

SideMinder ZL2

Multi-Band Dynamic Stereo Width Maximizer Zero Latency Edition

Audio effect plugin by Raising Jake Studios

SideMinder ZL2 is a unique plugin for increasing the stereo width of a mix without “over widening” that can result in loss of sounds when mixed to mono. SideMinder ZL2 is streamlined, zero latency version of the SideMinder ME2 plugin.

SideMinder ZL2 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 affect the signal’s overall dynamic range – only the stereo width. This affect cannot be achieved with typical “mid/side” compressors – only SideMinder ZL2!

SideMinder ZL2 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 ZL2 is simply a matter of unzipping, copying and pasting the appropriate files from the SideMinder ZL2 download to the proper folders on your computer

FOR PC

To install the VST3 plugin: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the “SideMinderZL2.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 “SideMinderZL2.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 “SideMinderZL2.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 “SideMinderZL2.vst” and/or “SideMinderZL2.vst3” and/or “SideMinderZL2.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 a reboot may be required before plugins will show up in your DAW(s).

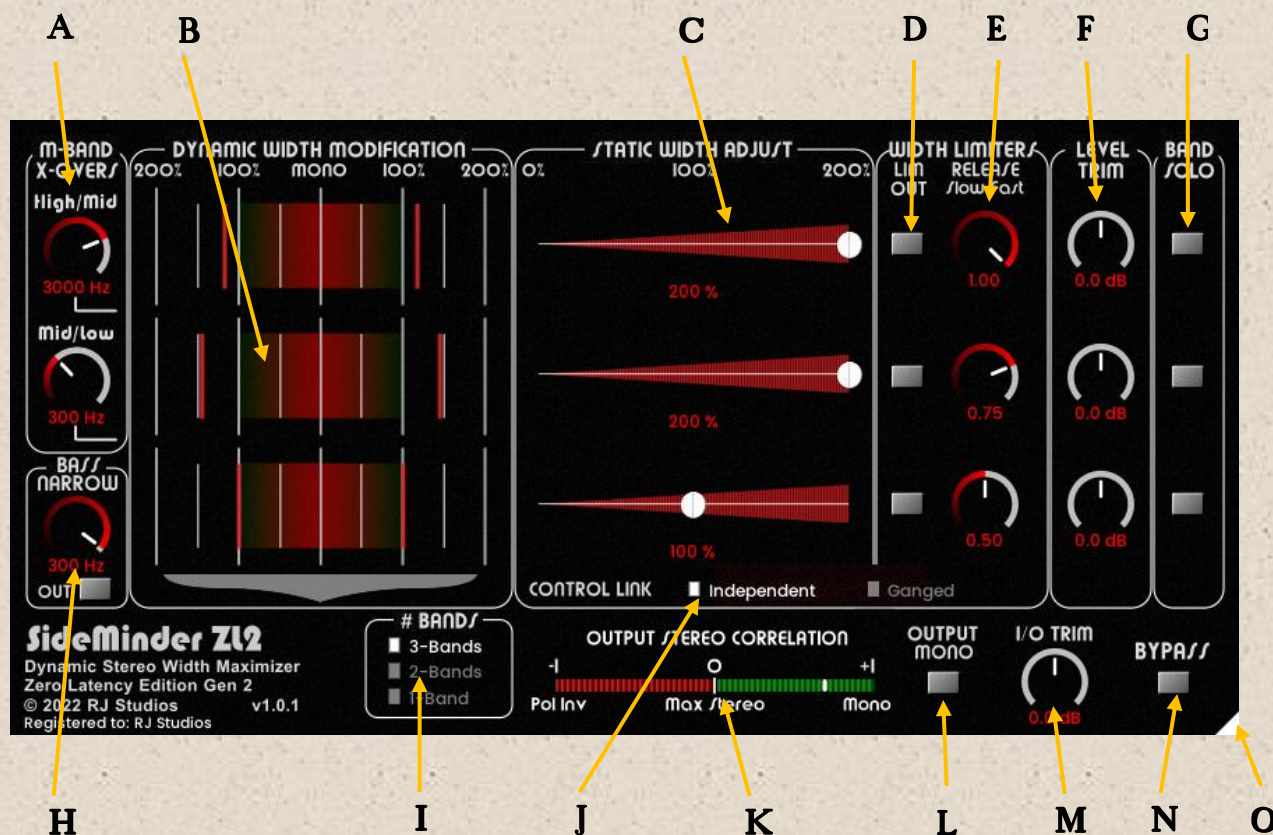
To install the aaxplugin for Pro Tools: make sure your DAW is closed then copy the "SideMinderZL2.aaxplugin" file from purchased download file and save it to your Avid plugin folder (typically /user/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins). The plugin will be automatically scanned/added the next time Pro Tools is opened.

REGISTRATION

SideMinder ZL2 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, click on the registration field at the bottom left corner of the plugin window; copy and right-click paste the registration code from your purchase receipt 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 – Crossover Controls – (active in 2 and 3-band modes) - selects the crossover frequencies. In 3-band mode the controls will automatically space to force a minimum width of 1 octave for the mid band. Click the Band Solo buttons (**G**) to hear the effect of the crossovers.

B – Activity Display – shows the width enhancement and dynamic action of the width limiters.

C – Width Adjustment Sliders – control the relationship between mid and side components of the stereo signal. When centered (default value) the stereo width is not affected. At 0% setting the stereo mix is narrowed all the way to mono. At maximum setting the audio stereo image is widened by 200% (defined as a 6dB increase in Side/Mid ratio).

D – LIM Out – turns on/off the correlation width limiter for the associated band.

E – Release – The width limiters react quickly and then release through two different slopes to maximize transparency of action. The Release control sets the release time of a second stage release envelope and should be adjusted for most transparent results. Fast release times typically work best on dynamic material while slower release times work best for ballads, etc.

F – Band Level Trim – SideMinder ZL2 modifies the phase relationships in the stereo signal which can produce small changes to the overall levels and spectral balance (in 2/3-band modes). The Level

Trim controls can be used to correct the levels (in all band modes) or as trim EQ (in 2 and 3-band modes).

G – Band Solo Control – allows “soloing” each band (in 2 and 3-band modes). Especially useful when adjusting the crossover frequencies in 2-band and 3-band modes.

H – Bass Narrow 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 limiters and helps to solidify the bass frequencies (especially helpful when mastering for vinyl records).

I – # Bands Control – selects the number of bands used in processing. The crossover points for 2-band and 3-band modes are set by the crossover controls (**A**) and can be auditioned using the Band Solo controls (**G**).

J – Control Link – selects how controls in the Static Width Adjust and Width Limiter sections operate and interact.

- **Independent** mode – all controls operate independently
- **Ganged** mode – all controls in a group move together with the same value.

NOTE: Due to the interlinking of controls in Ganged mode, conflicts can occur when responding to manually edited automation data. If that occurs please switch to Independent mode or write automation *from* the plugin (by moving its controls during write) and not via manual DAW edits.

K – Stereo Correlation Meter – shows the phase relationship between the left and right channels at the output of the plugin. If the signal is to the left of 0 it means that there are elements in the signal that are becoming 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 POSITIVE range.

L – Output Mono – selects normal or mono-mixed output for quickly monitoring SideMinder ZL2’s mono-preserving action.

M – I/O Trim – provides overall level adjustment to match pre/post processed signal levels.

N – Process/Bypass button – turns all plugin processing on/off and bypasses the input signal.

O – GUI resize control – click and drag to resize the GUI. Double click to reset to default size.

ROTARY & SLIDER CONTROL MODIFIERS

- 1) Hold down the Ctrl key while dragging or scrolling control for fine resolution
- 2) Holding down the Alt (Win)/Option(Mac) key and then clicking on control will reset that control to its default value
- 3) Double-click on control to open a window for text entry of control value.

PLUGIN PRESETS

SideMinder ZL2 comes with a basic assortment of built-in presets to get you started. These presets will appear in all versions of the plugin on both Mac and PC however not all DAWs support hard-coded presets for VST3 plugins. If you are using the VST3 version in your DAW and do not see the preset list it means your DAW does not support hard-coded VST3 presets. In that case, please use the VST2 version.

HOW TO USE SideMinder ZL2

SideMinder ZL2 can be used to widen – or narrow – the stereo image by moving the Width Controls left or right. Moving the controls to the right makes the image wider (more stereo) while moving the controls to the left makes the image narrower (more mono). SideMinder ZL2 can be used on individual stereo tracks, submix buses and/or the stereo master bus.

If the Width Limiters are 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 to help control groove overshoot when mastering for vinyl.

When the Width Limiters are engaged (default) the Width Meters will show any dynamic action that is occurring to keep the signal “mono compatible”. Like many other width enhancement effects SideMinder ZL2’s width enhancement is best used in moderation. **If the Width Meters are moving often or in big leaps you should consider reducing the stereo width and/or checking your mix for phase problems.**

The Output Correlation Meter can be viewed to observe the overall stereo mix correlation.

NOTE: SideMinder ZL2 is a stereo image enhancer/controller that works with **stereo** source tracks - it will not generate a stereo image from mono tracks.

Since SideMinder ZL2 manipulates the mid/side relationship of the stereo signal it should be placed **LAST** in the signal processing chain following any other effects but before any final peak limiters.

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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