

Vocal Enhancer

Manufacturer **Noveltech**

Price **\$199**

Contact **contact@noveltechaudio.com**

Web **www.plugin-alliance.com**

Choice
9/10
MusicTech

Vocal Enhancer from Noveltech is a psycho-acoustic enhancement processor that was originally available on the TC PowerCore system but has now been ported to native format and made available via the Plugin Alliance.

The plug-in is in many ways the big brother of Noveltech's Character, and uses the same Intelligent Adaptive Filtering (IAF) technology to adapt to the source material in real time and affect its frequency response and dynamic properties. Essentially this boils down to three main controls governing the amount of enhancement, the frequency focus (which

Key Features

- Frequency enhancement from 1kHz–20kHz
- Visual feedback with FFT graph
- High-/low-cut filters



aims the enhancement at the lower to upper portion of the frequency range) and a Strong Processing button.

At first glance, the Strong Processing button merely ups the ante of the effect, but on closer inspection there is a more complex relationship going on between these three controls, requiring fine-tuning to get a different range of results. Although Noveltech suggests that this button is best left engaged, we found the sound a little too hyped and preferred the more subtle effects of leaving it off.

Things get really interesting when you start to focus the frequency range using the hi- and lo-cut filters, with additional controls for resonance and

slope. These are presented in the middle window along with an FFT display, which gives excellent visual feedback of the enhancement in real time. You also have controls on the right for input and output gain, and a useful gain compensation feature.

In practice, we found this especially

useful on dull-sounding vocals that had been recorded with a cheap microphone, and also for adding a smooth, thickening boost to synth and drum tracks that would not be possible with EQ and compression alone.

It's a shame that there are only five presets and all are essentially aimed at vocals, as this is in fact a much more versatile plug-in and Noveltech is arguably selling short by calling this a vocal processor. Like any enhancement effect it can sound harsh if overused, and we found the controls to be somewhat over-sensitive, so you have to be very cautious when making adjustments. However, if you're lacking an enhancer in your arsenal – and with careful use and a little experimentation – Vocal Enhancer can work wonders on the top end of your tracks. **MT**

MT Verdict

With a little tweaking and a large dose of user caution, this is an excellent and surprisingly versatile plug-in for bringing a smooth boost to the top end of your vocals and instruments.

9/10

PX-Series

Fostex is part of one of the World's largest manufacturers of speaker-drivers, including custom-built monitors for the Japanese broadcast industry.

The new PX Studio Monitor series distils all of Fostex's experience into a unique new design. Now with EcoDesign technology, compliant with ErP directives, and advanced digital encoder filter technology for accuracy and sonic integrity.

Discover how Fostex can take your music to the next level – serious monitors for producers, DJs, studios, or anyone who simply must have great audio.



FOSTEX



Distributed by SCV London: Call 020 8418 1470 for your nearest dealer

www.scvlondon.co.uk

