

SAFARI PEDALS

The Herd V2

Triple-Engine Parallel Compressor Gone Wild

The Herd V2 is Safari's three-engine parallel compressor, built for glue, character. Blend Opto smoothness, VCA grip and the Devil's gritty analog bite in any proportion you like, then shape the result with shared Attack, Release and Tone.

V2 adds a Mid/Side control so you can compress the centre and the sides by different amounts, and switchable metering across input, gain reduction and output.



INSTALLATION

REGISTRATION

CONTROLS

TOP BAR

PRESETS

TROUBLESHOOTING

SETUP

Installation

WINDOWS

- 1 Open the **.exe** installer.
- 2 Accept the license agreement.
- 3 Choose your plugin formats (VST3, AAX and/or Standalone).
- 4 Click **Next** → **Install**.

MAC

- 1 Open the **.pkg** installer.
- 2 Accept the license agreement.
- 3 Choose your plugin formats (VST3, AU, AAX and/or Standalone).
- 4 Click **Continue**, enter your password and install.

After installing: restart your DAW so it rescans the plugin folders. The Herd V2 installs alongside V1 - both can be used in the same session.

ACTIVATION

Registration

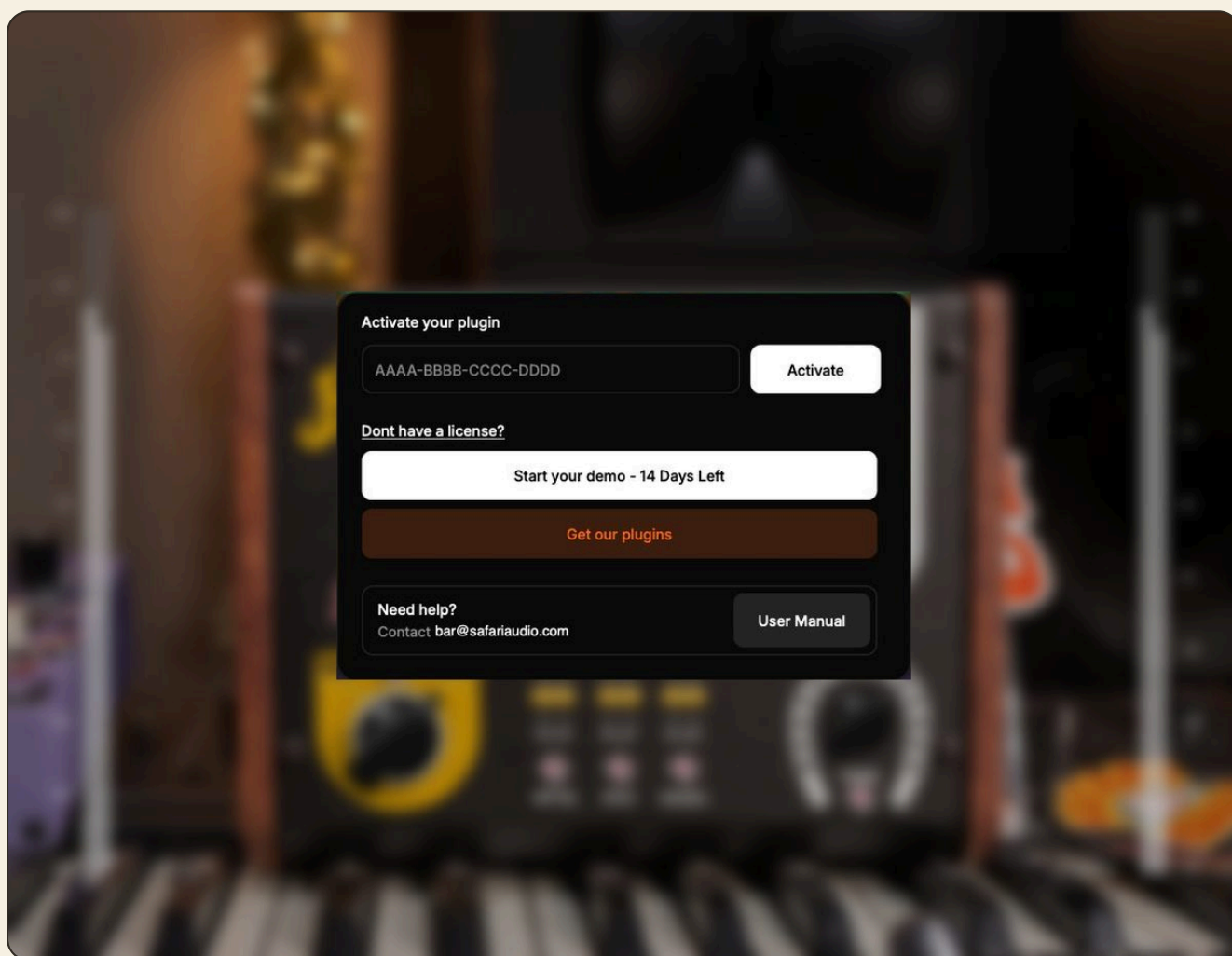
When you open The Herd V2 for the first time, you will see the activation screen. From here you can enter a license key, start a free trial, or open this manual.

Subscription

Includes all current and future Safari plugins.
Once activated, any new plugin you download works without additional authorization.

Perpetual License

Gives you lifetime access to the plugins you purchased. Does not include future plugin releases.



ACTIVATION SCREEN

START A TRIAL OR REGISTER

Enter your serial number in the **AAAA-BBBB-CCCC-DDDD** field and click **Activate**. Don't have a license yet? Click **Start your demo** for a free 14-day trial, or **Get our plugins** to purchase. The **User Manual** button opens this document at any time.

Offline Use: An internet connection is required only for the first activation. After that, the plugin works offline.

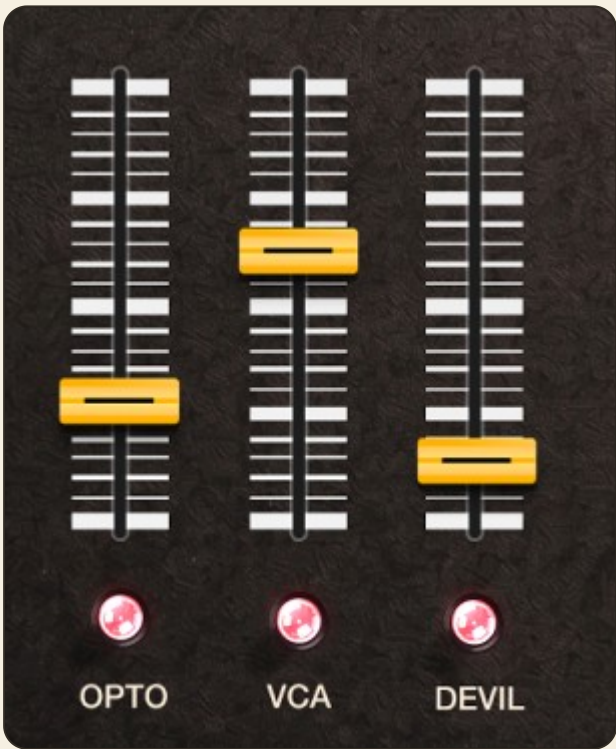
Too many devices? Licenses cover four machines. If you have reached the limit, deactivate one from the activation screen to free up a slot.

Controls & Features

The Herd runs all three compressors in parallel rather than in series: each has its own fader and its own on/off LED, and what you hear is the sum of whatever you leave running. Timing and tone are shared across the three engines. Input and output sit on the sliders flanking the unit, and global functions live in the top bar.

THE THREE COMPRESSORS

Opto	The smooth one. Optical-style detection with a slow, program-dependent recovery - movement and breath rather than grip.
VCA	The punchy one. Fast, precise and firm; this is the engine that holds a mix together.
Devil	Pure destruction. Gritty, coloured, analog-flavoured compression that distorts as it clamps.
On/Off LEDs	Each engine switches independently. Run one for subtle glue, or stack all three for violent, layered compression.
Wild Mode	Wild mode is a combo of 3 compressors and limiters in parallel for crazy distorted and compressed sounds.



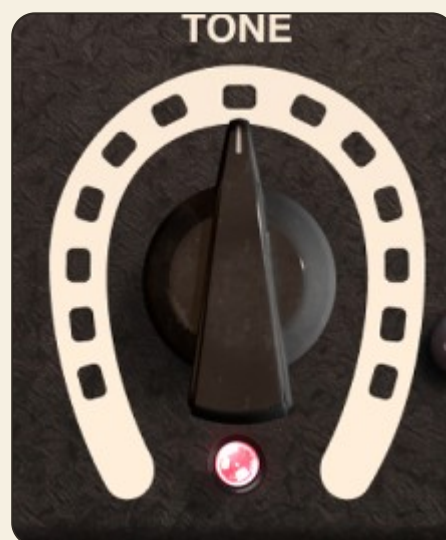
OPTO · VCA · DEVIL, EACH WITH ITS OWN ON/OFF LED

TIMING & TONE

Attack	Sets how quickly the compressors clamp down. Slower for transients that punch through, faster to flatten them.
Release	Sets how quickly they let go. Short for pumping energy, long for invisible level control.
Tone	Shapes the top and bottom of the compressed signal without losing the character of the engines. Its LED bypasses the tone stage.



ATTACK & RELEASE



TONE

MID / SIDE

Mid / Side

Biases the compression between the centre of the image and the sides. Toward **Mid** the middle takes the compression and the sides stay open; toward **Side** the width gets squeezed while the centre stays clear.

M/S On/Off

The LED between the two labels switches the mid/side matrix in and out, so you can hear what it is doing to the image.



MID/SIDE CONTROL

METERING, INPUT & OUTPUT

IN / OR / OUT

The three buttons above the VU choose what the needle shows: **IN** for incoming level, **OR** for gain reduction, and **OUT** for the processed result.

Gain Reduction Meter

A real VU movement, so it reads the way an analog compressor reads - useful for feeling the timing as much as measuring it.

Input Gain

Sets the level going into the processing. Because the circuit reacts to level, this is a tone control as much as a gain control.

Output Gain

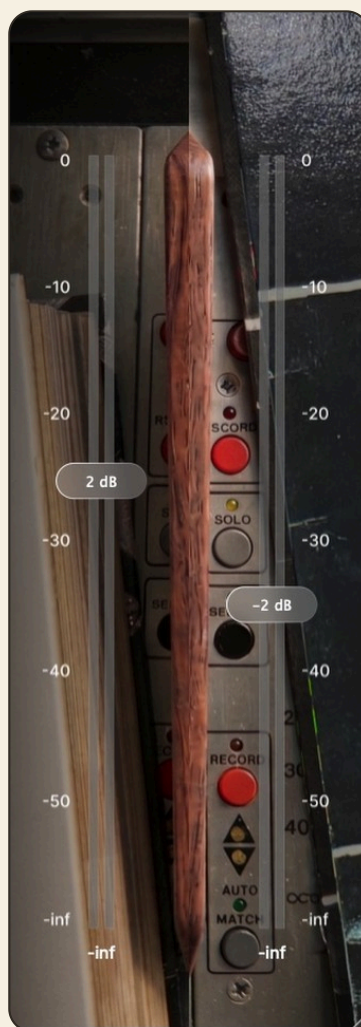
Sets the overall output level so the plugin sits correctly in your mix.

Level Meters

Stereo meters flank both sliders, scaled from +6 dB down to $-\infty$, so you can watch input and output at a glance.



METERING



INPUT & OUTPUT

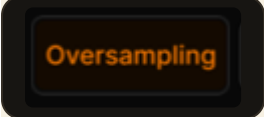
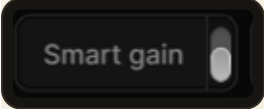
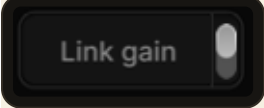
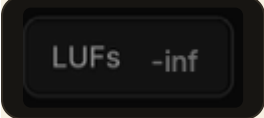
GLOBAL FUNCTIONS

The Top Bar

Every global function lives in a single strip across the top of the plugin - bypass, presets, A/B, quality, gain matching, metering and blend. Every V2 plugin carries the same set of functions, though the exact labelling and order vary a little between them.



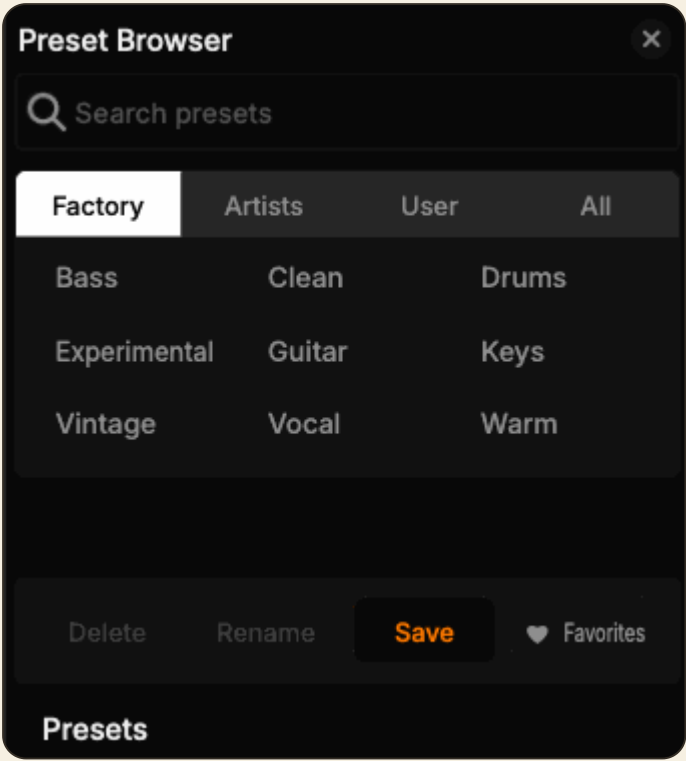
THE V2 TOP BAR

	On / Bypass	Bypasses the plugin's processing while leaving it loaded, for quick before-and-after checks.
	Preset Menu	Shows the loaded preset. Click the name to open the browser, or use the arrows to step through presets one at a time. Saving, renaming and deleting User presets is handled inside the browser.
	A/B Compare	Holds two independent settings so you can flip between them and hear which one works, without losing either.
	Oversampling	Raises the internal sample rate for a cleaner sound and reduced aliasing. Worth engaging whenever you are driving the circuit hard.
	Smart Gain	Automatically matches output loudness to the input using short-term LUFS, so louder never gets mistaken for better.
	Link Gain	The second mode of the same switch. Links the input and output controls so raising one lowers the other for effortless level matching.
	LUFS	Short-term loudness readout, for level awareness without reaching for another meter.
	Blend	Mixes the processed signal back against the dry one - the parallel-processing control for keeping the original transients intact.

Gain staging tip: Smart Gain and Link Gain are two modes of one switch, so only one is active at a time. Use Smart Gain when you want a loudness-matched comparison, and Link Gain when you want to drive the circuit harder while holding your output level steady.

Preset Browser

Clicking the preset name in the top bar opens the browser. It is the same preset system used across the new generation of Safari plugins, with folders, tags, favorites and search.



PRESET BROWSER

Search	Type any part of a preset name to filter the list instantly.
Factory / Artists / User / All	Switch between the presets we shipped, artist packs, your own saves, and everything at once.
Tags	Narrow the list down by instrument or character with a single click.
Save / Rename / Delete	Store your own settings as User presets and manage them without leaving the plugin.
Favorites	Star the presets you keep coming back to and filter down to just those.

Troubleshooting

If something is not working as expected, most issues are quick to resolve.

- 1 Re-read the Installation and Registration sections to confirm both were completed.
- 2 Double-check your DAW settings, plugin folder paths, and system compatibility.
- 3 Restart your DAW and try loading The Herd V2 again.
- 4 Make sure your OS and DAW are up to date.

Still stuck? Email bar@safariaudio.com with your OS, DAW version, and a description of the issue.



Safari Audio

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