

UAD Wrappers

by Udo R. Bräuna

update 1.2



A new way to mix





Wrappers included in version 1.2:

LA-2A Silver Compressor
 LA-2A Gray Compressor
 LA-2 Compressor
 1176 Rev A Compressor
 1176LN Rev E Compressor
 1176AE Compressor
 API 2500 Bus Compressor
 API Vision Channel Strip
 Century Tube Channel Strip
 Neve 1073 Preamp and EQ
 Hitsville EQ
 Hitsville EQ Mastering
 Pultec HLF-3C EQ
 Pultec MEQ-5 EQ
 Pultec EQP-1A EQ
 Lexicon 224 Reverb
 Hitsville Reverb Chambers
 Pure Plate Reverb
 Galaxy Tape Echo
 Brigade Chorus
 Studio D Chorus
 Oxide Tape Recorder
 Studer A800 Tape Recorder
 Waterfall Rotary Speaker

- What is a wrapper?

Basically it's a m4l (Max for Live) device that lets you use a plugin without having to open the plugin's window.

My wrappers mimic all the visual behavior of the plugins. So the led lights will glow, the VUmeter needles will move, the buttons can be pressed, the knobs will turn, and every other visual thing will be like the original plugins' GUI.

- What are the advantages of using a wrapper?

You won't have to open the plugin window every time you want to make a change or have any visual feedback. And you can always minimize the device by double-clicking at the top, like any other device.

Besides, you will be able to midi-map and automate all the parameters like every Ableton native device. Just by clicking on a parameter, the automation lane will change to that parameter.

- Do I need to own the UAD plugin in order to use the wrapper?

Yes. These are only wrappers. In order to use them, you need to own a license of the Universal Audio plugin. You can get their Spark subscription here:

<https://spark.uaudio.com/>

- How can I install these wrappers?

m4l devices don't have to be "installed". Instead, you can just drag and drop the .amxd file into a track.

For convenience, you should save the devices in a folder and then add that folder to Live's browser. That way you don't have to drag the .amxd file to Live. You can also save that folder in your User Library.

- Can I open the plugin's GUI anyway?

Yes, you only have to click at the wrench icon (🔧). Usually located at the top-right of the device.

- How can I change presets?

You will have to open the plugin window as described above.

Unfortunately, I can't access and load plugin's presets from m4l.

- I'm changing presets but the wrapper is not updating

I have found that when using a VST3 version, the plugin doesn't update the parameters when changing presets.

But don't worry. When you are happy with a preset, you only have to click at the refresh button (🔄, usually located top-left) and the wrapper will update.

The wrappers will always try to use the AudioUnit version of the plugins. It will only use the VST3 if you don't have the AU installed (or if you are using windows).

You can also use this button if, for some reason, something is not working fine. This will re-sync the wrapper and the plugin.

- **Are there any disadvantages of using a wrapper?**

Apart from the changing presets thing, not really. The CPU usage of any wrapper without the plugin is less than 1% on my computer (in other words, I have the same CPU usage using the wrapper and the plugin by itself). Also, the wrapper latency will be the same.

- **The wrapper is working but it does nothing to the sound.**

Please, be sure you have the plugin installed.

Click at the wrench button (🔧) to open the plugin's GUI. If nothing happens, Max is not finding your plugins. Try opening Max and do a plugin re-scan. If you don't find how to do that or it's not working for you, please send me an email at UdoRBrauna@gmail.com.

- **Are these wrappers the Native UADx plugins or the Hardware UAD-2 ones?**

Both. For every plugin, you will find a Native UADx wrapper and a Hardware UAD-2 wrapper.

There are some things to keep in mind when using the hardware wrappers.

First of all, I couldn't test all the wrappers for the hardware version, so if you find any bugs, let me know at UdoRBrauna@gmail.com. (thanks!)

Max for Live always uses an internal buffer size of 64 samples. So if you are using UAD-2 plugins along with UAD-2 wrappers and your Live Buffer Size is not set to 64, you might get a message window when loading a plugin indicating that the buffer is not correct.

However, it should all work fine. You might see that the latency of the UAD-2 plugin compared to the latency of the wrapper may differ, but this is due to Max internal buffer size. If you do a null test, you will see that Live is compensating well for all the latencies.

- **Are the wrappers compatible with Ableton Push?**

It should work fine natively. I don't have a Push to test it, but I used the necessary objects for it to work.

Also, remember that you can use any other midi controller. You just have to midi-map the parameters you want to control, like any Ableton native device.

- **In the plugin I can Ctrl/Opt + click to set the default position of a knob. Can I do the same with the wrappers?**

Yes, the only difference is that you have to double-click instead of Ctrl/Opt + click.

You can also shift+drag to fine control the parameters just like in the plugin. The only thing you can't do in the wrapper that you can in the plugin is using the mousewheel. This is both because Max doesn't have an easy implementation for the mousewheel and because it wouldn't be very practical, as you would probably be changing parameters unintentionally.

All the other functions, like clicking on a number/label, shift-click for multiple buttons pressed, etc. work just like the plugin.

- **Sometimes the plugins are huge. How did you manage to make it into a wrapper?**

I always tried to maintain the original looks by only deleting dispensable elements, and only moved things around when not possible to look exactly the same. Other times I just had to rotate the plugin.

There are some special cases in which I had to be a little bit more creative. For example, for the *Hitsville EQ Mastering*, I only did one channel and added a button for changing between channels (L/R and M/S).

In the plugin list there's the information for any special case.

- **There are some plugins that don't have a wrapper.**

I will try to make a wrapper for every native UADx effect plugin.

Universal Audio keeps publishing new plugins and making wrappers takes a lot of time, but my intention is to make them all.

I don't intend to make the wrappers for the instruments, only the effects (all included in the Spark subscription). The reason I don't make instrument wrappers is because there's a lot of parameters that are not visible from Max, and also the visual aspect: I want to publish the wrappers working almost identically to the plugins. And there are some visual effects that I can't replicate in the instruments.

- **How can I use the sidechain input?**

Some plugins have the option of sidechaining the input signal. In the wrappers of said plugins, you will find an arrow icon (▼). Click it and the Sidechain panel will open. In that panel you can choose the Sidechain Input as well as setting the gain for that input and the mix between the sidechained input and the plugin's input.



Unfortunately, m4l can't access the information about the sidechain button of the plugin. So I can't tell or modify this button. So, in order for the sidechain to work, you have to activate it from the plugin window and then set the input from the wrapper.

If any input is chosen, the wrapper will visually react to that input, either if the sidechain is active or not. If the input is set to "No Input", then the plugin will react to the track input.

Make sure to activate and deactivate the sidechain from the plugin window.

- **Looking at the automation lane, some parameters have a range from 0 to 1 and others have other values.**

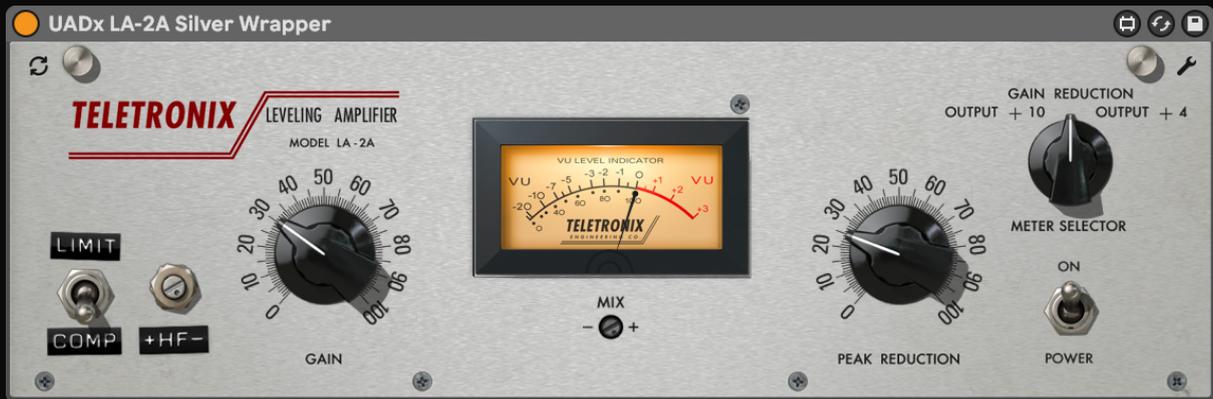
My approach to this is to show real values only when possible. For example, if a knob range is from -12dB to 12dB and is linear, it will show these values. But if the knob goes from -24dB to 12dB and 0dB is in the middle, it will show values from 0 to 1, as I can't replicate this non-linear behavior.

Compressors

LA-2



LA-2A Silver



LA-2A Gray



Compressors

1176 Rev A



1176AE



1176LN Rev E



API 2500



To access the Sidechain settings, click the ▼ button (you still need to open the plugin window to activate the sidechain).

There's no bypass button as you can bypass the device itself.

Channel Strips

API Vision



To access the Sidechain settings, click the ▼ button top left (you still need to open the plugin window to activate the sidechain).

The ↺ ↻ icons are located in the volume module. Bottom right of the plugin. The filters and the EQ set to Predyn/SC doesn't affect the led lights of the gate/compressor. It was getting too hard to model.

Century Tube



PreAmps

Neve 1073



Channel Strips

PreAmps

EQs

Pultec EQP-1A



Pultec HLF-3C



Pultec MEQ-5



EQs

Hitsville EQ



EQs

Hitsville EQ Mastering



In order to fit on the Live's plugin window, only one channel is displayed. When the Controls Link selector is set to Unlink, you can click on the "LEFT/MID PROGRAM" label to change to the "RIGHT/SIDE PROGRAM".

Reverbs

Hitsville Reverb Chambers



Reverbs

The door does not visually open when changing parameters. Everything else is interactive like the plugin.

Lexicon 224



There is no overflow led, as there is no way for me to tell when a processor overflow happens.

Pure Plate



Delays

Galaxy Tape Echo



The VU meter only displays the input level and not the echo feedback.

Reverbs

Delays

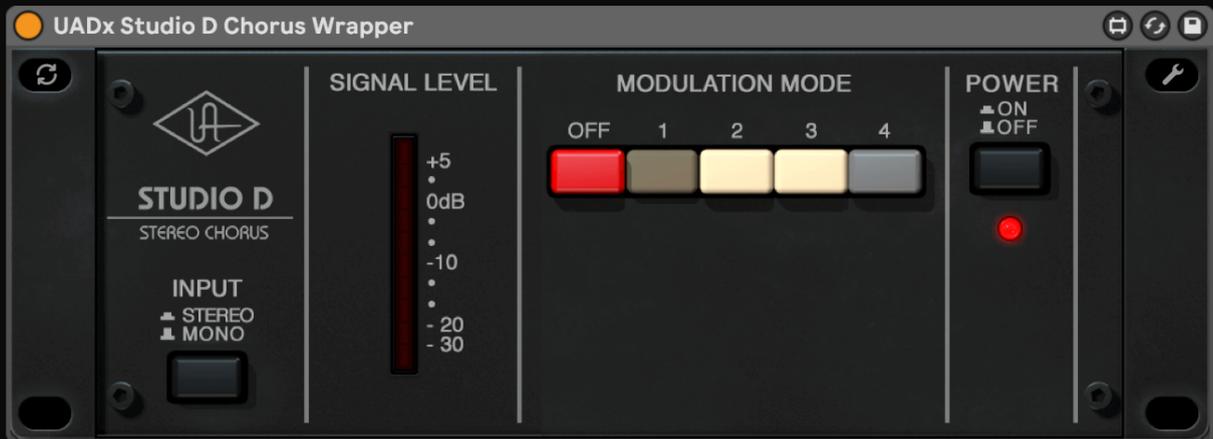
Chorus

Brigade Chorus



Chorus

Studio D Chorus



Magnetic Tapes

Oxide Tape



Magnetic Tapes

Studer A800

Others

Waterfall Rotary



In order to receive midi to use the "Speed MIDI Assign" function, you need to have a midi track receiving midi and the "MIDI To" of the track set to this device. Or you can just ignore this function and MIDI-map whatever you want to the "Speed" selector. That's the beauty of the wrappers.

If you find any bug, error, or have any request or thing to say to me, please, write an email to UdoRBrauna@gmail.com

Thank you for purchasing my wrappers!