

Using the Vocoder in Pentagon I

You may not realize but there is a very flexible and nice sounding Vocoder in your copy of SONAR Producer or Studio (version 5 and above. It is found in the bundled Pentagon I Vintage Analog Synth. Please note that it is not bundled with Home Studio or Music Creator. (Click on the link at the bottom of this Tip for details on how to upgrade your software).



It's pretty simple to set up, so here is how you do it.

1. Insert a Pentagon I soft synth into an Audio Track by right-clicking the FX Bin and selecting Soft Synths / Pentagon I from the resulting pop-up menus.
2. Create a MIDI Track and route its output to the Pentagon I Soft Synth.
3. Switch the Input Echo on for the Audio Track (the button found next to your Channel Mute, Solo and Record Arm Button) that contains the Pentagon I synth
4. Display the properties for the Pentagon I synth by double clicking on where it is listed in the FX Bin.
5. Click on the Pentagon I logo at the centre of the instrument and switch the Voice Modulator on from the resulting pop-up menu.
6. You can either plug a microphone into your audio interface or place a vocal take into the audio track that contains the Pentagon I synth. MIDI data on the newly created MIDI track will control the pitch of your Vocoder phrase.
7. Experiment with the Formant Filter option which can also be found by clicking on the Pentagon I logo. With this switched on you will get a more vocal sounding effect.

Don't limit yourself to just using vocals. Drum loops can be spiced up with this effect too. For a cheesier Vocoder effect, select the Radio options found in the Simulator section which can be found by clicking on the area below the Pentagon I logo. Try out different patches to see which sound right for your arrangement. I found that the preset patch number 15 in Bank A called "Dirty Lead" gave a great old school sounding Vocoder effect.

Go to <http://www.intelliware.com.au/ProductListByCategory.aspx?cat=2> for details on how to upgrade your SONAR software or call our Intelliware Sales Team on (02) 9981 8088.