

# CHOP SHOP

## PRODUCT OVERVIEW:

After more than two years of development, the design team at Dangerous Music has crafted the unique and powerful Dangerous Compressor to help restore life and put the punch back into today's world of flat, hyper-limited music. Equally useful in tracking, mixing, and mastering, the Compressor's simple operation saves you time while the mastering-grade audio path faithfully preserves the impact of the music, and does it transparently.

"The smart dynamics feature helps address the level issue in a really great way that let's me use less of or even turn off my digital limiter!"

-- Jonathan Wyner (David Bowie, Josh Groban, Nirvana)

## THE DANGEROUS MUSIC LEGACY:

"Audio Integrity: non-negotiable." This is the credo upon which Dangerous Music is founded. Conceived and designed by end users— not by engineers in lab coats— the results are products that resurrect dynamic range, punch, intelligibility and emotion. These high-fidelity, uncompromised signal paths are achieved by harnessing over 20 years of Chris Muth's design wizardry; creator of infamous custom black boxes for world class facilities like Hit Factory, Masterdisk, Absolute Audio and Sterling Sound Mastering. Then the critical listening skills of golden-eared luminaries are applied, with the result being musical tools that fulfill the actual needs of today's flexible computer based studio.

# DANGEROUS



# COMPRESSOR



# DANGEROUS MUSIC

## MASTERING GRADE COMPONENTS

Components selected for both performance and sound, tested to draconian tolerances, breathe the analog soul back to life for stunning imaging, headroom, punch and detail.

## DC COUPLED

No transformers that color your sound or filter caps that smear stereo. Instead, DC coupling with massive voltage rails and Mogami point to point wiring for simple, electronic elegance. Bandwidth from DC to light.

## AUDIO TRANSPARENCY

A virgin canvas for painting sonic landscapes utilizing your own personal style and character, not indiscriminate color.

## HAND ASSEMBLED IN USA

Avoids 6,000 miles of oceanic circuit board rattling, while keeping Americans employed.

## STRINGENT QUALITY CONTROL

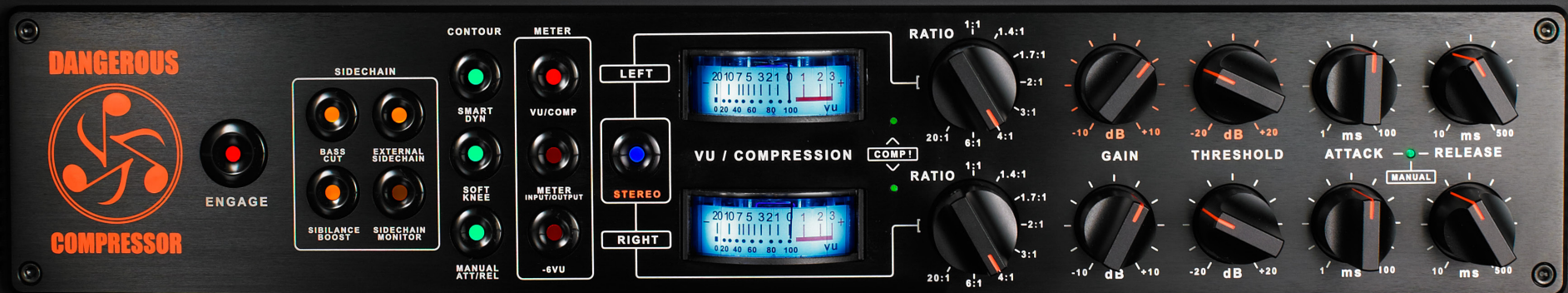
An exceptionally low failure rate keeps you in the studio mixing, not at the UPS store shipping repairs.

## WARRANTY:

2 years, because it's built to last a lifetime.  
(REGISTRATION REQUIRED!)

## WHY Compressor?

- Simple: Smart Dyn, Auto Attack/Release, and preset sidechain EQ functions let you set and forget with award winning results.
- Transparent: Premium quality VCA performs like an automated fader with virtually no distortion -- takes the abuse of heavy gain reduction while preserving the tone and intent of the artist.
- Powerful: Dig in deep with external sidechain I/O and sidechain monitoring. Search and destroy offending frequencies overshooting the Compressor by inserting your favorite outboard equalizer (or even that frankensteinian graphic EQ you found in the trash).



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MADE IN USA

DANGEROUS COMPRESSOR

SERIAL # 14DHS-001

## CAUTION

WARNING:  
DO NOT OPEN-RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
ATTENTION:  
RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE- NE PAS OUVRIR

DO NOT EXPOSE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE

NO USER SERVICEABLE  
PARTS INSIDE  
REFER ALL SERVICING TO  
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

MADE IN USA



AC IN

## EXTERNAL SIDE CHAIN



## LEFT CHANNEL



## RIGHT CHANNEL



METER ZERO



# FACT SNACK



# DANGEROUS MUSIC

## PRESET AUDIOPHILE SIDECCHAIN EQ

**FEATURE:** Simple push-buttons to cut bass frequencies or boost high frequencies into the COMPRESSOR'S sidechain circuit.

**BENEFIT:** Sidechain BASS CUT gives the mix more low end by ignoring infrasonic frequencies or bottom from a kick drum, bass guitar, a singer's foot tapping... Engaging the SIBILANCE BOOST cuts back on harsh "ess" sounds from a vocal, brash cymbals or a poorly sampled drum loop.

**TIP:** Use them both at once- go ahead- don't be afraid.

## SMART DYNAMICS

**FEATURE:** SMART DYN uses two independent slopes working together- one for catching peaks and one for average levels.

**BENEFIT:** Higher average level relative to the peaks. Use less or no digital limiting for more overall level.

## SOFT / HARD KNEE

**FEATURE:** Two preset KNEE options for different scenarios.

**BENEFIT:** After the threshold has been crossed, HARD KNEE (dim) offers a more aggressive transition to compression while SOFT KNEE (bright) is more forgiving.

## TRUE STEREO LINKING

**FEATURE:** Operate in DUAL MONO (dim) or STEREO (bright).

**BENEFIT:** Engaging STEREO mode maintains independent detectors for a more faithful stereo field, but still tracks gain reduction identically across both channels.

**TIP:** RATIO and ATTACK & RELEASE controls remain independent in STEREO mode. GAIN and THRESHOLD are linked to the top set of controls in STEREO mode.

## COMPREHENSIVE METERING

**FEATURE:** Visual feedback via both classic VU METERS and fast-acting LEDs.

**BENEFIT:** View the input, output, or gain reduction average on the VU METERS and catch sudden spikes or just a single transient crossing the THRESHOLD via the LED indicators.

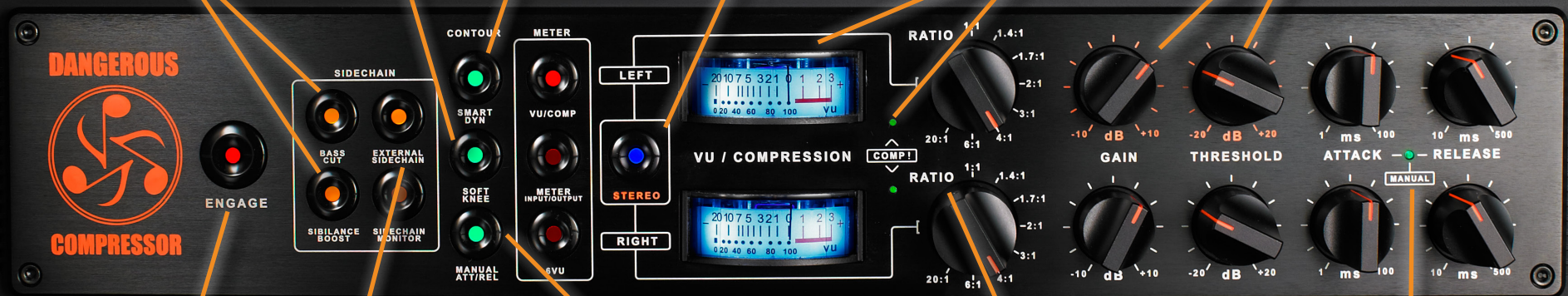
**TIP:** The -6VU button can save your meters from the potential damage when metering hot input or output levels.

## THRESHOLD & MAKEUP GAIN

**FEATURE:** Independent controls for threshold and output level.

**BENEFIT:** Select the point at which compression begins with THRESHOLD and compensate for the level lost with GAIN makeup.

**TIP:** GAIN and THRESHOLD controls are ganged in STEREO mode, so the top knob controls both channels.



## TRUE HARD WIRED BYPASS

**FEATURE:** Hard wired bypass when the ENGAGE button is dim.

**BENEFIT:** When COMPRESSOR is not engaged, all circuitry of the unit is completely bypassed. This is the same as strapping an incredibly short cable between the inputs and outputs.

**TIP:** True Hard Wired Bypass allows for honest A/B comparisons of the COMPRESSOR'S true effect on a track or mix.

## EXTENDED SIDECCHAIN OPTIONS

**FEATURE:** EXTERNAL SIDECCHAIN Insert and activate an outboard equalizer here.

**BENEFIT:** Reach beyond the presets (i.e. squash unwanted snare ring).

**FEATURE:** SIDECCHAIN MONITOR Audition exactly what the detector hears.

**BENEFIT:** Zero in on the audio target using your ears.

**TIP:** Use a surgical parametric EQ to notch out midrange and highlight the vocalist in a busy mix.

## MANUAL ATTACK / RELEASE

**FEATURE:** Activates the continuous attack and release controls on the right side of the COMPRESSOR.

**BENEFIT:** Dial in compression that is faster or slower than what is offered in automatic operation.

**TIP:** Automatic timing controls (dim) give you attack and release settings of about 30ms.

## STEPPED RATIO CONTROL

**FEATURE:** Subtle control of "how much" compression, all the way to 20:1 for harder limiting.

**BENEFIT:** The stepped controls of this crucial parameter give you exact, repeatable and recallable settings that you can confidently control.

## ATTACK / RELEASE CONTROLS

**FEATURE:** When this LED is illuminated, you have continuous control of ATTACK and RELEASE.

**BENEFIT:** Precisely dial in the amount of transient to trim as well as the desired amount of decay.

**TIP:** These controls do nothing when the COMPRESSOR is set to AUTO ATTACK & RELEASE -- let a pesky producer spin the knobs 'til the cows come home and know that your mix hasn't changed.

# FACT SNACK



# DANGEROUS MUSIC

## ACTIVE SIDECCHAIN LOOP I/O

**FEATURE:** When the **EXTERNAL SIDECCHAIN** button is engaged, this active sidechain loop inserts an EQ or other device patched here into the sidechain path.

**BENEFIT:** Boost offending frequencies into the sidechain to mellow them, or decrease the **COMPRESSOR'S** sensitivity to a mid-range heavy mix with a broad cut in that region.

**TIP:** Active sidechain I/O ensures that loading and different device impedances are a non-issue.

**NOTE:** **EXTERNAL SIDECCHAIN** must be activated on the front panel under the sidechain settings for the send and return to hit **COMPRESSOR'S** detector



## AC INLET & SWITCHABLE VOLTAGE

**FEATURE:** Standard IEC connector for AC power and switchable operating voltage.

**BENEFIT:** Use your **COMPRESSOR** anywhere in the world with standard, abundant power cables.



## QUALITY LOCKING CONNECTORS

**FEATURE:** Professional quality XLR connectors for **INPUTS**, **OUTPUTS**, and **EXTERNAL SIDECCHAIN I/O**

**BENEFIT:** Sturdy, locking XLRs make for more contact surface area and better connections overall.

## METER ZERO CALIBRATION

**FEATURE:** Readjust the VU meters to zero in the rare case of meter drift.

**BENEFIT:** Always have accurate metering.

**TIP:** Be sure the unit's been on and warmed up for at least 2 hours, set to GR metering, and that there is no audio present at input before making this adjustment.