



DialogueEnhance

Intelligent Speech Processor

DialogueEnhance is an intelligent automatic speech processing tool. You can use it to easily enhance the quality of your speech recordings without having to adjust many parameters. The signal is processed by four different modules: Noise Reduction, Auto-EQ, Dynamics Control and Loudness Boost. Most of the parameterisation is done internally in an automatic fashion with the help of Machine Learning techniques.

A useful tool for podcast and video editors!



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Specifications and system requirements

Supported sample rates: 44.1kHz,48kHz,88.2khz,96kHz,192kHz

Supported channel layout: Mono/Stereo

Plugin formats: AAX, VST3, AU

Generally, the plugin should work with most plugin host softwares. It has been tested and is officially compatible with: Reaper, ProTools 12 or higher, Nuendo, Cubase, Ableton Live.



MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

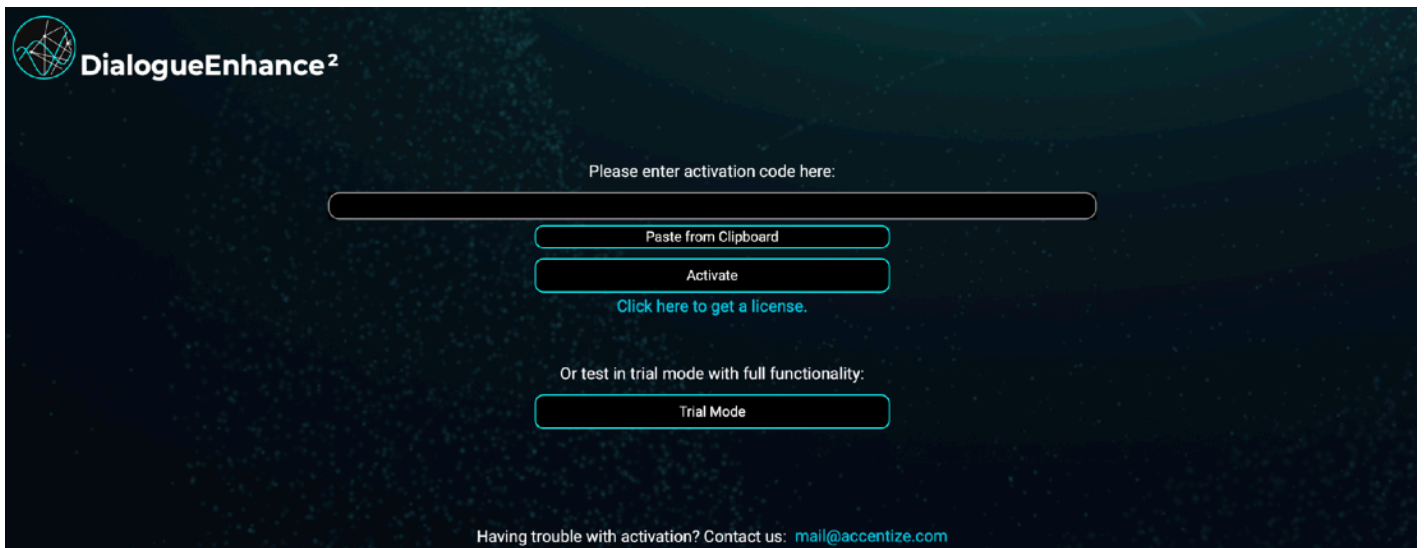
Windows 7 (64-bit), 4 GB RAM, Dual-Core CPU 2GHz

Max OS X 10.12, 4 GB RAM, Dual-Core CPU 2GHz

Installation and activation

The plugin is distributed with an easy to use installer. In the installation process the usual audio plugin paths are set as a default. If you aren't using any custom path for your plugins you can leave everything as it is and just let the installer do its job. After the installation DialogueEnhance should appear in the list of available plugins in your DAW.

When the plugin is loaded for the first time, the following activation screen will be shown:



You have the option of either pressing the Trial Mode button or entering an activation code to permanently activate the plugin. The trial mode is fully functional with the only limitation that it will randomly mute the signal for 3 seconds here and there.

User Interface

After installation and activation the plugin will be ready to use. By using machine learning approaches the available control parameters could be kept to a minimum in order to make the usage as comfortable as possible.



The plugin consists of four processing modules:

- Noise Reduction
- Dynamics Control
- Spectral Correction
- Loudness Boost

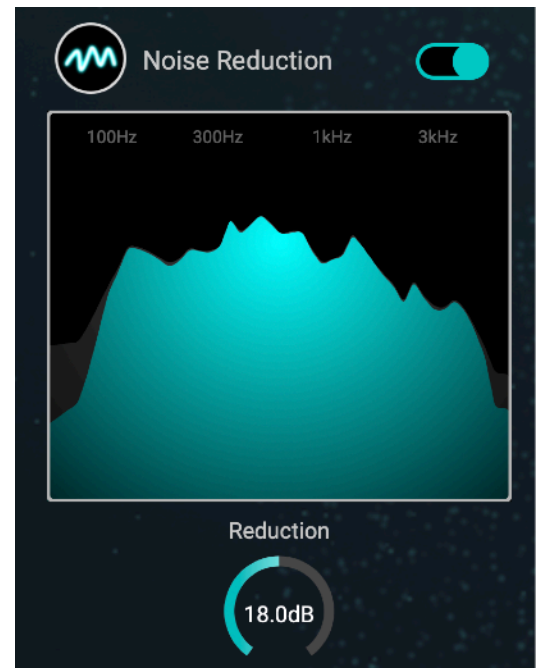
Each module can be activated and deactivated individually so that in some cases the processing chain can be reduced to only a selection of the available modules.

In the header bar of the plugin you can find a **Bypass** button to disable all processing and a **Reset** button which resets all states of all modules which are currently in **Automatic Mode**. A state reset can be helpful when jumping between different recordings to neglect all previously received audio for the new estimation.

In the following we will have a look at each module in detail.

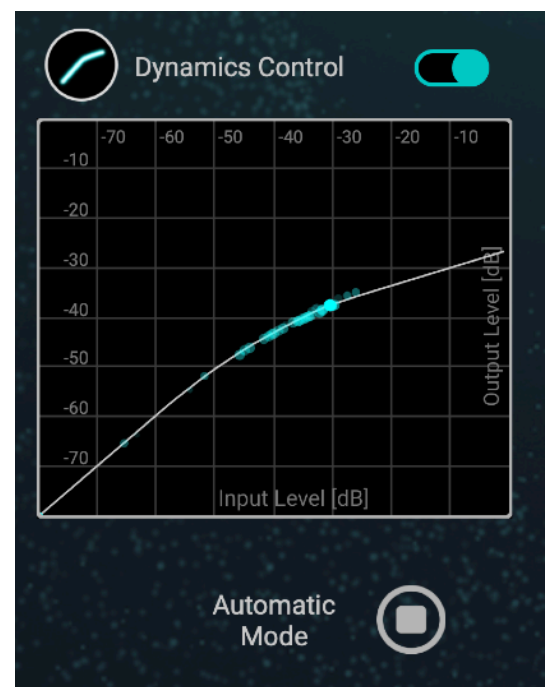
Noise Reduction

The noise reduction module suppresses all undesired background noises and only keeps the speech components of the signal. The module has just one simple control **Reduction** which defines the amount of applied noise reduction. If for example set to 12dB it will suppress a detected noise signal by 12dB. All other parameters are set internally in an automatic fashion.

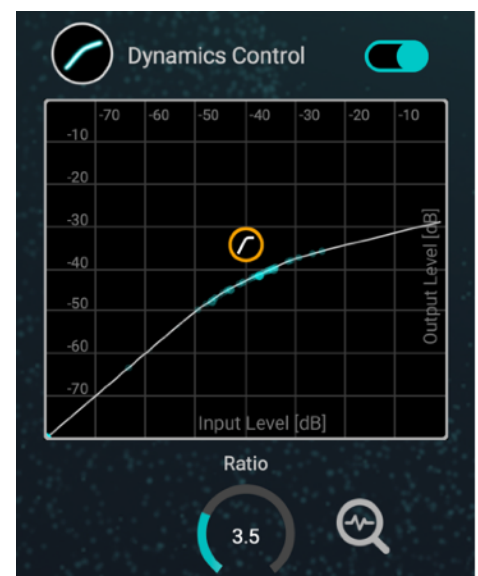


Dynamics Control

The dynamics control module acts as a dynamic range compressor. In Automatic Mode it automatically estimates its parameters like threshold and ratio based on the recording. It can either be left in automatic mode and always adapt to the signal or if one desires a static behaviour the Stop button below the graph freezes the current estimate.

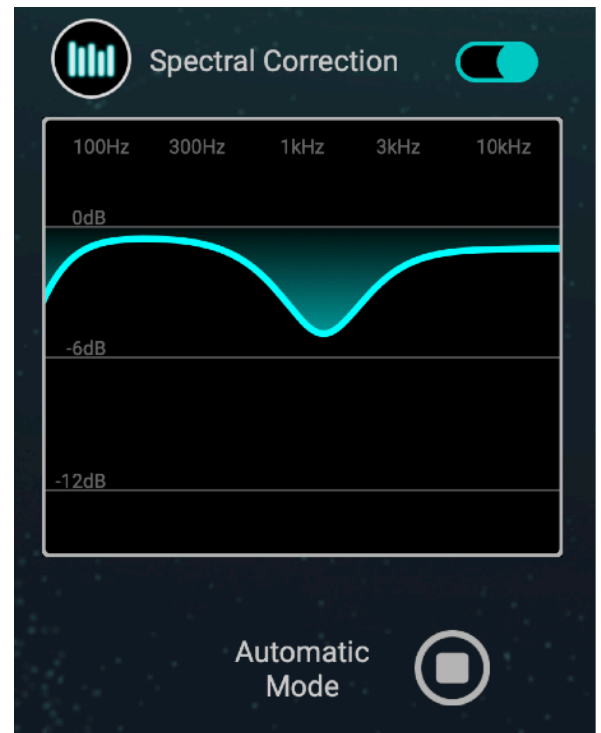


If switched to Static Mode the threshold and ratio can also be set by hand. By pressing the analyse icon the module switches back to Automatic Mode.



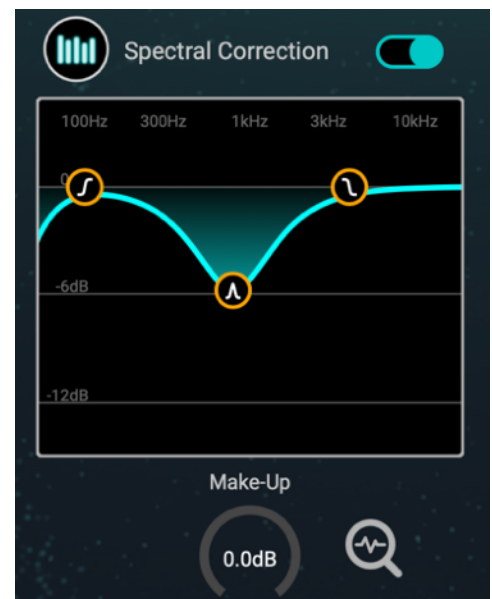
Spectral Correction

The Spectral Correction module is an adaptive Equalizer and automatically detects spectral imbalances or resonances. In Automatic Mode it constantly analyses the signal and adapts its filter curve accordingly. Similarly to the Dynamics Control module, this module can also be switched to Static Mode if desired. After pressing the Stop button below the graph it freezes its current filter curve.



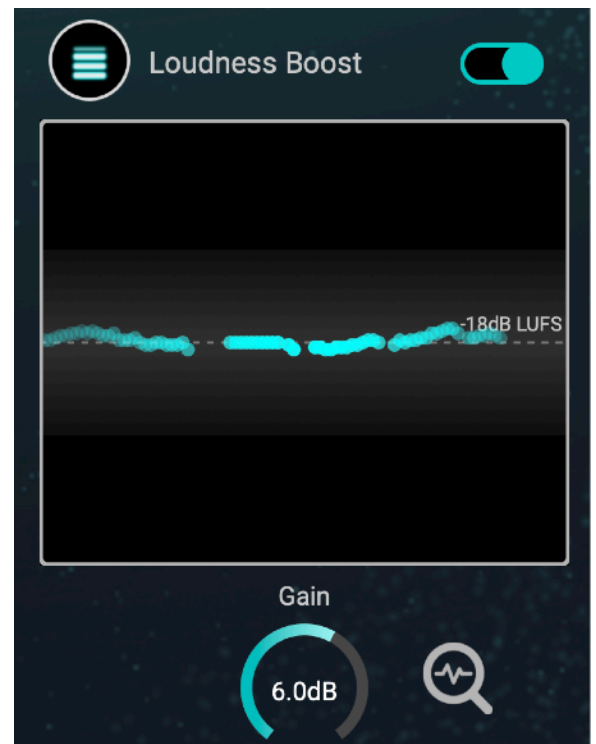
In Static Mode the Low Shelf, Peak and High Shelf filters can be adjusted by dragging the icons across the Gain-Frequency graph. When a icon is selected, you can use the mouse wheel to adjust the Quality value of the filter and control the steepness.

In Automatic Mode the module always estimates and applies a Make-Up Gain to compensate for the filter curve. In Static Mode this value can be adjusted by the Knob below the graph.

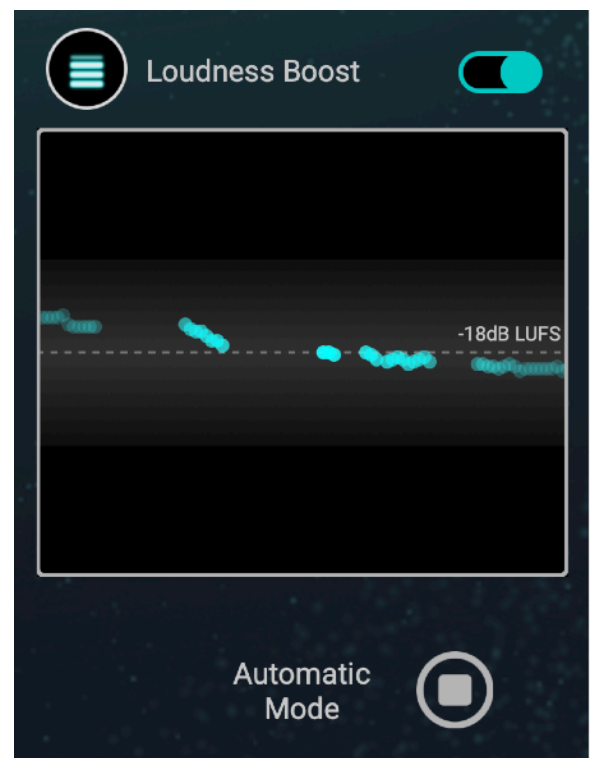


Loudness Boost

The final module is Loudness Boost. It can be used to bring the recording to a desired loudness. The dashed line in the graph displays the target loudness in dB LUFS. You can drag the line to the desired value for your use case. When playing back the audio the current loudness of your signal is being displayed in the graph. You can use the Gain knob below the graph to boost or reduce the loudness until it is in the desired region.



If the Analyse icon is pressed the module will automatically find the correct gain based on the defined target loudness.



How-to

In this section you get a short set of instructions how you should start if you want to use DialogueEnhance on a recording:

1. Load a plugin instance to the track with the dialogue recording
2. If you hear disturbing background noise increase the Reduction amount of the Noise Reduction module until the noise is not audible or disturbing anymore. Be careful, since too high values might result in artefacts in the speech signal. In case no noise is present in the original signal you can switch this module off to save CPU usage.
3. The Dynamics Control module starts up in automatic mode as a default. After playing back a few seconds of audio the graph should display the estimated input-output level mapping. You can now press the stop icon below the graph to switch to static mode.
4. The Spectral Correction module works in a similar way and also estimates everything automatically after listening to a few second of audio. Here, you can also press the stop icon once you think it sounds good.
5. Finally, you can set your desired loudness in the Loudness Boost module. Drag the dashed line to the desired value and then use the Gain knob to bring the signal level in the desired region. Alternatively, you can switch it to Automatic Mode to automatically find the right gain.
6. To double-check the setting you can one-by-one disable and enable each module to see if it beneficial for your signal. In case there is no improvement by the module you can also switch it off to save CPU usage.

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