



SP-404MKII VERSION 5.50 UPDATE

Introducing Side Chain Compression and More

Built to Evolve

The SP-404MKII continues to evolve with free updates that unlock new ways to perform, produce, DJ, and shape your sound. Version 5.50 introduces side chain compression—an essential mixing tool for modern music production and a long-requested feature from the SP community. The update also adds support for reading exFAT-formatted SD cards and minor fixes.

Side Chain Compression

Side chain compression is a defining technique in today's beat and dance music, allowing a single sound, typically the kick, to shape and control a mix's overall dynamics. With SP-404MKII Version 5.50, this workflow is built directly into the unit, with no external routing or additional tools required.

Side chain compression is most often used to create the hypnotic pumping effect heard in modern music, but can also help clean up dense patterns, tighten the low end of a mix, and add subtle rhythmic movement. The envelope-based process ensures consistent results, even when using sampled loops or full breaks, making it a useful tool for resampling.

Side Chain Compression Elements

Source

The sound that triggers the compression (typically a short, punchy sound like a kick drum).

Target

The sound that's being affected (such as bass, pads, individual samples, or the mix bus).

Once set, the source sound reduces the volume of the target sound as the tracks play, creating dynamic volume adjustments that flow with the music's rhythm. The effect's intensity can be adjusted using the compressor's control parameters.

Basic Set Up

- 1 Press **SHIFT + PAD 16** to open the **EFX SETTING**.
- 2 Turn **CTRL 3** and choose the **SIDE CHAIN** tab.
- 3 Select **SOURCE** and **TARGET**, then fine-tune the effect with **THRESHOLD**, **RATIO**, **RELEASE**, and **GAIN**.
- 4 Switch **BUS FX** by pressing "**REMAIN + PAD**" on the **SIDE CHAIN** screen.

SD Cards in exFAT Format

In addition to its native file format, the SP-404MKII now supports exFAT-formatted SD cards, enabling greater compatibility and higher-capacity workflows.

Bug Fixes

Numerous fixes for minor bugs.

Your customers can now update their SP-404MKII with Version 5.50 now. Be sure to update your demo stock and product listings.

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