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Subject: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Wed, 23 Jul 2008 20:36:29 GMT

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My son Jake, who is 11, has fallen in love with HOT 99.5 FM, which plays the current Top 40 R&B and pop and rock tunes. There seems to be this epidemic of robotic voices going on. It sounds like Autotune used very, very badly.

I've been thinking that it must be some sort of vocoder. Does anyone know what I'm talking about. I don't want to actually DO it! I just want to know how it's done!

Thanks,

Gantt

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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Kerr Mathieson](#) on Wed, 23 Jul 2008 21:40:21 GMT

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It is indeed Autotune that's used to create it. I know it may sound bad in the sense of what autotune is able to do, but it is actually intentional for these producers to use it in this way!

probably just another pop/r&b/hip-hop trend that'll die off soon enough

thanks

Kerr

"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote in message  
news:4887964d\$1@linux...

>

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> know how it's done!

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> Thanks,

>

> Gantt

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Wed, 23 Jul 2008 22:45:07 GMT

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Nice thread about this very topic at the Womb

<http://thewombforums.com/showthread.php?t=8168>

"Kerr Mathieson" <oneninehundred@virgin.net> wrote in message  
news:4887a74c\$1@linux...

> It is indeed Autotune that's used to create it. I know it may sound bad  
> in the sense of what autotune is able to do, but it is actually  
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> Kerr

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>> Thanks,

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>> Gantt

>

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 00:21:31 GMT

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---

Wouldn't you think people'd be getting sick of it by now? I hear the same effect on every 3rd or 4th song on this station. Maybe the record company execs are asking for it...

Gantt

"Don Nafe" <dnafe@rogers.com> wrote:

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>

><http://thewombforums.com/showthread.php?t=8168>

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>>> Thanks,

>>>

>>> Gantt

>>

>

>

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 00:24:02 GMT

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---

How about "Stronger" by Kanye West? That can't be Autotune!

Gantt

"Don Nafe" <[dnafe@rogers.com](mailto:dnafe@rogers.com)> wrote:

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>>> Thanks,

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>>> Gantt

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>  
>

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 00:32:13 GMT

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---

Hi Gantt,

Stronger sounds like a vocorder controlled by a midi keyboard to me. That's just a guess. Probably other grit thrown in there to. I like that sound alot. It is what sets that song apart from the competition. Aggressive in a rock n roll way. Maybe some amp sim or the real thing with it.

Tom

"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote in message  
news:4887cba2\$1@linux...

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>>>

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>>>> Gantt  
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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 00:54:13 GMT

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Yup. I agree that "Stronger" rocks. We got Jake the clean version for his iPod. The thing I don't get is how pervasive this Autotune/vocoder thing has gotten. Don't people want their music to be unique anymore?

Gantt

"Tom Bruhl" <arpeggio@comcast.net> wrote:

>Hi Gantt,

>

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>to me. That's just a guess. Probably other grit thrown in there to.

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>amp sim or the real thing with it.

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>Tom

>

>

>"Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message

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>>>>> Thanks,  
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>>>> Gantt  
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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?  
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 02:10:51 GMT  
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Gantt,

In the world of DJing I've grown accustomed to hearing some pretty awful singers in the pop world. Autotune effects can be better than that at least even if over used. It's an easy way out for sure. In techno it can be very cool. I am about as sick of autotune as I was about gated reverb in the 80s. It's a cool sound here and there but . . .

Tom

"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote in message  
news:4887d2b5\$1@linux...

>  
> Yup. I agree that "Stronger" rocks. We got Jake the clean version for  
> his  
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> has gotten. Don't people want their music to be unique anymore?

>  
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> "Tom Bruhl" <[arpeggio@comcast.net](mailto:arpeggio@comcast.net)> wrote:

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>>Tom



>>  
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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?  
Posted by [Chris](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 05:48:16 GMT  
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Stronger sounds more like a Talk Box to me.

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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?  
Posted by [Sarah](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 08:03:25 GMT  
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---

Auto-tune . . . the term itself gives me the willies. More technology to homogenize and sterilize music, and further proof that it's more important in the pop music world to be pretty than it is to be talented.

Signed,

Bitter, aging wannabe :)

"Tom Bruhl" <[arpeggio@comcast.net](mailto:arpeggio@comcast.net)> wrote in message news:4887e67b\$1@linux...

> Gantt,  
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>  
>

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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 12:48:49 GMT

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I think that's been the case ever since they discovered that a little bit of echo could mask a little bit of out of tune-ness. A friend has told me about having a friend in Nashville who spends his days tuning the vocals of famous female vocalists. Sounds like soul killing work to me!

Gantt

"Sarah" <[sarahjane@sarahtonin.com](mailto:sarahjane@sarahtonin.com)> wrote:

>Auto-tune . . . the term itself gives me the willies. More technology to

>homogenize and sterilize music, and further proof that it's more important

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>Signed,

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>Bitter, aging wannabe :)

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>"Tom Bruhl" <[arpeggio@comcast.net](mailto:arpeggio@comcast.net)> wrote in message [news:4887e67b\\$1@linux...](news:4887e67b$1@linux...)

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Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?  
Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 19:11:57 GMT  
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"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote in message  
news:48887952\$1@linux...

>  
> Maybe a talkbox thru a vocoder with Autotune?  
>

Then run through melodyne

hehehe

---

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Kerr Mathieson](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 21:31:02 GMT

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'Stronger' is just a direct sample of the Daft Punk track, dissected and reworked. Definitely a vocoder more than autotune.

check these 2 SoS excerpts from recent mags for more:

Fabian Marasciullo: Flo Rida and T-Pain 'Low' :-

Asking an engineer or mixer about his use of pitch correction can be a bit like mentioning an elephant in the room, but not with an artist like T-Pain, who has made a name out of featuring Auto-Tune on his voice. "T-Pain has been using Auto-Tune for a long time, even before we met," says Marasciullo. "Since we've been working together we've created a bit of a warmer way of applying it, a more vintage-like sound if you want, as opposed to a more digital, brittle sound. T-Pain is a very technical person and a great engineer and he'll already have applied Auto-Tune to his voice in about 50 percent of his tracks, and for the rest I'll add it. In the case of 'Low' he had already added Auto-Tune when I got the files.

"I get hundreds of emails every week to my MySpace page asking me about the AutoTune effect," he adds, and the Internet is chock-a-block with how-to-do-the-T-Pain-effect instructions. Marasciullo doesn't argue with these settings when asked whether they are correct, but stresses that "The reason the Auto-Tune sound works so special on him is because of his voice, because of the tremolo he sings with. That just seems to work magically with Auto-Tune. He also intentionally sings a little bit flat, to get Auto-Tune to grab his voice the way he wants. You still have to know what you're doing from a musical perspective to get the effect to work."

Secrets of the mix engineers: Manny Marroquin, Kanye West's Stronger

[http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/dec07/articles/insidetrack\\_1\\_207.htm](http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/dec07/articles/insidetrack_1_207.htm)

(this might be under an Esub, so I hope you can read it)

point is, there are producers out there intentionally using them for the effect, not trying to recreate a realistic sound, annoying or not, lol!

Kerr.



"Don Nafe" <dnafe@rogers.com> wrote in message news:4888d5bc@linux...  
>  
> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
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> Then run through melodyne  
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> hehehe  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 24 Jul 2008 23:46:08 GMT

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---

With Autotune it's a piece of cake compared to back in the day with a Synclavier, or a sampler. That was frickin hard work! And you had to have ears, too.

Gantt Kushner wrote:

> I think that's been the case ever since they discovered that a little bit  
> of echo could mask a little bit of out of tune-ness. A friend has told me  
> about having a friend in Nashville who spends his days tuning the vocals  
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>> Signed,  
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>>> Gantt,  
>>>  
>>> In the world of DJing I've grown accustomed to hearing some pretty  
>>> awful singers in the pop world. Autotune effects can be better than that  
>>> at least even if over used. It's an easy way out for sure. In techno  
>>> it can be very cool. I am about as sick of autotune as I was about

>>> gated reverb in the 80s. It's a cool sound here and there but . . .  
>>>  
>>> Tom  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>>> news:4887d2b5\$1@linux...  
>>>> Yup. I agree that "Stronger" rocks. We got Jake the clean version for  
>  
>>>> his  
>>>> iPod. The thing I don't get is how pervasive this Autotune/vocoder thing  
>>>> has gotten. Don't people want their music to be unique anymore?  
>>>>  
>>>> Gantt  
>>>>  
>>>> "Tom Bruhl" <arpeggio@comcast.net> wrote:  
>>>>> Hi Gantt,  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Stronger sounds like a vocorder controlled by a midi keyboard  
>>>>> to me. That's just a guess. Probably other grit thrown in there to.  
>>>>> I like that sound alot. It is what sets that song apart from the  
>>>>> competition. Aggressive in a rock n roll way. Maybe some  
>>>>> amp sim or the real thing with it.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Tom  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>>>>> news:4887cba2\$1@linux...  
>>>>>> How about "Stronger" by Kanye West? That can't be Autotune!  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> Gantt  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> "Don Nafe" <dnafe@rogers.com> wrote:  
>>>>>>> Nice thread about this very topic at the Womb  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> <http://thewombforums.com/showthread.php?t=8168>  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> "Kerr Mathieson" <oneninehundred@virgin.net> wrote in message  
>>>>>>>> news:4887a74c\$1@linux...  
>>>>>>>>> It is indeed Autotune that's used to create it. I know it may sound  
>>>>>>>>> bad  
>>>>>>>>>> in the sense of what autotune is able to do, but it is actually

>>>>>>> intentional for these producers to use it in this way!  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> probably just another pop/r&b/hip-hop trend that'll die off soon  
>  
>>>>>>> enough  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> thanks  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Kerr  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>>>>>>> news:4887964d\$1@linux...  
>>>>>>> My son Jake, who is 11, has fallen in love with HOT 99.5 FM, which  
>>>>>>> plays  
>>>>>>> the  
>>>>>>> current Top 40 R&B and pop and rock tunes. There seems to be this  
>>>>>>> epidemic  
>>>>>>> of robotic voices going on. It sounds like Autotune used very,  
> very  
>>>>>>> badly.  
>>>>>>> I've been thinking that it must be some sort of vocoder. Does  
>>>>>>> anyone  
>>>>>>> know  
>>>>>>> what I'm talking about. I don't want to actually DO it! I just  
>  
>>>>>>> want  
>>>>> to  
>>>>>>> know how it's done!  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Thanks,  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Gantt  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>  
>>  
>

---

Subject: Re: Robotic Voices?  
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Fri, 25 Jul 2008 06:06:02 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Kerr,

That's a great article from sound on sound! Opened my mind about a few things I was questioning.

Thanks,  
Tom

"Kerr Mathieson" <oneninehundred@virgin.net> wrote in message  
news:4888f69c\$1@linux...

> 'Stronger' is just a direct sample of the Daft Punk track, dissected and  
> reworked. Definitely a vocoder more than autotune.

>

> check these 2 SoS excerpts from recent mags for more:

>

> Fabian Marasciullo: Flo Rida and T-Pain 'Low' :-

>

> Asking an engineer or mixer about his use of pitch correction can be a bit

> like mentioning an elephant in the room, but not with an artist like

> T-Pain, who has made a name out of featuring Auto-Tune on his voice.

> "T-Pain has been using Auto-Tune for a long time, even before we met,"

> says Marasciullo. "Since we've been working together we've created a bit

> of a warmer way of applying it, a more vintage-like sound if you want, as

> opposed to a more digital, brittle sound. T-Pain is a very technical

> person and a great engineer and he'll already have applied Auto-Tune to

> his voice in about 50 percent of his tracks, and for the rest I'll add it.

> In the case of 'Low' he had already added Auto-Tune when I got the files.

> "I get hundreds of emails every week to my MySpace page asking me about

> the AutoTune effect," he adds, and the Internet is chock-a-block with

> how-to-do-the-T-Pain-effect instructions. Marasciullo doesn't argue with

> these settings when asked whether they are correct, but stresses that "The

> reason the Auto-Tune sound works so special on him is because of his

> voice, because of the tremolo he sings with. That just seems to work

> magically with Auto-Tune. He also intentionally sings a little bit flat,

> to get Auto-Tune to grab his voice the way he wants. You still have to

> know what you're doing from a musical perspective to get the effect to

> work."

>

>

> Secrets of the mix engineers: Manny Marroquin, Kanye West's Stronger

>

> [http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/dec07/articles/insidetrack\\_1\\_207.htm](http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/dec07/articles/insidetrack_1_207.htm)

>

> (this might be under an Esub, so I hope you can read it)

>

> point is, there are producers out there intentionally using them for the

> effect, not trying to recreate a realistic sound, annoying or not, lol!

>

> Kerr.

>

> "Don Nafe" <dnafe@rogers.com> wrote in message news:4888d5bc@linux...  
>>  
>> "Gantt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
>> news:48887952\$1@linux...  
>>>  
>>> Maybe a talkbox thru a vocoder with Autotune?  
>>>  
>>  
>> Then run through melodyne  
>>  
>> hehehe  
>>  
>

---