

SideMinder™ 2

Dynamic Stereo Width Maximizer
Audio effect plugin by Raising Jake Studios

Thank you for choosing our SideMinder 2 audio effect plugin! SideMinder 2 is an improved, 2nd generation version of our unique stereo widening plugin. SideMinder 2 can increase the stereo width of a mix without “over widening” that can result in loss of sounds when mixed to mono.

SideMinder 2 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 manipulate the signal’s overall dynamic range – only its stereo width. This affect cannot be achieved with typical “mid/side” compressors – only SideMinder 2!

SideMinder 2 includes a stereo width control, a stereo width limiter, an output stereo correlation meter and a bass mono-izer.

SideMinder 2 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 2 is simply a matter of copying and pasting the appropriate files from the SideMinder 2 purchased download to the proper folders on your computer.

All RJ Studios plugin files are “double zipped”. The top-level zip file (download) contains two sub-files for Mac and PC versions that are independently zipped. This was necessary to preserve the Pace iLok signatures for the AAX plugins for the respective OS systems. Please unzip the Mac or PC zip files before copying the desired plugin to your folders.

FOR PC

To install the VST3 plugin: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinder2.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 “SideMinder2.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 “SideMinder2.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 “SideMinder2.vst” and/or “SideMinder2.vst3” and/or “SideMinder2.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.

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

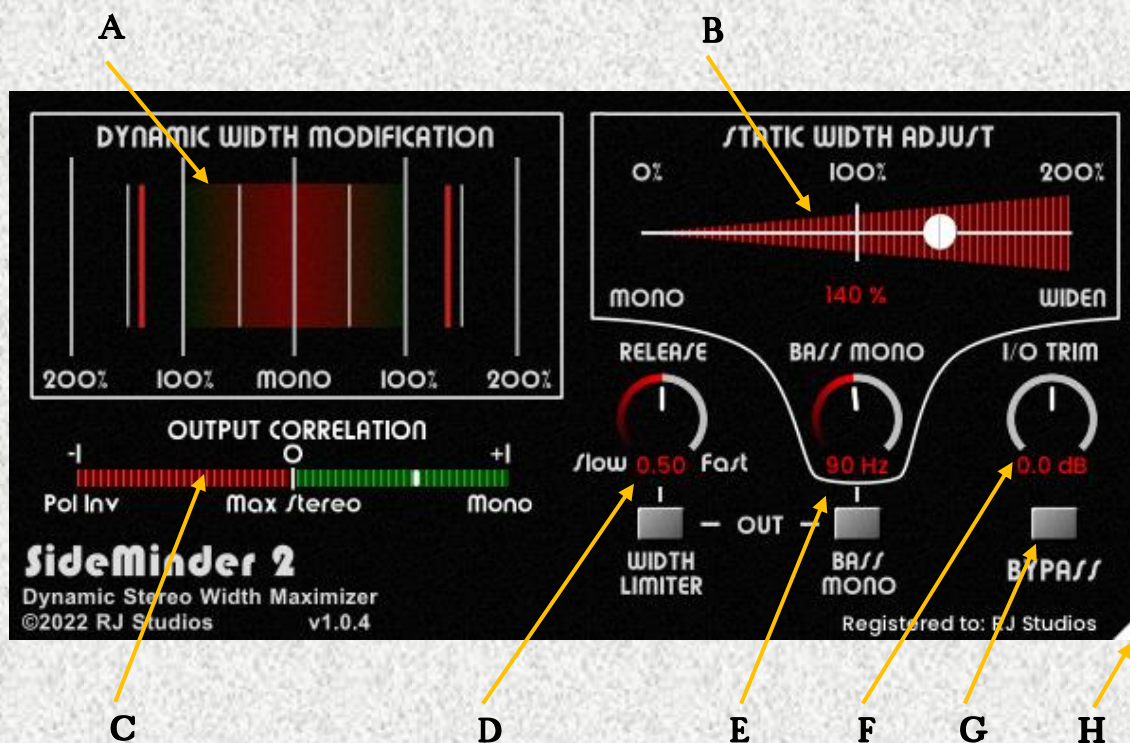
To install the aaxplugin for Pro Tools: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinder2.aaxplugin” file from purchased download file and save it to your Avid plugin folder (typically /user/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins). The plugin will be automatically scanned/added the next time Pro Tools is opened.

REGISTRATION

SideMinder 2 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, copy the code from your purchase receipt; click on the registration field at the bottom right corner of the plugin window; right-click paste the registration code then press enter on your keyboard.

NOTE: Internet connection is required during registration. If your system is typically isolated from the internet for security or performance reasons you may disconnect after the plugin shows “Registered to: your name”.

Plugin Controls



A – Width Activity Meter – this meter shows the effect of the Static Width Adjustment as well as any dynamic action by the Width Limiter. **NOTE:** if this meter is frequently moving into the red range as audio is playing it means that Sideminder 2 is working extremely hard to control the stereo width. In that case, please review your track/mix for excessively wide or out of phase left/right signals.

B – Static Width Adjust– controls the relationship between mid and side components of the stereo signal pre-Width Limiter. When centered (default value) the stereo width is not affected. At minimum setting the stereo mix is narrowed all the way to mono. At maximum setting the mix is widened by 200% (defined as a 6dB increase in Side/Mid ratio).

C – Output Stereo Correlation Meter – shows the phase relationship between the left and right channels at the output of the plugin. If the signal is in the **RED** range it means that there are elements in the signal that are out of phase between the left and right channels and will begin to cancel if mixed to mono. When the correlation is -1 the left and right channels are completely inverted and will cancel entirely if summed to mono. At the center of its range “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 **GREEN** range.

This meter is always active and can be used to compare signals when the Width Limiter or the “Process” button is turned on/off.

D – Width Limiter – used to engaged or disengage the width limiter circuit. When the Width Limiter is on the stereo width will be held in positive correlation (preventing phase cancellation if the signal is

later mixed to mono). When the Width Limiter is turned off the stereo width is not automatically controlled. Inverted polarity situations that may occur when the Width Limiter is not engaged can be observed in the Output Correlation meter.

Width Limiter Release Time – controls the speed at which the width limiter circuit recovers from width reduction. Experiment with this control to obtain the most transparent action. Fast release times typically work best with fast tempo, dynamic tracks while slower release times work best on ballads, etc. The default value works well for most material.

NOTE: The release time is program dependent and not easily equated to a numeric value therefore the control values simply span from 0.0 (slowest) to 1.0 (fastest).

E – Bass Mono Control – sets the cutoff frequency of a gentle (6dB/octave) filter below which the signals are mixed to mono. This filter is applied BEFORE the stereo width limiter and helps to solidify the bass frequencies (especially needed when used in mastering for vinyl records).

F – I/O Trim – SideMinder 2 manipulates phase relationships in the stereo signal which can result in slight changes to the output signal level. This control allows +/-5dB gain trim to compensate.

G – Bypass button – turns all plugin processing on/off but leaves the Correlation Meter operating to allow comparing processor action to unprocessed signal.

H – GUI Resize Handle – click and drag on this corner control to increase or decrease the GUI window size. Double click to reset to default size.

ROTARY AND SLIDER CONTROL MODIFIERS

- 1) Hold down the Ctrl key while dragging or scrolling any rotary or slider control for fine resolution
- 2) Hold down the Alt (Win)/Option(Mac) key and then click on any rotary or slider control to reset that control to its default value
- 3) Double-click on any rotary or slider control to type in a control value.

HOW TO USE SIDEMINDER 2

SideMinder 2 can be used to widen – or narrow – the stereo image by moving the Static Width Control left or right. Moving the control right of center makes the image wider while moving it left of center makes the image narrower (more mono). SideMinder 2 can be used on individual stereo tracks, submix buses and/or the stereo master bus.

If the Width Limiter is off the plugin works like a typical mid/side stereo width enhancer with bass control. The width effect is minimized for low frequencies by the Bass Mono control which can be used to “solidify” the bass and to help control groove overshoot when mastering for vinyl. If you don’t want the bass frequencies to be summed to mono disable the control using its Out button.

When the Width Limiter is engaged (default) the Dynamic Width Modification will indicate any dynamic action that is occurring to keep the signal “mono compatible”. Like many other width enhancement effects SideMinder 2’s width enhancement is best used in moderation.

The Output Correlation Meter remains active when the plugin is bypassed to allow comparing the stereo correlation of the input signal when the plugin processing is on/off.

Important Notes:

- If the Dynamic Width Modification meter is often moving into the red range, or in big leaps, please consider reducing the stereo width of your tracks/mix and/or checking your mix for phase problems.
- SideMinder 2 manipulates the phase relationships in the stereo signal and, therefore, changes in level can occur. For this reason, SideMinder 2 should be placed LAST in the chain following any other effects but before any compressors or final peak limiters.
- SideMinder 2 is a stereo image enhancer/controller that works with **stereo** source tracks - it will not generate a stereo image from mono tracks.

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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