

USER GUIDE · CHAR PRESS

Char Press

user guide

Thank you for getting acquainted with the world's most seriously overqualified sandwich press for audio.

Char Press is a 7-control character effect for adding heat and density to a track or bus, with plenty of attitude available. This guide covers the current panel, sound-shaping workflow, comparison tools and project recall.

COMING SOON · CLAP PLANNED AT LAUNCH



HEAT AND PRESSURE ON ONE PANEL

A dependable first pass

1 Load Char Press on a track or bus

Start with a section that needs stronger edges or a firmer centre. Leave some level above the loudest peaks before adding intensity.

2 Raise Flame

Move FLAME from zero until the sound gains the amount of heat you want. Small moves are often enough on a full mix.

3 Close the press

Bring in PRESSURE to add weight and density. Set TEMPER after Pressure is active, listening for the colour that suits the source.

4 Choose the texture

Cycle ADD BACON and audition each stored texture. Add DARK when bright activity needs a deeper shade.

5 Blend and level-match

Use MIX to place the processed sound against the original, then adjust OUTPUT before comparing the complete result.

A PRACTICAL CHECK

Compare at a similar loudness. A louder version can win the first impression even when its character fits the track less well.



PANEL MAP

Seven controls for one sound

FLAME

Sets the heat and moves through the available Char colours. At zero, this stage stays out of the sound.

PRESSURE

Sets the Press intensity. The moving lid follows this value, giving the setting a direct visual cue.

TEMPER

Shifts active Pressure character from darker grease toward brighter voltage. It becomes audible after Pressure rises from zero.

MIX

Blends the aligned original signal with the complete processed path. The factory setting is 60%.

OUTPUT

Trims the final level from -24 dB to +12 dB. The factory position reads 0.0 dB.

ADD BACON

Cycles through three character states. Each choice has its own sound and ember treatment.

DARK

Shades active high-frequency energy while preserving body below it. Exact Off leaves the processed frame unchanged.

MOVING A CONTROL

Drag a knob vertically. Hold Shift for finer movement, use the arrow keys after focusing a control, or double-click to restore its factory value.



HEAT AND PRESSURE

Find the working zone

Heat first

FLAME establishes the edge and harmonic colour. Raise it while the track plays in context, then stop when the source speaks clearly through the arrangement.

The flame display follows the incoming spectrum and level. It is visual feedback from the signal rather than an extra control.

Pressure next

PRESSURE adds density and changes the transient feel. TEMPER then moves that active Press colour between a darker and brighter attitude while the amount of closure stays fixed.

For parallel character, set the wet sound decisively before bringing MIX back. This gives the original transient a clear role beside the processed body.

TWO USEFUL DIRECTIONS

Try moderate Flame with heavier Pressure for a compact centre. Try more Flame with lighter Pressure when an edge needs to stay clear at lower density.



Bacon and a darker shade

Add Bacon

Click the ADD BACON key to advance to the next character state. The live labels are Off, 12-bit and 8-bit. The 12-bit choice enters earlier in the character path; 8-bit lands later and makes a more direct statement.

Arrow keys move one state at a time. Home selects Off and End selects 8-bit. The live label and ember bed confirm the stored choice.

Dark

Move DARK from Off when the active top end needs restraint. Greater settings make the response reach quieter bright detail, while the lid deepens from red through oxblood toward black-red. DARK reacts to the signal and reaches a fixed maximum shade. It does not add makeup gain, so judge the move by tone and by the final output level.

OFF — 12-BIT — 8-BIT

Compare the whole setting

A/B

Switch between two complete panel settings while the editor remains open. The first switch copies the current setting into the other slot, which gives both sides a common starting point.

A/B is a listening aid for the open editor. Closing the editor clears this local comparison memory.

Reset

Reset returns all seven controls to their factory positions in one action. Use it when a fresh reference is quicker than reversing several moves.

Automation

The seven named controls are available to the host. Record gestures or draw lanes with the names shown on the Char Press panel.

Project recall

Your DAW stores the current values with the project. Reopen the same plug-in format on another system and make sure that installation is current before loading the session.

KEEP COMPARISONS HONEST

Set OUTPUT after the character move, then switch A/B. Similar loudness makes changes in density and brightness easier to judge, along with the transient shape.



LIVE PANEL

Read what the press is doing

COOKING, CRISPY, CHARRED

The three lamps show cumulative processing demand while audio is present. COOKING comes first, CRISPY follows, and CHARRED marks the strongest condition.

These lamps do not change gain or protect the output. Use them as a quick cue, then listen and check your DAW meters.

Flames and lid

The lid position follows PRESSURE. Flame height and brightness respond to input energy, while colour follows TEMPER. DARK changes the enamel depth without moving the lid.

With MIX at zero, the processing lamps stay dark because the audible result is the original signal.

IF THE PANEL SEEMS STILL

Play audio through the plug-in and raise at least one character control. A silent input leaves the signal-driven display at rest.



AVAILABILITY AND HELP

Check the current release status

Char Press is Coming soon. The planned launch format is CLAP. Its planned price is €39 EUR in the EU, tax included, and \$39 USD outside the EU before applicable destination taxes. Public purchase and download actions are unavailable today.

The Char Press product page is the current source for release status. Bitsnacks Vending Machine handles product access on macOS when an eligible release is attached to your account.

NEED HELP?

Send the useful details

Include your DAW, operating system, plug-in format and the shortest sequence that reproduces the issue.