

SSL Bus Comp Classic



Very few pieces of studio equipment become truly iconic. Fewer still become so closely associated with the sound of a finished record. For over five decades, the SSL Stereo Bus Compressor has been one of them, its unmistakable response helping producers and engineers shape the movement, impact and cohesion of countless productions. Now, Solid State Logic brings the classic design back to a dedicated 1U format with Bus Comp Classic, preserving its razor-sharp workflow while introducing Variable VCA Drive, a new continuously variable control that places different eras of SSL console character within immediate reach.

Bus Comp Classic reconnects with the essentials of the original SSL Bus Compressor. At its heart are high-performance THAT 2181 VCAs in the audio path, paired with SSL's unique side-chain architecture incorporating a VCA within its feedback loop. Together, they create the responsive, musical behaviour that has made the SSL Bus Compressor a studio mainstay. Transients remain defined yet controlled, while individual elements begin to move and breathe together. Carefully selected Ratio and Release settings, precision-stepped controls and a genuine stereo external side-chain input extend its creative and workflow possibilities without compromising the directness of the classic design.

The new Variable VCA Drive places decades of SSL console character under one continuously variable control. When switched out, it delivers the low-distortion clarity and powerful transient response associated with SSL's SuperAnalogue™ lineage, including the 9000 Series and Duality consoles, before progressively introducing the harmonic colour of the FX384 and classic 4000 Series. From subtle console richness to aggressive saturation approaching 10% THD, producers and engineers can decide exactly how clean, coloured or confrontational Bus Comp Classic becomes.

Bus Comp Classic retains the immediate SSL workflow, with precision-stepped controls for Ratio, Attack, Release, and S/C HPF enabling fast operation, accurate manual recall and repeatable results. From the gentle soft-knee response of its renowned 2:1 ratio to more assertive compression across drums, stems and parallel chains, each setting delivers its own carefully defined musical behaviour. SSL Auto Release adapts naturally to complex material, retaining movement and detail as the production evolves.

A six-position side-chain high-pass filter helps preserve the depth and impact of kick drums and bass, while the genuine stereo external side-chain input opens up more advanced creative and delivery workflows. By feeding the complete mix to the

detector while processing individual stems separately, engineers can preserve more of its established gain-reduction movement and dynamic intent across alternate versions and deliverables.

From stereo mix and music-bus compression to instrument groups, drums and creative parallel chains, Bus Comp Classic delivers the movement, cohesion and control that help productions come together. Its immediate workflow encourages fast, instinctive decisions: use it subtly to bring a mix into focus, or push it harder to add density, saturation and attitude. Faithful to the original and extended only where it adds genuine creative value, Bus Comp Classic is ready to shape a new generation of records.

Key Features:

- Authentic SSL Bus Compressor design
- High-performance THAT 2181 VCAs
- Continuously variable VCA Drive
 - From SuperAnalogue™ transparency to 4K character
 - Up to 10% THD
- Expanded Ratio and Release options
- SSL programme-dependent Auto Release
- Precision six-position stepped controls for Ratio, Attack, Release and side-chain HPF
- Integrated six-position side-chain high-pass filter
- Genuine stereo external side-chain input
- Designed and built by Solid State Logic

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