



HALION SONIC

Premier VST Workstation

What's New in HALion Sonic 1.5

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Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH



New features

64-bit support for MAC OS X

- HALion Sonic 1.5 is available as a native 64-bit plug-in and should work in any VST 2.4, VST 3 or VST 3.5 compatible native 64-bit host, such as Cubase 6. The dramatically enhanced memory address space gives new possibilities for really large setups.

New set of brass and reed programs

- With version 1.5, HALion Sonic's sample library has been expanded with 1.2 GB of new brass and reed programs including Baritone Sax, Tenor Sax, Alto Sax, Soprano Sax, Clarinet, Brass Section, Flugelhorn, Trombone, Trumpet and Muted Trumpet.
- Multi Expression Instruments and Single Layer Programs include expressions like straight, vibrato, falls, doits, scoops and shakes.

General MIDI support with new GM instrument set

- HALion Sonic 1.5 includes a dedicated new GM instrument set providing General MIDI support including MIDI program change and preloaded chorus and reverb effect.

FlexPhraser variations

- Each FlexPhraser features up to eight variations that allows you to set up different phrases or variations of phrases or loops.
- Variations can be switched using the trigger pads.

Global Latch (Hold) Reset via a user-definable MIDI CC

- All FlexPhrases that are in "Hold" mode can be reset via user-definable MIDI CC.

Four new Distortion modes for the filter

- The following new distortion modes have been added to the filter type section: Hard Clipping, Bit Reduction, Sample Rate Reduction and Sample Rate Reduction Key Follow.

HALion 3 legacy effects library included

- In addition to the standard effects, HALion Sonic 1.5 includes no less than 28 additional legacy effects from HALion 3.

New distortion insert FX

- HALion Sonic 1.5 provides a new distortion insert effect allowing to combine Tube Drive, Hard Clip, Bit Reduction and Sample Rate Reduction.

Sub presets for the pad section

- Trigger note settings and chord snapshots can be saved and loaded as presets.

Global trigger notes for trigger pads section

- Trigger note settings can be saved as default setting to be used globally to reflect a specific hardware environment. Loading programs or multi programs will not change assigned trigger notes.



Enhancements

Locking FlexPhrasers and trigger pads

- FlexPhraser and trigger pad settings can be locked to keep phrases in combination with other programs or layers.

Cut, copy, paste of programs

- Programs can be copied or moved between slots within a single instance or across multiple instances of HALion Sonic.

Controller filter per program and layer

- Most commonly used MIDI Controllers such as Sustain Pedal, Foot Controller, Foot Switch, Pitchbend Wheel, Modulation Wheel and Aftertouch can be filtered out per program and layer.

Assignable key commands

- Key commands can be set for various actions.

Prepared for optional VST Sound Instrument Sets

- HALion Sonic 1.5 supports upcoming VST Sound Instrument Sets (available from Steinberg in the future) featuring additional content paired with a customized user interface that includes the most important controls for instant sound tweaking.

MediaBay Filter for VST Sound Instrument Sets

- The results list in the MediaBay can now be limited either to a certain VST Sound Instrument Set or all available instrument sets.

Enhanced key switch functionality

- For instrument programs providing multiple expressions, it is now possible to choose either Key Switch or Temporary KS mode. In Temporary KS Mode an expression is played as long as the key switch note is held. On release of the key switch note, the expression switches back to a definable default expression.

Enhanced MIDI controller assignment

- Parameters from the Edit Page that can be controlled by quick controls, are now directly accessible via MIDI controllers, too.

Enhanced Glide functionality

- Glide can now be set to Constant Time or Constant Speed.
- The glide curve can be set to either Linear, Exponential or Quantized.

Enhanced standalone support

- HALion 1.5 supports the Steinberg hardware controllers CC121 / CI2 / CI2+ in standalone mode.
- Sample rate can be adjusted for connected audio hardware in standalone mode.

Enhanced editing for the Mod Matrix curve

- When editing curves in the Mod Matrix custom curve the value tooltip indicates the resulting parameter value.
- The scaling of the Mod Matrix curve now adapts to uni/bipolar settings.

Note Expression / Cubase improvements

Requires Cubase 6

- Note Expression support provides 8 freely assignable Note Expression controllers in the Mod Matrix.
- Note Expression editor shows all assignments with destination and depth control.
- HALion Sonic Quick Controls are automatically assigned to Cubase Quick Controls.
- Note Expression assignable as source for the global controllers in the modulation matrix.

Improved performance

- Optimized Cross Modulation-, Sync- and XOR-Oscillators results in up to 30% improved performance.
- Optimized streaming performance and loading speed.
- Improved unzipping of MIDI controllers and Note Expression controllers assigned in the modulation matrix of HALion Sonic.



Fixes

- The issue where setting the Compressor to on/off resulted in unwanted switching noise has been fixed.
- The issue in the Multi chain section where assigning a multi to a slot refocused the selected slot has been fixed.
- The issue where up/down keys passed to host when on top/bottom slot has been fixed.
- Highlighted programs in the MediaBay can now be loaded by pressing the [Enter] button.
- "Max CPU" settings below 20% now behave correctly.
- The FlexPhrase phrase "Soul Band" now plays in the correct octave.
- Using CC10 (pan) now results in visual response.
- Ableton Live 8.1.3 no longer crashes if USB-eLicenser Key is not connected.
- Mute Solo misbehaviour has been fixed.
- The issue where chords from one trigger pad stole notes from another trigger pad has been fixed.
- Automation of QC's now work for the startup preset.
- Loading a sound via context menu or dropdown arrow on slot now focus the slot directly.
- Save multi program dialog now shows "Save Multi Program" in the caption.
- Mod Matrix: Unintended editing of curvature of another section has been fixed.
- Custom curve value tooltips are now readable.
- Wrong curvature values have been fixed.

- The issue with Logic 9, where instruments with running FlexPhraser did not play when jumping to part beginning via spacebar has been fixed.
- The default sound "Sonic Dancer" now loads with no offset on the sphere.
- Value tooltip in custom curve is now displayed correctly.
- Pan of Slot 1 now has the correct value when instantiating the plug-in.
- Improved Amp Simulator CPU performance.
- The separators now appear between columns in the results list of the MediaBay.
- Startup preset (Layer 1) now displays the correct phrase.
- Slice layer selection is now possible during playback.
- The key command issue where the Cubase transport functions could not be controlled via the "Enter" key, due to the focus on the "Load" page has been fixed.
- When loading a sound via "Load Page" the Program will now be added to the dedicated HALion Sonic instance.
- Improved slice selection in Key Map editor.
- The MIDI Controller list in the Mod Matrix has been improved.