

learn:comp

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learn:comp is an AI-powered compressor designed to help users understand and control dynamic range — while learning the fundamentals of compression in the process. Whether you're new to mixing or refining your technique, learn:comp delivers great-sounding results and clear feedback.

Powered by sonible's AI engine, the plug-in listens to your audio, analyzes its dynamic behavior, and creates a tailored compression setting. With intuitive controls and real-time visual feedback, learn:comp helps you compress with confidence.

System requirements

CPU

Intel Core i5
AppleM1
RAM
4GB

Operating systems

Windows 10+ (64 bit)
Mac OS 10.14+

OpenGL Version 3.2+



You will need admin privileges to successfully install the learn:comp plug-in.

Mac OSX

To start the installation process, please open the disk image **sonible_learncomp_osx_x.x.x.dmg**. This will mount the image and open a finder window showing the content of the installation package.

To install learn:comp on your system, run the installation file **learncomp.pkg**.

The installer will now guide you through the necessary steps to install learn:comp on your computer. learn:comp will automatically be installed in the default locations for audio plug-ins.

Default folders:

Audio Unit

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

VST

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/

VST3

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3/

AAX

/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins/

Windows

To start the installation process, extract the downloaded zip-file **sonible_learncomp_win_x.x.x.zip** onto your hard disk and run the installer.

The installer will now guide you through the necessary steps to install learn:comp on your computer. learn:comp will automatically be installed in the default locations for audio plug-ins.

Default folders:

VST3

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3\

VST

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST\

AAX

C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

Licensing system

You can select between two licensing systems: machine-based or iLok (USB dongle or cloud).

By creating a user account on www.sonible.com and registering your products – if they are not already visible in your Dashboard, you can manage your plug-in activations.

Machine-based

Each license key allows you to install learn:comp on two computers with unique system IDs. These system IDs are computed during license activation.

The same license can be used by multiple users, but each user has to individually unlock the full version of learn:comp under their account.

In case a system-ID is changed (e.g. replacement of the hard drive), you can revoke/activate the plug-in next to the respective system-ID in the Dashboard of your sonible user account.

iLok

If you want to transfer one activation to your iLok, just make sure the plug-in is registered in your sonible user account. Click on the button „transfer to iLok“ next to the plug-in in your Dashboard and follow the instructions.

Note: 1st gen iLok dongles and machine based iLok activations are currently not supported.

Unlocking

If you purchased a license for learn:comp online, you receive your license key via email.

Machine-based unlocking

When opening learn:comp for the first time, a notification window will be displayed asking you to unlock learn:comp with a valid license key.

Please make sure that your computer is connected to the internet before starting the registration process.

Enter your license key and click „register.“ The plug-in will now communicate with our server to check if the license is valid. If it is – enjoy! :)

iLok

If you transferred your license to an iLok, simply attach the iLok to your computer or start a iLok cloud session. The plug-in will then be automatically registered – enjoy!

If you don't receive the email within minutes please check your junk folder first before contacting our support (support@sonible.com).

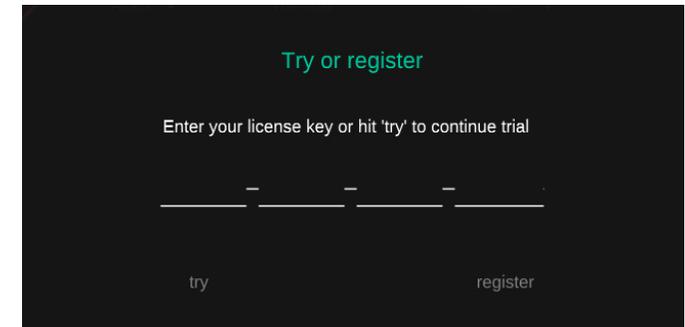
Trial version

To run learn:comp in demo-mode, simply click "try" and you will then be able to use learn:comp for a couple of days without any limitations. (Please refer to our website to find out more about the current demo period of learn:comp)

When the demo period expires, you will need to purchase a full license in order to continue using the plug-in.

Internet connection requirements

sonible plug-ins only needs an internet connection during the trial period and for initial license activation. During the trial period, the plug-in needs to go online every time it is used. Once the license of your plug-in has successfully been activated, an internet connection is no longer needed.



My Licenses

[Register license key](#)
[Need help?](#)

Product	License Key	Type	Description	Status	Date	Action
learn:comp Download	xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx	PC	xxxxxxx	active	2000-00-00	<div style="background-color: #4a90e2; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 3px; display: inline-block;">revoke</div>
					not activated	<div style="background-color: #4a90e2; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; border-radius: 3px; display: inline-block;">transfer to iLok</div>

View Switch (Assisted / Advanced)

Toggle between Assisted View and Advanced View for different levels of control.

Compression Slider

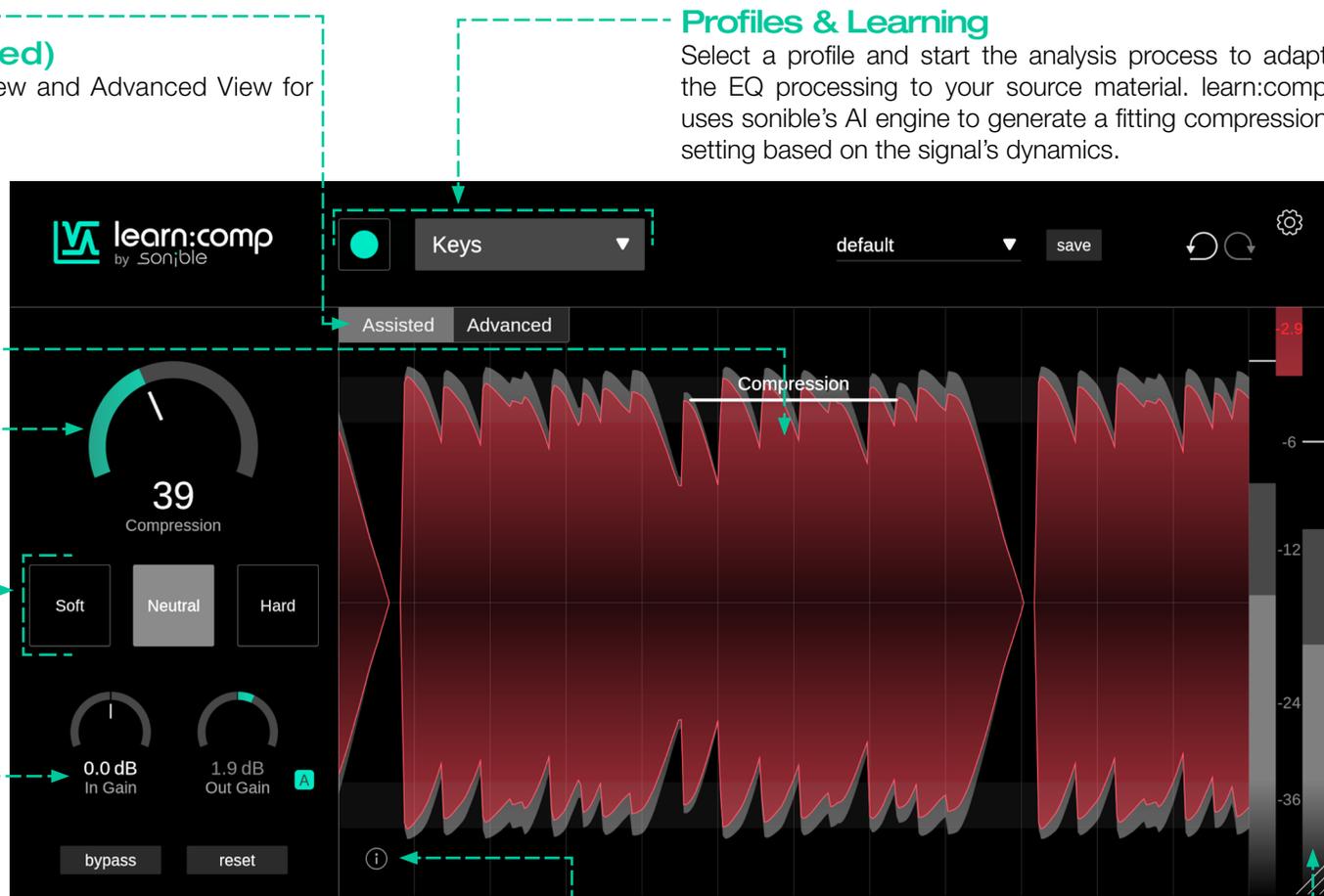
Control the intensity of the compression process. Lower values apply gentler compression.

Styles

Choose from three compression characters (Soft, Neutral or Hard) to quickly match the tone and feel you want.

Input & Output Gain

Set the input and output gain. Enable the automatic output gain to maintain a consistent level before and after compression.



Profiles & Learning

Select a profile and start the analysis process to adapt the EQ processing to your source material. learn:comp uses sonible's AI engine to generate a fitting compression setting based on the signal's dynamics.

Gain Reduction

Monitor the amount of compression applied to your signal.

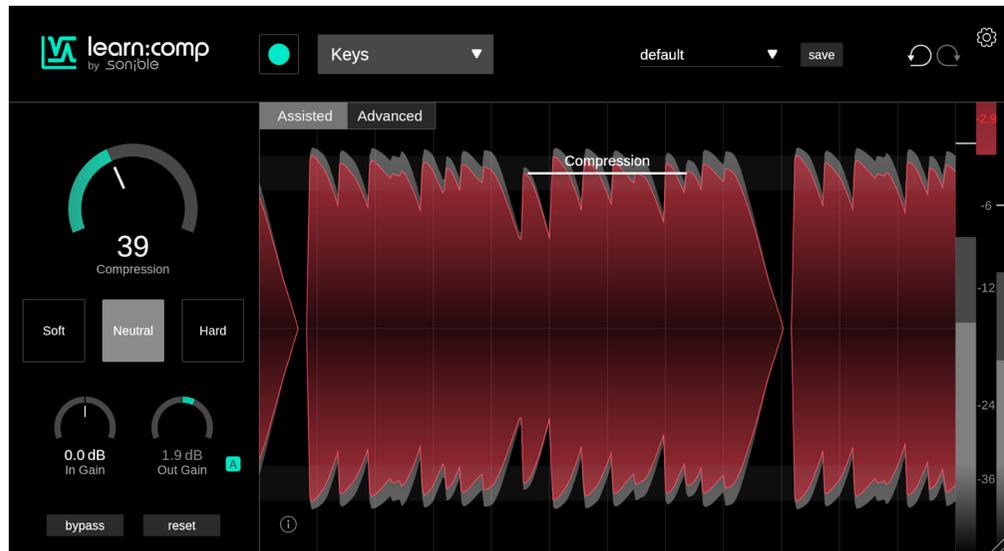
Info Button

Click the Info button to display helpful guidance about the selected profile. It shows what typical issues might occur when applying too much or too little compression – helping you better assess if your sound is well-balanced.

Metering

Monitor input and output levels, gain reduction and peak indicators.

learn:comp offers two interface modes that adapt to your workflow and experience level:



Assisted View

Assisted View provides an intuitive, source-aware Compression Slider that lets you shape the sound quickly without needing to dive into detailed parameters. This is the default view.

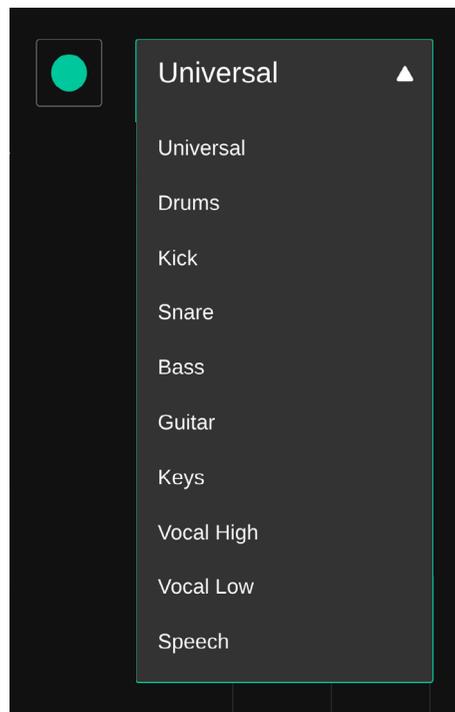


Advanced View

Advanced View unlocks full control over all compression parameters, such as threshold, ratio, attack, release and knee.

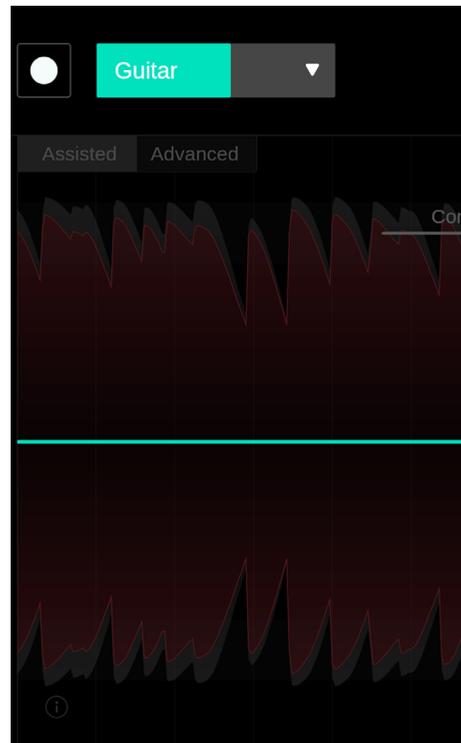
Switch between views at any time using the toggle in the upper left corner of the display. Your settings carry over, so you can start in Assisted View and fine-tune later in Advanced View without losing your adjustments.

The core of learn:comp is its ability to automatically determine the most suitable compression settings for your signal. Selecting a profile and running the learning process is typically the first step when using the plug-in. This process not only sets all key compression parameters – it also activates Spectral Balancing in Assisted View to enhance the tonal balance of your signal.



1. Choose a Profile

Use the dropdown menu to select the profile that best matches your audio source. If no specific match fits, select Universal for a general-purpose analysis.



2. Play Your Audio

Start playback in your DAW. Make sure your selected source is clearly audible – ideally during a representative section of the track (e.g. a full phrase or dense passage).

3. Start the Learning Process

Click the Learn button to begin analysis. A progress indicator will appear within the button to show the learning status. During this phase, learn:comp analyzes the signal and calculates tailored compression parameters.

4. Listen to the Result

Once learning is complete, learn:comp automatically applies well-balanced compression tailored to your signal. The interactive waveform display now shows your original signal (grey) alongside the compressed version (red), giving you instant visual feedback.



INFO:

- You can repeat the learning process at any time by clicking the Relearn button – for example, if you want the plug-in to analyze a different section of your track.
- You don't need to re-learn when switching Profiles – learn:comp adjusts its parameters based on the original analysis.

Adapt the Amount of Compression

Use the Compression Handle to control how much compression is applied. Moving it upward reduces the amount of compression, while moving it downward increases it. The impact is instantly visible in the Waveform Display, where the compressed signal is shown in red.

Choose a Style

The Style buttons — Soft, Neutral, and Hard — let you quickly shape the overall character of the compression. Once you've chosen a style, you can fine-tune the response using the Compression Handle in Assisted View or the full set of parameters in Advanced View.

Resetting a Style

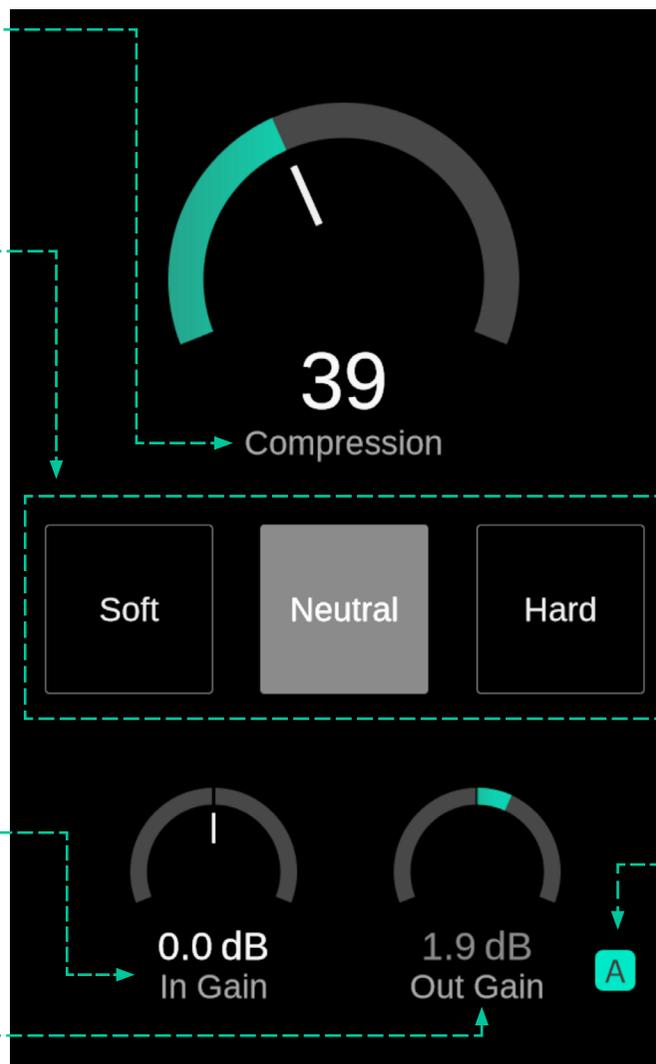
If you make manual changes to a Style (via the Compression Handle or other parameters), an asterisk (*) appears next to the selected Style name. To reset it to default, hover over the Style button and click Reset.

Input Gain

The Input Gain adjusts the level of your signal before compression. Increase it if your input signal is too quiet, or reduce it if it's already very loud. A well-adjusted input level ensures more effective and accurate compression.

Output Gain

Compression naturally reduces the signal's peak level. The Output Gain — often referred to as make-up gain — is used to bring the overall loudness back up after compression. This helps maintain consistent volume across your mix.



Change Profiles

You can change the selected Profile at any time — there's no need to return the learning process. However, keep in mind that any manual adjustments you've made (e.g. Compression Slider or parameter tweaks) will be reset when switching profiles.

Auto Gain

When Auto Gain is enabled, learn:comp automatically adjusts the output level to compensate for the gain reduction caused by compression. After the learning process is complete, Auto Gain more precisely matches the RMS levels of the input and output signals — helping your track stay balanced in level without manual correction.

In Advanced View, you have full control over all key compression parameters. This allows you to tailor the behavior of the compressor to fit your material and mixing style with precision.

1 Threshold

Sets the level at which compression begins. Signals that exceed the threshold will be reduced in gain. Make sure your input signal reaches above this level to trigger compression.

2 Ratio

Controls how much the signal is compressed once it exceeds the threshold. Higher ratios result in more aggressive gain reduction.

3 Attack

Defines how quickly the compressor reacts to a signal that crosses the threshold. Shorter attack times clamp down on transients immediately; longer times preserve more of the initial punch or impact.

4 Release

Determines how long the compressor takes to stop reducing gain after the input signal drops below the threshold. A longer release smooths out level changes and can help glue sounds together.

5 Spectral Balance

Spectral Balancing is an intelligent feature that enhances both the tonal and dynamic balance of your signal. Unlike conventional broadband compression, which applies gain reduction uniformly across the frequency spectrum, Spectral Balancing analyzes the input in real time and adjusts compression independently across frequency bands.

This allows learn:comp to:

- Prevent specific frequency areas from dominating the mix (e.g. boomy lows, harsh mids, or piercing highs)

- Maintain clarity and definition, even during strong compression.
- Adapt dynamically to changes in the source material, ensuring the tonal balance remains consistent throughout the track.
- Reduce the risk of masking, where one element in the mix overshadows another due to overlapping frequencies.

In practice, enabling Spectral Balancing means your compression won't just control dynamics – it will also help smooth out tonal imbalances and make your track sound more polished and transparent without additional EQ.

6 Knee

The Knee setting controls how gradually the compression is applied when the signal exceeds the threshold.

- A soft knee (lower value) results in a smooth transition into compression.
- A hard knee (higher value) applies compression more abruptly, starting immediately once the threshold is crossed.

Softer knees are often preferred for vocals or melodic instruments, while a harder knee is useful if you want more aggressive, precise control.

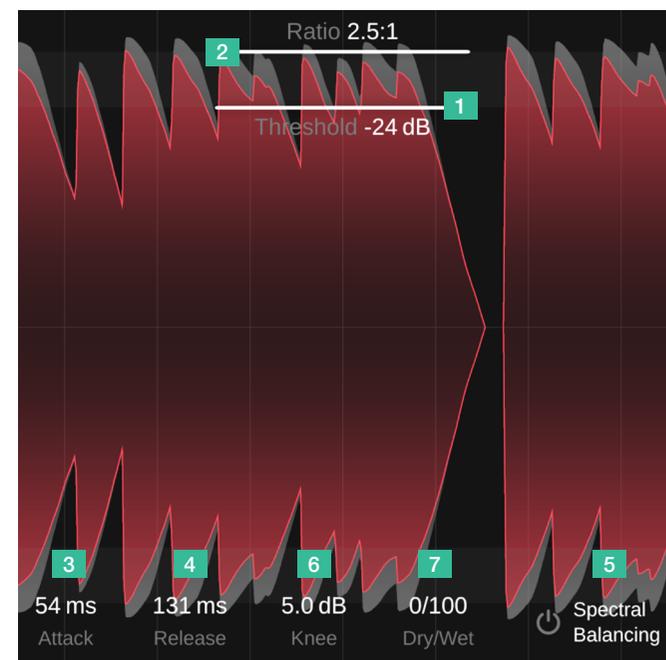
7 Dry / Wet

The Dry/Wet control blends the original (dry) and compressed (wet) signals.

- At 0/100, you hear only the compressed signal.
- At 50/50, the dry and wet signals are evenly mixed.

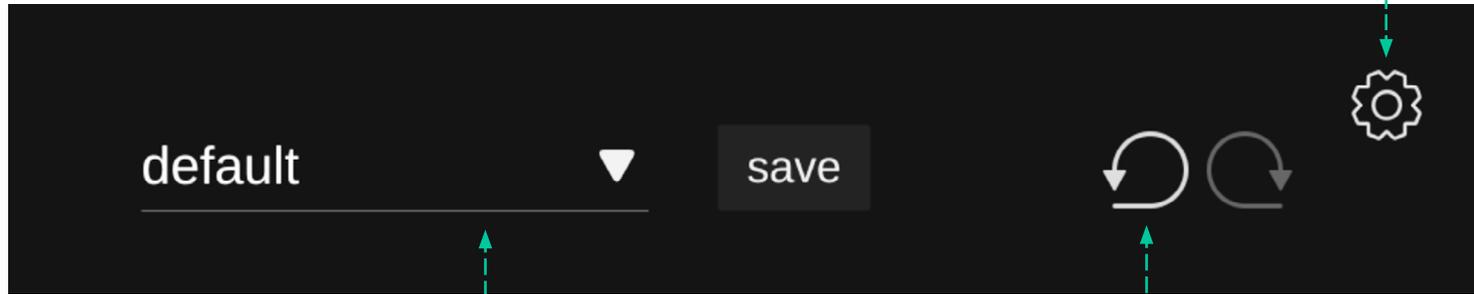
This makes it easy to apply parallel compression without needing extra routing – preserving the punch of your original signal while adding controlled compression.

Tip: When hovering over the Attack or Release slider, the waveform display highlights the compressed portions. This visual feedback helps you understand how the chosen attack and release times shape the signal's dynamics.



Settings

To visit the settings page, click the cogwheel in the upper right corner.



Save and Load Presets

To save a preset (including all current parameter settings), click the Save icon in the Control Section. To load a preset, simply select it from the dropdown menu.

If you'd like to rename or delete a preset, open the preset folder in your file system. You can also copy presets between workstations to share your settings easily.

Presets are saved with the file extension .spr in the following default locations:

- macOS: ~/Library/Audio/Presets/sonible/learncomp
- Windows: C:\Users\\Documents\sonible\learncomp\Presets

Undo / Redo

Step backward or forward through your recent changes.

Start in Advanced View

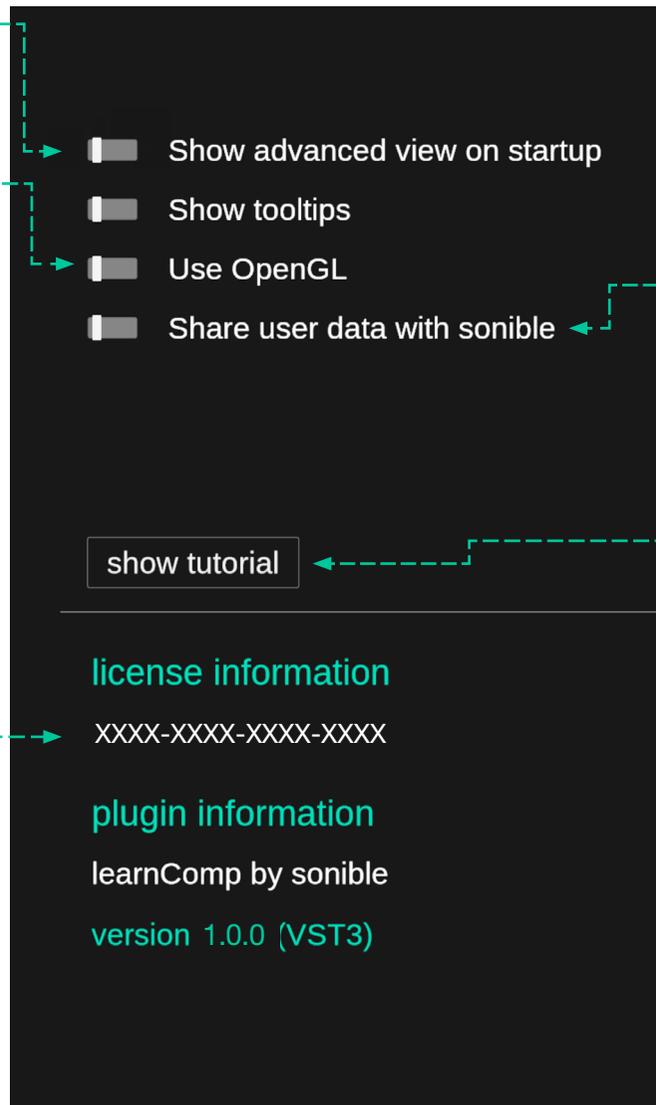
Enable this option if you prefer Advanced View as your default. The plug-in will open in Advanced View each time you load it.

Use OpenGL

OpenGL might cause rendering issues on certain computer hardware. Use this option to disable OpenGL.

Plug-in & Licensing Information

Here you can find the name and version of your plug-in as well as the license key (when not licensed via iLok)



Share anonymous user data with sonible

Enable to share fully anonymous user data with sonible and help us improve our plug-ins.

Take Guided Tour

Click this button to restart the Guided Tour. This will walk you through the key features of the plug-in step by step.

Update notice

When a new version of the plug-in is available, you'll receive a notification here and it's also indicated by a little dot on the cogwheel in the main view of learn:comp. Click on the green text to download the latest version.

All specifications are subject to change without notice.

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