Antares™

AUTO-TUNE VOCAL EQ

USER GUIDE

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Introducing Auto-Tune Vocal EQ



Auto-Tune Vocal EQ is the world's first dynamic equalizer with built-in Auto-Tune Pitch Tracking technology!

Featuring 6 fully customizable dynamic EQ bands, Auto-Tune Vocal EQ helps you isolate and accentuate precise frequencies while suppressing interference and resonance to carve out the right spaces in your mix.

Watch a vocalist's pitch move across the filter graph for real-time analysis, and lock an EQ band to the vocalist's pitch to focus on fundamentals.

Automatically determine the input type and set the vocal range to jump start your equalizing process.

Find the perfect mix with Auto-Tune Vocal EQ: Clarity Above All.

Quick Start – License Activation

Activation Instructions

Before we can use Vocal EQ, we need to activate our license first using the Auto-Tune Central application. Please follow the steps below, or watch our instructional video to get started:

Step 1: Install Auto-Tune Central

Auto-Tune Central is Antares' download manager, where you can install your plug-ins and manage their activations. If you don't have it installed on your computer yet, visit our website here to download the latest installer. After downloading, run the installer.

After installation is complete, you can find Auto-Tune Central in your computer's applications folder:

MacOS
/Applications

Windows
C:\Program Files\Antares Audio Technologies

Step 2: Open Auto-Tune Central and Log In

On the login screen in Auto-Tune Central, enter the email address and password for your Antares account.

If you purchased your plug-in license directly from our website (antarestech.com), navigate to the Plug-Ins tab to install and manage your license activations.

If your purchase was made through a third party, please follow the instructions in Step 3. Otherwise, skip to Step 4.

Step 3: Navigate to the Redeem a License Tab

In the top banner of Auto-Tune Central, select "Redeem a License." Enter your 25-digit registration code, then click **Redeem and Activate**.

Step 4. Install Your Plug-In

Click the blue **Install** button next to your license. If you have an Auto-Tune Unlimited subscription or similar plug-in bundle, you can install all of the included plug-ins with one click using the Install All button.

***Note**: If an update is available for your plug-in, the blue Install button will be replaced with a yellow **Update** button. Click the **Update** button to install the latest version of your plug-in.*

Step 5. Activate Your License

Click the blue **Activate** button. Each license can be activated on up to two locations simultaneously. You may activate your license onto a computer, a physical iLok dongle, or a combination of the two options.

See this FAQ page for more information on iLok license management.

After activating your license, you're ready to use your Antares plug-in(s) in your DAW!

Step 6: Open Vocal EQ In Your DAW

Below, you'll find instructions on how to insert Vocal EQ onto a track in various compatible DAWs:

Pro Tools
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks, or buses. Then select Auto-Tune Vocal EQ from the pop-up menu in either the Dynamics or EQ category.

Logic Pro
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select Auto-Tune Vocal EQ from the pop-up menu. You will find Auto-Tune Vocal EQ in the Audio Units > Antares section (named Auto-Tune Vocal EQ).

Ableton Live
In either Session or Arrangement View, select the track you would like to place Auto-Tune Vocal EQ on by clicking the track name.

At the top left of Ableton's interface, click on the Plug-in Device Browser icon. From the plug-ins list, double-click Auto-Tune Vocal EQ, or drag it onto the track.

Cubase
Choose an empty insert slot, for example in the Mixer, and select Auto-Tune Vocal EQ from the menu that appears.

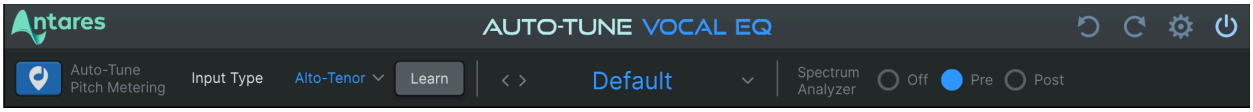
Studio One
Click the '+' button next to the Inserts tab of an audio track, and select 'Auto-Tune Vocal EQ' from the drop-down menu.

Reaper
Click the ‘FX’ button next to the track name of an audio track, and select ‘Auto-Tune Vocal EQ’ from the EQ or Dynamics category.

Digital Performer
In the Digital Performer Mixing Board, click an empty insert slot to open the Insert Effects list. Select Auto-Tune Vocal EQ from the list, or use the search bar to locate it quickly.

Controls

Global Controls

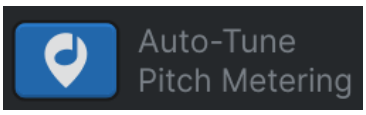


Auto-Tune Central

Click on the Antares logo in the top left corner to open the **Auto-Tune Central** application.

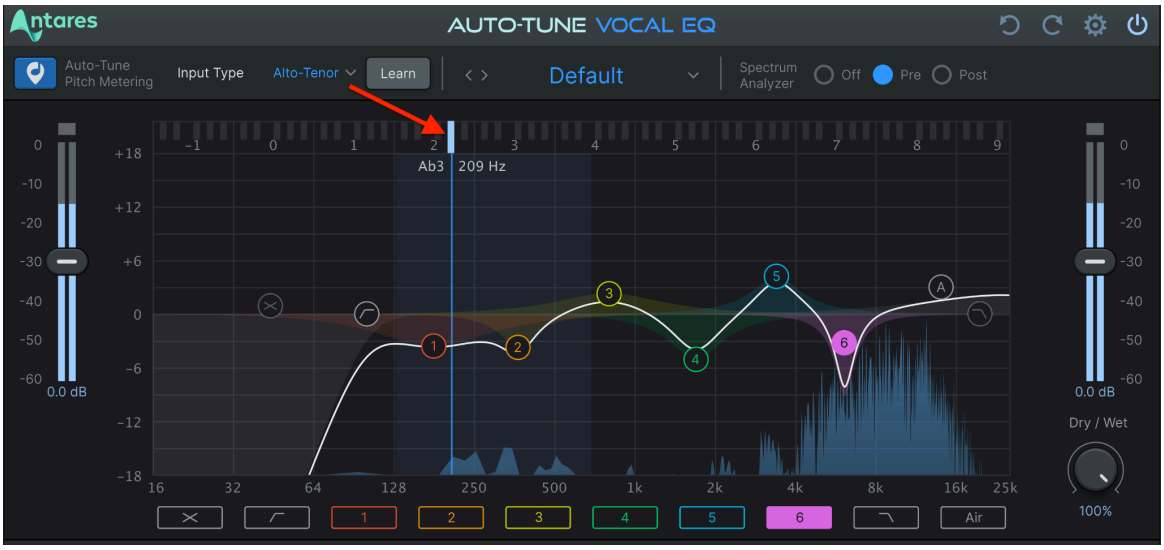
Auto-Tune Central is a standalone application used for managing Antares license activations. Check out the support article here to learn more.

Auto-Tune Pitch Metering



Auto-Tune Pitch Metering uses the Auto-Tune Pitch Algorithm to follow the fundamental frequency of your vocal in real-time.

When Auto-Tune Pitch Metering is enabled, a visual cue will be displayed on the keyboard in the Filter Graph to show you where the fundamental pitch was detected:



Input Type



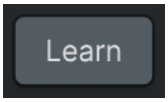
Auto-Tune Vocal EQ offers a selection of processing algorithms optimized for different pitch ranges of input audio.

Options include: *Soprano*, *Alto/Tenor*, *Low Male*, and *Instrument*.

For more accurate pitch detection, choose the Input Type that best fits the pitch range of your audio.

After selecting an Input Type, the frequency range of the Input Type will be shaded blue on the Filter Graph.

Learn



If you're not sure which Input Type is best for your audio, the **Learn** function is here to help!

The Learn button utilizes machine learning to listen to your audio for 5 seconds, then sets the most appropriate Input Type and adjusts the High Pass Filter's frequency to fit the vocal range.

Please note the Learn function will only listen to the audio on the same track that Vocal EQ is applied to, and only while audio is playing on your DAW.

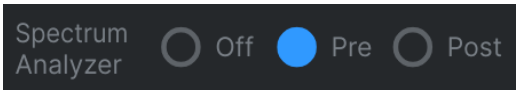
Preset Selection



Auto-Tune Vocal EQ comes equipped with a collection of factory presets to get you started. Open the drop down menu or use the left and right buttons to select a preset.

See the Presets chapter to learn how to save and manage custom presets.

Spectrum Analyzer



The **Spectrum Analyzer** is shown within the Filter Graph to provide a real-time view of the energy within the signal before or after being processed:

- Off: Disable the spectrum analyzer from the Filter Graph.

- Pre: Display the original audio signal. Will not visually reflect changes made by Vocal EQ.
- Post: Display audio after it has been processed by Vocal EQ.

Undo



Click on the **Undo** button to undo up to 99 previous edits.

Redo



Click the **Redo** button to restore previously undone edits.

Settings



Click the gear icon to open the Settings Menu.

Global Bypass



Click on the **Global Bypass** button to bypass Auto-Tune Vocal EQ in your DAW.

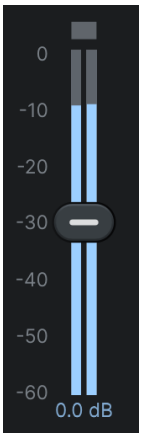
Dry/Wet Mix



Use the **Dry/Wet Mix** knob to adjust the balance of processed and unprocessed audio signals.

Turn the knob all the way to the left (0%) to output only the “dry”, unprocessed signal. Alternatively, turning the knob all the way to the right (100%) to only output the “wet”, processed signal.

Input Gain

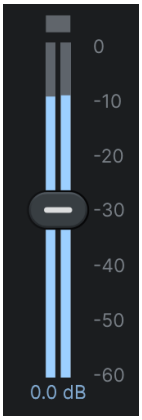


Use the **Input Gain** Meter to adjust the level of your audio before it gets processed by Auto-Tune Vocal EQ.

Turn the meter down to decrease the volume, or turn it up to increase the volume.

The clipping indicator above the Input Gain Meter will turn red when it detects that the audio has clipped. Click on the clipping indicator to reset it.

Output Gain



The **Output Gain** Meter will adjust the level of your audio after being processed by Auto-Tune Vocal EQ.

Turn the meter down to decrease the volume, or turn it up to increase the volume.

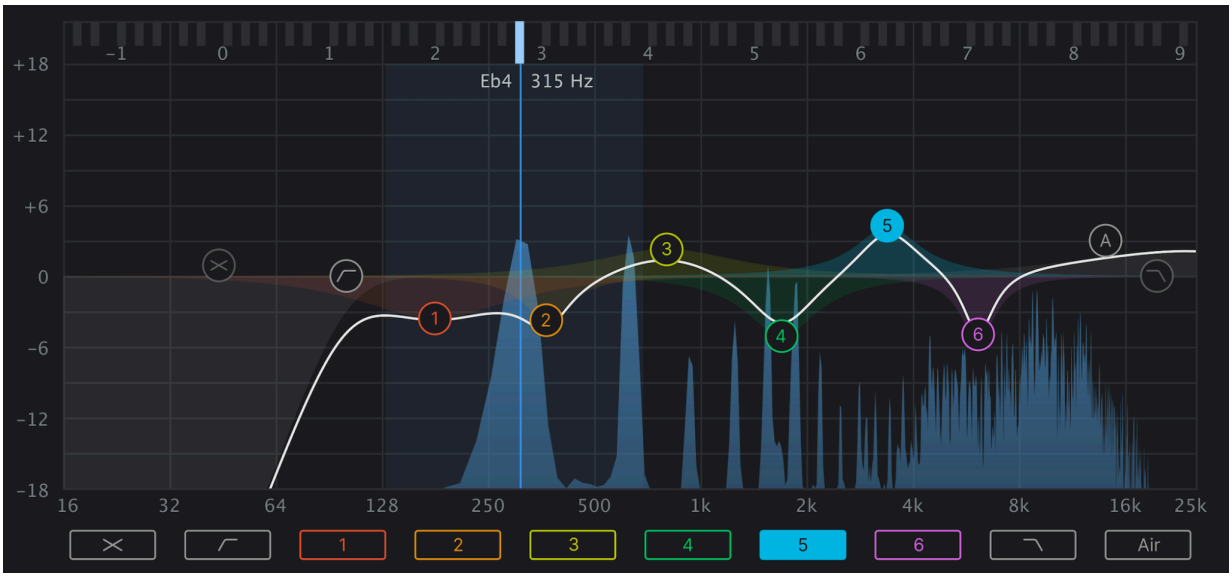
The clipping indicator above the Output Gain Meter will turn red when it detects that the audio has clipped. Click on the clipping indicator to reset it.

Window Resizing

You can resize the Auto-Tune Vocal EQ GUI by clicking and dragging on the bottom right corner of the plug-in window. Making the window larger will help you make more precise adjustments.

To reset the window size to default, open the settings, and click ‘Reset Window Size’.

Filter Graph



The **Filter Graph** provides a real-time display of your audio as it interacts with Auto-Tune Vocal EQ. Use the Spectrum Analyzer controls to select how the energy of the signal is displayed.

Click and drag the band markers to adjust the corresponding EQ band's frequency and gain.

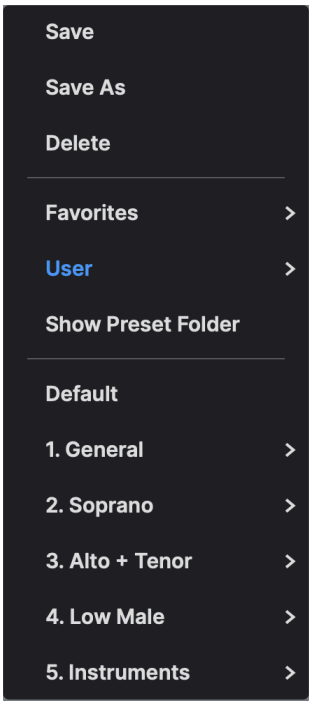
The piano roll at the top of the Filter Graph helps you identify octave and pitch. Turn on Auto-Tune Pitch Metering to see a visual aid that follows along with the fundamental pitch of your vocals.

The EQ Tabs below the Filter Graph offer another method for revealing a band's controls.

Keyboard Shortcuts/Key Commands

Double-Click	Toggle EQ Band On/Off
Right-Click + Hold	Momentary Solo EQ Band
Shift-and-Drag	Frequency Lock
Command-and-Drag *(MacOS only)*	Gain Lock
Option (Alt) + Click	Reset Gain to 0
Control + Click	Cycle through filter Shapes
Right-Click (EQ Tab)	Toggle Band On/Off

Presets



Saving Presets

After making your adjustments, you can save the current state of Auto-Tune Vocal EQ as a preset by opening the preset dropdown menu, and clicking ‘Save’.

Custom presets will be saved to the ‘User’ folder.

Loading Presets

To load a preset, open the preset menu, hover over the various categories, and click on the preset you want to open.

Factory presets are organized by vocal input type to help you pick a preset tailored to the audio you’re working with.

Managing Presets



Click on the thumbs up button to the left of the preset name to ‘Favorite’ a preset, and add it to the Favorites folder.

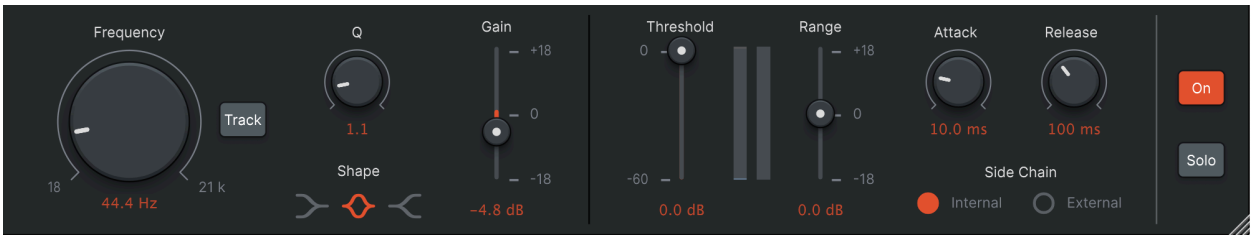
By default, all Auto-Tune Vocal EQ presets are saved to these file locations:

MacOS
/Users/Shared/Antares/Auto-Tune Vocal EQ/Presets

Windows
C:\ProgramData\ProgramData\Antares\Auto-Tune Vocal EQ\Presets

To navigate to these folders quickly, select “Show Preset Folder” in the preset dropdown menu.

Dynamic EQ Bands



Auto-Tune Vocal EQ features 6 Dynamic EQ Bands which can be modified independently. On the right side of the band control section, you'll find a collection of compression controls to customize the dynamics of each band.

Click on the band markers in the Filter Graph or the corresponding EQ tab to reveal that band's controls.

Frequency

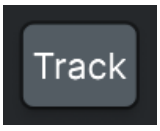


The Frequency Knob sets the frequency of the selected band from 18 Hz to 21 kHz.

You can also adjust the frequency of a band by dragging its band marker horizontally within the Filter Graph.

Hint: For precise adjustments in the Filter Graph, hold Command to lock the band gain. (MacOS only)

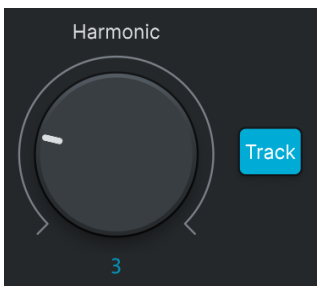
Track



The Track button locks a band onto the fundamental pitch or a harmonic of your vocals. The band will follow along with the fundamental pitch or harmonic in real-time on the Filter Graph.

When Track is enabled, the Frequency knob becomes the Harmonic knob.

Harmonic



The Harmonic Knob determines the interval (in octaves above the fundamental) that a band tracks.

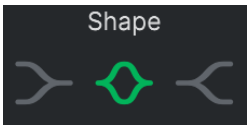
Q



Q determines the sharpness (or width) of the selected band, allowing you to attenuate or boost a very narrow or wide range of frequencies within each EQ band.

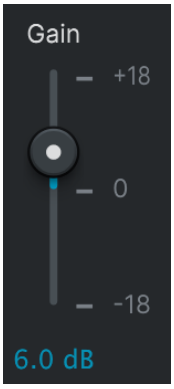
A higher Q setting results in a sharper (narrower) filter band.

Shape



Use the Shape buttons to change the filter shape of the selected band. Options include: *Low Shelf*, *Peak*, and *High Shelf*.

Gain



Use the Gain control slider to set the gain in dB of the selected band between -18 and +18 dB.

You can also adjust the gain of a band within the Filter Graph by dragging the band marker vertically.

Hint: For precise gain adjustments in the Filter Graph, hold Shift to lock the band's frequency in place.

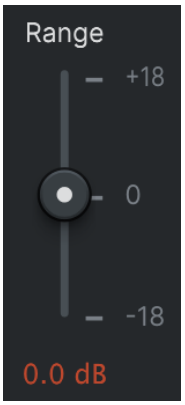
Threshold



Threshold is used to determine the level at which dynamic processing begins. When the level of a signal passes above the threshold, it will be compressed.

For example, if the threshold level is set to -15 dB, only signal peaks that go over that level will be compressed. The rest of the time, no compression will take place.

Range



Range determines how much a signal is expanded or compressed after reaching the threshold.

If you set the range to a negative value, the signal will be compressed. A positive range value will expand the signal instead.

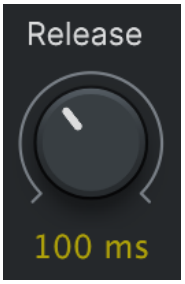
Attack



Sets attack time in milliseconds for the dynamics of the selected band.

Attack time determines how quickly processing goes into full effect. Turn the knob all the way to the left (1.0 ms) for an almost immediate onset.

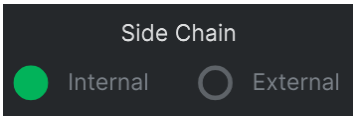
Release



Sets the release time in milliseconds for the dynamics of the selected band.

Similar to attack time, release time determines how quickly an effect fades away.

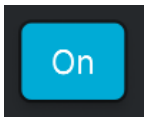
Side Chain



Auto-Tune Vocal EQ can be sidechained either internally or externally to other audio sources.

Please consult your DAW's manual to learn how to connect a sidechain signal to Vocal EQ.

Enable



The Enable button will turn the band on or off.

Hint: double click the band marker in the Filter Graph to turn the band on/off.

Solo

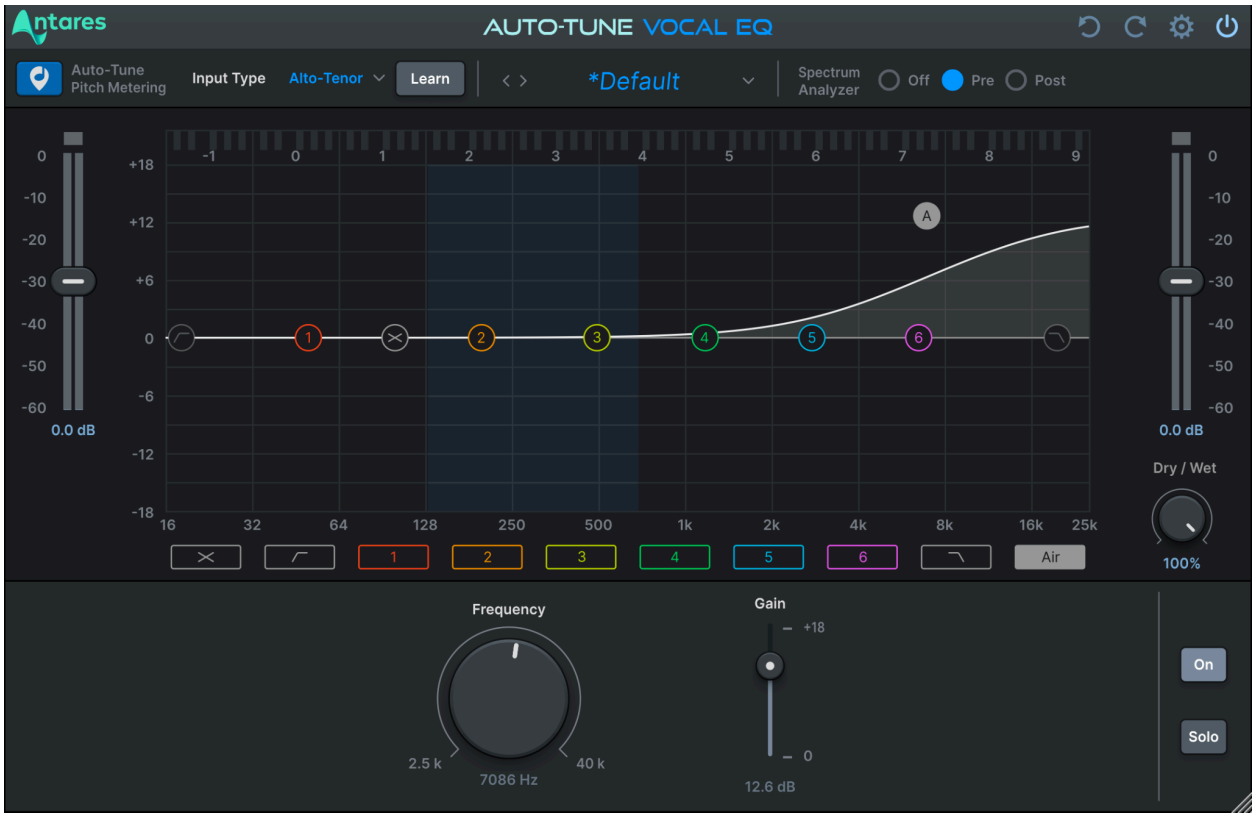


Click on the Solo button to isolate the band.

This will temporarily disable all other bands, making it easier to hear the effect of the selected band as you make adjustments.

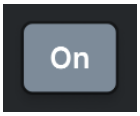
Hint: Right-Click + Hold the band marker to momentarily solo the band.

Air EQ Band



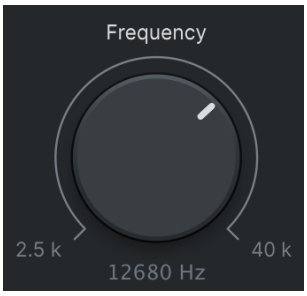
The Air Band is similar to a high-frequency shelving filter, but the corner frequency stretches well beyond the audible range. This is helpful for adding sparkle and clarity to vocals and instruments, as well as bringing out other unique harmonic characteristics.

Enable



Turn on the Air Band using the Enable Button. Alternatively, double click the Air Band Marker (‘A’) in the Filter Graph to toggle it on or off.

Frequency



This Frequency Knob sets the Air Band frequency from 2.5 kHz to 40 kHz.

Pro Tip

The Air Band can be placed from 12khz to 21khz within the Filter Graph, but it can be placed anywhere up to 40 kHz using the Frequency knob.

Gain



Use the Gain control to set the gain in dB of the Air Band between -18 and +18 dB.

You can also adjust the gain by dragging the Air Band Marker (‘A’) vertically within the Filter Graph.

Tilt EQ Band



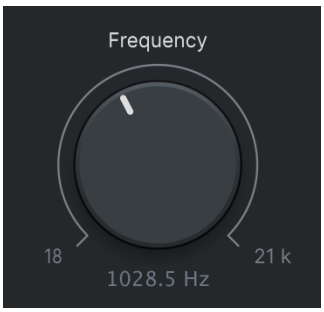
The Tilt EQ Band is akin to very wide high and low shelving filters at frequencies that result in a straight line 'see-saw' curve. This curve can be used to simultaneously boost one end of the spectrum while cutting the other.

Enable



Turn on the Tilt Band using the Enable Button. Alternatively, double click the Tilt Band Marker ('X') in the Filter Graph to toggle it on or off.

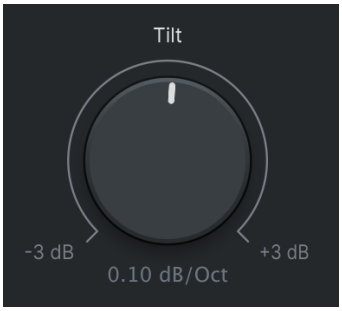
Frequency



This Frequency dial sets the frequency of the Tilt Band from 18 Hz to 21 kHz.

You can also adjust the Tilt Band's center frequency by dragging its anchor ('X') horizontally across the Filter Graph.

Tilt



The Tilt Knob is what gives the Tilt Band its characteristic ‘see-saw’ curve.

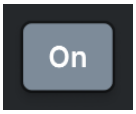
This parameter can also be adjusted in the Filter Graph by dragging the Tilt Band anchor (‘X’) vertically.

Low Pass Filter / High Pass Filter



The Low and High Pass Filters are found on opposite ends of the Filter Graph. Low Pass Filters eliminate frequencies above the cutoff frequency. High Pass Filters do the opposite – they eliminate frequencies below the cutoff frequency.

Enable



Use the Enable button to turn the Low and High Pass Filters on/off. Alternatively, double click their EQ Band Markers in the Filter Graph to toggle them on/off.

Solo



Click on the Solo button to solo the band. This will temporarily disable all other bands, making it easier to hear the effect of the selected band.

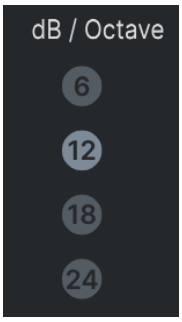
Frequency



This Frequency knob sets the cutoff frequencies for the Low and High Pass Filters from 18 Hz to 21 kHz.

Note: The High Pass Filter frequency and slope will be adjusted automatically after using the Input Type Learn function.

Filter Slope



The Filter Slope determines the steepness of the Low and High Pass Filters from 6 dB/octave to 24 dB/octave.

A 6dB/octave slope is a gradual decline, useful for gentle shaping. On the other hand, a 24dB/octave slope provides a more dramatic curve.

A side by side comparison is pictured below:





Settings

The **Settings Menu** gives you quick access to the settings of Auto-Tune Vocal EQ.

Appearance

Use this setting to change the Appearance of Auto-Tune Vocal EQ. You may select Light, Dark, or have Auto-Tune Vocal EQ follow your system's theme setting.

Pitch Reference

This setting pertains to the Learn Function. If a stereo source track is applied to Vocal EQ, and is hard panned to the left or right, use this setting to select which channel to listen to.

Reset Window Size

You can resize the Auto-Tune Vocal EQ GUI by clicking and dragging on the bottom right corner of the plug-in window. Use this setting to go back to the default window size.

Enable OpenGL Drawing

Auto-Tune Vocal EQ uses OpenGL for improved graphics on computers with compatible graphics card hardware.

To improve performance, OpenGL is *disabled* by default on Mac. On Windows, OpenGL is *enabled* by default.

OpenGL can be toggled On/Off on either platform in the settings menu.

View Tooltips

When this setting is on, hover your mouse over any of the controls in Auto-Tune Vocal EQ for a brief explanation of what the control does.

View Help Topics

Click on this setting to open the Auto-Tune Vocal EQ Help Page in your web browser.

Save All Settings As Default

Toggle this setting on to save current settings as default when opening new instances of Auto-Tune Vocal EQ.

If you want to make a temporary change to the preferences just for this instance, without overwriting your default preferences, untoggle this setting.