

DClipper - User Manual

DClipper is a diode-style soft clipper by daudio::dev. Push Drive into an asymmetric soft-clip stage with a smooth ceiling (no hard digital clamp), then tame the top with a gentle analog-style low-pass. Oversampled so the harmonics stay musical when you dig in. Two knobs, one switch - that's the point.

Formats: VST3 & Audio Unit (AU) for macOS and Windows.



Controls

- **Output**
Final output level (-24 to +12 dB). Match against bypassed level for a fair A/B.
- **On / Off**
Engages or bypasses the clipper. Bypass is a smooth wet/dry fade - not a hard cut - so you don't get clicks when flipping the switch.
- **Drive**
How hard you hit the clipper (0-1, default noon). Internally maps to about 1x-16x gain into the diode stage. Higher Drive also adds a little automatic makeup (up to about +3.5 dB) so the effect doesn't just get quieter as it squashes.

Signal path (what it does)

When On: Input -> Drive gain -> 4x oversampled soft clip (asymmetry + polynomial soft clip + soft ceiling + peak trim) -> DC blocker -> analog-style low-pass (~15 kHz) -> downsample -> Drive-linked makeup -> Output.

The soft ceiling eases peaks toward the rails instead of hard-clipping them. That cuts harshness and aliasing compared to a naive digital limiter. Negative half-cycles get a slight asymmetry so the saturation has a bit of diode flavor instead of a perfectly mirrored soft clip.

Tips

- Start with Drive around noon and Output at 0 dB, then nudge Output to match bypass.
- Use moderate Drive as a transparent peak softener; push it for obvious grit and edge.
- On buses, keep Drive lower and use Output to sit the clipped signal in the mix.
- On guitar or synth leads, higher Drive + a touch of Output cut can thicken without a full fuzz.
- Flip On/Off while looping a phrase - the smooth bypass makes A/Bing easy.

System requirements

macOS 11+ or Windows 10+ · Apple Silicon or Intel · Any DAW with VST3 (AU on macOS).

Licensing

After purchase you receive a license key by email. On first launch, enter the key to unlock the plugin. Re-download installers anytime from daudio.dev -> Dashboard -> My Software. Support: <https://www.daudio.dev/support>

About

DClipper by daudio::dev - <https://www.daudio.dev/projects/DClipper>