

New effect plug-ins

by Vera Schumacher



HOFA IQ Series Limiter V2

A limiter is a limiter, right? And yet HOFA promises innovation with its new IQ-Series Limiter V2. Will the plug-in really succeed in setting new standards? The appealing and contemporary new look of Version 2 of this limiter raises high expectations right from the start. The interface is scalable and accommodates generously dimensioned control elements, an X/Y pad, as well as level and LUFS displays and a real-time diagram of the signal.

The input and output amplification can be finely adjusted. You can select the desired algorithm directly above this - an initially inconspicuous feature that nevertheless plays an important role. The Hard, Transparent and Electronic modes are tailored to different styles: Electronic is ideal for pumping mixes and Hard specializes in the highest possible loudness, with the transients sounding very accentuated. You've probably already guessed what Transparent sounds like, right? But here, too, as with the Hard algorithm, the clipping intensity and pumping can be individually controlled using the X/Y pad. The tried and tested Fast, Med and Slow modes from the previous version are also on board, which limit the dynamics at different speeds. The Fast mode tends to distort the most, but this can also be used in a targeted manner, depending on the style of your track.

Whether transparent limiting or maximum loudness is required, the IQ Series Limiter V2 delivers very impressive results. You can also use clipping to give your mix more overtones in a musical way. The plug-in's existing presets offer practical starting points for specific genres. The plug-in allows you to process the two stereo channels independently of each other or to connect them with the channel link fader. The intensity can be freely adjusted. The true peak function protects against inter-sample peaks and the DC cut function can be used to remove a DC offset. In addition,

the dynamic processor integrates a dithering function for reduction to 24 or 16 bits. You could wish for more advanced settings for this function, such as various dithering and noise shaping algorithms, but in general it's great that you don't need an additional plug-in for this processing step. Up to 32x oversampling guarantees high sound fidelity and quality. The display tools provide precise visual feedback. It's nice that there is also an integrated LUFS display, which you can use to check whether your Mix or Master is also suitable for streaming services such as Spotify.

Verdict

The IQ Series Limiter V2 from HOFA impresses with its intuitive operation and enormous versatility. But how does it sound? That depends very much on your settings: It masters crystal-clear transparency, as well as pumping limiting for club music or aggressive clipping for Rock and the like. The different modes allow precise adjustment to a wide variety of musical styles, while the X/Y pad enables intuitive sound shaping. With its additional features and precise visual feedback, this Limiter is an excellent tool for the final polish, allowing you to reach your desired target quickly.

Developer: HOFA
Web: www.hofa-plugins.de
Price: 144 Euro, regularly: 169 Euro
Format: VST3, AU, AAX

Rating: ★★★★★

