TAL-Pha

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TAL-Pha

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Introduction

The TAL-Pha is a very accurate emulation of the 80's Alpha Juno II and MKS-50 synthesiser. It is modelled and calibrated after our hardware MKS-50 rack.

All sounds are generated in real time and without the use of samples. It has the same endless modulation possibilities as the hardware and also contains useful additional functions.

It works within the most common audio hosts as *Ableton Live*, *Cubase*, *Logic Pro*, *Garage Band*, *Reaper*. There is no standalone version available. Try the unregistered demo version to be sure that the plug-in works in your environment. The demo will play a noisy sound every minute.

TAL-Pha

Installation

Windows

Requirements:

- 64 bit sequencer software (VST 2.4, VST3, CLAP or AAX compatible)
- Windows 7 or newer

Installation:

- Download the zip file and unpack it.

- Run the installer for the VST3, AAX or CLAP version.

- VST2: please copy the plug-in manually to your hosts VST2 directory. The dll file inside the zip is the VST2 plugin.

- You can also copy the other plug-in formats manually without running an installer:

VST3 Directory:
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

AAX Directory:
    C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins

Some hosts may also need a restart or plug-in rescan.

If you use Ableton Live and the plug-in does not show up after a VST plug-in rescan, try to disable and re-enable VST plug-in support.

-

Uninstall:

Just delete the plug-in file to uninstall it.

TAL-Pha

OS X

Requirements:

- OSX 10.9 or higher.

- 64 bit sequencer software (VST 2.4, VST3 or AAX compatible)

Installation:
- Download the zip-file, unpack it and run the installer.

- The installer copies the plug-in to the right directory. It installs all available versions by default (VST, VST3, AU, CLAP, AAX).

Uninstall:
Delete the plug-in. It's located in following directories:

/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/VST/
/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components/

Some hosts may also need a plug-in rescan or at least a restart.

You maybe need a macOS restart for the Audio Unit.

If you use Ableton Live and the plug-in does not show up after a VST plug-in rescan, try to disable and re-enable VST plug-in support.

TAL-Pha

Registration

You must purchase and register the plug-in to disable the demo mode, which fades in white noise every minute.
The plug-in displays a dialog in which you can insert the serial key that you received when you purchased the product. Please make sure that you insert the entire serial key including the header and footer:

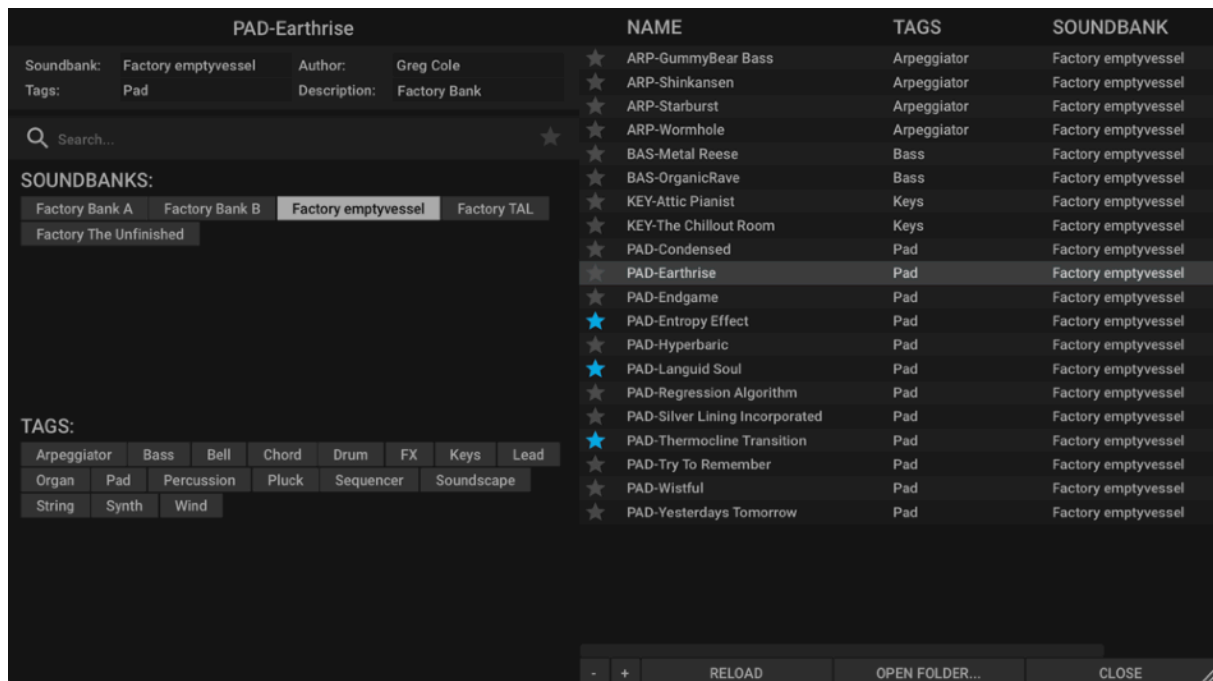-- COPY LICENSE KEY FROM HERE --
...
-- COPY UNTIL HERE --

Then press OK to verify the serial and disable the demo mode.
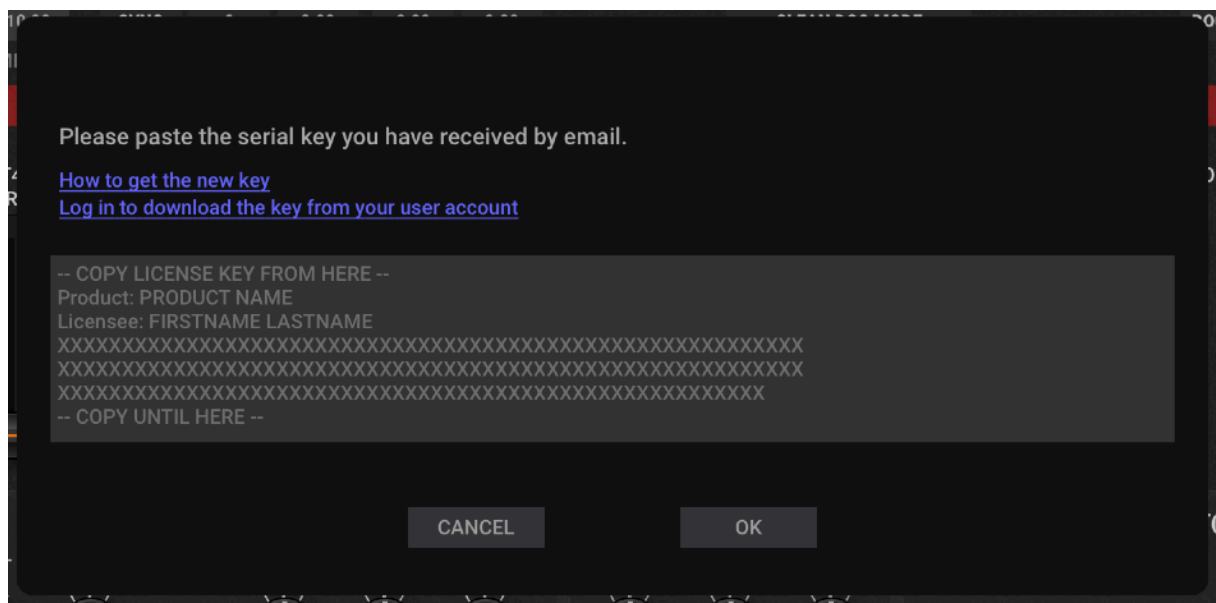
You maybe restart the host after the registration to make sure that also other plug-in instances are registered.

TAL-Pha

Preset Browser

A click at the *File* Icon opens the plug-in preset browser:

Search Presets
It's possible to search presets by text or only show favourite presets.

Soundbanks and Tags
It's possible to filter presets by the bank or by tags.

Rename Preset
It's possible to rename the preset directly in the preset browser with a click on the preset name on the top left.

Edit Preset Properties
It's possible to direct edit the soundbank, author or description in the browser. Every preset can have multiple tags. Use a space, comma or semicolon to enter more than one tag.

Reload
Triggers a full reload of the preset list. This is required when you add new presets into the preset folder or if you created new tags.
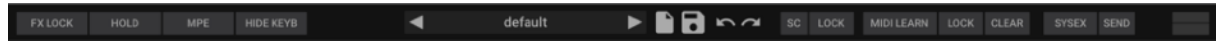
Open Folder…
Opens the preset folder in finder or explorer.

Favorite
Presets can be marked as favourite when clicking on the star icon. It's possible to search them when clicking on the star icon on the right of the search text.

TAL-Pha

Options

FX LOCK
Effect settings stay the same also when changing presets.

HOLD
Holds the note or arpeggiator. Can also be controlled with the sustain pedal.

MPE
Enables MPE mode.

HIDE KEYB
Shows / hides the keyboard at the bottom of the plugin.

PRESET NAME
A click on the preset name opens the menu. Its possible to switch presets with the arrow keys.

FILE ICON
Opens the preset browser.

DISK ICON
Opens the "Save as.." dialog.

Undo / Redo Icons
Undo / Redo parameter changes.

VT
Opens the voice tuning dialog. This allows to tune every voice separately.

LOCK
Locks the current voice tuning.

MIDI LEARN
Enables MIDI LEARN. Move a software slider followed by a hardware MIDI slider. Disable MIDI LEARN or make the next mapping.

LOCK
Locks the MIDI mapping.

CLEAR
Deletes all MIDI mappings.

SYSEX
If this option is enabled, the synth will send Alpha Juno / MKS-50 sysex messages to the MIDI output when a plug-in parameter changes.
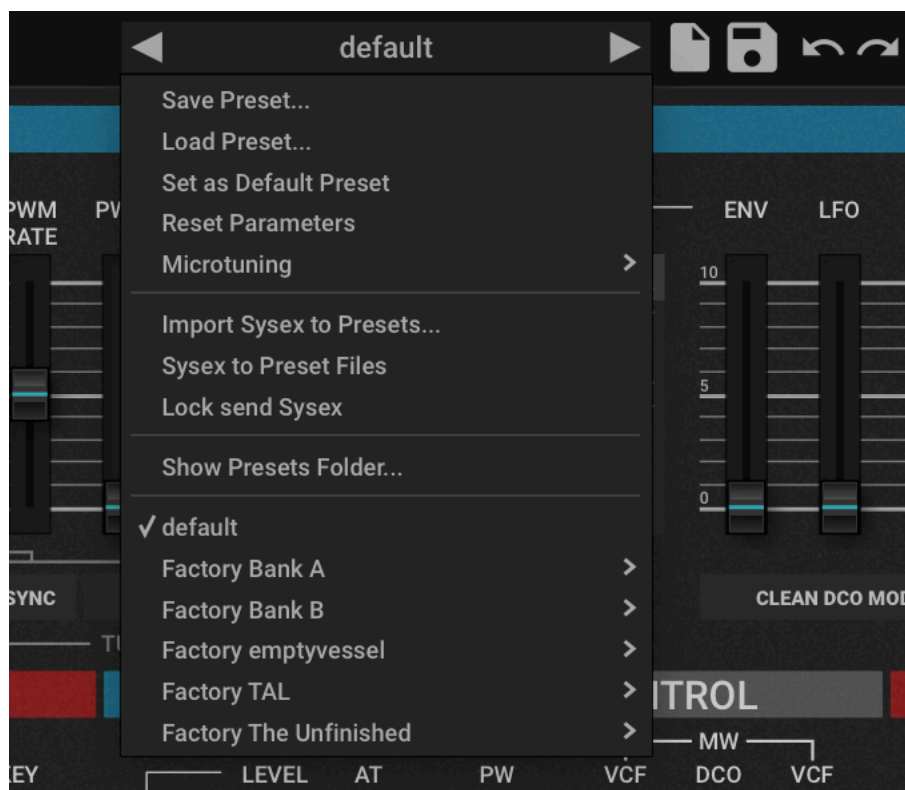
TAL-Pha

Use this to control a hardware device. You need a DAW that let you send the plug-ins MIDI sysex output to a hardware device.

SEND
This sends the current plug-in settings with sysex to the hardware.

Menu

A click on the preset name on the top opens the *Menu:*

Save / Load Preset…
Save and load presets from the file system with the native file browser of your operating system.

Save as Default Preset
Replaces the Default preset in the root preset folder. This presets loads when you create a new instance of the instrument. You can save your default MIDI Mappings within this preset.

Reset Parameters
Resets and restore the plug-ins default state.

TAL-Pha

Microtuning
Loads *.tun files for a microtonal tuning of the current preset or enable MTS.

Import Sysex to Presets…
This will import Alpha Juno or MKS-50 sysex files with the ending "syx". It will automatically save the presets as TAL-Pha preset files in a folder with the name of the file.

Sysex to Preset Files
This creates preset files in the case the plug-in receives Alpha Juno or MKS-50 presets via sysex through MIDI input.

Lock send Sysex
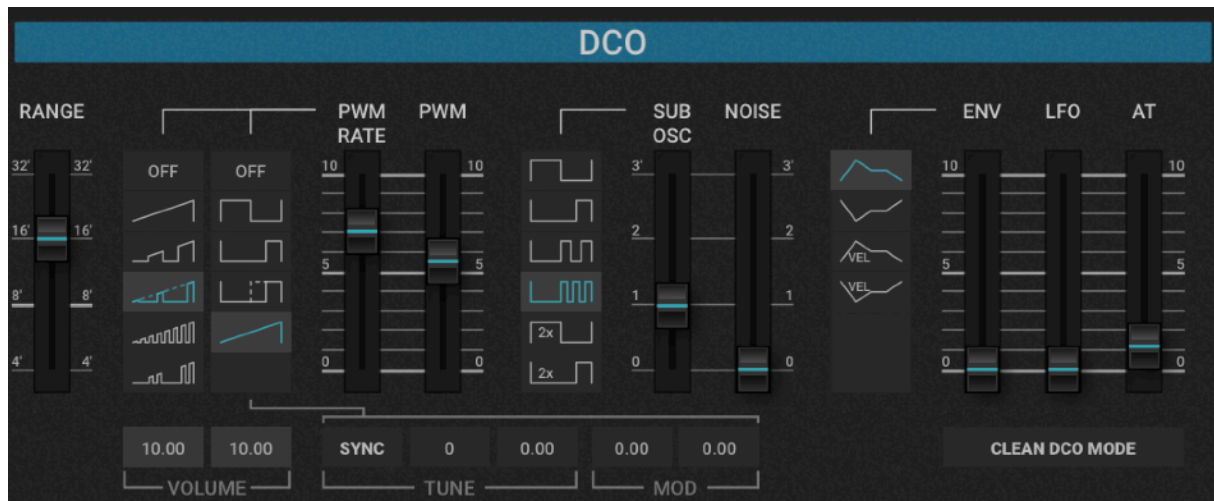This makes sure that SYSEX on the top right of the plug-in stays active or inactive also when changing presets.

Show Presets Folder…
Opens the native file browser at the plug-ins preset location. This is the place where you can copy additional presets.

Presets List
The last section contains all presets located in the plug-ins default preset location.

TAL-Pha

DCO

This contains the DCO (digital controlled oscillator) settings.

RANGE
The octave of the DCO. 8' is default.

SAW waveform
Different options for the saw waveform. The icon shows how they look. Every type produces a different audio spectrum.
The one with the dashed line can be modulated by with the PWM slider.

SQUARE waveform
Different options for the square waveform with different pulse width. The one with the dashed line can be modulated by with the PWM slider. There is an additional SAW that isn't there on the hardware.

PWM RATE
Sets the rate of the PWM modulation. At zero no modulation happens.

PWM
Sets the intensity of the pulse width modulation. When PWM RATE is zero, then the slider position is the actual pulse width.

SUB OSC waveform
The sub-oscillator waveform. The icon shows the different options. The two lowest are two octaves lower. The others are one octave lower.

SUB OSC
The sub-oscillator volume.

NOISE
The noise volume.

ENV modes
We have four different envelope modulation modes.

- Normal
- Inverted
- Normal depending on velocity
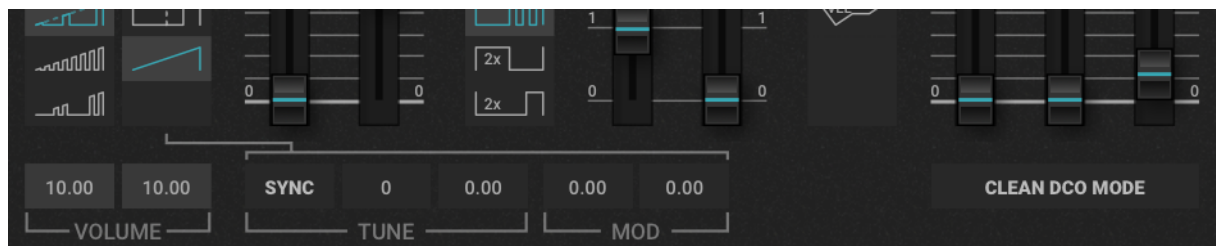- Inverted depending on velocity

ENV
The envelope modulation amount.

LFO
The LFO modulation amount.

AT
The amount aftertouch add to LFO modulation. Same for MPE.

The plug-in has some more additions the hardware does not have to create new and interesting sounds inside this emulation. They are placed under the sliders.

VOLUME
These two sliders controls the volume of the saw and the square.

TUNE
This allows to split up the DCO and to detune the square part of the DCO:
- SYNC: Oscillator sync to the sub oscillator.
- Tune +-24 semitones
- Fine tune +- 1 semitone

MOD
First one is ENV modulation and the second one LFO modulation amount.
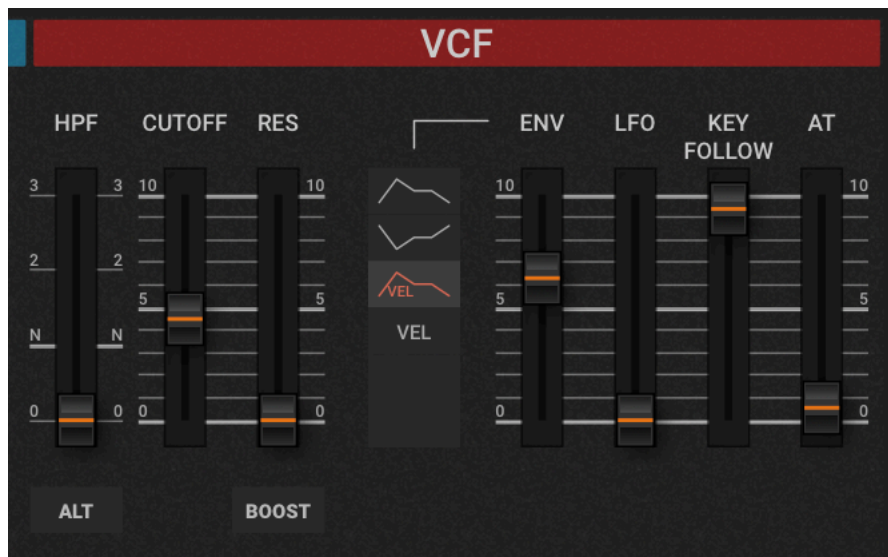
CLEAN DCO MODE
Removes the DCO offset that the hardware generates, especially at the beginning of a new note. You will probably not be able to hear any difference.
The first picture shows the original behavior. The second picture shows the clean mode.

TAL-Pha
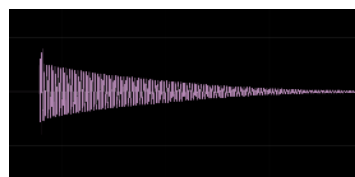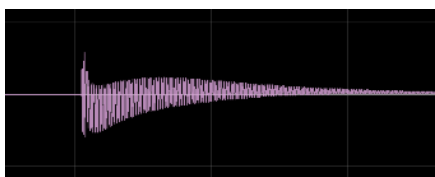
VCF

This contains the VCO (digital controlled filter) settings.

HPF

This is the high-pass filter settings. It has four different settings.
- 0: This is the bass-boost setting.
- N: This is the neutral settings that does no filtering.
- 2: A high pass filter.
- 3: A high pass filter with a higher cutoff frequency.

The hardware bass boost is a low-shelf filter that starts to boosts the signal at 500 Hz. This can lead to a "boomy" bass sound.
The ALT button below the HPF slider activates an alternative bass boost with a peak filter at 80 Hz, which boosts the signal by 6 dB.

CUTOFF

The cutoff frequency of the 24dB filter.

RESONANCE

The resonance amount. The resonance in the plug-in is probably slightly higher than in the hardware. We have not emulated the drop in resonance at higher frequencies. We think it sounds better and more defined this way.
Below the slider is a BOOST button in case you need even more resonance or self-oscillation.

ENV modes
- Normal
- Inverted
- Normal depending on velocity
- The cutoff depends on the velocity

ENV

The envelope modulation amount.

TAL-Pha

LFO
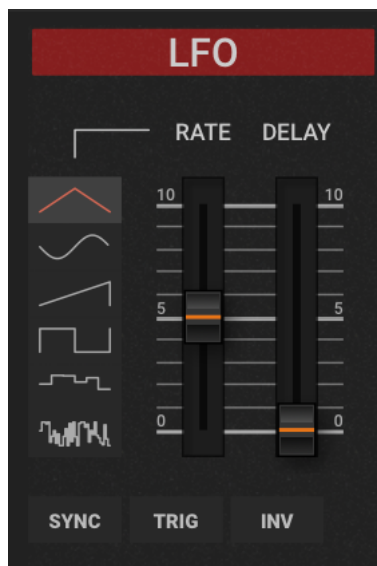The LFO modulation amount.

KEYFOLLOW
The key follow amount. Follows the note pitch when at max value.

AT
Aftertouch modulation amount. Timbre in MPE mode.

LFO

This contains the LFO setting.

WAVEFORM
The LFO has five different waveforms: triangle, sine, saw, pulse, random s&h and random.

RATE
The LFO rate.

DELAY
The time it takes until the LFO kicks in.

SYNC
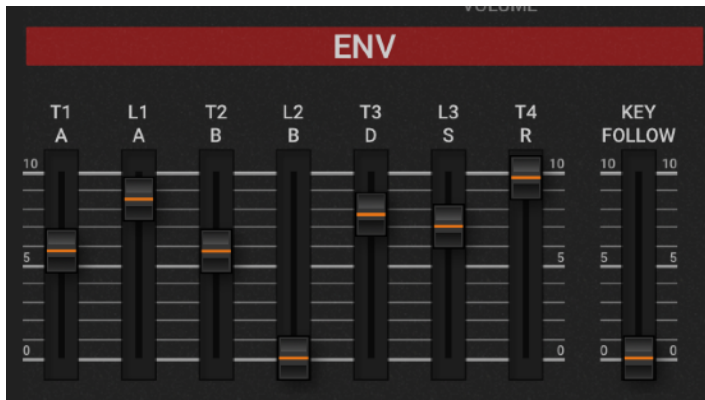Enables sync mode. Syncs the LFO to the hosts BPM.

TRIG
Re-triggers when a new note starts.

INV
Inverts the LFO waveform.

TAL-Pha

ENV

The envelope of the synthesizer. The plug-in offers the same envelope functions as the hardware. Instead of a normal ADSR, this synthesizer has one more state and also the option of setting the level and time of the envelope.
Key follow determines how strongly the envelope follows the current keyboard key. If not zero, the envelope is faster for a higher key.
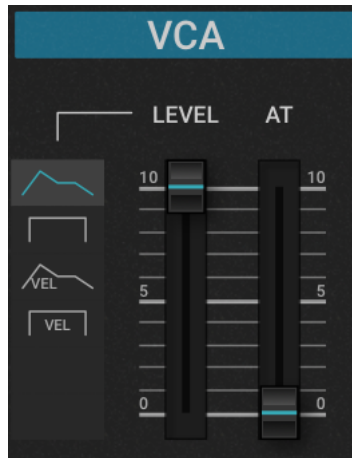
T   = time
L   = level
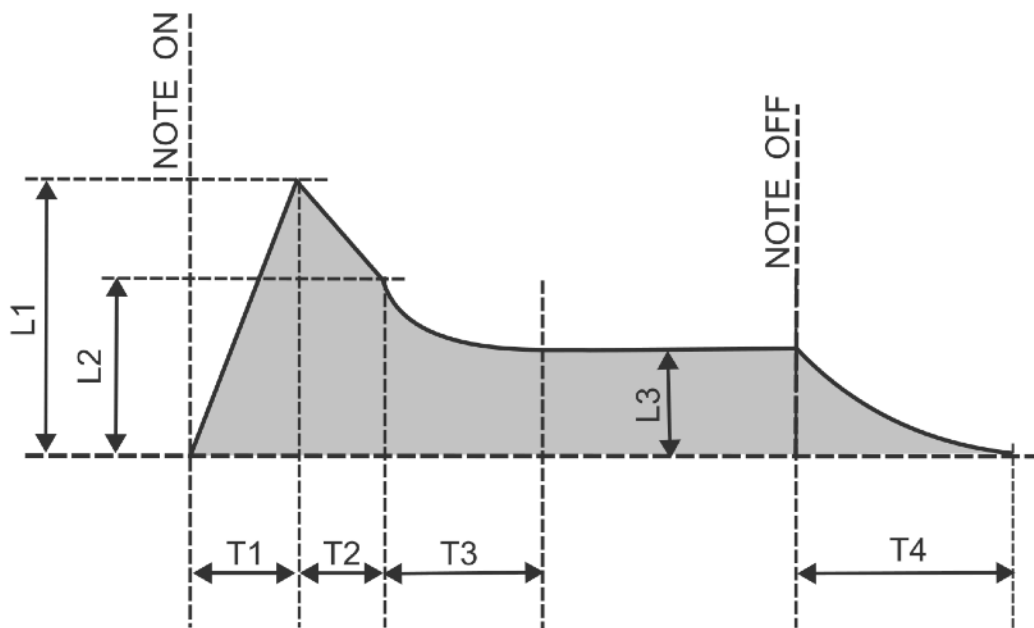
The display shows what's going on in the envelope:

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VCA

The VCA (voltage controlled amplifier) controls the volume of the output.

VCA modes
-Envelope.
-Gated envelope.
-Envelope depends on velocity.
-Gated velocity.

LEVEL
The VCA volume.

AT
Aftertouch volume modulation (pressure in MPE mode).

CONTROL

Controls the modulation destinations of the pitch- and mod-wheel.

PB DCO
How much the Pitch-Bend affects the pitch. Up to +-12 semitones.

MW VCF
How much the modulation wheel modulates the filter cutoff.

MW DCO LFO
How much the modulation wheel modulates DCO LFO amount.

MW VCF LFO
How much the modulation wheel modulates VCF LFO amount.

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MASTER

This is the master section with some general settings.

CHORUS
This is the chorus. It is possible to enable it and to change the modulation rate.

PORTAMENTO
Adds the portamento effect. There are different modes:

- OFF: portamento is disabled
- ON: portamento is active for overlapping notes
- ALL: portamento is always active

TIME sets the portamento time. Higher values mean slower portamento slides. It's a good idea to set the number of voices to one for the classic mono portamento sound.

CHORD
Activate REC and press the keyboard keys for the desired chord. Then deactivate REC. The synthesiser now plays the chord when you press a single key. RESET deletes the chord and LOCK locks it when you change the presets.

OCTAVE
Change the master octave and fine-tuning of the current sound.

VOICES
Set the number of voices. RR enables the round-robin mode. VOLUME changes the master volume of the current patch.

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Effects

The synth contains a built in reverb, delay and a bell equaliser. They can be locked with the FX LOCK button on the top to make sure they keep the settings when changing presets.

ARPEGGIATOR
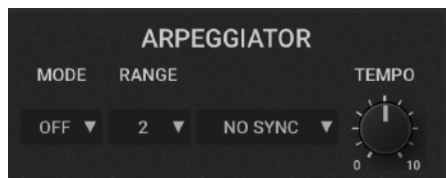
The plugin also has an additional arpeggiator that can be synced to the DAW tempo. It contains different modes and an octave range up to four octaves.

UNISON

The synth also has a built in unison mode. It's possible to play up to seven unison voices in every voice. You can choose between the number of voices, detuning amount or spread factor.
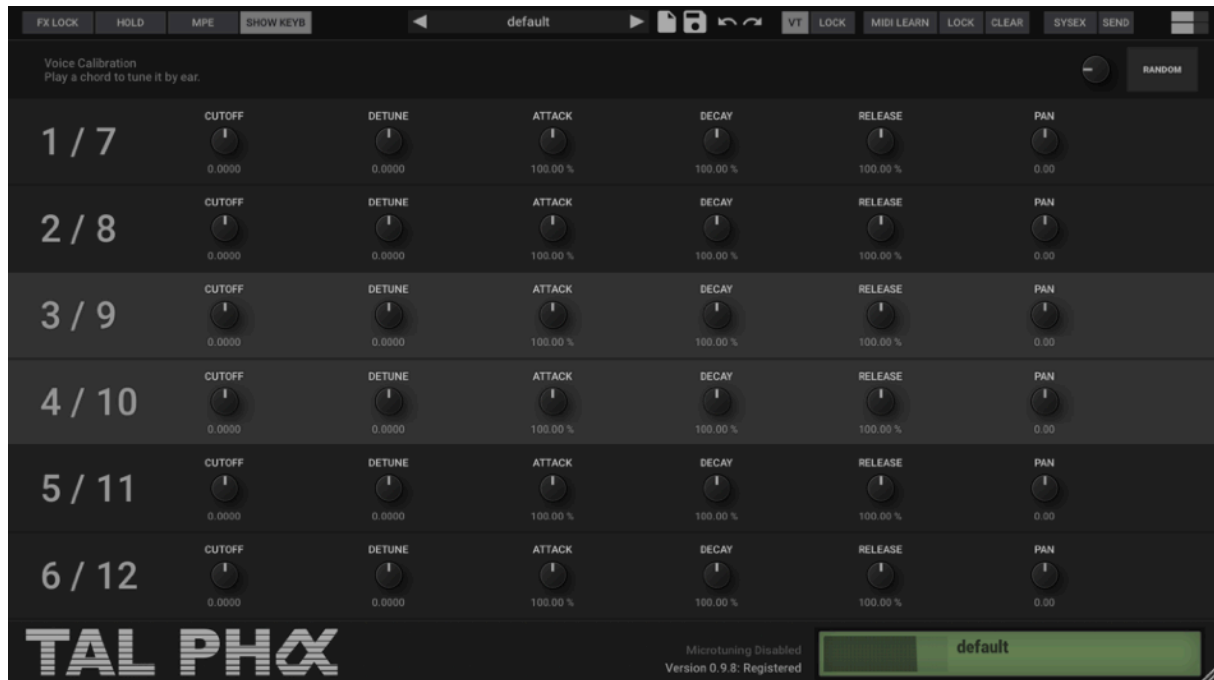

MPE

The plug-in also has MPE support. The keyboard switches to MPE mode when enabled.

TAL-Pha

Voice Tuning / VT

A click on the VT button on the top opens the voice tuning panel:

It can be used to detune the individual voices to create a more interesting sound similar to an analog synthesizer.

It is also possible to pan the individual voices. This is particularly useful in conjunction with the round robin voice mode.

The plugin emphasizes the voice that is currently playing.

This is an important part if you want to achieve the lively sound of analog devices. Chords also stick better if the cutoff and the pitch for each voice is detuned slightly. The same applies to the envelope. This setting is saved in the preset.

You can set these values randomly using the Intensity control and the Random button.

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