



ON THE DVD

WHAT IS IT?

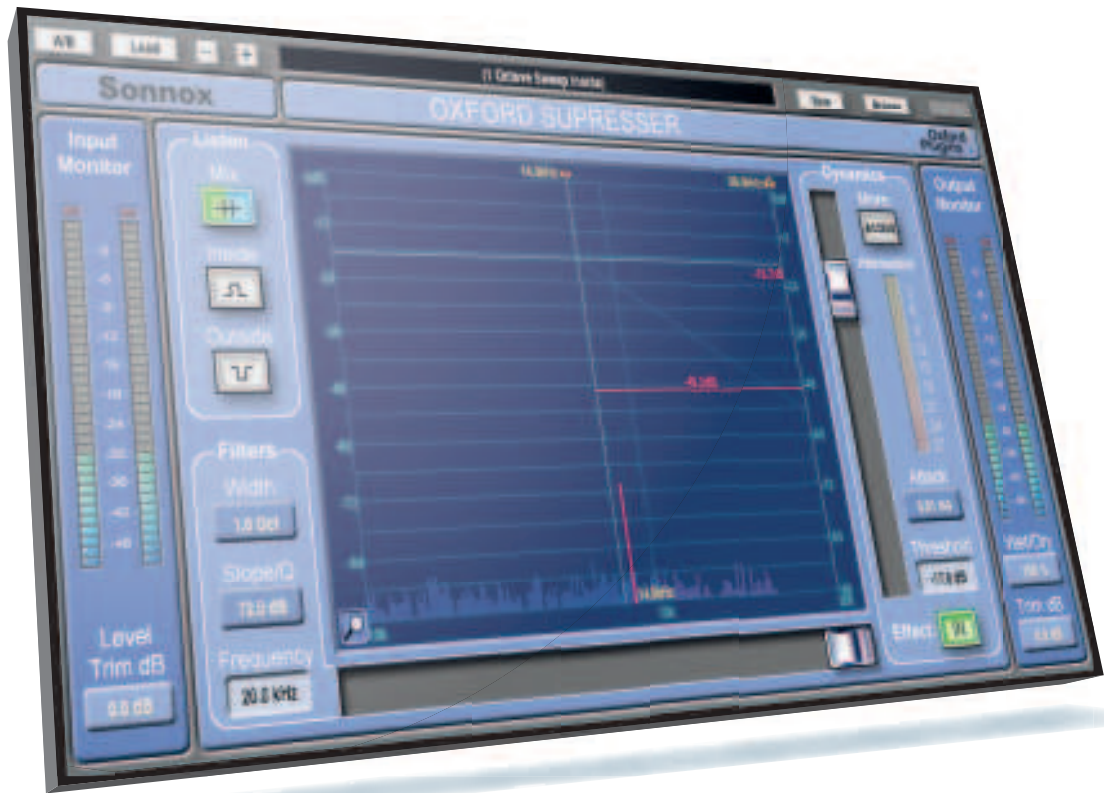
A de-esser plug-in.

CONTACT

Who: Sony Oxford
Web: sonnoxplugins.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Simple uncluttered user interface
- 2 Successfully de-esses a wide range of material
- 3 Auto Level Tracking helps hide unwanted side-effects of de-essing



Sonnox SuprEsser Plug-in | £162

Spitty and hissy vocals can ruin your track and your day. **Steve Hillier** tries out Sonnox's solution...

SPECS

Supported Technology:
VST, AU, RTAS, Powercore V2 (V3 required for Mac)
System Requirements:
PC: Windows XP or Vista, 1GB RAM, iLok key
Mac: OS X 10.4 or 10.5, 1GB RAM, iLok key

The least glamorous of plug-ins, the de-esser, seems to be popular with software houses at the moment. I reviewed the superb Eiosis E2 de-esser a few months ago, and now we have another contender for your cash, the SuprEsser from Sonnox.

Sibilant vocals are a pain in the proverbial in the studio. We could have a vocalist who sounds great in real life, but the studio mic throws up an audio world of trouble. Each time they sing a word with an 'S' in it, the sound leaps up in volume and sounds like a hissing snake. The same occurs with the sound of the letter 't', 'f' and even 'ch'.

A de-esser helps by analysing the incoming vocal signal and attenuates the frequency range that's causing the problem, whenever it exceeds a user

specified threshold. SuprEsser requires an iLok to authorise itself, and once the painless installation is finished, the first impression is one of a solid, no nonsense audio tool.

The main window gives you quick and easy access to the most important parameters – the frequency range you need to de-ess, by how much, and at what threshold it starts doing its work.

Sibilance seeker

There is a fair supply of presets included with the package, but to get the best out of any de-esser you have to set it up manually.

The most interesting feature is Auto Level Tracking which eliminates the need to adjust the de-essing threshold as the track progresses. Auto Level monitors the overall level of the track

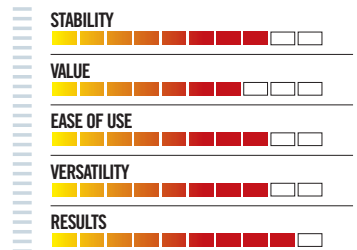
and adjusts itself as the audio progresses. This works very well – in fact, it avoids introducing unwanted de-essing artifacts (such as dull sounding vocals) to a very great degree.

De-ess to success

The SuprEsser is a solid plug-in. No serious studio setup can do without them when vocals are hissing and spitting all over an otherwise great sounding track. SuprEsser is exactly what its name implies – a professional level tool that with some careful setting up, can de-ess anything you throw at it.

Sonnox have turned out a solid, stable solution that feels professional and sounds great. You'll know yourself whether you can justify £162 for such a plug-in, but, in the end, the Oxford series of plug-ins have a great reputation that is well-deserved. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



The Sonnox range has always had an acclaimed reputation, and the SuprEsser shows us why.