

Objective:

1. Singers will know how to use the app's *Custom* "sound effect" effectively and have knowledge on the importance and benefits this setting can provide by utilizing its *Reverb & Room Size* options.
2. Singers will learn about and have knowledge of all the other "sound effects" provided by the app and examples of what each setting is best used for.
3. Singers will be given guidance on performance situations (e.g., live singing, recording solos or duets, live broadcasting, etc.).
4. Singers will know the benefits of using wired headphones vs. bluetooth headphones and be given recommendations on which brands work/sound best.

1. Exploring Starmakers's Sound Effects

*****Custom (Highly Recommended):**

The Custom setting allows you to adjust the Reverb and Room Size (echo).

- Provides more control over vocal performance and the overall sound quality.

How it works and why it's beneficial:

1. Fine-Tuning Your Vocal Sound:

- Gives the singer control over Reverb (Reverb adds a sense of space to your voice).
- Having the ability to adjust it allows you to fine-tune how much space or "ambiance" you want in your vocals.
- More reverb can make your voice sound fuller and richer, as if you're singing in a large, open venue.
- Less reverb creates a more dry or close-sounding vocal, which may be desirable for certain styles (like ballads or clear, sharp vocals).

Control Over Room Size (Echo):

This "echo" control can give your overall performance all the dynamics it needs, if used properly. It can simulate different environments, such as:

Small room (less echo): Great for intimate performances or where clarity is key.

Large room (more echo): Ideal for creating a more dramatic or larger-than-life sound, like performing in a concert hall.

It is highly recommended to use **less of a Reverb and **more** of a Room Size for most songs, especially ballads.

Caution: Too much, can be TOO MUCH.

- Avoid using a lot of Reverb with a lot of Room Size. This can drown out your entire performance and vocals, making it more difficult and less appealing to listeners' ears.

2. Versatility for Different Styles:

Having customizable settings allows you to adapt the sound to different musical genres or performance types.

- A pop song might benefit from a cleaner, less Reverb sound.
- A rock song or ballad might need more Reverb and a higher Room Size, giving it more of a “stage-like” feel.
- An acoustic track might benefit from using less Reverb and less Room Size, giving it that softer, more crisp and clear, calming sound.

3. Tailoring to Your Voice:

Different voices interact with effects in unique ways.

- Bright, powerful voices might need less Reverb, as too much can overwhelm the vocal clarity.
- Softer, quieter voices might benefit from additional Reverb and Room Size to fill out the sound and make it feel fuller.

The custom setting lets you adjust these effects to match the strengths or weaknesses of your voice, giving your overall performance that quality, more professional studio-like sound.

4. Enhancing Performance in Various Environments:

- If you're recording or singing in a small room or quiet space, you may want to increase the Reverb slightly to simulate a larger performance space and create more of a live performance feel.
- If you're in a larger room or singing in a crowded space (like a party room or public space), adjusting the Room Size can help create a clearer, less distorted sound, keeping your voice distinct even with background noise.
- If you are recording or singing outside where there are no acoustics, you may want to increase your Reverb and Room Size, so that the effects will make up for the lack of acoustics of your surroundings.

5. Experimentation

- Don't be afraid to experiment with these custom settings.
- Remember, everyone's ears are different and what may sound good to one person may not necessarily be good for someone else.
- A key tip in using this setting is to go **lower** on the Reverb and **higher** on Room Size or somewhere in the middle with both.

Other Sound Effect Options

Karaoke:

- Enhances your voice with Reverb and a Room-Sized echo, creating a more immersive, live performance feel.
- It's great for making vocals sound richer, giving a sense of spaciousness to your sound.

Superstar:

- Gives your voice a more professional, studio-like finish with more Reverb and slightly more Room Size.
- Use for pop or soft-rock songs where the polished, almost "perfect" vocal sound is desired.

Gig:

- Great for live performance simulation.
- Ideal when practicing or performing as if you were at a concert, with a sense of space and energy.
- Try this effect in more energetic settings like party rooms or when performing for an audience.

Party:

- Used by the majority of users who want to enhance their sound, but not necessarily want to use the *Custom* settings.
- Adds an exciting, energetic vibe to your vocals.
- Good for upbeat songs meant to create a fun and celebratory mood.

Pop:

- Gives your vocals a bright, sharp, and modern edge, typical of pop music.
- Ideal for pop songs or music that requires a crisp, polished vocal sound.

Hall:

- Adds a large, spacious sound to your vocals.
- Use when you want your voice to feel grand, like singing in an opera house or cathedral.
- Use in more dramatic pieces, especially those where you need to create a feeling of vastness and depth.

Echo:

- Adds repetition to your voice, which can help build atmosphere.
- Good for ambient, dramatic, or atmospheric songs.
- Use in moderation. Too much echo can drown out your clarity, so adjust intensity of your voice volume, based on the song's pacing and mood.

Auto-Tune:

- Often used for stylistic effects
- Gives a more synthetic sound.
- Often used in modern pop, hip-hop, and electronic music.
- Must "play with" this sound by going up and down the scale of notes to give it more of that "Auto-Tune," robotic sound.

Fascinating:

- Adds a dreamy, delicate quality to your voice.
- Great for slower, atmospheric ballads or experimental genres or some pop/rap songs.
- Sounds best with higher pitch songs.

Warm:

- Adds smoothness and a natural warmth to your vocals.
- Does not have much Reverb or Room Size.
- Ideal for softer, more intimate performances (e.g., singer-songwriter or acoustic performances).

Vinyl:

- Mimics the crackling sound of a vinyl record.
- Great for retro songs, lo-fi performances, or tracks with a vintage feel.
- Use for artistic purposes to give your track a nostalgic, lo-fi vibe.

Psy (Psychedelic):

- Adds a surreal, distorted effect for a psychedelic or trippy sound.
- Ideal for experimental genres or for creating a sense of chaos or altered states or even in some pop songs.

Dreamlike:

- Creates a soft, atmospheric sound.
- Use in slow ballads, some pop songs, or any track requiring a calm, ambient feel.
- Use sparingly for the best graceful effects.

Super Reverb:

- Adds a deep, strong, and cavernous reverb effect, making the voice sound distant or echoing.
- Great for dramatic or cinematic moments in your music.
- Avoid overusing and control the volume of your voice, as it may drown out the song's total clarity.
- Use it for intense or grand moments.

Dreamland:

- Adds a stronger reverb and slight echo, giving it the effect of being inside of a dream (more so as if you were inside of “white box w/ no walls”).

Hi-Fi:

- Adds clarity and brightness to your voice, making it crisp and polished.
- Has more Reverb and less Room Size.
- Good for pop or rock performances where you want to showcase the sharpness and clarity of your voice.

Church:

- Adds a deep and strong effect, simulating the acoustics of a church.
- Ideal for religious songs, epic versions, movie soundtracks, “stage-like” performances.
- *****NOTE: Turn down your voice volume significantly or else the effect will come off too loud and too strong.**

Phone:

- Makes your voice sound as if it is coming through a phone speaker, with limited bass and treble.

- Also ideal for lo-fi tracks or creating a vintage effect, similar to vinyl, but the sound is a little stronger.

Corridor:

- Adds an echo effect that mimics singing in a corridor or narrow hallway.
- Uses more Reverb and minimal Room Size.
- Useful for creating confined or intimate soundscapes.
- Use sparingly for an eerie or unique effect.

Equipment

2. What headphones should I use?

Wired Headphones vs. Wireless (Bluetooth) Headphones:

Wired Headphones:

- Offer lower latency (faster sound transmission), which is essential for live performance or real-time recording.
- They deliver cleaner, more accurate sound with no risk of connectivity issues.
- Different brands are better than others (e.g. skull candy earbuds, apple earbuds, JBL, some Sony products are all good brands with the combination of microphone headphones capabilities)

Wireless (Bluetooth) Headphones:

Why NOT to use them:

- Bluetooth headphones introduce latency (delay in sound transmission), which can be an issue in real-time singing, especially for live performances or even in recording solo & duet covers.
- Even slight delays can cause synchronization issues, making it difficult to stay on beat with music or harmonies.
- Even if you can hear yourself alright, the audience may hear a delay or voice not matching to the lyrics or music.
- Bluetooth headphones have the microphone built into earpieces. So naturally, it will give your sound thing more of a distance rather than amor clear and precise/ professional sound that you and the audience wants.