

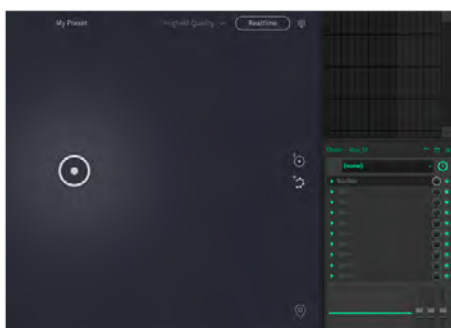
Hands-On: Dreamtonics Vocoflex in practice

Sing like the stars

Who hasn't ever wanted to sound like their favorite singer? Thanks to the advance of AI, this is now possible. Vocoflex from Dreamtonics can match voices to a reference and even morph between different vocals in real time. In this workshop, we'll show you the creative possibilities this technology opens up for us.

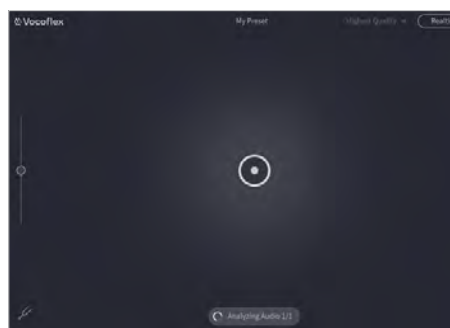


Audio demo



1 Create a vocal track

You need an acapella as a basis. You can sing something yourself, take a sample or use an AI-generated voice. We explained the latter using the Synthesizer V, also from Dreamtonics, in Beat issue 12/2024 [1]. You then insert Vocoflex as a plug-in into an acapella track. ✨



2 Load references

Now drag and drop reference acapellas directly into Vocoflex. The plug-in automatically analyzes each file and then displays it as a chain of dots. The dots visualize the different pitches. Two acapellas are recommended for this workshop, but you can also experiment with more or fewer. ✨



3 Voice generator

If you don't have any reference acapellas available, Vocoflex offers you two alternatives: You can use the extensive selection of internal presets or create completely new voices using the voice generator. You can access the latter using the circle symbol in the middle right. ✨



4 Find the pitch

Use the pitch slider at the bottom left of the plug-in window to match the vocals to your instrumental. By grabbing the large round dot on the user interface and moving it to the different chains, you can hear how well the instrumental and vocals fit together while playback is running. Want more variety? ✨



5 Multiple singers

You can use the (partial) automation of Vocoflex for this. At the bottom right you will find the corresponding button with which you can place waypoints. It is then recommended to set shortcuts in the settings to jump to the points, as this does not happen automatically. The DAW is the better solution for complex automations. ✨



6 Try something new

With Vocoflex you can not only imitate real voices, but also get creative. For example, load vocal chops, arps or other vocal-like samples and be surprised at the effect it has on your original track. The often extreme pitching of such samples can lead to cool new effects. ✨

[1] See BEAT issue 2024/12, available to order at www.falkemedia-shop.de

The 6 Best AI Tools for sound design

Sonic Charge Synplant 2

Synplant 2 from Sonic Charge offers Genopatch, an AI-supported function for creating derivatives of a sample stored by the user. Based on machine learning, the plug-in generates new sounds that are more or less the same as the original. If you like a sound, you can plant it as a „seed“ and edit it further. The main window with macros is available for this purpose. The „DNA“ editor also gives you access to traditional synth settings such as filters, envelopes and effects, which can be edited manually. This gives you an infinite sound pool, the contents of which you can fine-tune by hand if necessary. The price for this synth is therefore justified.



www.soniccharge.com | Price: 149 Euro

Dreamtonics Vocoflex

Vocoflex uses both AI and machine learning to generate synthetic vocal recordings or to match a recording to an existing one. By analyzing and modeling parameters such as pitch, rhythm, and expression, the tool can create amazingly realistic-sounding vocals. The generated voices aren't bad, but they don't come close to humans in terms of emphasis, emotion, and speech flow. But who says you can only use voices? It's up to you which sample you give Vocoflex as a template, which opens up possibilities for sound experiments.



www.dreamtonics.com | Price: 199 USD

Neutone Morpho

Morpho by Neutone follows the same approach as Mawf. The tool receives an input signal and transforms it into a different sound using a selected model. Unlike Mawf, however, Morpho also allows you to create your own model for a fee. In terms of settings, you can not only control effects and dynamic processors in Morpho, but also the transformation itself. This is done either via the four macro controls or via the six sliders located behind the interactive cloud. Neutone is available as a free, starter and full version, each containing five, ten and 31 models respectively. Anyone interested can only be advised to get an impression and experiment with the free version.



www.neutone.ai | Price: from 0 Euro

Audialab Emergent Drums 2



License-free drum sounds for life! That's what Audialab promises with Emergent Drums 2. The tool uses AI to generate samples based on the instrument you've set. The plug-in can even create a complete kit using the 16 slots or pads. The sounds are reminiscent of drum machines, but the manufacturer claims that no original recordings are used to generate the samples. You can influence a sound using faders for volume, attack, release, clip, filter and pitch. Due to the rather synthetic-sounding sounds and the internet connection required to generate the samples, the tool is currently too expensive, because you can buy a lot of sample packs for around 200 euros...



www.audialab.com | Price: 199 USD

Mawf

Mawf is currently still in beta, but already has impressive features. As the name suggests, the tool uses machine learning to transform input signals into any output signal. For example, a guitar can be transformed into a saxophone. Or a hummed melody into a piano piece. The corresponding models/instruments are included in the scope of delivery. You can manipulate the result to your taste using various controls. You can choose from sections for modulation, dynamics and effects, among others. Although the tool is still in development, it already works quite well. The freebie is definitely worth a try!



www.mawf.io | for free (Beta)

Krotos Studio

Krotos Studio is a tool for finding and creating sound effects. The software does not use generative AI, but simply combines the existing samples into a morphable collection. There are various categories to choose from, such as ambiences and weather. You can use an XY pad to morph between sounds in real time. When driving from a city to a forest, for example, traffic noise can be reduced and nature sounds can be amplified. The standard version only offers rudimentary editing options. The Pro version, on the other hand, allows in-depth adjustments and the addition of your own sounds. If you work a lot in the cinematic field, Krotos Studio will save you time and effort.



www.krotos.studio | Price: from 9,99 Euro/month