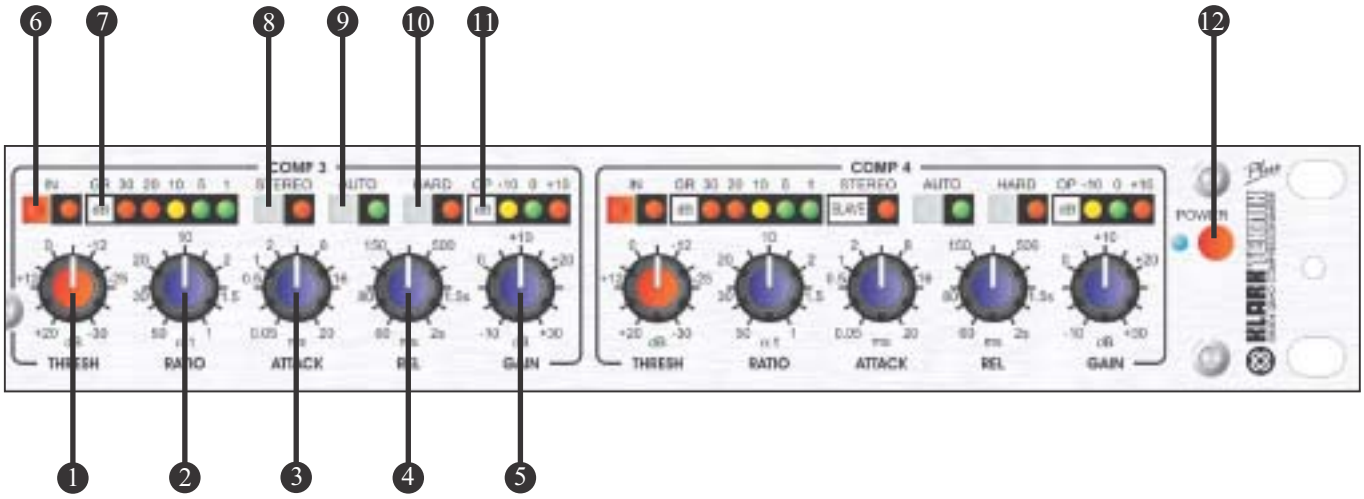
As a Compressor, the DN504 Plus can achieve almost undetectable dynamic range reduction by the use of sophisticated automatic attack and release circuitry. Or compression can be used as an effect in its own right with full manual control over Threshold, Ratio, Attack, Release and Gain. There is also a switchable 'Knee' control which provides the option of Hard or Soft compression styles.

With the compression ratio set to the maximum value of 50:1, the DN504 Plus is also able to operate as a high quality, fast acting, Limiter.

The DN504 Plus has light indicators for every switched audio function, and also has separate light bar graph meters for gain reduction and for output level on each channel.

Four side chain inputs are provided. A stereo link function is available to allow channels to be linked in pairs to compress stereo signals while avoiding the possibility of image shift.

The DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter is built to Klark Teknik's high standards of design and construction. A well thought out aesthetic presentation is also an aid to realising full dynamic control over gain and level in today's complex productions.



The DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter consists of four identical channels.

1. **Threshold** determines the level above which gain reduction (compression) will take place, variable from +20dBu down to -30dBu. The Gain Reduction light bar graph meter indicates in decibels by how much the signal is compressed at any instant.

2. **Ratio** sets the degree of compression applied above the threshold level, variable from 1:1 to 50:1. A ratio of 1:1 corresponds to zero compression: Signal In = Signal Out. A ratio of 10:1 indicates that when the input signal, above the threshold, rises in level by 10dB, the output level will rise 1dB.

3. **Attack** sets the time taken for compression to commence after the threshold is exceeded, from 0.05 milliseconds (50 microseconds) to 20 milliseconds.

4. **Release** determines the time taken for the gain to return to normal after the signal drops below the threshold level, adjustable from 60 milliseconds to 2 seconds.

5. **Gain** is used to restore level lost as a result of the compression process, variable from -10dB to +30dB.

6. The **In** switch selects the channel to be in or out of circuit.

7. The Gain Reduction **(GR)** five-stage light bar graph meter indicates by how much the signal is compressed at any instant.

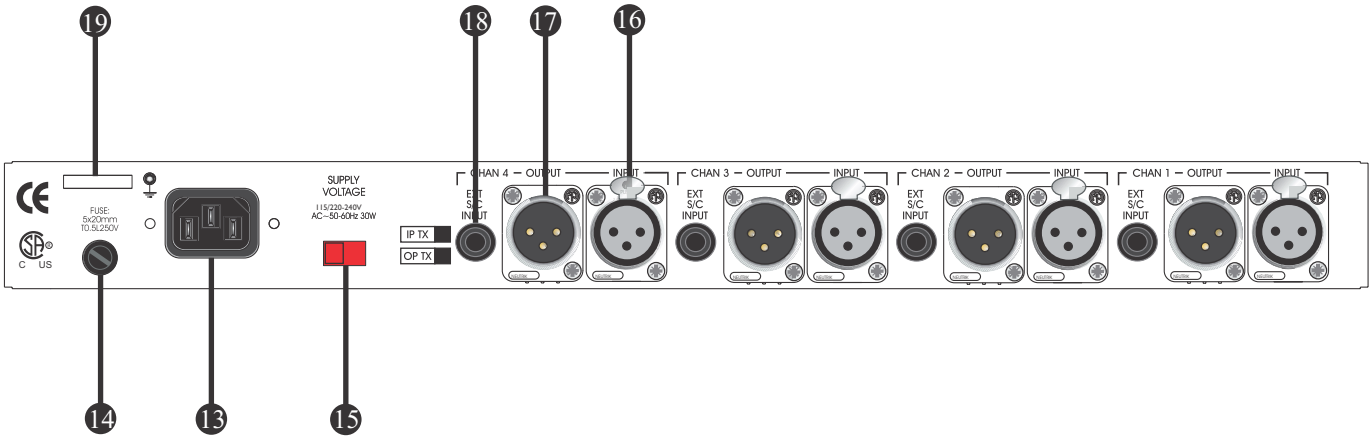
8. **Stereo** links together pairs of channels of the DN504 Plus for compressing stereo signals. Channel 1 operates as the master for Channel 2, which becomes the slave. Channels 3 and 4 can be linked in the same way. In Stereo mode, the unit still monitors the levels of both channels of each pair to detect when the signal is above the threshold level (on channels 2 and 4, the Stereo switch is replaced by a 'Stereo Slave' light indicator).

9. **Auto** allows the setting of attack and release times to be automatic or manual. On Auto, the attack time of the input signal and the amount by which it exceeds the threshold level are assessed, and suitable Compressor/Limiter attack and release values set to give an almost undetectable reduction in signal dynamic range. On Manual, the rotary Attack and Release controls come into operation.

10. **Knee**, is switchable between a 'Hard' and 'Soft' compression effect. A hard knee means that when the input signal level rises above the threshold, it is immediately compressed at the full ratio as set. A soft knee means that compression will start below the threshold level at a low ratio and gradually attain the full ratio selected only at higher levels.

11. The output level three-stage light **bar graph meter** indicates OUTPUT level when the channel is switched in circuit. When the channel is bypassed, the meter indicates INPUT level.

12. **Power** switches mains power on or off.



13. **Mains** is supplied via an IEC standard 3-pin connector. A compatible power cord is supplied with the unit.

14. The **mains fuse** is located in a fuse holder fitted to the rear panel. Always replace with the correct type and rating as indicated on the unit.

15. **Voltage selector switch.** This unit is switchable between two nominal supply voltages, 115V and 220/240V, via a slide switch. The switch MUST be set before the supply is connected. Any attempt to run the unit from a 220/240V supply with the switch set to 115V is liable to result in severe damage to the unit.
Note: Units for the Japanese market do not have an accessible mains voltage selector switch and are set for 100V operation only.

16. Signal **Input** is made via a female XLR type connector.

17. Signal **Output** is available on a male XLR type connector. For wiring details see page 9 of this manual.

18. **External Side Chain Input** is made via a ¼ inch type A stereo jack connector.

19. Always quote the **Serial Number** in any correspondence concerning the unit.

Input

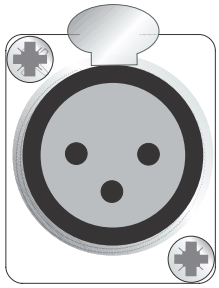
The input circuit is a transformerless, electronically balanced design which achieves a symmetry of better than- 50dB from 20Hz to 10kHz.

If transformer balancing of the input is required, this must be specified at the time of order. It is not retrofittable.

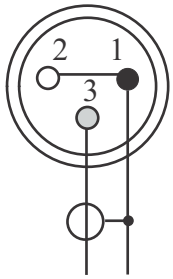
Output

The standard output is unbalanced, but balancing transformers are available and may be retrospectively fitted. Please contact your Klark Teknik representative for more information. The output circuitry is capable of driving a 600 ohm load at a level of +22dBu.

Input

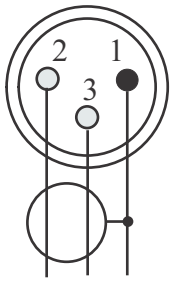


Unbalanced



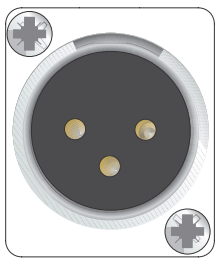
1 Gnd
2 Gnd
3 Hot

Balanced

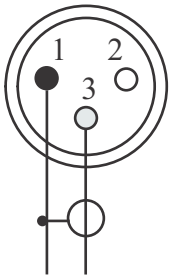


1 Gnd
2 Cold
3 Hot

Output

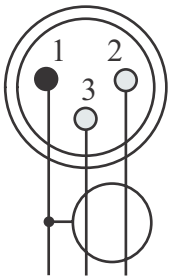


Unbalanced



1 Gnd
2 Gnd
3 Hot

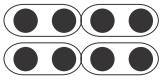
Balanced

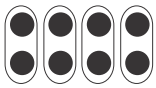


1 Gnd
2 Cold
3 Hot

Pin 2 / Pin 3 Hot Operation

The unit is configured for pin 3 hot operation but can be re-configured to the standard pin 2 hot XLR wiring convention. This is done by changing the internal jumpers located next to the connectors on the PCB from a horizontal to a vertical configuration, as illustrated below. Please contact your Klark Teknik service representative for further details, if required.

Pin 3 hot 

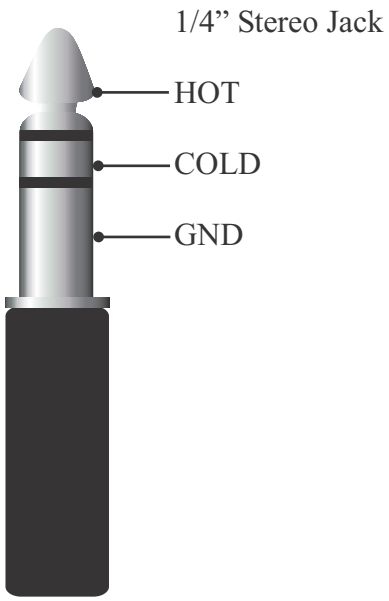
Pin 2 hot 

Side Chain/EXT Key Inputs

The electronically balanced Side Chain inputs are on stereo ¼ inch type A jack sockets, configured:

TIP = HOT, RING = COLD, SLEEVE = EARTH.

Inserting a mono jack plug will automatically unbalance the input.



The sockets are internally normalled so that signal continuity is maintained when there is no jack plug inserted. If the unit is wired to a patchbay, then normalling must be carried out at the patchbay.

Balanced Circuits

Transformer or electronically balanced connections have the benefit of Common Mode Rejection which eliminates externally induced interference, such as mains hum etc. Balancing is especially useful when long cable runs are used between pieces of equipment.

Transformer balanced circuits have the added advantage of being fully floating, with the earth (ground) or screen being totally isolated from the signal. In installations where a difference in earth potential is likely to occur, this isolation prevents earthing problems which can, in some cases, damage the equipment.

The natural sounds of life have an extremely wide dynamic range, from the rustle of a falling leaf to the roar of a jet engine on take off. The human ear has an automatic gain control which enables it to accommodate all of these sounds from the threshold of hearing to close to the threshold of pain, a dynamic range of approximately 120 decibels.

Even the most modern equipment is incapable of handling the full range that the ear can cope with. Analogue tape without noise reduction can manage almost 70 decibels dynamic range between its noise floor and the 3% distortion point. 16-bit digital audio equipment can achieve over 90dB. Still almost 30dB less than the ear's range. Even if a 120dB dynamic range were possible in audio equipment, would it be desirable and useful? A listener in a domestic setting enjoying the exhilarating effects of a 96dB Sound Pressure Level will almost certainly be causing his neighbour a significant amount of annoyance, if not distress! At the other end of the dynamic scale, a typical ambient noise level of at least 40dB SPL precludes the use of very quiet levels in recorded or broadcast sound media.

Almost always, it is necessary to compress the dynamic range of natural sounds to fit them into a window suitable both for the equipment and for comfortable listening.

The Compressor/Limiter is a valuable tool for the control of dynamic range. Compression and Limiting reduce and control the dynamic range of any instrument or programme source.

Compression and Limiting have their artistic uses too. The sounds of instruments and voices can be altered. A mix of instruments can be compressed to give a 'tighter' dynamic effect. Or individual voices or instruments can be treated to give a musical effect unobtainable by any other means.

The DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter offers in a compact unit versatile control over dynamic range, for corrective and for artistic purposes.

One of the principal uses of compression is the control of level in vocals. Many singers train for years to achieve the degree of breath control necessary for an even tone and expressive performance. Other vocalists rely on an instinctive voice production technique, which may need help in the studio to maintain a consistent level, and result in a vocal track which 'sits' correctly in the mix.

The level of a vocal may vary widely, and appear like the unprocessed signal in the diagram :

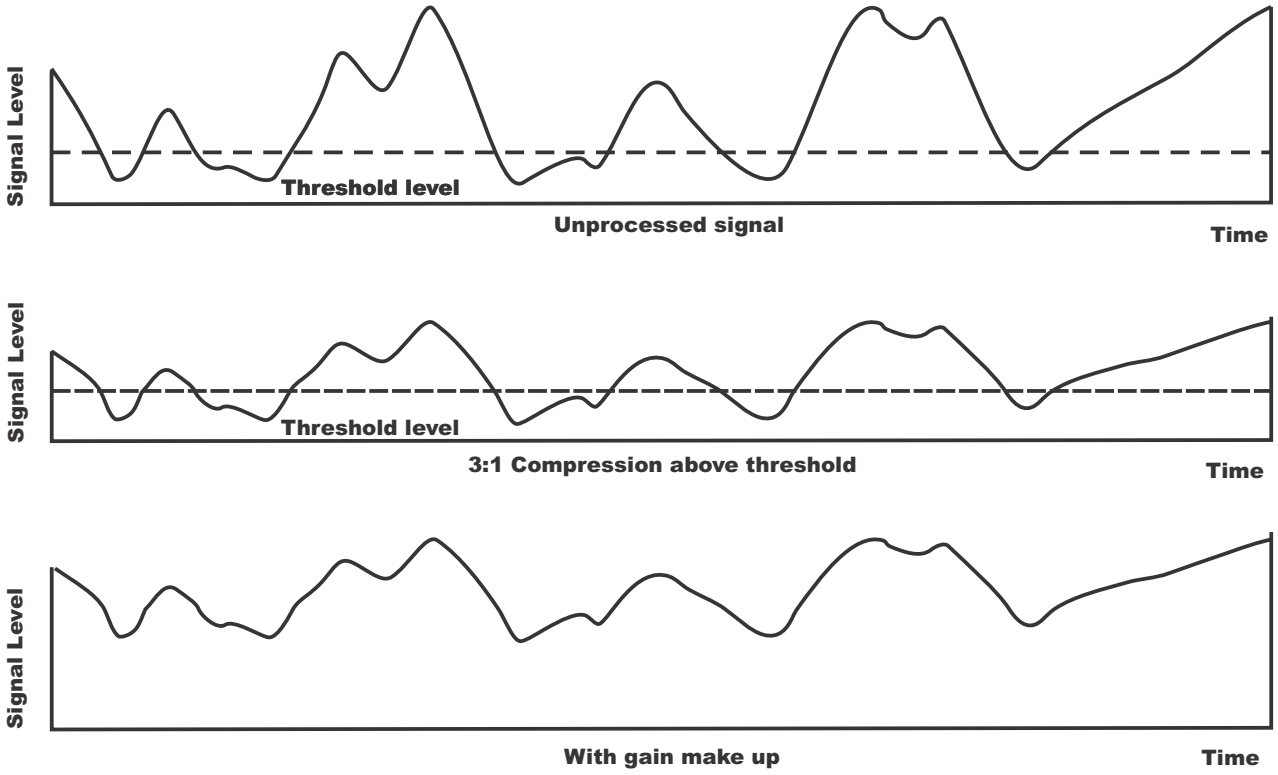


Diagram 1

The unprocessed signal has a large dynamic range between the highest and lowest levels. Applying compression reduces the highest levels, reducing the dynamic range. Because the peak level of the signal is now lower, make-up gain is added to restore the original peak level. The result is a much more controlled and usable sound.

Threshold sets the level above which compression takes place. Signals below the threshold will remain unaltered. Turning the control clockwise lowers the threshold level and allows more of the signal to be compressed.

Ratio is the 'strength' of compression above the threshold level. The higher the ratio, the greater the effect.

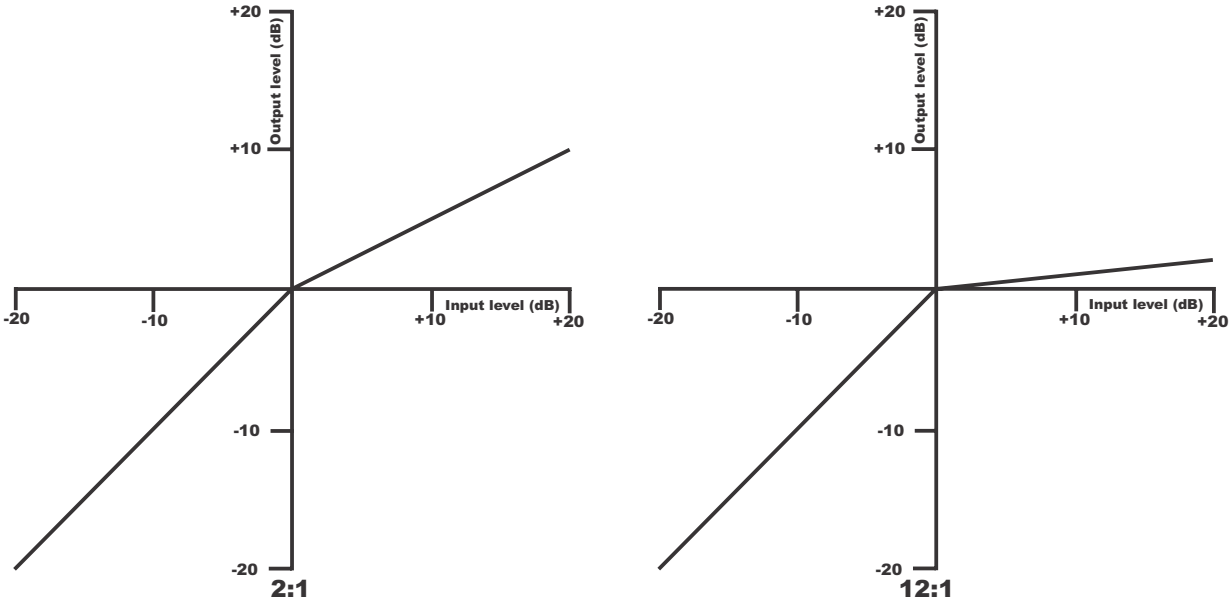


Diagram 2

At a compression ratio of 2:1, the effect is mild and suitable for the subtle compression of vocals or of a complete mix. At 12:1, compression is becoming stronger and more noticeable. Ratios between 3:1 and 15:1 are suitable for the 'compressor' sound, used as an effect in its own right. Higher ratios are used for the control of extremely peaky signals.

The point where the slope of the Compressor curve changes is knows as the **Knee**. The DN504 Plus has an adjustable knee, variable between 'Hard' and 'Soft':

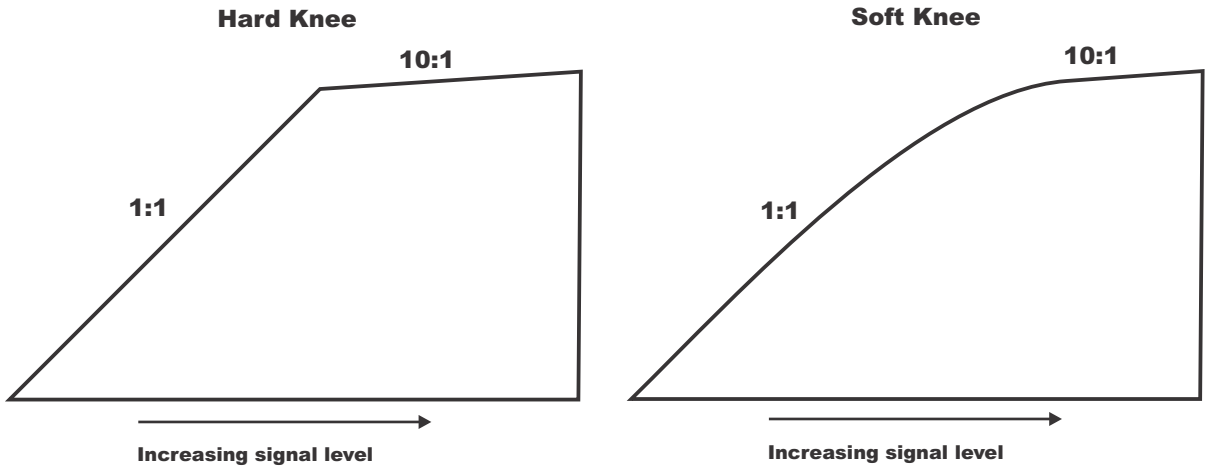


Diagram 3

With a soft knee, signals which only just exceed the threshold level are compressed at a low ratio, the ratio increasing the higher the signal level.

Attack sets the time the Compressor takes to respond once the threshold has been exceeded. Attack may be set so that the initial transient of the instrument passes through unaltered, or set to a faster value so that the very start of the sound is compressed. Particularly with drum sounds, careful adjustment of attack time can make the sound more 'punchy' and 'driving'.

Release time plays a very important role in compression. During periods of high signal level, gain is reduced. When the signal level falls below the threshold, the gain will increase at a rate determined by the Release control. If the release time is short, the gain will rise quickly. A long release time will mean that the gain will stay at its reduced level, only recovering gradually :

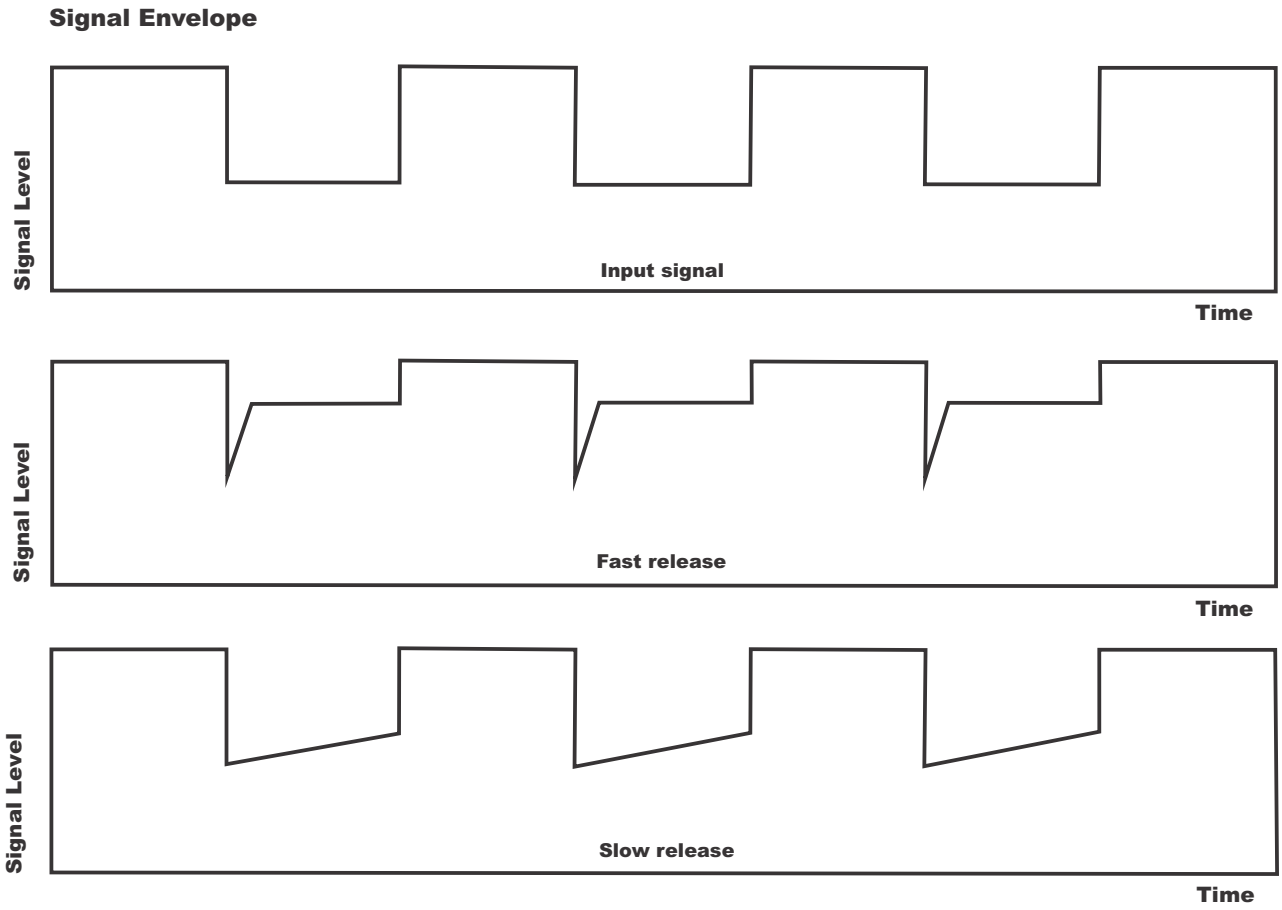


Diagram 4

The setting of the correct release time is a compromise. If the release time is too short, background noise can cause effects often known as 'breathing' and 'pumping'. If the release time is too long, the signal will not be compressed, but simply reduced in level. For effective compression, the release time must be set to as short a value as possible before modulation of the background noise becomes too noticeable. The gain reduction bar graph meter will show how much actual compression is going on. If it stays steady, there is little active compression, just a steady-state reduction in level. The faster the bar graph moves up and down, the harder the Compressor is working.

For a natural unnoticeable compression, attack and release times may be set to Auto. The signal characteristics are continuously monitored for optimum values.

By switching any channel of the DN504 Plus to Auto Attack/Release, and setting the compression ratio to a high value greater than 20:1 the DN504 Plus acts as a high quality Quad Limiter.

A Limiter acts as a last check on signal level. If the level goes over the threshold, fast acting, high ratio compression is applied to bring it back within bounds.

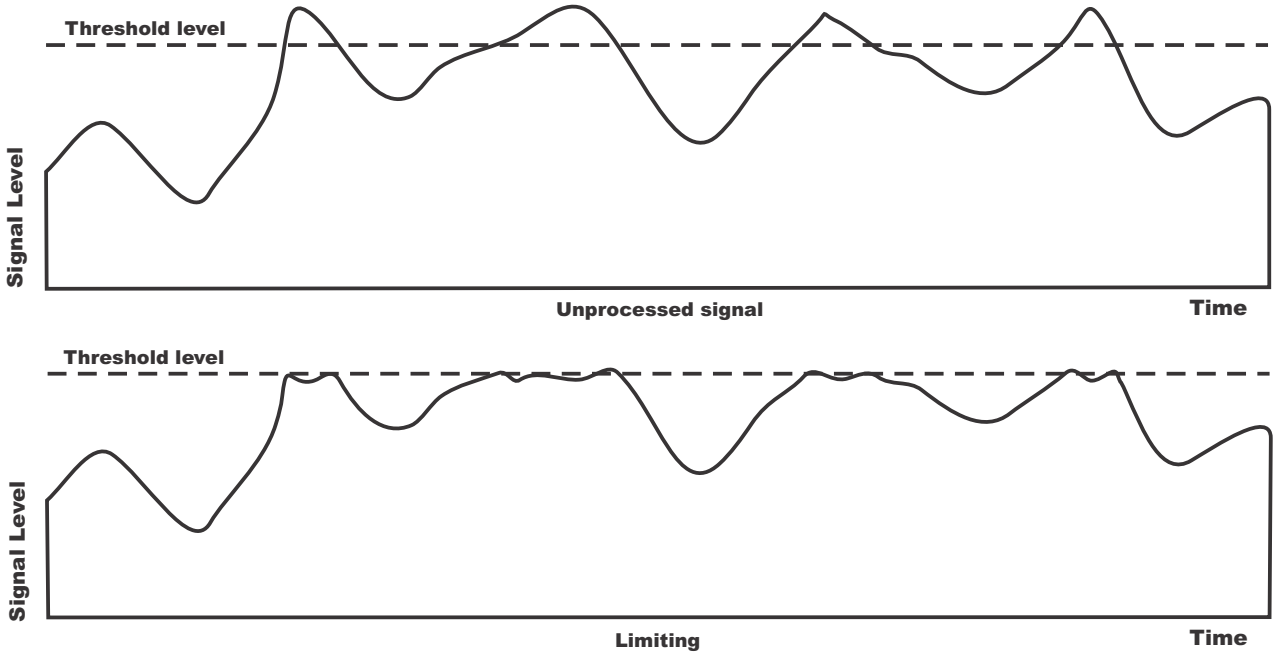


Diagram 5

If a compression effect is required together with limiting of high level transients, two channels of the DN504 Plus may be cascaded. The output of Channel 1, compression, is fed to the input of Channel 2, limiting. This gives powerful two stage control over gain:

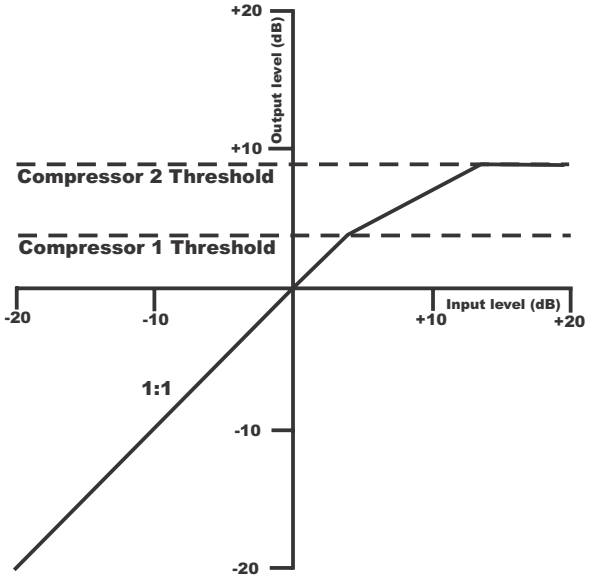


Diagram 6

Below the compression threshold, the signal is unaltered. In this example, above the first threshold, it is compressed at a mild 2:1 ratio. Above the second threshold it is firmly limited at a ratio of 50:1.

The Klark Teknik DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter is optimised for use at line level, therefore to process the signal from a microphone, the input to the DN504 Plus has to be taken from the console preferably from the channel insert point send. The output from the DN504 Plus comes back to the channel insert return. By connecting the DN504 Plus at this position in the signal chain, its operation is unaffected by the use of any of the console controls, except Input Gain.

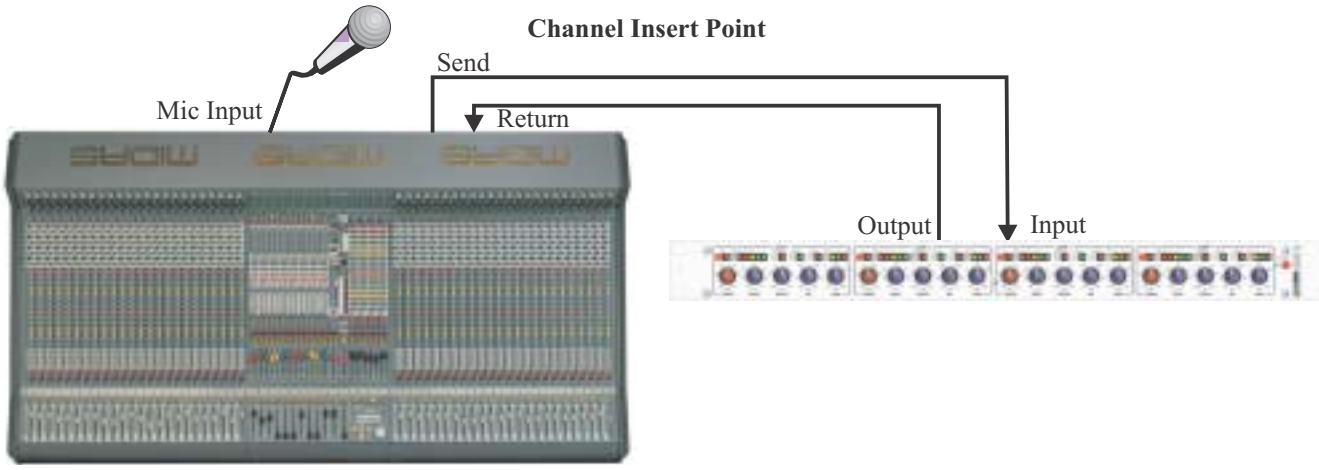


Diagram 7

An alternative is connection to the group insert point of the console :

This connection has two uses : the input from the microphone may be compressed post EQ, which offers an alternative sound quality which may be desirable in some cases. Alternatively, several instruments may be compressed together in the mix to achieve a 'harder' sound.

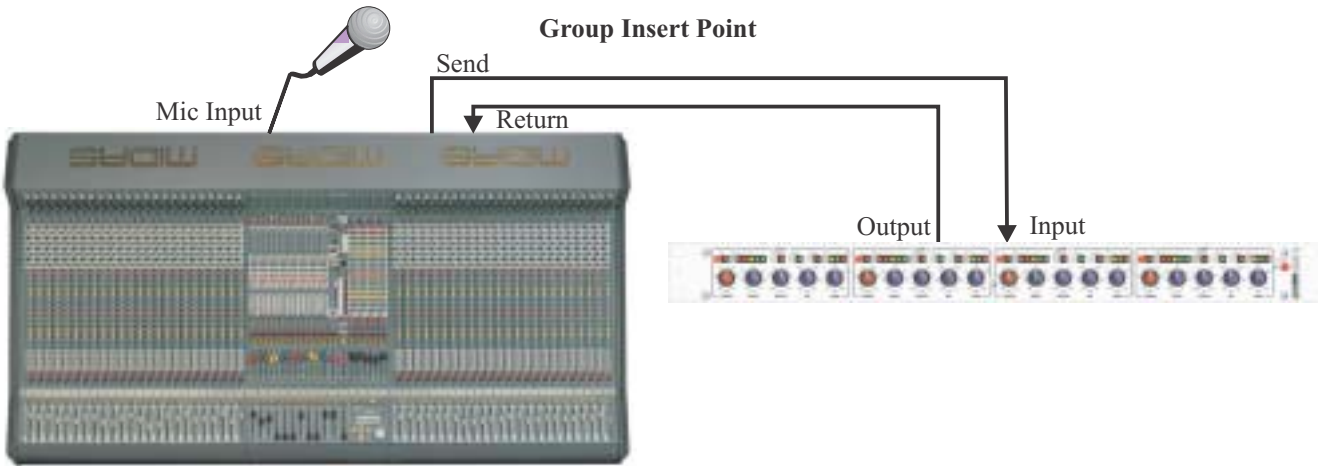


Diagram 8

Each channel of the DN504 Plus has a **Side Chain** input, in addition to the normal audio signal input.

In normal use, the amount of compression or limiting is related to the dynamics of the input signal. The Side Chain allows the signal passing through the unit to be controlled by the dynamics of another separate signal. Connection to the Side Chain input is made via the rear panel jack sockets. See 'Audio Connections', page 9.

De-essing is an important compression technique using the Side Chain. Many singers have high level sibilants 'sss' sounds which detract from their performance. Equalising the signal will reduce the sibilants, but also make the overall vocal sound dull.

The sibilants can be selectively removed by compressing only when there is an excessive level of high frequencies. Here is one way to do it :

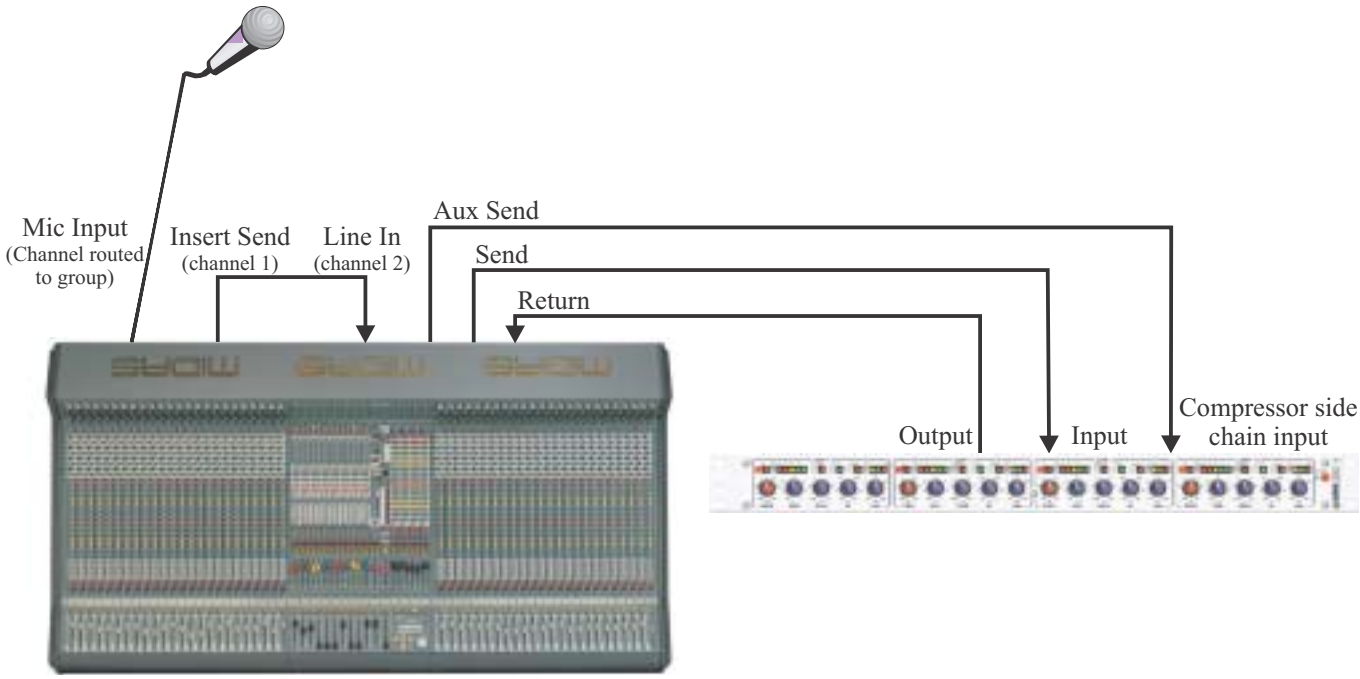


Diagram 9

The microphone channel is routed to a group with the Compressor patched into the group insert points. The microphone channel is also parallelled into another channel via the line input. The signal in the second channel is equalised so that high frequencies in the sibilant range are boosted. This channel is fed via an auxiliary output to the Compressor Side Chain input.

Now, the Compressor will react whenever there is a sibilant, reducing the gain for the duration of the sibilant and cleaning up the vocal sound.

This technique can also be used to compensate for a 'boomy' bass, or other situations where a band of frequencies is occasionally obtrusive.

If speech is to be mixed with music from a stereo source, it is best if the music is dropped in level during the speech, and raised during pauses. This can be done automatically by passing the music through Channels 1 and 2 of the DN504 Plus and patching the microphone into the Side Chain input of Channel 1 :

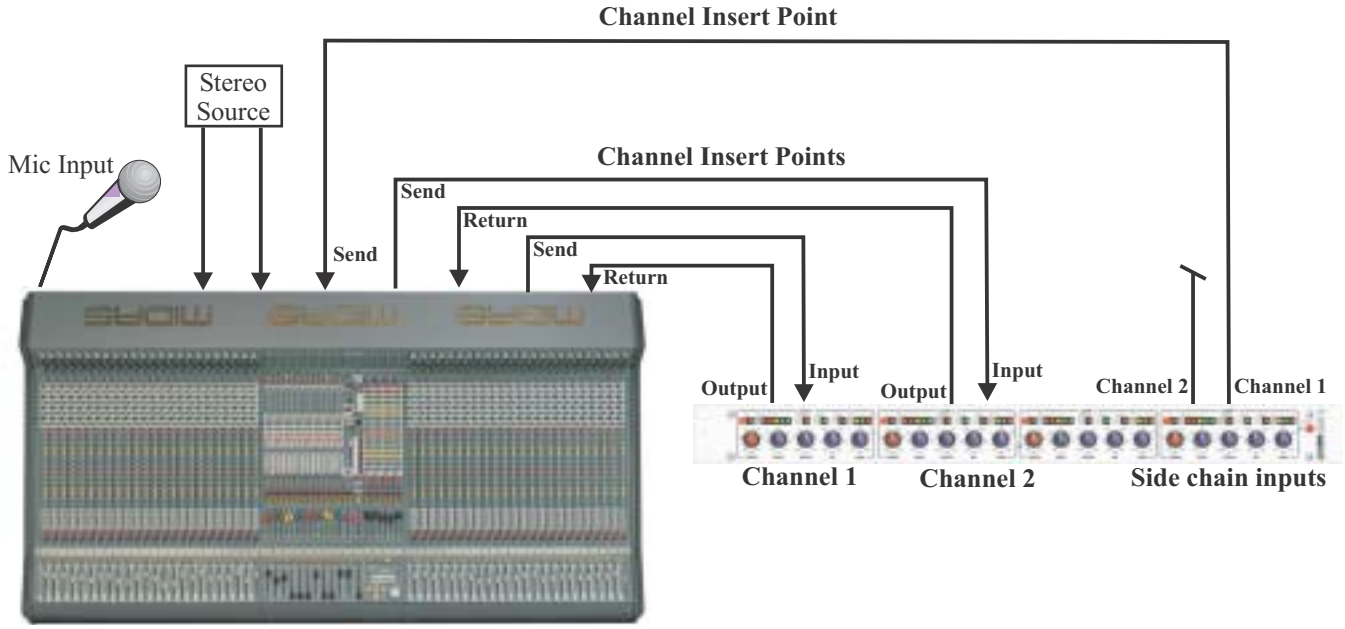
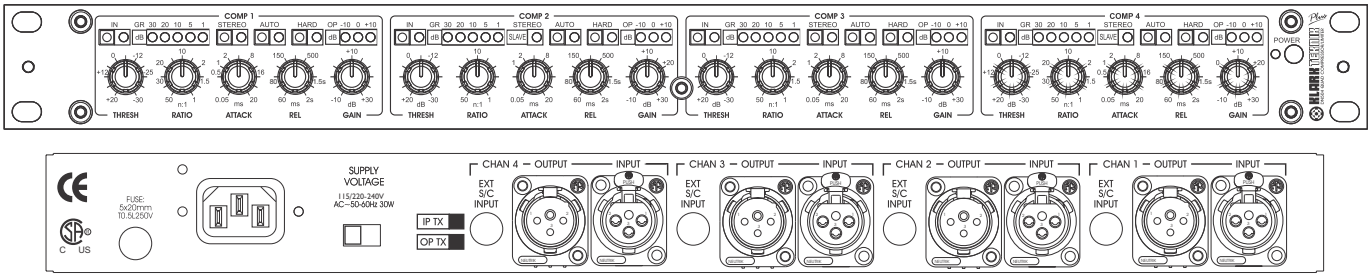


Diagram 10

Since stereo music is to be controlled by an input into the Side chain of just one channel of the DN504 Plus, the Stereo link button must be pressed. To prevent the music input to Channel 2 affecting the degree of compression, an open circuit jack plug must be inserted in the Side Chain input of Channel 2 to break away the jack socket's switch connection.

Now whenever the voice over artist speaks, the music will be reduced in level by the compressor. When he is silent, the music will rise back in level to take up the full available dynamic range.

The Klark Teknik DN504 Plus Quad Compressor/Limiter packs a lot of processing power into a small rack space. Engineers will find it convenient to use and will also enjoy its creative potential.



Audio Inputs	***Four***
Type	Electronically Balanced
Impedance (ohms)	
Balanced	20k
Unbalanced	10k
Side Chain Inputs	***Four***
Type	Electronically Balanced
Impedance (ohms)	
Balanced	20k
Unbalanced	10k
Audio Outputs	***Four***
Type	Unbalanced
Minimum Load Impedance	600 ohms
Source Impedance	<60 ohms
Maximum Level	+21dBu
Performance	
Frequency Response (20Hz -20kHz)	+/- 0.5dB
Distortion (THD+N) (@ +4dBu, 20Hz-20kHz)	<0.03% @ 1kHz
Equivalent Input Noise (20Hz-20kHz unweighted)	-94dBu
Channel Separation	>90dB @ 1kHz
Compressor	
Threshold	-30dB to +20dB
Ratio	1:1 to 50:1
Knee	Switchable, 1dB (hard) / 40dB (soft)
Envelope	Switchable auto (attack and release controls disabled) or Manual
Attack (90% capture)	0.05ms to 20ms
Release (90% recovery)	60ms to 2s
Output Gain	-10dB to +30dB
Limiter/Clipper	
Threshold	0dB to +20dB
Power Requirements	
Voltage	110 / 115 / 220 - 240V, 50/60Hz
Consumption	<30VA
Termination	
Audio Inputs / Outputs	3-pin XLR
Side Chain Inputs	normalled ¼ inch stereo jack
Power	3-pin IEC

Dimensions

Width	482mm (19 inch)
Depth	292mm (11 ½ inch)
Height	44.5mm (1 ¾ inch)

Weight

Nett	4 kg
Shipping	6kg

Options

Security cover
Transformer input*/output balancing
*Input transformer balancing is non-retrofittable and has to be specified with order.

Options Ordering Information	Parts Number
Perspex security cover	SCP DN514Plus
Aluminium security cover	SCA.DN514Plus
Output balancing transformer	BU37
Input balancing transformer	BN37