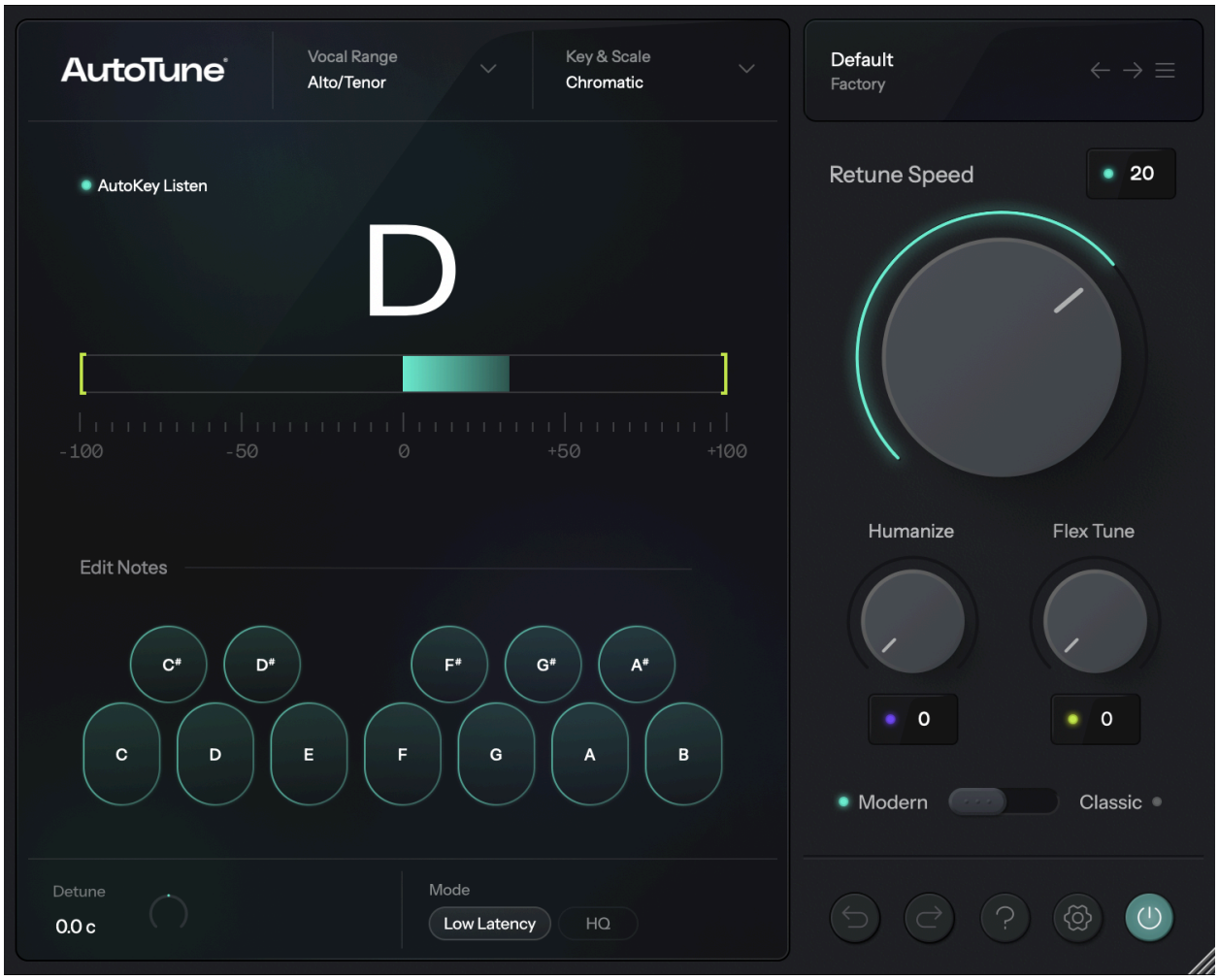
AutoTune®

AutoTune 2026

User Guide

Contents

Introducing AutoTune 2026



Our legendary pitch correction algorithm, re-engineered for speed. **AutoTune 2026** gives you best-in-class sound while optimizing performance and workflow so you can get the pro vocals you want without slowing down.

Quick Start – License Activation

Activation Instructions

Before we can use AutoTune, we need to activate our license first using the AutoTune Central application. Please follow the steps below, or watch our **instructional video** to get started:

Step 1: Install AutoTune Central

AutoTune Central is Antares' download manager, where you can install your plug-ins and manage their activations. If you don't have it installed on your computer yet, visit our website **here** to download the latest installer. After downloading, run the installer.

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

MacOS
/Applications

Windows
C:\Program Files\Antares Audio Technologies

Step 2: Open AutoTune Central and Log In

On the login screen in AutoTune Central, enter the email address and password for your Antares account.

If you purchased your plug-in license directly from our website (antarestech.com), navigate to the Plug-Ins tab to install and manage your license activations.

If your purchase was made through a third party, please follow the instructions in **Step 3**. Otherwise, skip to **Step 4**.

Step 3: Navigate to the Redeem a License Tab

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

Step 4: Install Your Plug-In

Click the blue **Install** button next to your license. If you have an AutoTune Unlimited subscription or similar plug-in bundle, you can install all of the included plug-ins with one click using the Install All button.

***Note**: If an update is available for your plug-in, the blue Install button will be replaced with a yellow **Update** button. Click the **Update** button to install the latest version of your plug-in.*

Step 5: Activate Your License

Click the blue **Activate** button. Each license can be activated on up to two locations simultaneously. You may activate your license onto a computer, a physical iLok dongle, or a combination of the two options.

*See this **FAQ page** for more information on iLok license management.*

After activating your license, you're ready to use your Antares plug-in(s) in your DAW!

Step 6: Open AutoTune In Your DAW

Below, you'll find instructions on how to insert AutoTune 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 AutoTune from the pop-up menu in the “Pitch Correction” category.

Logic Pro
Choose an empty insert slot on one of your audio tracks, instrument tracks or buses and select AutoTune from the pop-up menu. You will find AutoTune in:
Audio Units > Antares section (named AutoTune).

Ableton Live
In either Session or Arrangement View, select the track you would like to place AutoTune 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 AutoTune, or drag it onto the track.

Cubase
Choose an empty insert slot, for example in the Mixer, and select AutoTune from the menu that appears.

Studio One
Click the '+' button next to the Inserts tab of an audio track, and select 'AutoTune' 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 ‘AutoTune’ Audio Unit from the Plug-ins dropdown menu.

FL Studio
Open the *Plugin Database* section of the *Browser*, then drag and drop ‘AutoTune’ 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**.

Controls

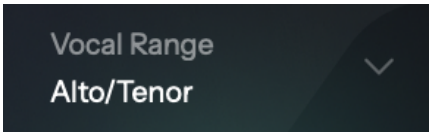
Global Controls

AutoTune Logo

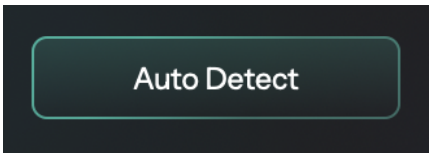
Click on the AutoTune logo to open **AutoTune Central**, a desktop application used to manage license activations.

You may see a red badge underneath the AutoTune logo to notify you of new notifications from AutoTune Central or available updates for the plug-in.

Vocal Range



Vocal Range (formerly known as *Input Type*, found in legacy AutoTune versions & other Antares products) is a selection of processing algorithms optimized for different vocal ranges and types of audio.



You can select a Vocal Range manually, or let AutoTune detect it automatically using the **Auto Detect** feature.

The Vocal Range options are separated into two categories:

Vocal Ranges:

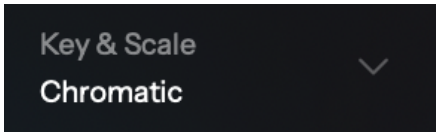
- Soprano
- Alto/Tenor
- Baritone/Bass *(formerly "Low Male")*

Instruments:

- High/Mid *(formerly "Instrument")*
- Bass

For the most accurate pitch detection and correction, choose the Vocal Range that best describes your audio.

Key & Scale



The **Key & Scale** menu lets you define the Key and Scale settings of the track you plan to process.

The key of a song defines its tonal center and a set of relationships between notes and chords. Scales are specific sequences of notes arranged in ascending or descending order, based on a pattern of whole and half steps. These concepts work together to create a sense of tonality and musical mood.

The more common scales, **Chromatic**, **Major**, and **Minor**, are listed at the top of the Scales section:

- **Chromatic** - Contains all twelve notes of the chromatic scale. Use when you want AutoTune to correct to the nearest semitone regardless of key. Chromatic is ideal for atonal music or when you're unsure of the key.
- **Major** - The standard major scale with its characteristic bright, happy sound. The most common scale in Western pop, rock, and country music.
- **Minor** - The natural minor scale with its darker, more melancholic character. Foundational to countless songs across all genres from classical to contemporary.

For more scale options, click the **More Scales** button, which contains the following:

- **Harmonic Minor** - Minor scale with a raised seventh degree, creating additional tension and a classical or exotic quality. Common in classical music, metal, and neoclassical styles.
- **Melodic Minor (Jazz)** - Minor scale with raised sixth and seventh degrees, offering a sophisticated, jazz-oriented tonality. Widely used in jazz improvisation and fusion.

- **Blues (Minor)** - Modified minor pentatonic scale adding the diminished fifth (blue note), giving it the classic blues sound with expressive, soulful possibilities. Essential for blues, rock, and R&B.
- **Pentatonic (Major)** - Five-note subset of the major scale omitting the fourth and seventh degrees. Creates a safe, consonant sound perfect for rock, country, and pop melodies.
- **Pentatonic (Minor)** - Five-note subset of the natural minor scale, avoiding dissonant intervals. The go-to scale for rock, blues, and folk guitar solos with its universally pleasing sound.
- **Diminished** - Symmetrical scale built from alternating half and whole steps, creating an ambiguous, tense quality. Used in jazz for chromatic movement and tension over diminished chords.
- **Whole Tone** - Scale constructed entirely from whole steps, producing a dreamy, floating quality with no clear tonal center. Associated with impressionist composers like Debussy and modern film scores.
- **Dorian** - Minor mode with raised sixth degree, giving it a brighter sound than natural minor. Common in jazz, funk, and rock.
- **Phrygian** - Minor mode with characteristic lowered second degree, creating an exotic, Spanish or Middle Eastern flavor. Often used in flamenco and metal.
- **Lydian** - Major mode with raised fourth degree, producing a dreamy, ethereal quality. Popular in film scores and progressive rock for its floating, mysterious sound.
- **Mixolydian** - Major mode with lowered seventh degree, resulting in a bluesy, rock-oriented tonality. Frequently heard in classic rock, blues, and folk music.
- **Locrian** - Diminished mode with lowered second and fifth degrees, creating an unstable, dissonant quality. Rarely used for entire compositions but effective for tension in jazz and experimental music.

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.

Help

Click the **Help** icon to enable the Tooltip Bar. While enabled, hover over any control in AutoTune to read a short description about it.

Settings

Click the gear icon to open the **Settings** Menu.

Bypass

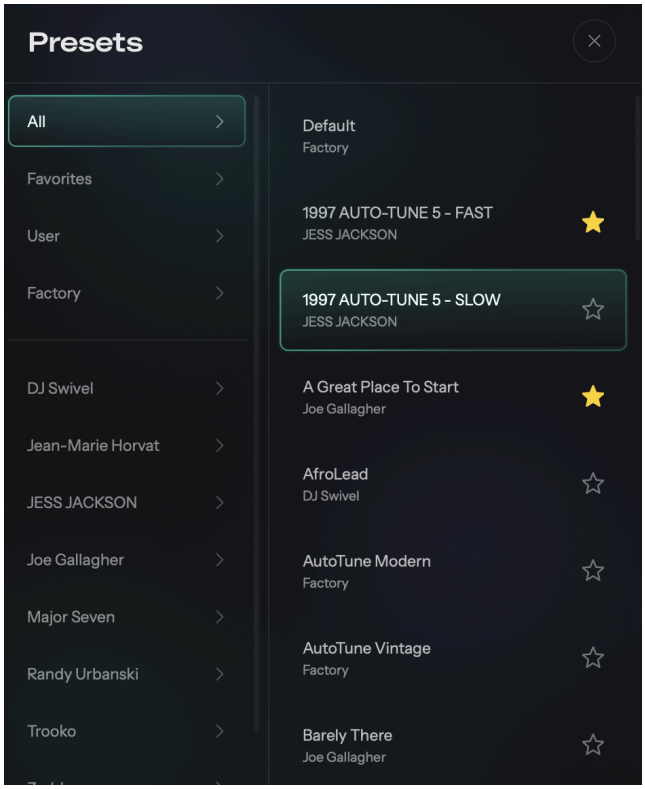
Click the **Bypass** button to disable AutoTune in your DAW. When bypassed, the Bypass button will appear de-illuminated.

AutoTune Presets

AutoTune features a collection of factory and artist presets for you to browse from, but you can also develop and save your own custom presets.

Use the left and right arrow buttons to load presets in order, or browse preset folders in the **Preset Screen**. Click on the three lines to open the **Preset Management Menu**.

Preset Screen



The **Preset Screen** lists all of the presets available in AutoTune.

All presets are organized into folders on the left side of the screen. **Favorite** presets and **User** presets are listed in their own folders for easy access.

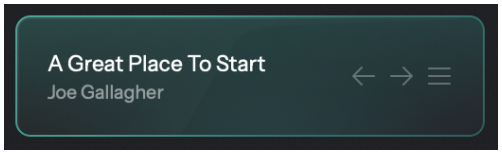
The AutoTune **Factory** presets comprise a selection of natural sounding pitch correction.

The **Artist** presets showcase the creative effects possible with AutoTune.

Preset Favorite Button

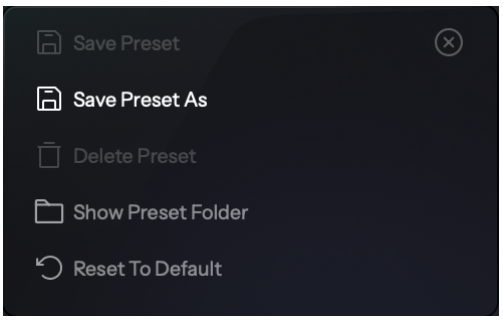
Click the star icon next to a preset name to add that preset to the Favorites folder.

Preset Header



The currently selected preset will be displayed on the **Preset Header**.

Preset Management Menu



Click on the three lines icon on the Preset Header to open the **Preset Management Menu**.

From here, you can save and delete user presets, see where presets are stored on your computer, and reset your current preset settings to default.

Pitch Correction Controls

Retune Speed

Retune Speed controls how rapidly the pitch correction is applied to the incoming audio.

Setting the Retune Speed to 0 milliseconds will cause immediate changes from one pitch to another, and will completely suppress any vibrato or deviations in pitch. *This is best recreating the iconic "AutoTune Effect".*

Longer Retune Speeds decrease how rapidly corrections are made, and allow more vibrato and other interpretive pitch gestures to pass through. For more natural sounding pitch correction, set Retune Speed between 10 and 50 milliseconds.

Humanize

Humanize helps you to add realism to sustained notes when using fast Retune Speeds.

One situation that can be problematic for pitch correction is a performance that includes both short and long sustained notes. In order to get the short notes in tune, you would need to set a fast Retune Speed, but this can cause sustained notes to sound unnaturally static.

Humanize applies a slower Retune Speed only during the sustained portion of longer notes, making the overall performance sound both in tune and natural.

Start by setting Humanize to 0, and adjust the Retune Speed until the shortest problem notes in the performance are in tune. If sustained notes sound unnaturally static, increase the Humanize setting until they sound more natural.

Flex Tune

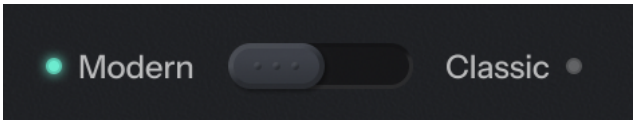
The **Flex Tune** control allows you to preserve a singer's expressive vocal gestures, while still correcting an out of tune vocal.

When Flex Tune is set to 0, AutoTune will pull *every* incoming note toward a target scale note. Higher Flex Tune values result in a smaller correction area around the scale note's pitch center, and more expressive pitch variation is allowed through.

Flex Tune's pitch correction limit is illustrated as yellow-green brackets on the **Pitch Correction Meter**.

***Note**: This control is only available in **Modern Mode**.*

Modern/Classic Toggle



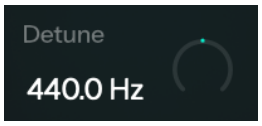
The **Modern/Classic Mode Toggle** lets you switch between two versions of the AutoTune pitch tuning algorithm.

The sonic difference between Classic Mode and Modern Mode is subtle, but you may notice the following differences if you listen carefully:

- In **Modern Mode** you will experience an organic quality in pitch shifted vocals, and a greater preservation of your natural vocal timbre.
- **Classic Mode** simulates an early Auto-Tune algorithm, and results in the fan favorite "Auto-Tune 5 sound."

***Note**: **Flex Tune** and **HQ Formant** processing are unavailable in Classic Mode.*

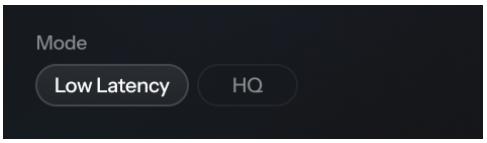
Detune



The **Detune** parameter allows you to change the pitch reference of AutoTune from the default A = 440Hz. This is useful when working with an instrument or track that uses a different reference frequency.

Values can be displayed in Cents or Hertz via the **Detune Value** setting.

Mode

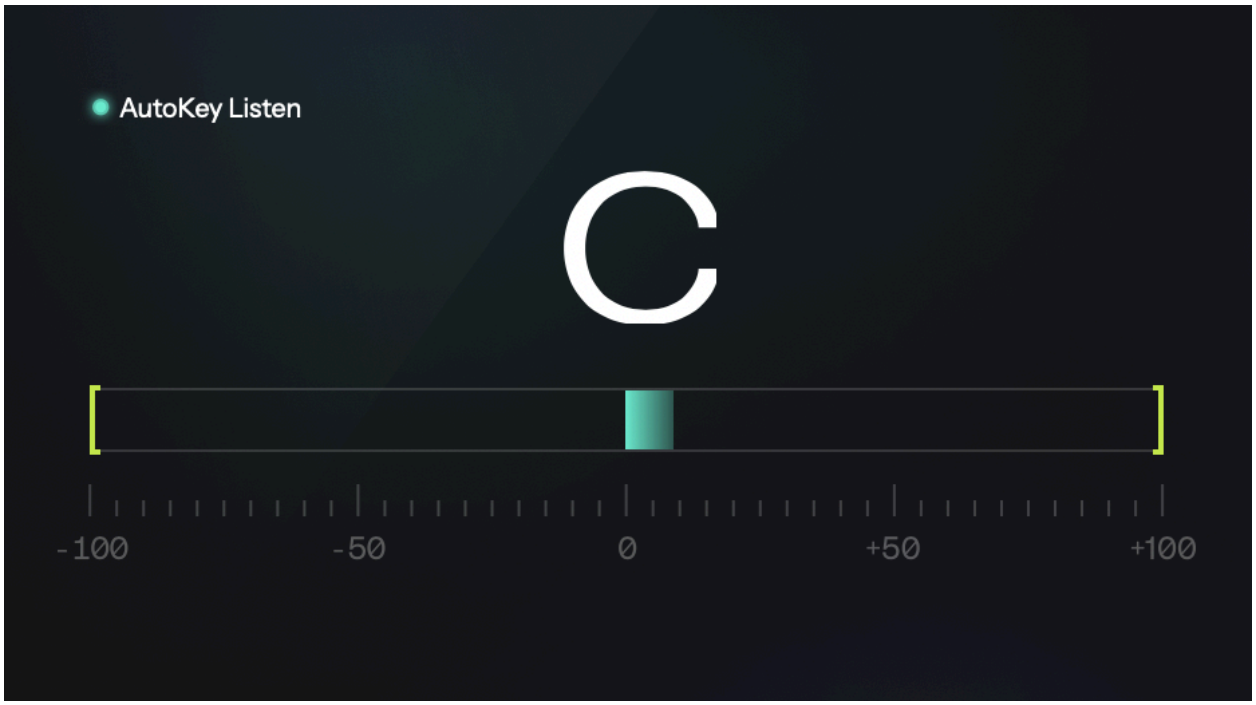


There are two **Latency Modes** available in AutoTune:

- **Low Latency** mode is optimized for minimal latency during live performances. At 48kHz, Modern Mode reports 112 samples (2.3ms) and Classic Mode reports 37 samples (0.77ms).
- **HQ (High Quality)** mode provides more transparent Formant Correction, which results in a more natural sound when the pitch correction applied is larger.

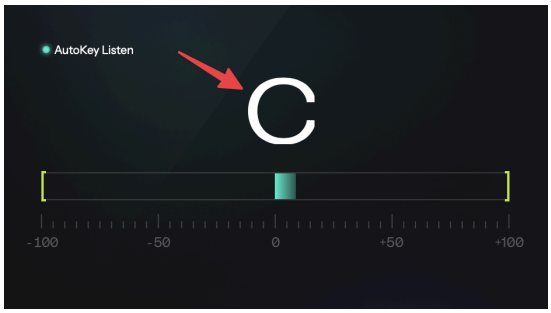
***Note**: HQ processing is only available in **Modern Mode**.*

Pitch Display Window



The **Pitch Display Window** contains the Pitch Readout and Pitch Correction Meter, to help you visualize the pitch correction process in AutoTune.

Pitch Readout

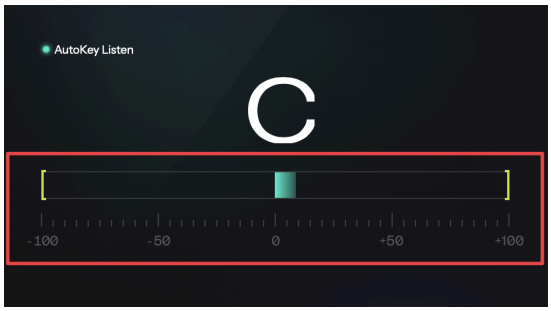


The **Pitch Readout** shows you the note name of the pitch that AutoTune is currently outputting.

This may be different than the pitch it is detecting, if the detected pitch is not part of the current scale.

To see the pitch that is currently being detected in the incoming audio, look for the highlighted note on the Keyboard.

Pitch Correction Meter

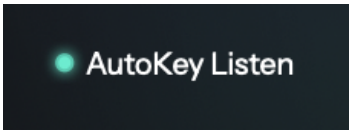


The **Pitch Correction Meter**, located beneath the Pitch Readout, shows you how much the pitch is being changed, measured in cents.

The meter moves to the right when correcting flat pitches, and to the left for sharp pitches.

Additionally, the **Flex Tune** parameter is displayed on the Pitch Correction Meter via green brackets. This is to help illustrate the pitch correction area defined by Flex Tune.

AutoKey Listen



The **AutoKey Listen** setting enables AutoTune to receive key and scale information from the **AutoKey** desktop plug-in or mobile app.

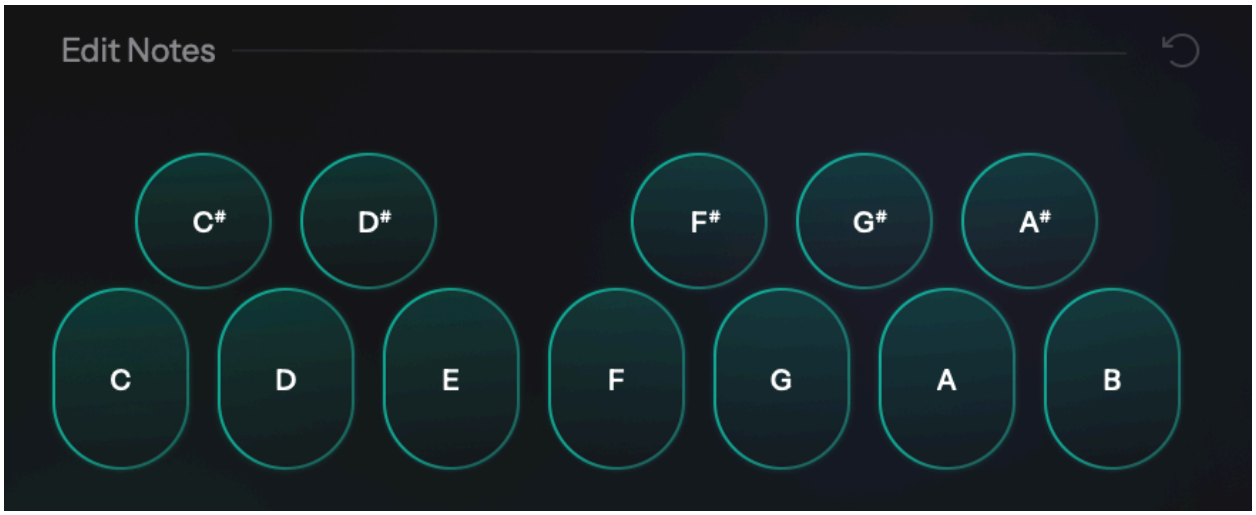
AutoKey is a separate plug-in that automatically detects the key and scale of your track.

After successful detection, AutoKey can send the key and scale information to multiple instances of AutoTune with a single click.

***Note**: AutoKey can only detect Major and Minor Keys & Scales. Other modern scales will need to be set manually using the **Key & Scale** dropdown menu in AutoTune.*

For more information about the AutoKey desktop plug-in, see its User Guide **here**.

Keyboard



The **Keyboard** has three primary functions:

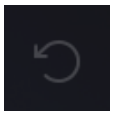
- Highlights the currently detected pitch in real time.
- Displays the notes contained in the currently selected scale.
- Allows you to create custom scales by activating/deactivating individual notes.

During playback, the detected pitch will be highlighted in teal on the Keyboard.

When you select a scale from the **Key & Scale** dropdown menu, the notes on the Keyboard will be automatically activated or deactivated to reflect your selection.

To create a custom scale, click on the notes on the Keyboard to add or remove them from the scale. Notes that are not in the current scale, or those that have been deactivated will appear greyed out.

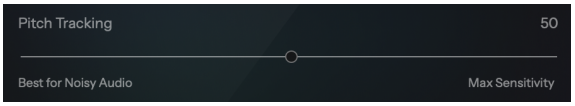
Reset Notes Button



Use the **Reset Notes** button to reset the keys to their default state for the currently selected Key & Scale.

Settings

Pitch Tracking



The **Pitch Tracking** slider determines how sensitive the AutoTune algorithm's pitch *detection* is, and is used to help AutoTune work more effectively depending on the quality and context of the incoming audio.

In most cases, this setting can be left at its default value. However, please note the following:

- A noisier signal or a vocal performance that is unusually breathy may require a more 'relaxed' setting (higher Tracking value). We recommend between 50-70 for tuning an on-stage vocal.
- If you're hearing artifacts such as clicks or pops, try setting the Tracking to a 'choosier' setting (lower Tracking value) We recommend between 20-30 for a close, isolated studio vocal.

***Pro Tip**: For the most classic AutoTune sound, set Tracking to 25, which matches the **AutoTune 5 default setting**.*

Enable AutoKey Listen

This setting enables AutoTune to receive key and scale information from **AutoKey**.

You can also quickly toggle this setting On or Off by clicking the **AutoKey Listen** button in the **Pitch Display Window**.

Detune Value

The **Detune** function is used to tune to a reference frequency other than the standard A = 440Hz. The **Detune Value** setting lets you choose whether the offset is displayed in **Hertz** or **Cents**.

This is useful when working with an instrument or track that uses a different reference pitch.

The range of adjustment is -100 cents to +100 cents, or 415.3 to 466.2 hertz.
***Note**: 0 cents = 440hz.*

Reset Window Size

The AutoTune 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.

View Help Topics

Click to open the **AutoTune Help Page** in your web browser. Here, you'll find a link to the product manual, tutorial videos, the FAQ page, and links to other relevant articles in the AutoTune Knowledge Base.