

EZ Clean: Don't Hate Me Because I'm Easy.

In our opinion, the most revolutionary new filter in DC Six is the EZClean function. While the name makes it sound like it might be easy but possibly not as capable as other filters, that is not the case. As you probably know, the hiss filter in EZClean does not require you to take a noise sample - or even have to look at the waveform. This is what makes it so easy, but it doesn't mean that the filter is less capable.

Since we shipped DC Six, we've received a number of calls from users as to how to remove some particular noise. In at least half those instances, the answer was EZClean. We asked the users why they weren't using it and they were under the impression that doing things the classic way would likely yield a better result. So, we decided to present some more detailed info on this filter so you'll know what it can really do.

Underneath the hood on EZClean is a brand new technology called an Adaptive Frequency Domain Filter. This simply means that the filter analyzes to find the noise continuously and get rids of it. A benefit of this approach is that the filter is able to change continually, or adapt, as the noise signature changes.

In many situations, this can actually be a better approach than a traditional "noise sample" filter such as the Continuous Noise filter. The reason is that EZClean can adjust itself automatically during the song in an attempt to find the right noise removal "answer". Thus, a song which has more noise at the beginning and less at the end will likely do better with EZClean. This is the nature of an adaptive filter - it learns and adjusts as it goes along.

If you've tried EZClean you may have noted a side effect of this approach. You may find that the filter takes 1 or 2 seconds to dial itself in and really start to work on the noise. For the user, this means a couple of things:

1. In preview, you should move the hiss slider a bit and then wait a couple of seconds for the filter to adapt. If you don't have this patience, you won't know what the filter is actually doing.
2. Songs should be recorded with a few seconds of silence at the front. Don't cut off this portion of your recording until after you use EZClean. These few seconds will give the filter time to get itself set before the music starts.

So, our point is that users shouldn't shy away from giving this filter a try on most recordings. There is no perfect filter, of course, so you will find some audio where the traditional method works best, but EZClean will do the trick on a good majority of recordings. Being quick and easy, you'll be able to do more restorations and amaze your friends even more!