Analog Sound Digital Recall





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DIONE

User manual

ΕN

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Thank You for the purchase of $_DIONE$

Stereo Bus Compressor with digital recall

With kind regards

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Stereo Bus Compressor with Digital Recall

The stereo bus compressor is renowned for its ability to bring cohesion and punch to mixes, often referred to as the "mixbus glue." For over 40 years, this iconic compressor sound has been a staple in the industry. Introducing the DIONE — a fully analog VCA compressor with the convenience of digital recall, delivering the legendary sound with modern functionality.



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1 Overview

_ DIONE is a stereo VCA bus compressor for 500 series racks with analog sound and digital control. It offers recallable settings, DAW automation, and flexible controls, including sidechain filtering and adjustable attack and release. With its seamless integration into modern studios, DIONE is perfect for those wanting classic analog compression with the convenience of digital recall.

2 Main Features

_DIONE offers a sophisticated blend of analog audio excellence with digital precision, designed for professionals seeking uncompromising sound quality and versatile control:

- Stereo VCA Bus Compressor: The DIONE uses a classic VCA circuit for smooth, punchy compression, delivering warm, musical analog sound perfect for adding cohesion to mixes.
- **Digitally Controlled, Isolated Analog Circuit:** Combines digital control with a pure analog signal path for optimal sound quality.
- **Digital Recall via USB or _TITAN:** Quick recall of settings through front panel USB or within _TITAN chassis.
- **Flexible Controls:** Offers adjustable parameters like threshold, ratio, attack, release, and makeup gain, plus a sidechain filter for fine-tuning compression.
- **LED Metering:** Two LED modes provide clear visual feedback on compression levels and parameter settings.
- **Analog Warmth:** High-quality components ensure rich, warm compression that enhances audio depth and presence.
- **500 Series and ng500 Compatibility:** Fits standard 500 series racks and ng500 systems, including_TITAN.
- **Sidechain External Digital:** Supports external digital sidechain signals for advanced compression techniques.
- Wet/Dry Mix Control: Enables parallel compression by blending compressed and uncompressed signals.
- **Peak and RMS Detection Modes:** Offers selectable detection modes for versatile compression styles, from aggressive to smooth.
- **Touch-Sensitive Encoders:** Allows for quick, precise DAW automation and real-time parameter control.
- **True Bypass Relay:** Ensures the audio signal remains unaffected when bypassed, preserving sound integrity.
- **Low Latency Operation:** Ideal for real-time applications, providing minimal delay for live sound or tracking.

3 Hardware

This chapter will go through all analog features and explain all hardware aspects of _DIONE.

3.1 Specification

Frequency response	20Hz-20kHz (0.1dB)		
THD+N (WET)	0.008% (1kHz, 0dBu)		
THD+N (DRY)	0.004% (1kHz, 0dBu)		
Input impedance	10kohm		
Output impedance	<100ohm		
Max gain	21dB		
Crosstalk	<-90dB		
Attack	0.1, 0.3, 0.6, 0.9, 1.2, Auto (ms)		
Release	0.1, 0.3, 0.6, 0.9, 1.2, Auto (ms)		
Ratio	1.5, 2.4, 10		
SC Filter	60, 90, 150, T1, T2		
THD (MID switch)	1%		
THD (HIGH switch)	4%		
Power consumption	70mA/+16V and 50mA/-16V (per slot)		
Unit dimensions	76x133x158 mm		
Box dimensions	105x162x234 mm		
Unit weight	0,6 kg		
Box weight	0.8 kg		
Warranty	2 years		

The unit must warm up for approximately 5 minutes before use. Temperature changes can impact the internal components, potentially affecting compression characteristics and slightly altering gain settings.

3.2 Installation and Compatibility

WesAudio _DIONE compressor module is intended for installation in:

- An API[™] 500 Series compatible rack
- _TITAN or any other ng500 compatible chassis,

WesAudio's _DIONE module isn't standalone; it needs power from the rack system to function.

When unpacking, check for any damage caused during shipping. If there's a problem, contact your dealer immediately!

Module installation walkthrough:

Select the slot in the rack for the module and insert it, aligning the edge connector with the rack's matching connector. Gently slide the module into place until it is securely seated. Secure the front panel to the rack using screws provided by the rack manufacturer for stability. Be careful not to overtighten to avoid damaging the threads. Power it up, perform a quick test to ensure everything's functional, and most importantly, enjoy!

Ensure the rack is powered down completely to avoid potential module damage!

500 series compatibility note:

Each WesAudio device within the ng500 (Next Generation 500 series) lineup comes with a unique connector. This specialized connector serves as an extension to the standard 500 series, enabling your device to be controlled and recalled using the specialized GCon protocol. For instance, this connector allows compatibility with the _Titan 500 series 10-slot frame.



This extension is designed to work with the standardized plug type in the 500 series. Yet, some manufacturers use large screws on the plug, hindering device compatibility. Research indicates that over 90% of 500 series racks are compatible. For more information, please visit: <u>https://wesaudio.com/ng500/</u>.



3.3 Front Panel and Main Functions



- **1) Threshold:** Adjusts the level at which the compressor starts to engage, continuously adjustable from -20 dB to +20 dB.
- 2) Mix: Blends the wet (compressed) and dry (uncompressed) signals, enabling parallel compression.
- **3)** Make Up: Adjusts the output gain to compensate for compression, with a range from 0 to 20 dB, ensuring consistent signal levels after gain reduction.
- **4) Attack:** Sets the speed at which the compressor reacts to changes in the input signal, with six selectable attack times: 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3, 10, and 30 milliseconds.
- 5) **Release:** Adjusts how quickly the compressor stops compressing after the input signal drops below the threshold. Options include 0.1, 0.3, 0.6, 0.9, and 1.2 seconds, or an automatic mode that adapts based on the program material.
- 6) Ratio: Determines the amount of compression applied once the signal exceeds the threshold. Options range from a gentle 1.5:1 ratio to a more aggressive 10:1.
- **7) SC Filter:** Selects the sidechain high-pass filter frequency (60 Hz, 90 Hz, or 150 Hz) and includes two special "Tilt" filter settings for unique EQ curves.
- 8) THD: Controls the harmonic distortion applied to the wet signal only, with two settings available: MED (1% THD) and HIGH (3% THD).
- 9) A/B: Two memory slots for storing and comparing different compressor settings.
- **10)** H-SC LED: Lights up when Host Side Chain mode is activated, indicating the compressor is triggered by an external signal via USB.
- 11) USB socket: Module control USB port.
- 12) H-LINK LED: Indicates the connection status between the host and the module.
- **13) DATA LED:** Shows data being transferred from the DAW to the device.
- 14) Bypass: Bypass switch.
- 15) GR Meter: An analog meter that displays the current gain reduction applied by the compressor.

3.4 LEDs

The unit offers two LED operation modes:

- **Normal Mode**: LEDs light up in a clockwise sequence, indicating the overall level of a specific parameter.
- **Single LED Indicator Mode**: Each parameter is represented by a single LED, similar to a knob with an indicator. In this mode, the LED will not illuminate upon touch; however, the touch-sensitive encoders still function as expected for DAW automation.

You can switch between these modes by holding down the front panel bypass button for 3 seconds.

4 Analog Processing

4.1 VCA Compression

_DIONE uses VCA compression to manage the audio signal's dynamic range. In a VCA compressor, the gain of the signal is controlled by a voltage, allowing the compressor to react quickly and accurately to changes in the audio's volume. When the signal surpasses a set threshold, the VCA reduces the gain, compressing louder parts to create a more balanced sound.

VCA compression is known for its speed and precision, making it ideal for handling complex audio while maintaining transparency and control, whether used on individual tracks or a full mix.

4.2 Sidechain

_DIONE features 5 built-in sidechain filters and supports an external sidechain signal source.

FILTERS:

OFF - Sidechain filter not active,

60 Hz – Sidechain High Pass Filter at 60 Hz (6dB/Octave).

90 Hz – Sidechain High Pass Filter at 90 Hz (6dB/Octave).

150 Hz – Sidechain High Pass Filter at 150 Hz (6dB/Octave).

T1 – special tilt filter with HPF and High boost.

T2 – special tilt filter with HPF and High boost.

Audio Precision

A-A FAST RMS FREQUENCY RESPONSE

07/07/20 14:51:54



A-A FREQ RESP FAST.at27

5 Software Setup

The WesAudio software package is accessible for download to all purchasers of the corresponding hardware unit at https://www.wesaudio.com/download .



For information on supported plugin types and platforms, please refer to the provided link.

5.1 Installation Process

To initiate the installation of the WesAudio software package, navigate to <u>https://www.wesaudio.com/download</u> and download the latest version of the software.

5.1.1 For Windows Users

- Initial Installation: Before beginning the installation, ensure that all WesAudio devices are disconnected from your computer.
- **USB Driver Installation**: Upon installing the USB driver, a notification will prompt you to connect all WesAudio devices. Please connect the devices as instructed.
- **Computer Restart Request:** Installation of the USB driver may necessitate restarting your computer. Although restarting is generally inconvenient, it is a crucial step to ensure successful installation of the USB driver.
- **Post-Restart**: After restarting, the installer should automatically resume. If the installer does not restart on its own, please manually reopen the same installer to continue the process.

5.1.2 For OSX Users

Due to the simpler nature of OSX architecture and its handling of USB devices, the primary consideration is to ensure all devices are connected before beginning the installation process. Once you initiate the installer application, you might encounter system warnings regarding the installer. In such cases, please disregard these warnings*. If necessary, you can bypass these warnings by accessing the context menu through an 'Option' click (or right mouse click) and initiating the installation process again.

5.1.3 Troubleshooting

If you encounter any issues during the installation process, please reach out to our support team at support@wesaudio.com, and we will respond promptly to assist you.

Below is a common issue along with suggestions that might help in diagnosing the problem:

- Issue: "Can't find my device in the plugin dropdown menu"
 - This problem can stem from multiple causes. On Windows, a critical step is to verify that the USB device is successfully recognized at the system level. You can check this in the "Control Panel -> System -> Device Manager."
 - Important for Windows Users: Installing the USB driver is essential for the hardware units to communicate with the software. This step is mandatory only during the initial installation. The driver installation option will be automatically disabled for any subsequent software updates.



5.2 GCon Manager

The GCon Manager is a versatile application designed for configuration management across compatible devices. It is located within the Application folder data:

- For OSX: Access it at "/Applications/WesAudio/GConManager."
- For WINDOWS: Find it in the folder chosen during the installation phase, typically "c:/Program Files x86/WesAudio/GConManager.exe" by default.

Main Features:

- **Firmware Updates:** Easily upgrade your device's firmware to the latest version.
- **Configuration Settings:** Modify unit settings, such as IP address configuration, to suit your needs.
- **Diagnostics:** Run diagnostic tests to ensure your unit is functioning correctly.
- External Controller Setup: Configure external controllers, for instance, for the ngLeveler.
- **Standalone Operation:** Control units directly without the need for a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).

5.3 How To Check Firmware Version

Each device communicates its firmware version to your workstation, establishing compatibility between your host application and the connected device. To verify the firmware version or perform an upgrade, please use the GConManager_CONFIG application.

WesAudio GCon System v12.0.3612 - Connection Type: s	service		– 🗆 X
ngTubeEQ 66		ngTubeEQ ∞	WesAudio
	Firmware	v12.0.3612 ACTIVE	UP TO DATE
	HW VERSION: 1	CONNECTION: USB	UPTIME: 0:0
		REBOOT	PGRADE WITH UPGRADE
	ID DHCP IP	66 ON 0.0.0	~
	MAC	d8:47:8f:20:73:9b	
	UDP PORT LEDs TOUCH Mode	9020 MEDIUM Power / MEDIUM Resolution	~
ВАСК			

5.4 How To Perform Firmware Upgrade

To update the firmware, navigate to the GConManager UPGRADE section and press the "Start" button. This starts the update process for any modules that do not have the latest firmware version.

Getting Started	☆ •	8
	Firmware Upgrade X Hadrwa Version	_SETTINGS GCon settings, logging configuration, advanced options
	Forced mode (Ignore version check) Standal Partial progress control:	PLUG-INs lug-ins Selector - choose plug-in types and products to be installed
	Main progress QUIT START	
	_SUPPORT HOWTO send a problem report to the development team	

6 Digital Control / Recall

This chapter delves into the comprehensive options available for managing _DIONE and automating its settings. The cornerstone of _DIONE's automation capabilities is its integration with Digital Audio Workstations (DAW) through a plugin, which is available in all common formats. This seamless convergence between hardware and digital software opens a wide array of creative possibilities and enhances workflow efficiency.

DAW Plugin Control:

DAW plugin control bridges the analog-digital divide, enabling users to manipulate hardware settings directly from their DAW. This fusion of the tactile and the virtual is not merely convenient but transformative, changing how producers and engineers interact with their gear.

Benefits of DAW Plugin Control:

- **Precision and Recall:** The ability to precisely recall settings for sessions is invaluable, ensuring mixes can be revisited or altered without the need to manually reconfigure the hardware. This feature is crucial for those working on multiple projects or needing to maintain consistency across sessions.
- **Automation Capabilities:** Integration with the DAW allows for the automation of every _DIONE parameter within the digital environment. This feature provides dynamic changes in settings over time, infusing tracks with movement and vitality without manual intervention.
- Workflow Efficiency: Manually adjusting settings on hardware units can be cumbersome, particularly in complex setups. DAW plugin control simplifies this process, facilitating quick changes and A/B comparisons without physical interaction with the unit, thereby streamlining the production process.
- Enhanced Creative Potential: Merging the analog warmth with digital control flexibility broadens the creative spectrum, enabling real-time experimentation and the achievement of effects that might be challenging or impractical to accomplish on the hardware alone.
- Accessibility: DAW plugin control ensures full accessibility and adjustability of _DIONE features from the workstation, a boon for those with spatial constraints or other limitations preventing direct access to their hardware.

In essence, _DIONE's DAW plugin integration marries the rich, analog sound quality with the precision and versatility of digital control. This not only amplifies the functionality of _DIONE but also elevates the music production process, offering unprecedented control and flexibility in a traditionally analog setup.

6.1 DAW Plug-in

The _DIONE plug-in extends comprehensive control over all parameters of the unit, ensuring seamless integration into any digital audio workstation (DAW) environment. Designed to be versatile and accessible, it supports all common plug-in standards, including VST2, VST3, AU (Audio Units), and AAX, making it compatible with a wide range of software platforms.



_DIONE is true stereo compressor – that means that detector circuits of each channel are working on a summed signal in the side chain circuit. This makes it impossible to work in dual mono mode – we can't process two independent tracks on each channel simultaneously – like kick and snare for example. However, it is entirely possible to work with only one mono channel at a time.



6.1.1 Plugin Structure







For detailed explanations of each control and its functionality, users are encouraged to consult the chapter titled "Front Panel Functions." This section provides comprehensive insights into how to interact with the __DIONE, whether you're adjusting parameters on the physical unit or via the plug-in.

- 1. **Undo:** The Undo feature in the _RHEA plug-in allows users to revert to the previous state before the most recent adjustment was made. This function is essential for quickly correcting mistakes or reassessing changes without permanent consequences to the settings.
- 2. **Redo:** Following an Undo action, the Redo function permits users to reapply the last change that was undone. This feature ensures that no adjustment is final until the user is satisfied, providing an additional layer of flexibility in tweaking the settings.
- 3. **Previous Preset:** Loads the previous preset from preset database.
- 4. Next Preset: Loads the next preset from preset database.
- 5. **Preset Name:** The name of the preset currently in use or being modified, which allows for easy recall or sharing of specific configurations.
- 6. Preset Selector: Allows for the selection, viewing, and deletion of presets.
- 7. Preset Info: Displays details of the currently loaded preset.
- 8. Preset Save: Saves currently selected presets.
- 9. Preset Save As: Facilitates saving current settings as a preset providing name and preset details.
- 10. Menu:
 - **Resize:** Adjusts the GUI size (75%/100%/125%/150%/175%/200%), catering to different screen sizes and user preferences.
 - Reset Parameters to Default: Resets all plugin parameters to their default states.
 - Shows currently installed plug-in version.
- 11. **Meter:** Displays the real-time level of the processed signal, providing visual feedback on the signal's amplitude.
- 12. Gain Reduction Meter: Shows the amount of gain reduction being applied to the signal, which is helpful for monitoring compression or limiting.
- 13. **Threshold:** Sets the level at which the compression or limiting effect kicks in, allowing fine control over dynamic range management.
- 14. **Mix:** Balances between the wet (processed) and dry (unprocessed) signal, allowing for parallel compression or blending effects.
- 15. **Make Up:** Adjusts the final signal level after all processing, ensuring the overall level is appropriate when reintroduced into the signal chain.
- 16. Attack: Defines how quickly the compressor or limiter responds to signals exceeding the threshold, affecting how tightly the effect grabs transients.
- 17. **Release:** Controls how fast the processor releases gain reduction once the input signal falls below the threshold, affecting the smoothness or punchiness of the compression.
- 18. **Ratio:** Sets the amount of compression applied once the signal exceeds the threshold, determining how much the input signal is reduced. Switches between 1.5/2/4/10.
- 19. **SC Filter:** Enables a filter on the sidechain input, allowing certain frequencies to be excluded from triggering the compression. Switches between OFF/60/90/150/T1/T2.
- 20. **THD:** Toggles harmonic distortion levels OFF/MED/HIGH.
- 21. Bypass: Allows to engage/disable bypass on the hardware unit.
- 22. **Toggle Connection Button:** This button toggles the connection status ON/OFF. It functions only when a connection ID has been selected using the "Select Connection Button."

23. **The Select Connection Button** within the _RHEA plug-in serves as a gateway to establishing and managing connections with devices that support the GCon protocol. This feature simplifies the process of identifying and selecting the hardware unit to be controlled, providing a user-friendly interface for seamless integration between the plug-in and physical devices.

Upon Initiating Connection, It Visualizes the Connection State as Follows:

- **USB:** This label signifies a connection established through USB, offering a direct link between the hardware unit and the workstation.
- **SLOT:** This label indicates that the unit is connected through a _TITAN chassis.
- **Connection ID:** The unique identifier for the connected hardware unit is displayed, allowing for easy recognition and management of multiple devices. Accompanying this ID, the connection status is visually indicated to inform the user of the current state:
 - 1. **ON:** A solid white font denotes a successful connection, indicating that communication between the plug-in and the hardware unit is active.
 - 2. **OFF:** A solid gray font signifies that the connection is not established, alerting the user to a disconnect or other issue preventing communication.
 - 3. **Connecting:** A gray italic font is used to represent the process of establishing a connection. If this state persists for an extended period (more than 5 seconds) without successful connection, it suggests a potential issue requiring troubleshooting or support consultation
- 24. Copy: Enables users to copy the current parameter state.
- 25. Paste: Enables users to paste the current parameter state, facilitating quick duplication of settings.
- 26. **Config Bank:** Selects between configuration banks, each containing three configurations. This feature supports automation for changing unit settings within a session or a song
- 27. Fast Preset Change (A/B/C): Quickly toggles between configs A/B/C without affecting connectionrelated parameters like the Connection ID.
- 28. **Resize:** Adjusts the display size or layout of the interface.

7 Other Functions

7.1 Memories

In terms of parameter storage:

- The _DIONE unit offers **TWO** distinct quick-access presets, selectable via the A/B buttons.
- In contrast, the _DIONE plugin supports saving an **UNLIMITED** number of configurations. Each preset within the plugin provides three rapid configuration changes, labeled A/B/C per bank ID.

7.1.1 Synchronization Upon Connection

When a new plugin instance is loaded into your DAW, it starts with default settings and no modified parameters. Upon establishing a connection to the hardware unit by setting the Connection ID, the plugin downloads the current parameter state from the hardware, including any available fast configuration presets. For example, if the connection between the _DIONE plugin and the _DIONE hardware is made while the plugin is in its default state, all parameter states, including A and B presets, will be downloaded to the plugin.

7.1.2 Preset Banks Feature

The Preset Bank feature allows you to configure different parameter states and enables additional parameter configurations (A/B/C) for flexible use. Having multiple memory banks can be particularly beneficial when mixing multiple songs within the same session. The Memory Bank parameter can be automated in the DAW, helping to maintain different settings across various sections of a session or between different songs within a single session. This feature is especially useful during the mastering phase, where multiple songs are often processed in one session.



7.2 Metering

_DIONE unit features an analog Gain Reduction (GR) meter that provides real-time visual feedback on the amount of compression being applied. This meter is essential for monitoring the dynamics of your signal, allowing you to see how much gain reduction is occurring as you adjust the compressor's settings. The meter is highly accurate, ensuring that you can make precise adjustments to achieve the desired compression effect. Additionally, the metering is also mirrored in the plugin interface, giving you consistent visual feedback whether working with the hardware or within your DAW.



7.3 Sidechain

The sidechain feature allows you to send a sidechain signal from your DAW, using the plugin, directly to the unit to control the compression. No additional actions are needed on the hardware side to enable this feature; simply configure the sidechain signal within the WesAudio plugin, just as you would with any other plugin. Below is a high-level diagram showing a possible setup for connecting the hardware unit to use the sidechain feature.





8 Hookup Diagrams

Below chapter shows possible hookup of the WesAudio devices and audio interface.

8.1 Hookup Diagram – Analog Cables With _TITAN



(*) Please note that the _TITAN Ethernet connection does not require a direct connection to a PC or Mac. You can also connect the _TITAN directly to a router, allowing you to access and control all units within the _TITAN via your local network.

8.2 Hookup Diagram - _CALYPSO and _TITAN



(*) Please note that the _TITAN Ethernet connection does not require a direct connection to a PC or Mac. You can also connect the _TITAN directly to a router and use your local network to access and control all units within the _TITAN.

8.3 Hookup Diagram - 500 Series Chassis



8.4 Other examples

Please note that all WesAudio units, despite their digital recall and control capabilities, remain fully analog and can be utilized at any stage of the production process, including recording and post-processing. For instance, like any other units, WesAudio modules can be seamlessly integrated during tracking.

9 Troubleshooting

If you encounter any of the following issues:

- No Sound Output or Signal Loss
- Unexpected Distortion
- Thumping or Low-End Artifacts
- Inconsistent Compression
- No Response to DAW Automation
- Excessive Heat

Please visit the WesAudio FAQ site <u>https://wesaudio.com/faq/</u> for detailed troubleshooting steps and solutions.

10 Abbreviations and Terms

GCon is a high-speed communication protocol developed to enable complete management and recall of analog devices. It's important to note that GCon is solely focused on device control and management; it does not facilitate the transfer of audio signals. This protocol is instrumental in bridging the gap between analog warmth and digital convenience, allowing users to enjoy the best of both worlds without compromising on sound quality or control flexibility.

NG500 represents the next generation in the 500 series format, offering advancements in technology and integration capabilities for audio processing hardware. This evolution maintains compatibility with existing standards while introducing improvements in power, connectivity, and digital control.

The NG500 connector is a specialized extension of the standard 500 series connector, incorporating additional pins to support enhanced features. These include digital control signals facilitated by the GCon protocol, power management improvements, and potentially other functionalities that exceed the capabilities of the traditional 500 series format. This connector ensures that NG500 series modules can leverage advanced digital control and management while maintaining the character and quality of analog audio processing.

11 Warranty

WesAudio is committed to delivering products of the highest quality, designed for durable and reliable performance over many years, assuming proper care, usage, transport, and storage. Our products come with a two-year warranty covering defects in parts and workmanship from the original date of purchase. This warranty is extendable to any future owner within the warranty period, ensuring uninterrupted coverage.

Warranty Coverage:

- The warranty is valid for two years from the date of the original purchase.
- It is transferable to any subsequent owner within this period.

Exclusions:

- The warranty does not cover normal wear and tear.
- It excludes damages due to misuse, negligence by the customer, accidental impacts, unauthorized modifications or repairs, cosmetic issues, and damages from shipping.

Warranty Service:

- Should a product exhibit defect in parts or workmanship during the warranty period, WesAudio will, at its discretion, repair or replace the defective components at no charge, assuming the customer provides valid proof of purchase.
- The product must retain its original factory serial number to be eligible.
- Customers are responsible for shipping costs to WesAudio for warranty service. WesAudio will cover the return ground shipping costs.

This comprehensive warranty underscores our dedication to quality and customer satisfaction, ensuring your WesAudio products perform flawlessly for years to come.