WAVES

VITAMIN

SONIC ENHANCER

USER GUIDE

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Welcome

Thank you for choosing Waves! In order to get the most out of your new Waves plugin, please take a moment to read this user guide.

To install software and manage your licenses, you need to have a free Waves account. Sign up at www.waves.com. With a Waves account you can keep track of your products, renew your Waves Update Plan, participate in bonus programs, and keep up to date with important information. We suggest that you become familiar with the Waves Support pages: www.waves.com/support.

There are technical articles about installation, troubleshooting, specifications, and more. Plus, you'll find company contact information and Waves Support news.

1.2 Product Overview

Waves Vitamin is a multiband harmonic enhancer and tone-shaping plugin that can make any track sound powerful and full of spark by mixing an enriched version with the original signal.

Vitamin's controls are intuitive and easy to use. Each band has a gain fader which ranges from 0 to 48 dB. Input and output faders allow some gain staging – a necessary feature given the non-linear and additive nature of the Vitamin process. The input and output can be increased or padded by 18 dB. Padding the input control is handy for making some headroom in order to add energy in one or more of the bands. Input gain can be increased to reinforce a low signal, ensuring that the dynamics and clipping work properly. Output gain is applied after the process and provides linear gain for levelling.

The frequency range of each band can be determined using the four crossover frequency controls, which are located above and between the five band gain faders.

Solo buttons are available for each band. These can be helpful when articulating the band range: you can solo the band and then use the crossover frequencies to bind it from below and above in context with the input audio. The resulting signal will reach outside the determined range due to the added harmonics – but that's exactly part of the sonic magic of Vitamin.

Vitamin's Stereo mode features another special spice: You can control the stereo image width per band. For example, you can collapse the stereo width for the low band (especially important when mastering for vinyl) and add some width in the high band, leaving the mid-range tight and focused. This can work wonders on stem mixes and help you make room for concentric lead vocals.

Note that the stereo width controls affect both the direct and the processed parts of the signal.

1.3 Components

WaveShell technology enables us to split Waves into smaller plugins, which we call **components**. Having a choice of components for a particular processor gives you the flexibility to choose the configuration best suited to your material.

Waves Vitamin includes two components:

- Vitamin Mono
- Vitamin Stereo

1.4 WaveSystem Toolbar

Use the bar at the top of the plugin to save and load presets, compare settings, undo and redo steps, and resize the plugin. To learn more, click the icon at the upper-right corner of the window and open the WaveSystem Guide.

CHAPTER 2: QUICK START

- Open Waves Vitamin on a track.
- Listen to the track on its own.
- Check whether anything sounds weak or remote and which frequency range is lacking.
- When you identify the lacking range, push up the corresponding Vitamin band fader.
- Listen carefully to the sound and continue the process until you get a tone that you like.
- Fine-tune the mix between the dry signal and the wet multiband signal. Fix your output level so that you don't go too far overboard. You can use the Trim control to achieve this after you have gone through the track's louder parts.
- Bypass the effect to compare your enhanced version with the original signal.

Note: Vitamin processes and outputs 32-bit floating point audio. This means that the plugin output is not clipped at 0 dBFS. You can use other plugins after you use Vitamin in order to address these overshoots. If your output level is excessive and you do not attenuate it to the full digital scale, it will clip your D/A converter and you will not have control over the clipping.

Presets: Vitamin comes preloaded with a nice collection of presets. As in EQs and compressors, the presets are there to help you get started. Load a preset that corresponds with what you are trying to achieve, but remember that it will probably need to be tweaked depending on the context.

Once you find a preset that generally works for you, you may want to go into finer tunings. In this case, setting the crossover frequencies correctly can go a long way. Use the solo buttons to hear the individual sound of each band. When you just press "solo," you will hear both the enhanced version and the direct signal of the selected band. Pressing "bypass" will allow you to hear the direct signal alone, without the processed signal. This will help you determine which frequency range to use Vitamin on in order to improve the overall sound.

CHAPTER 3: INTERFACE AND CONTROLS

3.1 Interface

Vitamin Mono

Vitamin Stereo

3.2 Controls

Input gain: -18 to +18 dB, default 0

Output gain: -18 to +18 dB, default 0

Direct Gain: -48 to 0 dB and Off (mute)

Bands:

A – LO
B – LOMID
C – MID
D – HIMID
E – HI

XOver Frequencies: 20 to 18000 Hz. Defaults: LO - 90 Hz, LM - 500 Hz, HM - 2594 Hz, HI - 9310 Hz

The XOver Frequency controls bind each other, so that each control can reach up to the value in the crossover frequency above or down to the value of the crossover frequency below it.

Band Gains: 0–48 dB, default 0

Each of the five bands has its own gain control. Each gain control modifies the gain of the band's *processed signal only*.

Band Solo (S): On/Off, default Off

Soloing a band lets you hear both the direct and the processed parts of the signal for that band.

Band Bypass (Byp): On/Off, default Off

The Bypass function silences the processed (but not the direct) part of the selected band's signal. You can simultaneously solo and bypass a band in order to hear just the direct part of that band's signal only.

Punch: 0–5, default 3

The punch control allows you to add presence to transient events in order to get a punchier, crisper sound, or to attenuate the presence of transient events in order to get a warmer, smoother sound.

Stereo Width (Vitamin Stereo only): 0–3, default 1

The stereo width knobs (at the bottom of the Stereo component) control the stereo image width of each band separately. 0 = mono; 1 = neutral (the original stereo image). Above 1, the stereo image is widened so that the center phantom image is attenuated and the discrete side signals are enhanced. The stereo width controls affect both the direct and the processed parts of the signal.