Antares

SYBIL

USER GUIDE

Contents

Introducing Sybil

What is Sybil?

Sybil is designed to tame excessive vocal sibilance (ess, tsss, ch, and sh sounds), with a flexible compressor and a variable-frequency high pass filter to ensure optimum de-essing for any vocal performance.

The compressor section includes Threshold, Compression, Attack Time, and Release Time controls, and the High Pass Frequency control lets you adjust which high frequency content will get compressed, to ensure that the sibilance is reduced while the rest of the voice remains pristine.

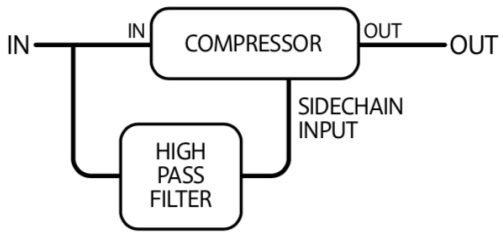
With Sybil, everything you need to get control of vocal sibilance is right at your fingertips.

How Does it Work?

When recording vocals, the sibilant sounds (ess, tsss, ch, and sh sounds) can sometimes appear louder than the rest of the signal.

Sybil solves this problem by compressing only the sibilants, and lowering their level relative to the rest of the vocal track.

The diagram below demonstrates this process:



A high pass filter is used to isolate the sibilant sounds from the rest of the vocal track.

The isolated sibilant signal is then used to control a compressor which is applied to the entire vocal track.

When a peak in the sibilant signal is detected, gain reduction is applied to the main vocal signal. The result is that gain is reduced only during peaks in sibilance, leaving the rest of the vocals intact.

Sybil lets you adjust the Frequency of the high pass filter, and the Threshold, Compression Ratio, Attack Time, and Release Time of the compressor, so you can dial in exactly the settings you need for your vocals.

***Note**: the technique of using one signal to control a compressor applied to another signal is known as "sidechaining," but in this case the process takes place entirely within the Sybil plug-in, so you don't have to worry about any special sidechain configuration in your DAW.*

Quick Start – License Activation

Activation Instructions

Before we can use Sybil, 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

Auto-Tune 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 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

On the login screen in Auto-Tune 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 Auto-Tune 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 Auto-Tune 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 Sybil In Your DAW

Below, you'll find instructions on how to insert Sybil 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 Sybil from the pop-up menu in the “Pitch Shift” and “Effect” Categories, as well as the Antares Manufacturer list.

Logic Pro

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

Ableton Live

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

Cubase

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

Studio One

Click the '+' button next to the Inserts tab of an audio track, and select 'Sybil' from the drop-down menu. Alternatively, drag and drop the plug-in from the Antares Effects folder.

Reaper

Click the ‘FX’ button next to the track name of an audio track, and select ‘Sybil’ from the EQ or Dynamics category.

Digital Performer

In the Digital Performer Mixing Board, click an empty insert slot to open the Insert Effects list. Select Sybil from the list, or use the search bar to locate it quickly.

Getting Started With Sybil

Follow these steps to get started with Sybil.

Loop Playback in Your DAW

Choose a short segment of your vocal track that has audible sibilance, and set it to play back in a continuous loop while you dial in the settings in Sybil.

Set the High Pass Frequency and Threshold

Experiment with the High Pass Frequency and Threshold controls and watch the Gain Reduction Meter. Choose a setting that causes most of the gain reduction to happen during audible sibilance and not during the vowels or soft consonants.

***Note**: The specific frequency of problematic sibilance can vary depending on the singer, the microphone, microphone placement, and various other factors, but typically it will be somewhere in the area of 5000-9000 Hz.*

Set the Compression Ratio

The Compression control determines how much gain reduction is applied when the sibilant signal exceeds the threshold. Higher compression ratios result in more gain reduction.

The ideal setting will depend partly on how loud the sibilance is in your track as compared to the rest of the vocal. Experiment with different settings until you find the one that works best for your track.

Set the Attack and Release Times

The Attack Time control determines how quickly gain reduction is applied when the sibilance exceeds the threshold. Release Time determines how quickly the gain will go back up after it drops below the threshold.

Set the Attack and Release Time controls so that gain reduction is being applied for the duration of the sibilance, and does not affect subsequent vowel or soft consonant sounds.

Controls

High Pass Frequency

The **High Pass Frequency** control sets the frequency of the high pass filter, which is used as a sidechain input to the compressor.

Set it in combination with the Threshold control and watch the Gain Reduction Meter.

Choose a setting that causes most of the gain reduction to happen during audible sibilance and not during vowels or soft consonants.

Threshold

The **Threshold** control sets the threshold level of the compressor.

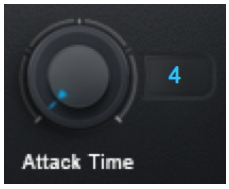
Set it in combination with the **High Pass Frequency** control and watch the Gain Reduction Meter.

Choose a setting that causes most of the gain reduction to happen during audible sibilance and not during vowels or soft consonants.

Compression

The **Compression** control sets the ratio of the compressor, which determines how much gain reduction is applied when the sibilant signal exceeds the threshold. Higher compression ratios result in more gain reduction.

Attack Time



The **Attack Time** control determines how quickly gain reduction is applied when the sibilant signal exceeds the threshold.

Release Time

This **Release Time** control sets the time it takes the compressor's gain to increase 6 dB after the sibilant signal drops below the threshold.

Gain Reduction Meter

The **Gain Reduction Meter** shows the amount of gain reduction taking place.

Once you've dialed in the correct settings for your audio, it should show little gain reduction during vowel sounds and soft consonants, and substantial gain reduction during sibilance.