



Accusonus ERA 5 Bundle Pro

\$39/month, \$299.88/year,
\$999 forever



When you're fixing up compromised audio you want a toolset that's quick and reliable. This updated package could well be the answer

> When we last looked at this bundle it had five plugins and included the ERA-D reverb and noise remover. Since then, ERA-D has also become a legacy plugin. However, Accusonus have been busy expanding and reworking their offering and the result is ERA 5.

Still available in two packages (Regular and Pro) and via subscription or perpetual licence, it's the Pro bundle we have on review. This features 13 plugins (you get nine in the regular bundle). Twelve of these are real time plugins (VST, AU, AAX) and one plugin (Room Tone

Match) is specifically for Pro Tools Audiosuite format. Included in the 12 is a new host plugin, Audio Clean Up Assistant (as discussed on the next page).

Some plugins are updates of previous versions (Voice Leveler, Plosive Remover and De-Clipper for example) and some are completely new (Voice AutoEQ, Voice Deepener, Reverb Remover Pro and Noise Remover Pro). Processes now covered are noise reduction, de-essing, de-clipping, plosive removal, reverb removal, levelling and EQ.

Some of the plugins target vocal or speech, and some are better suited to audio post production than music production uses. A good example is newcomer Room Tone Match, which helps standardise the underlying noise bed across dialogue edits. Even so, there's still plenty for the music user.

Once again, ease of use is very much a priority and plugins will typically use a single knob to set the depth, coupled with just a few additional options. In many cases there is 'difference' monitoring, so that you can check

"If you're regularly fixing up compromised recordings, the pro features are mighty useful"

precisely what the effect might be doing. There are also some handy context-sensitive tool tips.

Pro Plus

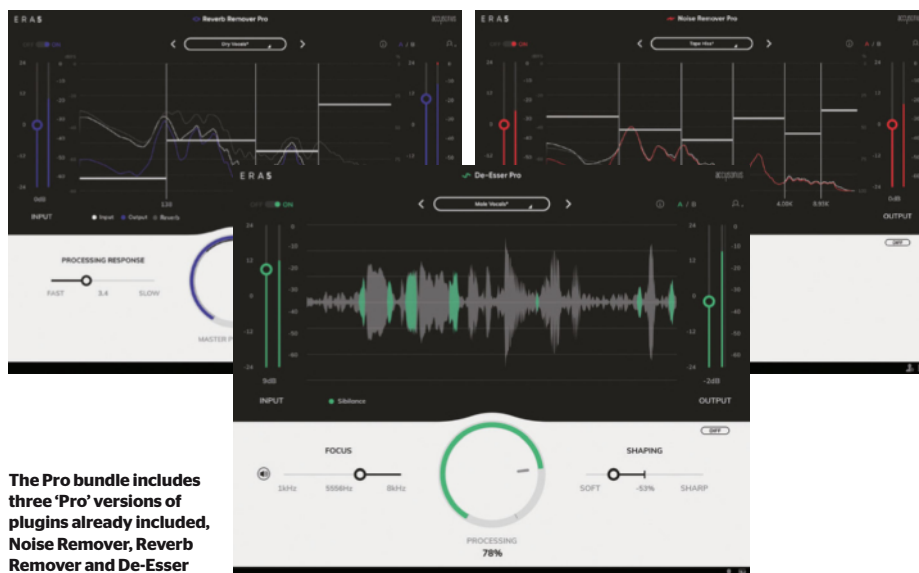
The Pro bundle includes three 'Pro' versions of plugins already included, Noise Remover, Reverb Remover and De-Esser. Both Reverb and Noise Remover Pro include multiband (up to 6-band) operation, with band-specific depth control as well as handy options such as solo, mute, and band global isolate. Understandably, this massively enhances flexibility and affords quite surgical removal of noise or reverb. Reverb Remover Pro also includes processing response time, which we found achieved everything from very swift, quite artificial outcomes to quite laidback results. De-Esser Pro meanwhile includes variable focus frequency (1kHz to 8kHz) with listen option, as well as de-esser shaping which influences how aggressive the effect is. We really like these options as they're easy to understand and quick to use.

ERA 5 includes a couple of EQ-style effects designed for voices - Voice AutoEQ and Voice Deepener. The first analyses the playback signal and applies a gentle EQ curve that you then tweak via the tonal blending triangle. The corners represent three different EQ points (Air, Body and Clarity). Dragging the cursor and adjusting the overall intensity control achieves quick, powerful EQ changes. Voice Deepener adds lower depth to the voice, and does a great job enhancing a vocal to create a richer sound.

ERA 5 Pro Bundle clearly has broad appeal, and although some music users won't need all the Pro bundle features, if you find yourself

regularly fixing up compromised recordings, they're mighty useful. Of course, with the subscription option, you could simply sign up for a month when you find you need these particular features. All told, this is a solid update creating a unique bundle of excellent tools. **cm**

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Nothing fancy but does the job

Audio Clean-Up Assistant

Included with both the Pro and Regular bundles, Audio Clean-Up Assistant is a host plugin that allows you to chain up to five single-knob ERA plugins in series. Plugins are selected from the dropdown menu, and you can use more than one of the same plugin if desired. What you can't do as yet is use the pro plugins. The assistant has a number of handy features. Firstly, it includes a bunch of multi-plugin presets. These provide quick solutions to typical tasks

(eg clipping removal). Next up, grouping all these processes into one scrolling window makes accessing all their controls quicker. Finally, the assistant includes A/B and global on/off, so you can bypass the whole chain with one button or compare different chain settings. OK, it's not the fanciest host plugin we've seen, and there's no major intelligent aspects either, but it does a good job and can make things easier.

Alternatively

Waves Noise Reduction From \$100

Z-Noise, X-Click, X-Hum and DeBreath are just four of many Waves plugins that tackle annoying audio imperfections

iZotope RX 8

\$129, \$399, \$1199

Three different bundles that provide industry leading tools to fix and repair problem audio

Verdict

For Unique bundle of reparation and finessing plugins

Excellent auto EQ effect for voice

Quick and effective plosive remover

Pro feature flexible de-esser

Multiband noise and reverb removal

Against Perpetual licence is expensive
Room Tone Match is only available in Pro Tools

ERA 5 Bundle Pro offers an excellent toolkit of easy-to-use processors that are great for music, dialogue and beyond

9/10