

Vocal EQ Cheatsheet

■ Start With a Good Recording

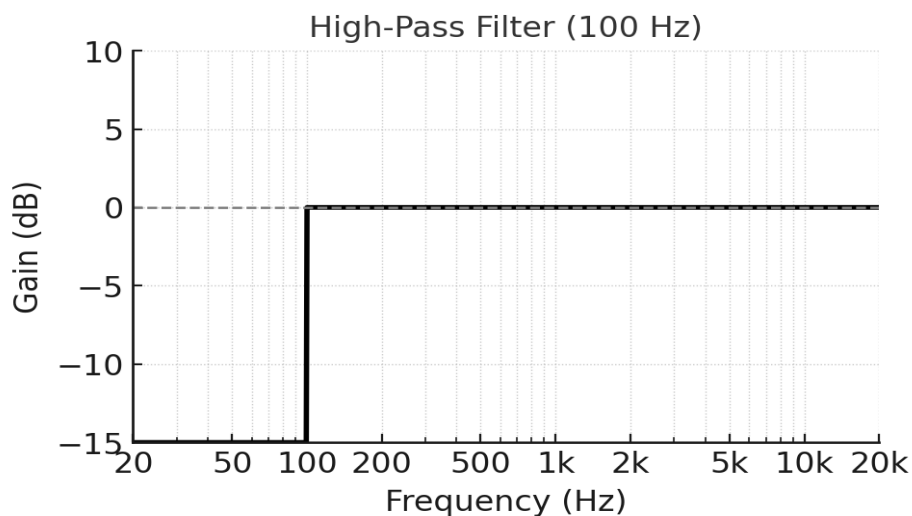
The best vocal EQ is one you don't have to use much. A well-recorded vocal is always easier to manage.

- Record in the **best room you can** — bedrooms often work well since pillows, mattresses, and soft furnishings absorb reflections.
- Minimize **reflective surfaces** like bare walls and windows.
- Use a **vocal shield** for extra control.
- If you don't have one, try hanging a **bed sheet over the mic** — that's where I started!

■■ Stay Safe & Comfortable

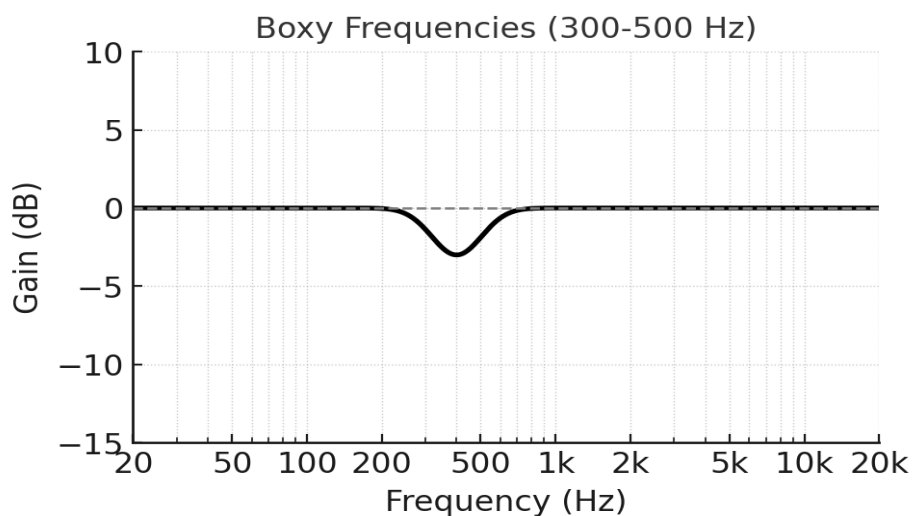
A DIY setup can get hot — always stay hydrated and take breaks as needed.

High-Pass Filter (100 Hz)



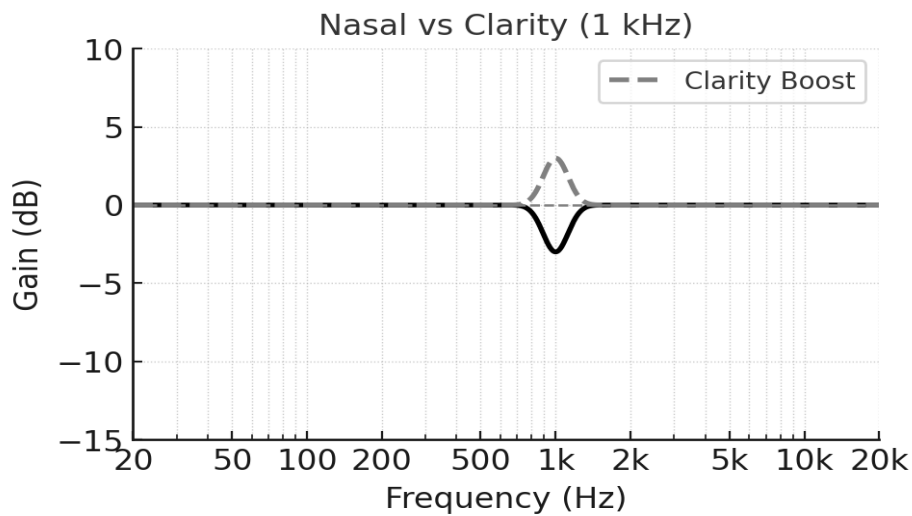
Use a high-pass filter at 100 Hz to remove low-end rumble and room noise. For female vocals you may set it lower (around 80 Hz). High-passing frees space for bass and sub-bass instruments.

Boxy Frequencies (300–500 Hz)



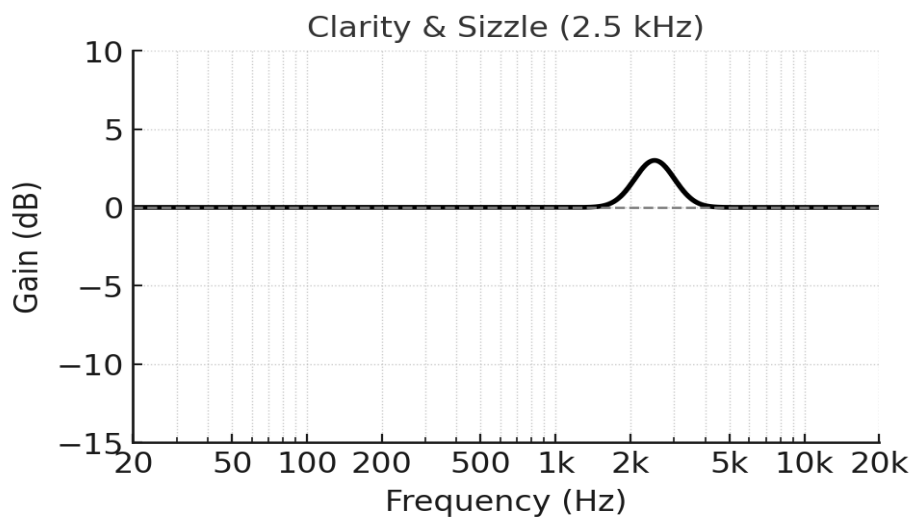
The 300–500 Hz range is where boxy frequencies live. A small dip helps remove congestion. Cut with intention — too much reduction can strip warmth.

Nasal vs. Clarity (1 kHz)



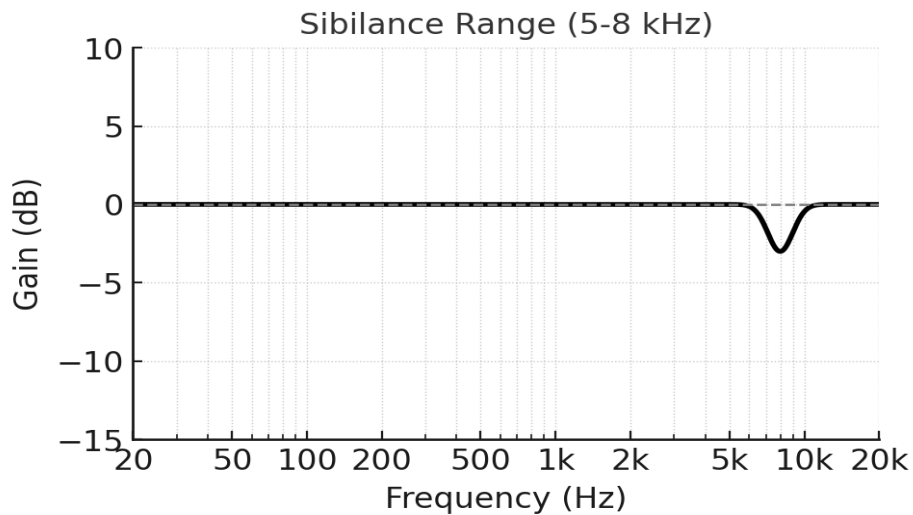
1 kHz can make a vocal sound nasal if boosted, or add clarity to words if handled carefully. Subtract problem frequencies before boosting. Use your ears to decide which move improves the signal.

Clarity & Sizzle (2.5 kHz)



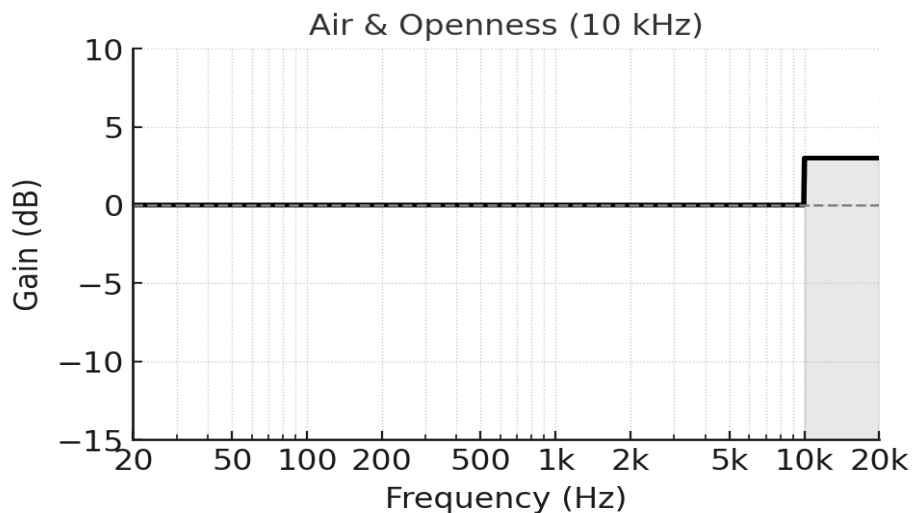
A small boost here adds clarity and helps vocals cut through the mix. But 3 kHz is temperamental — too much creates a harsh 'pain frequency.' Make small, careful boosts.

Sibilance Range (5–8 kHz)



Sibilance ('S' and 'T' sounds) lives between 5–8 kHz. A small dip helps, but a De-Esser is better for heavy sibilance. Use a pop filter and mindful mic placement when recording.

Air & Openness (10 kHz)



A gentle boost here adds air and sparkle, bringing vocals forward and opening the mix. Proceed with caution — too much makes a mix sound brittle. Used in moderation, this is a vital finishing touch.

These tips depend on style and genre — there are no absolute rules. But this guideline will help you achieve a balanced, controlled vocal.

For more info or one-to-one coaching, visit: lwlogicacademy.com