
Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 17:22:15 GMT
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Hi Neil - yes. I tried them a few months ago, then some of the newer ones recently. Imho, they are simple dsp with some EQ for effect, but basic at best. Not great sound at all, though at first listen the mids/lows seem to impart some character that might seem attractive. However, the tell tale of a basic EQ is the top end gets brittle (picks up harmonic distortion/phase non-linearities) when boosting or cutting. UAD-1's EX-1 EQ does this with HPF mode. The comps to me sound muddy with poor handling of high frequency content and stereo image.

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I put it up against Algorithmix, Flux, Cambridge, Nuendo's stock EQ, and while there isn't as much difference as one might think, esp. between non-linear phase EQs, and between linear phase. ElectriQ is as good as any linear phase and better than most non-linear phase when in high quality mode.

In analog mode, it sounds nice as well, though better suited to tracks than a mix. It doesn't necessarily have the more colored UAD-1 Neve/Helios EQ sound, but it's a great EQ for \$100 or so. More modes and filter types than any EQ on the market (hold-right click on a node for a dropdown list - quite extensive, and the only one I know of with 4-pole filters as well as multiple phase modes), so you can manipulate different bands of your EQ.

It just looks like it isn't a great EQ, but under the freeware looking GUI is some great dsp design.

Dedric

On 12/9/07 11:00 AM, in article 475c1f43\$1@linux, "Neil" <OIU@OIU.com> wrote:

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Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 18:00:51 GMT
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Neil

Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 18:31:14 GMT
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To a degree, yes, opinions are based on usage, but not always. Imho, there are few vintage emulations that really impart a nice, usable character, but when they do, application is limited. I don't use UAD-1s on everything - only the newer plugins really seem to be coming into their own imho.

The irony to me is that the vintage craze has people believing that if it's old, it must be good, and if it's a vintage emulation, it must be better than a new design, but in reality, some analog gear was a limited attempt at achieving a clearer more accurate sound, where now we have the capability to create a clearer sound - record the sound we want (whether pristine and elegant, or big fat and nasty), and keep it that way. I'm still wondering where the crosstalk plugin is.... ;-))

A funny business music is.

The Roger N plugins are good. A bit sterile to my ears - missing the depth and width of other plugins.

Linear phase isn't always the goal - smooth response is - just because a plugin says linear phase doesn't mean it does a good job (Sonar 7's LP EQ isn't a great design imho). A bad plugin imparts distortion from poor design, not analog response emulation.

Regards,
Dedric

On 12/9/07 12:18 PM, in article 475c318a\$1@linux, "LaMont"
<jjdpro@gmail.com> wrote:

>
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Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 18:46:52 GMT
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Yeah, I tried some of 'em and never really dug them.

Have you guys tried the PLParEQ? form Refined Audiometrics? Unbelievably smooth. It's the only digital EQ I really LOVE. It has 6 quality levels, and at 6 it is a major CPU hog, but so sweet.

They have a free demo version that does only 3 bands (plenty for me!). You really should check it out.

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Posted by [LaMont](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 19:07:29 GMT
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Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 19:18:50 GMT
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Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 19:34:28 GMT
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Hey Neil, Upon further review. I just checked ou the anress web site and I
am correct in saying that mos of these plugins have been coded for 'Color'

Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 19:34:38 GMT
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PLParEQ is a great EQ - looks ugly, but sounds great.

I have an early version that only went to quality level 5. I really want a later one that goes to 11 ;-)), but have run into a few instances of it causing crashes and other oddities with Nuendo so I had to bail on using it regularly.

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Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 21:05:02 GMT
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Hey Lamont - I don't think it's a harmonic ting I'm hearing... at least that's not what's bothering me. Frankly I was kinda HOPING for some harmonics & analoguish "smear", but what's most

apparent to me over time with these things is a subtle distortion closer to something with the characteristics of a bit-crusher. Not as severe, of course, but you get the idea.

I also really do think there's a phase rotation thang going on with these plugs, as well... I need to verify this with something other than just my perception, though... like maybe do a null test or get a single track up to a hot enough level where I can get a strong enough signal on the goniometer to see what it does differently on insert vs bypass on a given plugin.

I'm experimenting a bit with trying to use the Neve-ish 1081 EQ just on drums right now, since those are short-lived sounds compared to guitar or bass line. I'm liking the coloration it's imparting, and the EQ curves on this thing seem to really be flattering to a kick drum & snare, but the jury's still out on the distortocrap.

I guess it would be easy to say "Fuck it, I just don't like 'em" and simply not use them anymore, but now I'm curious as to what they're doing & why.

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Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 21:47:50 GMT
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Neil, I have to agree with you about the Antress Neve Eqs. I own the URS version and it's more accurate and does not distort.

Maybe the Antress are still in its beta state. But I do hear what you are hearing and I don't use that plug for that reason..

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Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 09 Dec 2007 22:34:23 GMT
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OK, just did a couple of null tests with these & here's what I learned:

- 1.) Don't ever duplicate/clone a frozen track in Cubase LOL!
It'll cause Cubase to lock up, display an error message & requires a reboot of the app. DOH!
- 2.) EVERY Neve simulation and at least a couple of the API ones (didn't need to try anymore than that, considering the results) will not null with a track that doesn't have the same plugin inserted, even when it's set to "default" or essentially "zero" - no boosts & no cuts anywhere. I did this

on a Bass track & also on a Kick track, and each time I got a weaker, yet still quite audible signal of perhaps 1k & above, but mostly 3k & above passing through, yet if I inserted a spectrum analyzer across the mains, it showed that there was indeed still content there below these frequency ranges - it was simply nulled enough to where I couldn't hear it, even when cranking the monitors quite a bit. So, this leads me to believe perhaps (just guessing here, of course) that 1.) He has an exciter of some kind built into each of these plugins, and that's where he's getting his "harmonic distortion" from, or 2.) that there IS indeed some phase rotation going on in certain frequency ranges. These are just guesses, as I have no way of proving it one way or the other, but IMO it nonetheless renders these things useless.

FWIW, the Pultec "Black Dragon" plugin DID null on default & upon phase reversal, so the same thing isn't going on there. I didn't try it on any others besides all the Neves, a couple API's and the Pultec, so I can't say beyond that.

Also, i really did try hard to get them to null completely - I tried two different phase-flipper plugins, just to make sure it wasn't a particular one that was causing it, and I also adjusted the output of the plugin back & forth as well as using the "fine" adjustment on the Sonalksis' channel tool inserted after the plugin just to make sure it wasn't a slight level matching difference that was causing it to not be able to achieve a 100% null & nothing I did would get it any closer than the plugin inserted, just set to "default".

Go ahead, give it try yourselves & see!

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Subject: Re: Antress-Modern Plugins question
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Mon, 10 Dec 2007 02:50:07 GMT
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Agreed. A nice GUI is more for clients who don't know any better. ;-)) .

Does Refined Audiometrics still have the free 3-band version? The site says it's a 30 day demo. I would upgrade/buy the newer one with hopes of fixing the problems with Nuendo, but given the nature (had one project corrupted) it's a risk.

What are you running it in there Bill? Are you on Cubase/Nuendo? I wouldn't mind getting that one back - PLPar is one EQ I would trust any mix with, but that said - give ElectriQ a shot in Linear Phase with SPlane filters.

I had an interesting discussion with the ElectriQ developer about the differences (or lack thereof) between it and Algorithmix, PLPar, etc.

Dedric

On 12/9/07 6:37 PM, in article 475c9942\$1@linux, "Bill L" <bill@billlorentzen.com> wrote:

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