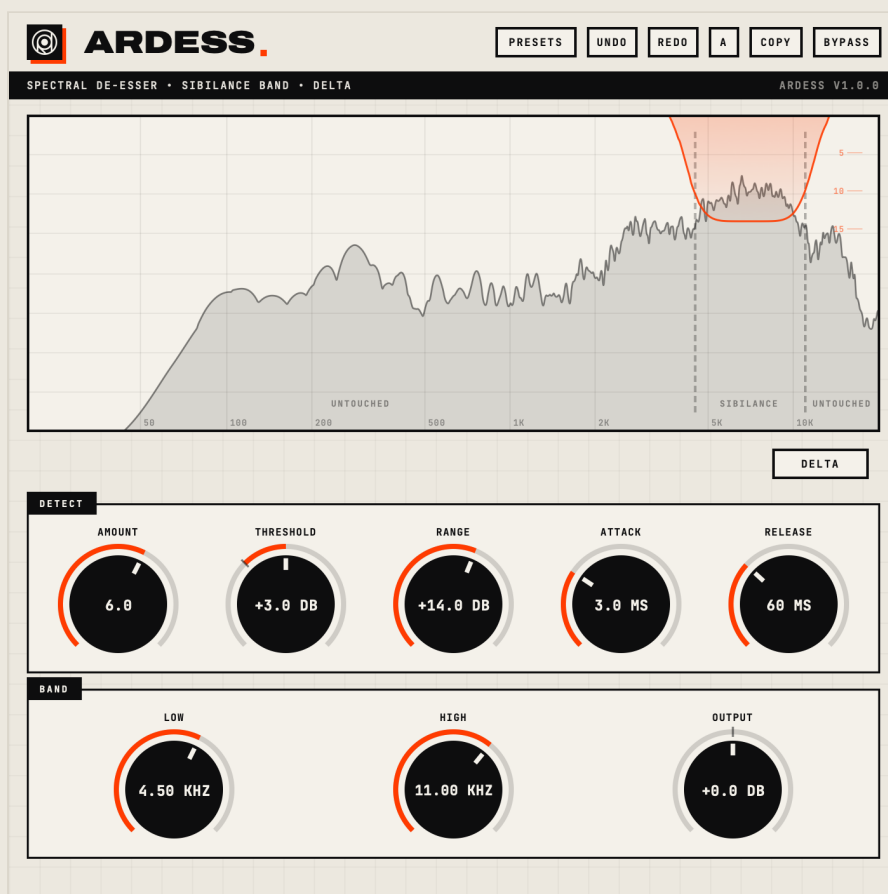


ARDESS

DE-ESSER



01 WHAT IT DOES

ARDESS works on the spectrum, not on a band split. It watches the sibilance band and pulls down only the part of the spectrum that is actually hissing, leaving everything outside the band exactly as it was – measured at 0.00 dB on real material. Cymbals, air and breath survive, because a cut only opens when the band rises above its own recent level AND stands out against the body of the voice.

02 INSTALLING

macOS

Run **ARDESS Installer.pkg** and follow the steps. You can choose which formats to install, and whether to install for every user or only for yourself. The package is not notarised by Apple yet, so the first time you open it macOS may refuse: right-click the installer, choose **Open**, then confirm. This is only needed once.

Windows

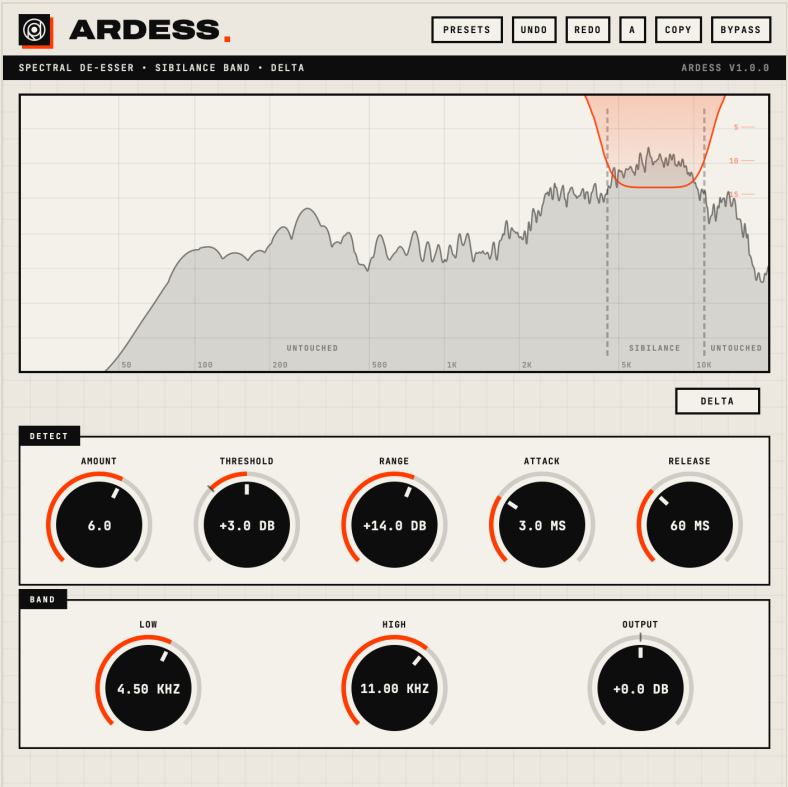
Run **ARDESS Installer.exe** and follow the steps. The plugin is placed in the shared VST3 folder. The installer is not code-signed yet, so SmartScreen may warn you: click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. This is only needed once.

After installing

Rescan the plugin list in your DAW. ARDESS appears under **Ajanss Records > ARDESS**.

Requirements – macOS 10.13 or newer, Intel or Apple Silicon (universal binary). Windows 10 or newer, 64-bit. Formats: Audio Unit and VST3 on macOS, VST3 on Windows.

03 THE INTERFACE



SPECTRUM	The live spectrum with the sibilance band marked by two dashed lines. Drag either line to move the edge of the band. The orange curve above it is the cut currently being applied - a smooth filter shape, flat across the band and rolling off at the edges.
SIBILANCE / UNTOUCHED	Only what sits between the lines can be cut. The regions either side are never touched.
REDUCTION SCALE	The orange marks on the right show how deep the current cut is.
DELTA	Hear only what is being removed. If it sounds like a voice, the settings are too aggressive; it should sound like hiss.

04 PARAMETERS

CONTROL	RANGE	DEFAULT	WHAT IT DOES
AMOUNT	0 ... 10	5	How hard the cut follows the overshoot. Five is roughly one decibel of cut for each decibel over the threshold; ten is double that.
THRESHOLD	-6 ... +12 dB	+3 dB	How far above its own normal brightness the voice has to go before a cut starts. This is relative, not absolute: a bright recording and a dark one both behave the same, because each is compared against itself.
RANGE	0 ... 24 dB	12 dB	The deepest cut allowed, however loud the sibilance gets. Use it as a safety ceiling when a take is uneven.
LOW / HIGH	2 ... 9 kHz / 6 ... 18 kHz	4.5 kHz / 11 kHz	The edges of the sibilance band. Male voices sibilate lower (about 3.5 to 8 kHz), female voices higher (5 to 12 kHz). Nothing outside these two lines is changed.
ATTACK	0.5 ... 30 ms	3 ms	How fast the cut opens. Short catches the front of the 's'; longer lets the transient through and works on the tail.
RELEASE	20 ... 400 ms	60 ms	How fast the cut closes. The default was chosen by measurement on a real vocal: at 20 ms it catches 65% of the sibilant frames and bleeds into 2% of the rest, at 60 ms it is 71% and 9%, at 120 ms 76% and 21%, at 300 ms 86% and 38%. Sixty is the point where it catches most of the sibilance without dulling the word that follows.
DELTA	on / off	off	Listen to the removed part on its own.
OUTPUT	-12 ... +12 dB	0 dB	Final level trim.

06 STARTING POINTS

Rough settings to work from, not destinations. Every one of them assumes you will move it once you hear the source.

Set the band first

Turn AMOUNT up, switch DELTA on and move LOW and HIGH until you hear only hiss and no vowel. Then switch DELTA off and set the depth.

A cut that never closes

If the voice sounds dull rather than de-essed, RELEASE is too long. Shorten it before reaching for less AMOUNT.

Uneven take

Leave THRESHOLD where it is and lower RANGE. The threshold decides when to act, the range decides how far it may go.

Male voice

Move LOW down to about 3.5 kHz and HIGH to 8.5 kHz, or load the MALE VOCAL preset.

Cymbals and air

Steady high frequency content does not trigger a cut, because the band is compared against its own recent level. You can leave ARDESS on a bright mix.

07 SUPPORT

For questions, bug reports and feature requests, please reach us on Instagram at [@ajanssrecords](#). Please include your operating system, your DAW and its version, the plugin format you are using, and the plugin version shown in the top right of the window.

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