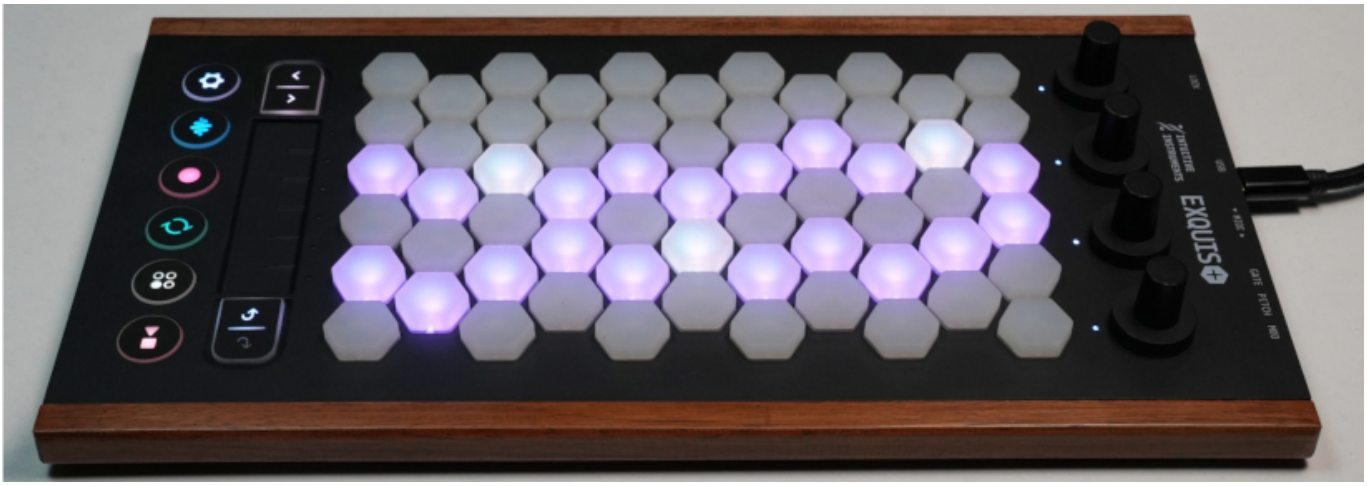
Intuitive Instruments Exquis+

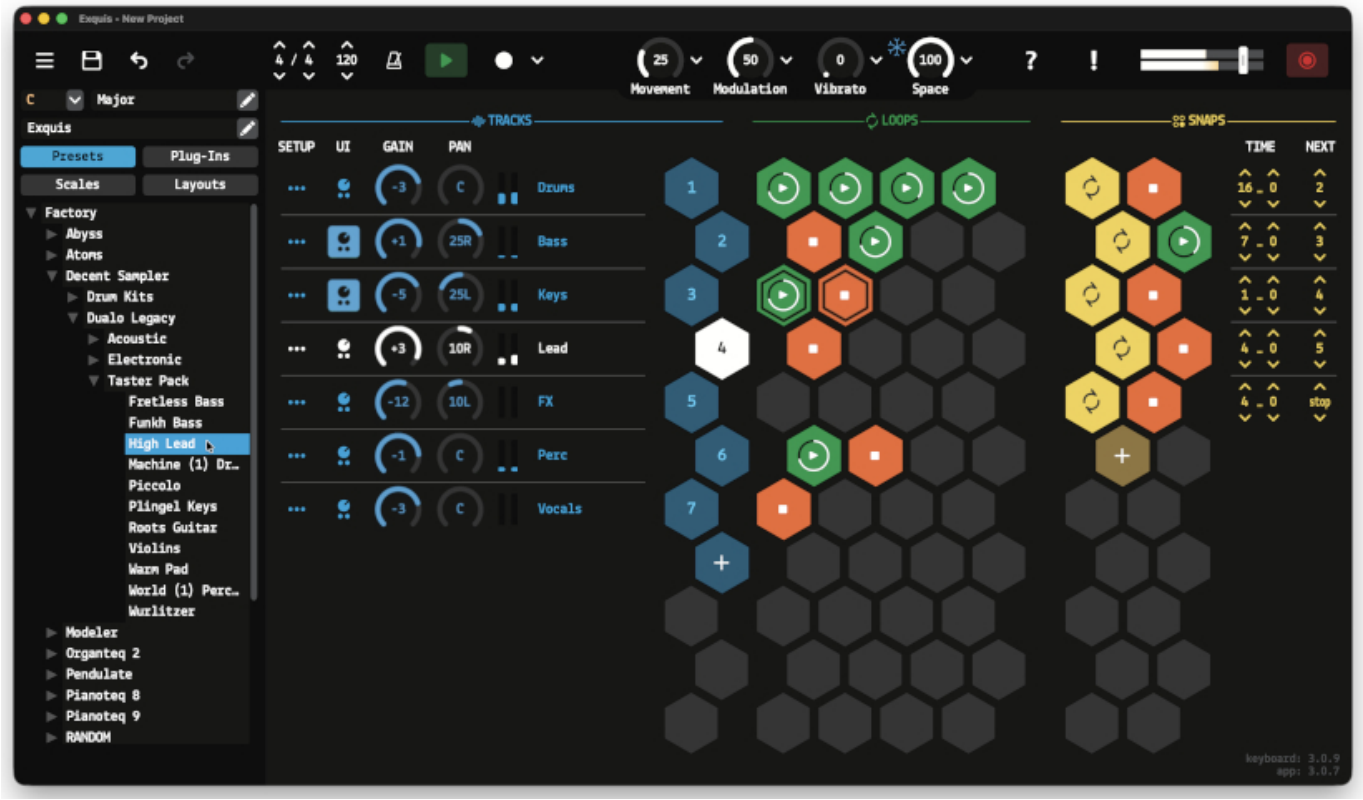


electronic instruments designer Intuitive Instruments introduces Exquis+ — evolving its award-winning backlit hexagonal keyboard-centric Exquis MPE (MIDI Polyphonic Expression) controller to deliver more precise playing feel and refined expression, while also bringing greater customisation to users of both generations of the instrument with a simultaneously updated version of their companion Exquis app for macOS and Windows. The picture above shows the Exquis+ Deluxe with wood, aluminium, or cork side panels.

By building upon Exquis, winner of the hotly-contested ‘Commercial Hardware Product’ category at the 2023 MIDI Innovation Awards, Exquis+ introduces significant mechanical improvements, including a new silicone keypad and a reinforced chassis to enhance playing feel and precision, while retaining the intuitive approach of the original model. To take full advantage of those improvements, the gesture-sensing algorithm has also been redesigned for Exquis+. As a result, strike and release velocity, pressure, and tilt on two axes all benefit from a finer response, giving musicians more precise and reliable expressivity with independent MPE control for every note.

Needless to say, Exquis+’s isometric hexagonal keyboard with 61 RGB-backlit keys, the layout of which preserves chord shapes when transposing, makes musical intervals easier to identify. Its scale highlighting and customisable note layouts allow musicians to adapt the keyboard to their playing preferences, though there are also built-in performance tools to play with such as the MPE arpeggiator that generates expressive patterns and MPE hold function that sustains played notes. Helpfully, hardware and software integration is, as always, all present and accounted for, with Exquis+ featuring USB-C, MIDI in/out, and monophonic CV connectivity alongside dedicated scripts for Ableton Live, Bitwig Studio, and Cockos REAPER.

Phoca PDF



Intuitive Instruments' introduction of Exquis+ is accompanied by version 3.1.0 of its Exquis app, an update that expands customisation options and creative tools for both generations of the MPE controller concerned. Sensibly shaped by user feedback, it includes dedicated firmware for Exquis and Exquis+, tailored to the characteristics of each model; an expanded factory sound library, including new presets for Tracktion's Abyss 2 and Arturia's Pigments Play, to total almost 3,000 presets selected for their expressive potential and fine-tuned for playing on Exquis and Exquis+; random root note and scale selection, offering a way to explore new musical settings and spark inspiration; customisable scale-degree colours, allowing users to create their own visual reference points — highlighting the 'blue note' in blue, for instance; improved note layout editor, including cut, copy, and paste functions; as well as transposition for free-form note layouts and a customisable octave-shift interval, making it easier to work with scales containing more than 12 notes per octave.

Intuitive Instruments is clearly continuing its commitment to extending the useful life of its instruments. Indeed, it aims to let musicians benefit from product improvements without having to replace their entire keyboard. Keeping to this principle, Exquis+ was developed around the same circuit board as the original Exquis, released in 2023. Each Exquis generation has its own dedicated firmware, but both remain fully compatible with the companion Exquis app and also the entire Exquis software ecosystem.

Above and beyond that, owners of a first-generation Exquis will, ultimately, be able to order a kit containing the new mechanical components to allow them to upgrade

Phoca PDF

their instrument to Exquis+ status. Availability and pricing will be announced in due course. Effectively evolving its intuitive and expressive Exquis MPE controller, Intuitive Instruments' Exquis+ is something to behold, but, thankfully, there is no need for anyone to miss out on that evolution. Enabling owners — original and contemporary alike — to enjoy playing with all their synthesizers and software is what it is all about, after all.

Exquis+ is available via Intuitive Instruments' growing global network of retailers and also its own online Shop, priced at €359.00 EUR. Exquis+ Deluxe — with wood, aluminium, or cork side panels — is available via Intuitive Instruments' growing global network of retailers and also its own online Shop, priced at €399.00 EUR.

www.dualo.com

Phoca PDF