

CHICKEN CLIPPER

USER GUIDE

Thank you for choosing the world's most feather-conscious peak shaper.

Chicken Clipper is a focused mono or stereo effect for controlling peaks, adding clipping character and blending the result back into a track. The entire sound workflow stays on one surface.

This edition covers the invite-only macOS CLAP beta. Stable public availability remains Coming soon.



Drive → Shape → Mix → Auto → Output

A PRACTICAL STARTING POINT

1

Load Chicken Clipper

Insert the plug-in on a mono or stereo track. A fresh instance opens powered, fully wet, in Soft mode, with Drive and Output at 0.0 dB and Auto active.

2

Raise Drive

Turn Drive up until the peaks become denser or the desired edge appears. Watch the chicken approach the fixed guide and use the reduction readout once contact begins.

3

Choose the boundary

Use Soft for a rounded transition. Choose Hard when a firmer ceiling suits the source.

4

Set the blend

Lower Mix when the fully processed signal is too strong. The dry and processed paths remain time-aligned.

5

Finish the level

Leave Auto active for static level support, then use Output as the final manual trim. Compare through Power at a similar listening level.

Start with the source in context

A clipped snare or bus can feel very different alone and inside the mix. Set Drive and Shape while the surrounding tracks are playing.

THE COMPLETE SURFACE

Continuous controls

Drag vertically to adjust the Drive/Mix/Output controls. Hold Shift for finer movement. The value and unit remain visible during the gesture.

Named switches

Shape selects Soft or Hard. Auto and Power show their current On or Off state directly on the panel.

Defaults

Use the host or editor reset gesture on one control to return that parameter to its documented default.

Reduction display

The guide and labelled readout show current peak reduction in decibels. They are indicators and cannot be edited.

DRIVE — SHAPE — MIX — AUTO — OUTPUT

SOFT AND HARD

SOFT**Rounded onset**

Soft curves into clipping progressively. Use it when the transition itself should contribute saturation or when a dense source needs a gentler edge.

HARD**Straight ceiling**

Hard sets a firmer limit. Transients meet the boundary more directly, and sustained reduction brings the square feather treatment to the guide.

Compare at the same Drive

Switch Shape first, then correct the final listening level if needed. This keeps the curve character at the centre of the decision.

PLACE THE CLIPPED SOUND

Drive and Mix

Drive adds 0 to +24 dB before the shaping curve. Mix then blends the latency-aligned processed and dry paths across 0 to 100 percent.

A lower Mix value is useful for parallel peak control on drum and bass sources, plus buses. Return to 100 percent when the clipped path should carry the complete signal.

Auto and Output

Auto applies a static compensation based on settled Drive and Shape values. It does not follow programme loudness. Output adds a manual -12 to +12 dB trim afterward and remains available while Auto is active.

Turning Auto off restores the manual Output value unchanged.

LISTEN IN SHORT PASSES

A

Find the density

Raise Drive until the transient shape or saturation reaches the useful point. Stop when added level begins to hide the change you wanted.

B

Set the character

Compare Soft and Hard on the same phrase. Pick the curve whose onset fits the source.

C

Choose the proportion

Lower Mix below 100 percent when the original attack or body needs to return.

D

Match the finish

Use Output for the last level correction, then switch Power to compare the complete effect through the latency-stable dry path.

AUTOMATION AND PROJECT RECALL

Automation

The complete Power/Drive/Shape/Mix/Output/Auto set is available to the host. Record or draw automation with the parameter names shown by your DAW.

Project state

The plug-in stores all six controls with the project. Visual meter position and feather motion are live indicators rather than saved sound values.

Format identity

Reopen the same CLAP format when moving a beta session between supported Macs. The current beta does not supply Audio Unit or VST3 identities.

Power comparison

Power preserves every saved setting and the reported latency. It returns a compensated dry signal while the effect is inactive.

WHEN SOMETHING FEELS WRONG

The session reports a missing plug-in

Open Bitsnacks Vending Machine and run Repair for Chicken Clipper. Restart the host so it scans the restored CLAP bundle.

The controls work but processing is inactive

Read the licence notice in the editor. Open Chicken Clipper in Bitsnacks Vending Machine to repair the device licence or review the beta expiry.

The result jumps in level

Confirm the Auto state and return Output to 0.0 dB. Compare through Power, then make the final manual level adjustment after the sound is settled.

The panel moves differently from the audio

The website tour uses a fixed visual simulation. Judge live peak approach and reduction only inside the installed plug-in with your own signal.

STILL STUCK?

SEND THE REPRODUCIBLE PATH

Include your macOS and DAW versions, Chicken Clipper version, sample rate and settings. Add the shortest sequence that shows the problem.