

Type X

User Guide

v1.0

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Type X

Dynamic Range Expander

[Type X](#) is a faithful emulation of the **dbx® Model 1BX**, a compact dynamic range expander from the golden age of consumer hi-fi audio. Built to expand dynamics and add expressive contrast, Type X adds life, punch, and presence to any track by dynamically increasing the difference between loud and soft passages.

While the original was designed to enhance playback from compressed sources like tape or broadcast, Type X introduces modern flexibility. It features a sidechain input with high-pass and low-pass filters, allowing precise control over what drives the expansion. Additional parameters for internal attack and release times give you deeper shaping capabilities beyond the fixed response of the original hardware.

Type X is available for macOS, Windows, and Linux (VST, VST3, AU, AAX, CLAP).

It's also available on the App Store for iOS and iPadOS (AUv3 and Standalone).

Installation

macOS

- Double click on the DMG archive to extract it
- Right click on the PKG installer and click open
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Windows

- Extract the ZIP archive
- Double click on the setup file (.exe)
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Linux

- Extract the tarball archive
- Run `./install.sh`
- Follow the instructions to install the plug-in(s)

Registration

You can open the registration window by clicking on the icon ☰ next to the bypass button, in the top-right corner.

Online

- If you haven't created an account yet, you can [sign up here](#)
- Just input your credentials into the text fields and click on Log In.



←  ×

Log in to authorize

Remember me

[Forgot Your Pass?](#) [Sign Up](#)

Offline

- Download the license file from your [account](#).
- Just drag and drop the license into the registration window or click on the *Load License File* button and browse to the downloaded license.



←  ×

Offline activation

Drop the license file here
or

Parameters

Main

- Expansion* Controls how much the dynamics are expanded. Lower settings keep things subtle and natural, while higher settings make quiet parts quieter and loud parts louder.
- Transition Level* Controls the point where expansion engages. If the signal is above this level, gain is increased; if below, it is reduced. Use it to define which parts of the signal are emphasized. Similar to a threshold.

Expander

- Attack* Controls how quickly the expander reacts when the input level rises. Shorter times make the response tighter and more immediate.
- Release* Sets how fast the expander returns to normal when the input level drops. Longer times create a smoother, more natural feel.

Noise

- Noise Level* Adds a controllable amount of noise, mimicking the circuit noise of the hardware. This also affects the response of the expansion.
- Noise Env* When the button is enabled, the noise follows the input signal: it only activates when audio is present.

Source

- Source Selector* Enables external sidechain input. When active, the expansion is driven by an external signal instead of the main input. If no sidechain is routed, the plugin falls back to using the main input instead.
- Listen* Bypasses the expander and lets you monitor the source signal directly, whether it's the main input or sidechain. Useful for hearing exactly what's driving the expansion.
- Gain* Adjusts the level of the sidechain signal driving the expander. Whether using external sidechain or internal input, this lets you fine-tune how much the sidechain source influences expansion behavior.
- Source HP* Applies a high-pass filter to the sidechain signal, removing low frequencies from influencing the expansion. Useful for preventing kick drums, rumble, or bass energy from triggering the expander.

Source LP Applies a low-pass filter to the sidechain signal, removing high frequencies from triggering expansion. Helps reduce sensitivity to transients like hi-hats or sharp consonants.

Master

Input Sets the input gain before processing. Use it to optimize the signal level into the expander.

Mix Blends the processed (expanded) signal with the dry input signal. Allows for parallel-style dynamics processing not available on the original unit.

Output Controls the final output level after processing. Useful for gain matching.

Soft Clip Limits fast transients by gently rounding off signal peaks, helping prevent overshoots caused by aggressive expansion. Useful for keeping levels under control without introducing harsh digital clipping.

How does it work?

Type X works by applying wideband dynamic expansion, a process that increases the difference between quiet and loud parts of a signal. Instead of compressing like a traditional compressor, it does the opposite: quiet sounds get quieter, and loud sounds stay loud (or even get slightly louder), making the music feel more dynamic and expressive.

Internally, Type X analyzes the input signal using a true RMS detector, just like the original hardware, to track its average energy over time. When the signal crosses a user-defined transition level, the expander applies gain changes based on the expansion ratio, with adjustable attack and release to shape how quickly it responds.

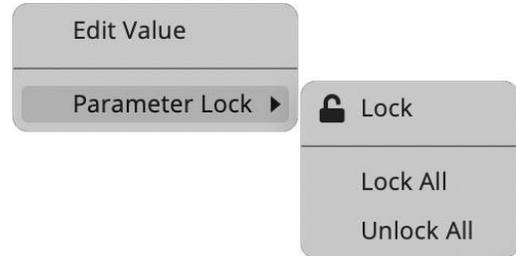
Type X also includes a filtered sidechain, allowing you to control which content triggers the expansion. You can also enable source listening to hear exactly what audio is being used by the expander.

Features

Parameter Lock

If you want to keep the value of one or more parameters while changing presets or when using the randomizer button, you can use the *Parameter Lock* feature.

Right-click on a parameter and choose *Parameter Lock*.



Lock / Unlock

If locked, the parameter won't be updated when changing presets

Lock All

Locks all parameters

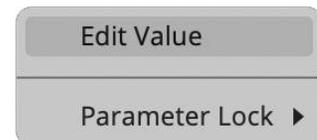
Unlock All

Unlocks all parameters

Edit Value

You can also manually adjust the value for knobs and sliders.

Right-click on a parameter and choose *Edit Value*. You can also access this feature with SHIFT + Click.



By clicking on the icon  you can access additional features.

Oversampling

Enables up to 16x oversampling. This reduces unwanted aliasing during processing, especially at high expansion settings or when using soft clipping. Note that higher values may increase CPU usage.

Preset Copy / Paste

You can easily share presets by using the Copy/Paste feature.

Copy to Clipboard The status of all parameters will be saved to the Clipboard

Paste from Clipboard Load a preset from the Clipboard

Enable / Disable Notifications

You can enable or disable the notifications for updates and news (shown by the bell icon). This option is global, and it will affect all AudioThing plugins.

Swap Mouse Buttons

If you are using the right button as your primary mouse button, the plugin might not recognize it. Use this option to enable it internally in the plugin.

This option is global and it will affect all AudioThing plugins.

GUI Acceleration

You can enable or disable the GUI acceleration supported by your system.

Graphics Controls

This feature allows you to modify the User Interface's Brightness and Contrast.

Window Size

You can resize the plugin window using three predefined sizes (*small, standard, big*).

You can also resize the plugin window by clicking and dragging the bottom-right corner of the interface. Double-clicking will reset to the standard size.

End

Where is everything?

The installer will place the plugins, presets, and other data in these folders.

macOS

AU /*Library/Audio/Plug-ins/Components/*
VST /*Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST/*
VST3 /*Library/Audio/Plug-ins/VST3/*
CLAP /*Library/Audio/Plug-ins/CLAP/*
AAX /*Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/*
Data /*Users/Shared/AudioThing/*

Windows

VST *custom path from installer*
VST3 *Program Files\Common Files\VST3*
CLAP *Program Files\Common Files\CLAP*
AAX *Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins*
Data *Users\Public\Public Documents\AudioThing*

Linux

VST ~/.*vst/*
VST3 ~/.*vst3/*
CLAP ~/.*clap/*
Data ~/.*local/share/AudioThing/*

Credits

DSP & Code	<i>Carlo Castellano</i>
Additional DSP	<i>Ivan Cohen</i>
Design	<i>John Gordon</i>
QA	<i>David</i>
Special Thanks	<u>Simone Coen</u>

EULA

Please visit www.audiothing.net/eula/ to review this product EULA.

Thank You

Thank you for your purchase! We hope you enjoy this product as much as we enjoyed making it.

For support, please visit www.audiothing.net/support/

For further help or any questions, please contact us here: www.audiothing.net/contact/

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