La Voz Cantante User Manual

by Martin Vicanek

GUI design by DigiTonix

www.vicanek.de

Table of Contents

1 License Agreement

PLEASE READ THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT BEFORE ACCEPTING IT AND DOWNLOADING OR INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE. BY DOWNLOADING OR INSTALLING THIS SOFTWARE YOU ARE CONSENTING TO BE BOUND BY ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, DO NOT DOWNLOAD OR INSTALL THIS SOFTWARE.

1.1 Definitions

"Product" is "MV's Plugin" and all the accompanying libraries/files.

"Licensee" is the end-User of the product

1.2 Grant of License

Licensee may download, install and use the Software under the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Licensee may keep as many copies of this software as he/she needs.

1.3 Ownership

Licensee acknowledges and agrees that all rights, titles and the MV's Plugins name and logo, including all patents, copyrights and other intellectual property are and will remain the property of Martin Vicanek. Nothing contained herein will be deemed to grant the User any right, title, the MV's Plugins name or logo, or any patent, copyright, trademark or other proprietary or intellectual property rights related thereto, other than the license expressly granted in this Agreement.

1.4 Restrictions

The Licensee may not sell, resell, charge or accept payment for this software. Licensee may use the software for commercial (profit) and/or non-commercial (non-profit) applications. Licensee may not distribute, redistribute or alter this software or any part of it without prior written permission from Martin Vicanek. Altering includes but is not limited to substitution, removal or addition of any file or part of files included in the package. User may not reverse compile, disassemble or otherwise reverse engineer the Software.

1.5 Support

Martin Vicanek may decide to provide limited internet support via e-mails or any other form he thinks appropriate. Response times are not fixed nor guaranteed and may vary. Martin Vicanek is not responsible if support was not supplied to the User.

1.6 Disclaimer

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS". MARTIN VICANEK DOES NOT MAKE, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS, ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, REPRESENTATIONS OR ENDORSEMENTS OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND THE WARRANTIES OF TITLE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL MARTIN VICANEK BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR INDIRECT DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR

LOSS OF PROFITS, BUSINESS INTERRUPTION, LOSS OF PROGRAMS OR INFORMATION, AND THE LIKE) ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE THE SOFTWARE, EVEN IF MARTIN VICANEK OR ANY OF HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, NOR WILL MARTIN VICANEK BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM ATTRIBUTABLE TO ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR OTHER INACCURACIES IN THE SOFTWARE, OR ANY CLAIM BY ANY THIRD PARTY.

1.7 Miscellaneous

1.8 Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any prior agreements.

1.9 Modification

This Agreement may not be modified, amended, rescinded, canceled or waived, in whole or part, except by mutual consent with a written instrument signed by both parties.

1.10 Waiver

Failure by either party to enforce any rights under this Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of such rights, and a waiver by either party of a default hereunder in one or more instances will not be construed as constituting a continuing waiver or as a waiver in other instances.

LICENSEE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT LICENSEE HAS READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTANDS IT AND AGREES TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. LICENSEE FURTHER AGREES THAT IT IS THE COMPLETE AND EXCLUSIVE STATEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LICENSEE AND MARTIN VICANEK WHICH SUPERSEDES ANY PROPOSAL OR PRIOR OR CONTEMPORANEOUS AGREEMENT, ORAL OR WRITTEN, AND ANY OTHER COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS AGREEMENT.

2 Product Features

La Voz Cantante comes with the following set of features:

- FFT based 512-channel vocoder
- Option of VST plug-in or stand-alone executable
- Stereo inputs for carrier and modulator, respectively
- Optional MIDI input to drive internal synth as carrier
- Polyphony with unlimited number of voices
- Up to three voices per note with adjustable relative detuning and stereo width
- Octave, semitone and fine tuning controls
- Option of noise blending for improved sibilant formation
- Built-in modulator noise gate with indicator
- Built-in soft knee limiter with color-coded LED indicator
- Built-in stereo reverb
- Master volume control with output clipping indicator
- LED indicators for inputs and outputs for quick check of signal routing

3 System Requirements

La Voz Cantante is available in two variants: as a VST plug-in, and as a stand-alone executable. You will need an audio interface and optionally a MIDI interface to communicate with the application.

La Voz Cantante will run on Windows platforms supporting both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows versions. Mac users may use them via Windows emulation software such as Windows under BootCamp or Virtual PC. The plugin version requires a host application (DAW) with a 32 bit VST compatible plugin interface, such as Reaper, Bidule, and many more.

Currently there is no 64 bit support, nor support for native Mac, Linux, or any other non- Windows platform.

4 Download and Installation

La Voz Cantante is available as a software download from the URL below:

http://vicanek.de/audioprocessing/downloads/lavozcantante.zip

Installation is only a matter of extracting the files to the right place on your hard disk. No other changes such as Registry entries will be made to your system.

5 Operation

La Voz Cantante can be used for live performances as well as for studio work. Typically, although not necessarily, you would use the VST plugin in a DAW for studio work and the executable for live performance,

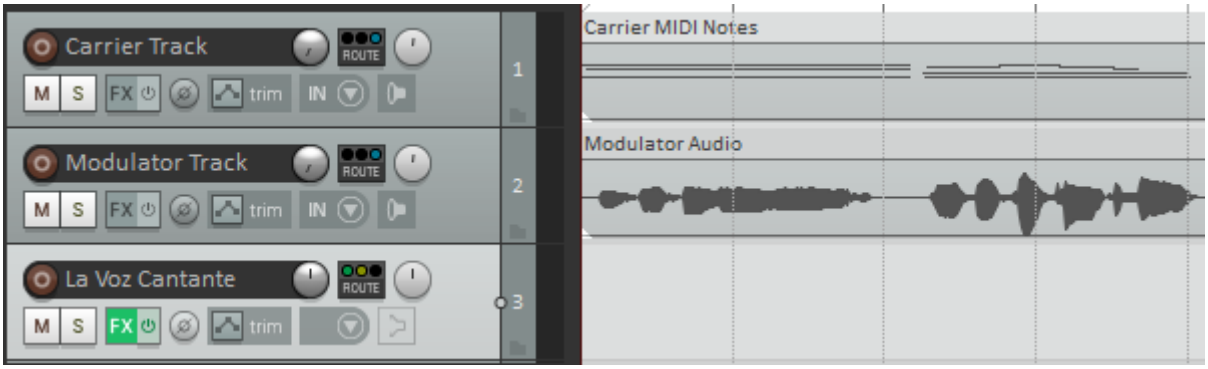
5.1 Selecting the MIDI In and Audio interfaces

The executable provides menus to select the appropriate MIDI in and Audio interfaces. You need to select at least the audio interface.

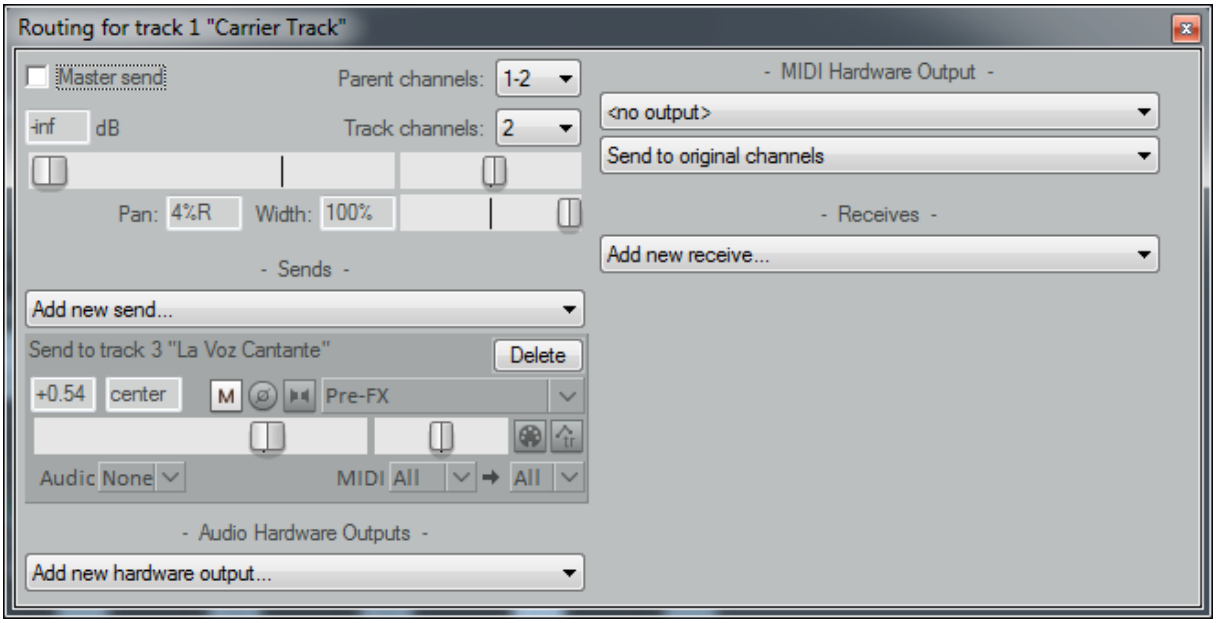
For the plugin version, this is taken care of by the DAW and is usually configured once for all.

5.2 Audio and MIDI Routing

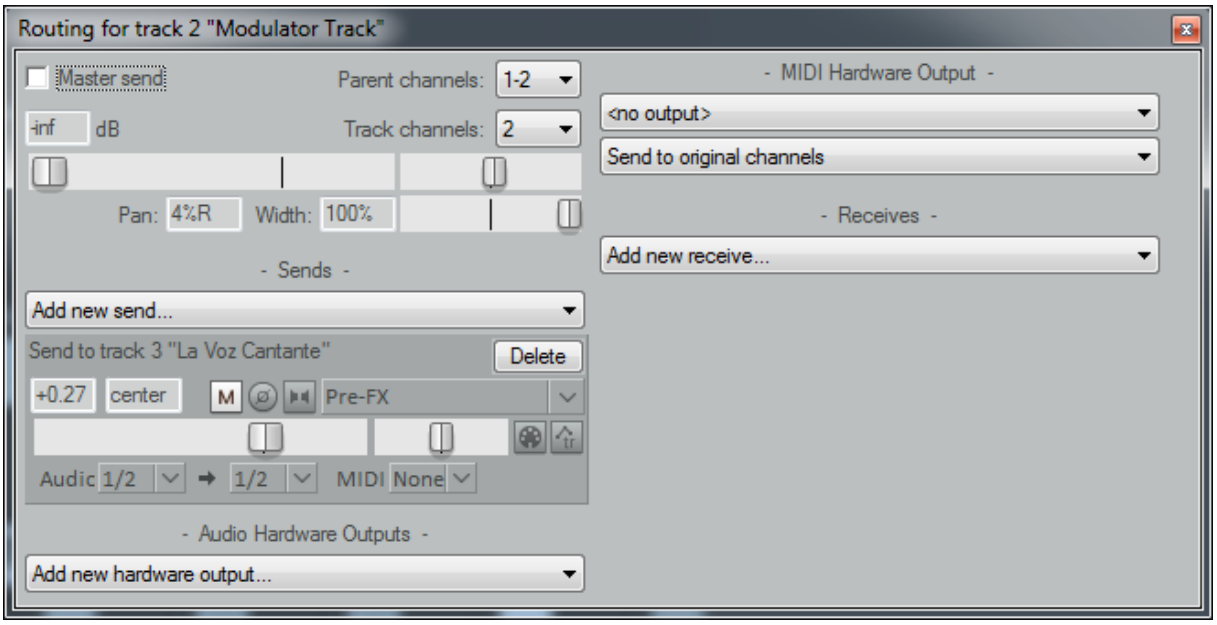
To use the plugin in a DAW, you need to set up a proper signal routing. For example in Reaper, you would set up three tracks like in the image below.



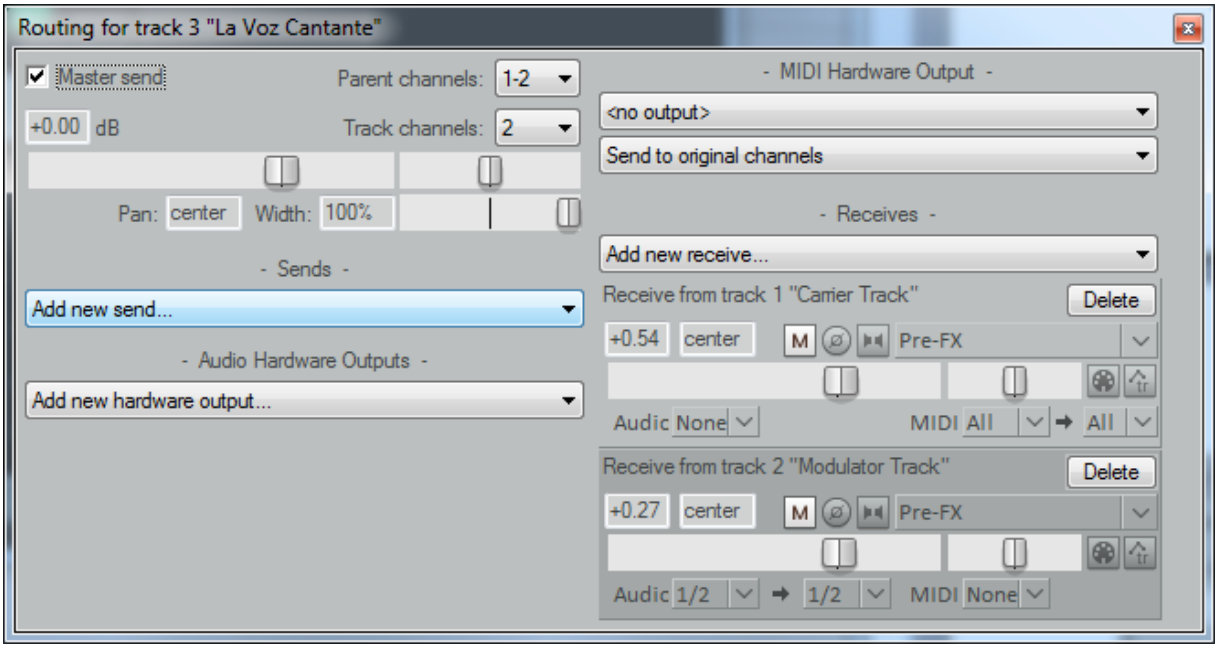
The carrier track provides the pitch data. These can be in MIDI format if you decide to use the La Voz Cantante internal synth (as I have done in the above example), or, alternatively, you could provide audio data to the La Voz Cantante carrier input. In my example, the MIDI data is sent to track 3 labeled “La Voz Cantante”:



The modulator track provides the spectral envelope; usually this will be spoken or sung voice. This is routed as audio to channels 1 and 2 of track 3. If you want to add the track 2 audio content to the mix, you can check the Master Send box and send it to track 3 “pre fader”.



Track 3 contains no data on its own; it receives data from tracks 1 and 2, and passes them to the La Voz Cantante plugin:



Things are a bit different if you use the executable instead of the plugin: routing is static for the executable. After you have selected the audio interface, and assuming a stereo audio input on your device, the right input channel goes to the modulator, while the left channel goes to the carrier.

5.3 Input/Output LEDs

There are input/output signal indicators (LEDs) for the activity at the carrier, modulator and MIDI inputs, respectively. These can help check the routing. There is also an output LED with a color indicating the output level (dark-green to light green for -60 dB to -6 dB, and light-green-yellow-orange-red for -6 dB to 0 dB.

5.4 Internal Synth

La Voz Cantante features a MIDI-driven internal synth to be used as the carrier. It is enabled by clicking on the blue LED in the upper left corner. The pitch mapper can be used to transpose the pitch within +/- five octaves, including semitones in each octave as well as fine adjustment. The green LED will go on according to the ADSR-envelope. You can select the number of voices per note and specify the amount of detuning as well as the stereo width.

5.5 Noise Gate

Adjust the threshold control so that the unit is muted when the incoming audio level is below threshold. Enabling is via the blue LED. The green LED will go on when the noise gate is open.

5.6 Noise Blend

This feature is there to improve the sound of plosives and fricatives. There are two controls, one for the crossover frequency and one for the noise amount. A crossover frequency around 3 kHz sounds natural; lower frequencies will result in a more “airy” sound, turning to whisper at extreme setting. Enable or disable by clicking on the blue LED.

5.7 Compressor

La Voz Cantante comes with a soft-knee compressor. Click on the blue LED to enable it. There are standard controls for makeup gain, threshold, ratio, look-ahead and release. Use to taste.

5.8 Reverb

La Voz Cantante features a stereo reverb with four controls: The room control to adjust the room size, the damp control for faster decay of high frequencies, the stereo width control, and the mix control to adjust the reverb amount.

5.9 Master Volume

Use the master volume control to set the output level. The attached red LED indicator will flash if clipping occurs.