

accentize

User Manual VoiceGate

The accentize VoiceGate plugin helps you to clean up your speech and vocal recordings in an easy, automated fashion. With the help of machine learning techniques like artificial neural networks the algorithm can differentiate between desired signal components and unwanted noise which can be easily suppressed.



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Installation

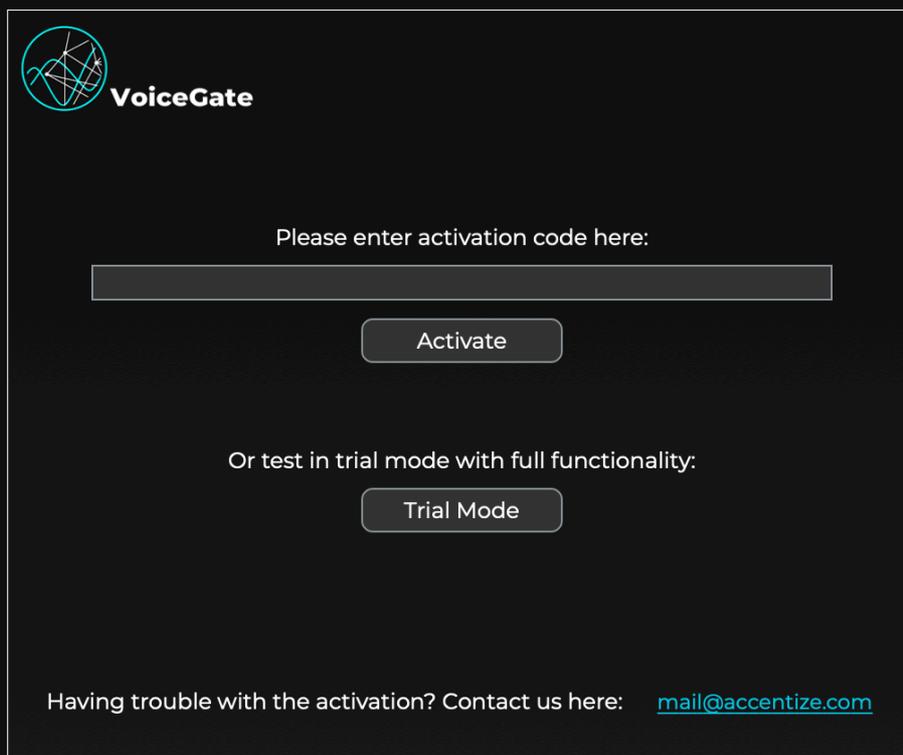
The plugin is distributed with an easy to use installer. In the installation process the usual audio plugin paths are set as a default. If you aren't using any custom path for your plugins you can leave everything as it is and just let the installer do its job. After the installation VoiceGate should appear in the list of available plugins in your DAW.

The plugin works is compatible with: Reaper, ProTools 11 or higher, Nuendo, Cubase, Ableton Live



Activation

When the plugin is loaded for the first time, the following activation screen will be shown:

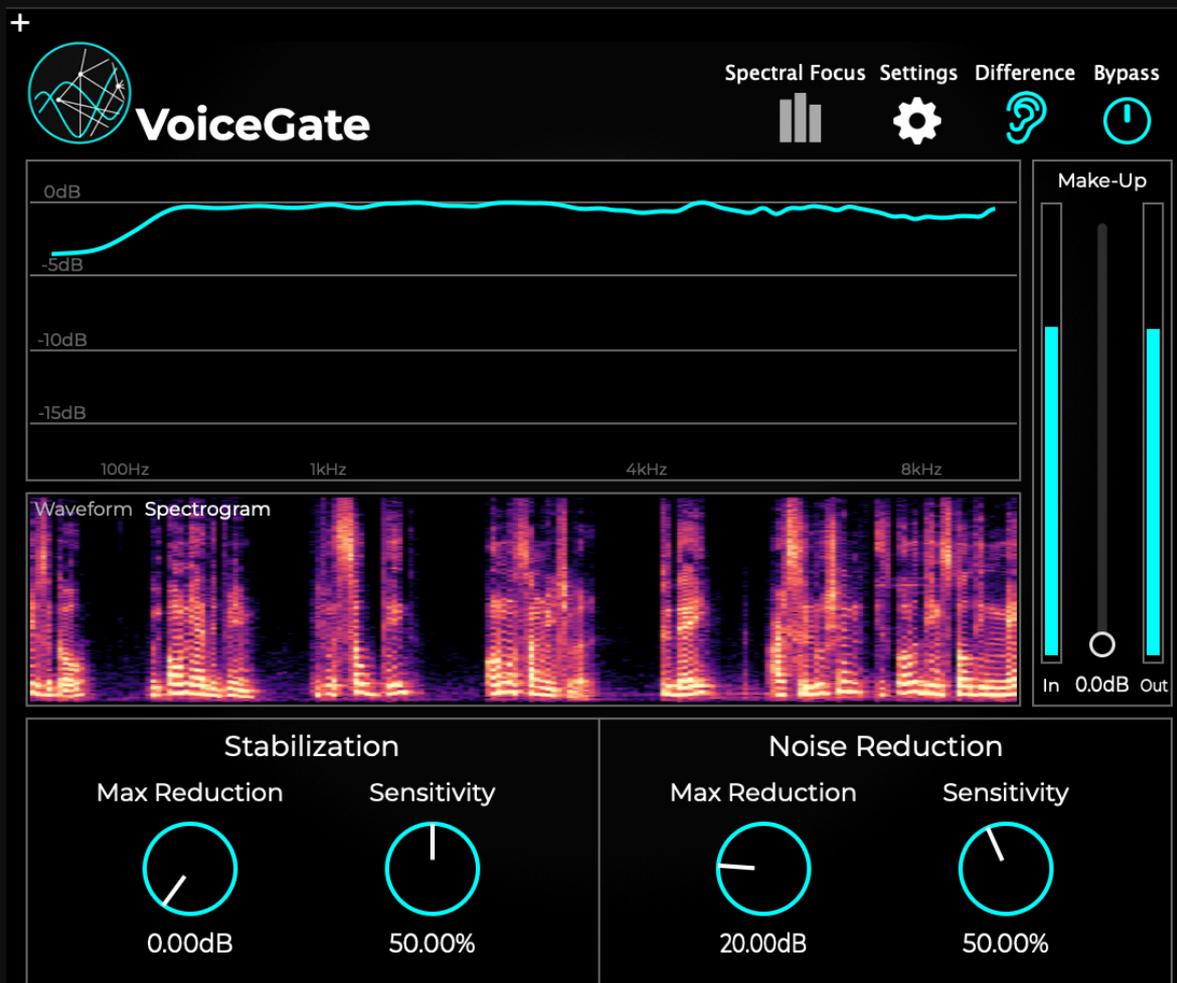


You have the option of either pressing the Trial Mode button or entering an activation code to permanently activate the plugin. For both activating or starting Trial Mode an active internet connection is required. Once the plugin has been activated, it can also be used without internet access. The trial mode is fully functional with the only limitation that after a certain amount of plugin startups you are required to enter a valid activation code.

A purchased activation code can be used on up to **2** different systems.

User Interface

After installation and activation the plugin will be ready to use. By using machine learning approaches the available control parameters could be kept to a minimum in order to make the usability as comfortable as possible.



At the top of the plugin you will find the Spectral Focus selection, a Settings button, a Difference button, along with a bypass button.

Spectral focus can be used to limit the processing to a specific frequency region. The default is all three frequency regions being processed which is the desired setting in most cases. Other settings are useful if you want for example not to touch high frequencies to never accidentally attenuate consonants but need to attenuate some low frequency noise.

The settings menu allows you to change the UI size and select different algorithms.

The difference mode only outputs the signal which is being removed.

In the center of the interface two visualisations are being displayed. The upper view shows the current frequency response of the filter starting from low to high frequencies. While playing the audio you can directly see which frequencies are attenuated how much. The lower visualisation shows the output waveform along with the grey input waveform in the background. Here, it is possible to observe how much overall signal passes through the plugin and how much gets filtered out. You can also switch to spectrogram view mode which will show a live spectrogram of the output signal.

At the bottom you will find four different parameters to define the noise reduction behaviour. The most important parameters are the ones in the noise reduction section on the right hand side. It is possible to define a maximum allowed attenuation and a sensitivity. The gain reduction will not fall below the maximum allowed attenuation in each section. The sensitivity defines how aggressive the filter will tackle noises. A low percentage means very little noise reduction effect. These parameters can be used to find a good trade-off between attenuated noise and arising artefacts.

Usually the Noise Reduction Section parameters are the only ones you will have to modify for dealing with most noise types. However, sometimes if there is a persistent constant noise it can result in fast modulated noise due to the rapid gain changes. Here the Stabilisation section comes in handy to get more pleasing results. If you turn up the stabilisation max reduction parameter the applied gain will be more stable.

Spectral Focus

Spectral Focus Mode allows you to individually set parameters for different frequency bands. Once you change to Spectral Focus the Interface changes a little.

The screenshot displays the VoiceGate software interface in Spectral Focus mode. At the top, there are navigation buttons for 'Spectral Focus', 'Settings', 'Difference', and 'Bypass'. The main area features a frequency response graph with a y-axis from 0dB to -70dB and an x-axis with markers at 100Hz, 1kHz, 4kHz, and 8kHz. Two sliders are positioned at -40dB. To the right is a 'Make-Up' slider with 'In 0.0dB' and 'Out' labels. Below the graph is a 'Waveform Spectrogram' section. At the bottom, there are two control panels: 'Stabilization' and 'Noise Reduction'. The 'Stabilization' panel has three knobs for 'Reduction' (all at 0.00dB) and three knobs for 'Sensitivity' (all at 50.00%). The 'Noise Reduction' panel has three knobs for 'Reduction' (all at 63.36dB) and three knobs for 'Sensitivity' (all at 107.18%).

These controls can be used to adjust the cross-over frequencies of the different bands.

Additionally in the parameter section you will see now six instead of two different knobs for each section:



These controls work the same way as in the Broadband Mode but now for each band individually. If you want no reduction in one band at all then set the max reduction parameter to 0dB.

How-to

In this section you get a short set of instructions how you should start if you want to de-noise a voice recording:

1. Switch VoiceGate to Broadband mode
2. Turn down the Max Reduction in the Stabilisation section to 0dB to switch it off.
3. For the noise reduction start with a sensitivity of 50% and slowly turn up the max reduction knob until you achieve the amount of noise reduction you are looking for.
4. If voice signal parts are corrupted by VoiceGate turn down the sensitivity. This will increase the focus on keeping the voice as good as possible (with probably less noise reduction). Alternatively, if you want a more aggressive noise reduction turn the sensitivity up.
5. If there is constant noise parts in your signal like for example a hum-noise, VoiceGate might modulate this noise rapidly due to the fast impulsive noise reduction. You can try to reduce this effect by turn up the max reduction of the stabilisation section. This will make the overall reduction a little more calmer.
6. If there is a narrow band noise which you want to focus on, switch to Spectral Focus Mode. Here, you can try to tackle this specific noise by adjusting the frequency bands accordingly and then increasing the reduction in this band. Note that Spectral Focus will require more computational resources!

Minimum System Requirements

The plugin should run without any problems on the following systems:

- MacOS 10.12 / Windows 7 (64-bit)
- Dual-Core CPU 2GHz
- 4GB Ram
- 100MB free disk space

An active internet connection is required for starting in Trial Mode (always) and activating (just once).

Plugin Specifications

Supported samplerates: 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 96kHz, 192kHz

Supported channel layout: Mono

Plugin formats: AAX, VST3, AU

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