



# OVoX

Vocal ReSynthesis

## User Guide



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## Introduction

Waves OVOx is a next-generation vocal processing and synthesizing suite that combines flexibility and unsurpassed sound quality. Built on Waves Organic ReSynthesis technology (ORS), OVOx lets you create voice-based musical effects without using a keyboard. OVOx uses the human voice to modulate another sound—typically a synthesizer—to create a new sound that tracks the voice and preserves its characteristics. This is called vocoding, a familiar vocal effect that's been used on countless rock and pop recordings. But vocoding is just the beginning—OVOx combines several processing sections, which together open a new world of vocal processing. Pitch correction, doubling, automatic harmonization, and chord building from voice signals are easily achieved. OVOx is also a great tool for sound design and postproduction voice effects.

### How Does it Work?

The OVOx input section detects what makes up a note, based on pitch and time values. These incoming notes can be mapped to other notes (or to several notes, to map a chord or harmonic) and then processed. There are two main processing units. Each unit includes an oscillator, noise generator, formant filter, and dynamic control. The formant filter analyzes the formant of the modulator (what we call Voice). This is used to generate a complex filter, which is then applied to the carrier signal (what we call Synth).

The original amplitude envelope of the voice can be forced onto the carrier. This creates an effect similar to vocoding with further adjustment possibilities. The vocal cords of the vocalist are effectively replaced by oscillators. The influence of the amplitude envelope of the modulator can, on the other hand, be reduced. This emphasizes more of the carrier and produces a looser correlation with the voice. Rich EQ, modulation, and effects processors can be applied to the carrier to construct a very wide array of unique sounds.

The combination of advanced ORS processing and powerful, flexible controls makes Waves OVOx a voice processor unlike any other.



# Components

There are three OVOx components:

- **OVOx mono-to-stereo**
- **OVOx stereo**

These two OVOx components use a voice to modulate another sound.

- **OVOx Instrument (stereo)**

The OVOx Instrument component can be used on an instrument or on a MIDI channel, and it is functionally the same as the other components. OVOx Instrument naturally receives MIDI input, and you can add an audio input to it as a sidechain. To use this component on vocals, set the Voice control to “Sidechain” and route the voice as a sidechain signal into the plugin.

Until the sidechain is configured, you cannot use audio analyzing features, such as a Formant Filter, because there is no signal to process. You can nonetheless play MIDI into OVOx and use it as a synth. This lets you take advantage of its special oscillators and use the modulators for extended sound design possibilities.



# Getting Started with OVOx

## Setup

### PLUG AND PLAY

The fastest way to get started with OVOx is to simply open the plugin on an audio track and let it automatically generate the carrier signal for you. No additional routing is needed. Use the Voice Input controls, Gate, and Gain, to avoid low level artifacts, spill, mic feedback, and to set the input level. You can also use OVOx in conjunction with a MIDI controller.

### USING A MIDI KEYBOARD/CONTROLLER

*To use OVOx as an instrument:*

1. Open OVOx on a MIDI/Instrument track.
2. Set the **Note Source** to **MIDI** or leave it set to **Auto**.
3. Set the **Voice Source** to **Sidechain**.
4. In your DAW, route the vocal track to the plugin's sidechain input.

*To use OVOx as a MIDI-controlled audio plugin:*

1. Open OVOx on an audio track.
2. Set the **Note Source** to **MIDI**.
3. In your DAW, open a new MIDI/Instrument track.
4. Route the MIDI track to the plugin's MIDI input.

### USING AN EXTERNAL CARRIER

OVOx can also be used to manipulate external carriers. This option will turn off the plugin's built-in synthesizer. It allows you to patch any instrument and manipulate it using the vocals—much like a talk box.

1. Open OVOx on an audio track.
2. Set the Synth Source to Sidechain.
3. In your DAW route the external carrier to the plugin's sidechain input.
4. Use the Synth Input controls, Drive, and Gain to adjust the level and the harmonic content of the carrier.



## Learning OVOx

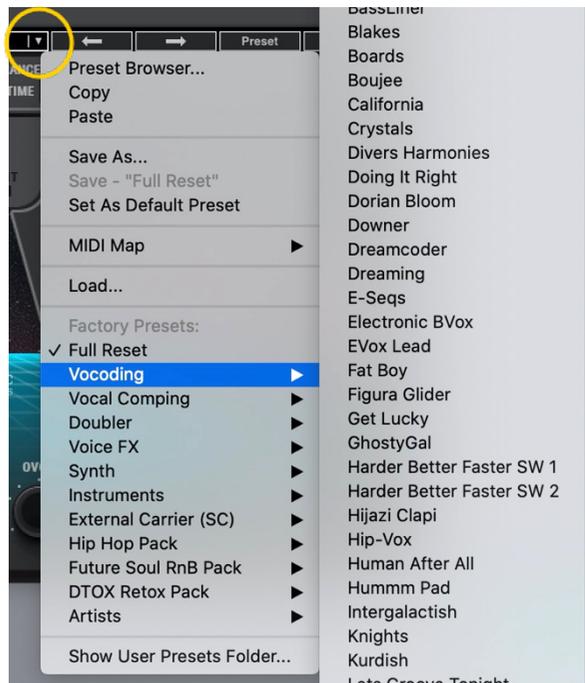
There are two ways to get familiar with OVOx:

- Insert OVOx on a DAW audio track, play some voice material, and experiment with the controls. You'll likely manage just fine.
- You can also use factory presets to set up a number of common, and not so common, voice effects. Adjust from there.

Either way, you'll get to the same place; it's just a matter of how you like to work.

### PRESETS

Click the small down arrow on the WaveSystem Toolbar to open the Presets menu.



Presets are very handy. In many cases, you'll find just the right effect by loading a preset whose name sounds like (or "feels" like) what you're looking for. Starting with a preset has two advantages:

**It's fast.** Begin with a preset whose name makes sense for what you want to do. This might be all you need.

**It's a good way to learn.** Load a preset and see how the controls are set. Listen, change some settings, and notice how it affects the sound. Load another preset, note the settings, make some changes, and listen. Do this a few times and you'll understand what the controls do and how the sections work together.

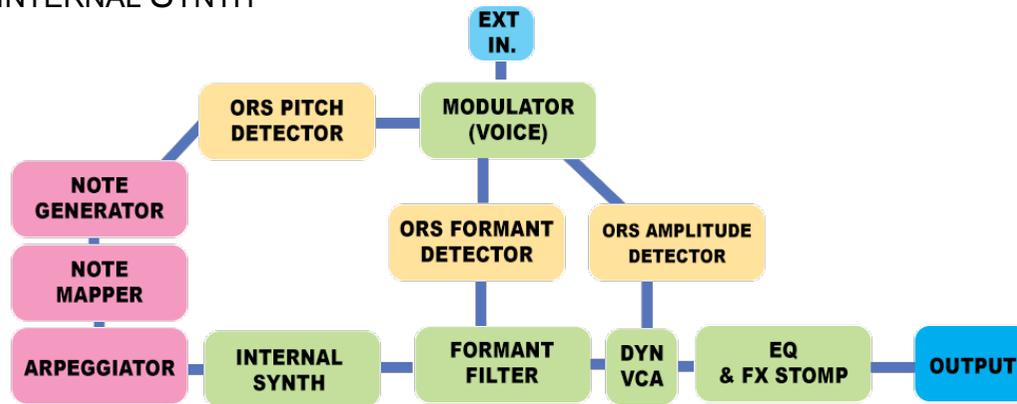
Load and save presets with the WaveSystem Toolbar, which is just above the OVOx interface (circled here). Download the WaveSystem Toolbar user guide from the [Waves Download Page](#) on our web site.



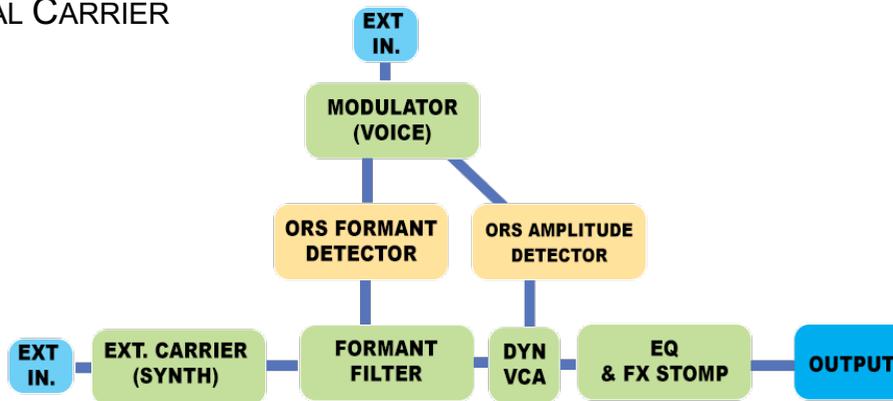
# Signal Flow

OVoX can operate as a plugin to process audio signals without special routing requirements, using its built-in modules. It can also accept external input signals to provide further control and manipulation. Signal flow is the same for both carrier models, aside from sync note generation and pitch detection.

## INTERNAL SYNTH



## EXTERNAL CARRIER



# Interface: Two Views

OVoX has two views: A Main view with the essential controls that you need to create and manipulate most voice effects, and an Expanded view that includes advanced features for greater control. Both views use the OVoX Top Bar for input, synth source, notes detection, and arpeggiation.



Toggle between views with the Expand/Collapse button in the upper-right corner.

## OVoX Main View



# OVox Expanded View



## Components

There are three OVox components: OVox Stereo, OVox Mono-to-Stereo, and OVox Instrument Stereo. Their interfaces are identical. There is also a standalone application that lets you use OVox without a DAW.



# Controls Common to Both Views

## Top Bar

The Top Bar serves three purposes: the left side controls the input of the modulator and the carrier; the middle section governs note source attributes and conditions for note generation, and on the right are the arpeggiator controls.

### Top Bar: Input Section



#### VOICE INPUT

Selects the signal to be used as the modulator: Track or Sidechain.

Range: Track or Sidechain

#### GATE

Applies a gate to the input signal to provide better detection when voice signal is noisy.

Range: -144 dB to 0 dB

#### GAIN

Controls the input gain of the modulator: Track or Sidechain.

Range: -30 dB to +18 dB

#### SYNTH INPUT

Determines which signal will be used as the carrier. Traditionally, the carrier is the internal synthesizer sound. The built-in synth (Internal) has many features, such as note generation, note mapping, and the character filters— designed to provide an interesting and rich soundscape. You can, however, use other signals as the carrier (e.g., guitars, drums, or other instruments).

When Synth is set to Track or Sidechain, the Note Generator, Note Mapper, Arpeggiator, and built-in Synth are unavailable.

Range: Internal, Track, Sidechain



## GAIN AND DRIVE

The Gain and Drive controls are active when Synth is set to **Track** or **Sidechain**. They control the texture of the carrier input. Drive lets you push the input signal into clipping, which generates more harmonics. This makes the carrier richer, with greater definition, when processed by the modulator (Voice Input). Gain sets the input level of the modulator input.

Drive and Gain controls are unavailable when Synth Input is set to Internal.

## Top Bar: Notes Generator



New notes will always be generated when energy greater than complete silence is detected (unpitched audio). The Note Generator allows you to further control what is defined as a note in order to determine which notes are sent to the Note Mapper, built-in Synth, and ADSR envelopes.

**Note:** *Note Generation* is about defining what a note is.  
*Note Mapping* concerns what to do with notes once they've been defined.

## NOTE SOURCE

Selects the source of the notes that feed the synth.

- When **Voice** is selected, the pitch detector analyses the pitch of the voice input and then generates notes that are sent to the synth. You can control the sensitivity using the Tolerance controls.
- Choose **MIDI** when you connect a MIDI keyboard/controller to the plugin. Route a MIDI track to the plugin (make sure your host supports it). In some hosts you can simply open the plugin on an instrument track.
- **Auto** mode is a mix of MIDI and Voice note sources. When a voice signal is detected, the plugin generates notes based on the input signal. When incoming MIDI notes are detected (including the Note Mapper), they will take over the voice-generated notes and straight away be played by the synth.



## MIN NOTE

Determines the lowest note that will be detected. Low-frequency notes below this value will not be played, which can help the pitch detector achieve more reliable results.

Example: the singer never sings in the lowest register. Set the Min Range to C1. This can reduce the likelihood of artifacts during note detection.

Range: C0 to C2

## TOLERANCE CENTS

Determines the difference (in cents) from the currently playing note that is required for a new note to be generated.

Example: If Cents Tolerance is set to 100 or higher, the currently playing note is C1 and the incoming pitch is C#1. A new note will not be generated, since the incoming pitch is within the range of tolerance. If, however, the incoming pitch is D1 (a difference of 200 cents), a new note will be generated: D1.

Range: 50 cents to 200 cents, Off

## TOLERANCE TIME

Determines the minimum time that has to pass (in milliseconds or in note intervals when synced) from the moment the pitch detector exceeds the Cents range before generating a new note.

Range: (time) 1 millisecond to 1000 milliseconds

(note intervals) 1/64T to 4 bars

Toggle between time and note intervals using the note symbol on the right.

## Top Bar: Arpeggiator



The Arpeggiator receives a chord or a note and generates a melody pattern based on its mode, direction, and rate.

## ARP MODE

Determines the range in which the arpeggiator operates.

When choosing 1 Octave, the arpeggiator will generate melody based only on the notes that are currently played.

When choosing 2 Octave or above, the arpeggiator will generate the notes played, as well as their corresponding notes in the upper octaves.

Range: Off, 1 Oct, 2 Oct, 3 Oct, 4 Oct



## ARP DIRECTION

Defines the direction of arpeggiation.

Up	Plays notes from lowest to highest.
Down	Plays notes from highest to lowest.
Up Down	Plays Up pattern, and then Down pattern.
Down Up	Plays Down pattern, and then Up pattern.
Up Down 2	Same as Up Down, but it plays the highest note only once.
Down Up 2	Same as Down Up, but it plays the lowest note only once.

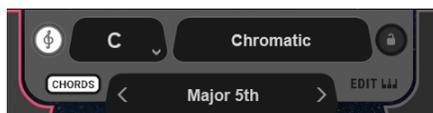
## ARP RATE

Determines the rate of arpeggiator note generation.

Range: 1/64T to 4 bars

## Note Mapper

The Note Mapper section enables you to map a single incoming sung note or MIDI note to one or more notes. It determines how notes will be sent to the built-in synth and the voice pitch corrector. Depending on note mapper settings, an input note can be:



- Left unchanged
- Assigned to another note
- Used to create chord, scales, and harmonies

To turn Note Mapping on or off, click the white button to the left of the Root Scale display.

## NOTE MAPPER ROOT



Slide vertically over the Root Note value box, or use the drop-down menu, to transpose the map according to the selected root. Set this value to fit the key of your song.

## RECEIVE KEY

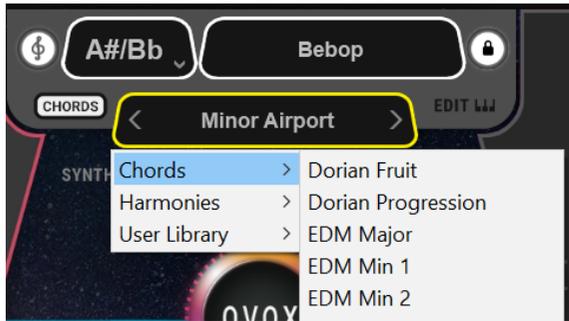


Enables the plugin to receive key and scale from Key Detector. This control is in the WaveSystem Toolbar at the top of the window.



## NOTE MAPS PRESETS MENU

Note maps are factory presets that provide chords, scales, and harmonies that map input notes to one or more triggered notes. Click between the arrows to access the Mapping drop-down menu. There are four categories:



- Presets in the **Chords** category will output chords from single notes, usually within a certain scale.
- The presets in the **Scales** category are made to quantize incoming notes into the selected musical scales.
- The presets in **Harmonies** generate the same intervals for every incoming note, regardless of the selected Root.
- **User Library** presets

## Note Map Editor

The Note Map Editor allows you to decide what note(s) will play when receiving any incoming note, whether from MIDI input or generated from a voice.



Notes on the keyboard can be mapped to up to eight notes at a time. This allows you to quantize the pitch to a certain scale by mapping out-of-scale notes to legal ones, or to play chords or harmonies from a single note.

Click on the “EDIT” button control to open and close the editor (circled here in yellow). The pink key identifies the current Note Map selection. The blue boxes show which notes are triggered when receiving this note.

## NOTE MAP SELECTION

1. Click the pink square above a note to enable that note for editing. If you are using the MIDI keyboard, you can hold Ctrl while playing a note to map new notes.
2. Click on the keys of the notes that you want to map to the input note (or playing the triggered notes from a MIDI controller). Each Note Map will be assigned automatically to the corresponding notes across all octaves.



3. Once you finish editing this note, click on the pink square of the next note you want to map and repeat step number 2.
4. When done, click again on the selected Note Map button to exit the assign mode.
5. Play input voice signal. Played notes are white and triggered notes are blue.

Notes that are not mapped will play unaltered.

## VELOCITY

When a Note Map is selected, the velocity values of the triggered notes appear below the keyboard. Use these values to set the velocity for each of the triggered notes. Notice that these values will be scaled to the incoming velocity when played back.

## SPREAD/FOLD



Controls the behavior of the Note Map spread across octaves.

When **Spread** is selected, all mapped notes follow the octave transposition in relation to the incoming note. For example, if you map C#1 to trigger C1, and the incoming note is C#2, then the triggered note will be C2. This mode is useful when working with scales and harmonies.

In **Fold** mode, triggered notes will always play where they were initially set to, regardless of the octave of the incoming note. Using the above example, it doesn't matter if the incoming note is C#2, C#3 or C#4: they will all trigger C1. This is useful when triggering chords that you don't want to transpose to the incoming notes.

## ERASE



Clears the entire Note Mapper preset. Use this to start a new note mapping from scratch.

## SAVE



There are two save buttons: **Chords Map** and **Scale**. Chords Map saves a preset that indicates which notes will be triggered when played, including velocity. Scale makes a snapshot of which notes are "restricted" (out of scale) and in which direction they should be corrected: up or down. The saved presets will appear in the User Library submenu of the Note Map drop-down menu. To delete a single user preset, hold Ctrl and click on the Note Mapper window. Saved Note Map user presets are in the Waves plug-ins settings folder:

Mac: /Users/Shared/Waves/Plug-in Settings/OVox/Note Mapping

PC: C:\Users\Public\Waves Audio\Plug-in Settings\OVox\Note Mapping

Here you can delete multiple Note Map user presets, as well as copy or archive them. These presets include only Note Map parameters, and differ from user presets in the WaveSystem Toolbar, which include parameters for the entire plugin.



## MAPPER LOCK



Prevents Note Mapper preset values from changing while you are browsing presets. When Mapper Lock is engaged, the root and scales are bordered in white.

## Main View Controls

The Main view includes the essential OVox controls. Use it when you want simply to load a preset and adjust the basic parameters to your liking. In the Main view you can control the following:

- All Top Bar controls: voice input, synth source, note detection, arpeggiator
- Load and save presets
- Oscillator on/off
- Control the pitch of each oscillator
- The output gain of the synthesizers, before modulation
- Formant shift shifting
- Mix of synth, modulation, and effects (mixer)

## OVox 1 and OVox 2



### OVox ON/OFF (THE SMALL BUTTON NEXT TO PROCESSOR NAME)

Turns the OVox section on or off.

### TUNE

Controls the pitch of the oscillator.

Range: -24 semitones to +24 semitones (two octaves up and two octaves down)

### FORMANT

Controls the frequency shift of the formant. The small button above the control turns the Formant Filter section on or off.

Range: -12 semitones to +12 semitones

### GAIN

Sets the output gain of the OVox unit.

Range: -infinity to +20 dB



## Mixer Section



### MODULATION (MACRO)

Controls the overall level of all of the plugin's modulators (except ADSRs). At the minimum setting, there is no modulation in the plugin, which results in rather static sounds.

Range: 0 to 100

### EFFECTS (MACRO)

Controls the overall dry/wet balance for the entire Effects section.

Range: 0 to 100

### EXCLUSIVE (EXC)

Mutes the OVOx signal when sibilance is detected. If the carrier synth is rich in harmonics, there may be an unpleasant high buzzing sound when the formant filter is driven by sibilants. This control allows the filter to ignore these sounds, which results in a more natural-feeling effect.

### SIBILANCE LEVEL

Controls the level of the original sibilant sounds detected from the input Voice signals. Some sibilant sounds (such as "ess") do not have a distinctive pitch, but they are essential for the overall clarity of the vocal. In the case of vocoding, words with many sibilants can sound less intelligible. Mix in the original sibilance of your vocal track for more comprehensible results.

Range: -infinity to +18 dB

### VOICE CORRECTION

Applies pitch correction to the dry vocal path.

**Natural:** quantizes the pitch according to the Note Mapper, with respect to the detected pitch. In cases where there is more than a single note played (when loading chord maps), the pitch is quantized to the closest legal note. When Note Mapper is turned off, chromatic correction is applied.

**Hard:** same as Natural, but with faster transition time between notes.



**Notes:** forces the pitch correction to the incoming notes (including the Note Generator, Note Mapper, and Arpeggiator). Use this state for creative effects, such as forcing the vocal to be hard-tuned to one of the playing voices of the synth, or even to control the pitch shifting of the voice via a MIDI keyboard.

**Off:** no correction.

Use the small knob to the right to set the Voice Tune high-pass filter.

Range: 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz

## VOICE LEVEL

Mixes in the original voice, as it was set in the Voice Input.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## SYNTH LEVEL

Mixes in the two synth sections (from OVox1 and OVox 2) before the formant filter.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## OVOX LEVEL

The sum of OVox 1 and OVox 2. This is the main “vocoded” signal. It mixes the synths through the formant filters.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## TONE

Controls the overall tone of the plugin. It functions as a “tilt filter” at the output of the plugin.

Use this control to fine-tune the brightness or fatness of the output.

Range: -30 to +30

## OUTPUT LEVEL

Controls the stereo output of the plugin.

Range: -30 dB to +6 dB

## LIMITER ON/OFF

The very last stop of the plugin; the limiter threshold is fixed at 0 dBFS for output protection.

## METERS

Peak meters are at the output of the plugin. When the limiter is on, a yellow LED indicates that limiting is taking place. When the limiter is off, consistent Red indicates that the output signal has exceeded 0 dBFS, which may result in clipping later in your chain. Reduce the output level.



# Expanded View Controls

## OVox 1 and OVox 2



The built-in synth consists of two identical internal oscillators, which are normally routed to their respective formant filters. They act as very effective carrier signals, especially suited for vocoding purposes. While typically smooth when used in conjunction with the formant filter, they can produce rough and harsh sounds when used independently as a synth.

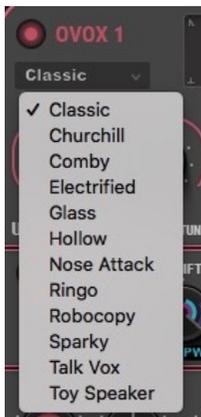
### OSC SHAPE



The OSC shape panel lets you modify the generated harmonics. You can create traditional waveforms like Square and Saw, as well as very rich and bright waveforms, such as a pulse spike. On the vertical axis, you can move from square to triangle and roll off of the generated harmonics. On the horizontal axis, you control the pulse width of the wave and add even harmonics.

When the marker is fully to the left, the even harmonics contents (e.g., pulse and sawtooth) are used; to the right, only the odd harmonics (e.g., square and triangle) are used.

### OSC CHARACTER



The Character drop-down menu selects an IR filter that provides further control over the shape of the oscillator. When any Character other than Classic is chosen, the horizontal axis of the shape pad becomes a filter “shift” that will stretch and shrink the filter across the frequency spectrum.



## HARMONICS

Determines the finite number of harmonics that will be generated by the oscillator. At maximum settings, the oscillator generates the full spectrum of the chosen shape. At minimum, only the first harmonic will be generated, resulting in a sine wave.

Range: 1 harmonic (fundamental only) to 1023 harmonics

## TUNE

Controls the shift of the oscillator.

Range: (Tune knob): -24 semitones to +24 semitones (two octaves up and two octaves down)  
(Fine tune knob) -100 cents to +100 cents)

## UNISON

Multiplies the number of voices playing in parallel for each note sent to the oscillator.

**Voices** provides control over the number of voices that play together. Range: 1 voice to 4 voices

**Detune** controls the pitch difference between the unison voices. Range: 0 cents to 100 cents

**Spread** controls the spread of unison voices within the stereo field. Each voice is given a different panning, where 90 is the widest.

Hold+drag vertically to adjust these three controls.

## NOISE LEVEL

Sets the level of the noise signal that is sent from the noise generator to the Formant filter. The Noise Level control is independent of the OVox processor gain and can be used when applying an external synth.

The control connects to ADSR 1 or ADSR 2, as indicated in the box above the control. Right-click on the box to toggle between the two ADSRs.

Range: -infinity to 0 dBFS.

## NOISE LP/HP

Controls the color of the noise signal.

Range: -1 to +1



## Formant Filter Section

The Formant Filter section is the key component of the OVOx plugin and of ORS technology in general. This is what enables our synth to mimic the human voice so accurately. Think of this formant filter as a very detailed EQ curve that is constantly changing to follow the frequency response of an incoming signal. As we extract the filter from the vocal signal, traditionally referred to as the “modulator,” we can apply it onto a carrier signal, such as a synth.



### FOCUS FREQUENCY

Determines the frequency range where the formant detector analyzes in most detail. Adjust it to suit the singer’s tone. When dealing with vocals, you will usually want to limit detection to the mid-range frequencies. This setting does not affect the overall scope of the filter; it always spans the entire frequency spectrum.

Range: 500 Hz to 5000 Hz

### Q

Controls the sharpness of the filter. Low Q results in smooth, wide formants, and produce in a muffled-sounding filter. Very high Q results in sharp filters that not only follow the modulating voice formant filter, but also its fine pitch structure. The default setting,  $Q=1.4$ , results in a natural-sounding formant filter.

Range: 0.1 to 10

**Note:** Very high Q values can create sharp boosts in the detected fundamental frequency of the modulator. This can clash with the carrier’s pitch and result in dissonance.



## FORMANT SHIFT

Shifts the entire formant filter across the spectrum. A change in these settings imitates the effect of different sizes of vocal folds. Negative values yield deeper-sounding results, akin to a male voice. High positive settings can result in sounds like a child's voice, becoming squeaky at the maximum range.

Range: -12 semitones to +12 semitones

## SPEED

Controls the time it takes for the formant filter to “morph” between one state to another. At the fastest Speed setting, the filter is very sharp and accurate. Slow settings will yield some smear, making the filter smoother and less intelligible.

Range: 0.1 ms to 5000 ms

## VOICE DYNAMICS

Controls how the amplitude of the modulator (voice) will be transposed onto the carrier. When Dynamics is set to 100%, the amplitude envelope of the input voice signal is forced completely onto the carrier. The carrier will track the modulator precisely. As the Dynamics value decreases, the modulator's amplitude envelope has less impact on the carrier. The carrier tracks the voice more loosely and it becomes more prominent. Dynamics values greater than 100% will expand the modulator's dynamics, creating a more gated effect.

Range: 0 to 200

## PAN

Pans the OVox unit effect.

Range: -45° to +45°

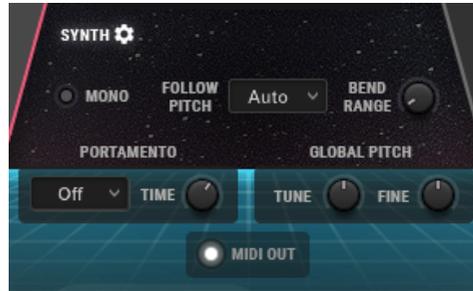
## GAIN

Controls the output gain of the OVox unit.

Range: -infinity to +20 dB



## Synth Settings Section



Click the Gear button to open the Synth Settings section, which controls global synth settings.

### MONO

Forces one synth voice. When Mono is selected, “Mono” is shown on right side of the section. This persists even when the Synth section is hidden.

Range: on or off

### FOLLOW PITCH

When Follow Pitch is on, the original pitch curve of the modulator, including its nuances, is forced onto the built-in synthesizer. This sounds very convincing when used on a single voice or when doubling. However, if particular note scaling, chords, or other MIDI notes are used on the carrier, the pitch differences may create dissonance.

When set to Auto, Follow Pitch is activated only by voice-generated notes. When the Note Mapper is On or MIDI is played into the plugin, Follow Pitch is automatically deactivated. When Follow Pitch is off, the original pitch is locked at the beginning of a note and stays for the duration of the note.

Range: off, on, auto

### BEND RANGE

Sets the range of pitch bending controlled by the MIDI keyboard pitch wheel.

Range: 0 semitones to 48 semitones

### PORTAMENTO

Enables pitch sliding from one note to the next.

**Legato** resets the envelopes when playing legato between two distinct notes.

**Always** slurs between all notes, as defined by the time value.

**Off** does not add portamento processing.

### PORTAMENTO TIME

Sets the time value for pitch gliding.

Range: 0.1 ms to 5000 ms



## GLOBAL PITCH

Transposes the entire corrected vocals (in semitones).

Range: -48 semitones to +48 semitones

Fine adjust: -100 cents to +100 cents

## MIDI Out

When the MIDI Out is On, MIDI notes that are feeding the built-in synth are sent to the OVOx MIDI output. If your DAW allows receiving MIDI from plugins, you can use these notes to control any virtual instrument. The MIDI notes are taken from the very last stage before the synth, including the Note Mapper and the Arpeggiator.

To learn more about setting up OVOx MIDI Out in various DAWs, refer to this [Waves Technical Support](#) article.

## Mixer Section



## SIBILANCE LEVEL

Controls the level of the original sibilant sounds detected from the input Voice signals. Some sibilant sounds (such as “ess”) do not have a distinctive pitch, but they are essential for the overall clarity of the vocal. In the case of vocoding, words with many sibilants can sound less intelligible. Mix in the original sibilance of your vocal track for more comprehensible results.

Range: -infinity to +18 dB



## EXCLUSIVE (EXC)

Mutes the OVox signal when sibilance is detected. If the carrier synth is rich in harmonics, there may be an unpleasant high buzzing sound when the Formant Filter is driven by sibilants. This control allows the filter to ignore these sounds, which results in a more natural feeling. As these sounds don't have a pitch in nature, it makes sense to let them pass only when trying to create a particular effect.

## VOICE LEVEL

Mixes in the original voice, as it was set in the Voice Input.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## VOICE TUNE

Applies pitch correction to the dry vocal path.

**Natural:** quantizes the pitch according to the Note Mapper, with respect to the detected pitch. In cases where there is more than a single note played (when loading chord maps), the pitch is quantized to the closest legal note. When Note Mapper is turned off, chromatic correction is applied.

**Hard:** same as Natural, but with faster transition time between notes.

**Notes:** forces the pitch correction to the incoming notes (including the Note Generator, Note Mapper, and Arpeggiator). Use this state for creative effects, such as forcing the vocal to be hard-tuned to one of the playing voices of the synth, or even to control the pitch shifting of the voice via a MIDI keyboard.

**Off:** No correction.

## SYNTH LEVEL

Mixes in the two synth sections (from OVox1 & OVox 2) prior to the formant filter.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## OVOX LEVEL

The sum of the two OVox units: OVox 1 and OVox 2. This is the main “vocoded” signal. It mixes the synths through the formant filters and the dynamic envelope, after gain and panning.

Range: -infinity to +6 dB

## TONE

Controls the overall tone of the plugin. It functions as a “tilt filter” at the output of the plugin.

Use this control to fine-tune the brightness or fatness of the output.

Range: -30 to +30



## OUTPUT LEVEL

Controls the stereo output of the plugin.

Range: -30 dB to +6 dB

## LIMITER ON/OFF

The very last stop of the plugin; the limiter threshold is fixed at 0 dBFS for output protection.

## METERS

Output peak meters. When the LED is yellow, some limiting is taking place. Red indicates excessive limiting—reduce the output level.

## MACROS

### MODULATION

Controls the overall level of all of the plugin's modulators (except ADSRs). At the minimum setting, there is no modulation in the plugin, which results in a static sound.

Range: 0 to 100

### EFFECTS

Controls the overall dry/wet balance of the entire Effects section.

Range: 0 to 100



## Modulators

OVoX offers many ways to alter and modulate its controls. In the bottom bar of the plugin, there's a list of the available modulators: M1–M4, A1–A2, PT, FR, and AM. You can use these modulators to manipulate in real time almost any control on the plugin.

### HOW TO USE MODULATIONS

#### ASSIGN MODULATION



- ✓ None
- ADSR1
- ADSR2
- Velocity
- Keyboard
- PolyAfterTouch
- PitchWheel
- ModWheel
- AfterTouch
- MOD1
- MOD2
- MOD3
- MOD4
- Formant
- Amplitude
- Pitch

- 1 **Grab and move** a modulator's label. The controls that are available for modulation will appear in blue frames
- 2 **Drop** the label of the modulator onto any available control. In this example, "M1" is being assigned to the Formant Shift control. Once the modulator is dropped, it will appear in the first modulation slot below the modulated control
- 3 **Click and drag vertically** over this populated slot to adjust the modulation depth.
- 4 The depth of modulation applied to the control is **shown above the control knob**. You can see this value when you hover over the slot or adjust the depth.

You can also directly access the modulation slots by hovering with the mouse below the controls. Click to open a list of the available modulation sources. Right-click if the slot is already assigned.





A small arc inside the modulated control knob indicates the applied depth for each modulator. The arcs are color-coded to match the modulator label. A dot outside the knob moves in real-time to indicate the knob position while modulated. It reflects the sum of all modulators assigned to the knob.

To remove a modulation assignment, right click on the populated slot to open the drop-down menu. Select “None.”

## *Modulation Types*

In OVox, there are four types of modulators that can be used throughout the plugin:

### MODs 1–4

These modulators can be set to LFO or Sequencer. You can determine their Rate and Shape and decide how they are triggered.

### ADSR 1 AND ADSR 2

These act as traditional envelope modulators that are triggered by incoming notes. Note that A1 is normally connected to the gain of the internal oscillators and the noise generators, as they control opening and shutting the synth voices.

Options: A1, A2

### ORGANIC MODULATORS

**AM**, or Amplitude, lets you use the amplitude envelope of the Voice signal to manipulate other controls of the plugin.

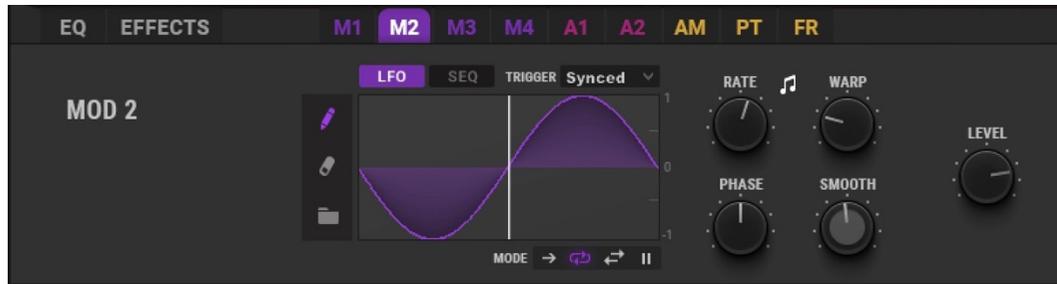
**PT**, or Pitch, extracts the pitch detection from the voice.

**FR**, or Formant, extracts the average value out of the formant detector’s data.

[Organic modulators are described in detail](#) later in this user guide.



## MODs 1–4



### TYPE

You can change the behavior of a modulator by switching it between **LFO** and **Sequencer**. Most of the controls remain the same, but certain behaviors are different, depending on the Type selection.

- The sequencer's values are quantized to whole numbers between -24 and +24. They represent semitones when the modulator is assigned to "Tune" or "Frequency" when the modulation depth is set to 100%.
- When LFO is selected, "Rate" determines the time it takes to complete a full cycle, whereas in Sequencer, it determines the time to complete a single step.

Range: LFO/SEQ

### SHAPE CONTROLS

There are several ways to shape the modulator:



**Draw Mode** (pencil) allows you to manually draw the shape you want.

**Erase** resets the currently loaded shape to "None."

**Browse** opens a factory library of LFO shapes and sequencer patterns, depending on the current Type. Click on a shape to replace the one you're currently using. To undo, use the arrows on left side of the WaveSystem toolbar.



## SAVE (DISK ICON)

Click on the icon to save the current user-drawn modulator shape to an empty cell. User shapes appear in blue, factory shapes are purple. You can manage and access the saved shapes at:

Mac: /Users/Shared/Waves/Plug-in Settings/OVox/LFOShapes

PC: C:\Users\Public\Waves Audio\Plug-in Settings\OVox\SEQShapes

## DELETE (TRASHCAN)

Click the Trashcan icon, then click on the user shape you wish to delete. You cannot delete factory shapes.

## TRIGGER

Determines when the modulator resets its position. It has five states:



**Sync** locks the modulator to the host. It syncs to BPM as well as transport position.

**ReTrigger** resets the modulator every time a new note is received.

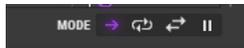
**Legato** resets the modulator whenever a new note is received, unless another note is already playing.

**Poly** triggers a new modulator per voice for each new note. When patched to polyphonic destinations (e.g., the internal synth controls), an independent modulation will be applied to each voice.

**Free** sets the modulator to be free running, never reset.

Range: Sync, ReTrigger, Legato, Poly, Free

## PLAY MODE



There are four play modes:

**One Shot:** the modulator completes a single cycle and stops running.

**Loop:** the modulator plays continuously in a loop.

**Seesaw:** the modulator moves back and forth within its cycle.

**Hold:** the modulator pauses at its current location. You can use the Phase control to alter its relative position.

## STEPS

*Only in SEQ Mode*

Determines the number of sequencer steps.

Range: 2–16 steps



## RATE

Sets the rate of the modulator. Display units and range are dependent on the Rate Sync setting.

Range: 0.06 Hz to 30 Hz or 1/64 bar to 8 bars

## RATE SYNC ON/OFF

Toggles the Rate knob values. When On, the rate of the LFO is calculated by the Host BPM and displayed in musical notation.

When Off, values are displayed in Hz.

## PHASE

Controls the starting position of the modulator.

## WARP

Warpes the speed of the modulator but keeps the overall timing of the cycle. When Warp value is lower than 1, modulation will start at a slow pace and increase its speed toward the end of the cycle. When set above 1, the pace is fast at start and then slows down at the end. Essentially, this is applying pulse width modulation on the cycle of the modulator.

Range: 0.1 to 100 (a value of 1 is linear)

## SMOOTH

Applies smoothing to the modulation curve. Low settings result in distinguishable onsets and may result in clicks. High settings smooth the overall modulation curve, and in some settings may result very low energy.

Range: 1 ms to 1000 ms

## LEVEL

The overall level of the modulator. When the Level of a modulator is set to 0, no modulation takes place.

Range: 0 to 1



## ADSR 1 and ADSR 2



Two traditional ADSR envelopes, triggered by incoming notes, provide control over the Attack, Decay, Sustain, and Release of a note and its curves.

### ATTACK

Sets the attack time of the ADSR envelope.  
Range: 0.1 ms to 10,000 ms

### DECAY

Sets the decay time of the ADSR envelope.  
Range: 0.1 ms to 10,000 ms

### SUSTAIN

Sets the sustain level of the ADSR envelope.  
Range: 0 to 1

### RELEASE

Sets the release time of the filter's envelope.  
Range: 0.1 ms to 10,000 ms

### CURVE

*(available for Attack, Decay, and Release)*

Sets the curve of the time function. A setting of 1 results a linear behavior. Values lower than 1 yield exponential curves, and values higher than 1 display a logarithmic behavior.

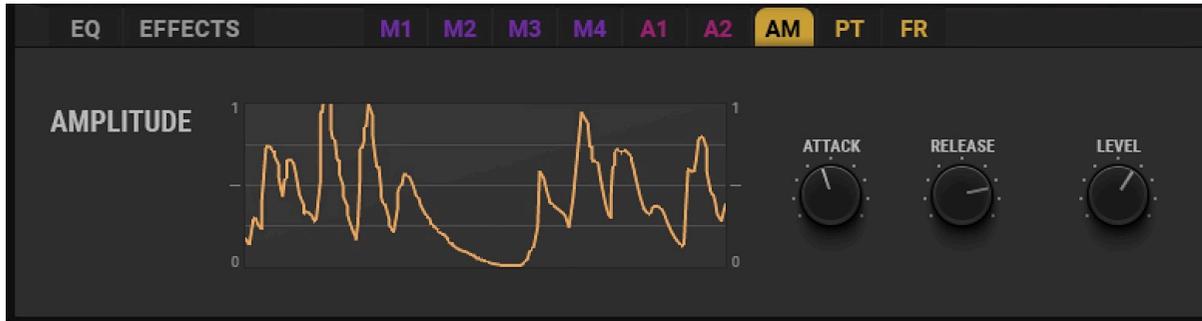
Range: 0.1 to 10



## Organic Modulators

Organic modulators enable you to use the characteristics of the input signal to modulate most plugin controls.

### AM (AMPLITUDE)



The AM modulator lets you to use the amplitude envelope of the voice signal to manipulate other controls of the plugin. This works much like an envelope follower.

**Attack** is the time it takes the modulator to rise when positive level values are detected.

Range: 0.1 ms to 1000 ms

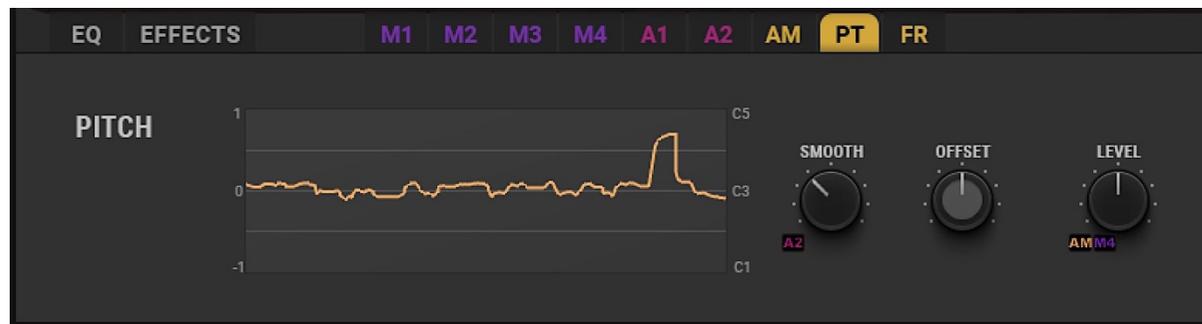
**Release** is the time it takes the modulator to fall back to minimum once an attenuation is detected.

Range: 0.1 ms to 1000 ms

**Level** is the overall level of the modulator. When this is set to 0, no modulation takes place.

Range: 0 to +2

### PT (PITCH)



Extracts the pitch detection from the voice. You can use this, for example, to create a follow-EQ effect when modulating the frequencies of the EQ bands and then forcing a certain band to follow the input pitch.



## SMOOTH

The time it takes for the modulator to respond to any change in detected pitch. The effect is similar to pitch gliding.

Range: 0.1 ms to 1000 ms

## OFFSET

Applies a steady offset to the overall modulation curve. It lets you set a “reference note” about which pitch modulates.

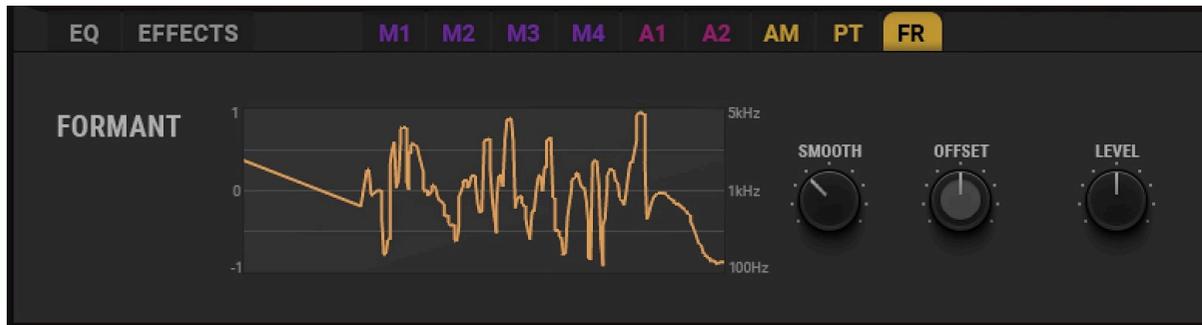
Range: -1 to 1

## LEVEL

The overall level of the modulator. When this is set to 0, no modulation takes place.

Range: 0 to +2

## FR (FORMANT)



Extracts the average value out of the formant detector’s data. This is valuable for detecting the most energy-dominant area in the frequency spectrum. One example of using this is to detect harsh or sibilant sounds.

## SMOOTH

The time it takes for the modulator to respond to any change in detected pitch. The effect is similar to pitch gliding.

Range: 1 ms to 1000 ms

## OFFSET

Applies a steady offset to the overall modulation curve.

Range: -1 to 1



## LEVEL

The overall level of the modulator. When this is set to 0, no modulation takes place.

Range: 0 to +2

## EQ

The built-in EQ sits on the output of the plugin and has four bands that can be fully modulated.



## BAND ON/OFF

Activates and deactivates the band. Turn a band on or off in the parametric section or by double-clicking on the graph marker.



## BAND TYPE

There are two ways to select a band type:

Click on the Type icon in the parametric section or hold CMD (Mac) or WIN (PC) while clicking on a band marker to toggle through the available types.

Turn a band on or off in the parametric section or by double-clicking on the graph marker.

Range: Bell, LoShelf, HiShelf, HP, LP

## GAIN (G)

Boosts or attenuates the EQ band.

Range: -30 dB to +30 dB

## FREQUENCY (F)

Determines the center frequency, or the cutoff frequency when using filters for each band.

20 Hz to 20,000 Hz

## Q

Determines the width of the filter or band. The higher the Q setting, the narrower the band.

Range: 0.26 to 13

## *MIDI Control Change Modulation*

**MIDI CC** modulation sources use the information from incoming MIDI control change messages. They are not available from the bottom bar of the plugin interface. To assign one of these you need to select it from the modulation dropdown list by clicking on a modulation slot.

Range: Velocity, Keyboard, Pitch Wheel, Mod Wheel, AfterTouch, Poly AfterTouch

Note: Polyphonic aftertouch works only with compatible MIDI controllers.



## Effects

There are seven effects designed for OVOx. Each effect has two controls of its own, plus a mix control. You can insert up to five effects per plugin instance. Grab and slide an effect to change the order.



### AVAILABLE EFFECTS

- AutoPan
- Chorus
- Compressor
- Delay
- Distortion
- Reverb

### TO ADD AN EFFECT TO AN EMPTY SLOT

Click on the “+” sign to open up the plugin list menu (shown above on the right). Choose an effect from the Plugin list.

The Plugin list includes other important menu items:

#### ADD EFFECT

Click on the “+” sign to open up the stomp menu (shown above on the right). Choose an effect from the Plugin list.

#### BYPASS EFFECT

Bypasses the effect for quick in/out toggle.

#### DISABLE EFFECT

Disables the effect and removes it from CPU. Settings are preserved.

#### REMOVE EFFECT

Removes the effect from the slot. Unsaved settings are lost.

### EFFECT FLAVOR

Click on the small down arrow next to the effect name to access the Flavor menu, a list of the internal presets of specific effect. Selecting a new effect flavor will result in different sounds and is dependent on the effect used. The Limiter effect does not have a Flavor control.

Mix  
A Dry/Wet mix for the effect. All Mix controls can be modulated.

Range: 0% to 100%



## Macros

### MODULATION (MACRO)

Controls the overall level of all of the plugin's modulators (except ADSRs). At the minimum setting, there is no modulation in the plugin, which results in a rather static sound.

Range: 0 to 100

### EFFECTS (MACRO)

Controls the dry/wet balance for the entire Effects section.

Range: 0 to 100

## 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.

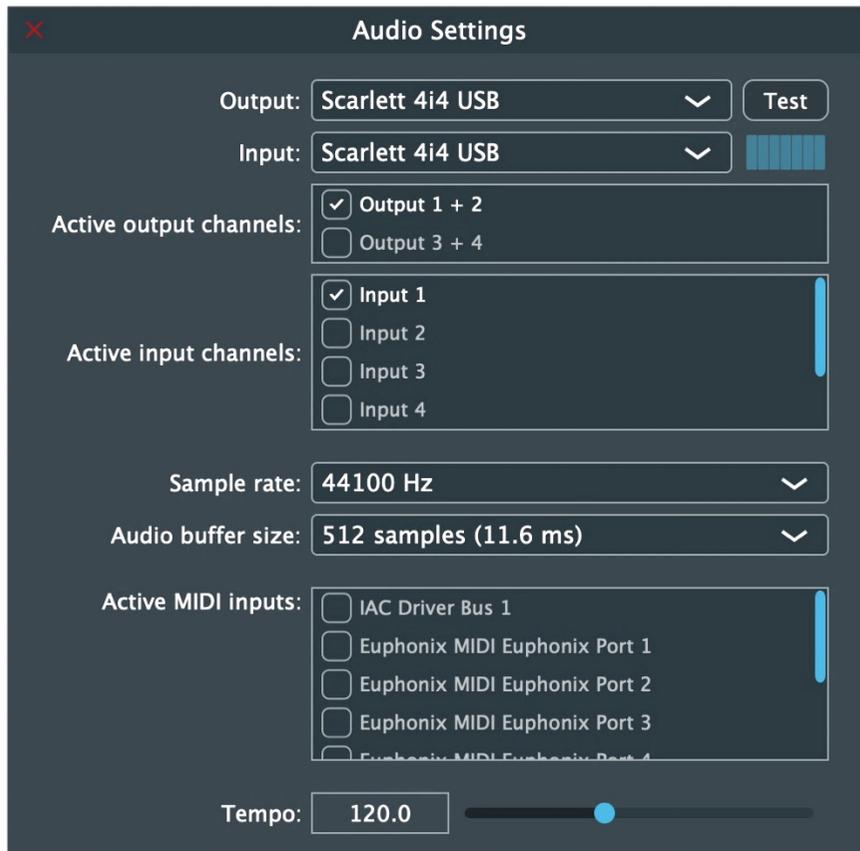


# OVox Standalone Application

OVox can be used as a standalone device. It requires ASIO drivers for Windows or Core Audio for Mac OS X. The OVox application is in the Waves Applications folder. Setup controls are in the File menu.

- All Notes Off Sends an All-Notes-Off MIDI command to the OVox synthesizer. This is useful in cases of “stuck” sustaining notes.
- Preferences Displays the Preferences dialog for the Audio, MIDI, and User Choices configurations.

## PREFERENCES



**Active MIDI Inputs** displays a list of available MIDI input devices on the current system.

Select the MIDI device for receiving MIDI data.

**Tempo:** Sets the tempo for all relevant plugins. By default, tempo-based Waves plugins are in a “tempo listen” state. Their tempo rates will fix to this value.

**Output** displays the available audio output devices.

**Test** plays a sound if the outputs are configured correctly.

**Input** displays the available audio input devices.

**Active Output Channels** allows selection of audio output channels from the chosen output device.

**Active Input Channels** allows selection of audio input channels from the chosen output device.

**Sample Rate** displays and sets the sample rate.\*

**Audio Buffer Size** displays and sets the buffer size, which influences latency.\*

\*In Windows, sample rate and buffer size cannot be changed from this panel. To modify these settings: close the application, adjust sample rate and buffer size with your driver's control panel (shown below), and relaunch.



(Windows Only)

