Matching the FET / Vactrol level

The FET level trimmers are used to match the volume of the FET channel to the vactrol channel. Although there will never be a perfect match between the two channels – their characteristics are fundamentally different – we obtain a reasonable match by matching the volume with no compression and full compression, although you can pick any two other points to match to, or indeed leave the calibration entirely – but it is recommended for best results.

1. Plug in an audio source and set the controls as follows: Ratio all the way to the right, threshold all the way to the left, attack and release all the way left, dry/wet fully right. Turn the input volume up all the way until every LED on the indicator is fully lit – maximum compression. Monitor the output and listen – make sure you can hear the output volume. Now turn the ratio all the way down and the LED bar should go off completely – no compression – you may need to adjust your monitor volume as you go between these two states so you can hear the sound fully and not blow your ears.
2. With no compression – ratio hard left – flick between the FET and vactrol modes to hear the difference in volume, then whilst in the FET mode, adjust the ‘502’ trimmer to change the volume, flick back to the vactrol mode and hear the difference between the channels. Continue until the volume is roughly equal –
3. Then, turn the ratio until the all LEDs are lit and compare the volumes. If there is a difference, adjust the '103’ trimmer to match as close as you can - don't worry if the volume is not exact, all FETs are different and sometimes it is not possible to match these exactly, as long as the volumes are roughly equal it will be fine. After you alter the second trimmer, you can go back and repeat step 2 and 3 until both settings match. This process should be fairly quick.