PRISM Comp - TN-3A User Manual

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1. Getting started with TN-3A

TN-3A is a compressor designed around the solid-state optical leveler. It reacts faster than TN-2A and adds less coloration, evening out the level while keeping the attack clear. It suits material with a defined attack, such as guitar, drums and vocals.



The TN-3A control panel

Quick start

1. Insert **[TN-3A] PRISM Comp** on an audio track or bus.
2. Activate the trial or full version.
3. Start with OPERATING MODE on COMPRESS.
4. Play audio and raise PEAK REDUCTION while watching gain reduction (GR) on the VU meter.
5. Restore the loudness with GAIN, then compare with the unprocessed sound using POWER in the header.

2. Installation

Requirements

- Windows (64-bit) and a 64-bit DAW that supports VST3
- A Prizlune account (free), and an internet connection when you start a trial or activate

Download

Download the ZIP from the product page at **prizlune.com/products/tn-3a/**. The trial and the full version use the same installer, so buyers use this one too.

Installing

1. Right-click the downloaded ZIP and choose "Extract All".
2. Run `Install PRISM Comp - TN-3A.exe` from the extracted folder.
3. If "Windows protected your PC" appears, click "More info" and then "Run anyway". The installer has no code signature, so this warning may appear.
4. When asked "Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device?", click "Yes". Writing to the shared VST3 folder requires administrator permission.
5. Choose a language, accept the licence agreement and follow the instructions.

Installed to: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\PRISM Comp - TN-3A.vst3`

Loading it in your DAW

Start your DAW and rescan plug-ins if needed. The plug-in appears as **[TN-3A] PRISM Comp** (vendor: Prizlune).

Right after installation it is **NOT ACTIVATED**, and audio passes through unprocessed. Follow the next chapter to start a trial or activate the full version.

Updating

Run the installer of the new version in the same way to install over the old one. Your licence, presets and display settings are kept.

Uninstalling

Run `Uninstall PRISM Comp - TN-3A.exe` from the ZIP, or remove it from Windows Settings > Apps. Your licence and presets are not deleted, so a reinstall works straight away.

3. Activation and Trial

To use PRISM Comp - TN-3A, **start a trial** or **activate the full version** with your Prizlune account (free). Before that you can still change parameters, use presets and save projects, but audio passes through unprocessed.

Status

Footer status	Meaning	Audio
NOT ACTIVATED	Neither a trial nor the full version is active	Passes through
ACTIVATING	Waiting for approval in your browser	As before
TRIAL · N DAYS LEFT	Trial running; N is the days left (1 DAY LEFT on the last day)	Processed
TRIAL ENDED	The trial period is over	Passes through
FULL	Full version	Processed

Click the footer status to open the licence screen. While NOT ACTIVATED or TRIAL ENDED, a notice bar appears at the top of the product view.



The notice bar while NOT ACTIVATED

Starting the trial (14 days)

1. Click **START TRIAL** in the notice bar. My Prizlune opens in your browser.
2. Sign in with your Prizlune account. If you don't have one, you can create it on that page.
3. Check that the code in the browser matches the code in the plug-in, then click **Start trial on this computer**.
4. When the footer shows **TRIAL · 14 DAYS LEFT**, you're done.

Each account can use the trial once per product, and each computer once as well. During the trial every feature works as in the full version.

Activating the full version

1. Buy the product at prizlune.com. It is added to the Prizlune account you buy with.
2. Click **ACTIVATE** in the plug-in (notice bar or licence screen).
3. Sign in with the account you bought with, check the code and click **Activate on this computer**.
4. When the footer shows **FULL**, you're done.

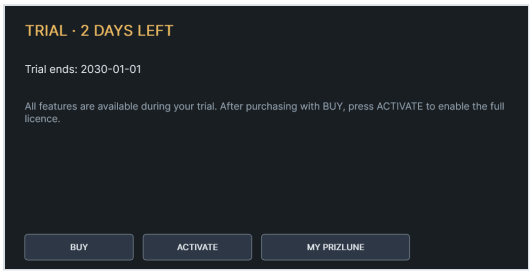
3. Activation and Trial (continued)

Waiting for approval

After START TRIAL or ACTIVATE, a waiting screen opens in the middle of the plug-in. It shows a large code in the form **XXXX-XXXX** and the time remaining. Approve the request in your browser **within 10 minutes**. Once approved, the licence is saved on this computer and takes effect immediately.

- **REOPEN BROWSER**: opens the approval page in your browser again.
- **CANCEL** (or Esc): stops the activation and returns to the previous state.

Licence screen

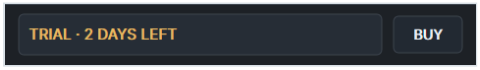


Licence screen during the trial (dates are examples)

Open it from the footer status or from **License** at the bottom left of Settings. Close it with the × at the top right or Esc.

- **Trial**: shows the end date. **BUY** opens the purchase page; after buying, **ACTIVATE** switches to the full version. **MY PRIZLUNE** opens the member page.
- **Full**: shows the registered email, this computer's name and the activation date. **RELOAD LICENSE** reads the saved licence again.

Buying during the trial, and when it ends



Footer during the trial (BUY opens the purchase page)

When the trial ends, the **TRIAL ENDED** notice bar appears and audio passes through. Your settings and projects are kept. Buy with **BUY** and activate with **ACTIVATE** to keep using it.

Several computers and offline use

- License activation connects when you press START TRIAL or ACTIVATE. Activated products work offline. Optional update checks can be disabled in Settings.
- As long as you use your own account, there is no limit to the number of computers. On a new computer or after reinstalling Windows, press ACTIVATE there. You don't need to deactivate the old one.
- You can see your products and activated computers on My Prizlune (account.prizlune.com).

4. Sound controls

Control	What it does
PEAK REDUCTION	0 to 10. Sets the depth of compression. Higher settings let quieter signals engage compression and increase the amount of gain reduction. At 0 there is no compression. The default is 3.0.
GAIN	0 to 10. Raises the compressed output by 0 to +30 dB to make up the level lost to compression. The default is 0.
OPERATING MODE	Selected with the rocker switch. COMPRESS gives gentler-ratio compression. LIMIT gives firmer, limiter-like compression. The lit lamp shows the selected mode.
POWER	Use the power button in the header. OFF passes audio through and returns the GR meter to zero.

Choosing COMPRESS or LIMIT

Choice	Typical use
COMPRESS	Narrows level differences gently. Use it to even out vocals and instruments naturally.
LIMIT	Holds down what exceeds the threshold firmly. Use it to catch peaks reliably or to make drums sound denser.

Recovery

TN-3A recovers in two stages. After brief compression it releases quickly. The longer and deeper the compression, and the larger the level changes, the slower it recovers. The same setting therefore behaves differently depending on the material.

Editing the controls

Drag knobs vertically, or hold Shift for fine adjustment. Use the wheel or arrow keys with a selected knob. Double-click or Ctrl+click to restore its default.

5. Reading the compression view

Use the COMPRESSION VIEW at the top of the panel and the VU meter at the right to see how TN-3A is working.

Display	Meaning
INPUT / OUTPUT	Cyan is the input. Yellow is the actual final output, including GAIN and DELTA.
GR	Orange is the gain reduction actually applied. The right scale runs from 0 dB at the bottom to 20 dB at the top.
NOW / PEAK HOLD	NOW is the latest gain reduction. PEAK HOLD is the maximum since the window opened or was reset.
RESET	Always shown next to PEAK HOLD. Click it to start PEAK HOLD again from the current value.
VU meter	The current gain reduction from 0 to 20 dB.

Curve, marker and shaded area

The curve at left shows the input-to-output relationship for the current settings. Both axes run from −60 to +6 dBFS, and the thin dotted diagonal is the 1:1 reference. The green line and value show the threshold calculated from PEAK REDUCTION and OPERATING MODE. The cyan circle follows the input level along the curve, and the orange translucent area is bounded by the threshold, the curve and the line down from the circle. Below the curve the view shows the selected OPERATING MODE (COMPRESS or LIMIT). With PEAK REDUCTION at 0 it shows COMPRESSION OFF.

Changing PEAK REDUCTION or OPERATING MODE moves the curve and threshold. Changing GAIN does not. The curve and area describe the settings, not the instantaneous output or gain reduction.

History and visibility

The history runs from the past at left to NOW at right and covers about 4.3 seconds. The LEVEL dBFS scale at left belongs to input and output; the GR dB scale at right belongs to gain reduction. Click INPUT, OUTPUT or GR in the legend to hide or show that trace; your choice is kept the next time you open the plug-in. The GR values always stay visible, and values above 20 dB are shown as numbers although the graph stops at 20 dB. Turning POWER off darkens the view.

6. Comparing, saving and settings

A/B, RESET and Undo

A and B each hold their own PEAK REDUCTION, GAIN and OPERATING MODE. POWER and DELTA are shared. RESET in the header restores the bank you are editing to its defaults. Undo and Redo step through edits made in the plug-in.

Presets and projects

Click PRESET to open the browser, choose from Factory or User, or save the current settings under a name. A preset stores the three settings of the current bank. The DAW project stores both banks and the shared settings.

DELTA

With DELTA on, you hear only what compression removes. Use it to check when compression engages. It does not include GAIN or coloration.

Settings

Choose the window size under Display and the interface language under Language. Automatic follows the Windows display language. The license screen can also be opened from here. The PRIZLUNE logo in the footer opens the product page.

7. Updates and the product page

Released editions include update checks. When you open the editor, the plug-in checks the public download in the background, approximately once per day. You do not need to sign in again to check for updates.

Update notification

When a newer publication is available, **UPDATE** appears near the version in the footer. Click it to open this product's page. Read the release information and download the update. Close your DAW before installing the downloaded update.

Settings → Updates

Control	Action
Automatic	ON by default. Turn it OFF to disable automatic requests. This is remembered as a product preference, separate from sound settings.
Check now	Checks immediately, including when automatic checks are OFF.
Product page	Opens this product's page after public information has been received. The PRIZLUNE logo at the bottom right also opens the product page at any time.

Working offline

If the check cannot retrieve information, check your connection and try manually later. A failed update check does not stop audio or project saving. The product continues its normal behavior for its license state; activated products work offline.

Update checks are independent of audio processing. Changing automatic checks or using a notification does not alter your sound or the parameters stored in a DAW project.

8. Troubleshooting

Symptom	What to check
The plug-in does not appear in the DAW	Make sure the DAW supports Windows x64 VST3 and that the VST3 is installed in the correct folder, then rescan in the DAW.
No compression	Check POWER and the activation status. Make sure PEAK REDUCTION is above 0 and that signal is reaching the input.
The output is too loud	Lower GAIN and check the output on the DAW's peak meter.
Attacks sound squashed	Lower PEAK REDUCTION or switch OPERATING MODE to COMPRESS.
The plug-in cannot be replaced	Close any DAW that has TN-3A loaded, then run the installer again.

When contacting us, please include the DAW name, sample rate, the controls you used and the steps to reproduce the issue. The product page is prizlune.com/products/tn-3a/.