

Hollow Sun

Hand Crafted Sample Libraries

VINTAGE STRING SYNTHS USER GUIDE

The screenshot displays five distinct vintage string synth patches from the Hollow Sun library, each with its own control panel. The patches are:

- ARP|Solina:** Features a Solina String Ensemble. Controls include 16' Bass (-5.5 dB), 8' Viola (-13.3 dB), 4' Violins (0.0 dB), and a Filter (Off). Envelope settings are Attack (351.7 ms) and Release (1.7k ms).
- Opus III:** Features an Opus III String Ensemble. Controls include 8' and 4' sections (both at 0.0 dB) and a Filter (Off). Envelope settings are Attack (575.7 ms) and Release (2.0k ms).
- Eminent 310:** Features an Eminent 310 String Ensemble. Controls include 8' and 4' sections (both at 0.0 dB) and a Filter (Off). Envelope settings are Attack (402.3 ms) and Release (2.1k ms).
- PolyMoog:** Features a Polymoog Keyboard. Controls include Vox Humana Level (-0.3 dB), Strings I (-90 dB), Strings II (-90 dB), and a Filter (Off). Envelope settings are Attack (823.5 ms) and Release (2.1k ms).
- RS202|VP330:** Features an RS202 / VP330 String Ensemble. Controls include VP330 Choir (-3.2 dB), RS202 Strings (8' + 4' at 0.0 dB), 4' section (-90 dB), and a Filter (Off). Envelope settings are Attack (823.5 ms) and Release (2.1k ms).

Each patch interface includes a Master, Control Panel, and Effects section at the bottom.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Hollow Sun Vintage String Synth Collection. It features samples from some of the most desirable instruments of the 70s and 80 and recreates their lush, swirling string sounds.

ABOUT THE SYNTHS

Four of the best strings synths ever made are included in the collection.

The Dutch manufactured Eminent 310 Organ seems an unlikely presence in a collection of strings synths but it had a fabulous string synth, arguably the one that started it all and which was used by Jean-Michel Jarre extensively on his earlier albums.

The Solina String Ensemble was essentially that string synth section ripped out and put in a more portable case that featured only the string sound. Although you'd think they'd be identical, there's quite a difference in sound. ARP were later to license the Solina from Eminent and sold it re-badged with the ARP logo (in fact, when they showed it a trade fair for the first time, they simply put ARP stickers over the Eminent badge ... unfortunately, they forgot to do the same on the instrument's music stand which kind of gave the game away!).

The Moog Opus was a curious thing released in the early 80s long after the appeal for string synths has died with the advent of polysynths. With their PolyMoog consigned to history, Moog's attempt to re-enter the polyphonic synth arena was too little too late to compete with the like of Roland, Sequential and Oberheim. Still, it made a lovely string sound.

The Roland RS202 produces quite a different string synth sound to the others in that it's quite 'edgy' and not as lush. It is still a distinctive sound in its own right, however.

The Roland VP330 was a curious hybrid of string synth (using the same circuitry as the RS202) and vocoder but it also had a setting that produced a very magical vocal sound which was quite majestic when mixed with the strings.

Also included is the PolyMoog keyboard as a bonus.

In all the instruments, I have extended the bottom end of the keyboard range. This is not authentic, of course, as the samples are transposed down out of their range but it makes a wonderful bass sound ... so why not?!

The Kontakt version has been carefully scripted to recreate the front panels of the originals as closely as possible with some obvious advantages too. This short manual will give you a guide to operation.

PAGE TABS

At the bottom of each synth are three tabs which select different operating areas. Click on the tabs as required.



MASTER PAGE



Here, you can set parameters related to velocity, keyboard range and tuning. It is functionally identical for every string synth in the collection.

VELOCITY

VELOCITY CURVE Select from a variety of different velocity.

VEL > VOL Set velocity sensitivity to taste with this control.

INPUT

RANGE Set the keyboard range for the selected instrument. Click **LEARN** and play a low and then a high note on your MIDI controller to set the range.

TRANPOSE You can transpose the instrument with this control.

TUNING

COARSE Tune the instrument in semitone steps.

FINE Fine tune the instrument in cents.

PITCHBEND

DOWN Set the interval (in semitones) for downwards pitch bend.

UP Set the interval (in semitones) for upwards pitch bend.

CONTROL PANEL PAGE – SOLINA



This is the meat and potatoes of all the string synths' operation, where you can layer the various string (and sometimes other) sounds as well as set the overall tone and envelope shape. In many ways, this control panel offers the advantage over the originals in that the the various 'layers' can be mixed in variable amounts whereas the original instruments only allowed them to be ON or OFF. The controls are:

STRINGS

- 16' BASS Set the level of the deep contrabass here.
- 8' VIOLA Set the level of the 8' strings here.
- 4' VIOLINS Set the level of the high strings here

FILTER

- TONE You can modify the basic tone of all layers here. Fully counter clockwise, the filter is disabled but with this one simple control, you can set a variety of different timbres that cover the gamut of popular string synth sounds.

BRASS

- HORNS Set the level of the (ahem) 'Horns' here.
- TRUMPET Set the level of the 'Trumpet' sound here.

ENVELOPE

- ATTACK Set the attack time for all layers here.
- RELEASE Set the release time for all layers here.

CONTROL PANEL PAGE – MOOG OPUS



The controls are:

STRINGS

8' Set the level of the 8' strings here.

4' Set the level of the high strings here

FILTER

TONE You can modify the basic tone of the two string layers here. Fully counter clockwise, the filter is disabled.

ENVELOPE

ATTACK Set the attack time for the strings here.

RELEASE Set the release time for the strings here.

CONTROL PANEL PAGE – EMINENT



The controls for the Eminent are:

STRINGS

8' Set the level of the 8' strings here.

4' Set the level of the high strings here

FILTER

TONE You can modify the basic tone of the two string layers here. Fully counter clockwise, the filter is disabled.

ENVELOPE

ATTACK Set the attack time for the strings here.

RELEASE Set the release time for the strings here.

CONTROL PANEL PAGE – RS202 / VP330



This is actually two strings synths combined in one. It includes the strings from the Roland RS202 and the famous choir sound from their VP330 (or 'Vocoder Plus' as it was also known). The controls are:

VP330

CHOIR Sets the level of the VP330 choir sound.

STRINGS

8' + 4' Set the level of the 8' + 4' strings here.

4' Set the level of the high strings here

FILTER

TONE You can modify the basic tone of the two string layers here. Fully counter clockwise, the filter is disabled.

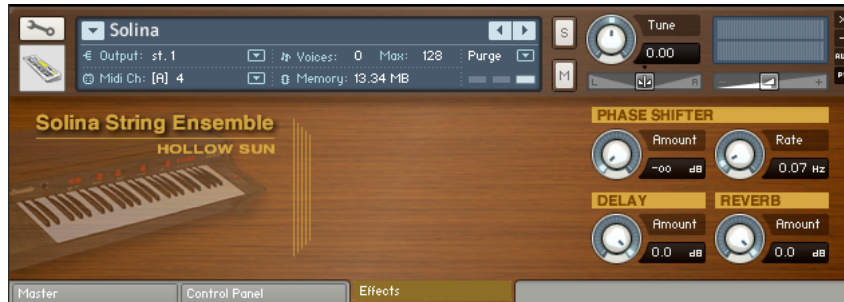
ENVELOPE

ATTACK Set the attack time for the instruments here.

RELEASE Set the release time for the instruments here.

EFFECTS PAGE

If the CONTROL PANEL is the meat and potatoes for each of the synths, the EFFECTS page is the dessert trolley!



The page is identical for all the instruments. The controls are as follows:

PHASE SHIFTER

AMOUNT

Set the amount of phase shifting effect here. It is fully variable and gradually introduces more effect as the control is turned clockwise.

RATE

Sets the speed of the phase shifting effects.

The phase shifting effect is stereo. It uses an LFO where one channel is inverted so while one phase shift is rising in one channel, the effects is descending in the other. This gives a very 'swirly' sound befitting the string synth sound.

DELAY

AMOUNT

Sets the amount of delay. The delay times, etc., are set to give a good stereo, ambient 'fattening' of the basic sound.

REVERB

AMOUNT

Sets the amount of reverb applied. This uses the simple reverb effect (to keep CPU usage to a minimum) and is set to a hall ambience appropriate for the lush string sounds and big layered textures.

The small print...

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USING THIS WITH THE FREE KONTAKT PLAYER

You CAN use this collection with the free Kontakt Player and it will play and work perfectly but with the following restrictions:

- There is a time limit. This varies according to the version of the Player you have.
- You can edit the sounds to your requirements exactly as though you have a full working copy of Kontakt but you cannot save any edits or tweaks you make.
- When the Player times out, you can restart it immediately and continue (although you will, of course, have to reload everything).

To enjoy Hollow Sun's Vintage String Synth Collection to its full, it is recommended you buy a full version of it.