

# EBS MultiComp

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MultiComp is an analogue compressor pedal that has the ambition to be both easy to use and flexible. Most EBS products are aimed at bass players, however, with this pedal they also aim at other musicians.

## CONSTRUCTION

A sturdy metal box of the same size and dimensions as the EBS UniChorus, reviewed in no 2-98, was chosen for housing. There are two knobs, Gain and Comp/Limit, and a small three-way switch with which you select one of the three modes Normal, M.B. (Multi-band) and Tubesim(ulator). The in- and outputs are placed on opposite sides, and the footswitch has a LED connected to it.

The pedal can be powered in three different modes; with battery, battery adapter or the EBS Phantom Power System through the instrument cable (if you have an EBS head or combo). To change battery, you have to remove the four screws holding the bottom plate.

MultiComp has three basic settings, or modes of compression, which you select with the small three-way switch. In Normal mode it works just like a normal compressor, effecting the entire sound in the same way. This is the same kind of compressor that is found in EBS heads and combos, with the difference that the pedal is capable of harder compression (in most EBS products, the compression ratio is 3:1). Attack- and release-times are preset and chosen to give a natural compression without side effects.

In M.B. mode, the MultiComp is transformed to a true multiband-compressor, compressing bass and treble separately. This means that there is actually two compressors working in parallel. There are several advan-



tages with this. One is that you can optimize attack- and release-times in a better way and avoid side effects. The times are shorter for treble and longer for bass than in Normal mode.

Another advantage is that you can have different compression ratios for bass and treble by presetting different threshold-levels (the level, at which the compressor starts working).

To do this, you remove the bottom plate and find two small trim pots that are indicated on the printed circuit board. If you are not sure how to do this, you should of course let this adjustment to someone who is certain on how to do this.

The Tubesim mode is made to simulate a tube sound. A passive limiter has been added to make it sound like tube compression, and EBS has also tried to include the overtones that makes the tubesound so warm and natural.

With the Comp/Limit-knob you adjust the compression ratio (1:1-5:1), while the Gain-knob compensates for changes in the output level. The LED, which tells if the box is active, also shows how the compressor works

and lights stronger the harder the compression. Good!

### IN USE

The spare choice of controls makes the MultiComp so easy to use that even the most uninterested understand how it works.

The three different compression types are a clear advantage and sound very different. The Normal mode evens out the level and tightens the sound, and works very well, for example, when playing hard with a pick or slapping where you want the compression to be heard.

If you want to avoid a "compressed" sound, but still want to tighten up the lows, the multiband mode is an excellent choice. Here you can tie up the loose ends in both playing and sound, without losing too much life and dynamics. Armed with a small screwdriver, I went in and changed the threshold levels for bass and treble in different combinations and found many useable settings - from subtle to extreme. The Tube simulation mode is fun, as it not only changes the volume, but also the sound; the sound undeniably becomes rounder and warmer and gets a kick forward in the right direction. I know that the same circuit

is found in the EBS Drome, and when I tested that combo, the tube simulation was all I needed to make me so pleased I didn't even touch the filter section. The noise level is very low, which means that the box won't be a problem if you want to use it for recording.

### CONCLUSION

MultiComp keeps high class, both in regard to construction and electronics, and the box feels compact and solid. The two knobs is a child's play to use, and the possibility to choose between three different types of compression with a small three-way switch gives it flexibility without causing confusion. Without being extreme in any way, the three modes offer quite different sounds which all can be very useable in different situations.

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Multiple kinds of compression  
Easy to use  
Great sound  
Possibility to use EBS Phantom Power  
LED indication of the compression

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Nothing

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>TYPE:</b>	Analog compressor pedal
<b>CONTROLS:</b>	Gain, Comp/Limit, tree-way switch for Normal, Multiband and Tube simulator modes
<b>COMPRESSION:</b>	1:1-5:1
<b>THRESHOLD:</b>	-25 - +6 dB, adjustable
<b>POWER REQUIREMENTS:</b>	9-12 V DC regulated <15 mA (battery, battery adaptor or EBS phantom power)



