HALO 2

FILTERS
LPF · NOTCH · PHASE
Q · Q · Q
LFO · LFO · LFO

DISTORTION
WARM · DRIVE · CUSTOM · CRUSH

POST FILTER
CUT OFF · Q

FX
REVERB · SIZE
DELAY · TIME
PHASER · RATE
CHORUS · DEPTH

OUTPUT
VOLUME · WIDTH

ENVELOPE
ATTACK · HOLD

SAMPLE
WIDTH · UNISON · DETUNE · UNISON

SUB
VOLUME · DRIVE · OCTAVE · DIRECT

SYNTH
WIDTH · UNISON · DETUNE · UNISON

- SAMPLE -
REV · R-S · LOOP · XF · BLUEY · FM · LOAD
LOOP START · LOOP END
MATRIX · MASTER EQ · ◀ · BA · BLUEY · ▶ · PRESETS · ARP

LFO 1
AMOUNT · RATE

LFO 2
AMOUNT · RATE

STEP
AMOUNT · RATE

PITCHER
AMOUNT · ATTACK · CURVE · HOLD

HALO 2
C2 · C3 · C4 · C5
FM · BLUEY · KEYS · LEGATO · GLIDE · GLIDE TIME · PITCHBEND

TONE
LOW · HIGH
- FREQUENCY -

HALO-2

HALO-2 is a Rompler / Synth / Sampler hybrid. Each preset is comprised of meticulously crafted synthesiser patches from a range of hardware and software synthesisers, fx and processing, recorded into 44.1 16 Bit .Wav files spanning 3 octaves, and then layered with a programmable sub oscillator, a dual oscillator synthesiser, or both, in order to create complex, raw, quality playable yet malleable sounds. The user interface is separated into several panels and this manual will explain each panel in turn. If you click on a panel an advanced settings screen with extra controls for that panel will open in the centre. There is a Tooltip window at the bottom of the UI that will provide information depending on your mouse position. You can navigate presets using the preset window which is also expandable.

INSTALLATION / ACTIVATION

HALO-2:

1) Run the HALO-2 Installer first (.exe / .pkg).

2) Open the HALO-2 SAMPLES app

3) Paste in your license key and click 'DOWNLOAD' to begin the sample content installation

4) Open HALO-2 in your DAW

HALO-2-LITE / DEMO:

1) Run the HALO-2-LITE Installer (.exe / .pkg) to install the au / vst and samples

Please email support@dhplugins.com for any help with installation.

- USER INTERFACE -

PRESETS

Clicking the 'PRESETS' button or the preset name will bring up the Presets Browser in the centre window. Here a preset can be selected, added a or deleted. The location of the preset files on the hard drive can be located by clicking the 'more button' (top left). To Load a preset simply click on the preset name, or use the two arrow buttons below to navigate the preset banks. The presets are arranged by style or sub genre and are configured to run at 174bpm, but will suit lots of varying tempos.

TIP: Click on the arrows in the middle of the preset browser to bring up a larger browser.

FILTER PANEL

The Filter panel contains controls for the 3 filters. Frequency, Q Factor and LFO amount can be controlled from here. Each filter has its own dedicated LFO, the controls for which can be found on the advanced panel. The Filters are pre-distortion. Each Filter has a choice of 6 filter modes.

FILTER LFO CONTROLS:

- LFO AMOUNT - The amount by which the filter frequency is modulated by the LFO
- LFO RATE - The rate of LFO modulation (synced to host bpm)
- SHAPE - Oscillator shape, including Sine, Triangle, Saw Up, Square, Random, Saw Down
- OFFSET - Shift the starting point of the cycle
- FADE - Brings in the LFO amount over time
- RATE MOD - Slow the LFO rate over time
- SMOOTH - Smooth the modulation signal
- SYNC - Switch between LFOs being synced to DAW tempo or free running
- V - Activate velocity modulation

TIP: increase LFO rate to maximum and play with the Rate Mod.

DISTORTION

A choice of four distortion modes are available. The advanced panel opens a wave shaper for the custom distortion mode, including options to save and load wave shapes.

DISTORTION MODES:

- WARM = Soft Saturation
- DRIVE = Amp-Style Distortion
- CUSTOM = Draw unique Wave Shapes in the advanced panel
- CRUSH = Bit Crusher

Click the "PRESET" button top right in the advanced panel to save a wave shape, or to load a previously saved one. The Random button will generate a random wave shape.

TIP: The Waveshaper is very powerful, it can completely transform the sound.

WARNING: The Gain setting in the Waveshaper should be used with caution - Protect your ears!

POST FILTER

This is a more complex filter module which comes after the distortion modules in the signal flow. Filter Frequency / Cut Off and Q Factor are controllable from the panel, and the advance panel allows the user to select from Low Pass, High Pass, Notch, Peak, Phase and a 24 dB slope Low Pass Ladder filter mode. Phase mode is an 'all-pass' filter. Selecting the 'Peak' filter mode will bring up a 'Gain' control with which can boost or cut the peak of the filter. The VEL button will activate velocity modulation.

TIP: Try using a filter mode you haven't used already in the Post Filter.

FX

There are four effects to choose from, Reverb, Delay, Phaser and Chorus. The FX are engaged after the Post Filter (with the exception of the Phaser which is pre-distortion). The Delay is sync only. The advance panel brings up corresponding settings for the Reverb, Delay and Phaser only.   There are two types of Reverb to choose from - click the 'TYPE' button to switch between them.

TIP: The 'Colour' control in the delay section mixes in a modulated signal to the processed signal.

TIP: The 'Loop' button in the Phaser section acts like a one shot or repeating switch for the Phaser's LFO.

TIP: Try the 'FREEZE' function on the reverb to create everlasting reverbs and textures.

SAMPLE

This panel controls the Rompler sample banks. Volume, Drive and Pitch are accessible from the main panel. Unison Voices, Detune and Width available from the Unison Panel, and the advanced panel lets the user switch sample bank without changing preset and processor settings. The Start Point of the samples in the bank can be altered or randomised, and the loop points can be set here as well. All banks can be reversed. The random button will randomly choose a sample bank. Clicking the 'LOAD' button enables the user to drop in their own audio file into the Custom Sampler and route it through all of HALO-2's processing.

FM WINDOW:

The FM button will show the Sample FM options. The sample banks can be frequency modulated by either a synth, another sample bank, or a user audio file. Click the FM SOURCE button to navigate these options.

TIP: Try hitting the random button until you find a combination you like.

SUB

The Sub panel controls the built in sine wave oscillator. Volume, Drive and Octave can be controlled from here. A dedicated Volume LFO is in the advanced panel.

TIP: Setting Drive to full will change the Sine wave into a Square wave. Using the volume LFO will add movement to your sub bass.

SYNTH

The built in synthesiser is a dual oscillator unit with basic waveforms to choose from. Volume, Unison and Pitch can all be controlled from the main panel, and Waveform, Octave, fine tuning, Low Cut, High Cut, Pan and Mix can be controlled in the advanced panel. The FM button will open the Synth FM options.

LFO 1 & 2

Clicking on the two LFO Panels brings up routable and drawable LFOs, with amount, rate and loop / envelope controls. The LFO can be routed to the frequency of any of the Filters, and also to the Main Volume and Pitch.   Right-Click to delete nodes or control the curve of the path. Use the PRESET button in the advanced panels to save / load LFO shapes. The random button will generate a random LFO shape. To route any other control to the LFOs right-click a control and add it. The control parameters will be added to the Matrix window. LFOs can be run free or synced to DAW tempo.

TIP: Combining the custom LFOs with the Filter LFOs will make interesting patterns.

STEPPER

A 16 step Stepper is available with identical routing options to the LFOs. The smooth function will shape the 'edges' of the steps. Right-Click to draw a line. To route any other control to the Stepper right-click a control and add it. The control parameters will be added to the Matrix window.

TIP: A rate of 1/8 is good for 174bpm!

ENVELOPES

HALO 2 features a dedicated gain envelope and modulation envelope with routing options to each of the 4 filters. To route any other control to the modulation envelope right-click a control and add it. The control parameters will be added to the Matrix window.

WARNING: If the Pitch amount is engaged and the Volume Envelope is set to more than 50ms the pitch will revert to the 'normal' pitch.

ARPEGGIATOR / SEQUENCER:

As part of the upgrade to version 2 HALO now features a 16 step Arpeggiator / sequencer. This can be routed to any of the three voices (Sample / Sub / Synth) by means of the SAM / SUB / SYN buttons in the ARP window, or by the ARP button contained within each voices's advanced central panel (top right corner).

The arpeggiator controls include note amount, note length (affects all notes), speed, shuffle and octave. The reset button will reset the arpeggiator notes and note length, and the random button will create random variations of both.

The scale control - By default the random button is set to a minor scale, meaning that it will randomly generate notes from only a minor scale of the note pressed. There are several other options to choose from in the scale box that appears when the window is enlarged.

TIP: The ARP also features it's own preset browser with a large selection of ready made presets and scales.

RIGHT-CLICK MATRIX MODULATION SYSTEM

Right-click any control on the interface to assign it to either LFO 1 or 2, the Stepper, the Modulation Envelope or the Macros. Right-clicking a control which is already assigned to the LFOs via the LFO send buttons will override the button control. All controls will feature within the Matrix Window for fine tuning after they have been assigned.

TONE

A Low shelf and High shelf filter are available to quickly shape the overall tone of the signal. The Tone Advanced Panel contains frequency, Q and gain controls for both EQ shelves.

TIP: Use lots of EQ to shape your new sounds.

PITCHER

A pitch envelope can be controlled from this panel, with further envelope controls in the advanced panel. Amount, Attack, Attack Curve and Hold are available on the main panel with Decay and Sustain available in the advanced panel.

TIP: A short attack will add a nice 'bump' to the beginning of a note.

WARNING: If the Pitch amount is engaged and the Volume Envelope is set to more than 50ms the pitch will revert to the 'normal' pitch.

OUTPUT / UpDown Compressor

Control master volume and stereo width from the Output panel. In the middle is the mix control for the UpDown Compressor. Click on the Output Panel to open up advanced controls for the compressor, plus a mono bass control to mono frequencies up to 500Hz.

MASTER EQ

The EQ panel can be used to set a number of nodes. Use the mouse wheel to change the Q factor of each node.

TIP: Right click for further eq curve options and to reset the eq.

MATRIX

The MATRIX panel controls a separate modulation routing system that runs in parallel with the LFOs and Stepper. Right-click on any knob and assign it to any of the modulators or Macro X or Macro Y. Maximum and Minimum values will then be available to change in the Matrix window, as well as an invert function.

MACROS

Clicking on the MACROS button reveals the two Macros X & Y in the keyboard panel. Right-click on any knob to assign it's function to either macro. These functions will be available in the matrix window after assignment.

VOICING

The MONO and LEGATO buttons are under the keyboard. Polyphonic, Monophonic and Monophonic Glide modes are available. Legato will affect the filter re-trigger behaviour only.

PITCH BEND

The Pitch Bend can be set up to +/- 12 semitones

SETTINGS

Click the settings icon in the top left corner to open the Settings Panel. Within this panel the user interface can be resized, and the location of the sampler banks can be changed. If the UI is slow then it is recommended to use the 'OpenGL' setting provided here (you will be prompted to reload the UI.

The colour scheme has 4 options, a master tune setting is available for each patch, velocity and key range are also available here. Click the folder icon to open the HALO-2 system folder.

MIDI CONTROLLER SETTINGS

Right-click a knob to enable control of a knob via Midi CC.

SIGNAL FLOW
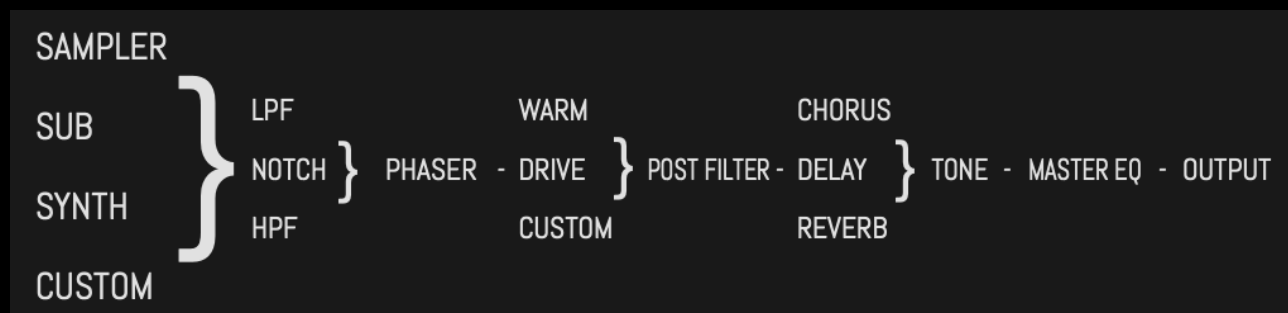
EXPANSIONS

To select an Expansion click on the 'Expansions' button in the Preset Browser and choose the expansion from the centre window. To flip back into the 'FACTORY' presets select 'FACTORY' from the expansions list.

EXPANSION INSTALLATION PROCESS

The HALO-2 expansions follow the same installation system as HALO-2. Run the Expansion installer first. When this has finished run the Expansion SAMPLES app. When the SAMPLE app asks for a license key please refer to your purchase confirmation email or your DHPlugins user account to locate the key.

HALO INSTALLATION PROCESS

Both the Mac and Windows installers contain 2 files. Run the HALO-2 installer first . When this has finished run the HALO-2 SAMPLES app and choose the location you wish to save the HALO-2 sample content to. If you have previously installed the samples you may be asked whether you wish to re-install the samples. After the SAMPLE app has finished you can close it and open HALO-2 in your DAW. When HALO-2 asks for a license key please refer to your purchase confirmation email or your DHPlugins user account to locate the key.

DEACTIVATION

To deactivate HALO-2 click the HALO-2 logo to open the CREDITS page. Here click the DEACTIVATE button and follow the process - you will need your License Key here.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If HALO-2 is not playing the samples make sure you ran the HALO-2 SAMPLES app / installer or please follow the instructions below:

- Open Halo and click the gear icon (top left) to open the settings page
- Click the CHANGE SAMPLE LOCATION button
- Direct the window to the HALO SAMPLES folder on your computer
- Reload HALO-2 in your DAW and test some presets

The most common issue with the HALO-2 SAMPLES app is folder permissions. The app is programmed to warn against not having sufficient 'write' permissions when trying to save the sample content, but if this doesn't happen and the percentage shown stays on 0% then you will need to check the permissions settings in the folder you are trying to save the HALO-2 / Expansion samples to, or choose a new location. If you have previously installed HALO and / or the sample content you may be asked whether you wish to re-install the samples. If you do not re-install the samples and HALO still cannot find the sample content then…. re-install the samples :)

For all other issues please email support@dhplugins.com.