

VtekEss
CLASSIC EDITION



ATTEN
-0.0 dB



0 12 24 36

VTEK AUDIO PLUGINS

1K 2K 4K 8K 16K

VtekEss

VINTAGE DE-ESSER

THRESHOLD

FREQUENCY

USER MANUAL · VERSION 1.0.0

RANGE



6000 Hz



-8.0 dB



12.0 dB

MODE

WIDE

SPLIT

LISTEN

CRAFTED BY VTEK

Default

Vtek Speaks...

Before the tools begin, a word from Vtek.

Writing this note is surreal for me because this journey started from a thought (as do all things, really) and then, a very awful first run of a compressor plugin that sounded great but the UI needed a world of work.

June 22nd 2026 was the day I decided to make a tool that can tell a sonic story from the mixing and mastering perspective of me. From the first day I opened an audio editing software in 2004 called **AUDACITY** all the way to 3 **GRAMMYS** nods, over 12 years of consistency and evolution, it has all led to this moment where my scalpel can become yours.

The fastest way to learn is through practice. Well, I might have a remix to that saying. The fastest way to learn is to **GET THE RIGHT TOOLS** and the journey becomes great almost automatically plus you never had to be measured by your “level” in terms of years of experience but simply by the quality of your sound and your ability to deliver quick and yet, efficiently - my story in a short form.

And so, I introduce to you the **VTEK CLASSIC BUNDLE**, three of the fundamental plugins that will instantly improve your work flow, reduce the mental clutter of having to tinker with knobs, buttons, toggles and nodes and allow you have fun while doing it.

These plugins were fitted with features you would not see often on plugins of its kind (the EQ comes with a de-esser). All you have to do is load it up, get cracking and make that sound come alive I trust you will find these plugins are not just another set of plugins but are the ones made **FOR MUSICIANS BY A MUSICIAN** for the most common needs that a musician would need without the clutter of a 1000 advanced techniques and a great deal of second guessing.

*Great sound is not just about knowing more.
It's about having the right tools and using them well.*

Cheers.

Vtek.

WELCOME

WELCOME

A DE-ESSER THAT LISTENS FOR SIBILANCE, NOT LOUDNESS

VtekEss Classic is built to find the harsh “s”, “sh” and “t” sounds in a vocal and turn them down without dulling the voice.

What separates it from many de-essers is the way it decides what is sibilance. It compares the energy in the sibilance band against the body of the voice, so bright vowels and breath are less likely to trigger reduction simply because they are loud.

The processing also follows where the sibilant energy actually sits for each singer and microphone. You set the general area with FREQUENCY; VtekEss tracks around that point as the performance changes.



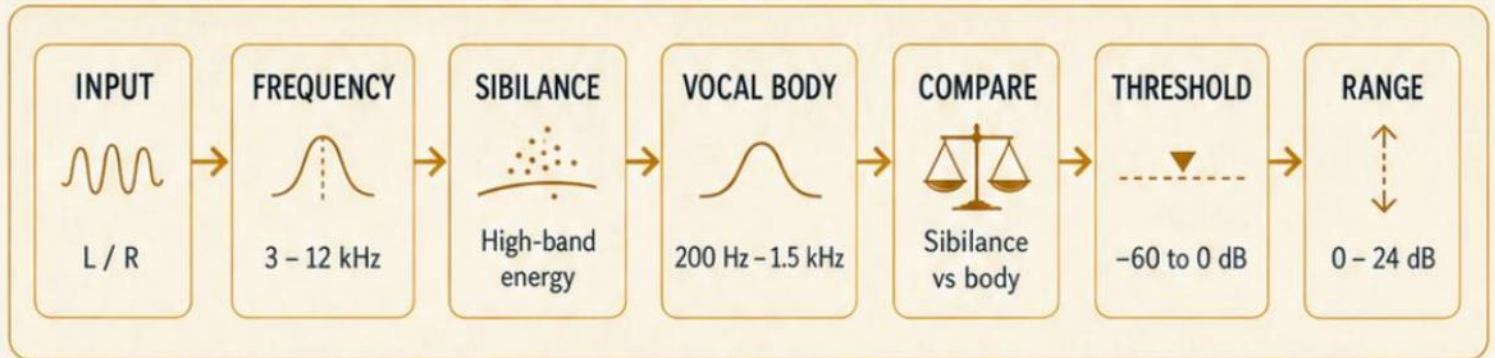
WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT

It reacts to sibilance in proportion to how severe it is, while keeping the body and character of the voice intact.

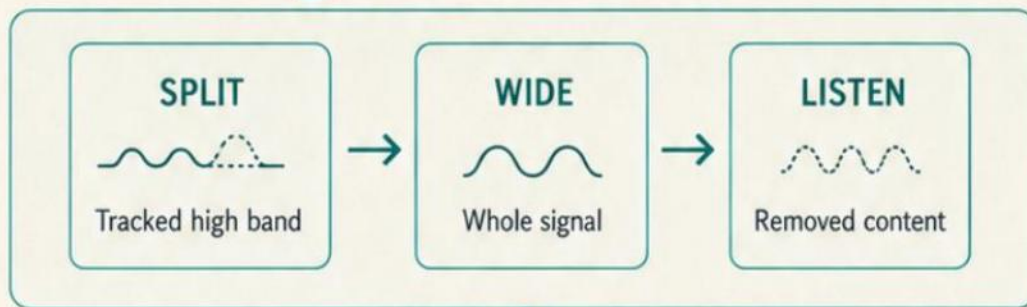
SIGNAL FLOW

How the five stages chain together

1 DETECTION & DECISION



2 REDUCTION MODES



3 OUTPUT & READOUT



Audio enters the detector, where VtekEss compares sibilance against the body of the voice. Threshold decides when reduction begins, and Range limits how deep the reduction can go.

Two things worth knowing: Split reduces only the tracked high band, while Wide lowers the whole signal. Listen is a monitor path only, so you can hear exactly what VtekEss is removing.



The detector responds to sibilance in relation to vocal body — not just brightness on its own.



Use Listen to set Frequency: hear the esses clearly, then switch Listen off and judge the result in context.

EVERY CONTROL, NUMBERED

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



- 1 FREQUENCY**
Sets the center frequency the de-esser focuses on.
Range: 1 kHz – 16 kHz
- 2 THRESHOLD**
Sets the level at which the de-esser starts attenuating sibilant sounds.
Range: -60 dB – 0 dB
- 3 RANGE**
Sets the maximum attenuation applied when the de-esser is fully engaged.
Range: 0 dB – 24 dB
- 4 WIDE**
Adjusts the bandwidth around the frequency.
Wider = affects more of the surrounding range.
- 5 SPLIT**
Sets the split frequency between the affected (sibilant band) and unaffected (rest of signal).
Range: 1 kHz – 10 kHz
- 6 LISTEN**
Blends between the processed signal and only the sibilant content for monitoring.
Range: 0% (processed) – 100% (sibilance only)

- 7 ATTEN**
Shows the amount of attenuation currently being applied by the de-esser.
Range: 0 dB – 36 dB
- 8 DISPLAY / VIEW**
Toggles the main window between the de-esser response curve (left) and level view (right).
- 9 POWER**
Turns the plug-in on or off.
- 10 PRESET BAR**
Shows the current preset. Click arrows to load previous/next preset.
- 11 SAVE PRESET**
Saves the current settings as a preset.
- 12 DELETE PRESET**
Deletes the selected preset.



Start with subtle settings. Small moves tame harshness. Trust your ears — they know the finish line.

HOW VTEKESS LISTENS

How VtekEss listens

Detection, tracking, modes, and the LISTEN button.

VtekEss watches your vocal in real time. It compares sibilance energy against the body of the voice, so bright vowels are not treated the same as true esses.

The detector can track where the sibilant energy concentrates around the chosen FREQUENCY, letting VtekEss respond only when the signal behaves like an “s”.



Sibilance and brightness are not the same thing.

VtekEss compares the high-frequency sibilance band against the vocal body. A bright vowel may remain untouched while a true “s” triggers reduction.

MODES: SPLIT vs WIDE

SPLIT

SPLIT — Only the tracked high band is reduced. The body of the voice stays natural.

WIDE

WIDE — The whole signal ducks when sibilance is detected. Use for the most aggressive control.

THE MAIN CONTROLS

FREQUENCY



FREQUENCY

Sets the center of the processing band.
Dial in the area where the sibilance energy lives.

THRESHOLD



THRESHOLD

Sets how much sibilant energy is needed before reduction begins.
Lower values = more sensitive.

RANGE



RANGE

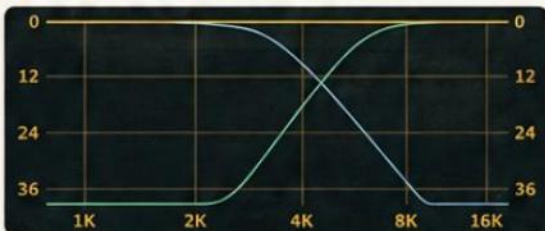
Sets the maximum attenuation allowed when sibilance is detected.
Higher values = deeper reduction.

LISTEN

LISTEN

Lets you hear only what VtekEss is removing.
Use to find the hotspot, then click again to return to normal.

TRACKING & DETECTION



VtekEss analyzes the high band against the vocal body across the spectrum. The detector tracks where the sibilant energy concentrates so the reduction follows the signal, not just a fixed frequency.

Aim the FREQUENCY knob where the curves cross most prominently for best results.

THE PANEL, UP CLOSE

THE PANEL, UP CLOSE

The core controls

Three knobs. Three jobs. Nothing hidden in menus.



SECTION	RANGE	DEFAULT	NOTES
Frequency	3,000–12,000 Hz	6,000 Hz	Tune where the sibilance lives.
Threshold	–60 to 0 dB	–8 dB	How much sibilant energy is needed before reduction begins.
Range	0 to 24 dB	12 dB	Maximum amount of attenuation allowed.
Wide	Mode	Off	Whole signal ducks when sibilance is detected.
Split	Mode	On	Only the tracked high band is reduced.
Listen	Monitor	Off	Lets you hear only what VtekEss is removing.



Frequency, Threshold, and Range are not the same control. Frequency finds the problem area. Threshold decides when VtekEss reacts. Range decides how far it may go.

THE DISPLAY

Standard view, history, and gain-reduction readout

The fastest way to use VtekEss — watch the display, then LISTEN.



ACTION	RESULT
Use standard view	See the crossover, tracking and current attenuation
Use history view	See gain reduction over roughly the last ten seconds
Press LISTEN	Hear only what VtekEss is removing
Turn FREQUENCY	Find the esses; let vowels and melody disappear
Set THRESHOLD and RANGE	Decide when reduction starts and how far it may go

ATTEN is a readout of reduction. Use it together with the display to see how hard VtekEss is working, then confirm the setting with your ears.

GETTING STARTED

Four moves, from flat

- 1 Start in SPLIT and press LISTEN.
- 2 Sweep FREQUENCY until the harsh esses stand out clearly.
- 3 Turn LISTEN off, then lower THRESHOLD until only the offending sibilance triggers reduction.
- 4 Set RANGE, then compare SPLIT and WIDE to choose the most natural result.

SPECIFICATIONS

Formats and install

FORMATS	Audio Unit, VST3 (macOS) · VST3 (Windows)
MACOS	10.13 or later · Universal (Intel + Apple Silicon)
WINDOWS	64-bit
CHANNELS	Stereo · linked detection
LATENCY	None

PLATFORM	PATH
macOS AU	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components
macOS VST3	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3
Windows VST3	C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3



Quit your DAW before installing on either platform.

THANKS

First, all thanks to God. The one who was, is and is to come who has fearfully and wonderfully made us to do exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine through Christ.

Then, my lovely wife, “Pamper Baby”. You allowed me run with the knowing that, when we fly, we fly together. You made the journey of learning, unlearning, relearning, experimenting and implement so much easier but just being there with me + you helped me with design because you are awesome like that. I love you.

Big thanks to everyone who reviewed the plugins, also. More than anything, the feedbacks provided the needed perspective that would further expand the value of the plugins that became the plugin you loved and love, still.

Thanks to everyone who has supported me from the start of my professional career in 2007 till date. God bless y’all and keep y’all in good success.

...and so, the story continues