



V-COMP+ MU DELUXE 6386 USER MANUAL

AUDIOSCOPE
ENGINEERING CO.



POWERED BY
SONIC TRUTH
MADE IN THE USA

This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation, and operating instructions for the Audioscope V-Comp+.

Audioscope Engineering Co.
Florida
Made in the U.S.A.



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A WORD FROM THE AUDIOSCAPE FAMILY.

**Thank you for purchasing the V-Comp+ “Deluxe 6386 Edition”
from AudioScape Engineering!**

**The V-Comp+ “Deluxe 6386 Edition” is the newest addition to our
lineup and is our enhanced take on a legendary variable-mu, all-
tube compressor made in the 1950’s. Originally designed for
broadcast, it gained a reputation among engineers and
producers as one of the most musical and effortless compressors
ever created.**

Let’s explore this beauty:



IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



- **Water and Moisture** - Do not use the unit near any source of water or in excessively moist environments.
- **Object and Liquid Entry** - Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled, into the enclosure through openings.
- **Ventilation** - When installing the unit in a rack or any other location, be sure there is adequate ventilation. Improper ventilation will cause overheating and can damage the unit. Open racks are preferred to let the case vents breathe and give adequate heat dissipation
- **Heat** - The unit should be situated away from heat sources, or other equipment that produce heat.
- **Power Sources** - The unit should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions, or as marked on the unit.
- **Power Cord Protection** - AC power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them. Pay particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the unit. Never take hold of the plug or cord if your hand is wet. Always grasp the plug body when connecting or disconnecting it.
- **Non-use Periods** - The AC power supply cord of the unit should be unplugged from the AC outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
- **Damage Requiring Service** - Please refer to a qualified technician.





(1) Input - Extends the range of Input pad and allows precise adjustment of Input Level

(2) Drive/Stock switch - Toggle between the "Stock" STA -20db input pad and the -15db input pad value labeled 'Drive'

(3) Mode - SINGLE mode is the smoothest and least intrusive, DOUBLE provides medium clamping and is a great general purpose setting, TRIPLE mode clamps down hard on the signal and is most extreme. In TRIPLE mode, with a fast recovery mode selected, the user can get glitch artifacts which may be useful in unique situations, experiment! OFF completely bypasses the compression section of the circuit while still running audio through the all-tube signal path and output transformers. (Recovery time controls still function in 'OFF' mode and should be typically set in the faster range)

(4) Recovery Time - Select between 9 slow to fast release times, the slowest setting is the *fixed* value in the original Gates STA-Level. (The actual release-attack/release times are program and setting dependent)

(5) VU Meter - Meter with Illumination

(6) Power - Power Light and Power Switch

(7) Output - Controls the overall output level of the V-Comp+



(1) AC Power Connector - Insert 120V IEC power cable only into this connector. For EU wall voltages, please email for a recommendation for a suitable external wall converter.

(2) XLR OUTPUT - A balanced XLR connector carrying the line-level output signal of the V-Comp+. This signal will normally be routed via a patchbay to a channel or bus insert return.

(3) XLR INPUT - Connect line-level input signal to this balanced XLR connector. Pin 2 is wired positive (hot). This signal will normally be arriving via a patchbay from a channel or bus insert send.





★ FEATURES

The V-COMP+ is as an all-tube & transformer-laden, variable-mu compressor that's been heralded for it's extremely unique dynamic response, box-tone, and beautiful, program-dependent compression.

The V-COMP+ is a FEEDBACK style compressor and operates using a "fixed-threshold" design - the higher the INPUT level, the more compression, tone and tube/transformer saturation will rise.

As we like to put it, the V-COMP+ is Johnny Cash in a box!



INPUT

Raise Input level for more compression and coloration



OUTPUT

Controls the overall output of the compressed signal



STOCK/DRIVE

When switched DRIVE input gain is increased by +5dB yielding a more compressed & aggressive tone. STOCK = standard "STA-Style" Input level.



MODE

OFF = bypasses compression but still passes signal through the saturation circuitry
SINGLE = Slowest Attack
DOUBLE = TWICE as fast as SINGLE
TRIPLE = FASTEST & AGGRESSIVE!



RECOVERY TIME

Determines how quickly the signal returns back to zero after exceeding the threshold.
Faster (CW) yields more audible, aggressive compression.



SPECIFICATIONS

Gain Reduction:	up to 40dB
Freq Response:	20Hz-20kHz
Noise:	-80dB +/-5
Gain:	30dB
Attack modes:	3 modes +OFF
Release times:	6 modes
Impedance in/out:	600Ohm
Threshold:	+24dB to -20dB
Height:	3U
Depth:	9" (229mm)
Width:	19" (48cm)
Weight:	16 lbs
Power:	120V

**TUBE AND TRANSFORMER
COMPLIMENT**

- 6386
- 12AT7
- 6AL5
- OB2
- 6V6 (x2)
- 5Y3
- Triad® Choke
- Proprietary Custom-Wound Input and Output Transformers



ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- Painstakingly Handcrafted in the USA!
- Proprietary custom-wound input and output transformers
- TRIAD® choke
- Seven tubes including 2 x EH 6V6 matched tubes for flawless performance and extended life, and a premium JJ gold pin 6386 tube for gain reduction
- Input drive switch features the DRIVE mode which adds 5db of gain to the input
- Four recovery time modes: SINGLE, DOUBLE, TRIPLE and OFF
- Nine position RECOVERY TIME rotary switch, the slowest setting still being the original Gates setting
- Continuously-variable INPUT and OUTPUT controls
- Cornell Dubilier polypropylene axial capacitors
- Allen-Bradley carbon comp resistors in key areas of the signal path
- Electronically balanced +4dBu circuitry
- Alpha potentiometers
- Beefy Hammond power transformer
- Neutrik® XLR Input and Output Connectors (Real Metal)
- Internal 120v Power Supply
- Custom Vintage-Styled Lighted VU Gain-Reduction Meter
- Custom vintage-styled replica knobs
- USA made Battleship Grey Silk-Screened Front Panel





FAQ

COMMON QUESTIONS

Q: The unit does not turn on.

A: Make sure the unit is plugged in securely, the fuse is not blown(fuse located below IEC inlet).

Q: There is a loud hum or intermittent signal

A: Unscrew the lid and make sure all tubes and wire assemblies are secure in their respective positions by pushing down or re-seating them accordingly

Q: The unit turns on but no output signal is present

A: After thoroughly checking common external issues(bad cables/channel interfaces/routing) start inspecting tubes and wire assemblies for any possible vulnerabilities

CALIBRATION

- **VU METER** - The zero point on the meter may vary slightly due to various wall voltages. To calibrate the needle for zero there is a trimpot located directly behind the meter itself on the main pcb inside the unit. Unscrew the lid and use a flathead mini-screwdriver to turn this trimpot and properly calibrate the meter to zero.
- **HUM BALANCE** - After changing the Power Tubes you may notice an increase in hum level, if so, the you can balance it better in your workable range using this trimpot. It is located on the main pcb directly in front of the Power Tube sockets.



CE EU DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

PRODUCT MODEL / PRODUCT:

PRODUCT: V-COMP+ "DELUXE 6386 EDITION" MU COMPRESSOR
MODEL/TYPE: V-COMP+
SERIAL NOS. 125450 - 130000

MANUFACTURER:

MANUFACTURER: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC
ADDRESS: 1631 S. NOVA ROAD, BUILDING A, DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119, USA

THIS DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY IS ISSUED UNDER THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANUFACTURER.



THE OBJECT OF THE DECLARATION DESCRIBED IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RELEVANT UNION HARMONISATION LEGISLATION:

73/23/EWG	LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE
89/336/EWG	EMC DIRECTIVE
DIN EN 55103-1&2	ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT
2011/65/EU	THE RESTRICTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES DIRECTIVE

THIS DECLARATION BECOMES INVALID BY MODIFICATION ON THE DEVICE WITHOUT APPROVAL.

THE TECHNICAL FILE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC

PLACE OF ISSUE: DAYTONA BEACH, FL, USA

DATE OF ISSUE: NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023

NAME: CHRIS YETTER

POSITION: OWNER

SIGNATURE:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EG DIRECTIVE 2003/108/EG IS, AS A FIRST PRIORITY, THE PREVENTION OF WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE), AND IN ADDITION, THE REUSE, RECYCLING AND OTHER FORMS OF RECOVERY OF SUCH WASTES SO AS TO REDUCE THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE. PLEASE ASSIST IN KEEPING OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN.

