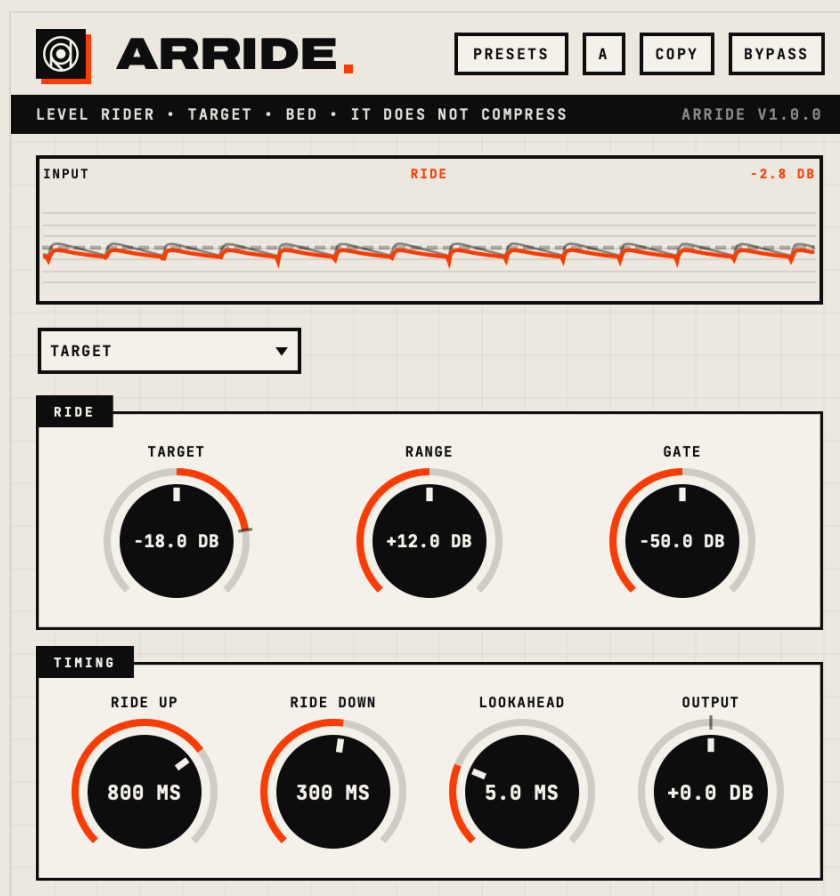


ARRIDE

LEVEL RIDER



VERSION
1.0.0

FORMATS
AU • VST3

PLATFORMS
macOS • WINDOWS

DOCUMENT
USER GUIDE

01 WHAT IT DOES

ARRIDE evens out level the way a hand on a fader does: slowly, phrase by phrase, without touching the dynamics inside a phrase. On a test take whose phrases spanned 5.60 dB of variation, the output spanned 1.25 dB - a 78 % reduction - while the crest factor inside each phrase moved by 1.02 dB. That second number is the point: a compressor doing the same level correction flattens the syllables. This cannot, at any setting, because the detector that measures the level has a fixed 300 ms release and never sees the gaps between syllables.

02 INSTALLING

macOS

Run **ARRIDE Installer.pkg** and follow the steps. You can choose which formats to install, and whether to install for every user or only for yourself. The package is not notarised by Apple yet, so the first time you open it macOS may refuse: right-click the installer, choose **Open**, then confirm. This is only needed once.

Windows

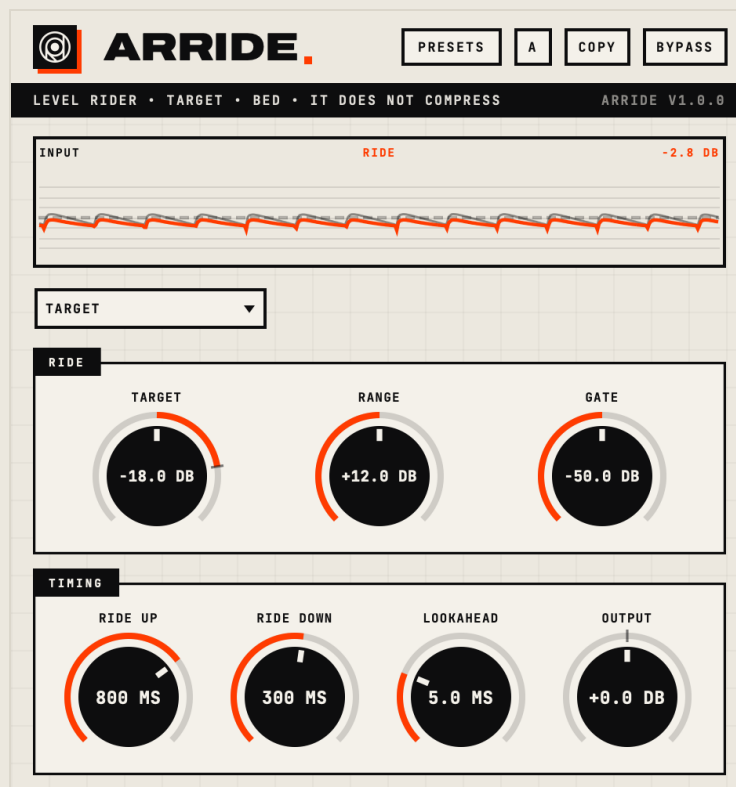
Run **ARRIDE Installer.exe** and follow the steps. The plugin is placed in the shared VST3 folder. The installer is not code-signed yet, so SmartScreen may warn you: click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. This is only needed once.

After installing

Rescan the plugin list in your DAW. ARRIDE appears under **Ajanss Records > ARRIDE**.

Requirements – macOS 10.13 or newer, Intel or Apple Silicon (universal binary). Windows 10 or newer, 64-bit. Formats: Audio Unit and VST3 on macOS, VST3 on Windows.

03 THE INTERFACE



LEVEL DISPLAY

The grey line is the incoming level, the dashed line is the target and the orange line is where the level ends up. The scale is always centred on the target, so what you read is how far from it you are, not an absolute number.

GAIN READOUT

The figure on the right is the gain being applied right now.

MODE

TARGET holds an absolute level. BED takes its target from the sidechain instead, so the voice rises and falls with the music under it. Without a sidechain connected, BED behaves like TARGET.

04 PARAMETERS

CONTROL	RANGE	DEFAULT	WHAT IT DOES
TARGET	-48 ... +12 dB	-18 dB	The level it holds. In BED mode this is not an absolute level but the amount above the sidechain - set it to +6 and the voice sits six decibels over the music, wherever the music goes.
RANGE	0 ... 24 dB	12 dB	How far the gain may move in either direction. This is the safety rail: a take with one whispered line will not be lifted thirty decibels into the room tone. At zero the plugin is bit-transparent.
GATE	-80 ... -20 dB	-50 dB	Below this level the rider stops. It does not reset the gain to zero - that would make an audible jump at the start of the next phrase - it lets the gain drift gently back toward neutral while nothing is playing, which is inaudible and means every phrase starts from a fair position. Measured: the loudest phrase after a quiet one overshoots by 2.2 dB, against 9.1 dB without the lookahead safety path.
RIDE UP	20 ... 3000 ms	800 ms	How slowly a quiet passage is lifted. Slow is usually right: lifting fast is what pulls up breaths and room tone.
RIDE DOWN	20 ... 3000 ms	300 ms	How quickly a loud passage is pulled back. Faster than RIDE UP by default, because being late here puts a peak through. The speed also scales with how far off the gain is - a twelve decibel correction moves faster than a one decibel one, so phrase to phrase jumps are caught without the syllables ever being chased.
LOOKAHEAD	0 ... 20 ms	5 ms	How far ahead of the audio the detector listens. The plugin always reports 20 ms of latency whatever this is set to, so the delay compensation never changes while you turn the knob.
OUTPUT	-24 ... +24 dB	0 dB	Final level trim.

05 PRESETS

Open the browser with **PRESETS**. It has two categories: **FACTORY**, which ships with the plugin, and **USER**, which is yours. Click a preset to load it, or browse with the keyboard.

↑ ↓	Move through the list. The highlighted preset loads as you go, so you can audition the whole bank without clicking.
← →	Switch between FACTORY and USER.
ESC	Close the browser.
SAVE	Type a name in the field and press SAVE to store the current settings as a user preset.
RENAME • DELETE	Act on the selected user preset. Factory presets cannot be changed or removed.

Factory bank — 15 presets

VOCAL

VOCAL GENTLE

VOCAL FIRM

LEAD OVER BED

BACKING UNDER LEAD

DIALOGUE

PODCAST

VOICEOVER OVER MUSIC

BASS

GUITAR

DRUM BUS

SLOW AND INVISIBLE

TIGHT

LIVE RECORDING

INTERVIEW

06 STARTING POINTS

Rough settings to work from, not destinations. Every one of them assumes you will move it once you hear the source.

Set the target by ear, not by number

Play the loudest part of the performance and set TARGET so the orange line sits on the dashed one. Everything quieter then comes up to meet it.

It is pulling up the room

Raise GATE until the movement stops between phrases. The display tells you when: the orange line stops reacting where there is nothing to react to.

Use it before the compressor, not instead of it

The rider fixes phrase to phrase level; the compressor shapes what happens inside a phrase. Doing the first job with a compressor is what makes a vocal sound squashed.

A voice over music

Switch to BED, route the music to the sidechain and set TARGET to about +6 dB. The voice now follows the music instead of a fixed number.

Nothing is happening

RANGE at zero does nothing by design. Check it before anything else.

The take has one shouted line

Lower RANGE rather than the target. The rider then corrects everything else and simply refuses to chase the outlier.

07 SUPPORT

For questions, bug reports and feature requests, please reach us on Instagram at [@ajanssrecords](#). Please include your operating system, your DAW and its version, the plugin format you are using, and the plugin version shown in the top right of the window.

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