CANVAS AUDIO

Cactus Clipper/Saturator Manual

Cactus is a precision tool for adding heat, edge, and attitude to any signal, all without losing control. Whether you're pushing snares, levelling a bus, or sweetening a master, Cactus gives you ultra-flexible clipping with a saturation twist.

This ain't your dad's clipper. It's got thorns.

Controls

Input / Output

- **Input (0 to +18 dB)**
  Feeds the signal into the clipper/saturator. Push it to drive the clipping harder — or pull it back to keep things civilized.

- **Output (-18 to 0 dB)**
  Post-clipping trim to balance the level after gain is added. Essential for level-matching and comparing processed vs. dry.

Knee

Adjusts the **sharpness of the clipper curve**:

- **0** = smooth, soft-knee saturation

- **100** = hard, brickwall-style clipping

Use lower values for rounding transients and high values when you need punchy, assertive limiting.

Link Button

When engaged, the **Input and Output** knobs move together in opposite directions, maintaining perceived loudness while adjusting drive. Great for dialing tone without wrecking your levels.

Drive

The secret sauce. Controls the amount of **saturation** before the clipping stage. Adds warmth, bite, and body. It's subtle until it's not.

Tone Button

A subtle saturation inspired by one of the most 'symphonically elite' converters we've ever heard. We won't name names, but let's just say it hits the apogee of tasteful grit and sparkle.

Panel Features

- **Oversampling (OS)**
  4x oversampling toggle to reduce aliasing at high input levels. Perfect to make that tasty drive even tastier.

- **Mix**
  Blends between dry and processed signal for easy parallel saturation. Great for drum bus punch or subtle vocal grit.

- **HPF / LPF**
  High-pass and low-pass filters that shape what frequencies go into the clipper/saturator. Helpful for cleaning up mud or taming fizz before it becomes a problem.

- **Preset System**
  Save and recall your favourite settings. It's fast, it's convenient, and yes, it saves the Tone button state too.

- **Resizable UI (Bottom Right)**
  Variable resizing capability. Resize it bigger or smaller til you're comfy.

- **License Window (Canvas Audio Logo)**
  Provides information about plugin version and activating/deactivating your license.

Visual Meter

- The center display shows **gain reduction / clipping activity** in real time — so you can see just how spicy you're getting.

Tips & Tricks

- **Drum Bus Weapon:**
  Use a low knee and just a touch of drive with the Tone button ON for that modern, punchy thwack.

- **Master Bus Magic:**
  Gentle input (try +3 dB), Tone ON, and Drive around 10–20% adds subtle polish without wrecking transients. Be sure to play with the knee til it feels right.

- **Drum Shell Love:**
  Shave just a little bit off those peaks to get your toms slamming through the sides of your mixes.