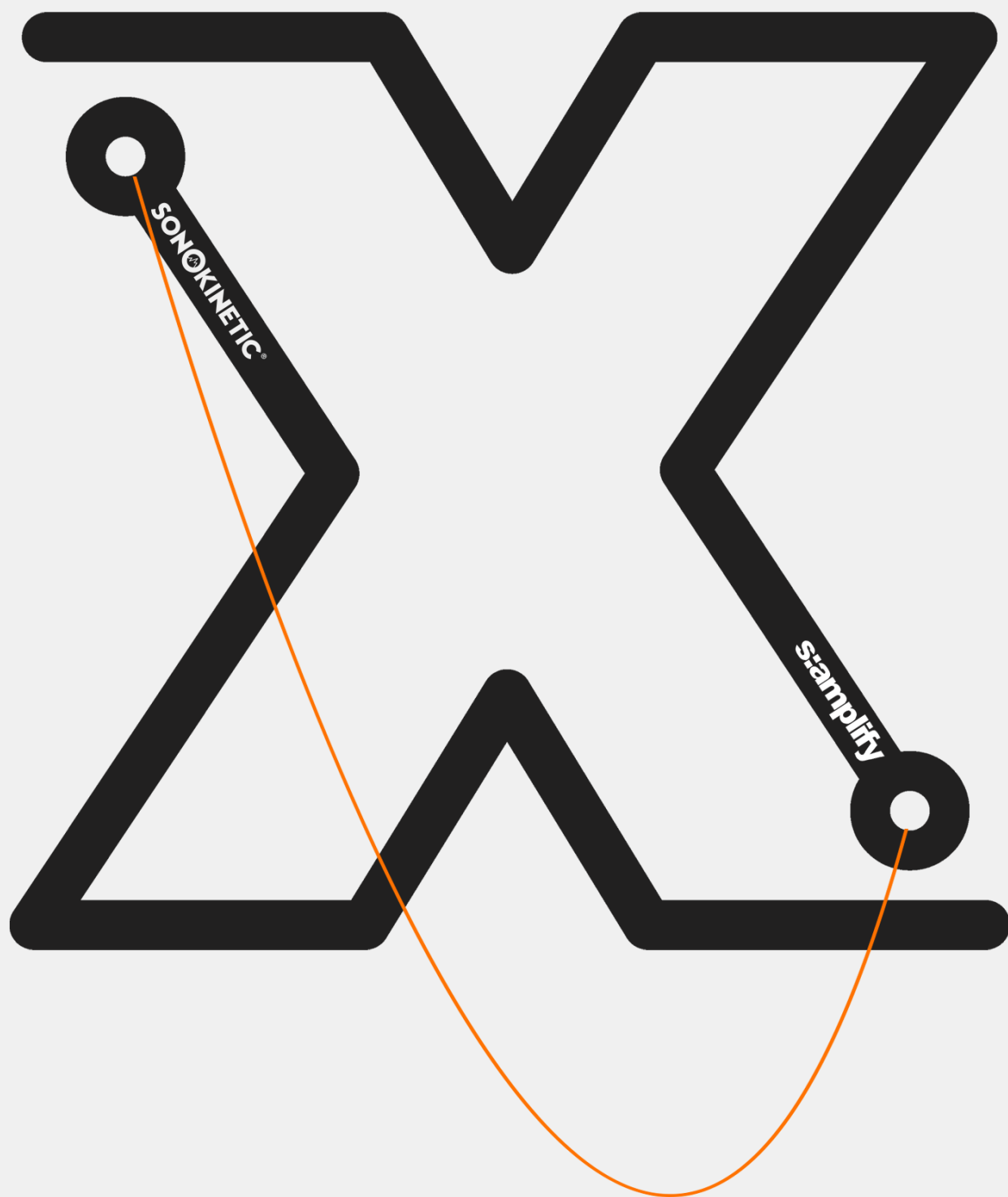


SOTTO



ANALOG SYNTH EQUIVALENTS



SOTTO X

ANALOG SYNTH EQUIVALENTS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction	page 4
- Content	page 5
- Quick start guide	page 6
- The Concept	page 7
- Inspiration	page 7
- Gear List	page 7
- Sotto X Functions	page 8
- Interface	page 8
- Preset fields	page 9
- Picking phrases	page 9
- Randomize / Locking	page 10
- Purging	page 11
- Mod Wheel	page 11
- Speed Control	page 11
- Harmonic shift	page 12
- Analog FX Chain	page 12
- Options	page 13
- Playback offset	page 13
- Sample crossfade	page 13
- Panning	page 13
- Volume	page 14
- Release volume	page 14
- Playing Sotto X	page 15
- Phrase continue / retrigger	page 15
- Bar sync	page 16
- Phrase link	page 16
- Native Instruments Komplete Kontrol	page 17
- Managing CPU and RAM	page 17
- Tips & tricks	page 18
- Colofon & Support	page 19

Sotto X

Analog Synth Equivalents

With so many enthusiastic users of our libraries, it was inevitable that at some point one of our dedicated supporters would envision an inspiring idea for our next venture. So it is with Sotto X, an analog synth remix of our original Sotto library, suggested by Davide Carbone. We jumped on his exciting concept to re-tool our orchestral classics with lush synth phrases, and ran with the idea, which has grown into a full library in its own right.

Just like Davide, we share a love for the sound of old synths, and vintage hardware has long been a fascination for the team here at Sonokinetic. As fledgling music producers, long before we could afford high-end orchestral recording, we would craft intricate facsimiles of orchestral sections using nothing more than MIDI programming and synthesizers.

With Sotto X we bring this journey full circle, adding an extra dimension to our favorite orchestral phrase libraries. Soto X is a fully analog, synthesized version of our popular Sotto collection. Very playable in its own right, and also designed to complement the existing Sotto orchestral phrases. The sounds within have been expertly created and recorded using an analog signal path, for both the synth tones and post-production effects.

Our collaborators for Sotto X are the sound design wizards at Samplify in Australia. These masters of retro gear took the original orchestral scores for Sotto and transformed them into lush arpeggios and melodic pads. Using a huge collection of vintage synths (including classic models from Roland, Korg, Moog and Oberheim) the Samplify team used their expertise to extract maximum warmth and emotion from the hardware. This results in a collection of synth performances like no other; inspired by the orchestra but versatile enough for multi-genre scoring. Taking things a step further, the signal path was then enhanced using a bountiful collection of analog processing; including reverb, delay and compression units.

Of course, you'll also find all of the features typical of our dexterous tempo-synced playback engine; chord recognition, harmonic shift, randomization and much more.

We, at Sonokinetic BV, are very proud to introduce Sotto X to you and can't wait to hear the amazing things you, our valued customer base, will produce with it.

Sonokinetic has established a name as one of the best value & quality sample producers and with this product we'd like to underline that statement. We stick with our unbeatable pricing module and high quality sampling.

We wish you the best inspiration and creativity.

With warm regards,

The Sonokinetic Sotto X Production Team

CONTENT

5800+ samples (7 GB sample content) in 24 bit 44.1 kHz NCW format

One patch for Kontakt Player 7.0 : compatible with Komplete Kontrol and NKS

3 distinct synth phrase categories, inspired by orchestral sections:

- Analog Strings
- Analog Woodwinds
- Analog Brass

2 recorded signal chains

- Dry (signal recorded straight into the desk)
- Wet (signal recorded through a variety of outboard analog FX)

Individual phrase controls include

- Volume (with separate release volume)
- Pan
- Tempo sync double / half / ITM
- Mod Wheel on / off
- Phrase Link

Custom designed interface

Time Machine Pro capability

Purging system

Randomization - whole instrument, per-section & per-theme

Native Instruments Kontakt Player Library license

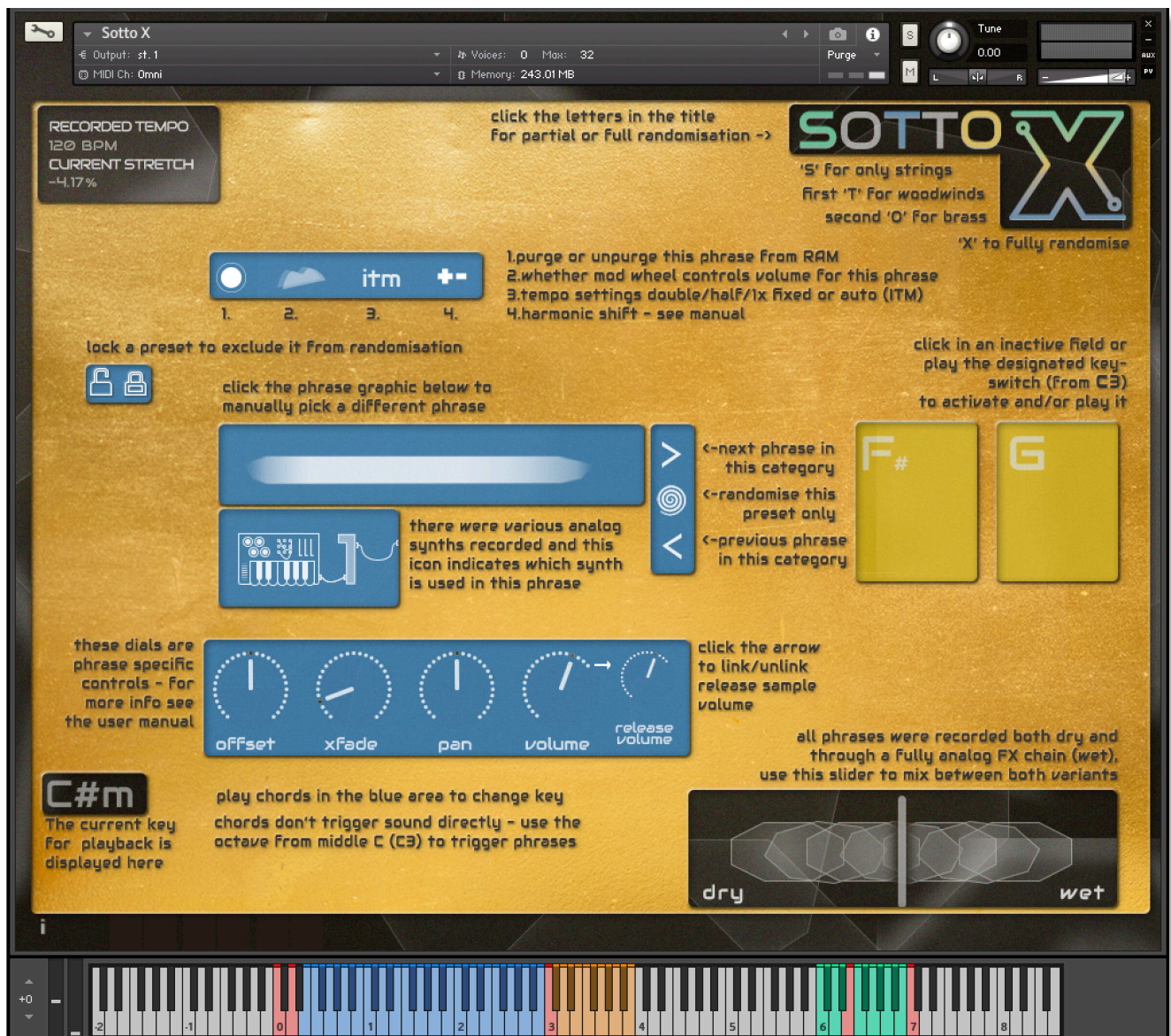
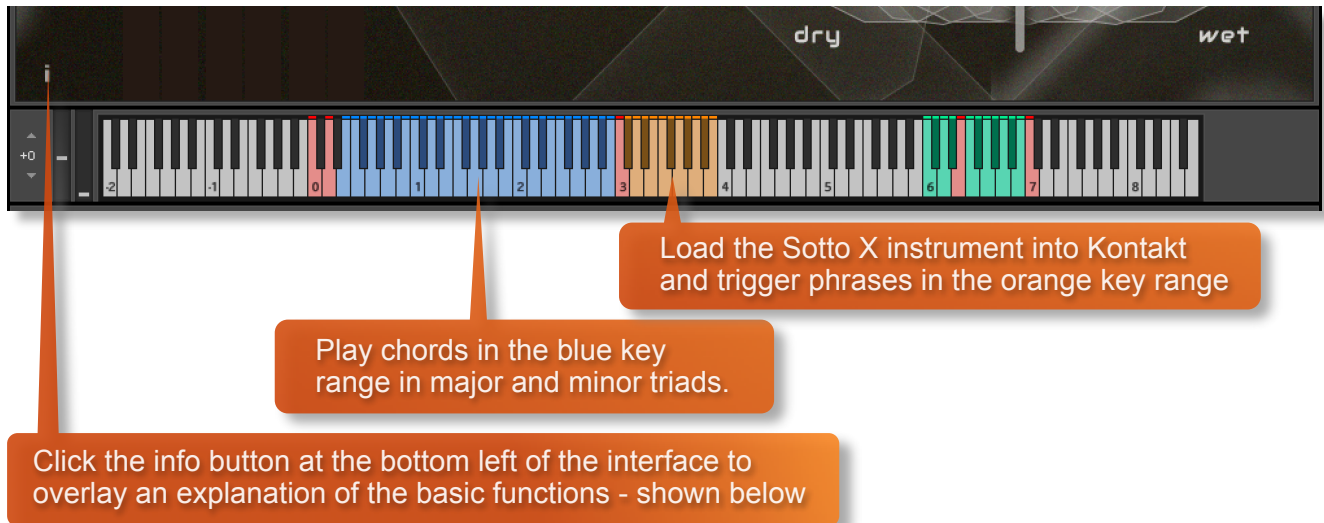
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Sotto X Reference document (PDF)

Artwork: "Sotto X" DVD cover. Designed by Sonokinetic BV



QUICK START GUIDE



THE CONCEPT

INSPIRATION

We've long been enamoured with the sound of vintage synths and have wanted to combine synths with our orchestral tones for many years. After completing work on our hybrid orchestral / synth phrase library "80", we finally discovered a useful way to retrofit some of our most popular orchestral libraries with analog synth layers. These exciting new recordings are designed to work on their own terms and also complement the existing orchestral performances of Sotto and other Sonokinetic orchestral products. Armed with vintage synths, analog equipment and the original Sotto scores, the sound design experts at [Samplify](#) set to work recreating orchestral phrases within the digital realm. The performances of Sotto X exude a warmth and character that can only be achieved by using original gear, so we're excited to share these unique ideas with you.

In addition to the pure "Dry" synth signals, they also had fun experimenting with outboard FX, sending the signal through chains of reverbs, delays, compressors and other processing. These lush timbres became the "Wet" version of the samples.

GEAR LIST

SYNTHS

- Roland Jupiter 8
- Roland Jupiter 6
- Roland SH-2
- Roland Juno 60
- Korg Polysix
- Korg Prologue
- Korg MS20
- Moog One
- Moog Sub 37
- Arp 2600
- Arp Odyssey
- Arturia MatrixBrute
- Oberheim OB-8
- Oberheim OBX-8
- Sequential Prophet 10
- Sequential Prophet 6
- Sequential Take 5
- Yamaha CS30

OUTBOARD FX

- Eventide H3000
- Arturia Bucket Brigade Analogue FX
- Bricasti M7
- Ensoniq DP4
- Alesis MIDIVerb
- Lexicon Alex
- Roland RE-201
- Roland SDE-2500

PREAMPS

- Telefunken V72
- Neve 1084
- Neve 1073

COMPRESSION

- Urei 1178
- Drawmer 1969
- Manley Vari Mu
- Joe Meek SC3

RECORDING

- Burl Mothership
- Neve 8424

SOTTO X FUNCTIONS

INTERFACE

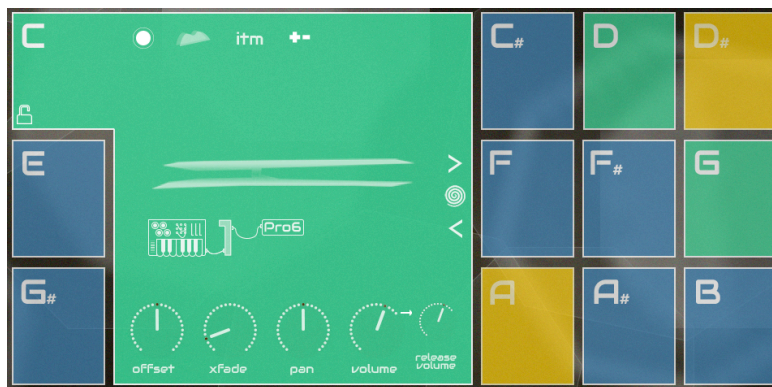
Below is the main interface for Sotto X. This particular screenshot is showing the woodwind-style phrase assigned to the F# key of the 12 available preset fields. Each of them operates in the same way with options for choosing phrases, mod wheel control, tempo, harmonic shift, offset, X-fade, panning and volume (with a separate dial for release volume).



PRESET FIELDS

Sotto X has 12 preset keys that can be used to trigger phrases and these relate to 12 fields of the interface shown here.

We've sampled performances based around the original phrases of [Sotto](#), and are broadly categorised into analog **strings**, **woodwinds**, and **brass** and you can play the phrases by playing keys from **MIDI C3-B3**.



These are also tempo synced to your host DAW BPM. As you play each phrase the main interface graphic will change to display that phrase and preset field.

Sotto X Sections has 12 preset keys that can be used to trigger phrases. and these relate to 12 fields of the interface shown here.

We've sampled outboard gear playing analog synth versions of **string**, **woodwind** and **brass** style phrases, and you can play the phrases by playing keys from **MIDI C3-B3**. These are also tempo synced to your host DAW BPM. As you play each phrase the main interface graphic will change to display that phrase and preset field.

PICKING PHRASES

Choose a phrase by clicking the graphic notation representing the performance. The phrase picker window will then open.

Phrases have been categorized into instrument groups and sub-categorized into themes. Click on any of the names to change section or sub-category.



Choose a pattern here. To exit this window choose a phrase or, if you don't want to pick a different pattern, click to the top right of the window.

Click the speaker icon to hear a preview of a phrase. Click again to stop playback.



Another way to choose phrases is via these 3 icons in each field:

The circular centre icon will randomize a field, clicking this icon will choose any instrument section and phrase. Hold cmd / control and left-click to randomize within the existing section (analog strings / analog woodwinds / analog brass)

The left and right arrows will move through the available phrases in a selected theme (straight / rising / dreamy etc). This is a great way to find complementary phrases that work well together.

When a phrase loads, you will also see a graphic representation of the synths and analog gear that was used to create the sound. Refer to the gear list on page 7 for more information about the exact hardware used to create the sounds of Sotto X.



RANDOMIZE / LOCKING



Click on the large X to randomize the phrases of the unlocked preset fields... useful if you're stuck for ideas.

Clicking on the other letters of SOTTO will randomize all fields to a specific instrument group: strings, woodwinds & brass.



randomize just one field by clicking this icon.

If you want to retain a preset field's phrase whilst randomizing the others, just click the padlock icon to "lock" that field. Click it again to unlock.



PURGING

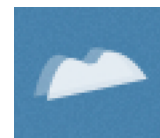


You can purge the samples from an individual preset field with this icon - and click again to reload. Use this function to free up system RAM.

Hold cmd / control and left-click to load (unpurge) the current field and purge all others that are not currently locked.

Hold shift and left-click to load (unpurge) all fields.

MOD WHEEL



By default the MOD wheel of your MIDI keyboard will control the output volume of all preset fields. However, it's possible to disable MOD wheel control for one or more fields. This allows greater expression as you can keep the volume of one or more phrases constant whilst changing others with the MOD wheel. Use this to create interesting, constantly changing phrases and crescendos / decrescendos. Click this icon in each preset field to toggle MOD wheel control on / off.

SPEED CONTROL



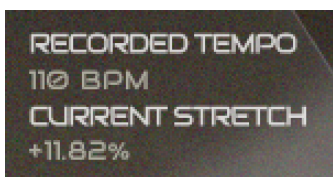
Phrases in Sotto X have been recorded at either 120 or 130 BPM, but all phrases will sync to your host DAW tempo by default, being time-stretched within Kontakt to match the BPM of your project. However, it is possible to switch all phrases into half / double time. Click the **ITM** icon to change the playback speed of the phrase, relative to your DAW's BPM.

1X : Original recorded speed, relative to DAW BPM

2X : Playback at 2 x speed, relative to DAW BPM

0.5X : Playback at ½ speed, relative to DAW BPM

ITM : Automatic - "Intelligent Tempo Mapping" - Playback at recorded speed, but at automatic half / double time at extreme tempi. This is generally the best speed setting. However, if your project has a tempo change mid-phrase, you may find that an alternative speed setting may be more useful. Also, when you are doing gradual tempo changes across a large range, it might be a good idea to opt for one of the fixed values instead of ITM.



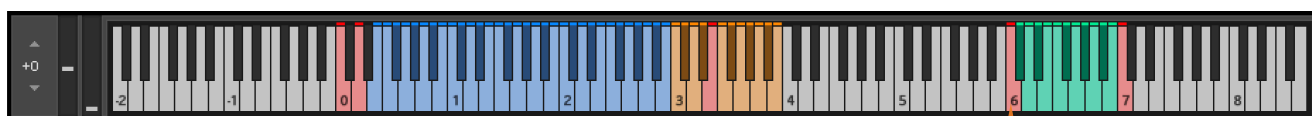
For reference, the Sotto X interface always shows tempo and stretch information at the top left of the interface. Check the original tempo of a phrase and current stretch here.

HARMONIC SHIFT



The Harmonic Shift function allows the user to play phrases simultaneously in different, but related, keys. This function can be used to access even more complex chord combinations and harmonies when phrases are played together.

Harmonic Shift can be turned on or off for each preset field with the +/- button but it's most useful if you turn it on for some preset fields and off in others.



The keyswitches from C6-B6 control the shift-interval of the shifted phrase. The base shifted key is shown at the bottom right of the interface, when Harmonic Shift is active.

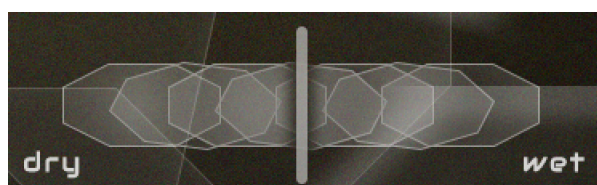
You should note that Harmonic Shift **only** designates an interval, relative to C. For example, playing an Em chord and then using the Harmonic Shift keyswitch at D# (an interval of a **third**) would add a minor **third** up from Em. This would result in a G major phrase being added. By default we have chosen a relative major or minor for each interval, which we deem most useful.

The effectiveness and musicality of the Harmonic Shift varies, depending on the phrases you assign to each field and the harmonic shift intervals that you play. Experiment with different phrases and settings to create interesting and surprising textures and note combinations.

ANALOG FX CHAIN

Unlike many other Sonokinetic libraries, the performances in Sotto X were recorded straight from the synths into a mixing desk. Therefore there are no options for microphone mixing.

However, we do offer 2 mixable signal paths for the phrases: Dry and Wet. The Dry signal features the synth waves, fed straight into a mixing desk, without any other processing. The Wet signal features a whole host of outboard analog FX, introducing reverb, delay, compression and more. Take a look at the gear list on page 7 for a taste of the hardware used.

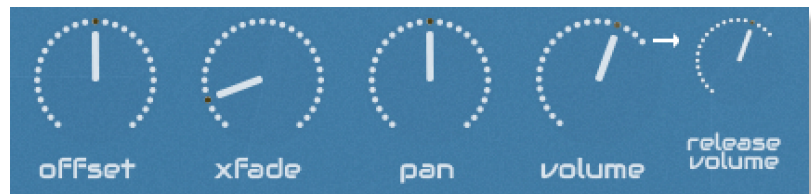


Note that there are NO Kontakt software FX being used for Sotto X - everything you hear is from authentic vintage equipment.

- Mixing is controlled by dragging the slider button. The crossfade operates in such a way that the central position will play both microphone positions at full volume.
- Microphone mixing options are **global** and apply to the entire instance of Sotto X including all phrases and fields.

OPTIONS

Each of the preset fields has dials to adjust the playback of its assigned phrase. Here you can adjust sample offset, X-fade, panning, volume and release volume. You can left-click any dial whilst holding cmd / control to reset it to default. More information on each of the options below:



PLAYBACK OFFSET

Use the **OFFSET** dial at the bottom of the preset field interface to change the sample start point of a preset field.

Note that when you double or halve the tempo of a phrase, the offset value will stay relative to the host tempo, so relative to the phrase content tempo these values will change. e.g. when the tempo button is set to 2x the offset value is doubled.

You can use the sample offset function subtly, for very minor adjustments, to tighten up the timing of phrases relative to one another.

You can also use the function to make more dramatic timing changes by offsetting one or more preset fields by entire beats, resulting in more complex patterns including polyrhythms and syncopation.



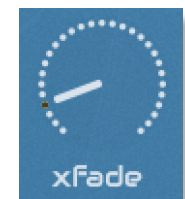
SAMPLE CROSSFADE

Use the **X-FADE** dial at the bottom of the preset field interface to adjust the crossfade length of one sample into another when you change chords.

Due to the natural human playing that's been sampled and the wide variety of phrases within Sotto X, it may sometimes be necessary to adjust the crossfade of phrases when a new chord is played.

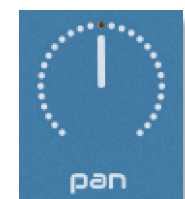
This control will help to smooth out or tighten up transitions when used carefully.

We'll cover transitions and chord changes later in this manual.



PANNING

Use the **PAN** dial at the bottom of the preset field interface to adjust the panning of that phrase.



VOLUME

Use the **VOLUME** dial at the bottom of the preset field interface to adjust the volume of that phrase. By default the volume of both the phrase sample and the release tail sample are locked together (shown here with an unbroken line between the two dials).



RELEASE VOLUME

Sotto X features release tail samples for all phrases. These give a realistic and appropriate release note or reverb tail when keys are released. The release samples become especially important if you choose to truncate the playback of a phrase, where a realistic end note will be played. The release tail volume of any phrase can be adjusted by using the **RELEASE VOLUME** dial shown here. You can unlock the release tail sample volume from the phrase samples by clicking the line between them - making it a dashed line.



To turn the release samples off completely just turn the dial all the way anticlockwise.



It's possible to activate / deactivate the release samples for all preset fields simultaneously. Use the key switch at C7 to do this. Press hard to enable release samples, soft to disable them.

PLAYING SOTTO X

The basic method of playing Sotto X is very simple, just press a key in the range **C3** to **B3**.

Depending on what phrase is assigned to that preset field it will trigger tempo-synced analog strings, analog woodwinds or analog brass - all based on the orchestral material recorded for our original Sotto library. Sustain the phrase either by holding the note down or using a sustain pedal.

For every new note you press, the phrase will start playback from the beginning, unless you have opted to adjust the **OFFSET** parameter or you have **BAR SYNC / PHRASE CONTINUE** set to on (see below). Phrase playback position is also effected by the **PHRASE LINK** control (see below).

You can play simultaneous phrases by pressing more than one preset field key at a time.

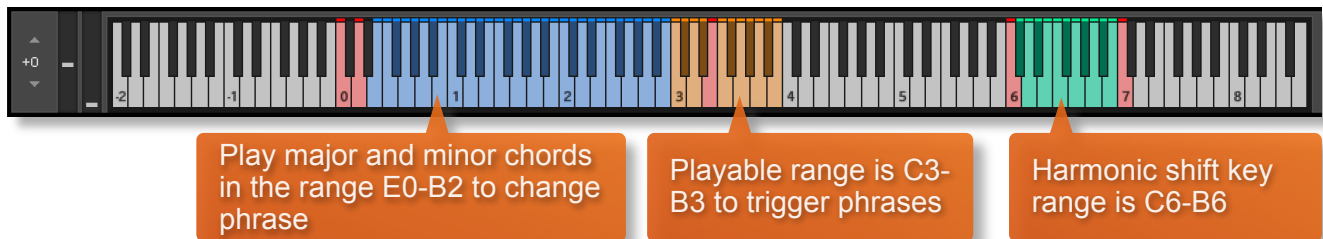
Use the blue key range from **MIDI E0-B2** to play major and minor triad chords. The playing phrase will change in key to match whichever chord you choose.

Keys from **MIDI C6-B6** dictate the harmonic shift interval of one or more preset fields.

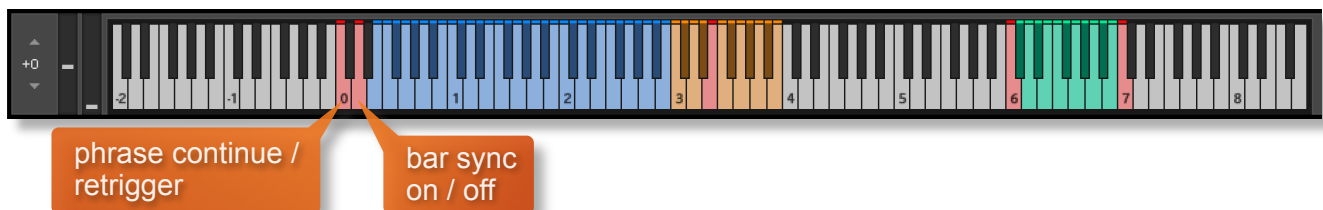
Chord fingering

We have designed the chord recognition system within Sotto X to be as simple as possible, but you will still need to play the correct keys to correct chords. The system recognises inversions.

Major triad in C would be C-E-G or E-G-C or G-C-E
Minor triad in C would be C-D#-G or D#-G-C or G-C-D#



PHRASE CONTINUE / RETRIGGER



When playing different chords or applying different Harmonic Shift intervals, you have the choice whether to retrigger the phrases or to simply continue the phrase but in the new key. This function is controlled by velocity sensitive key switch **C0**. High velocity (>84) will turn phrase continue on, low velocity (<83) will turn it off.

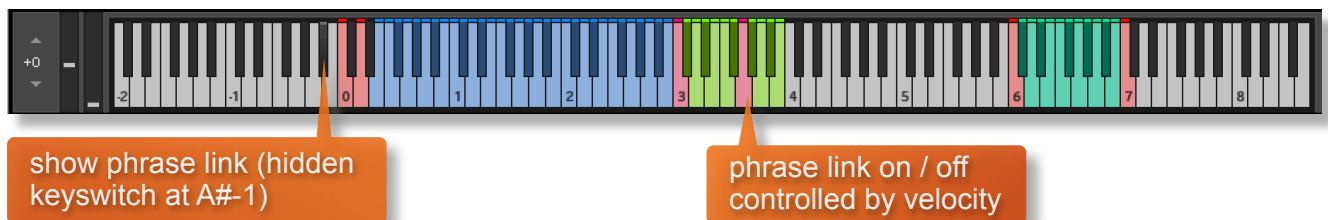
BAR SYNC

Sotto X can use a 'Bar Sync' option. This is controlled by velocity sensitive keyswitch **D0**. High velocity (>84) will turn it on, low velocity (<83) will turn it off.

This feature works in conjunction with the 'Phrase Continue' function. When switched on, the scripting within Sotto X will read the position of the bar in your host DAW and retain playback of the phrases in line with that bar. For example, if Bar Sync is turned on and you trigger a phrase on the second beat of a bar, the sample will play from its second beat too.

- Note that Bar Sync can only be used in Phrase Continue mode. If Phrase Retrigger is engaged instead, Bar Sync will automatically switch off.
- When Phrase Continue mode is switched on again, Bar Sync will return to whichever setting was being used previously, either on or off.

PHRASE LINK



Sotto X has a unique function for advanced users, the same as in some previous libraries.

We have called this function 'phrase link' and it allows you to link / sync the playback of two or more phrases to one another. This is useful when you play one phrase and then you trigger a second phrase and want it to jump in at the same point in the bar, rather than playing from the beginning.

Press the hidden keyswitch at **A#-1** to reveal which of the 12 keys in the playable range from **C3** to **B3** are linked to one another.

By default there are no links and all the keys will be colored **green**

Press any key with high velocity (>84) to turn on phrase link for a key and it will turn **red**

You can unlink again with low velocity (<83)

When two or more phrases are colored red (and thus linked together) you will hear that they sync with one another when played back together, regardless of when you trigger the keys. The internal clock for this function is set by the first phrase that you play and all other linked phrases will conform to that timing.

Using the powerful Phrase Link function has some very creative possibilities, especially important because Sotto X has so much melodic material. For example, you can start playback of a phrase at any point, by using a silent phrase as a reference point - turn the volume of that field all the way to zero. You can then jump into subsequent phrases at any point.

NATIVE INSTRUMENTS KOMPLETE KONTROL

Sotto X is designed specifically for Native Instruments Complete Kontrol keyboards. If you are a user of one of these controller keyboards you can make use of all the niceties that come with the NKS standard, which include:



Key lights on your keyboard showing the corresponding colors of the Sotto X key switches, audio previews and graphical displays. In addition, the rotary controls of your keyboard will be automatically assigned to the most commonly used functions in Sotto X.

There are also some great accessibility features built in that make using the instrument from your NI keyboard that much more intuitive and fun!

MANAGING CPU AND RAM

Sotto X is a large instrument and pushes Kontakt to its limit in terms of size and processing. Therefore, it's useful to know how to limit the memory and processor impact of Sotto X within your own system. Although we've covered some of these aspects already, the following processes will help to conserve RAM and CPU:

- Use the purge function within each preset field to remove the samples from memory
- Use either the Dry or Wet signal chain
- Ensure your Kontakt or DAW's audio buffer size is large enough to prevent artefacts when playing Sotto X.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- The phrases of Sotto X are based on the melodic material of the original Sotto, so you'll find many phrases that complement one another. Use Sotto X and Sotto together for some impressive results.
- Don't forget that you can play across all 12 preset fields simultaneously, triggering samples at different times.
- All dials can be set to their default position by holding **cmd / control** whilst left-clicking.
- You can right-click on any dial within Sotto X to assign a MIDI CC controller. This is especially useful for the individual phrase volume dials as it then gives even greater flexibility to mix and change the relative volumes of 12 phrases as they play.
- Sotto X's instant phrase triggering gives lots of options for syncopation and polyrhythms. Try playing two or more phrases simultaneously whilst the **BAR SYNC** control is off.
- Adjust the volume level of the release tail samples, relative to the main part of the phrase. Lower the release level to give phrases subtler releases, raise it for a bolder ending.
- **PHRASE LINK** is a very powerful and creative function. It allows you to jump into phrases at any point. Understanding this feature is the key to getting the most out of the melodic phrases so do check out further information on page 16.
- If you're stuck for ideas, click the large X of the Sotto X logo, or the individual letters of SOTTO, to randomize the instrument.
- Please refer to our online tutorials concerning Sotto X. We offer comprehensive dedicated video tours concerning this instrument at <https://vimeo.com/sonokinetic>

for more information, check our website:

<https://www.sonokinetic.net/>

follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/sonotweet>

check out our Instagram:

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watch our YouTube tutorial videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/sonokinetic>

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all the creative best,

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