COUTURE USER MANUAL

Version 1.1

Foreword

Thank you for using AUBURN SOUNDS® COUTURE.

Dynamics are key to competitive Electronic Music. Historically most dynamics processors were made to reduce dynamic range of recorded materials. For Electronic Music where sources are mostly not recorded, and mostly lower dynamic range, this makes less sense.

COUTURE's goal is to get **exquisite control** over your dynamics, and particularly **attacks**. It solves a surprisingly huge range of mixing problems, with **very low effort**.

COUTURE works by emphasizing attacks while at the same time reducing releases, or vice-versa. The balanced gain compensation allows to **make dynamics decision without being fooled by gain changes.**

COUTURE embeds a distortion unit working in tandem with the transient shaping. We feel that **saturation is a decision that affects dynamics** and that it makes sense to think about both at the same time.

COUTURE processing is **always volume-independent**. You can change the input volume and the plug-in output will have the exact same gain reduction and distortion applied. What we wanted was to **keep the freedom to change input gain** without silently breaking apart.

We made the plug-in we were dreaming of. We strongly recommend that you purchase the FULL EDITION to get to know the real COUTURE.

You may use COUTURE to:

- Make individual drum tracks **a lot more dynamic** and punchy
- Remove the "click" out of a **kick drum** sample
- **Deess** the very start of notes for vocals
- Give **glue** to a mix by emulating a tape machine
- Make a whole **bus** more or less dynamic
- **Give life** to inane lead synths
- And many other use cases that we have not yet found.

Compatibility

COUTURE is available as a **32-bit and 64-bit VST2 / Audio Unit / AAX plugin** for Mac and Windows computers.

More specifically:

- **Windows** minimum supported version is **Windows Vista+**
- **macOS** minimum supported version is **OS X 10.8+**

COUTURE has been tested on the most popular Digital Audio Workstations (DAW). If you find any bugs, please report them to **contact@auburnsounds.com**.

Supported sampling rates range from 44100 kHz to 192 kHz.

Installation

For Windows users:

- VST: Copy the 32-bit VST or 64-bit VST DLL to your VST2 directory.

  Look into your DAW settings to where that it.

- AAX: **Auburn Sounds Couture.aaxplugin** to your AAX directory:

  `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins`

For Mac OS X users (VST2):

- Copy **Auburn Sounds Couture.vst** to your VST2 directory:

  `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST`

For Mac OS X users (Audio Unit):

- Copy **Auburn Sounds Couture.component** to your AU directory:

  `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components`

- **(High Sierra users)** You might need to reboot your computer after the copy.

For Mac OS X users (AAX):

- Copy **Auburn Sounds Couture.aaxplugin** to your AAX directory:

  `/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins`

Parameters

Detector Settings

Flat / Human / Sybil

"Flat" will treat all energy equally in the detector, regardless of their perceived loudness.

"Sybil" allows to affect harsh frequencies .

The default one ("Human") really means Equal Loudness, this will give the compression a very even feel.

Bass Amount

Turning this knob changes how much COUTURE's Transient Shaper react to bass.

Transient Shaper

Sharpen / Soften

- When turned to the right, attacks get emphasized and releases deemphasized.

- When turned to the left, releases get emphasized and attacks deemphasized.

x1 / x2 / x3 Affects the quantity of transient sharpening/softening.

Speed Affects how long the effect applies after a transient.

Front/Back Affects where in the transient the effect applies: start or sustain part of the note.

Off/20 Clip Limits possible gain change to +20 dB. This is useful for the most extreme settings who could have a dramatic effect on dynamics.

Output Section

Amount Scales the whole effect 0 to 100%.

Level Output gain.

Saturation Settings

On / Off Enables saturation or not.

Drive Quantity of saturation.

Shape chooses between 6 types of saturation.

HP is a 12dB/oct highpass filter. *Disabled if turned completely left.*

LP is a 6dB/oct lowpass filter. Its cutoff frequency is affected by **Mood**.

Mood feeds crest factor of the input signal into the LP cutoff frequency.

Smooth Softer gain change between and after the saturation, as it need to operate in a volume-independent manner. When turned to the left (default), this will preserve dynamics of the input.

Pre/Post Whether the highpass and lowpass filter are before or after the saturation stage.

Details

Detection Circuit

COUTURE detects transients with a two-band, RMS detector design.

Volume Independence

COUTURE has volume independent saturation.

Stereo Support

COUTURE has 100% linked L/R behaviour. The envelope estimation will only break down for 100% antiphase signals, which should be a rare occurence.

Latency

COUTURE has a latency of about 14 milliseconds. This is because COUTURE heavily favours lack of phase distortion in the Gain Reduction stage, and also favors being always aligned with the transient event. Be sure to **enable Plugin Delay Compensation (PDC) in your Host** to keep proper timings.

Credits

COUTURE is a work of love and a few key people provided input so valuable, the product wouldn't exist without them.

Programming, UI, DSP

- Guillaume Piolat

Sound Design, Presets

- Simon Gallifet

Testers

- Vas Fuller

- Denis Morin

I'd like to thanks **Robert Randolph** for the quality and depth of its beta-testing. COUTURE was made much better thanks to Robert's work.

Thanks

Céline Alary, Campus Grenoble Radio, Charles Guillemet, Mickael Istria, Thierry Mastrosimone, Quentin Sabah, and everyone else who hosted me for co-working!

I'd also like to thank the awesome D language community for their continuous help, and especially the D Discord server.

Also thanks to all friends, family members, and supporters who didn't make it to the list. I'll never forget your support.

Legal Information

- Auburn Sounds ® is a registered trademark of Guillaume Piolat. (2015).
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- Mac OS ® and the Mac OS logo are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.
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- AAX® is a registered trademark of Avid Technology.

Technical Information

- COUTURE is built upon the open-source plug-in framework **Dplug**
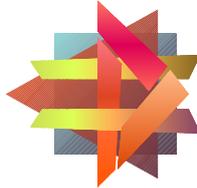
- COUTURE uses the "gammaenv" technology from Voxengo https://github.com/avaneev/gammaenv

Changelog

Version 1.1

- Add Pro Tools bypass support.
- Add compatibility with Open Broadcast Studio (fix VST2 client).
- Fix crash in Cubase and other hosts when reopening the interface.

Version 1.0

Initial release.