ToneSpot Drum Express

User Manual

Version 1.0

http://shop.audified.com/products

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing AUDIFIED ToneSpot Drum Express.

ToneSpot Drum Express is an ultimate mixing channel strip for acoustic, electric or synth drums and percussion delivering monstrous processing power and flexibility for the tone you are dreaming about.

The difference between the Pro and Express version

Express delivers **exactly the same sound quality** and exactly the same amount of processing, but with minimum controls you can get the sweet spot of your tone super-fast. ToneSpot Drum Express is a preset-based plug-in that improves your tone in one click.
The Express version has a beautiful analog meter instead of LED meters of the Pro version.

What Is Included

ToneSpot Drum Express contains 11 powerful modules:

- Drum Type
- Character
- SBG
- Saturation
- Gate
- Shaping
- Punch
- Surgery
- Smash
- Effects
- Finalizer

How It Works

The main value of the ToneSpot Drum Express is in carefully tuned combinations of parameters, settings and workflow based on the analysis of thousands of world-class records. This allows you to significantly speed up your work and improve the tone of acoustic, electric or synth drums and percussion.

The Character module determines the basic flavor of the resulting sound. But it's only the beginning. In this plug-in there is a stunning amount of flexibility and processing power for fine tuning your tone by plenty of modules perfectly tailored for drums processing.

Additionally to all this, the plug-in offers the brand new Audified Auto Gain Control (AGC) feature on both Input and Output level controls for easy gain staging.

The Saturation module includes a classic Audified-quality model of real valve circuits.

Software Installation

Download the recent version of the application:

http://services.audified.com/download

- **Windows**: The downloaded file is packed, unzip it. Run the installer and follow the on-screen instructions. You can select the destination path and the installed plug-in format during the process.
- **Mac**: Mount the downloaded disk image and run the installer. You can select the installed plug-in format by clicking the Customize button. Plug-ins are installed in the standard locations and the control app appears in the Applications folder.

Software Uninstallation

- **Windows**: Navigate to the ToneSpot Drum Express program folder in the Start menu and run the uninstaller.
- **Mac**: Open the provided disk image and run the uninstaller. Opening The Plug-in

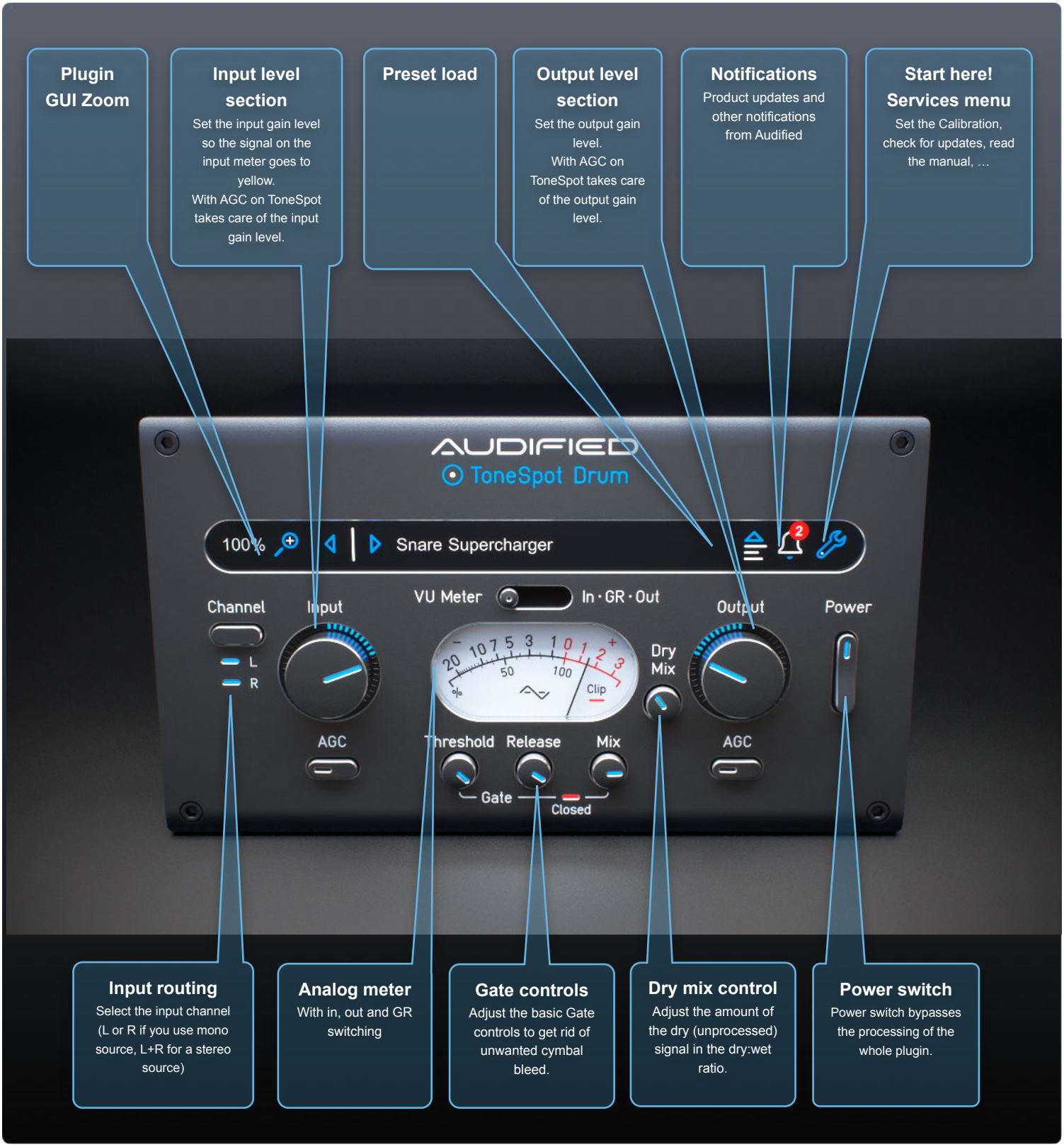
The AUDIFIED ToneSpot Drum Express works in all main digital audio workstations (recording applications) as a plug-in.

Opening the plug-in

To open the plug-in, locate the plug-in selection (usually a hierarchic menu). ToneSpot Drum Express is listed in the Other group or in the AUDIFIED group when the manufacturer sorting is offered.

Working with ToneSpot Drum Express

Control overview



Preset management

Presets can be loaded in the display area.

- The left button offers a selection from a preset list, structured in several submenus.

Services menu

The display contains the Services button (wrench symbol), opening the Services menu.

The Services menu allows to access:

- Help - this User manual
- Calibration
- Product updates
- Audified web site
- Support area on the Audified web
- Feedback form on the Audified web
- Product version and other info

Calibration

The Calibration value adjusts the relation between the digital zero (maximum signal value in digital systems) and the analog zero (the value which is displayed in signal meters, affecting the non-linear characteristics of the effect).

Default Calibration value is -9 dBFS, so 0 dBVU equals -9 dBFS.

Recommended Workflow

1. Set the default calibration of the plug-in according to your preferences and working headroom so the meter shows the signal being around 0 dBVU
2. Choose one of the factory presets
3. Done

Internal module description

ToneSpot Drum Express has several modules dynamically adjusted, according to the selected preset.

AGC

AGC is an automatic gain control feature that automatically and constantly sets the level of the signal to 0 dBU. Both Input and Output level knobs have their own AGC buttons.

Character

Let's change the character of your tone so you can get some exciting new colors with one click.

Character is a fine tuned set of EQ filters.

SBG

Is your tone lacking something in the bottom? Add some balls to your tone so it gets what it needs.

SBG is the brand new Audified sub-bass generator. You can use the SBG to add some extra low frequency content to your tone so it comes to life in an unique way!

Saturation

Add the valve saturation to your tone so it gets some grit and fullness.

ToneSpot Drum Express has an advanced model of a real valve saturation circuit having almost flat response with only light high frequencies roll off and nice higher harmonics punch.

Gate

Unwanted cymbal bleed in the drum tracks can be a problem when mixing acoustic drums. Sometimes, it's better to use very sharp noise gate settings to completely remove the cymbal bleed. But sometimes, "less is more" approach is more effective. ToneSpot Drum Pro Gate is ready for every situation. It can act very hard but it can also be very gentle. Using the Mix and Cut-off features is a very smart way to attenuate the cymbal bleed while letting the drum hits ring out a little so the resulting sound is more natural than if a classic noise gate would be used. This "less is more" approach is also very effective when mixing drum tracks with some ghost-note hits are played.

Shaping

Shape your tone with 8-band EQ.

Punch

The name speaks for itself. Add some slamming punch to your tone.

For better flexibility there is a compression release switch.

Punch is quite strong compressor with slower attack time and medium compression ratio so it makes the tone more powerful and full of enhanced transients. It's very clean sounding with very low distortion. If more natural tone is needed, keep the Gain Reduction fairly low (2-3dB is enough) or you can squash your tone with heavy reduction and blend the squashed tone with the uncompressed one with the Mix knob.

Surgery

Sometimes you need to go really deep with some surgical EQ, right?

-50 dB attenuation?

No problem.

Surgery is an extreme surgical peak EQ with 2 identical filters. The Q factor of the filters is high. The range of both frequency and gain controls is monstrous, so you can go really tight and deep.

Smash

Do you want to have your tone more dynamically controlled but not completely dead?

This is what you are looking for.

Smash is a peak-eating levelling compressor with faster attack time and gentle compression ratio so it can take the dynamics of your tone under control. But it's not all.

Smash compressor also adds some mild distortion to add some extra grit to your tone. In combination with Punch compressor it makes your tone more consistent while still adding something new to your tone and since it's attack time is not super-fast, it leaves a significant amount of enhanced transients acquired by using Punch compressor.

Effects

ToneSpot Drum Express has 6 effects suitable for stringed acoustic instruments processing. The effects are sorted into 4 groups - Tremolo, Modulation, Delay and Reverb. Modulation group has 3 effects - Chorus, Flanger and Phaser.

Finalizer

This is the mastering section of your tone.

Sometimes the tone needs some final touch. Some sweetness, fatness, tightness and smoothness.

Technical info

Specification

- AAX, AU, VST3,
- macOS, Windows plug-ins

Requirements

- macOS 10.11 and newer
- Windows 7 and newer
- 150 MB of disk space required

Conclusion

We are confident that you can now work with ToneSpot. However, if anything seems unclear or you need assistance, feel free to contact us at

http://services.audified.com/support

Thanks for using AUDIFIED products.