

SideMinder Max

Dynamic Stereo Width Maximizer

Audio effect plugin by Raising Jake Studios

Thank you for purchasing SideMinder Max audio effect plugin! SideMinder Max is a unique plugin for enhancing and controlling stereo width without “over widening” that can result in loss of sounds when mixed to mono. SideMinder Max is the latest generation of the original SideMinder™.

SideMinder Max is not a compressor – or even a Mid/Side compressor. It is a “differential compressor” that controls the relationship between the mid (mono) and side (stereo) information in a stereo track. It does not affect the signal’s overall dynamic range – only the stereo width. This affect cannot be achieved with typical “mid/side” compressors – only SideMinder Max!

SideMinder Max is a 64-bit VST2, VST3 and AAX plugin for Windows and “Universal Binary” VST2, VST3, AU and AXX plugin for Mac OS 10.11 or higher on Intel and Apple Silicon.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Installing SideMinder Max is simply a matter of copying and pasting the appropriate files from the SideMinder Max purchased download to the proper folders on your computer.

FOR PC

To install the VST3 plugin: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinderMax.vst3” file from purchased download file and save it to your VST3 plugin folder (typically C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3). Restart your DAW and scan the plugins folder from your DAW’s plugin manager.

To install the VST2 plugin: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinderMax.dll” file from purchased download file and save it to your VST2 plugin folder (typically C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VSTPlugins). Restart your DAW and scan the plugins folder from your DAW’s plugin manager.

To install the aaxplugin for Pro Tools: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinderMax.aaxplugin” file from purchased download file and save it to your Avid plugin folder (typically C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins). The plugin will be automatically scanned/added the next time Pro Tools is opened.

FOR MAC

To install the VST2, VST3 and/or AU plugins, make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinderMax.vst” and/or “SideMinderMax.vst3” and/or “SideMinderMax.component” folders from the purchased download file and save them the VST and/or VST3 and/or “Component” folders on your Mac under /Library/Audio/Plugins.

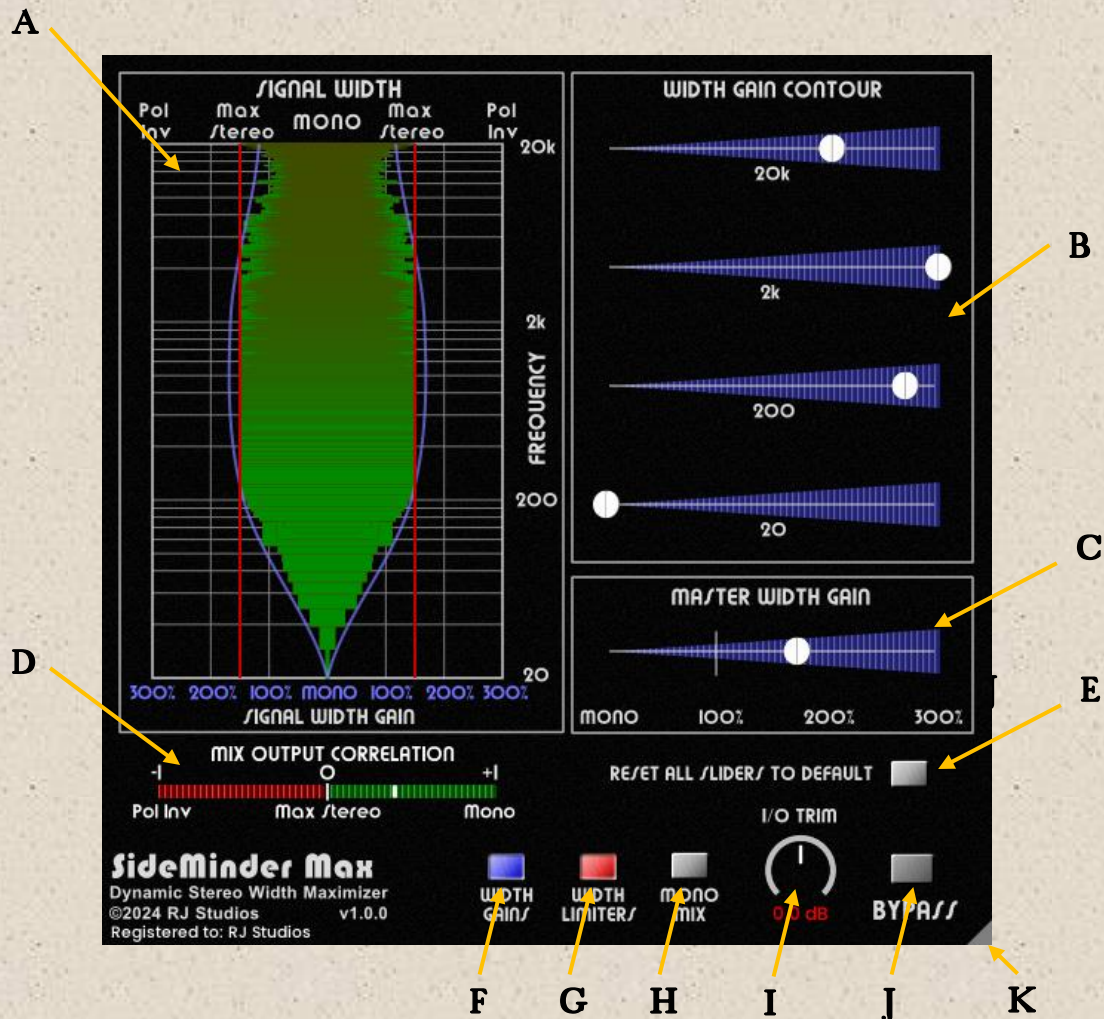
To install the aaxplugin for Pro Tools: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the "SideMinderMax.aaxplugin" file from purchased download file and save it to your Avid plugin folder (typically /Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins). The plugin will be automatically scanned/added the next time Pro Tools is opened.

NOTE: On Mac OS 10.13 and later a reboot may be required before plugins will show up in your DAW(s).

REGISTRATION

SideMinder Max will be operating in demo mode when first installed and will operate unrestricted for 14 days. At the end of 14 days the demo will cease output unless a license is purchased. To install your license, click on the registration at the bottom left corner of the plugin window; copy and right-click paste the registration code from your purchase receipt then press enter on your keyboard.

Plugin Controls



A – Activity Display – provides multiple pieces of information over the audio spectrum from 20 Hz at the very bottom of the display to 20kHz at the top of the display:

- 1) **Solid green colors** in the center of the display indicate the current stereo width of the processed signals. Stereo signals exceeding “Max Stereo” (zero correlation) will appear as red extensions to the left and right ends of the green bars when the “Width Limiters” are off.
- 2) **Vertical red lines** delineate the Max Stereo limit threshold and will appear when the “Width Limiters” are turned on. The green bars will not exceed (will be limited to) these red lines when the Width Limiters are on indicating that SideMinder Max is controlling the max width of the stereo signal.
- 3) **Light blue curved lines** show the width gain being applied. The width gain scale is displayed across the bottom of the graph and ranges from 0 (mono) to 300%.

B – Width Contour Sliders – allow adding a curve to the width gains, centered at 20Hz, 200Hz, 2kHz and 20kHz. Complex curves can be created by moving the sliders back and forth to obtain desired shape as shown by the light blue lines in the Activity Display.

C – Master Width Gain – controls the overall width gain being applied to the signal, as modified by the **Width Contour Sliders (B)**. At 0% setting the stereo mix is narrowed all the way to mono. At maximum setting the audio stereo image is widened by 300% (defined as a 9.5dB increase in Side/Mid ratio). The width gain can be turned on/off without affecting the control positions via the **Width Gains** button **(F)**.

D – Stereo Correlation Meter – shows the total phase relationship between the left and right channels at the output of the stereo width processor. If the meter reads to the left of 0 (Max Stereo) it means that the stereo signal is becoming out of phase between the left and right channels and will begin to cancel if mixed to mono. When the meter reads -1 the left and right channels are completely inverted and will cancel entirely if summed to mono. At the center of the range, 0 (Max Stereo) “maximum stereo” separation is occurring while a reading of +1 indicates complete correlation between left and right channels, i.e., a mono signal - the same on both left and right channels. Musical material should usually appear only in the POSITIVE, green, range.

E – Reset all Sliders to Default – resets all sliders to their default settings. Useful if you have made numerous changes and simply want to “start over”.

F – Width Gains – turns on/off the stereo width boosting/reducing effect of the **Master Width Gain (C)** and **Width Contour Sliders (B)**.

G – Width Limiters – turns on/off the width limiters across all frequency bands. Can be used to hear the difference when limiters are on/off or to disable the limiters if not required (not recommended).

H – Mono Mix – provides a mono mix of the processed stereo to hear the effect of the width adjustment and limiting in a mono sum context. Width-limited material will remain audible when mixed to mono while overwide, out of phase material will not.

I – I/O Trim – allows adjusting the overall output level to account for slight changes in level that can occur when stereo widths are altered from the original source.

J – Process/Bypass button – turns all plugin processing on/off and passes the input signal directly to the plugin outputs. This control is properly buffered and should always be used to turn the plugin on/off while audio is running rather than using the DAW’s plugin bypass control which can create gaps and pops.

K – GUI resize control – click and drag to resize the GUI. Double click to reset to default size.

ROTARY & SLIDER CONTROL MODIFIERS

- 1) Hold down the Ctrl key while dragging or scrolling any control for fine resolution
- 2) Holding down the Alt (Win)/Option(Mac) key and then clicking on control will reset that control to its default value
- 3) Double-click on any control to open a window for text entry of control value.

PLUGIN PRESETS

SideMinder Max comes with a basic assortment of built-in presets to get you started. These presets will appear in all versions of the plugin on both Mac and PC however not all DAWs support hard-coded presets for VST3 plugins. If you are using the VST3 version in your DAW and do not see the preset list it means your DAW does not support hard-coded VST3 presets. In that case, please use the VST2 version.

HOW TO USE SIDEMINDER MAX

SideMinder Max can be used to widen – or narrow – the stereo image by moving the Width Controls left or right. Moving the controls to the right makes the image wider (more stereo) while moving the controls to the left makes the image narrower (more mono). SideMinder Max can be used on individual stereo tracks, sub-mix buses and/or the stereo master bus.

If the Width Limiters are off the plugin works like a typical mid/side stereo width enhancer but with variable control of width versus frequency.

When the Width Limiters are ON (default) SideMinder Max will dynamically adjust the stereo width of all signals across the entire audio range to ensure every frequency band remains “mono compatible”.

Important Notes About SideMinder Max

SideMinder Max is a stereo image enhancer/controller that works with **stereo** source tracks - it will not generate a stereo image from mono tracks.

SideMinder Max manipulates the mid/side relationship of the stereo signal and can, therefore, increase or decrease the overall audio levels. Use the I/O Trim control to adjust overall input vs. output levels as needed.

SideMinder Max should be placed LAST in the signal processing chain following any other effects but before any final peak limiters.

Like many other width enhancement effects SideMinder Max's width enhancement is best used in moderation. **Avoid the temptation to use maximum width gains on every track and bus in your mix. Doing so can rob the mix of important “weight” in the center of the mix.**

LICENSE INFO

By installing this software you agree to use it at your own risk. We do our best to thoroughly test our plugins before release but it is simply impossible to test every conceivable situation. We cannot be held responsible for any damages caused as a result of use of this product. If a problem arises please contact us with a description of the problem and as much information as you can provide (DAW, DAW version, OS and version, error messages, etc.).

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