

SONOKINETIC®

# COLOURS

STRING SEPTET

SONOKINETIC®



# **Colours String Septet**

**semitonal textured patterns**

Sonokinetic BV © 2024

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table Of Contents	3
Content	5
Quick Start Guide	6
Interface	7
Phrases & Playing Techniques	7
Easy 3-Way Phrase Mixing	8
Phrase Fields	9
Randomise	9
Quick Phrase Selection	10
Score View / Phrase Picker	11
Microphone Mixing	12
MIDI CC Assignment	13
Panning	13
Mixer Movement	14
Mod Wheel	15
Release Samples	15
Mixer Movement	15
Native Instruments & Komplete Kontrol	16
Managing CPU & RAM	16
Tips And Tricks	17

---

# COLOURS STRING SEPTET

## semitonal textured patterns

To seamlessly blend between different playing styles, we have recorded each phrase for Colours - String Septet in three playing techniques, and devised a unique and inspiring way to interface with them.

Whether you drag your mouse around on the screen, assign hardware controls, or use the Complete Kontrol layout, this instrument is bound to inspire new routes and effortlessly create ultra-realistic backdrops that are very hard to imitate with separate samples.

Where previous Sonokinetic products that had these types of patterns (like Espressivo) were atonal in nature, here we opted to record multiple keys for each and stick to a tonal center, making it easier to implement in existing compositions or blend with other, tonal, material. This means you can play chords like in the traditional Sonokinetic phrase-based products like Fantasy and Indie.

We, at Sonokinetic BV, are very proud to introduce Colours String Septet 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 Colours String Septet Production Team

---

# CONTENT

6000+ samples (6 GB sample content) in 24 bit 44.1 kHz NCW format

One patch for Kontakt Player 7 : compatible with Komplete Kontrol and NKS

7 recorded string players

- Violin (2), Viola (2), Cello (2), Bass (1)

4 recorded microphone positions - fully mixable

- Close
- Decca tree
- Wide
- Balcony (Far)

Individual phrase controls include

- Volume via new automated triangle mixer
- Pan
- Mod Wheel volume

Custom designed interface with score view

Time Machine Pro capability

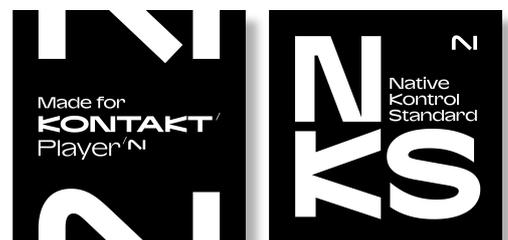
Randomisation - phrase and movement

Native Instruments Kontakt Player Library license

Royalty and copyright free content license

Colours String Septet Reference document (PDF)

Artwork: "Colours String Septet" DVD cover. Designed by Sonokinetic BV



# QUICK START GUIDE

bring out overtones  
1st vi random ricochet

glassy  
legato

Open the Options panel to set mix movement and assign hardware controls.

Load the Colours String Septet instrument into Kontakt and trigger phrases in the orange key range.

Click the info button at the bottom left of the interface to overlay an explanation of the basic functions - shown below.

Play chords in the blue key range in major and minor triads.

Turn release notes on/off globally with this velocity sensitive key

Colours - Strings Septet

No snapshot loaded

Tune 0.00

Each Phrase is recorded in three different techniques  
Use the triangle to mix between the three techniques or between different phrases

Select the current preset - Central C octave

Click the O to randomise the phrase  
Shift-Click to also randomise the mix movement  
Option-Click to Randomize all phrases

Click-Drag on the phrase name to scroll through phrases  
Shift-Drag to scroll faster  
Option-Click to set all corners to the different play methods of the same phrase  
Click in the center to go to the score screen  
Click on top to go up one phrase (bottom v.v.)

Click-Drag on the Pyramid to make a mix of the three selected phrases for this preset  
Option-Drag to record mixer movement to the preset  
Command-Click to reset mixer movement  
Shift-Drag for more drastic movement

Category Icons are displayed here for reference

Set Pan for each corner with this slider

Open the Options Panel

Display the Help Screen

Open the Mic Mixer

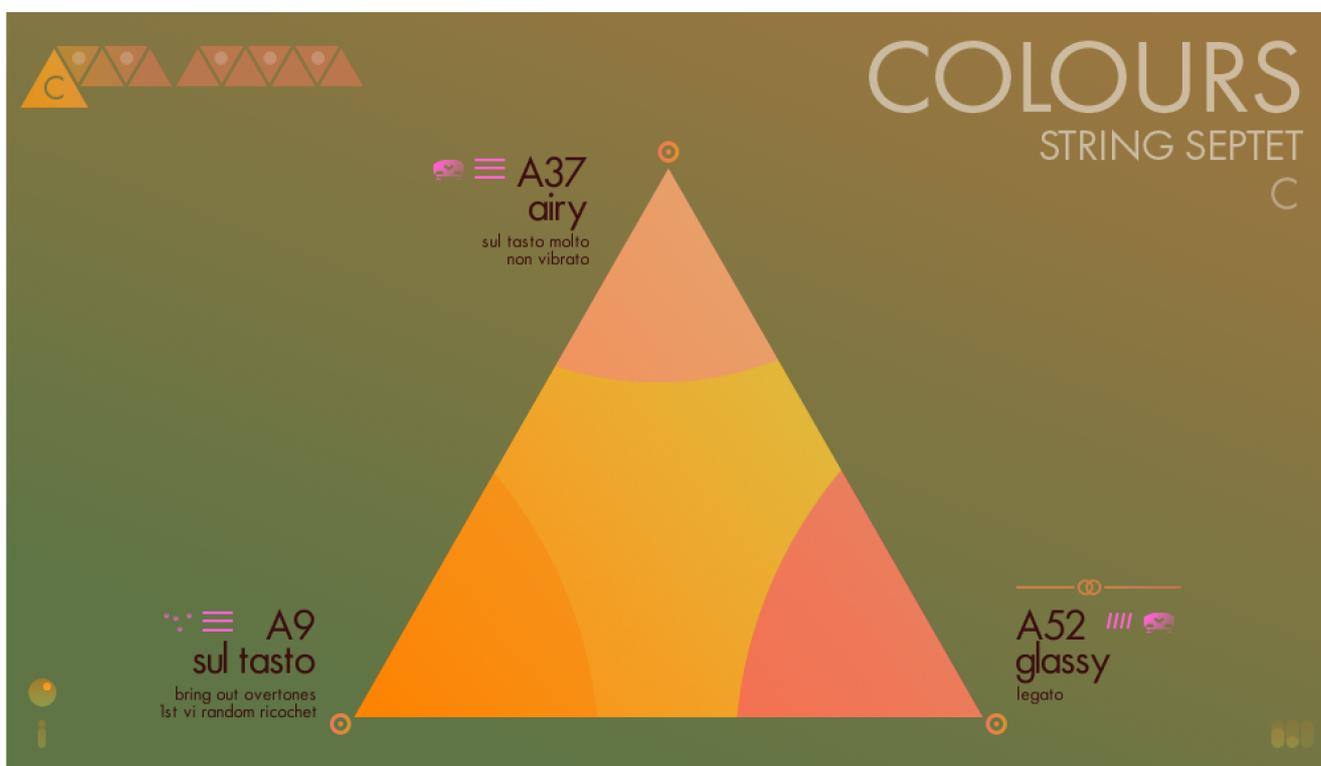
A37 airy sul tasto molto

A9 sul tasto

# COLOURS STRING SEPTET FUNCTIONS

## INTERFACE

Below is the main interface for Colours String Septet. This particular screenshot is showing the 3 phrases assigned to the C key of the 12 available preset fields. Each of them operates in the same way with options for choosing phrases, 3-way volume mixing controls and panning. The phrase picker, score view, mix movement, control assignment and microphone mixing are accessible by clicking into the relevant controls.



## PHRASES & PLAYING TECHNIQUES

Within Colours String Septet, there are a huge number of phrases available. Each of these phrases has been composed with particular notation. However, each phrase also has 3 different playing techniques recorded that contrast in style.



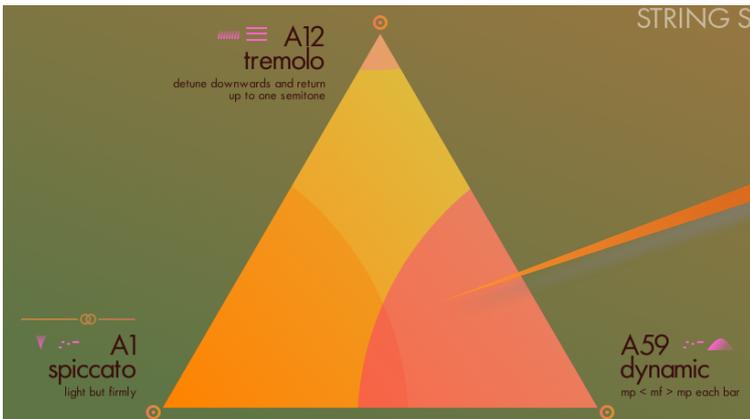
For example, phrase A8 has variations for normal, col legno and ricochet - all giving a very different feel when played, even though the notation is the same. It is these variations in playing technique that give Colours String Septet a unique flavour, as you can use the triangle mixer to blend the techniques together for some interesting colours. Alternatively, you can choose to mix completely different phrases - it's up to you.

# EASY 3-WAY PHRASE MIXING

Colours String Septet plays phrase combinations in a different way to most other Sonokinetic libraries. Each preset field (orange keys C thru B) now has 3 phrases assigned to play, with the ability to manually or automatically set a movement that mixes between the 3 phrases. This means that the range of playback options for phrases is increased exponentially, as the 3 phrases intertwine with one another. To achieve this, a brand new interface design has been created with a large central triangle for mixing phrases. Just click and drag within the triangle to see a visual representation of the volume levels of each of the phrases, represented by a coloured wedge. It's also possible to mute a phrase by clicking the small circle at each corner.



All 3 phrases mixed equally, as shown by the 3 corner wedges of the triangle being the same size.



Spiccato and Dynamic phrases mixed equally, with Tremolo phrase mixed very low, as shown by the left and right wedge size being larger and the upper wedge size being smaller.



Spiccato phrase playing alone, with Tremolo and Dynamic phrases muted, as shown by the left wedge size being larger and the upper and right wedges size being set to minimum size.

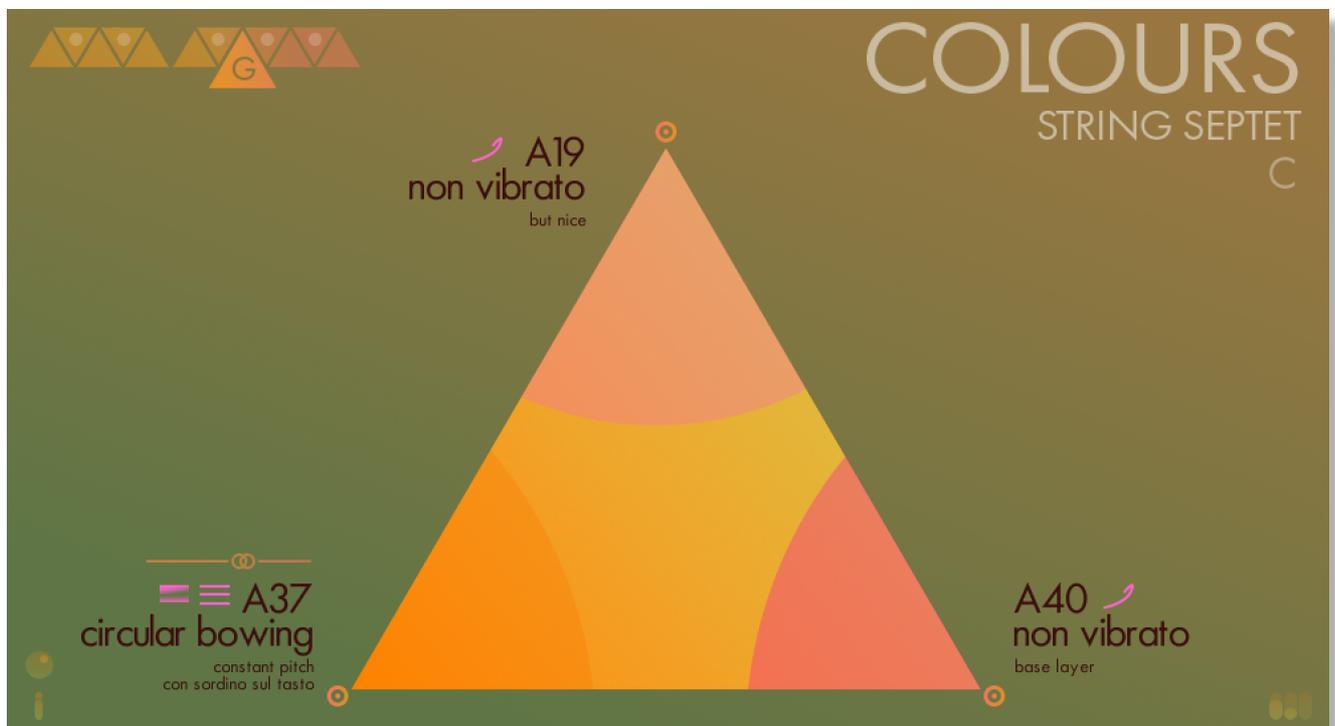
## PHRASE FIELDS

Colours String Septet has 12 phrase trigger keys that can be used to trigger combinations of 3 phrases and these relate to 12 fields of the interface shown here.



The white dots indicate that all three variations of that phrase have been purged - this phrase will not sound. By default all black keys are purged to conserve RAM.

You can trigger the phrase combos by playing preset field keys from **MIDI C3-B3**. These are also tempo synced to your host DAW BPM. As you play each combo the main interface graphic will change to display the 3 phrases for a preset field.

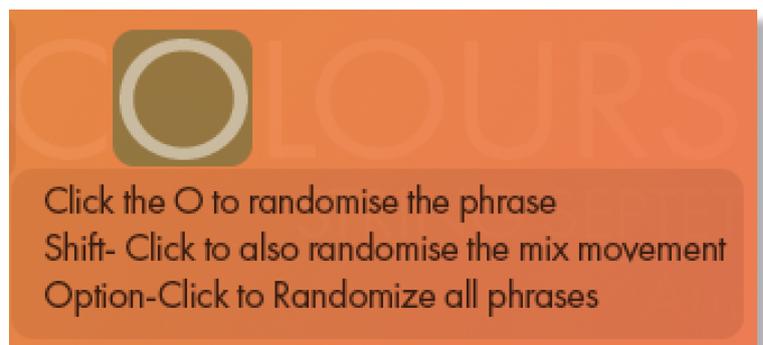


## RANDOMISE

If you're stuck for ideas, click the O of Colours in the top-right of the interface to randomise the 3 phrases of a single field.

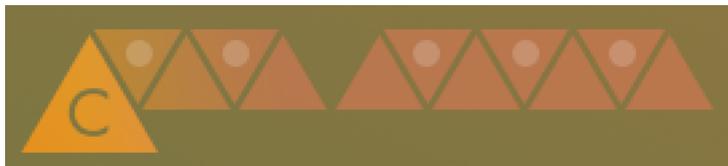
Option-click to randomise all phrases in all fields.

Shift-click to randomise the mix movement. (See Options menu too)



## QUICK PHRASE SELECTION

Firstly, ensure that you've selected one of the 12 fields (assigned to keys C thru B) using the icon at the top left of the interface.



A quick way to navigate through all the phrases in by dragging the phrase graphic at the corner of the triangle.

Just click-drag up and down to scroll through the different phrases available. Shift-drag to scroll faster. Y

ou can also click the top / bottom of the phrase graphic to scroll up or down a single phrase. Once you land on a phrase, a preview will play.



Each phrase (A1 - A80) has 3 different variations that are played in different styles.

For example; A1 spiccato / A1 col legno / A1 sul ponticello.

To assign these three variations to the three corners of the mixing triangle, **option-click** anywhere on the phrase name.



# SCORE VIEW / PHRASE PICKER

Click the centre of a phrase graphic to enter the score view / phrase picker. This will display the notation of the phrase, accurate to the last recorded chord that you played in the blue key range. To browse the phrases, simply click-drag up and down over the main notation. Hold shift to drag faster.

The screenshot shows a music score with various instruments (Wn. 1, Wn. 2, Va. 1, Va. 2, Vc. 1, Vc. 2, Db.). A callout box at the top right says: "Click the X to return to the main interface." Another callout points to the 'a/b/c' tabs (spiccato, col legno, sul ponticello) and says: "Display a/b/c phrase variations in different playing styles." A third callout points to the main notation and says: "Click-drag to show different phrases." On the left, a legend titled "All Phrases" lists categories: low end, dynamic, rhythmic, atonal, risers, pad, and melodic. A callout points to a triangle graphic and says: "Assign a phrase / variation to a corner of the triangle." Another callout points to the legend and says: "Filter phrases by theme or choose All Phrases."

**A1 C/Em** Click-drag the top left icon up and down to see the notation for different chords without having to play them.

The phrases in Colours String Septet are shown as notation and also split into different categories, as seen on the left hand side of the score view window. You can filter phrases by low end, dynamic, rhythmic, atonal, risers, pad and melodic by clicking the legends or accompanying pink icons. There are also an option two clear the filters and browse by All Phrases.

spiccato col legno sul ponticello  
legato (viola 2 plays portato)

To see the notation of the 3 phrase variations, click the a/b/c tabs at the top.

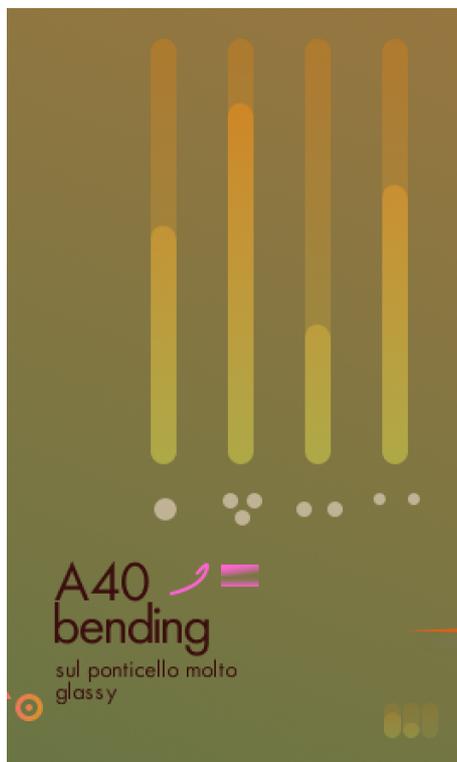
Click into the small triangle graphic, which will display the phrase that is currently selected for each corner. Or click the centre of the triangle to assign the 3 a/b/c variations to the 3 corners of the triangle - overwriting any previous phrase assignments for that field.

**All Phrases**

- low end
- dynamic
- rhythmic
- atonal
- risers
- pad
- melodic

## MICROPHONE MIXING

Click the icon at the bottom right of the interface to display the microphone mixing controls.



The samples for Colours String Septet have been recorded in the same hall as many other Sonokinetic orchestral libraries.

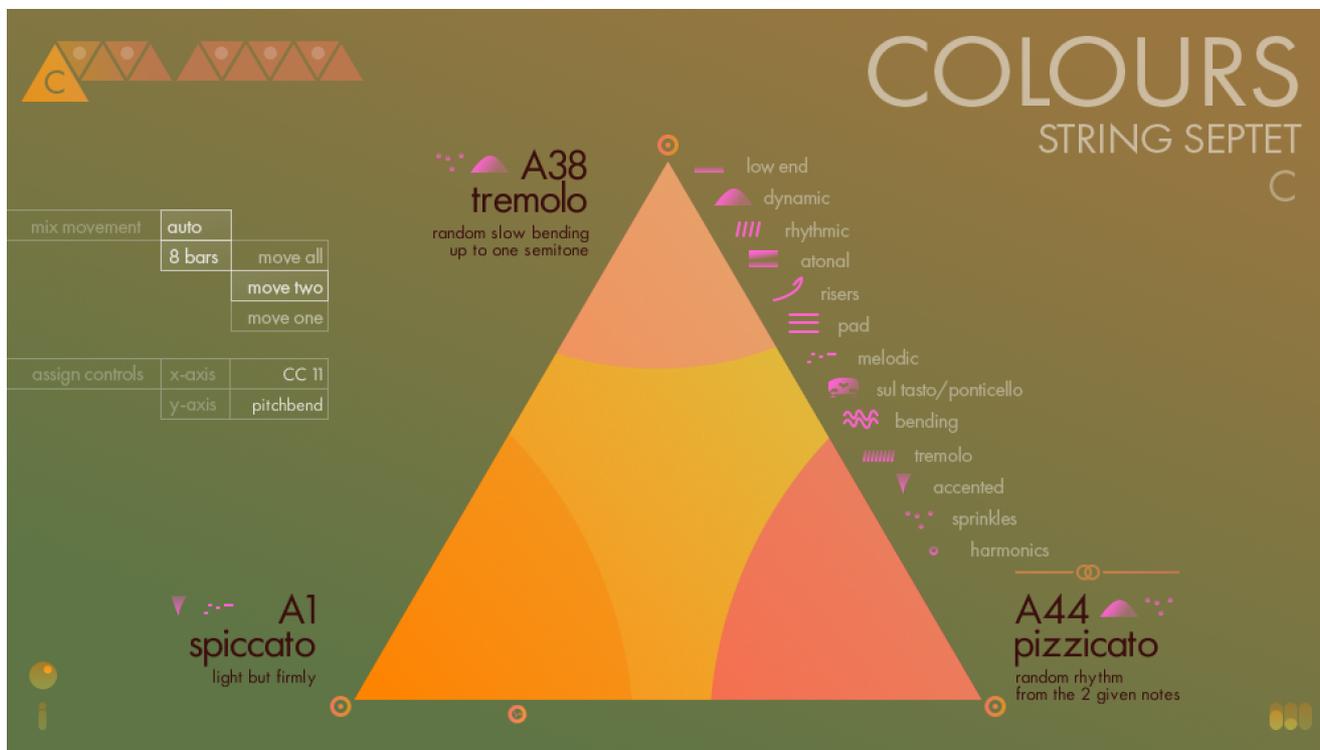
Colours String Septet has options for microphone mixing that make it possible to mix all 4 mic positions; Close, Decca Tree, Wide and Far (balcony). These are represented by 4 faders.

- Mixing levels are controlled by dragging the faders.
- Microphone mixing options are **global** and apply to the entire instance of Colours String Septet including all phrases and fields. Note that activating multiple microphone sections puts additional strain on CPU usage.
- If you plan on using just one microphone position, drag the other fader positions to their minimum values or click the bottom dots to deactivate and conserve CPU and RAM.

Click this icon to open the microphone mixing options.

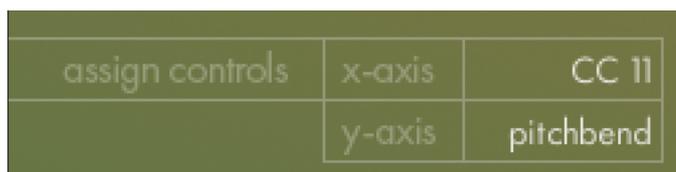
# OPTIONS PANEL

Click into the lower left of the interface to access the Options panel, where you can find controls for mix movement, MIDI CC assign controls and a pop-up explanation of the different types of phrase icons.



## MIDI CC ASSIGNMENT

Click into the Options view to access the MIDI CC assignment controls. By default the mixing triangle x-axis is set to CC 11 (expression pedal) and y-axis is set to pitch bend wheel. Drag the legends to change to any MIDI CC.



## PANNING

There's access to the panning control of the currently active corner. Drag the pan slider left and right to set up a pan position for each phrase.



---

## MIXER MOVEMENT

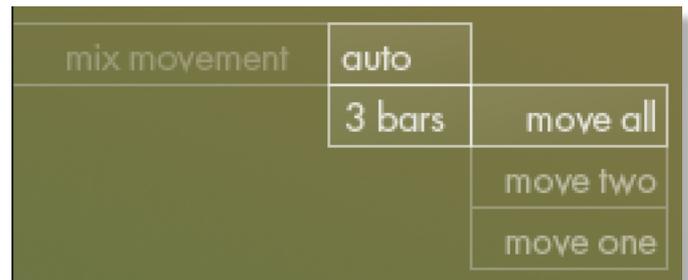
One of the most exciting things about this library is that the 3 phrases that play in each field can be mixed together; either manually via the triangle control, or automatically via preset movements or user-created movements. Once the Options menu is open, you have access to do this.

There are 3 different types of mix movement settings; Off, Automatic and Manual...

**OFF:** Enables you to set the mix levels of the 3 phrases by hand and they won't change automatically. Do this by either click-dragging within the triangle with your mouse, or use NKS controls on your Native Instruments hardware.



**AUTOMATIC:** Sets up pre-defined mixer movement patterns for one, two or all of the 3 phrase volumes. The movement is tempo-synced to your project over 1,2,3,4,6 or 8 bars.



**MANUAL:** Allows you to record your own movement. Simply option-click and drag in the triangle, creating a mixer movement of your own. Then when you next play that field, the mixer movement will be played back.



---

# PLAYING COLOURS STRING SEPTET

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

Depending on which 3 phrase combination is assigned to that preset field, and the triangle mixing options, it will trigger a combination of 3 tempo-synced string phrases. Sustain the phrase either by holding the note down or using a sustain pedal.

For every new note you press, the phrases will continue playback from the same position, making for smooth transitions.

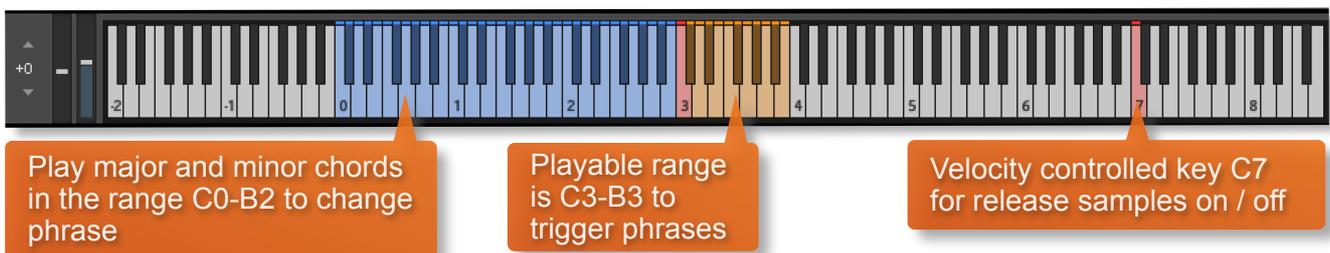
You can play simultaneous phrase combos by pressing more than one preset field key at a time.

Use the blue key range from **MIDI C0-B2** to play major and minor triad chords. The playing phrases will change in key to match whichever chord you choose. Bear in mind that many of the recorded phrases are atonal, or contain notes not naturally within the chosen chord - that's what makes Colours String Septet sound so nice and spicy!

## Chord fingering

We have designed the chord recognition system within Colours String Septet 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



---

## MOD WHEEL

By default the MOD wheel of your MIDI keyboard will control the output volume of all preset fields.

---

## RELEASE SAMPLES

Colours String Septet 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. To turn the release samples on / off use the velocity sensitive key switch at **C7**.

---

## MIXER MOVEMENT

The volume of all 3 phrases playing in a single field can be adjusted by click-dragging within the triangle. Alternatively, open the Options Panel to set up automated movement, or record your own.

---

## NATIVE INSTRUMENTS & KOMPELETE KONTROL

Colours String Septet is designed specifically for Native Instruments Komplete 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 Colours String Septet 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 Colours String Septet.

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 & RAM

Colours String Septet 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 Colours String Septet within your own system. Although we've covered some of these aspects already, the following processes will help to conserve RAM and CPU:

- Use only one microphone position and deactivate the others
- Ensure your Kontakt or DAW's audio buffer size is large enough to prevent artefacts when playing Colours String Septet.

---

## TIPS AND TRICKS

- 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 most controls within Colours String Septet to assign a MIDI CC controller. This is especially useful for the individual phrase volume faders as it then gives even greater flexibility to mix and change the relative volumes of 12 fields as they play.
- Colours String Septet's instant phrase triggering gives lots of options for syncopation and polyrhythms. Try offsetting the playback of two or more fields.
- If you are finding the default release samples too intrusive, turn them off with the velocity sensitive key switch at C7.
- Because Colours String Septet was recorded with the same microphone positions and in the same hall as other Sonokinetic orchestral libraries, you can mix-and-match them and they should sound extremely cohesive.
- If you're stuck for ideas, click the O of Colours in the top-right of the interface to randomise the 3 phrases of a single field. Option-click to randomise all phrases in all fields. Shift-click to randomise the mix movement.
- Please refer to our online tutorials concerning Colours String Septet. We offer comprehensive dedicated video tours concerning this instrument at <https://www.youtube.com/sonokinetic>

for more information, check our website:

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

follow us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/sonotweet>

check out our Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/sonokinetic/>

watch our YouTube tutorial videos:

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

access your own user area:

<https://users.sonokinetic.net>

...or if you have any questions about this product  
or any other Sonokinetic product, send us a support query at

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

all the creative best,

Sonokinetic BV

**SONOKINETIC®**