

# REMIX

## Setting the Compressor

In most modern music, you use compressors to make the sound punchy and in your face. The trick to getting the punch out of a compressor is to let the attacks through and play with the release to elongate the sound. Fast attack times reduce the punchiness of a signal, whereas slow release times make the compressor pump out of time with the music.

Because the timing of the attack and release is so important, here are a few steps to help set it up. Assuming that you have some kind of constant meter in the song, you can use the snare drum to set up the attack and release parameters. This method works the same for other instruments.

- 1.** Start with the slowest attack and fastest release settings on the compressor.
- 2.** Turn the attack faster until the instrument (snare) begins to dull. Stop at that point.
- 3.** Adjust the release time so that after the snare hit, the volume goes back to 90–100 percent normal by the next snare beat.
- 4.** Add the rest of the mix back in and listen. Make slight adjustments to the attack and release times as needed. The idea is to make the compressor breathe in time with the song.