

WAVE LAB
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WaveLab 5, It appears that version 5 is no longer available having been replaced by version 6 (see below). A Google search failed to find any actual version 5 product. Some of the headings said "5" but were for "6".

<http://www.steinberg.net>

WaveLab does not have any built-in restoration tools but it accepts both Direct-X and VST plug-ins. It comes with several VST plug-ins, including DeClicker and DeNoiser. In Options (on the main menu bar) there is a selection: Organize Master Section plug-ins that finds all your Direct-X and VST plug-ins and make an alphabetic order list. From this list you can install up to 8 of them on the main page screen in a box named Effects.

I tried DeClicker on *sdemo1* without much success. There is a lot of built-in documentation that tells how to install plug-ins but nothing that I could find on how to set up any of the plug-ins. You can, of course, run any of the Direct-X plug-ins so, to make sure *WaveLab* was working, I ran the *Sony* Click and Crackle Remove and it worked just as well as it did in *Sound Forge*.

Based on my results with VST DeClicker, you might dismiss *WaveLab* from consideration... except, and this is an important except. If you are interested in recording audio DVDs (DVD-A), *WaveLab 5* is an excellent tool. Please see Chapter 9 on Writing to DVD for more on this topic.

Version 6.1 is now available from Steinberg for \$ 549.99 or \$ 199.99 as an upgrade from version 5. I haven't made the upgrade and probably won't although there are some interesting features that would be fun to look at such as their new spectral editing. There is a downloadable Operation Manual but it's a 12 MB *Adobe* pdf file which would be a bit of an effort to print. A printed copy is included with the purchased product.

I could not locate any mention of a demo or trial version of 6 on the Steinberg website so apparently you would have to buy it just to take a look. It is interesting that version 6 is priced about \$ 150.00 less than version 5. Still, it might be a good buy if you need a platform to run plug-ins.

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