

Samt

Optical compression that moves with the music.



VERSION 1.0.1

Bring a wandering vocal into focus, give a bass line a steadier foundation, or add a little weight to a clean recording. Samt combines a program-dependent optical response with adjustable harmonic colour, fixed 4x oversampling and a practical set of modern controls.

In this manual

- 02 Installation and first launch
- 03 Your first session
- 04 Compression and tone
- 05 Mix, sidechain and Auto Gain
- 06 Meters, presets and controls
- 07 Trial, activation and devices
- 08 Troubleshooting and support

Installation and first launch

Install Samt, then load it on an audio track in your DAW.

01. Close your DAW. Download the package for your system from the Samt product page or your Metasis Audio account. Extract the downloaded ZIP before opening the installer.

02. On Windows, run Samt-1.0.1-Windows-Setup.exe. The installer places the 64-bit VST3 in the standard shared VST3 folder.

03. On macOS, run Samt-1.0.1-macOS.pkg. The signed and notarized package installs both Audio Units and VST3. It supports Apple silicon and Intel Macs.

04. Open your DAW and rescan plugins if needed. Look for Samt by Metasis Audio in the audio-effects list. In Logic Pro, use the Audio Units version.

05. Start playback at a sensible level. The seven-day trial begins when you first load the plugin. No payment card is needed to try it.

Platform	Requirement
Windows	Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit; a host with VST3 support.
macOS	macOS 11 or later; Apple silicon or Intel; a host with AUv2 or VST3 support.
Formats	Windows VST3. macOS AUv2 and VST3. No AAX or standalone application.

Use the same plugin format when reopening an existing project. AU and VST3 are separate host formats, even though they share the same sound and controls.

Your first session

Start with a vocal or bass part that changes level across a phrase.

- 01.** Load Init from the preset menu. Leave MIX at 100% and start in COMPRESS mode.
- 02.** Raise PEAK REDUCTION until the middle meter shows a few decibels of reduction on louder notes. Listen to how the quieter details sit against the rest of the mix.
- 03.** Switch on AUTO GAIN and let a few seconds of audio play. It slowly compensates for level changes so you can judge the compression more fairly.
- 04.** Adjust CHARACTER for more or less harmonic colour. A little can add density; higher settings make the colour easier to hear.
- 05.** Compare with BYPASS. If the track has lost too much movement, reduce PEAK REDUCTION or blend some of the original back with MIX.

An optical response, not another timing chart

Samt takes its musical direction from the legendary LA-2A family. Its recovery depends on the level and duration of the signal that came before: short peaks and sustained passages do not recover in exactly the same way. Attack and release are part of that response, rather than separate controls.

Development drew on study of published LA-2A schematics and optical gain-control behaviour. Samt uses an original digital behavioural model; it is not a measured reproduction of a specific hardware unit.

Compression and tone

Control	What it does
PEAK REDUCTION 0 to 100	Sets the amount of optical compression. Increasing it lowers the internal threshold. At zero, the gain cell applies no compression; CHARACTER can still add colour.
INPUT -18 to +18 dB	Changes the level entering the processor. It affects both compression and the drive into the coloured audio path.
GAIN -24 to +18 dB	Sets manual output gain when AUTO GAIN is off. It does not change the optical detector.
CHARACTER 0 to 100	Blends the nonlinear contribution of the input and output stages. Zero removes their harmonic colour while retaining compression and the oversampled signal path.
COMPRESS / LIMIT	COMPRESS gives gentler levelling. LIMIT applies firmer gain control. LIMIT is not a brickwall peak limiter or an output ceiling.

4x oversampling, always in place

The coloured signal path runs at four times the host sample rate. Filtering before and after the nonlinear stages reduces aliasing from the added harmonics. There is no quality switch to remember before exporting.

Samt reports a fixed latency of 112 samples, about 2.33 ms at 48 kHz. A host with plugin delay compensation can account for it. No zero-latency or true-peak limiting is implied.

Mix, sidechain and Auto Gain

Keep the low end from taking over

SIDECHAIN HPF ranges from 20 to 180 Hz. It reduces low-frequency energy in the detector so bass-heavy material has less influence on the compression. It does not high-pass the audio you hear. Raise it when low notes or kicks make the whole signal dip too much.

Parallel compression without another bus

MIX blends the original and processed signals. At 100% you hear the wet path; at 0% you hear the original signal with the same fixed delay. For a denser sound that keeps some natural attack, try stronger compression and blend the wet signal back to taste.

Let your ears choose the setting

AUTO GAIN slowly compares the input and processed RMS levels and applies a shared stereo correction. Give it several seconds after a large change. While enabled, GAIN turns grey, shows AUTO and cannot be adjusted in the interface. Its manual setting is retained and returns when Auto Gain is switched off.

Auto Gain is a listening aid, not an exact loudness match or peak limiter. Changing material, extreme settings and parallel mixtures can still change perceived volume or peak level. Watch the output and leave headroom.

Bypass and stereo behaviour

BYPASS switches to the delay-aligned original signal. The compressor uses a shared stereo detector and common gain reduction, helping to keep the stereo image stable. Samt also supports mono tracks.

Meters, presets and controls

Display	Meaning
INPUT	Peak input level in dBFS.
GAIN REDUCTION	Compression applied by the optical gain cell, in dB.
OUTPUT	Peak output level in dBFS.

The input and output instruments are peak meters, not calibrated analogue VU meters. Their needles and digital values show the processor telemetry; use your DAW meters as well when managing output headroom.

Working with the controls

Drag a dial to adjust it. Hold Shift for fine changes. Double-click a dial cap to restore its default. Double-click a numeric value to type; Enter applies a valid number and Escape cancels.

For COMPRESS / LIMIT, click the wanted label, click the lever to toggle, or drag it sideways. Releasing outside the switch cancels the change.

Save a sound you will use again

SAVE and LOAD manage your .samt presets. The arrows step through the available preset list; the preset menu includes Init. An asterisk marks a changed setting. Your DAW project stores the parameters, preset name and interface size. Presets do not contain or reset your licence.

Choose a comfortable size

The header offers 75%, 100%, 125% and 150%. The default 75% view is 900 by 639 pixels. Choose a smaller size if your DAW leaves less screen space.

Trial, activation and devices

The full trial runs for seven days from first use. After it expires, Samt stops passing audio until activated, including its supported bypass paths. Updating, reinstalling or loading Init does not restart the trial.

01. Buy Samt from metasisaudio.com. Your account holds the purchase email, licence key and current downloads.

02. Open MENU, then License & trial (or the current licence-status entry). Enter your purchase email and licence key, not your account password.

03. Choose ACTIVATE while online and wait for confirmation. Close the window to return to the session. Normal activated use works offline without periodic server checks.

Using another computer

A standard licence allows two activated computers. Multiple instances on one computer use the same activation. To release a computer, reopen the licence window and choose DEACTIVATE while online. The website can show devices but cannot independently release them.

If a deactivation cannot reach the server, the local activation is removed and a pending request is retained. Reconnect and choose RETRY to finish releasing the server slot. An older activation may show VERIFY first; use the same purchase email and key.

For a lost or inaccessible computer, contact support@metasisaudio.com. Do not delete trial or licence files to fix a device-limit message.

Troubleshooting and support

Symptom	What to check
Samt is missing in the DAW	Close the DAW before installation, use the correct format, then rescan. Logic Pro uses AU. Check the manufacturer name Metasis Audio.
No audio	Check the track routing and licence/trial status. An expired trial mutes audio until activation. BYPASS cannot restore an expired trial.
GAIN is grey or shows AUTO	AUTO GAIN is enabled. Turn it off to use the saved manual output value.
Pumping on low notes	Reduce PEAK REDUCTION, raise SIDECHAIN HPF, or blend in the original with MIX.
Unexpected peaks in LIMIT	LIMIT is firmer optical compression, not a brickwall ceiling. Reduce output gain or use a dedicated peak limiter when you need a guaranteed ceiling.
Auto Gain still sounds louder	Allow it to settle, compare representative phrases, then check by ear. RMS matching does not guarantee equal perceived loudness.

Windows VST3: C:/Program Files/Common Files/VST3/Samt.vst3

macOS AU: /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/Samt.component

macOS VST3: /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/Samt.vst3

For help, email support@metasisaudio.com with your OS, DAW and plugin versions, the format you loaded, and a short description of the steps that caused the issue. Never send your account password.

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