



**WHAT IS IT?**

A modular processing plug-in designed to cover most aspects of vocal production

**CONTACT**

Who: iZotope  
Web: [izotope.com](http://izotope.com)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1 Wide range of processing modules
- 2 Reconfigurable signal chain
- 3 Flexible editing options



although Pitch and Breath remain fixed at the top.

**Getting modular**

In terms of the individual processing blocks Nectar has numerous options. The Gate and De-Esser both offer various forms of ‘conventional’ controlled attenuation, but things take a more unusual turn with the Breath Control module. As iZotope state, if a vocal is saturated, compressed or limited, breaths can become loud or abrasive, and this aims to address that particular issue.

The EQ is a reconfigurable five-band multi-filter analogue-modelled design, and this journey into the realms of ‘vintage’ extends to the Saturation section, with its switchable ‘Tape’, ‘Tube’, ‘Warm’, ‘Analog’ and ‘Retro’ modes, as well as the Compressor’s ‘Digital’, ‘Vintage’, ‘Optical’ and ‘Solid-State’ options. Incidentally, the compressor section can run its two compressors in parallel for some very interesting processing options – a nice touch. The comprehensive Reverb and Delay sections also add ‘old-school’ options, which only increase the sonic possibilities of the plug-in as a whole, as does the Doubler (a combination of pitch-shifter, delay, pan and EQ). The final piece of the jigsaw is the Pitch section, which corrects incoming audio either automatically or via the Manual Editor (having captured the offending section) for more specific treatment.

**Sum of the parts**

Overall, I was very impressed with what Nectar has to offer, and iZotope certainly know a thing or two about plug-in processing. CPU usage is dependent on module usage, and can be quite high at times. However, the bottom line here though is that Nectar gives you a fantastic amount of ‘bang for your buck’, and is a most comprehensive vocal toolbox. **FM**

# iZotope Nectar Vocal Plug-in Suite | £185

**Bruce Aisher** takes a look at iZotope’s latest offering, and tests its all-in-one approach to vocal processing

**SPECS**

**System Requirements:**  
**PC:** Windows (XP, x64, Vista, Win 7)

**Mac:** OS X 10.5 or later (Universal Binary)

**Plug-in formats:**  
Pro Tools 7+ (RTAS/AudioSuite), VST, MAS, Audio Unit and DirectX

Manual pitch editing is not supported in the DirectX version

**American audio abusers iZotope have a distinguished track record when it comes to plug-in processing. All of**

their most recent plug-ins combine a series of processing modules accessed via pre-programmed (and often genre-defined) presets.

However, underlying these is the ability to dip into an ‘Advanced View’, where much more detailed tweaking is possible, allowing the plug-ins to appeal to both the beginner and more experienced user alike.

**Sing it back**

Nectar consists of eleven processing elements – Breath Control, Pitch Correction, Compression, DeEsser, Saturation, Doubler, EQ, Limiter, Delay and Reverb. So, from the start it is apparent that this isn’t just another niche dynamics processor.

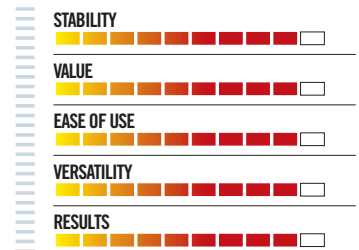
If you want to avoid window, graph and slider overload, then getting started

is simply a matter of picking a style from within one of the 12 genres – ‘Motown Power’ for example. Each processing unit is then represented in the overview window by only a few parameters, with an editable EQ display at the bottom, and Input and Output meters to the side. They can all be bypassed individually or en-masse should you need to check what they are actually doing to your track.

The default ‘Mixing’ mode for the plug-in provides the highest quality of processing (as well as greater CPU usage and overall latency). Switching to ‘Tracking mode’ limits some functionality (and disables the Breath Control module), but allows for operation in low latency ‘live’ situations.

Switching to the ‘Advanced View’ allows you access the detailed editing windows for each module. The module selection buttons appear down the left side of the window, and most can be re-ordered by a simple drag-and-drop –

**FutureMusic VERDICT**



**A powerhouse of processing dedicated to improving your vocal production, with great results.**