ATOMIC LABS

EFFECT

OBSIDIAN

Dual-stage mastering compressor

EFFECT · VST3 · WINDOWS 64-BIT · 300 PRESETS · V1.0



USER MANUAL

VERSION 1.0 · 2026

01 About Obsidian

Obsidian combines two compressors. The optical stage is a smooth leveller whose release slows down the longer it works. The discrete stage is a fast compressor with stepped ratio, attack and recovery. They can run in either order.

An output transformer stage adds one of three characters (Nickel, Iron, Steel). Stereo, dual mono, mid or side processing, a sidechain high-pass, parallel mix and auto gain make it a complete mastering tool.

TYPE	FORMAT	SIGNAL	LATENCY
Effect	VST3 · Win x64	Stereo in → stereo out	none

FACTORY PRESETS	CONTROLS	WINDOW	VERSION
300 + Init	27 automatable	Resizable	1.0

02 Quick start

1. Insert Obsidian on the master or a bus.
2. Start with the optical stage: raise Optical Compress until the needle shows 1-2 dB.
3. Add the discrete stage for peaks: Ratio 2:1, Attack 10 ms, Recovery Dual.
4. Choose a Transformer and set Mix for parallel compression.

INSTALLATION

Install

Copy the folder `Obsidian.vst3` into `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\`, then restart your DAW or rescan plug-ins. It appears under the manufacturer **Atomic Labs**.

This manual

A copy of this PDF lives inside the plug-in folder, next to `Contents`. Your DAW ignores it; it is there so the manual always travels with the plug-in.

03 The interface



Optical

Optical On, Optical Compress, Optical Gain and Optical Speed (fast, normal, slow).

Discrete

Discrete On, Threshold, Ratio (1.2:1 to 6:1 and Flood), Attack (0.1 to 30 ms), Recovery (100 ms to 1.2 s and Dual auto), Knee and Gain. Discrete First swaps the order.

Transformer

Nickel (clean and open), Iron (thick and warm), Steel (bright and edgy) or Off, with Drive and Tone.

Routing

Channels (Stereo, Dual Mono, Mid, Side), Stereo Link, Sidechain HPF with frequency and Sidechain Emphasis.

Output

Mix, Stereo Width, Auto Gain, Output Clipper, Delta Listen, Output and Bypass.

04 Presets

Obsidian comes with **300** factory presets in 10 categories, plus an **Init** program to start from scratch. Every preset was designed for this plug-in and level-matched, so you can browse without jumps in volume.

- **30** Mastering
- **30** Mix Bus
- **30** Drums
- **30** Vocals
- **30** Bass
- **30** Acoustic
- **30** Electronic
- **30** Parallel
- **30** Colour Only
- **30** Heavy

A FEW TO TRY

- Obsidian Master
- Night Seal
- Velvet Master
- Midnight Final
- Molten Bus
- Lava Bind
- Shadow Glue
- Granite Bind
- Midnight Kit
- Smoked Snap
- Onyx Kit
- Ember Snap
- Granite Lead
- Carbon Rap
- Polished Lead
- Onyx Bass
- Ember Sub
- Smoked Bass
- Graphite Weight
- Polished Guitar
- Obsidian Folk
- Carbon Piano
- Velvet Folk
- Graphite Psy
- Molten Synth
- Basalt Psy
- Shadow Synth
- Velvet Parallel
- Midnight Pump
- Night Parallel
- Basalt Nickel
- Shadow Steel
- Molten Nickel
- Lava Warmth
- Night Flood
- Onyx Destroy

05 Tips

Glue: optical only, 1-2 dB, Nickel.

Use the Sidechain HPF at 100 Hz so the kick does not pump the mix.

06 Atomic Labs essentials

These work the same way in every Atomic Labs plug-in.

Preset browser

Use the arrows next to the preset name to step through the presets, or click the name to open the menu sorted by category. The current category is shown above the name.

SAVE: your presets and banks

SAVE stores the complete state as your own preset (.atp) in Documents\Atomic Labs\Obsidian\Presets. From the same menu you can delete presets and export or import a whole bank (.atb) to share or back up. Your presets appear at the end of the preset menu.

DICE

DICE rolls a brand-new patch: it starts from a factory design and changes the main settings at random. Not happy? Roll again, or step back to a preset.

SIZE and resizing

Drag the bottom-right corner to resize the window, or pick a fixed zoom from SIZE. The size is remembered with the project.

Automation

Every control can be automated and is listed with its full name in your DAW. Changes are smoothed, so automation never clicks.

Project recall

The whole state (including drawn waves, patterns, steps and window size where available) is saved with your project.

STABILITY

Every Atomic Labs plug-in is tested at sample rates from 44.1 to 192 kHz and at block sizes from 1 to 8192 samples, before and after the host prepares it, and with every factory preset. The audio code never allocates memory while playing, and signals are protected against invalid values, so it stays quiet and stable in long sessions.

07 Control reference

Every automatable control as your DAW lists it, with its range and default value. Where a set of controls repeats (for example several identical layers, bands or slots), it is shown once.

General

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	DEFAULT
Transformer	Nickel · Iron · Steel · Off	Nickel
Transformer Drive	0 % to 100 %	50 %
Channels	Stereo · Dual Mono · Mid / Side	Stereo
Sidechain HPF	Off · On	On
Sidechain HPF Freq	20 Hz to 500 Hz	90 Hz
Mix	0 % to 100 %	100 %
Output	-24.0 dB to +12.0 dB	0.0 dB
Bypass	Off · On	Off
Stereo Link	0 % to 100 %	100 %
Discrete Knee	0.0 dB to 12.0 dB	4.0 dB
Optical Speed	Fast · Normal · Slow	Normal
Sidechain Emphasis	0 % to 100 %	0 %
Transformer Tone	-100 % to +100 %	0 %
Stereo Width	0 % to 200 %	100 %
Auto Gain	Off · On	Off
Output Clipper	Off · On	Off
Delta Listen	Off · On	Off

Optical

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	DEFAULT
Optical On	Off · On	On
Optical Compress	0.0 to 10.0	3.0
Optical Gain	-6.0 dB to +15.0 dB	0.0 dB

Discrete

CONTROL	RANGE / OPTIONS	DEFAULT
Discrete On	Off · On	On
Discrete Threshold	-30.0 dB to 0.0 dB	-12.0 dB
Discrete Ratio	1.2:1 · 2:1 · 3:1 · 4:1 · 6:1 · Flood	2:1
Discrete Attack	0.1 ms · 0.3 ms · 1 ms · 3 ms · 10 ms · 30 ms	3 ms
Discrete Recovery	100 ms · 250 ms · 500 ms · 800 ms · 1.2 s · Dual	Dual
Discrete Gain	-6.0 dB to +15.0 dB	0.0 dB
Discrete First	Off · On	Off



ATOMIC LABS

Obsidian · Dual-stage mastering compressor

Atomic Labs makes original instruments and effects with futuristic, animated interfaces, deep sound design and hundreds of presets in every plug-in.

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