


Name _____

RA2 Mix- Step #4 = Compression

Circle one: **Mix 2:** Back/Blue **Mix 4:** Above **Due by** _____

Need help, review? Watch video in **COS Videos for Class** folder > **"RR How To Mix 04 - Compression"**

1. **Choose a track** Look for waveforms with too much dynamic range (too loud and too quiet). Vocals and drums almost always need some compression.
 - a. Question to ask = are there notes/words I'm "losing/missing" in the song? (inconsistencies) If yes, try compression.
 - b. The first tracks to work on are your CORE instruments. Other tracks can be louder/softer.
2. **Find the loudest part of the track (NOT THE SONG)** and loop that section.
3. Click the **2nd space Insert** on a track > **Plug-in > Dynamics > Dyn3 Compressor/Limiter (mono)---** (or stereo)
4. **MIX SECRET** = Use the second row of inserts (and third if you need two) for Compressors.
5. **MIX SECRET** = Keep your eyes on the meters ("**IN**", "**OUT**", "**GR**" (Gain Reduction))
6. **Beginner's Secret** = Choose a "preset" first ("**Factory Default**"). That will get all the knobs in a good starting place.
7. **Adjust Threshold** = by moving orange arrow or knob. Pull it down until the "GR" reaches no more than -3 to -6 dB.
8. **Adjust Ratio** = When loud-to-soft is still too much, either:
 - a. increase the gain. Generally no more than 6.0 to 1. **OR**
 - b. add another compressor.
9. **Adjust Gain** (or Make Up Gain) = so the "**OUT**" meter is no lower than the "**IN**" meter.
 - a. If you have trouble, you may need to increase your ratio and try again.
 - b. If that doesn't work, consider using another compressor.
10. For right now, ignore "Knee", "Attack", and "Release"
11. **LISTEN!** Can you tell when the compressor kicks in or out? Either back it off, or adjust attack or release.
12. **AFTER EVERY Compressor MOVE** = **Toggle** (click/unclick) "**BYPASS**" to compare:
(Keyboard shortcut =  + Click)
13. Does it sound better (softer sounds/words more clear) or worse (loud parts pump in/out)?
14. Now **unsolo**, and play with all tracks. Click/unclick "**BYPASS**" to confirm that it is not worse.
15. If it sounds weird, unhelpful, too "smashed"? "**OPT**" + click any knob to reset and try again.
16. Do you need to adjust the static mix? **Are your CORE Instruments still prominent?** This should make them more "stable" in the static mix.
17. Now go through rest of tracks.
18. **MIX SECRET** = On tracks that are overly dynamic, try two compressors. Particularly Lead VOX. It gives you a smoother, more consistent performance than using one compressor only.
19. **MIX SECRET** = **Compressors will NOT fix everything.** Take note of the tracks/volumes that still need help. We'll address those during automation.
20. Now listen through whole song. Write down "problem" areas that need to be addressed later.

Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____ Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____

Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____ Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____

Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____ Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____

Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____ Inst: _____ Section/Time: _____/____:____

List more on back

22. **Always save file** along the way, and at the end, on your lab computer **AND** your flash drive.