



PS-VC1

PROFESSIONAL SERIES VOCAL CHAIN



PS-VC1 | PRODUCT OVERVIEW & MANUAL

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

THE VOICE OPTIMIZER

PS-VC1 | PROFESSIONAL SERIES | VOCAL CHAIN

The PS-VC1 is a complete vocal channel strip and the opening release of the Black Rooster Audio Professional Series — a line of modern mixing tools designed and built entirely in-house.

Where our vintage collection recreates the circuits, transformers and tubes of classic hardware, the Professional Series takes the opposite approach. Every stage of the PS-VC1 was written from scratch as a clean digital design: no saturation you did not ask for, no coloration you cannot switch off. What remains is speed, clarity and control — a full vocal chain that gets a lead vocal sitting in a mix in seconds rather than in six plugin windows.

MAIN FEATURES

Six-in-One Design: Low End EQ, High End EQ, Compressor, Reverb, Echo and Width combined in a single cohesive interface

Modern, Transparent Character: Precise digital filters and algorithms tuned for musical vocal enhancement without added color

Preset-Driven Workflow: Four carefully calibrated presets per module deliver creative starting points without overwhelming complexity

Auto Makeup Gain: Automatically compensates for compressor gain reduction, enabling true A/B comparison between compressed and uncompressed signals

Precision Metering: High-resolution LED VU meters display input and output levels with extended dynamic range

Full Signal Path Control: Global input and output gain stages, phase inversion and panning for accurate gain staging throughout the chain



Six modules — Low End, High End, Compress, Reverb, Echo and Width — share a single unified interface and a common signal path. Each module is preset-driven, with four calibrated starting points that cover the decisions you actually make on a vocal, and each can be bypassed individually for instant comparison. The result is a channel strip that is fast enough for a rough mix and precise enough for a final one.

FURTHER INFO

PLUGIN ACTIVATION & SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

All Black Rooster Audio plug-ins are equipped with a straightforward and easy to use, serial-based activation system. We did our best to ensure that our system works well for both online and offline users. By supporting USB key activation, mobile use is supported just as easily as permanent licence activation on your computer's hard disk is.

For detailed information on activation and the current system requirements of our plug-ins, please refer to <https://blackroosteraudio.com/en/faq>

PS-VC1 PROFESSIONAL SERIES | VOCAL CHAIN

GENERAL OVERVIEW

FEATURE OVERVIEW

SIX-IN-ONE VOCAL WORKBENCH

The PS-VC1 signal flow consists of six distinct processing modules in a fixed, mix-ready order. Each module carries its own preset selector and bypass control, so any part of the chain can be evaluated on its own.

Low End

A dedicated filtering section for precise control of the low-frequency spectrum. Built on modern digital filter design for clarity and accuracy, the Low End module offers four musically optimized presets that address the most common problems in a vocal recording — from muddiness and boominess to a lack of depth and weight.

- *Sub: Attenuates unwanted rumble or subtly enhances low-end energy, with an adjustable range from 20 Hz to 150 Hz*
- *Floor: Controls low-frequency buildup or gently reinforces the lowest audible fundamentals, operating across 20 Hz to 180 Hz*
- *Boom: Reduces excessive resonance and proximity effect, with a working range of 40 Hz to 340 Hz*
- *Mid: Provides control over the fundamental vocal frequencies, spanning a broad range from 60 Hz to 640 Hz*

High End

A dedicated filter section for shaping the high-frequency spectrum. Also built on modern digital filter design, the High End module offers four carefully calibrated presets that add clarity, tame sibilance and hiss, or open up the top end with air and brilliance.

- *Sharp: Attenuates excessive sibilance within a focused range of 5 kHz to 6 kHz*
- *Silk: Smooths the top end for a more polished sound, operating across 1.8 kHz to 18 kHz*
- *Edge: Controlled presence boost for clarity and definition, spanning 1.2 kHz to 10 kHz*
- *Air: Adds openness and brilliance to the top end for modern vocal production, spanning 3 kHz to 20 kHz*

Compress

Shape the dynamic envelope of your vocal with precision and musicality. The Compress module provides both peak and vintage detection modes and four distinct compression styles, ranging from subtle level control to aggressive, upfront dynamics. Integrated auto makeup gain compensates for gain reduction automatically, so switching the module in and out compares character rather than level.

- *Slight: Gentle, transparent compression for natural dynamic control*
- *Punch: Moderate compression with enhanced transient impact*
- *Smack: Emphatic compression for upfront, in-your-face vocals*
- *Limit: Heavy compression for peak control and maximum loudness*

PS-VC1 PROFESSIONAL SERIES | VOCAL CHAIN

GENERAL OVERVIEW

FEATURE OVERVIEW

Reverb

Add depth and dimension with a reverb algorithm developed specifically for this chain. Designed for efficiency and sonic clarity, the Reverb module provides four distinct spatial environments, from small room ambience to expansive, immersive spaces.

- *Tight: Compact, reflective room for subtle spatial enhancement*
- *Chamber: Medium-sized chamber for a natural, denser space*
- *Large: Large environment with controlled high-frequency reflections*
- *Church: Cathedral-style, atmospheric reverb with extended decay*

Echo

Create rhythmic interest and spatial depth with tempo-synced and free-running delay. Four presets cover everything from tight slapback to atmospheric ambient trails, serving both corrective timing work and creative sound design.

- *Fast: Quick slapback delay for thickness and depth*
- *Eight: Eighth-note delay for rhythmic enhancement*
- *Quarter: Quarter-note delay for sustained, spacious repeats*
- *Space: Long, ambient delay for atmospheric effects*

Width

Control the stereo image and spatial placement of the vocal. The Width module employs three distinct stereo processing algorithms — All-Pass, Haas and Hilbert — each with its own spatial character. Four presets provide varying degrees of stereo expansion, from subtle enhancement to extended spreading.

- *Tight: Minimal stereo widening for subtle enhancement*
- *Close: Moderate stereo expansion for natural width*
- *Far: Wide stereo image for spacious vocal presence*
- *Outer: Extreme stereo widening*

PS-VC1 PROFESSIONAL SERIES | VOCAL CHAIN

PLUG-IN CONTROLS



» INPUT SECTION

- **Input Gain ± 15 dB:** Adjusts the level of the incoming signal before processing, ensuring optimal gain staging throughout the chain
- **Phase Inversion:** Inverts the polarity of the input signal, useful for addressing phase issues
- **Pan Control:** Positions the input signal within the stereo field before processing
- **Input Meter:** High-resolution LED VU meter displaying the incoming signal level for accurate gain staging



» OUTPUT SECTION

- **Output Gain ± 15 dB:** Master output level control, adjusting the final processed signal level
- **Output Meter:** High-resolution LED VU meter displaying the signal level after all processing
- **Power:** Global bypass switch that disables all processing while maintaining signal flow, enabling instant A/B comparison between processed and unprocessed signals

» SUGGESTED WORKFLOW

The PS-VC1 is laid out in the order most engineers work in. Following it top to bottom is the fastest route to a finished vocal.

1. **Set the input.** Use Input Gain and the input meter to bring the vocal to a healthy working level before any processing. Check phase here if the vocal was recorded with more than one microphone.
2. **Clean the low end.** Start with Low End. Remove rumble and proximity buildup before compressing — the compressor will react far more predictably once it is not reading energy you intend to discard.
3. **Compress.** Choose a compression style, then leave Auto Makeup Gain engaged and bypass the module repeatedly. Because levels are matched, you are judging character rather than loudness.
4. **Shape the top.** Use High End for presence and air, and to control any sibilance the compression has brought forward.
5. **Place the vocal.** Add Reverb and Echo last, then use Width to set how far the vocal spreads across the stereo field. Check the result in mono if the mix is destined for club, broadcast or mobile playback.
6. **Match the output.** Trim Output Gain so that engaging and bypassing the plugin produces no level jump, then make the final judgment call with the Power switch.

PS-VC1 PROFESSIONAL SERIES | VOCAL CHAIN

PREFS & INSTRUCTIONS

ADDITIONAL PLUG-IN PREFERENCES

(GEAR ICON MENU AT THE BOTTOM)

GUI SIZE

In the GUI size menu, you can select your preferred GUI ranging from a list of four settings, if you're looking to change the default sizing. Please note that the GUI size setting is a global preference that affects all Black Rooster Audio plug-ins installed on your system.

KNOB BEHAVIOUR & KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Use the plug-in settings menu to select your preferred knob mode globally. Please note that all of our plug-ins share the same settings across all DAW applications. Choose between "Host Setting", "Circular", "Relative Circular" and "Linear".

- By default, the knob mode is set to "Host Setting", which means that the knob mode is dictated by the DAW application. Some VST hosts allow you to change the knob mode setting in their preference menu. Our plug-ins will respect the host knob mode in that setting.
- In "Circular" or "Relative Circular" mode, all knobs will react to circular mouse gestures and you have to drag your mouse in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to change its value.
- In the "Linear" mode you have to drag your mouse up or down when selecting a knob to change its value. Use the knob sensitivity menu and adjust it to your liking. Please note that this function is only available in linear mode.

ALL OF OUR PLUGINS SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

AU Hosts on Mac OS

Alt + Click - Reset control to its default value Shift + Drag - Fine control

Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control

VST Hosts on Mac OS

CMD + Click - Reset control to its default value

Shift + Drag - Fine control (only applicable in linear knob mode) Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control

VST Hosts on Windows

Ctrl + Click - Reset control to its default value

Shift + Drag - Fine control (only applicable in linear knob mode) Shift + Mousewheel - Fine control