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# 1. PREFACE

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## **DON'T GET BUGGED BY BIRDS, REMOVE THEM IN NO TIME!**

We spend hours, potentially weeks or even months removing unwanted bird songs out of field recordings. You did too? Then we might have something here that spares you tons of time and coffee.

DEBIRD is a very easy to use tool, with a lot of power under the hood. Just load it onto the track that you wish to clean up, press play, and it will start to DEBIRD straight away.

Working with a neural network which we trained with a ton of material, DEBIRD not only detects birds but also knows what to keep instead, automatically!

It has never been so easy, outdoor recordings are one step closer to the benefits of recording in a studio.

## 1.1 Minimum System Requirements

Windows 8 (64-bit), 8 GB Ram, Intel® Core™ i5 (relatively recent)

macOS 10.11, 8 GB Ram, Intel® Core™ i5 (relatively recent)

## 1.2 Installation

After downloading and opening the installer of DEBIRD please follow the on-screen instructions to install the application.

### **THE MANUAL WILL BY DEFAULT BE COPIED HERE:**

Windows: C:\Program Files\BOOM Interactive\DeBird

Mac: /Applications/BOOM Interactive/DeBird

## 1.3 iLok Registration

During the first start of DEBIRD after installation, the iLok registration window pops up. DEBIRD is licensed using the Pace iLok system. You need to have an iLok account to use it, however setting up an iLok account is completely free. You will find all necessary information on how to setup your account on [www.ilok.com](http://www.ilok.com). You can either directly authorize your computer (machine authorization) or optionally a 2nd or higher generation iLok hardware dongle. A second or third generation iLok (iLok2 or iLok3) is a product of Pace that can be purchased at [www.ilok.com](http://www.ilok.com) or from any participating music retailer.

Next: please download the iLok Manager at [www.ilok.com](http://www.ilok.com).

After your purchase, you automatically receive an order confirmation from us containing the download link for the installer plus a 30 digits long iLok activation code (e.g. 1234-1234-1234-1234-1234-1234-12).

### HOW TO ACTIVATE THE LICENSE

- Open the iLok License Manager application.
- Either select the menu: Licenses -> Redeem Activation Code or click on the small Redeem Activation Code Icon on the upper right of the application.
- You should then copy paste the entire code you received from us into the entry form. Select your iLok as the activation location to immediately activate the license on this iLok and confirm the location.

Now you are ready to go!



Upon the first launch of the application, you will be asked to register DEBIRD with your iLok account.

**A free iLok account can be created under [www.ilok.com](http://www.ilok.com)**

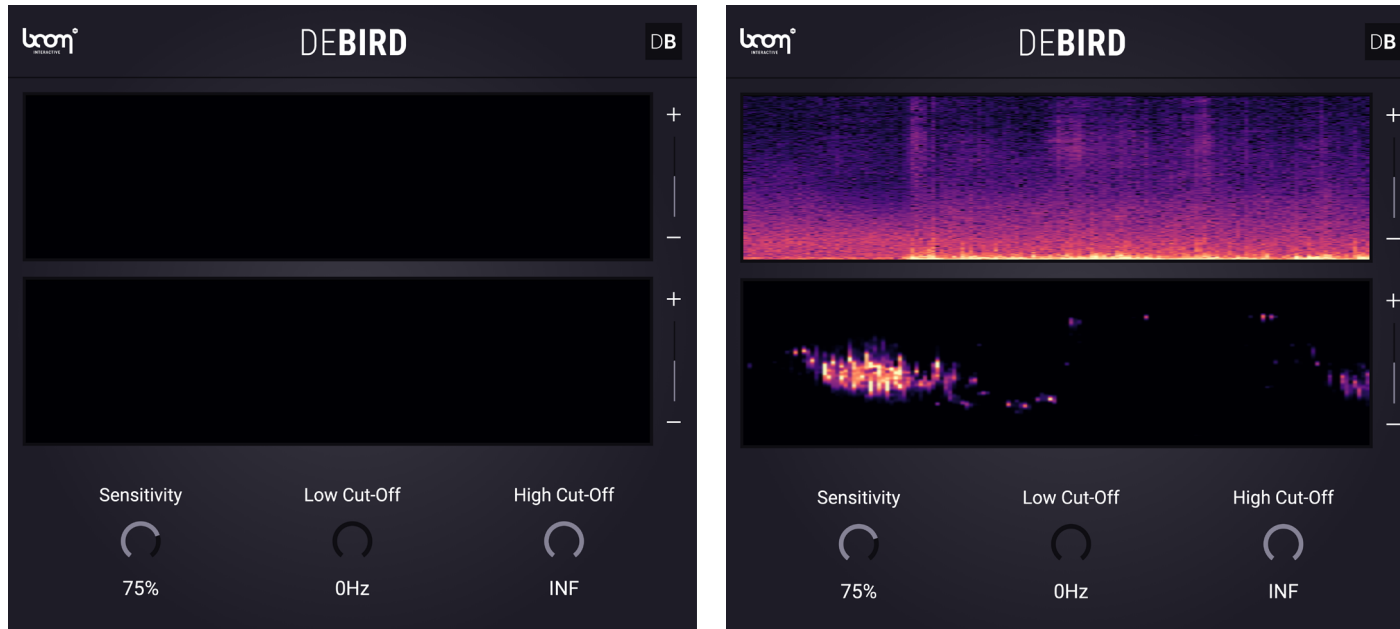


Watch a step-by-step video tutorial about how to activate your iLok license:

[WATCH TUTORIAL](#)

## 2. QUICK START

Open DEBIRD on the audio track that you wish to clean up. It will already be working by default. As soon as you press play and audio is being routed into it, the signal will get analyzed and cleaned of any bird songs. You can then tweak the behavior via three control knobs.



The upper spectral view window will display the processed audio signal, on the lower spectral view window you will be able to see what part of the input signal has been detected and removed accordingly.

# 3. GUI OVERVIEW

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The GUI is very simple: You will see a header, two spectral view windows, plus a few but very helpful controls:

## 3.1 Header



At the very top, going from left to right you will find some general functions.

### 3.1.1 About



Clicking on the BOOM Interactive logo on the left will open a small window, showing the people involved in the development of DEBIRD, as well as the version of the plug-in currently running.

### 3.1.2 DeBird and Bird-only Mode



The **DB** / **BIRD** icon sitting in the top right corner of the GUI will allow you to switch between two listening modes. Per default this will be in **DB** mode, (meaning DEBIRD) so you are listening to the "debirded" audio material.



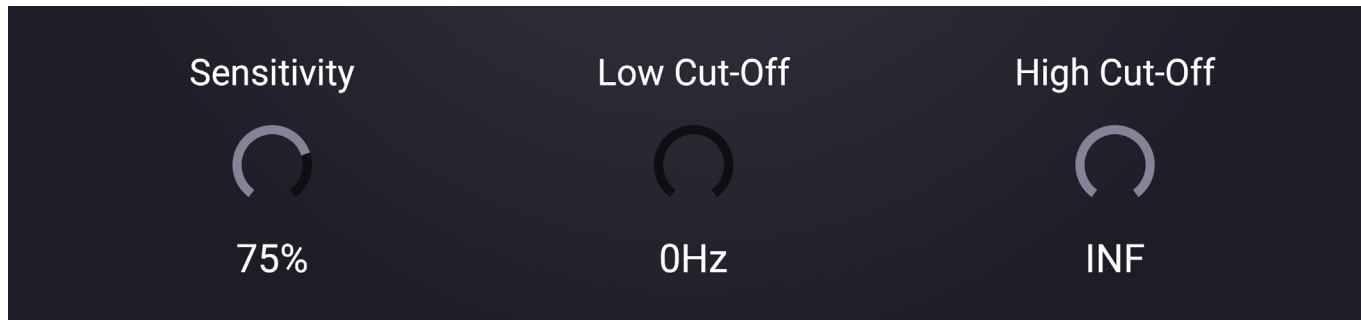
By switching to **BIRD**, it will only playback the audio material **DEBIRD** recognizes as birds which is not audible whilst in **DB** mode.

## 3.2 Spectral View



On the right-hand side, next to the **SPECTRAL VIEW WINDOWS** you will find sliders, framed by a plus (top) and a minus (bottom) button. Here you can change the **SPECTRAL VIEW** intensity, visually highlighting the dynamic range.

## 3.3 Control Section



This section is defined by three control knobs.

### 3.3.1 Sensitivity

Via the **Sensitivity** parameter you can alter the overall behavior of DEBIRD. Turning it all the way up will result in a rather aggressive and intense processing.



**TIP: Automation**

Automate the **Sensitivity** parameter to address the insensitivity of certain spots in your recording. This way you can make sure that DEBIRD won't do too much or too little.

### 3.3.2 Low/ High Cut-Off

With the **Low Cut-OFF** and **High Cut-Off**, you can filter the audio analysis before any "debirding" takes place. Setting them up properly will lead to better processing results since you can exclude parts of the frequency spectrum that does not contain birds' twittering. Dialing them in will be displayed by horizontal lines within the lower **Spectral View**.

### 3.3.3 Automation

To achieve the cleanest output possible, you can go ahead and automate DEBIRD across your DAW timeline. Lowering **Sensitivity** using automation can prevent DEBIRD from processing at specific spots in your timeline where it's not actually needed.



## 4. TIPS AND TRICKS

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### 4.1 Double Check

There are some sounds that in fact sound very much like birds. That can be ricochets of guns or explosions, or even “s” consonants in speech. Human whistling or the squeaking of metallic hinges might sound exactly like the twittering of birds. Make sure to bypass DEBIRD to double check if the processed audio suits your needs or not and possibly lower **Sensitivity** to zero for those specific parts using the tools described above.

### 4.2 Bird Noises

Birds can make some noise which DEBIRD does not recognize as bird songs. These might be wing flaps, picking sounds or even a whole swarm of birds flying high above. Those may result in high frequency modulated noise. These sounds are of a random nature and might even cover much from the original content so that additional denoising is necessary.

### 4.3 Unorthodox Usage

You can also try and use DEBIRD to extract bird songs out of your recordings via the **BIRD** mode in case you need clean birds at some point ;)

### 4.4 Not recognized bird songs

Luckily the world is still full of animals. Our neural network only learned from us and our access to the world is somehow limited. So in case you come across a bird that doesn't get recognized at all by DEBIRD but you think it should be, we would love to hear back from you and possibly even get the original recordings so we can prepare and edit them to be included in our next training session for the DEBIRD algorithm.

By doing this we can make sure DEBIRD's brain evolves and gets more intelligent over time. So please don't just find workarounds, help us make DEBIRD a better experience for you and everyone else in need of such a tool. Thank you very much for helping the community!

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