



Creating Vocal Effects Using the EVOC 20 PS Vocoder in Logic Pro.

This tutorial will explain how to create cool vocal effects using the vocoder in Logic. If you want you can copy the settings we have used, although you will want to play around with them to get the sound you want.

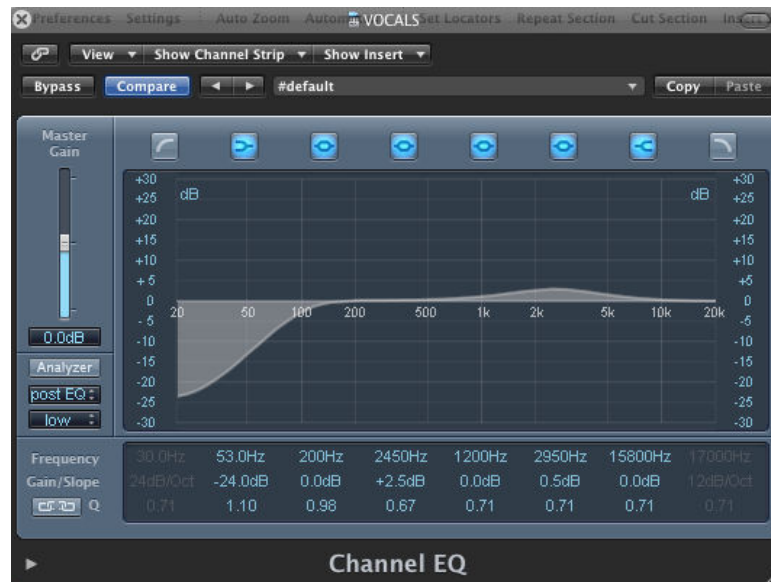
1. Open up Logic, create an audio track and an instrument track. Add a vocal sample to your audio track (*File > Import Audio File*), and label it 'vocals' then select the EVOC 20 PS on your instrument track.
2. On your vocal track, add a Noise Gate (*Inserts > Dynamics > Noise Gate*), a Compressor (*Inserts > Dynamics > Compressor*), and a Channel EQ (*Inserts > EQ > Channel EQ*), in this order.
3. Bring up the Noise Gate, and find a desired setting so that all the vocals are let through the gate, and any unwanted noise is cut. This is to avoid unwanted noise that the vocoder may pick up on later. We found the following settings to worked well.



- Now bring up the compressor. The reason the vocals are compressed is that any large peaks in the signal will really jump out when it is processed with the vocoder, so you want as flat a signal as possible. We used quite a heavy compression setting, with an Attack setting of 0:



- Now bring up the channel EQ. We want to boost the mid highs a bit as these are the frequencies where the vocals are more prominent, and we want to cut the low frequencies as these risk dirtying up your vocoded sound.



- Now bring up your EVOC 20 PS from your instrument track, and click in the top right hand corner, labelled Side Chain, and

select your vocal track, which in this case is Audio 2 - VOCALS. This tells the vocoder which audio signal it is going to analyse.



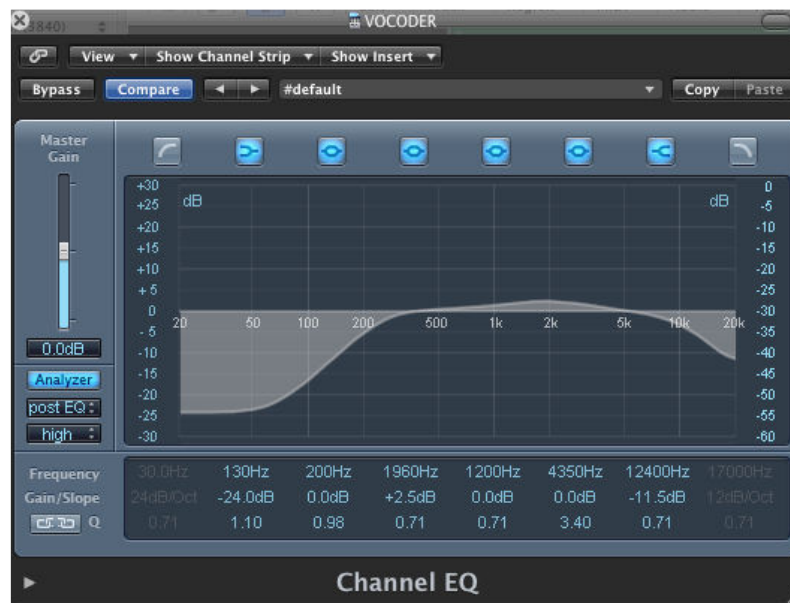
7. Now you can begin to hear what your vocal will sound like. Bring the volume of your vocal track right down, then select your vocoder track, hold down a chord on your Midi Keyboard or program something in, then hit play and you will hear your vocoder working!
8. The Left side of the plugin is where the synthesis controls are. These control the sound of the synthesiser, and you can play around with them, or select a preset from the menu.



9. The middle section of the vocoder will really define the sound you are creating. Play around with these controls until you get the sound you are after. The blue bar determines the lowest and highest frequencies allowed to pass by the filter section, the 'Formant Stretch' alters the width and distribution of all bands in the Synthesis filter bank, the 'Formant Shift' moves the position of all bands in the Synthesis filter bank up and down, and the 'Resonance' is responsible for the basic sonic character of the vocoder.



10. Add a Channel EQ to your channel strip and find a setting you are happy with. We found this one to be effective, and by cutting the lows, we got a more natural, easily audible vocal sound.



11. If your sound still lacks character, try adding some Overdrive distortion to really excite things!

Follow these steps and you should be able to get some really cool vocal effects! And you don't have to stop at vocals, try adding drum or percussion loops to your audio track aswell!

Have Fun!

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