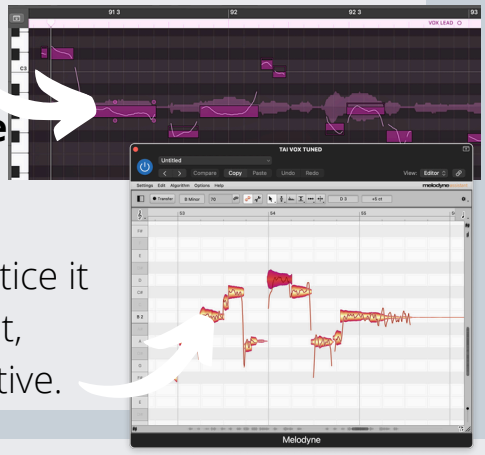
THE BAND GUIDE'S
PRO Vocal Checklist

1 Tuning & Timing

A graphical tuning tool or plugin like **Logic's Flex Pitch** gives you **full control** over the exact tuning applied

You can also use Flex Pitch to **tighten up the timing of the vocals** to the song or the vocal doubles to the lead vocal.

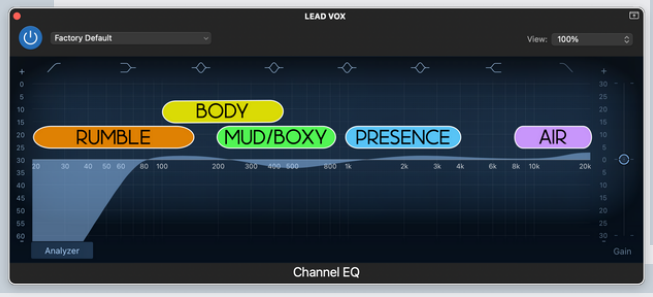
While Flex Pitch is great, on some vocals I notice it adding audible artifacts. If you notice that, **Melodyne by Celemony** is a great alternative.



2 EQ

Every vocal recording is different.

You will have to determine what your vocal recording *needs*.



This EQ curve is pretty typical for me:

Cut any **rumble** up to **80-150hz**

Add **body** (if necessary) between **100-400hz**

Cut **mud** (if necessary) between **200-800hz**

Add **presence** (if necessary) between **1-4khz**

Add **air** (if necessary) above **8khz**

3 De-Essing

S's T's F's and SH's are often HARSH





Using Logic's **De-Esser** or a **Dynamic EQ** (free: TDR NOVA) can tame them *only* when they are happening **so your vocal can be bright without being harsh**

4 Compression

Vocals are TOO dynamic

Compression helps contain the dynamics, **making your vocals feel more upfront and present**

Then set your **threshold** to compress on the louder words and little to none on the quieter words & **make up** to balance the volume

Try these settings:



5 Effects

Add effects on parallel tracks using Busses.

1. Click a **send slot** and select an available bus.
2. Find the **corresponding AUX** track on the far right side in the mixer view.
3. Add a reverb or delay and **set the mix to 100% wet and 0% dry.**

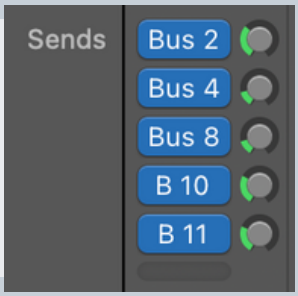
Effect Ideas:

Long Plate Reverb for a lush, atmospheric sound

Stereo slapback delay to add warmth

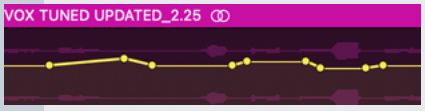
Short Room Reverb and/or a mono snapback delay for an intimate space.

Long Timed Delay to create an epic feel.



6 Automation

Automation is like having a bunch of assistants running around in Logic turning things up or down for you.



Automate Volume up at the start and end of phrases to make the vocal feel *super* close to the listener and up or down when words get too loud or too quiet.

Automate Effects up and down to add interest and movement throughout your song. It is common for effects to be louder in the choruses and quieter in the verses.