

Xphraze 1.2 New Features & Improvements



General Enhancements

- Probably the first thing you will notice when you start Xphraze 1.2 is that the phraze generator cells are now blue instead of orange. This is a purely aesthetic change intended to make Xphraze easier on the eyes.
- Right clicking ([Ctrl]-click Mac) any silver metallic surface now produces a global contextual menu featuring important information about Xphraze and useful internet links.



All buttons in Xphraze 1.2 are now more clearly displayed. Bright is 'on' or 'selected', dark is 'off' or 'unselected'.

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A number of Xphraze Xpansions are currently in completion and due for release in the second quarter of 2004. Xphraze version 1.2 is the minimum software version necessary for use with any Xpansions.

Let's take a section by section look at the new features and changes in Xphraze 1.2.

Patch Selector Panel



The Patch Selector Panel in Xphraze 1.2 has a number of very useful new features.

Global Voices

This meter strip display allows you to visually monitor the number of voices being used by Xphraze at any time. For practical reasons the meter has a range of up to 64 voices although an Xphraze combi has a theoretical limit of 1024.

Voices

The four smaller meter strips (directly above patch slots A-D) display the number of voices being used by each patch. For practical reasons the meter has a range of up to 16 voices although an Xphraze patch has a theoretical limit of 256.

Mute/Solo

Each patch slot in Xphraze now has it's own mute and solo buttons. Simply click the left LED switch to mute a patch (it goes yellow) or the right to solo a patch (it will change to red). Any number of patches can be additionally soloed or muted for fast and flexible monitoring while editing.

Filter Section

New Filter Type

Xphraze 1.2 features an additional filter type.



Selected by switching HQ in the Filter Section off

Characteristically this new filter type is more resonant, fat and gritty, great for hard sounds and techno, probably you'll want to use the original Xphraze filter type for soft, delicate or natural sounds.

The Filter Section 'Analog' control has no effect on the new Xphraze filter type.

Patch Settings Module

Yellow activity LEDs now flash more visibly whenever a patch recieves MIDI information on MIDI channels 1-4.



The Arpeggiator in Xphraze no longer retriggers when MIDI note-on or note-off information is received, allowing you to use the arpeggiator purely as a pitch modulation source. To control whether (or when) notes are triggered when using the arpeggiator, simply set cell triggers in the phraze generator as usual.

- The arpeggiator pattern is not restarted when additional notes are played. All additional notes are appended to the current arpeggio sequence.

- Playing a single note will produce a single trigger.

Phraze Generator

Audition Mode

To make the selection of multisamples easier and more intuitive a preview/audition mode has been implemented.



To activate Audition mode click the small speaker button to the left of the display area

With Audition mode activated, any multisamples chosen in a cell will play for up to 1 second or until the next multisample is selected.

This is a global parameter, any time you instanciate Xphraze it will remember the setting previously used.

Multisample Selection Via Mouse Wheel Or Computer Keyboard.

It is now possible to select the previous or next multisamples for a cell via mouse wheel or computer keyboard. Simply select a cell in the Phraze Generator and move your mouse wheel up for next, down for previous or use the page up/down arrows on your computer keyboard.

In drum mode individual drum samples are selected or hold shift for multisamples.

Safer Mouse Drawing In Cells

The drawing of cell values in the phraze generator is handled a little differently in Xphraze 1.2. This is to reduce the chance of accidental editing mistakes.

To draw cell values in the phraze generator now, simply double click and hold your left mouse button and draw cell changes as before.

Reverse Sample Playback

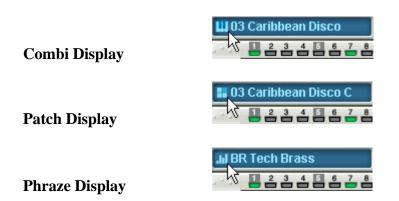
Clicking any cell trigger for a second time (the cell trigger goes orange) selects reverse sample playback for that cell. Multiple cell selection is possible.



Combi Name Display

The name of the current Combi is now shown in the name display field above the phraze generator.

To toggle between Combi, Patch or Phraze name view, click the icon in the left of the display.



File Browser

Save Combi Contextual Menu

The option 'Save Combi' has been added to the Browser contextual menu.

To use, right-click ([Ctrl]-click Mac) anywhere in the File Browser.

Advanced Features Page

Use Best Quality For Export

Best quality is automatically used for Audio exports/mixdowns regardless of the Xphraze Setup quality.

This feature's default value is off.

New Vector Synthesis Editor



The Xphraze 1.2 vector display has been improved to show up to sixteen vector curves and allows up to 128 envelope points.

In hosts that allow key commands to plugins, left/right cursors can be used to select the previous/next vector envelope point for editing.

Damping In Master Delays

Both the stereo delay and the cross delay now feature a damping parameter, individually controllable for the left and right channels.

Advanced Page Improvements

- The keyboard display in the User multisamples Import section now shows octave numbers.

FX Section

Tweaks & Optimizations

& All FX mix and Vector mix curves were formally linear but are now equal power.

Equal power curves are convex shaped curves designed to keep the energy or power levels constant throughout fades.

- & Micro volume changes to level and filter parameters are much faster and punchier.
- Xphraze 1.2 has been further performance optimised. Users with slower computers should notice an obvious increase in performance of up to 30 percent. The 'best' quality mode has been specifically optimised.