PULSAR

Vocal EQ and Compression
Cheat Sheet

Get control over vocals with these ten starting points for mixing the human voice. Adjust our suggested frequencies and compression settings to your own unique material for best results.

Backing vocals

Cut out sub and mid low frequencies with a high-pass filter and a low shelf set at around 300Hz. Attenuate upper mids with a wide bell and add sparkle by subtly boosting a 5dB high shelf set to 27kHz.

Saturated vocals

Set a high-pass to 170Hz and low-pass to around 7.6kHz. Cut the mud out of the mid low frequencies and add warmth by boosting widely at around 700Hz and presence at 3kHz. Add saturation with the Drive dial.

Classic female rock vocals

Add strength and presence by boosting higs with a shelf, and two bell boosts around 600 Hz and 3kHz. Remove muddiness with a 10dB cut around 200Hz, and filter out the sub frequencies with a high-pass filter.

Airy pop vocals

Add a lot of air with a high shelf from roughly 7.5kHz. Remove body in the mids and reduce the lows with a more severe cut. Make sure no sub frequencies creep through with a high-pass filter.

Lo-fi mic

Cut highs and lows out with filters at 220Hz and 9kHz. Achieve that nasal mic sound by performing a very heavy cut and boost at around 650Hz and 2.3kHz respectively. Add some extra bite with saturation.

Level vocals

Attack: Medium
Mix: 100% Wet
Release: Medium
Gain Reduction: -4dB

Squash vocals

Attack: Medium-Fast
Mix: 100% Wet
Release: Fast
Gain Reduction: -6dB
Use an sidechain EQ to cut the lowest and highest freqs

Smooth pop vocal

Attack: Medium
Mix: 100% Wet
Release: Medium
Gain Reduction: -6dB
High-pass the internal sidechain at about 80Hz

De-esser
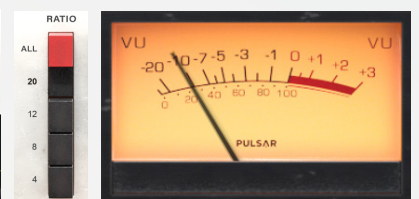

Attack: Fast
Mix: 100% Wet
Release: Fast
Gain Reduction: -10dB
Use internal sidechain EQ to isolate 3.5kHz to 10kHz

Rock vocal

Attack: Fast
Mix: 100% Wet
Release: Fast
Gain Reduction: -12dB
Dial in a very high Ratio (20:1) and use sidechain high-pass