



ELOTTRONIX XL

USER MANUAL

Features

Elottronix XL is an emulation of the Robert Fripp's delay effect known as "Frippertronics", which consists in two Revox B-77 making a continuous loop. This *XL* version supposes a complete rewrite of the old *Elottronix*, and adds a ton of new possibilities:

- Two independent routable delay lines, with a maximum delay time of 80 seconds.
- Tempo can be synced to host BPM, by using the Host Tempo sliders to indicate the number of bars in correlation with the tempo selected in the host. However, there's also the possibility to put the tempo in Manual mode (M-Tempo), or even combine both modes (one delay line in Host, the other in Manual).
- LFO controlled Pan per delay line, with definable Bar Divisions, Pitch and Waveform (these options are available only when using Host mode). Pan can also be static (Manual mode), and the spatial position controlled by a knob.
- Two global Pan modes: normal and inverted.
- Rehearsal option: when switched ON, the incoming signal doesn't pass through the delay lines, so you can try different alternatives before inserting them into the loop.
- Biquad-X multimode filter per delay line, with 9 different modes.
- Tape machine: this module generates tape hiss, which can be pitched up and down. From version 1.1, we have incorporated a warmth/saturation unit, which adds "analog" feel to the delay lines.
- Visual metronome.
- Wave recording possibilities from the plugin interface itself.
- Completely automatable via MIDI CC , with the option of customizing controllers by using the new MIDI Learning feature.
- Low CPU use (5% Athlon XP 2400+).
- Includes 8 Presets to give an idea of the effect (4 for sends, 4 for inserts). But what *Elottronix XL* does can't be covered with presets as you'll discover very soon...

How to use

The Input Modes

In *Elottronix XL* you have basically two modes of recording, selectable via the [IN MODE] buttons:

- an **stereo mode**, which routes left input to Line1 and right input to Line2 at the same time, this is good if you have a stereo source and want to maintain the stereo separation;
- a **dual mono mode**, which routes L+R input (mixed) to Line1 or Line2 (selectable by using the [MONO PATH] section), so you can record something onto Line1, hear it looping, then change to Line2 and record again. As you can see, each Line also has its independent tempo and pan controls, and filters. Delay Line 1 is modified by Filter Line 1, the same applies for Line 2.



A good tip is using the [REHEARSAL] button to test riffs before they enter the loop. With this button engaged, all what you play won't be recorded, but you'll still be able to hear the continuous loop of the parts you've recorded before.

If you're using the plugin as a send effect, turn the Global input [DRY] knob to 0%, and the [WET] to 100%. If you have placed *Elottronix XL* as insert, then the [DRY] and [WET] knob will help you to mix the original and delayed signal.

The Delay Lines

Here you can distinguish between two parts, starting from left to right:

- the **TEMPO SYNC** options, which let you choose if you want to sync the delay to your host tempo (in bars) or make it manual. If you select [HOST TEMPO], the [M-TEMPO] knob won't have any effect.
- the **PAN SYNC LFO** options, again you can select between activating the synced to host LFO [HOST LFO PAN], or letting it manual and simply use the [PAN] knob to move the delay line from left to right. Also, this [PAN] knob will have no use if you choose [HOST LFO PAN] mode. Finally, the [PITCH] knob, which works independent of the sync mode.



The Biquad X Filters

- Each Delay Line correspond to one Filter Line. This advanced filter has 9 different modes: Low Pass, High Pass, Low Shelf, High Shelf, All Pass, Band Reject, Band Pass CSG, Band PassC0PK and Peak. Optional parameters to control are [GAIN], [CUTOFF] and [Q]. Activating these filters is optional, use the [ON/OFF] button to select.



The Tape Machine

It's the last stage the sound passes through, before going to the main out. Here you can add saturation with the [WARMTH] knob, or tape-ish noise switching ON the [NOISE] button. The [N-GAIN] knob controls the amount of hiss that enters the loop, and the [N-PITCH] button lets you modify the noise pitch to better suit your needs.



The Wave Recorder

Sound recording starts as soon as you move the slider to the [RECORD] position, and stops when moving it back to [STOP]. You can type a different name for each new .wav file in the [FILE] section (default .wav file is called eloxl-wav01), and also change its output folder (by default, wave files are created in the plugin directory).



The MIDI Learning Unit

From version 1.1, with the addition of this Midi Learning Unit, you can remap your custom midi controllers to knobs/sliders. To do it, follow these steps:

- 1) Press the [LEARN] button. The orange led will turn more yellow;
- 2) Move a slider/knob in the plugin;
- 3) Move a button in your external MIDI hardware controller to assign the slider/knob to it. The yellow led will return to its original orange color.
- 4) Repeat the process with each one of the knobs/sliders you want to map.
- 5) If you're not happy with the results, use the [RESET] button.



The Visual Metronome

It's a very useful tool when you're creating an improvisation and need some visual reference to guide you. This metronome consists on four yellow leds, which will light in synchro with the musical tempo selected in your host application. [ON/OFF] button alternatively puts the metronome into function or stops it, and [RESET] makes it start again.

It's important to note that this metronome doesn't sync to tempos in manual mode, it will always sync to your host BPM.



MIDI Controllers Reference

Here you have the complete list of MIDI controllers *Elotronix XL* responds to by default:



Tips and Additional Info

- Depending on your host, if you change the BPM tempo when *Elottronix XL* is running, you may need to switch the plugin OFF and the ON again, so it can detect the new BPM and correctly sync to it. Same happens with the visual metronome.
- Take into account that some controls won't work depending of the mode you've selected (Host or Manual). So don't worry about knobs which don't seem to respond, just take your time to learn the logical of this VST. It's easy once you're in...
- Use the "Mono Path" buttons, they'll give you a lot of possibilities, as you can have two different loops, one per delay line, and process them individually with the Biquad X filters or the pans.
- Take into account that only a few hosts feature true stereo input for send effects, they are usually mono, so the "true Stereo" input mode is only recommended when using *Elottronix XL* as an insert effect.
- This plugin uses intensively the RAM of your computer, so the longer the delay time, the more buffer and RAM (and probably swap file) it will need. We recommend a minimum of 128 MB to run *Elottronix XL* smoothly.

Version history

v1.40 (05/03/2004)

- All the knobs have been re-rendered, and now they use 75 steps for the animation, instead of 28 as in former versions of Elottronix XL. This way, their movement is much smoother now, and it's easier to reach intermediate values.
- Added automation MIDI CCs for the Delay On/Off buttons.
- Midi learning unit updated, incorporating the latest Haupt's Midi Meister .sep module (v1.11).
- New preset bank. The bank is still only 8 presets long, but each one of them is different now, much less "noisier" from the start than they were in previous versions. Good for people who never worked with Elottronix XL before ;)
- .DLL name changed. As the new features we introduced in v1.3 resulted in incompatibilities with presets saved in older versions, we've decided to rename the .DLL, so you can use this version along with v1.0, v1.1 or v1.2, instead of overwriting it. To summarize: this v1.4 is fully compatible with v1.3, but not with older v1.x versions.

v1.30 (03/20/2004)

- Added wave recording capabilities. User can enter the name and location for the output .wav file (if no change is made, it will be stored in the plugin folder by default). This new feature is possible thanks to the DH_Wavewriter.sep module, written by Dave Haupt.
- New user manual included with the plugin, now in PDF format.
- Midi learning unit updated, incorporating the latest Midi Meister .sep module (v1.1). Now the file containing the control assignments is saved under the VST Plugins directory, and its format has been changed to .txt.
- Tape noise controls MIDI CC's have been changed to avoid coincidences.
- Delay On/Off buttons for Line 1 and Line 2 are now correctly displayed as automation parameters.
- Minor graphical enhancements.

v1.20 (01/12/2004)

- Recompiled with latest SynthEdit version to benefit from CPU improvements.

v1.11 (08/21/2003)

- Added a visual metronome (4 yellow leds). It automatically synchronizes to host tempo (doesn't work in Manual mode).
- Incorporates the latest revision of the "CK Big Delay Lpf" .sep module, by Chris Kerry, which fixes a bug that made *Elottronix XL* consuming lots of Windows Virtual Memory. As a result, this v1.11 also uses less CPU resources than the former v1.1.

v1.1 (05/29/2003)

- Tape noise is now routed through the delays and filters, so it enters the loop.
- Added vintage style saturator/warmth unit as the final stage of the audio chain.
- Added MIDI learning unit.
- Added host tempo bars can now be adjusted separately for each delay line. Also, the knobs have been replaced with sliders, which make adjustments much more precise. Their steps are quantized to 1/2 bar.
- Added Dry/Wet input knobs. Use the "Dry" knob to route signal directly from the inputs to the outputs, useful for having a reference of the original source when using the plugin as insert effect. Turn it off if you use the plugin as send.
- Added stereo/mono input mode ("In mode"). "Mono" is similar to v1.0 mode, L and R inputs are mixed and sent to Line1, Line2 or Line1+2, depending your settings. However, "Stereo" mode routes L input to Line1 and R input to Line2 and, this way, you can get a true stereo signal path, but losing the routing options.
- Added readout for the Manual tempo ("M-Tempo") knobs. This way you can set the tempo in steps of 1 second.
- Added Global output knob. It works as a kind of "Master Out" volume control.
- "Loop" knob renamed to "Decay" for better matching its real use. Move it to the left to make the loop fade out smoothly.
- "Volume" and "Pitch" knobs in the tape unit have been renamed to "N-Gain" and "N-Pitch". The "N" prefix indicates "noise". The "Power" ON/OFF switch is also rebranded to "Noise", as it only affects the tape noise but not the "Warmth" knob. Finally, "Pan" knob was removed, as it lost its functionality due to the new audio routings introduced.
- Text "Route In" changed to "Mono Path" for better understanding.
- Fixed a bug in the Manual tempo knobs. Their maximum range was limited to 10 seconds, instead of 80.

v1.0 (04/13/2003)

- Initial release.

Installation

Unzip the file Elottronix XL v1.4.dll into your VST Plugins folder. The plugin can be used either as Send or Insert effect.

Credits

- Concept and Main Programming by **xxazzz**
- Additional programming, graphical interface and final testing by **sahul**

Special Thanks

- To **Unkargherth** for the U-Biquad X filter module, **David Haupt** for his Midi Control Meister, Soft Distortion and DH_Wavewriter modules, and **Chris Kerry** for the CK_BIG_DELAY_LPF module. Without them this VST wouldn't have been possible. Visit their websites for more excellent SE modules at <http://www.dehaupt.com/SynthEdit/> and <http://www.chriskerry.f9.co.uk> .
- This plugin has been made with **Synth Edit**, <http://www.synthedit.com> . Thanks Jeff!!

Contact

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