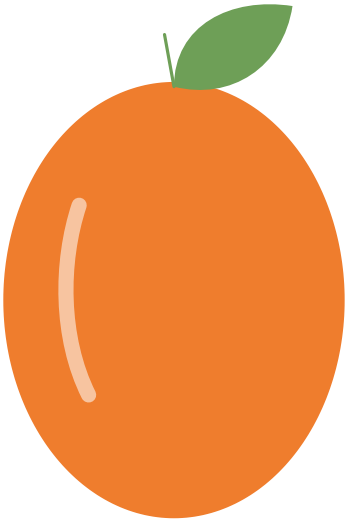


KA Rider

Instruction manual

Kumquat Audio · Edition 1.7.11 · October 2026

kumquataudio.com

NO. 19

KA Rider

Rides the level of a voice for you, around its own level or just above the music.

KA Rider rides the level of a voice the way a person would with a fader: it turns up the quiet words and turns down the loud ones so that the voice sits where you want it, without drawing any automation. It listens to how loud the voice is, learns how loud it usually is, moves the gain towards that level, never by more than Amount, and leaves the gaps between words alone. You can set the level yourself instead, and if you send it the music it keeps the voice just above it.



FIG. 1 The parts of KA Rider. The numbers are explained on the next page.

Parts

fig. 1

1. **The ride**
   The gain it is applying: orange above the line when it turns the voice up, grey below when it turns it down. The thin lines are the limits of Amount.
2. **The voice**
   The voice going in (grey), the voice coming out (the line), and the Level (a thin line). The shaded band at the bottom is Ignore below.
3. **Gain now**
   How many dB it is turning the voice up (+) or down (–) right now, and the same on the meter.
4. **Speed**
   How quickly the gain follows the voice. Slow rides whole phrases; Medium follows words; Fast follows single words. Turning down is always quicker than turning up.
5. **Level**
   Auto: Rider learns how loud the voice usually is and rides around that. Manual: you turn the knob to set it. With a track on the Side Chain input this becomes Over music: the voice is kept that many dB above the music.
6. **Amount**
   How much it rides: the most it will ever turn the voice up or down. A few dB is natural; at 0 it does nothing.
7. **More**
   Opens Ignore below. Anything quieter than it is left alone, so breaths, noise and gaps are not pulled up.
8. **Help and light/dark**
   The ? turns the pop-up help on and off. The half circle switches light and dark.
9. **In, Out and Delta**
   In turns the voice up or down before it is read, and Out turns the result. There is no Match: it would undo the ride. Delta, at the top, plays only what the ride added or took away.

Operation

step by step

1. Put the plug-in on a voice, first in the list if you can, and play a passage with loud and quiet words.
2. Leave Level on Auto. After a few seconds the thin line settles on the voice's own level. Touch a knob and its part of the picture lights up.
3. Set Amount to how much it may move. Start with 4 to 6 dB: a natural ride. Raise it only if the voice is very uneven.
4. Choose Speed. Slow for a smooth ride that cannot be heard; Medium for words; Fast for a very uneven voice.
5. If noise or breaths come up between phrases, press More and raise Ignore below until the gaps stay still. Press Delta to hear only the ride.
6. To keep the voice above the music, send the track to the Side Chain input. Over music then takes the place of Level: turn it to how far above the music you want the voice.

Controls and settings

range · start

Control	Range	Starts at	What it does
Level	Auto, Manual	Auto	Auto learns the voice's level. Manual: you set it.
Amount	0 to 12 dB	6 dB	The most it will turn the voice up or down.
Speed	Slow, Medium, Fast	Medium	How quickly the gain follows the voice.
Ignore below	–80 to –30 dB	–55 dB	Quieter than this, the gain stays where it was.
Over music	–12 to +24 dB	+6 dB	With a track on the Side Chain input, in place of Level: how far above it the voice is kept.
Delta	on / off	off	Plays only what the ride added or took away.
Side Chain: HP and Listen	20 Hz to 1 kHz	off	HP takes the low end out of the music it listens to; Listen plays it.
In / Out	–24 to +24 dB	0 dB	In pushes the voice in; Out is the level you leave with.

TIP Rider works best before the compressor: even out the voice first, then compress what is left.

TIP A fast ride can be heard as the voice breathing. If you hear it, slow the Speed or make Amount smaller.

CAUTION Rider does not know a word from a cough: a loud sound that is not the voice is turned down too.

Specifications

Formats	Audio Unit, VST3
Channels	mono or stereo (the two sides are linked)
Delay	none
Window	700 × 520, can be resized [4]

How it works

a closer look

KA Rider reads the voice with a short average of its level, after taking out the rumble and the plosives below 100 Hz. It compares that level with the Level and moves the gain by the difference, never by more than Amount.

With Level on Auto, Rider keeps a running average of how loud the voice is while it sings, settles on it in the first few seconds, then follows it slowly. A quiet verse and a loud chorus are each ridden around their own level.

The gain moves smoothly. Turning down is quicker than turning up, so a loud word is caught but a quiet breath is not pulled up. When a loud word starts, the gain turns down at once, so its start is not boosted. Speed sets how quick the rest is.

A second, faster look at the voice also tells it when the voice has stopped or is dying away. Then the gain is not turned up into the silence: it stays where it was, and only turning down is allowed. With a track on the Side Chain input, the Level is replaced by the level of that track plus Over music, as long as the music is playing.

“Loud to quiet 15 → 8 dB” in the picture is the gap between the loud and the quiet words going in and coming out: bring the second number down. A faster Speed and a bigger Amount close the gap more, but they also lift breaths; if they come up, raise Ignore below under More.

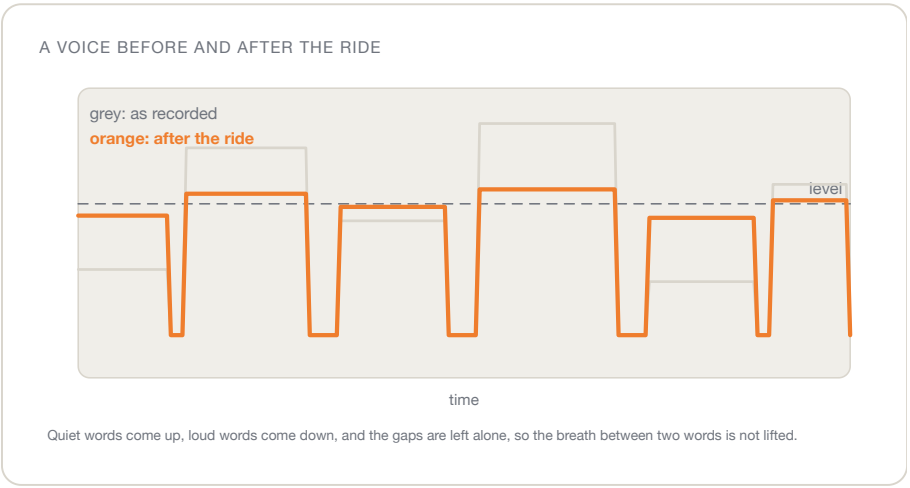


FIG. 2 Quiet words come up and loud ones come down, to the level.

CARE

Care and troubleshooting

If this happens	Do this
A plug-in does not appear in the list	Restart the music software. In Logic Pro, open the Plug-in Manager, select the Kumquat plug-ins and choose Reset & Rescan Selection.
An old name is still showing	Quit Logic with Cmd+Q and open it again. If it persists, remove the old copies from /Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components.
My key was not accepted	Copy all of it, from KA1 to the end, with no spaces added or lost. A key for one plug-in does not unlock the others.
The pop-up help does not show	Press the “?” at the top of the window to turn it on. It is one choice for all the plug-ins.
Which part of the picture does a knob change?	Point at the knob, or hold it down while you turn it: the part of the picture it controls lights up, with the knob’s name and value.
KA Drum Gate, Silence Trim, Auto Mixer or Time Align shows a message instead of a picture	Open Logic Pro using Rosetta, put the plug-in first in the Audio FX list, select a region and press play.
The sound is late	KA De-Click, De-Verb, De-Noise, Contour, Mic Blend, Saturator (it oversamples), EQ (with the suppressor), Multiband (in Linear phase) and Limiter delay the sound a little and tell the music software, which lines everything up. Do not compensate by hand. For playing through a plug-in, the Saturator, EQ and Multiband have a Live switch that takes the delay away; the compressors, De-Esser, Delay, Reverb and Rider have no delay at all.
A window is too small or too big	Drag the corner at the bottom right. The size is remembered, and it is the same for all the plug-ins: make one bigger and the others open that big.
The Limiter pumps	Leave Release on Auto, or set 60 to 100 ms. A release of a millisecond or two is the dirtiest setting.

If something is not right, write to **audiokumquat@gmail.com** and say which plug-in, which music software, and what you were doing.

FOR YOUR OWN NOTES

Notes