

***Typical Vocal Compression ("Transparent" meaning it still sounds natural)***

Threshold: Set to realize about 3dB of gain reduction on loudest passages  
Ratio: 2:1 to 6:1 (depending on how dynamic vocalist is. 2:1 is transparent)  
Attack: Fast  
Release: Medium

***Electric Guitar (Significant Compressed Effect)***

Threshold: Set to realize extreme gain reduction  
Ratio: 8:1 (anywhere from 4:1 to 10:1)  
Attack: Fast  
Release: Very slow

***Electric bass guitar?***

6 db gain reduction, 2:1 ratio and up  
Attack: 10–15 ms  
Release: medium

***Percussion?***

6 db gain reduction, 2:1 ratio and up  
Attack: 7–15 ms medium–fast  
Release: longer than attack, medium to fast

***Buss compression***

Start with gentle compression – avoid overuse  
2–3 dB reduction (see the reduction meters in the plugin)  
Slow attack fast release. I start with 50/50ms. 18/50ms if it sounds "pumpy".  
Try a multi-band compressor ("multi-comp")