
Subject: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 14:12:52 GMT

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I am trying to get a subtle stereo vocal sound like the one in this link below.
Can anyone tell me how they think this was recorded and does anyone have some tips to take a mono vocal and get it to simulate this sound.

It's not real obvious when listening normally but if you use headphones and the Kelly Stereo tools and pick the preset "Mute Left Center Right" or "Mute Right Center Left" it will take a channel like Left and put it in both channels or right and put it in both for a mono effect. Switching this back to default (stereo) makes the subtle stereo effect very obvious.

I have plenty of reverbs and delays if you have things for me to try. Maybe it's not possible and I just have to record in stereo. Do you think this vocal was recorded in stereo or what? Thanks.

Vocal

<http://download.yousendit.com/02BE268D26657759>

Saxophone

<http://download.yousendit.com/0341E85377D3681A>

Kelly Stereo Tools

http://www.kellyindustries.com/stereo_tools.html

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 15:42:38 GMT

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hi john. there are allot of ways to thicken vocals depending on the genre and arrangement .the way I would suggest is take your time and experiment. generally you want to start off with recording vocals DRY, and mixed dead center with kick,snare and bass.

chorusing can be panned hard left and right.you can use several different short delays panned left /right (10-20 ms.)which is what chorusing is basically.

you can also use several different short reverbs panned differently.

the main starting point is making sure it is SUBTLE.by that I mean bring the effect up to where it is clear , and then back it off so it is barley there.

EQ ing the effect returns a little differently will help .

you don't want to smear the rest of the sound field with the vocal thickening so try to keep it out of the way of whatever else is there.

its not going to be as easy as just plopping a plug in on the vocals.it WILL take some time.allot of time

another trick is to duplicate tracks and delay the copy by fractions of a millisecond.,point 1 or less

just make sure you leave the dry vocals center to ensure the most clarity."

<no@no.com> wrote in message news:477a3c54\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 16:49:19 GMT

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John, I havn't listened to the example yet, but a lot of guys use a trick with the eventide harmonizer where you pitch one side up a few cents and delay it about 16 ms, then pitch the other side down a few cents and delay

it about 30 ms. Use as an effect bus, just enough that you don't really hear it, but you notice when it goes away.

Rod

"John" <no@no.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 19:10:40 GMT

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"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:

>

>John, I haven't listened to the example yet, but a lot of guys use a trick

>with the eventide harmonizer where you pitch one side up a few cents and

>delay it about 16 ms, then pitch the other side down a few cents and delay

>it about 30 ms. Use as an effect bus, just enough that you don't really hear

>it, but you notice when it goes away.

Yep, i used to do this with an SPX-90... not as high-fidelity as the Eventide, but I used to just go 3 cents up on the left & 3 cents down on the right, no delay (the SPX kinda seemed to impart a very slight delay anyway).

Nowadays, with unlimited tracks, I just ask the singer to double & triple, then pan those L&R & blend as needed... nudge if you want a slight delay, chop it up into differently-effected tracks/segments for each part of the song. Much more versatile these days.

Neil

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [Don Nafe](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 19:37:21 GMT
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Have you tried just a copy of the track and then a pan at 35/35...kinda sounds like twhat I did with the vocals on my last Cape thing at the womb...normally I don't do that but in my case it widened the vocal track just enough...definitely noticed a big difference when I went to a single track panned at C

as always YMMV

Don

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:477a942f\$1@linux...
>

> Thanks for the tips but I already know those regardin pitch shifint cents
> and delay. Anyone have time to listen to my sample and suggest how to get
> this particular sound please? Thanks

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 20:27:43 GMT
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Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 21:01:11 GMT

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"John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>

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>and delay. Anyone have time to listen to my sample and suggest how to get
>this particular sound please? Thanks

I just did, and frankly it doesn't sound like anything to me
but the 'verb. Listened to it on headphones, too... still just
sounds like a straight-up dead-center track for both the vocal
& the sax cut, with a stereo reverb on it.

Neil

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals

Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 21:10:26 GMT

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I agree with Neil. nothing complicated there but some reverb spread. the mix
is thin too. which is what I was trying to explain. once you start
populating the stereo field with more instrumentation ,spreading out
anything ,including the vocals is harder.

maybe try the stereo expander in cubase? or maybe the PSP stereo widening
tools on just the vocals?

I like neils idea about just asking the singer to do multi takes and pan
those to taste. natural chorusing will sound better too.

unless its a thin mix you might create more problems than its worth.

ok ill shut up now.....

"Neil" <OIUIO@OIU.com> wrote in message news:477a9c07\$1@linux...

>

> "John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>>

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>

> Neil

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 01 Jan 2008 22:28:17 GMT
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"alex plasko" <alex.plasko@snet.net> wrote:

>I like neils idea about just asking the singer to do multi takes and pan

>those to taste. natural chorusing will sound better too.

>unless its a thin mix you might create more problems than its worth.

Even if it's a sparse mix or arrangement (I don't want to use "thin", since that kind of implies a bad mix, rather than a sparse arrangement, which is simply a matter of the way the song is written & performed), doubling doesn't have to create a problem... you can bring the levels of the doubled/tripled tracks up so they're barely perceptible, for example. If the singer's not up to doubling, you can clone the track twice & use Autotune on one side & Melodyne on the other (if you have both) since they sound different... you can Melodyne pitch-correct only a few words here & there & simply change the formant on others. Biggest problem with cloning is that I notice flanging right away, so you have to kinda split the cloned track in key places & nudge around a bit. You can also throw the cloned/panned tracks into a much longer reverb than the lead vox, so you have this subtle tail going on that has a whole different character (due to the 'verb itself being different AND having the differently-treated cloned tracks sent to it) than your main ambience.... heck, send 'em pre-fader & leave the faders on the cloned channels all the way down if you want... there's a bajillion cool things you can toy with!

Anyway, that kinda gets back to suggestions that John wasn't really looking for, so i'll just leave it at that & reiterate that I think it's just the reverb, with regard to those clips.

Neil

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 00:10:14 GMT
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On 2/1/08 8:01 AM, in article 477a9c07\$1@linux, "Neil" <OIUIO@OIU.com> wrote:

>

> "John" <no@no.com> wrote:

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> sounds like a straight-up dead-center track for both the vocal
> & the sax cut, with a stereo reverb on it.
>
> Neil
I'm with you, Neil.
To me it just sounds like a single voice, dead centre in the mix.
No more, no less.

Martin

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [EK Sound](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 18:45:33 GMT
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I stereo mic the vocal. Specifically, I use a pair of Neumann U89i in Figure 8 mode in an XY configuration (crossed blumlien). The result is huge and mono compatible. I have also had great results with a tube C24.

David.

John wrote:

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Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 23:23:13 GMT
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great tips here as always. Thanks In related news.....

<http://forum.cubase.net/phpbb2/viewtopic.php?t=88450&highlight=>

Subject: Re: How to get Subtle Stereo Vocals
Posted by [Kim W](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 00:01:46 GMT
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How about Chuck's own Pseudo plugin.
Works a treat for some mixes.
Kim

"John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>
>great tips here as always. Thanks In related news.....
>
> <http://forum.cubase.net/phpbb2/viewtopic.php?t=88450&highlight=>
