

980 SPARK MKII



MIA LABORATORIES © 2025

Greetings and Welcome!

Thank you for choosing MIA Laboratories. Please take the time to read through this user guide in order to get familiar with the components and use of 980 Spark MkII.

Overview

Introducing 980 Spark MkII—an audio plugin that blends vintage pre-amp warmth with modern digital precision and flexibility. Engineered for quick, intuitive workflows in sound design and mastering, it delivers a unique saturation experience by simultaneously adjusting the spectral, dynamic, and harmonic content of your sound.

Under the hood, the 980 Spark MkII leverages the precision of MIA Compressor ONE, the distinctive character of the Musiqua EQ series, and the power of the 990 Spark Multiband. It offers transparent dynamic control combined with musical coloration -featuring Tube, Class A, or FET character- and rich harmonic distortion.

Its powerful saturation engine features 10 saturation algorithms, ranging from waveshaping to analog distortion emulation. Unlock a vast palette of textures—from subtle warmth to bold, aggressive distortion—with unique control via a XY screen and dedicated filters.

980's modular design allows you to rearrange the processing modules on the fly, for endless creative possibilities. With 76 built-in presets, and the ability to create your own, 980 Spark MkII can easily fit every workflow, while 4x oversampling ensures exceptional clarity throughout your signal chain.

A professional-quality tool that puts creative sound shaping at your fingertips.

Key Features:

- **Compressor:** Punch, Ctrl and Glue settings for flexible dynamic control.
- **Colour:** Tonal richness with Tube, Class A or FET character.
- **Saturator:** 10 saturation algorithms, from waveshaping to analog distortion emulation.
- **Modular Design:** Rearrange processing modules on the fly.

COMPRESSOR Module

The **COMPRESSOR** module controls the dynamic characteristics of your sound, creating a more natural and musical response.

Compression

Adjust the Compression amount between 0% and 100%.

At lower Compression settings, Threshold is higher, and Ratio is more aggressive.

As Compression percentage increases, Threshold lowers, and Ratio becomes softer.

GR Meter displays Gain Reduction up to a maximum of 18dB, with 3dB intervals.

Compression Type

PUNCH: Adds a punchy, energetic feel.

CTRL: Controls transients for precision.

GLUE: Smoothly blends elements together.

	PUNCH	CTRL	GLUE
Threshold at 100%	-35 dB		
Ratio at 0%	1 : 8.5	1 : 4.2	1 : 8.5
Attack	32ms	8ms	69ms
Release	4ms	128ms	393ms

Input / Output

Adjust the compressor's input level to fine-tune its response, while the output control manages the gain at the compressor's output.

* Holding *Shift*, you can move input and output in opposite directions.



COLOUR Module

The **COLOUR** module, inspired by the Musiquial EQs, allows you to emphasize or attenuate specific frequencies and add tonal richness with Tube, Class A or FET character.

Frequency

Control the filter frequency for each colour type individually.

TUBE	CLASS A	FET
31 Preset Frequencies	16 Preset Frequencies	20 Hz - 20 kHz

Colour Type

TUBE: Based on Musiquial RED, inspired by classic tube gear.

CLASS A: Based on Musiquial BLUE, delivering the signature Class A sound.

FET: Based on Musiquial GREEN, with a strong transistor character for that classic 1990s sound.

Gain

Adjust the colour intensity and frequency gain.

Higher gain results in more pronounced colouration.



SATURATOR Module

The **SATURATOR** module provides creative control over the saturation character.

XY Screen

Adjust saturation by controlling the Drive and Character of the saturator.

X-axis adjusts the saturation character, enhancing distortion without significantly affecting compression.

Y-axis controls Drive, increasing both compression and distortion for a more aggressive effect.

Hold *Shift* to restrict movement to the X-axis.

Hold *Cmd/Ctrl* to restrict movement to the Y-axis.

The **three peppers** in the top right adjust the "spiciness" of the saturation, from mild to hot.

Type

Select the desired saturator type, from 10 refined algorithms.

The available algorithms include classic waveshaping saturators, as well as physical emulations of Triode and Pentode circuits.

Filter

Apply High-Pass and/or Low-Pass filter to the saturator's wet signal.

Each filter can be placed pre or post-saturation, for precise control and extended versatility.

Dry-Wet

Blend the original (dry) and saturated (wet) signals for precise control over the tone and dynamics of your sound.

* Holding *Shift*, you can move dry and wet in opposite directions.

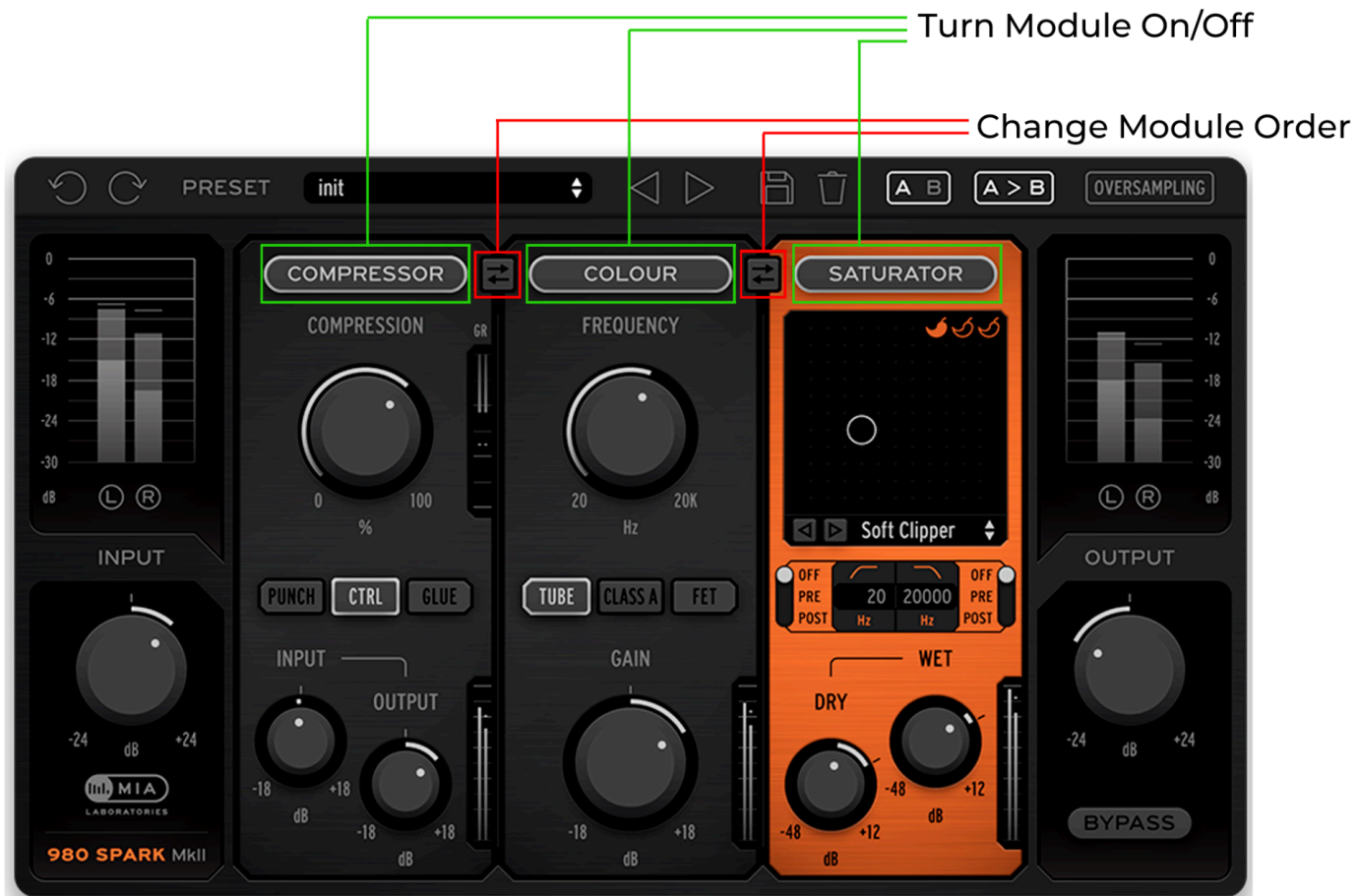
* Holding *Shift + Alt*, you can move dry and wet in the same direction, with fine control.



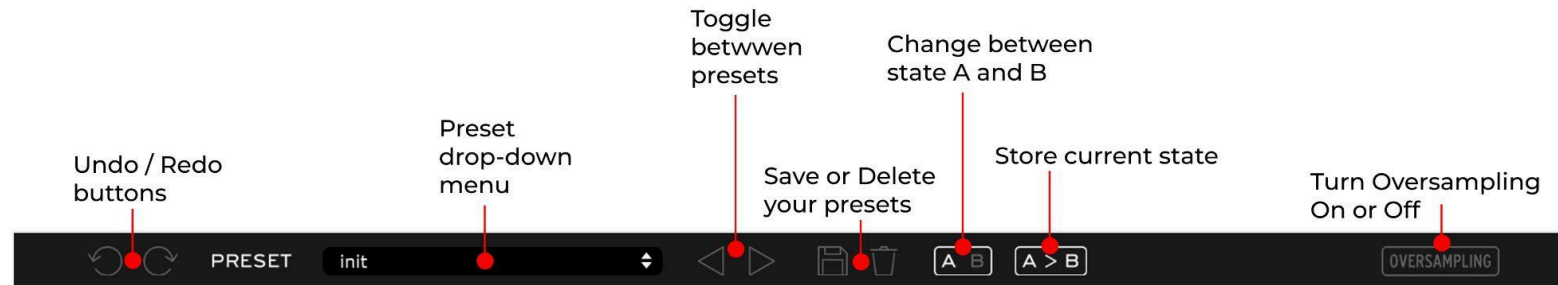
Knob Shortcuts

- *Cmd/Ctrl*: precise control when dragging any knob.
- *Double Click*: initialize any knob.
- *Right Click*: input value on any knob.
- *Shift*: move global input and output in opposite direction.

General Controls



Preset Bar



Installation

Installing 980 Spark MkII is fairly easy, just download and run the appropriate installer for your operating system. The license for this plugin requires the use of iLok license manager software and an iLok account. The license can be deposited on a physical iLok (2 nd generation or higher) on iLok Cloud or host computer.

For further information regarding the activation process, please refer to the activation guide provided.

Thank you for using MIA Laboratories!



May the sound be with you

