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 footswitch ensures solid, mechanical removal of the circuit when it isn't wanted, meaning you don't lose any tone 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.

Power Requirements

*The pedal can be powered by a 9V battery. The battery terminal is located inside the pedal. If using a power supply, power needed for the pedal is 9V DC, regulated, center pin negative, as supplied by most standard Boss™/Ibanez™/Etc. supplies. The pedal can be safely powered with a multi-supply, like the Visual Sound 1SPOT™. The pedal was designed explicitly around the usage of a 9V DC power source, and is intended to sound its best at 9V. To avoid damage to the pedal, do not exceed 18V DC, do not use center pin positive adapters, and do not use AC power. Using an incorrect power adapter can lead to damage and will void the warranty on the pedal. This pedal draws **33mA**.*

***Please note**: If you are using a battery, it will drain when the input cord is plugged in.*

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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Return and Warranty Policy

For direct sales, there is a 7-day "no questions asked" period where you may return the pedal for any reason, provided that it is in its original condition. Please retain all packaging within this period in case you decide to return it! We only require that you pay shipping back. The 7 days start when you receive the pedal. This does not apply to dealer or retailer sales – see their individual return policies for specific information.

All Wampler Pedals, Inc. pedals carry a 5-year, fully transferable warranty that covers defects due to parts and labor. The warranty begins at the point of purchase. 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.wamplerpedals.com/warranty_registration**

For warranty repairs or questions, please feel free to contact us at **www.wamplerpedals.com/contact_us.html**