

KERN Audio Press Kit

Updated Tue 12 May 2026. Press contact: jonas@kernaudio.io

Live press page with image previews and asset downloads: <https://kernaudio.io/press>

Headline

PUSH ships May 12, 2026. KERN Audio's fifth plugin in 18 months.
Three-character compression at \$29. Four-plugin launch-intro bundle at \$59 through Mon May 25, 2026.

The release

Copenhagen, Tue May 12, 2026. KERN Audio has shipped PUSH, the fifth plugin in its lineup of single-purpose audio tools for music producers.

PUSH is a three-character compressor designed to sit before, not replace, a final compressor. SETTLE provides slow bus glue in the SSL G-Bus tradition. TIGHT is fast transient grip in the 1176 fast-mode tradition. DRIFT is slow opto breath in the LA-2A tradition. Each character is hand-tuned via blind A/B against reference compressors. No AI, no neural networks, no learned parameter selection.

All KERN plugins cap at five user-facing knobs. PUSH commits to that constraint across all three characters: AMOUNT, SPEED, FOCUS, MIX, plus a CHARACTER selector. The internal compression curves are decisions the developer made, not parameters pushed onto the user.

PUSH is \$29 single. The four-plugin KERN bundle (SMOOTH, WARM, WIDE, PUSH) is \$59 launch-intro through Mon May 25, 2026, then moves to \$69 list. Existing \$59 bundle owners receive PUSH free in their downloads.

KERN ships Mac and Windows together. No iLok. No subscription. Permanent license. Demo available at kernaudio.io/push, 45-second fade-limited, fully functional, no email required.

The lineup

Five plugins. All \$29 each (CHECK is free).

1. SMOOTH v1.3.3 / \$29 / dynamic resonance suppressor on 40 ERB perceptually-spaced bands. <https://kernaudio.io/smooth>

2. WARM v1.4.3 / \$29 / harmonic saturation with frequency-dependent shaping (tape, tube, transformer characters). <https://kernaudio.io/warm>

3. WIDE v1.3.3 / \$29 / psychoacoustic stereo expansion, mono-compatibility preserved. <https://kernaudio.io/wide>

4. PUSH v1.0.5 / \$29 / three-character compression (SETTLE, TIGHT, DRIFT). The step before your compressor. <https://kernaudio.io/push>

5. CHECK v1.2.3 / FREE / spectral mono compatibility analyser. Listed on Plugin Boutique as of May 10, 2026. <https://kernaudio.io/check>

Bundle (all four paid plugins): \$59 launch-intro through Mon May 25, 2026. \$69 list after. <https://kernaudio.io/bundle>

The story behind KERN

KERN Audio is one developer in Copenhagen, Denmark. Jonas was a touring musician who stopped performing in 2023 after a hospital stay. He spent three years learning C++, DSP, and the JUCE framework to build the audio tools he wished existed. KERN shipped its fifth on May 12, 2026.

Every algorithm in every plugin is hand-tuned, deterministic, and traceable to a specific design intention. KERN does not use AI, neural networks, or learned-model parameter selection in any plugin. The test suite asserts against numerical baselines (528 tests, 698,620 assertions across the full regression).

KERN sells direct from kernaudio.io via Lemon Squeezy. No third-party retailers (CHECK is also free on Plugin Boutique). No investors. No team. Jonas answers every support email personally.

Editorial proof on the record

Bedroom Producers Blog (CHECK release, Mar 16 2026): <https://bedroomproducersblog.com/2026/03/16/kern-check/>

Rekkerd (full lineup, Mar 18 2026): <https://rekkerd.org/kern-audio-releases-smooth-warm-wide-free-check/>

KVR Audio lineup news (Mar 2026): <https://www.kvraudio.com/news/kern-audio-updates-smooth-to-v1-1-and-warm-to-v1-2-and-releases-wide-beta-66316>

RouteNote (CHECK technical breakdown): <https://routenote.com/blog/checks-your-tracks-mono-compatibility/>

Pluginerds.com (7 Best Resonance Suppressors, SMOOTH included, May 4 2026):
<https://pluginerds.com>

Plugin Boutique (CHECK landed free, May 10 2026):
<https://www.pluginboutique.com/product/3-Studio-Tools/95-Referencing-Tools/17325-CHECK>

KVR 5-star CHECK review (KVRMixerMaster, Apr 7 2026):
<https://www.kvraudio.com/product/check-by-kern-audio/reviews>

Specifications

Format: VST3, AU (macOS), Standalone

Platforms: macOS 11+ Universal Binary (Intel + Apple Silicon), Windows 10+ 64-bit native

Sample rates: 44.1 / 48 / 88.2 / 96 / 176.4 / 192 kHz

CPU: under 3% on macOS at 44.1 kHz, single instance

Latency: zero (real-time)

Activation: one-time online check, cached offline permanently. No iLok, no PACE, no subscription. Permanent lifetime license.

Demo: 45-second fade-limited, fully functional otherwise. No email required.

Pricing

Single plugins: \$29 each (SMOOTH, WARM, WIDE, PUSH)

CHECK: FREE (separate Lemon Squeezy product, email signup required at checkout)

Bundle (all four paid plugins): \$59 launch-intro through Mon May 25, 2026

Bundle list (Tue May 26 onward): \$69

Future bundle (when OPEN ships later 2026): \$79 (five paid plugins)

All future updates free for the lifetime of the plugin. 14-day refund policy. Existing \$59 bundle owners receive PUSH free.

Asset downloads

Logos (PNG + SVG, black and white):

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-logo-black.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-logo-black.svg>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-logo-white.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-logo-white.svg>

Plugin renders (PNG with transparency, 1280x869):

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/push-v6.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/smooth-v6.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/warm-v6.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/wide-v6.png>

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/check-v6.png>

Bundle composite (PNG, 2496x1696):

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-bundle-may-2026.png>

PUSH hero (PNG with transparency, 1280x869):

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/push-v6-hero.png>

All assets in one ZIP (4 MB):

<https://kernaudio.io/images/press/push-launch-may-2026/kern-press-assets-may-2026.zip>

NFR / review copies

To receive a review key, email jonas@kernaudio.io with:

1. Publication or channel name
2. Which plugin(s) you'd like (SMOOTH, WARM, WIDE, PUSH, Bundle, or all)
3. Preferred checkout email address

Codes are minted same-day and route through normal Lemon Squeezy checkout, so the experience matches a paid customer's.

Press contact

Jonas / jonas@kernaudio.io

KERN Audio, Copenhagen, Denmark

Web: <https://kernaudio.io/press>

Replies typically within 24 hours, often the same business day. Jonas answers every email personally.

Version history

May 12, 2026: PUSH v1.0.5 shipped. Five-plugin lineup complete.

May 10, 2026: CHECK landed on Plugin Boutique (free shelf).

April 17, 2026: SMOOTH v1.3.3, WARM v1.4.3, WIDE v1.3.3, CHECK v1.2.3 all on Lemon Squeezy. Signed, notarized, V6 visual identity refresh.

March 2026: Lineup goes live to public. Initial press coverage (BPB, Rekkerd, KVR).

End of press kit. Latest version always at <https://kernaudio.io/press>.