VITRIC



Chamfer De-Esser

USER MANUAL | VERSION 1.0.1 | UPDATED NOVEMBER 18, 2026 | MUSEHUB EDITION

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Chamfer De-Esser turns down harsh "s" and "sh" sounds (sibilance). It finds each "s" on its own, decides how much that one needs, reshapes it toward a target you set, and shows you exactly what it did. Its threshold (the level where it starts working) rides the performance by itself, so a

whispered verse and a belted chorus get the same de-essing without automation. It is for vocals, voice-over, stacks, and harsh cymbals or strings.

This manual covers Chamfer De-Esser 1.0.1 on macOS and Windows, in VST3, AU and AAX.

01 Quick start

1. Insert **Chamfer De-Esser** on a vocal track.
2. Play the vocal for a few seconds, then click **LEARN**. Chamfer places its band where this voice's esses live, sets a starting AMOUNT and calibrates itself to the voice.
3. Set **AMOUNT**. 100 % (the default) leaves esses sitting naturally in the voice. Turn it up toward 150 % to tuck them further under, or down if words start to lisp.
4. Watch the display: the shaded area in the band is exactly what Chamfer removed, and each "s" appears as a bar in the ESSES strip below.
5. Click **BYPASS** to compare. Bypass keeps the level and timing the same, so the comparison is fair.

TIP

To hear only what Chamfer takes out, click **REMOVED**. If you hear parts of words rather than "s" sounds, lower AMOUNT or narrow the band.

02

What's new in 1.0.1

On macOS 27, the Audio Unit and AAX versions now load. No change to the sound or features. On Windows this is a maintenance update.

03

What's new in 1.0.0

Only the version number changed. Chamfer sounds, looks and works exactly as 0.2.14 did, and your sessions and presets open as you saved them.

04

What's new in 0.2.14

On Windows, the plugin window now draws and updates on computers whose display gives it no refresh signal, such as virtual machines and some remote desktops. Closing the window there no longer freezes the host.

05

What's new in 0.2.13

Fixed a rare crash when the host saves and restores settings at the same time.

Saving a session while you switch between A and B no longer stores the wrong sound in one of them.

06

What's new in 0.2.12

A reopened session shows its preset's name.

07

What's new in 0.2.10

What changed since 0.2.0:

Your own presets. Save, recall, rename and delete presets from the preset menu.

ABS THR shows the real trigger level in dBFS. The sound did not change.

REMOVED is exact in LIVE latency with SPLIT and SURGICAL.

Sessions always reopen as saved, after every update.

Fixes: a crash on macOS 10.15 and 11; Windows user names with accented characters; a frequency axis that did not follow the sample rate; ATTACK and RELEASE trims that did nothing over part of their travel.

08 The window

The window has a top bar, the display with the ESSES strip, and the controls along the bottom. The settings you set once per source live in the drawer. Drag the corner to resize the window, from 880 × 540 up to 1760 × 1088 pixels; it opens at 1100 × 680.

The top bar

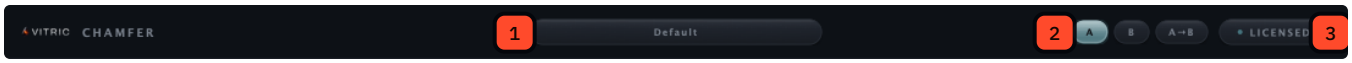


FIG. 1 The top bar: the preset menu, the A and B snapshots, and the license chip.

1 **Preset menu.** Factory presets and your own; shows the current name.

2 **A, B and A→B.** Two snapshots to compare, and a copy button.

3 **License chip.** Reads MUSEHUB. This edition opens unlocked, so the chip is a label and takes no clicks.

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES	RANGE	DEFAULT
PRESET MENU	24 factory presets by source, and your own. It reads Default until you load one.	24 factory presets plus yours	Default
A · B	Two full snapshots of the settings. The lit one is live. Both slots, and which one is live, are saved with your session.	A or B	A
A⟶B	Copies the live snapshot onto the other slot. With B live, it copies B onto A.		
LICENSE CHIP	Reads MUSEHUB. This edition opens unlocked, so the chip is a label and takes no clicks. Updates come through MuseHub.		

09 The display



FIG. 2

The display on a spoken "s": the band at its default 4.5 to 10 kHz, the RIDE line, the removed energy and the ESSES strip.

1. **The band.** Where the esses live.
2. **Edge grip.** Drag one edge alone.
3. **RIDE line.** The threshold, live.
4. **Removed energy.** The shaded part inside the band.
5. **Spectrum.** Your audio, live.
6. **Frequency scale.** 50 Hz to 20 kHz.
7. **ESSES strip.** Every detected "s", in time.

The pale curve is your input and the lit curve is what leaves. Inside the band, the shaded area between them is exactly the energy Chamfer removed. Input and output are lined up in time, so the shade never shows reduction that did not happen.

The band is the region where esses live. Drag its body to move it with its width kept, or drag one edge alone by its grip at the top. Scroll over it to widen or narrow it around its center. Hold `Shift` for fine moves (a quarter speed). Double-click the band to reset it to 4.5 to 10 kHz, or an edge grip to reset that edge alone. Click it to show exact LOW EDGE and HIGH EDGE fields; type a value in Hz or kHz.

The RIDE line is the threshold, drawn live. Watch it follow the performance: that is the level ride you would otherwise automate. Esses visibly cross it when they trigger.

The ESSES strip is a timeline of every detected "s". A bar's height is the depth Chamfer commanded for it; its brightness is how sure Chamfer is that it was an "s".

The inspect card

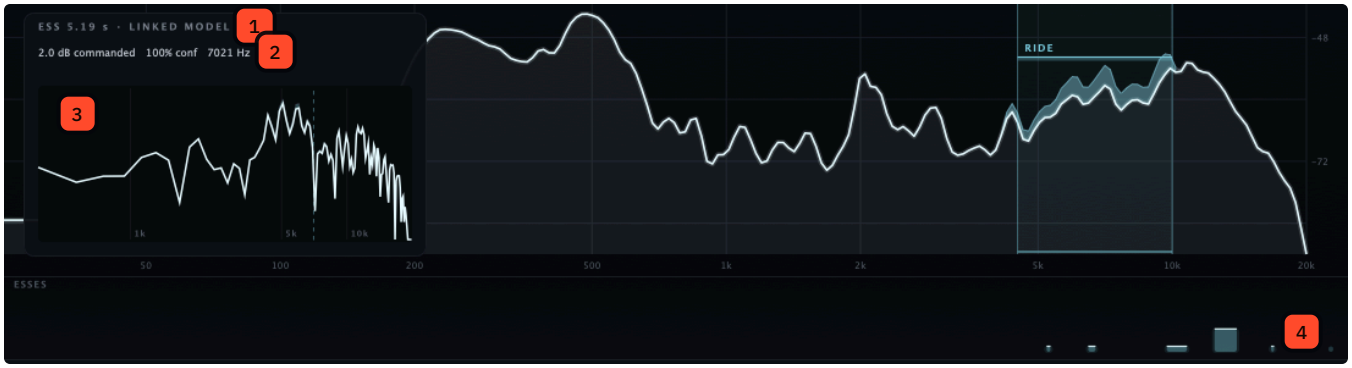


FIG. 3 An inspect card frozen on one "s", with the ESSES strip below.

1. **Header.** When the "s" happened.
2. **Facts.** Depth, confidence and center frequency.
3. **Spectrum.** That "s" before and after.
4. **ESSES strip.** Click a bar to inspect it.

Click any bar in the ESSES strip to freeze its inspect card. The header gives the time of that "s". Below it: the depth Chamfer commanded (dB commanded; the lisp guard in How Chamfer protects the voice can apply less), how sure Chamfer was that it was an "s" (conf), and its center frequency. Below, the "s" is drawn before (pale) and after (lit), with the removed energy shaded and a dashed line at its center frequency. Click the card, or press `Esc`, to close it.

The spectrum is measured only in PRECISE latency with LINK at 100 %, and the header then reads LINKED MODEL. In LIVE, or with LINK in use below 100 %, the card shows the facts and says the spectrum was not measured. An "s" older than the capture history shows the facts only.

10 The controls

The bottom row holds the controls you reach for while you work. Click the value under a knob to type an exact one; `Return` applies and `Esc` cancels.

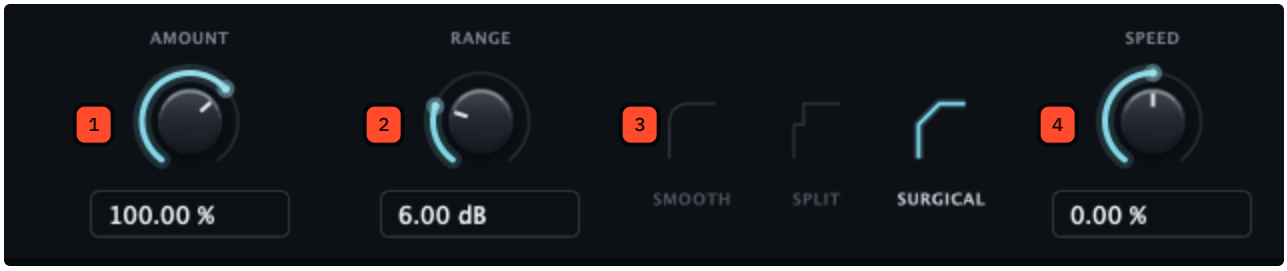


FIG. 4 AMOUNT, RANGE, the three styles and SPEED.

1. **AMOUNT.** The target.
2. **RANGE.** The hard cap.
3. **Style.** SMOOTH, SPLIT or SURGICAL.
4. **SPEED.** Faster or slower envelope.

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES	RANGE	DEFAULT
AMOUNT	The target: how far each "s" is reshaped toward the voice around it. 100 % leaves esses sitting naturally; above 100 % tucks them under for a softer read; below 25 % fades to off. RANGE caps how far it can go.	0 to 150 %	100 %
RANGE	The hard cap: no "s" is ever reduced by more than this. Keep it low (4 to 6 dB) on buses and full mixes; open it up for detailed vocal work.	0 to 24 dB	6 dB
SMOOTH · SPLIT · SURGICAL	**SMOOTH** turns down everything from the band's low edge up, reaching full depth an octave higher; kindest on dense material. **SPLIT** turns down the band only, the classic de-esser. **SURGICAL** reshapes each "s" frequency by frequency.	3 styles	SURGICAL
SPEED	Trims the automatic attack and release together: faster for dense rap and percussion, slower for ballads. The envelope already follows each event's own decay.	-50 to +50 %	0 %

AMOUNT moves the destination, not a raw gain, so it works on gentle and harsh esses alike. In LIVE latency, SURGICAL runs as SPLIT and the switch says so.

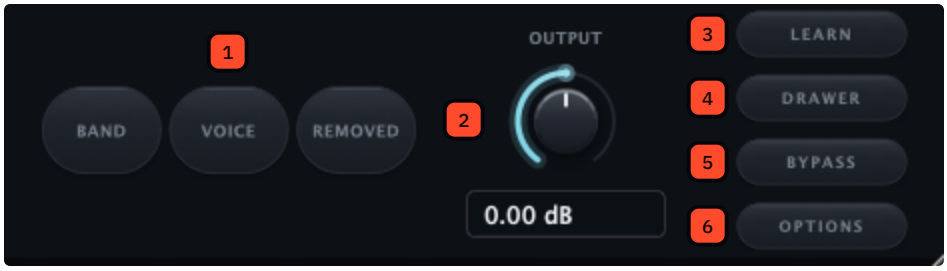


FIG. 5 The listen buttons, OUTPUT, and the LEARN, DRAWER, BYPASS and OPTIONS buttons.

1. **Listen.** BAND, VOICE or REMOVED.
2. **OUTPUT.** Output trim.
3. **LEARN.** Fit the band to this source.
4. **DRAWER.** The settings you set once.
5. **BYPASS.** Compare with the dry sound.
6. **OPTIONS.** Tooltips and shortcuts. Chamfer never checks for updates itself in this edition.

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES	RANGE	DEFAULT
BAND · VOICE · REMOVED	Hear what Chamfer hears. **BAND** plays the band alone, **VOICE** everything outside it, **REMOVED** only what is taken out. Click to latch; press and hold to listen briefly. Keys 1 2 3 (again: off).	Off, BAND, VOICE, REMOVED	Off
OUTPUT	Output trim.	-12 to +12 dB	0 dB
LEARN	Analyzes the last few seconds of audio: places the band where this source's esses live, calibrates the ride and sets a suggested AMOUNT. If it heard too few esses, it reads LEARN? and changes nothing. Key L.		
DRAWER	Opens the drawer. Key D.		
BYPASS	Click-free bypass at the same level and timing. Key B.	On or off	Off
OPTIONS	Opens a menu: Show tooltips, Check for updates and the keyboard shortcut sheet. The first two apply to every Vitric plugin on this computer. In this edition Chamfer never checks for updates itself, whatever **Check for updates** is set to.		

How Chamfer protects the voice

It cannot lisp. A built-in guard never pushes an "s" more than 10 dB below the voice around it, whatever the settings say.

It leaves non-esses alone. Chamfer scales each cut by how sure the detector is that the sound is an "s", so a click, a breath or a bright vowel gets little or nothing. You can read its confidence in the ESSES strip.

Identical esses come out identical, and style changes glide without clicks.

11 The drawer



FIG. 6 The drawer at its defaults: RELATIVE threshold, PRECISE latency, STEREO detection.

1. **THRESHOLD.** RELATIVE or ABSOLUTE.
2. **LATENCY.** PRECISE or LIVE.
3. **DETECT.** STEREO, MID or SIDES.
4. **OFFSET.** Biases the ride.
5. **SENSE.** How easily it calls an "s".
6. **LINK.** Shared or separate channel depth.
7. **ABS THR.** The fixed threshold.
8. **ATTACK.** Engage speed trim.
9. **RELEASE.** Release speed trim.

Click **DRAWER** (key `D`) for the settings you set once per source. A control that does nothing in the current mode reads **STORED** after its name: it keeps its value for when you switch to the mode that uses it.

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES	RANGE	DEFAULT
THRESHOLD	**RELATIVE** rides the performance level (the way Chamfer is meant to work). **ABSOLUTE** holds the threshold at one fixed level, set with ABS THR, for chains that need a predictable trigger, such as broadcast.	RELATIVE, ABSOLUTE	RELATIVE
LATENCY	**PRECISE** hears each "s" just before it plays (191 samples, about 4 ms at 48 kHz), so it catches the very start; your DAW compensates. **LIVE** has no latency, for tracking and stage use.	PRECISE, LIVE	PRECISE
DETECT	**STEREO** listens to the mid and reduces both channels. **MID** processes the mid alone. **SIDES** processes the sides alone (stacked backing vocals keep their sizzle there).	STEREO, MID, SIDES	STEREO
OFFSET	Moves the riding threshold up or down from where Chamfer puts it. Lower it to catch more esses; raise it to catch fewer. Stored in ABSOLUTE mode.	-12 to +12 dB	0 dB

CONTROL	WHAT IT DOES	RANGE	DEFAULT
SENSE	How readily Chamfer calls a sound an "s". Higher catches more; lower needs a clearer "s".	0 to 100 %	50 %
LINK	At 100 % both channels share one depth; lower it and each side follows its own esses (duets panned apart, mismatched mics). It works only with LATENCY on PRECISE, DETECT on STEREO and the style on SPLIT or SURGICAL; otherwise it reads STORED.	0 to 100 %	100 %
ABS THR	The fixed trigger level in ABSOLUTE mode: an "s" louder than this inside the band is reduced. Stored in RELATIVE mode.	-98 to -38 dBFS	-68 dBFS
ATTACK	Trims the engage speed, on top of SPEED.	-50 to +50 %	0 %
RELEASE	Trims the release speed, on top of SPEED.	-50 to +50 %	0 %

The mid is what both channels share (the center of the image); the sides are what differs between them (the width).

12 Keyboard and mouse

Keys work when the Chamfer window has keyboard focus: click an empty part of the window once. While you type in a value field, the field keeps the keys.

ACTION	MAC	WINDOWS
Listen: BAND, VOICE, REMOVED (again: off)	`1`, `2`, `3`	`1`, `2`, `3`
Show or hide the drawer	`D`	`D`
LEARN	`L`	`L`
Bypass	`B`	`B`
Close the inspect card, the drawer or the shortcut sheet	`Esc`	`Esc`
Show the shortcut sheet	`?`	`?`
Fine band drag (a quarter speed)	`Shift` + drag	`Shift` + drag
Move the selected band edge or body (click it first)	← or → (`Shift` for fine)	← or → (`Shift` for fine)
Type the selected band edge	`Return`	`Enter`
Fine drag on a knob	`Shift` + drag	`Shift` + drag
Step a knob (`Shift` for fine)	Mouse wheel	Mouse wheel
Reset a knob	Double-click, or `Cmd` + click	Double-click, or `Ctrl` + click
Type an exact value	Click the value	Click the value

In Pro Tools, fine drag on knobs is `Cmd` + drag (`Ctrl` on Windows) and reset is `Option` + click (`Alt` on Windows).

13 Recipes

These are starting points from the factory presets. Aim for esses that sit level with the vowels around them, not under them, and click **REMOVED** to check that you hear only "s" sounds. Every voice, mix and room is different, so adjust by ear and compare with **BYPASS**.

De-ess a pop lead vocal

START FROM	Close Pop Lead, then click **LEARN**
AMOUNT	100 % (up to 120 % for a softer read)
RANGE	7 dB
STYLE	SURGICAL
BAND	Set by the preset (5.2 to 11.5 kHz); LEARN then fits it to the voice

Keep up with fast rap

START FROM	Fast Rap
AMOUNT	105 %
RANGE	8 dB
SPEED	+20 %, so the release keeps up
SENSE	55 %

Tame stacked backing vocals

START FROM	Wide Stack Sides
DETECT	SIDES
STYLE	SMOOTH
RANGE	8 dB
BAND	5.5 to 12.5 kHz

Tame harsh hi-hats

START FROM	Hi-Hat Tamer
BAND	6.5 to 14 kHz. Solo it with **BAND** (key 1) and move it until the harsh part is loudest
RANGE	9 dB
SPEED	+25 %

De-ess while tracking or on stage

START FROM	Live Stage Vocal
LATENCY	LIVE (no latency)
STYLE	SPLIT
SPEED	+10 %

Ease a harsh full mix

START FROM	Full Mix De-Harsh
AMOUNT	80 %
RANGE	4 dB
STYLE	SMOOTH
SPEED	-10 %

14 Presets

24 factory presets, named for sources. Each was checked on real material for its source before it shipped.

SOURCE	PRESETS
Female Vocal	Close Pop Lead, Bright Condenser, Airy Ballad, Soprano Belt, Whisper Track
Male Vocal	Dark Male VO, Baritone Crooner, Rock Lead, Tenor Pop
Spoken & Rap	Fast Rap, Podcast Spoken, Broadcast VO, Audiobook Soft
Stacks	BV Blend, Wide Stack Sides, Duet Unlinked
Cymbals & Strings	Hi-Hat Tamer, Cymbal Wash, Acoustic Sparkle
Bus & Live	Vocal Bus Glue, Full Mix De-Harsh, Streaming Sheen, Live Stage Vocal, Tracking Monitor

A preset sets AMOUNT, RANGE, the band, the style, SPEED, SENSE, LATENCY, DETECT and LINK. It also returns THRESHOLD to RELATIVE, OFFSET to 0 dB, and ATTACK and RELEASE to 0 %. It never changes the listen buttons, BYPASS, OUTPUT or ABS THR.

Your own presets

1. Open the preset menu and choose **Save preset...**, then type a name.
2. Your presets appear under **User** in the same menu.
3. **Rename preset** and **Delete preset** manage the list; **Show preset folder** opens the folder on disk.

The files are in `~/Library/Application Support/Vitric Audio/Presets/Chamfer De-Esser` on macOS and `%APPDATA%\Vitric Audio\Presets\Chamfer De-Esser` on Windows.

15 Specifications

Detection: per event, with a threshold that rides the performance (RELATIVE) or a fixed level (ABSOLUTE).

Styles: SMOOTH, SPLIT, SURGICAL.

Band: low edge 1 to 16 kHz, high edge 2 to 20 kHz.

Ranges: AMOUNT 0 to 150 %, RANGE 0 to 24 dB, SPEED ±50 %, OUTPUT ±12 dB.

ABS THR: a sine peaking at the shown level just triggers; on an RMS meter, band noise triggers about 3 dB below the figure.

Listen: BAND, VOICE, REMOVED.

Latency: 191 samples at any sample rate (PRECISE), reported to your DAW, or none (LIVE).

Channels: mono, stereo, or mono in and stereo out.

Window: 880 × 540 to 1760 × 1088.

Formats: VST3 and AAX on macOS and Windows; AU on macOS.

Not included

There is no external sidechain input.

Chamfer works on mono and stereo tracks. It does not support surround or Atmos formats.

16 Installation and updates

Install

1. Save your work and quit your DAW.
2. Install **Chamfer De-Esser** from the MuseHub app. MuseHub downloads it and puts the plugins in place.
3. Open your DAW. If Chamfer De-Esser is not listed, run your DAW's plugin rescan.

Use AU in Logic Pro, AAX in Pro Tools and VST3 in other DAWs. On a Mac the plugins go in the standard folders:

AU: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components`
VST3: `/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST3`
AAX: `/Library/Application Support/Avid/Audio/Plug-Ins`

On Windows, MuseHub installs the VST3 and AAX versions.

Nothing to enter

This edition opens and runs as soon as it is installed. Your MuseHub purchase is your license: there is no key, code or account to enter, and nothing to unlock. The chip at the top right reads MUSEHUB. It is a label, not a button, so clicking it does nothing.

MuseHub handles the purchase, any trial and any payment question under its own terms. Vitric sets no limit of its own on the number of computers: install Chamfer on the computers you personally use, within MuseHub's terms.

Updates

Updates to this edition are free and come through MuseHub. When a new version is out, save your work, quit your DAW and update Chamfer in the MuseHub app. Your sessions reopen exactly as saved after every update.

Chamfer never checks for updates itself in this edition and shows no update notice, whatever the **Check for updates** option is set to.

Sessions and presets are the same as in the vitricaudio.com edition of Chamfer De-Esser, so your projects open in either edition.

17 Troubleshooting

Chamfer does not appear in my DAW

Rescan plugins and restart the DAW. In Logic Pro, use Logic Pro > Settings > Plug-in Manager and **Reset & Rescan Selection**. On Windows, make sure your DAW scans `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3`.

It went silent, or sounds thin

> **A listen button is lit:** BAND, VOICE or REMOVED replaces the normal output. Click it again to turn it off.

LEARN reads LEARN?

There was not enough sibilance in the last few seconds. Play a passage with clear "s" sounds, then click LEARN again.

It is not catching some esses

Check that the band covers where the esses are, lower OFFSET or raise SENSE in the drawer, and raise RANGE if the depth is capped.

It sounds dull or lispy

Lower AMOUNT toward 100 %, or lower RANGE. Click **REMOVED**: if you hear parts of words rather than "s" sounds, narrow the band or lower SENSE.

I hear a delay while tracking

Set LATENCY to LIVE in the drawer. Switch back to PRECISE to mix.

LINK, OFFSET or ABS THR reads STORED

That control does nothing in the current mode and keeps its value for later. LINK needs PRECISE, STEREO, and SPLIT or SURGICAL, all three; OFFSET works in RELATIVE; ABS THR works in ABSOLUTE.

Shortcuts do nothing

Click an empty part of the Chamfer window once so it has keyboard focus. Some DAWs keep certain keys for themselves; use the mouse for those.

18 Support

MuseHub provides first-line support for this edition and passes anything it cannot solve, such as a plugin fault, on to Vitric. You can also write to support@vitricaudio.com with your Chamfer version, operating system, DAW and version, plugin format and the exact error if there is one.

Chamfer De-Esser user manual, MuseHub edition, version 1.0.1, updated November 18, 2026.

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