

XFade and XSwitch in Halion Symphonic Orchestra

In Halion Symphonic Orchestra there are four main program types, each with its specific way of controlling volume and layer crossfading / switching. Two of the four programs control switching of layers, XFade and XSwitch. In the most demanding and authentic programs, the crescendo controller smoothly blends up to 4 layers at a time. This gives the best expression at the cost of the Halion Symphonic Orchestra having to play up to four stereo voices per note.

XFade

In the XFade programs the crescendo controller blends through the different layers (e.g. from pianissimo to fortissimo) by crossfading between the layers. This gives the most authentic sound and behavior, however it also puts the highest load on CPU and hard disk since all layers have to be played at the same time - audible or not. This means that e.g. in the violin programs up to four stereo voices are played for each note.

XSwitch

The XSwitch programs are the economical alternative to the XFade versions. They behave identically but the expression controller switches from layer to layer rather than blending them into each other. Volume, however, is controlled continuously.

The disadvantage of audible transitions yields an unbeatable advantage: Only one stereo voice per note is used, so these programs can be used on slower systems.