

Tonmann DeEsser v1.2



Users Manual

Preface:

Thank you for downloading the **Tonmann DeEsser** VST plugin. Please read this documentation thoroughly to get the most out of it.

About:

Tonmann DeEsser is a basic high frequency dynamic processor VST plugin, called a DeEsser because it's mainly designed to get rid of "stinging" sibilants that may occur on vocals after compression or adding a high boost.

It may be used with any host software that can load and use **VST2.4/32bit**-compatible plugins, tested by the author are Cakewalk Sonar (4, 7), Sony Sound Forge (9) and DirectiXer (2.5).

It *should* work in 64bit hosts using a "bitbridge", but this is untested by the author.

User-feedback about compatibility (or not) with other host softwares is welcome and very appreciated.

The plugin has been carefully designed to suppress any artificial or alienated sound that may arise under awkward situations with some other (even some hardware) DeEssers.

Features:

- True independent stereo operation, but also runs in mono mode
- Wideband and lowpass reduction modes selectable
- Fully adjustable center frequency and bandwidth of the detection range
- Adjustable detection threshold to retain the "crisp" sound character of a vocal
- Look ahead feature for sibilants with short and sharp attacks
- Adjustable release time
- Wide-ranging adjustable attenuation for being able to use it before *or* after a compressor, just like you prefer
- "What you remove" listen mode, one actually hears what's going to be suppressed
- Two level readouts for optical supervision

Basic operation:

Tonmann DeEsser is an insert effect. It should be placed before any other effect (like echo, reverb, chorus, etc.) but after any effect that boosts the highs. (Of course, you could also load it in “offline-mode” for manual vocal-fixing in your favourite wave-editor if you prefer that.)

Hint: When placed after a compressor, one shouldn't use the wideband-mode.
Otherwise the vocals may sound choked or like a hiccup.

Loop the vocal playback and activate the „LISTEN“-button.

LISTEN



Now adjust “CENTER FREQ” until you feel like the maximum of sibilants are heard. If you don't hear anything at all you may need to turn the “ATTEN.” knob clockwise a bit. Now turn the “BAND WIDTH” knob slowly clockwise to again maximize the detected sibilants. If you hear fractions of the singer's voice coming through, turn the knob a fair way counter-clockwise until you again only (or at least mostly only) hear the sibilants coming through.



Hint: Trust your ears and don't make the fault to rely on the readouts...



Turn the “THRESH.” knob clockwise until all left over fractions have just disappeared.

You should now only hear the sibilants and nothing in the time between them. Don't push it too far or the detection of low-level sibilants will suffer later.

Hint: Here you may use the bar-graph readouts as a help to determine the level.



Turn the “ATTEN.” knob all way counter-clockwise now. Then switch the listen-mode off again. The DeEsser now has been aligned to the singer's voice and is ready for normal operation. While the playback is still running, turn the attenuation knob gently clockwise until the sibilants sound pleasant. If the singer starts to lisp, you have pushed it a bit too far. In that case just turn it slightly counter-clockwise again.

That's all for the basic usage of this plugin. Of course one can also tweak these settings in normal operation mode, but for this one needs a lot of experience to get satisfying results.

Advanced operation:



As denoted before, Tonmann DeEsser has a feature called “look-ahead”. Short consonants like a short spoken “k” or “t” contains sibilants that normal de-essers may miss since the maximum intensity happens right at the start, the attack phase. This could lead to unpleasant sounding short “sparks” being left-over. This can be fine-tuned by adjusting the “LOOK AHED”-knob. Please note, that increasing the look-ahead will also increase the overall signal delay in the processing chain. This may lead to delayed vocals if the host software does not offer plugin delay-compensation. So when used in live setups, the look-ahead should be disabled by turning the knob fully counter-clockwise to 0.00.



As listed in the feature-list, Tonmann DeEsser has two different limiting modes. The "WIDE BAND" mode simply attenuates the whole signal when a sibilant is detected, while the "LOW PASS" mode only attenuates the frequency area where the sibilant was detected. It depends very much on the vocals and the particular usage which mode fits better, so just switch between both modes while the playback is running and take the one that sounds more natural to your ears.



Due to former heavy compression, noise-gating or limiting that may have been applied to the vocals, Tonmann DeEsser may miss or over-process the ending of the sibilants. This is what the "RELEASE" slider is for. If you feel Tonmann DeEsser ends the attenuation too late, just turn the knob gently counter-clockwise. If you feel that the endings of the sibilants are not caught, turn the knob a bit clockwise. And as always: Trust your ears, not the meters. ;)

(Room for personal notes):

Version history:

- 1.0: Initial release version
- 1.1: Improved "Listen" mode. One now hears what's being removed.
Added a second bar graph readout.
Aligned some slider ranges and a few internal improvements.
- 1.2: All new GUI, many thanks to DeLaMancha (www.delamancha.co.uk) for this great artworks
De-normal and multi-core problems (hopefully) cured.
Other internal improvements.

Thanks:

I'd like to thank the following people for supporting me in the development of this PlugIn:

- Jeff McClintock for developing Synthedit, the basis of Tonmann DeEsser
- Dave Haupt for his brilliant Synthedit modules this PlugIn features
- J.-M. Vaith for testing this PlugIn under "real world" conditions

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Final words:

Thank you for using my DeEsser. I hope you enjoy it as much as it was fun and educational for me to create. You are allowed to use it completely free of charge for private and commercial productions. However, if you use it on a regular basis, please consider supporting my plugin-development by making a donation via the Paypal button on my website... thanks in advance!

Sincerely,
Christian Keck alias Tonmann
in June 2015