antares™

VOCAL DE-ESSER

USER GUIDE

Contents

Introducing Vocal De-Esser
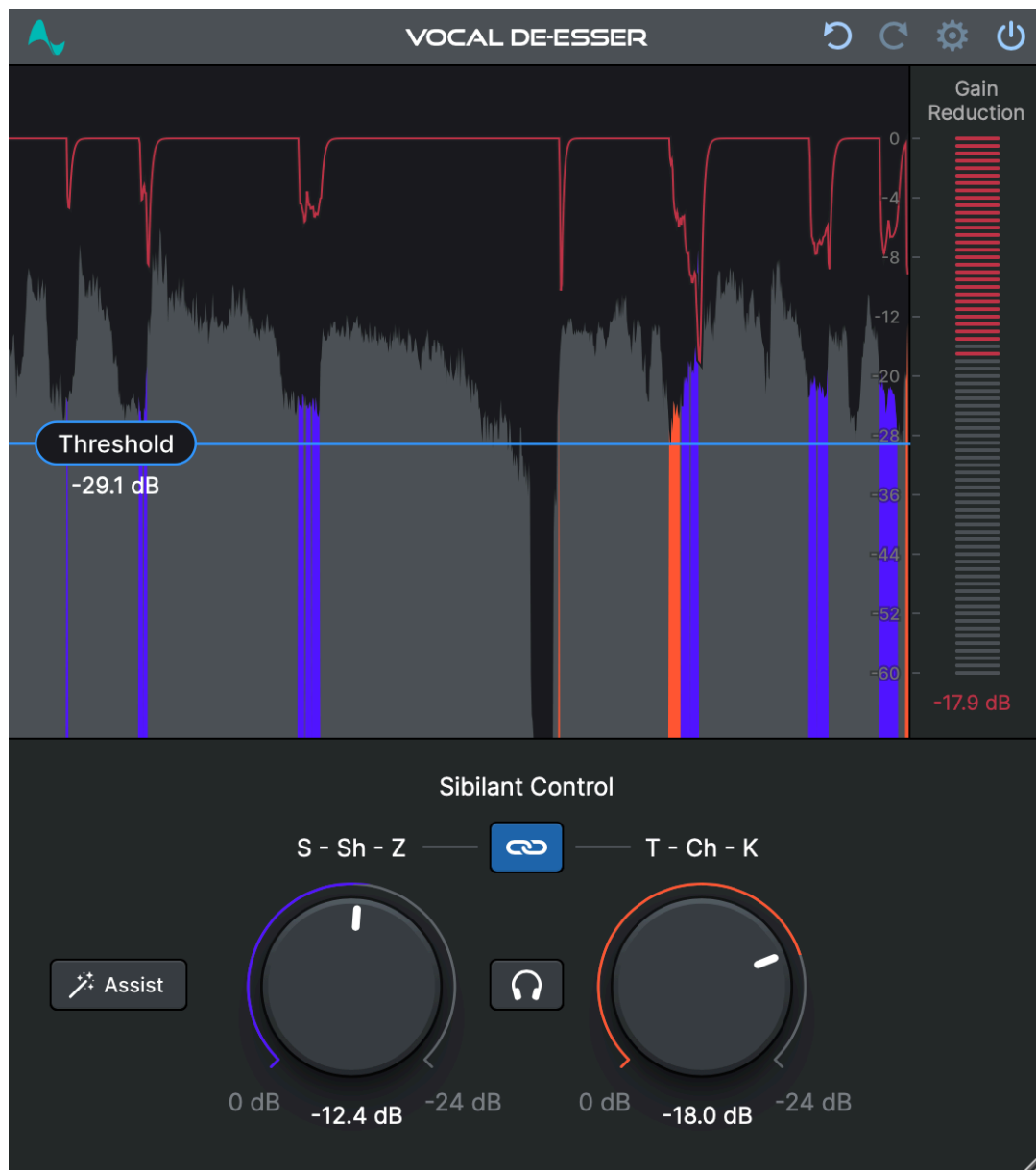
In the world of vocal recording, painful sibilance can cut through an otherwise flawless take like a hot knife through butter. Until now, de-essing has felt more like a battle than a studio process. But not anymore.

Meet Vocal De-Esser - the new AI-powered vocal de-essing heavyweight that knocks out sibilance with scientific precision.

At the core of this innovative plugin lies the Waveform Window, a powerful visual workspace that reveals sibilant problem areas with striking clarity. A scrolling waveform highlights soft sibilants like "S" and "Sh" in blue, while hard offenders such as "T" and "K" blaze orange. The Threshold control lets you easily adjust the de-essing trigger point for surgical sibilance suppression.

But Vocal De-Esser doesn't stop there. Dedicated Sibilant Control knobs give you a firm grip over reducing soft and hard sibilants independently. The Gain Reduction Meter provides real-time feedback, while the Audition feature lets you hone in on sibilance for precision tweaking. And with the time-saving Intelligent Assist Function, quick setup is just three clicks away.

Don't let sibilance hold your vocal productions hostage any longer. By combining superior detection, precise flexibility, and unique visual feedback, Vocal De-Esser is the elite fighting force that defangs even the most insidious sibilance. Restore professional polish and mix-ready clarity to your tracks today.

Quick Start – License Activation

Activation Instructions

Before we can use Vocal De-Esser, we need to activate our license first using the Auto-Tune Central application. Please follow the steps below, or watch our instructional video to get started:

Step 1: Install Auto-Tune Central

Visit our website here to download the latest installer for Auto-Tune Central. After downloading, run the installer.

After installation is complete, you can find Auto-Tune Central in your computer's applications folder:

MacOS
/Applications

Windows
C:\Program Files\Antares Audio Technologies

Step 2: Open Auto-Tune Central and Log In

Enter your Antares account email address and password to log in.

If you don't have an account yet, you can create one within Auto-Tune Central.

If you purchased your plug-in or subscription through antarestech.com, navigate to the "Plug-Ins" tab to install and activate your license. Once your license has been activated, you're ready to open the plug-in in your DAW!

If you purchased through a third party, please follow the steps below.

Step 3: Navigate to the Redeem a License Tab

In the top banner of Auto-Tune Central, select "Redeem a License." Enter your 25-digit registration code, then select "Redeem and Activate."

Step 4: You're all set!

Now you can use your Antares plug-in(s) in your DAW! Navigate to the "Plug-Ins" tab to install and manage your license activations.

For the latest DAW Compatibility information, please visit [this page](#) on our website.

Step 5: Open Vocal De-Esser In Your DAW

Below, you'll find instructions on how to insert Vocal De-Esser onto a track in various compatible DAWs:

Pro Tools

Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks, or buses. Then select Vocal De-Esser from the pop-up menu in either the Dynamics or Noise Reduction category.

Logic Pro

Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select Vocal De-Esser from the pop-up menu. You will find Vocal De-Esser in:
Audio Units > Antares section.

Ableton Live

In either Session or Arrangement View, select the track you would like to place Vocal De-Esser on by clicking the track name.

At the top left of Ableton's interface, click on the Plug-in Device Browser icon. From the plug-ins list, double-click Vocal De-Esser, or drag it onto the track.

Cubase

Choose an empty insert slot, for example in the Mixer, and select Vocal De-Esser from the menu that appears.

Studio One

Click the '+' button next to the Inserts tab of an audio track, and select Vocal De-Esser from the drop-down menu.

GarageBand

Select the track you want to apply the plug-in to, then open the Smart Controls panel by clicking the icon or by pressing 'B' on your keyboard. Select the Vocal De-Esser Audio Unit from the Plug-ins dropdown menu.

FL Studio

Open the *Plugin Database* section of the *Browser*, then drag and drop 'Vocal De-Esser' into the channel rack. Alternatively, you can insert "Effects" plug-ins from the Mixer by selecting the track you want to work with, and clicking one of the slots located on the right side.

For more information, please visit the FL Studio Reference Manual here.

Global Controls

Auto-Tune Central

Click on the Antares logo to open **Auto-Tune Central**, a separate application used to manage license activations.

You may see a red badge on the Antares logo to notify you of any unread notifications from Auto-Tune Central. Typically, these notifications will let you know when a new update is available for the plug-in. Click on the Antares logo to open Auto-Tune Central, then open the Messages tab to view the notification.

Undo

Click the **Undo** button to reverse your most recent edit, up to 99 steps.

Redo

Click the **Redo** button to restore the most recently undone edit.
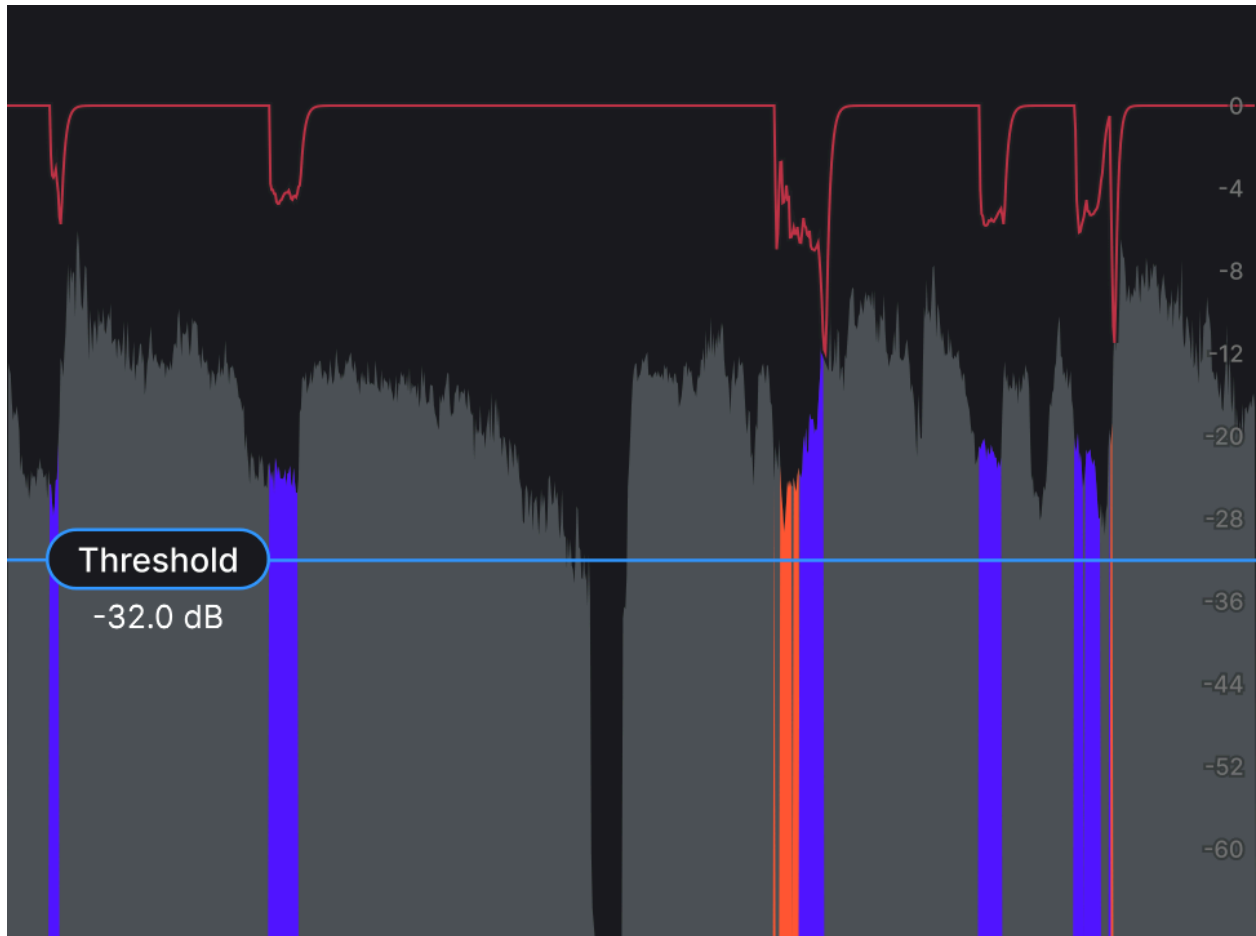
Settings

Click the gear icon to open the Settings Menu.

Bypass

Click the **Bypass** button to disable Vocal De-Esser in your DAW. When bypassed, the Bypass button will appear de-illuminated.

Waveform Window

The **Waveform Window** is the main window of Vocal De-Esser. Here, a scrolling waveform will be displayed in real-time as you play audio into the plug-in.

Some sections of the waveform will be shaded in blue or orange to indicate where sibilance has been detected and reduced. Blue areas indicate soft sibilants, such as 'S, Sh, Z, and Zh', while orange areas indicate hard sibilants, like 'T, Ch, K'.

The red line above the waveform indicates the amount of Gain Reduction applied at any given time. This information is also displayed on the Gain Reduction Meter.

The Threshold control lives within the Waveform Window. Click and drag the Threshold to move it up or down.
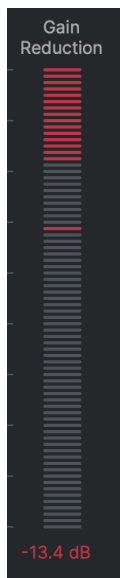
Sibilant Controls

Threshold
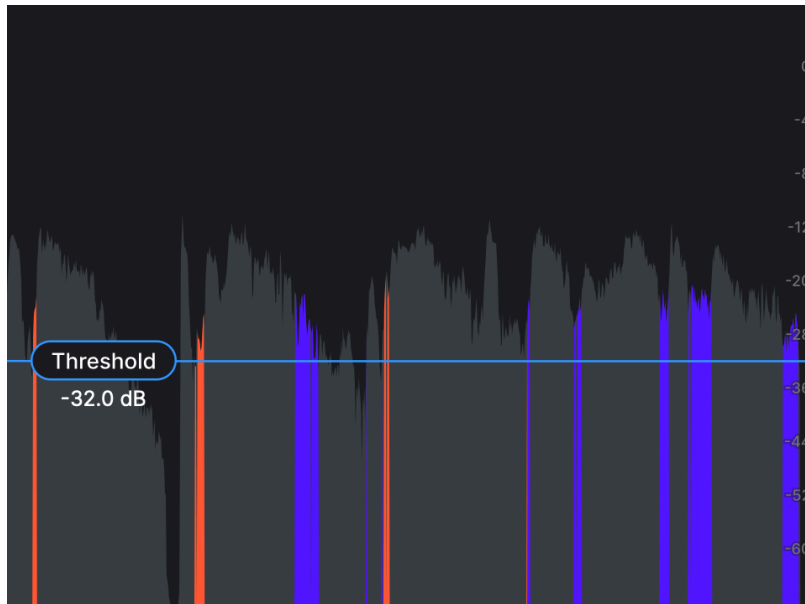
The **Threshold** determines the gain at which de-essing is triggered.

Click and drag the blue Threshold bar in the Waveform Window to adjust it.

If you're not sure where to place the Threshold, try using the Assist function to set it automatically based on the amount of sibilance present in your audio.

Gain Reduction Meter

The **Gain Reduction Meter** is a visual representation of the amount of gain reduction being applied to the audio in real time.

The decibel readout at the bottom of the meter shows the maximum amount of gain reduction that was applied at any given time. This visual aid lets you know how much the Vocal De-Esser has affected your vocal.
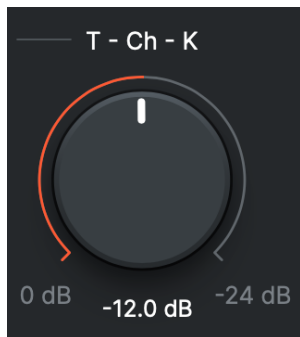
Soft Sibilance Knob

The **Soft Sibilance Knob** adjusts the maximum amount of gain reduction applied (in dB) to soft vocal sibilant sounds, such as 'S, Sh, Z, and Zh'.

Soft sibilance reduction is shaded blue in the Waveform Window.

The gain reduction applied to these sounds is dynamic based on the gain of the detected sibilance.

Hard Sibilance Knob

The **Hard Sibilance Knob** adjusts the maximum amount of gain reduction applied (in dB) to hard vocal sibilant sounds, such as 'T, Ch, and K'.

Hard sibilance reduction is shaded orange in the Waveform Window.

The gain reduction applied to these sounds is dynamic based on the gain of the detected sibilance.

Link Button

When the **Link** button is enabled, both Sibilant Control knobs will move in tandem to preserve the ratio set between them.

When this control is disabled, you can adjust the gain reduction applied to the different sibilant types individually.
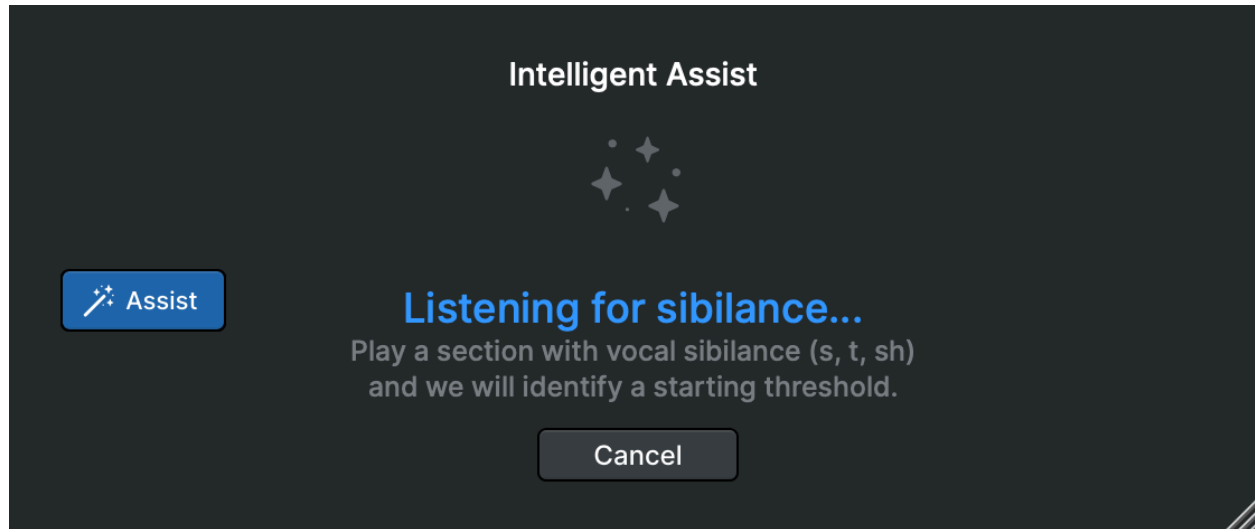
Audition Button
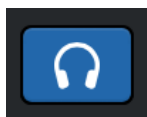
The **Audition** button solos the vocal sibilance detected in the input audio.

This feature is helpful for pinpointing the sections of your vocal that are most affected by sibilance.

Intelligent Assist Function

The **Intelligent Assist Function** is a simple 3 step process designed to help you quickly get started with Vocal De-Esser.

During the Assist process, Vocal De-Esser will listen to 5 seconds of audio and suggest a starting Threshold value based on the amount of detected sibilance.
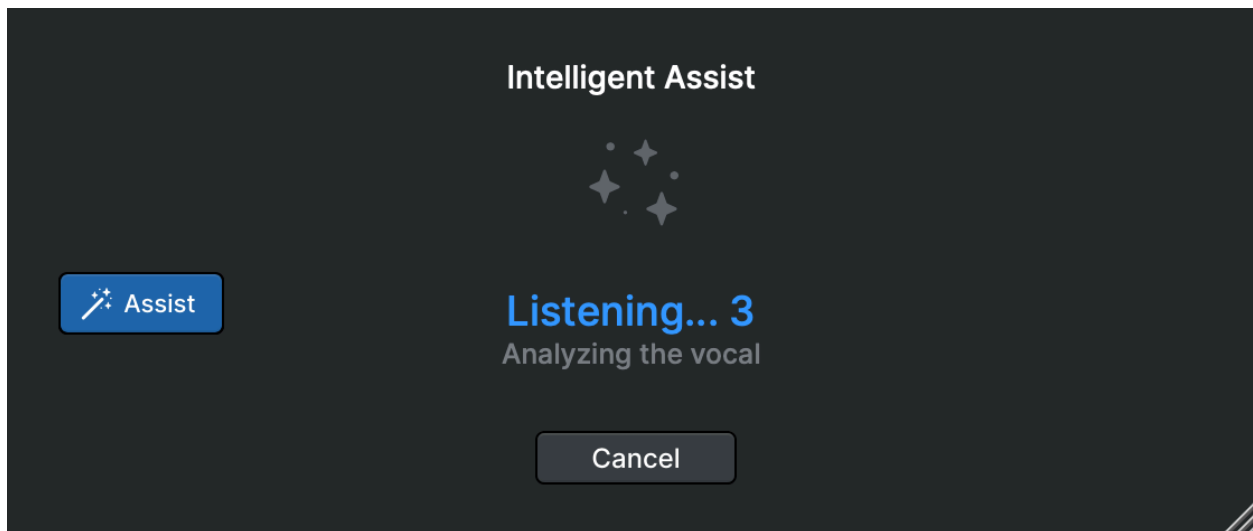
For best results, play a section of audio that contains the specific vocal sibilants that you want to address.

Step 1: Click the Assist Button
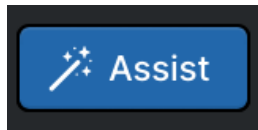
Click the **Assist** button to begin the Assist process.

Step 2: Analysis

During the **Analysis** stage of the Assist process, Vocal De-Esser will listen for sibilance in the vocal. We recommend that you play a segment of your audio that contains the specific type of sibilance that you want to address.

If no sibilance is detected, you will be prompted to try playing a louder section of the vocal performance.
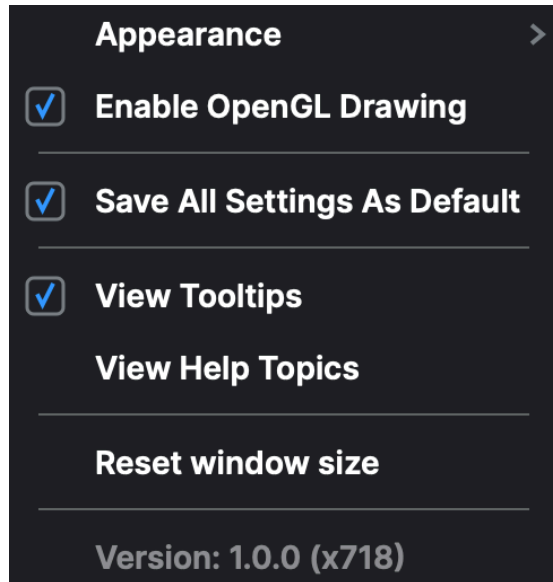
Step 3: Apply
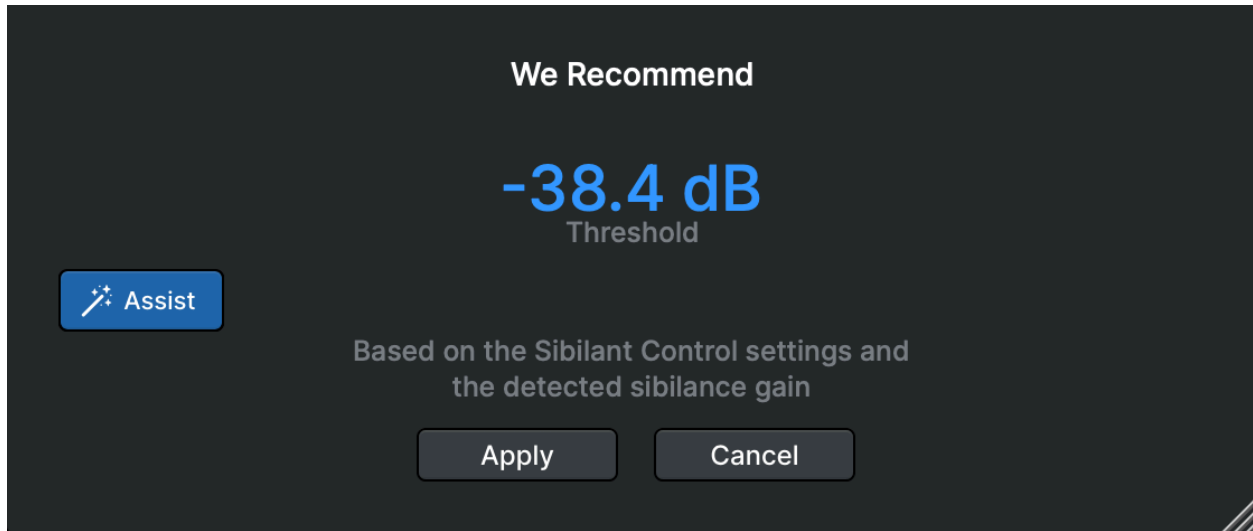
After Vocal De-Esser determines the amount of sibilance in your audio, it will recommend an ideal Threshold level to **Apply**.

From here, you can either *Apply* the recommended Threshold level, or *Cancel* the assist process to maintain the Threshold level currently set in the Waveform Window.

Settings and Preferences

☑ **Appearance** ➤	
☑ **Enable OpenGL Drawing**	
☑ **Save All Settings As Default**	
☑ **View Tooltips**	
View Help Topics	
Reset window size	
Version: 1.0.0 (x718)	

Appearance

Appearance determines the theme of the Vocal De-Esser GUI. Options include:

- Light
- Dark
- System

If 'System' is selected, the plug-in will follow the Appearance settings of your Mac or PC.

Enable OpenGL Drawing

Vocal De-Esser uses **OpenGL** for improved graphics on computers with compatible graphics card hardware.

To improve performance, OpenGL is disabled by default on Mac. On Windows, OpenGL is enabled by default.

If you notice poor CPU or graphics performance when working with many instances of Vocal De-Esser, try changing this preference.

Save All Settings As Default

Check this box to set the default settings for any new instances of Vocal De-Esser.

View Tooltips

Click to enable **Tooltips**.

When this setting is enabled, hover over any parameter in the user interface to read a short description of the control and an example use case.

Note: *This setting is persistent across all instances of Vocal De-Esser.*

View Help Topics

Click to open the Vocal De-Esser Help Page in your web browser. This article contains tutorial videos, answers frequently asked questions, and will direct you to other relevant articles in the Antares Knowledge Base.

Reset Window Size

The Vocal De-Esser plug-in window is completely resizable, and stays sharp at any size. Click and drag the plug-in window to resize it to your liking.

Use this setting to reset the window size back to its default size.