

D-COMP USER MANUAL

AUDIOSCAPE
ENGINEERING CO.



This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation, and operating instructions for the Audioscape D-Comp.

Audioscape Engineering Co.
Florida
Made in the U.S.A.



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A WORD FROM THE AUDIOSCAPE FAMILY

Thank you for purchasing the D-Comp from AUDIOSCAPE Engineering! After two years of painstaking R&D, we are proud to have created a unique iteration of this vintage diode-bridge compressor circuit.

It can annihilate or pleasantly glue a signal, without falling apart. It's ability to add pleasant grit, immense mid-range punch and instant weight is what makes this circuit so sought-after. Simply put, with boundless options for any flavor of dynamic manipulation, there is no setting that doesn't sound good...yet!



IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



- **Water and Moisture** - Do not use the unit near any source of water or in excessively moist environments.
- **Object and Liquid Entry** - Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled, into the enclosure through openings.
- **Ventilation** - When installing the unit in a rack or any other location, be sure there is adequate ventilation. Improper ventilation will cause overheating and can damage the unit.
- **Heat** - The unit should be situated away from heat sources, or other equipment that produce heat.
- **Power Sources** - The D-Comp comes with its own dedicated power supply which is exclusively designed for the D-Comp (and has the power transformer built in). It is the only power source to be used for the D-Comp unless you have an older unit that takes a normal IEC 3 conductor power cable (and thus the power transformer is internal to the D-Comp).
- **Power Cord Protection** - Be careful to keep the power supply separated from the audio connections to minimize the possibility of electrical interference audio signals paths.
- **Non-use Periods** - The AC power supply cord of the unit should be unplugged from the AC outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
- **Damage Requiring Service** - Please refer to a qualified technician.



FRONT PANEL



(1) Input - Input level, passive (trimming) from 1-5 and then active (boosting) from 6-10. There is some harmonic distortion available here in which the clipping can be a useful tool for transient control.

(2) Mode -

- Out (bypasses compression circuitry only but still take advantage of the internal amp and transformer operations)
- COMP - soft-knee compression from 4:1 to 12:1 compression, varies depending on drive level from the input gain.
- LIM - hard-knee compression from 12:1 to brick-wall 20:1 and up, depending on drive level.

(3) S/C HPF - Switchable!

- The higher you set it, the more low-end is unaffected by the compression circuit.
- Bass stays cleaner when unaffected. Can also help control the level of low mid-range mud.
- Can keep the unit from pumping and breathing with bass heavy material, allowing you to clamp down on everything above the low mids.

(4) Output - Simply controls the overall output level of the unit, post compression, post gain stages.

- Reduces or increases the output to match industry standard -18dBfs levels or wherever you want them to be, will not affect compression level or tone.

FRONT PANEL (CONT.)



(5) Attack - continuously variable from 1 (FAST) with an attack time of $\sim 20 \mu$, to 10 (SLOW) with a much lazier attack time of 200 ms. The heart of transient shaping is found in the ATTACK function but there is a degree of interaction with the RELEASE control that can be exploited.

(6) Release - continuously variable from very fast, to allow the fine tuning of transient and peak reduction, to slow, so that the compression circuit stays completely engaged for a continuous and smoother compression operation. There is a degree of interaction with the Attack control that can be exploited.

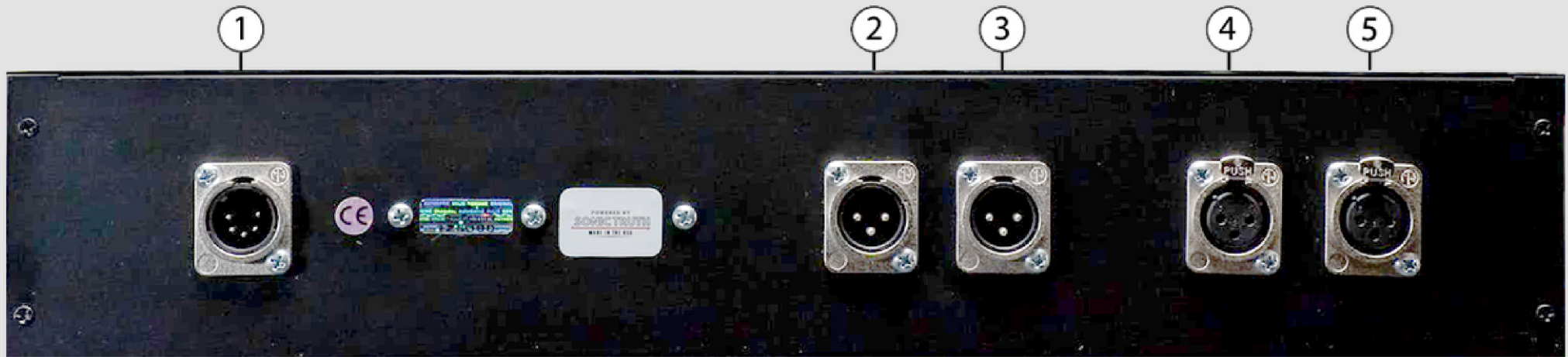
(7) In/Out - each channel can be switched independently to completely bypass the ENTIRE compressor circuit.

(8) Link -

- 'OUT' mode (light off): the two channels operate completely independently as true mono.
- 'IN' mode (light on): the two channels' compression circuits operate inter-dependently.
- Input and Output remain semi-independent and will slightly affect each channel's operation but this can also be a boon for matching input on both channels if the two sides aren't identical.

(9) Meter - A progressive display of gain reduction from the compression circuit.

REAR PANEL



(1) AC Power Connector - connects to the **UNIQUELY** paired power supply that comes with your D-Comp. Please disconnect this supply from the XLR5 socket if being used for any period of time longer than a day or two.

(2-3) XLR OUTPUT - A balanced XLR connector carrying the line-level output signal of the D-Comp. This signal will normally be routed via a patchbay to a channel or bus insert return.

(4-5) XLR INPUT - Connect line-level input signal to this balanced XLR connector. Pin 2 is wired positive (hot). This signal will normally be arriving via a patchbay from a channel or bus insert send.





★ FEATURES

The D-COMP is a SWISS-ARMY KNIFE compressor with a PROWESS for VERSATILITY.

Effortlessly handles Mastering duties just as well as CTD (Complete Transient Decimation) applications.

All the while adding class, imbuing unique midrange girth and allowing COMPLETE control over unruly dynamics through it's novel use of ZENER DIODES; which have a sound unlike any other compression topology out there.

Adding SUPERMAN-style "POINT" and "POKE" to transients has never been easier...

Exaggerate. Decimate. And EVERYTHING in between.



INPUT MODE

Raise the INPUT for more compression and coloration. MODE switches between two different sets of time constants. "OFF" ONLY bypasses compression; allowing the unit to be used as a saturation device!



SC/OUTPUT

The SC HPF control allows frequencies AT & BELOW the selected frequency to be unaffected by the compression. OUTPUT controls the overall output of the compressed signal.



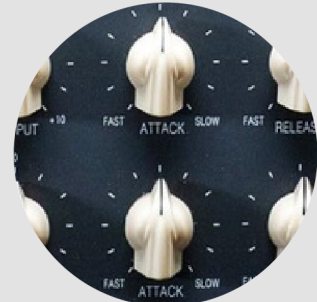
SC/OUTPUT

The IN CH1 & IN CH2 switches allow you to completely BYPASS the compression & box tone. UP = ENGAGED DOWN = BYPASS The LINK button will internally link the sidechain of each channel to each other. Control settings must be matched between channels for proper operation.



METERING

The CH1 and CH2 VU Meters show the amount of Gain Reduction being applied to the signal. Don't be afraid to PUSH them into the RED!



ATTACK

The ATTACK & RELEASE controls are HIGHLY interactive, capable of extreme envelope shaping. Ranging from FET-styled, lightning-fast time constants all the way to slow, gooey v-mu style times. Experiment with different combinations for interesting sonic results!



RELEASE



SPECIFICATIONS

Freq Response:	20 Hz-20 kHz
Noise:	-80 dB +/-5
Height:	2U
Depth:	9 In (229 mm)
Width:	19 in (48 cm)
Weight:	13 lbs
Power:	switchable 120/220 V
Impedance in/out:	10 k/ 600 Ω

CONTROLS

Input:	Variable Threshold
Modes:	Comp/Limit/Out
SC HPF:	40, 80, 120, 200, 320 Hz
Output:	Makeup gain control
Attack:	11 settings
Release:	Variable control
Link:	Stereo/Dual Mono

MORE INFO

Hassle-Free 2 Year Warranty.

Painstakingly Handcrafted in the USA!



ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- Handcrafted in the USA
- 2x Custom-Wound Input Transformers (Exclusive AudioScape Design; Sonically True to the Original)
- 2x Custom-Wound Output Transformers (Exclusive AudioScape Design; Sonically True to the Original)
- Switch Between LIMIT, COMP or "OUT" mode which provides rich, harmonic gain and character without compression!
- Fully-Variable Input, Output and Release Controls
- 11-Position Stepped Attack Control
- 6-Position Stepped Sidechain High-Pass Filter (OFF / 40 Hz / 80 Hz / 120 Hz / 200 Hz / 320 Hz)
- Stereo Link Switch (Equal Gain Reduction in each Channel)
- Compression Bypass Switch per Channel
- Electronically Balanced Discrete/Transistor +4dBu Circuitry
- Meticulously Hand-Selected/Measured Boutique Zener Diodes
- Premium Hand Selected, Sonically Superior Components Throughout (as always!)
- Alpha Potentiometers
- Triad International Series Toroidal Power Transformer
- Exclusive AudioScape Custom Analog dB Gain-Reduction Meters
- Neutrik™ Metal XLR Input and Output Connectors
- External, Low-Noise Custom 120/240 V Switchable Power Supply
- Stylish 2U 19" Rackmount - Battleship Grey



FAQ

COMMON QUESTIONS

Q: How do you stereo link the two D-Comp channels?

A: Simply depress the 'LINK' switch and use the compression knobs from channel 1 for both channels.

***Note that the input and output levels are still independent.**

Q: How closely does this match a Neve 2254, 33609 or EMI unit?

A: This isn't a clone of the groundbreaking work done by Sir Rupert Neve or other designers, or our friend Wade Goeke at Chandler, but it is in the same class - using bridge diodes to clamp down on the audio program material. A bridge diode is like an audio version of the plumbing backwater valve.

Q: Should you power down the D-Comp in between uses?

A: Yes, we recommend powering down your D-Comp at the end of work each day. Also, if left for more than one day, we recommend unplugging the power supply from both the wall outlet and the D-Comp itself. Let those capacitors discharge in peace!

Q: What's a good starting point for the setting?

A: Have your source material amplified to an average level of -18dBfs (digital zero) and then set one or both channels of your D-Comp:

- **INPUT at 12 o'clock (5)**
- **MODE, select OUT so you can set the input and output to give you the signal level and general tonal characteristics you prefer**
- **Choose COMP for lighter compression duties or LIM for heavy duty work**
- **SC HPF to 120 (adjust later as you prefer)**
- **ATTACK at 4 (clicks)**
- **RELEASE at 12 o'clock**
- **LINK - lights off.**



CONTACT

- Have support or service related questions? Please email tech@audio-scape.com
- Looking for Inventory updates, all general inquiries, questions about using our products, need gear or mix advice? Please email info@audio-scape.com and subscribe to the Email Newsletter, [Instagram](#), & [Facebook](#).



CE EU DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

PRODUCT MODEL / PRODUCT:

PRODUCT: D-COMP LIMITER COMPRESSOR
MODEL/TYPE: D-COMP
SERIAL NOS. 126100 - 130000

MANUFACTURER:

MANUFACTURER: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC
ADDRESS: 1631 S. NOVA ROAD, BUILDING A, DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119, USA

THIS DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY IS ISSUED UNDER THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANUFACTURER.



THE OBJECT OF THE DECLARATION DESCRIBED IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RELEVANT UNION HARMONISATION LEGISLATION:

73/23/EWG	LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE
89/336/EWG	EMC DIRECTIVE
DIN EN 55103-1&2	ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT
2011/65/EU	THE RESTRICTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES DIRECTIVE

THIS DECLARATION BECOMES INVALID BY MODIFICATION ON THE DEVICE WITHOUT APPROVAL.

THE TECHNICAL FILE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC

PLACE OF ISSUE: DAYTONA BEACH, FL, USA

DATE OF ISSUE: NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023

NAME: CHRIS YETTER

POSITION: OWNER

SIGNATURE:

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