

VocalShaper User Manual



Welcome to your new innovative Vocal Mixing Plugin, a comprehensive tool designed to elevate your vocal tracks to professional quality with ease and precision. This plugin combines advanced processing features to clean, level, compress, and enhance your vocals, providing everything you need to achieve a polished sound. Below is a detailed guide on how to use each feature of the plugin effectively. After the huge success of our KickShaper plugin, we collaborated again with the multi-award-winning audio engineer Emrah Celik to bring you your go-to vocal mixing plugin. VocalShaper is designed to work with any kind of vocals, from rock, rap, EDM, pop, ballads, etc. All modules and fine-tuning were made by Emrah Celik and packed with new technology you've never seen before. VocalShaper turns 30 minutes of hard work when mixing vocals into 30 seconds of fun work.

Getting Started

Install the Plugin: Please close your DAW first. When you download the installation files, double-click the package to install the plugin just like any other application. Start your DAW; it should scan the installed VocalShaper and appear in your plugin list under the W.A. Production brand. Follow the installation instructions specific to your digital audio workstation (DAW).

Tips: Open your DAW, load the plugin onto a vocal track, and notice a "MIN" sign on your input level. Make sure that you have calibrated your vocal input level above the "MIN" sign. This is not necessary but a good way to gain stage before adjusting other parameters. Start with the "Leveler" to create a balanced vocal base. Proceed to use the Cleaner, Compressor, and other features as described below to refine your vocal sound according to your taste.

Supported Formats: VST, VST3, AU, AAX, both Intel and Apple Silicon-based CPUs as well as Native AAX format. It should work on all major DAWs and 3rd party plugin-supported audio editors.

Trial: The plugin will fully function for 14 days. If you have purchased a license please click to "ACTIVATE" icon to activate the plugin.

Let's dive in and find out what makes VocalShaper so special?

Leveler

Function: The Leveler is a unique linear leveling tool unlike classic ones, and it balances the vocal tracks according to pink noise. It linearly adjusts the volume of your vocals by increasing lower volumes and decreasing higher volumes just like you would manually adjust the vocal levels before compression or any other processing. This pre-compression leveling ensures a smooth and consistent vocal balance. It saves you a lot of time.

How to Use: Enable the Leveler on your vocal track by turning the knob. Adjust the intensity of the leveling effect to suit your needs. The plugin will automatically make the necessary volume adjustments during vocal performance 0% will turn off the leveler module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Cleaner

Function: The Cleaner feature removes unwanted noise and headphone leakage between vocal pauses; it will also control the breath from your vocal recordings, ensuring a clean and clear vocal track.

How to Use: Activate the Cleaner by turning the knob and letting it automatically detect and eliminate noise and leakage. For best results, adjust the sensitivity based on the level of noise present in your recordings. 0% will turn off the Cleaner module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Compress

Function: Based on a classic "Child" compressor with modified settings for vocals, this knob dynamically adjusts compression based on the input from the Leveler or input directly. A well-leveled vocal will result in gentler compression, while less leveling allows for more compression.

How to Use: After leveling, if you wish, you can apply the Compressor. You can use it without the Leveler if you prefer. Adjust the compress knob to achieve the desired dynamics. The interplay with the Leveler or direct input will be automatically managed. 0% will turn off the Compress module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Demud

Function: Demud is a pitch-tracking low resonance remover (muddiness) operating between 60-360Hz. It dynamically reduces unwanted low resonances by tracking the lower pitch of the vocal. It will apply dynamic reduction if the low-pitch resonances are subtle, and if there is more resonance, it will combine linear gain reduction automatically.

How to Use: Turn on Demud for vocals that need clarity in the lower frequencies. It works automatically, but you can adjust the sensitivity for precise control over the effect. The more you turn the knob, the more reduction will be applied. 0% will turn off the Demud module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

S-Volume

Function: One of the groundbreaking features of VocalShaper is S-Volume, and it's very unique compared to other tools for controlling sibilants in vocals. This is not a traditional de-esser. It rather detects, isolates, and allows linear control over sibilant 's' sounds in vocals. Unlike traditional de-essers, it uses linear processing without compression, offering a more "correct" reduction of sibilance. It can also fix lispy vocal performances or if the vocal has too much de-essing applied previously.

How to Use: S-Volume works between -48dB and +10dB, and all you need to do is just turn down or up the sibilant sounds to your liking. The reduction very smoothly controls the volume of 's' sounds without affecting the overall vocal texture or its naturalness. Make sure to click the "Listen" button when the knob is at the default position to hear if the S-Volume module catches the sibilants. If there is a leakage of vocal performance rather than sibilants, make sure you are feeding the VocalShaper with the right gain. Please note, if your vocal performances are really good, S-Volume does not need to catch and reduce it. It only affects the very harsh portion of the vocal performance.

Air

Function: A finely-tuned exciter that adds crispness, and buttery brightness to your vocals, enhancing their presence and clarity.

How to Use: Apply Air to your liking to add sheen and airiness to your vocals.

Tone

Function: Inspired by the modified "Avaluxe VT47 EQ", this feature is specially tuned for vocals, providing equalization and tonal shaping tailored to vocal tracks. It offers very gentle, smooth equalization. The tone module only affects the body of the vocal and it won't process the sibilant "s" sound. In this way, you can add as much brightness as you want.

How to Use: Engage Tone controls and use its controls to shape the overall tonal balance of your vocals, enhancing warmth, clarity, or presence as needed. As this is a very gentle EQ, if you have severe imbalances, whistles, or resonances on your vocals, it's better to use a parametric EQ like stock EQs in your DAW to fix those issues before VocalShaper.

Heat

Function: Adds a very subtle, smooth saturation to your vocals, enriching them with harmonic complexity and warmth.

How to Use: Turn on the Heat and adjust the amount for a slight saturation effect. This can add character to your vocals without too much distortion. 0% will turn off the Heat module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Depth

Function: Utilizes a convolution of a very famous classic LA Opto comp's default-state impulse response, boosted to make the effect more obvious. It's there for you to add profound depth to vocals, making them seem like they're hanging in the air and out of your speakers. If you want "in-your-face" vocals, this is the key knob. It will also help your reverbs sit better with your vocals.

How to Use: Activate Depth to instantly add a sense of spatial dimension and richness. Adjust the level to balance the effect with your vocal mix. 0% will turn off the Depth module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Spread

Function: A classic micro-pitch-shifter-like effect that widens the stereo image of your vocals, creating a fuller and wider vocal performance.

How to Use: Enable Spread and adjust to achieve the desired width in your vocal tracks, enhancing the mix with spatial depth. 0% will turn off the Spread module to save CPU if you don't need to use it.

Other Controls

Presets: You can select pre-made presets or save your own categories and presets here.

LISTEN: This knob is there for you to make sure that it's catching the sibilant sounds and there is no leakage of other vocal frequencies. Since it's not a delta signal, use it when the S-Volume is at the default position. If you turn down or up the S-Volume knob, the "Listen" feature will be affected by the amount of volume you adjusted.

RST (Reset): Resets all parameters to their default settings. Please note: when you click it, you cannot take the action back. It simply resets all parameters.

AGC (Auto Gain Compensation): Automatically adjusts the output gain to maintain a consistent level. This smart gain compensation will analyze the input continuously of the Plugin for 5 seconds, and then change the output gain internally. After 5 seconds, it will switch to a static state to avoid constantly adjusting gain. You really don't want your vocal performance gain to change continuously.

LIM (Limiter): Limits the maximum output level to prevent clipping. Not a critical feature, but it's there just in case.

X4: Activates 4 times linear oversampling. This will increase CPU usage. Most of the time, you won't need it as unwanted aliases are minimal in VocalShaper. Not a critical feature, but it's there just in case.

ON/OFF: This button bypasses the plugin.

INPUT: This knob adjusts the incoming signal into the plugin. Just check the "MIN" sign on the input meter for better gain staging.

OUTPUT: This knob overwrites the entire output gain, and it's the last to gain control over the entire plugin. You can use it to have more volume after VocalShaper or less volume after VocalShaper, depending on your vocal levels in the context of the entire song.

COPY, A, B, UNDO, REDO: These are self-explanatory controls for testing 2 different settings or undoing/redone actions. Please note: when you click the RST button, you cannot UNDO or REDO. It simply resets the entire state of the plugin by design.

Conclusion

Your new Vocal Mixing Plugin offers a wide range of tools to perfect your vocal tracks, from advanced leveling and noise removal to advanced tonal shaping and dynamic control. By understanding and utilizing each feature as outlined in this manual, you can achieve professional-quality vocals that stand out in your mixes in seconds. Happy mixing!

FAQ:

1. Why is there no reverb or delay on this plugin since it's a vocal mixing plugin?

Because almost every DAW comes with decent reverb and delay, or users have at least a couple of reverbs or delays, there is no point in adding extra reverb or delay in VocalShaper. Reverbs and delays really depend on taste, and we cannot guarantee that the reverb and delay of our choice would fit your vocals. We just wanted to make sure that almost all reverbs and delays and their presets potentially sit with your vocals after VocalShaper.

2. Is there any use case for VocalShaper other than using it on vocals?

Yes! Let's admit that VocalShaper is designed for vocals. But you can experiment with it on other sound sources such as pads, synths, guitars, brass, strings, etc. Some modules will sound really good on different sources. For example, AIR works almost on every source when you need some smooth brightness, or go crazy and test S-Volume on a drum loop, or cleaner on a guitar recording. There is no rule when it comes to being creative.

THANK YOU!

