LUSTRA

VOCAL CLARITY EQ · WHITE RIVER AUDIO

User Guide
Version 0.6.4

Lustra is a corrective EQ for vocal tracks. It analyzes the first 30 seconds of singing on the track and builds a correction to match: it reduces muddiness, honk and resonances, and restores presence and air where they are lacking. Because the correction comes from the track itself, a dark, boomy vocal and a thin, bright one receive opposite treatment. Lustra adds no latency and never changes the track's level on its own.



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Quick start

1. **Insert Lustra on the vocal track, ahead of compression, saturation and effects** in the effects chain. Use a separate instance on each vocal track.
2. **Play a section with singing.** The status 2 shows `WAITING FOR SINGING`, then `LEARNING THE VOICE` with a count of the seconds heard, while the light pulses. After 30 seconds of singing it shows `VOICE LEARNED`, the light stays on, and the correction is set.
3. **Compare with the plugin bypassed.** Removing low-mid buildup usually lowers the level by 1–3 dB. Raise Output to match before judging the result.
4. **Adjust Clarity to taste.** The defaults suit most vocals. Use Mud, Resonance and Air to fine-tune individual areas.

What you see

1 Correction curve

Mint: the learned correction. It stays fixed until you press Relearn.

Lilac: the total EQ right now, including the parts that move with the performance.

The shaded regions mark the four ranges Lustra works on. Narrow dips in the curve are fixed resonances it found (see Resonance).

10 Singing light

Softly lit while Lustra is loaded; brightens with sound and glows fully while Lustra hears singing.

2 Status

`WAITING FOR SINGING` light dim: no singing detected yet.
`LEARNING THE VOICE` light pulses (only while it hears singing): learning the track.
`VOICE LEARNED` light on: correction set and saved with the session.

3 Meters

The current amount of each moving correction, in dB. Mud and Res show cuts; Pres and Air show lifts. The short line marks the most recent peak.

The controls

4 CLARITY default 80%	Sets the amount of two things. **The learned correction:** a fixed EQ that evens out this singer's tone (a dull voice gets a few dB more presence and air, a bright one a small trim). **The presence lift:** a broad boost around 2.5 kHz that brings the words back on lines sung darker than usual, up to 6 dB at 100%; the Pres meter shows it. At 0% both are off; Mud, Resonance and Air keep working. **Change it:** lower for dark backing vocal pads; higher for a dull or muddy recording.
5 MUD default 50%	A low-mid cut that follows the performance. When the singer moves closer to the mic or sings lower, the low mids build up; Lustra reduces them while it lasts and releases as soon as the balance returns. Typically 1–2 dB, at most 6 dB. **Change it:** higher for a singer who works close to the mic; lower if low notes start to sound thin.
6 RESONANCE default 60%	Honk and ringing. A broad cut follows nasal vowels (around 630 Hz to 1.6 kHz) when they swell; sung notes are left alone. Up to four steady resonances from the mic, the room or the voice get narrow notches, found while learning and shown on the curve. **Change it:** higher for a nasal or ringing recording; lower if the vocal loses character.
7 AIR default 40%	A lift above 7 kHz on open vowels (2 dB at the default, up to 5 dB) that pulls back instantly on S's, T's and breaths, adding sheen without increasing sibilance. **Change it:** higher for a dull vocal; lower or off for a bright one, or if you add air elsewhere in the chain.
8 OUTPUT default 0 dB, ±12 dB	A fixed level trim for matching the bypassed level.
9 RELEARN	Forgets the learned voice and learns it again from the next 30 seconds of singing. Press it for a different singer, mic, mic position or room; not needed for new takes on the same setup or level changes.

Good to know

Where it goes

Place Lustra before compression and saturation so they respond to the corrected vocal. With other White River plugins, the usual order is Lustra, Laminar, then Clarion.

How it learns

Lustra learns only from singing; silence, bleed from other mics, breaths and S's are ignored. If a track has between 10 and 30 seconds of singing, the correction is set at the next playback start. Every playback starts from the same state, and the session reopens exactly as saved. Only Relearn starts the learning again.

When to press Relearn

For a different singer (or Lustra copied to another vocal), a different mic, mic position or room, or if Lustra first learned a scratch take or a part sung very differently (a whispered intro on a belted song). Not for new takes on the same setup, punch-ins or level changes. After an EQ change before Lustra it's optional: without Relearn your change comes through as you made it; Relearn makes Lustra correct the new tone too.

Stuck on WAITING FOR SINGING?

The track is probably too quiet. Lustra ignores anything below –46 dBFS so that bleed is not mistaken for singing. Raise the track's gain ahead of Lustra.

Backing vocals

Lustra measures each track against a built-in profile of a well-balanced lead vocal. Dark, sustained vocal pads that are meant to sit behind the lead are therefore brightened as if they were a dull lead. On those, set Clarity to 30–50%, or bypass Lustra.

High voices

When a singer's notes sit at 200 Hz and above, the low mids are the body of the voice rather than mud, so Lustra limits its cut there to 2 dB.

What it isn't

Lustra is not a de-esser or a compressor.