Ample China Erhu Main Panel Manual



Ample Sound Technology Co.

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1 Instrument

Ample China Erhu (ACEH) is sampled on 3 Erhus in the key of D, C and Low G.
Main notes (D3~G5) are sampled on the Erhu in the standard key of D. Lower notes (G2~C♯3) are sampled on the Erhus in the key of C and low G.

1.1 Overview of Instrument Panel



1.	Preset Bar
2.	Position Assignment
3.	String Assignment Display

1.2 Preset Bar

There are four buttons: Previous , Next , Play , and Save .
Clicking the preset name text box will open the preset file list window.

2 Main Panel

2.1 Overview of Main Panel



1.	Articulations
2.	Sound Mode
3.	Mid Low Mic Volume
4.	Mic Solo Mute & Channel EQ
5.	Mid High Mic Volume
6.	Front Mic Volume
7.	Back Mic Volume
8.	Far Mic Volume
9.	Master Volume
10.	Pan
11.	Key
12.	Expression
13.	FX Sound Gain
14.	Bowed Attack Gain
15.	Bowed Release Gain
16.	Toggle Bowed Attack and Release sound
17.	Playing Mode

18. Fingering Mode
19. Legato Mode
20. Sample Loop Toggle
21. Bend
22. Mod Wheel
23. Position Mode Keyswitch
24. FX Sound Group
25. Legato Mode Keyswitch
26. Fingering Mode Keyswitch
27. Hold Pedal Toggle

2.2 Articulations

2.2.1 Articulation Classification

There are 4 kinds of articulations in ACEH – Head Group (blue keyswitches), Body Group (yellow keyswithces), Legato Group (red keyswitches), and Special Effects Group (the 2 right-most red keys in Articulation keyswitches area).

- **The head group** is used to perform grace notes at head. Bowing type keyswitches are assigned to the left of fingering types.
- **The body group** can not only perform grace notes at head, but can also be used for articulation legatos to express changes of the sound body.

  ACEH 's body group can be used for endless articulation legatos. For example, you can start with a Sustain, hold the note, then play the Espressivo Keyswitch (C1) to play legato to an Espressivo note; then play Mordent keyswitch (D♯1) to play legato to a Mordent note, and then press Inverted Mordent keyswitch (E1) to play legato to an Inverted Mordent note, and so on.
- **The Legato group** contains legato slide and virtual slide. Playing the keyswitch, then play 2 legato notes, the first note will slide to the second note.

2.2.2 How to Play the Keyswitches

Most articulations will automatically return to Sustain after playing one phrase;

You can also stay on one articulation by holding the keyswitch.

Playing the keyswitch when a note is sounding will play legato to the articulation.

2.2.3 Articulations of Head Group

Name	Type	Keyswitch	Range
Sustain	Bowed	C0	G2-G5
Staccato	Bowed	C♯0	G2-G5
Ricochet	Bowed	D0	G2-G5
Pizzicato	Fingered	D♯0	G2-A♯4
Whispering	Expression	E0	A2-G5
Sighing	Expression	F0	G2-G5

2.2.4 Articulations of Body Group

Name	Type	Keyswitch	Range
Crying	Expression	F♯0	A2-A4
Hoarse	Expression	G0	G♯2-G5
Tremolo	Bowed	G♯0	G2-G5
Portato	Bowed	A0	G2-G5
Diminuendo	Fingered Vibrato	A♯0	G♯2-G5
Sforzando	Fingered Vibrato	B0	G2-G5
Espressivo	Fingered Vibrato	C1	G♯2-G5
Vibrato	Fingered Vibrato	C♯1	G♯2-G5
Trill	Fingered Trill	D1	G2-F♯5
Mordent	Fingered Trill	D♯1	G2-F♯5
Inverted Mordent	Fingered Trill	E1	G♯2-G5
Double Mordent	Fingered Trill	F1	G2-F♯5
Slide Turn Up	Fingered Slide	F♯1	G♯2-F♯5
Slide Turn Down	Fingered Slide	G1	A2-G5
Slide In Below / Slide Out Downward	Fingered Slide	G♯1	A2-G5
Slide In Above / Slide Out Upward	Fingered Slide	A1	G♯2-F5

2.2.5 Articulations of Legato Group

Name	Type	Keyswitch	Max Interval
Portamento	Fingered Slide	A♯1	One Octave
Virtual Portamento	Fingered Slide	B1	Major 3rd

2.2.6 Articulations of Special Effects Group

Name	Keyswitch	Range
Lick	C2	G2-G5
Reverse	D2	-

2.2.7 Sustain

Keyswitch is C0. Head Group, Bowed Articulation.

- Four layers of straight sustain are triggered by note velocity. Hard Bow is triggered when velocity is higher than 125.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Sustain.

2.2.8 Staccato

Keyswitch is C♯0. Head Group, Bowed Articulation.

2.2.9 Ricochet

Keyswitch is D0. Head Group, Bowed Articulation.

2.2.10 Pizzicato

Keyswitch is D♯0. Head Group, Fingered Articulation - Pizzicato is only performed on inner strings.

2.2.11 Whispering

Keyswitch is E0. Head Group, Expression - Quickly transitions from an ornamental slide into soft vibrato.

2.2.12 Sighing

Keyswitch is F0. Head Group, Expression - Light and short ornamental slide-up at high velocity, Staccato at low velocity.

2.2.13 Crying

Keyswitch is F♯0. Body Group, Expression - A combined technique of strong attack, wavy bow, and slow downward return slide, up to the 12th position.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Crying.

2.2.14 Hoarse

Keyswitch is G0. Body Group, Expression - Starts with soft hoarse tone and gradually transitions into crescendo vibrato sustain.

- Velocity controls the start point. Higher velocity results in a later start point.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Hoarse.

2.2.15 Tremolo

Keyswitch is G♯0. Body Group, Bowed Articulation - High velocity triggers accented tremolo, low velocity triggers crescendo tremolo.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Tremolo.

2.2.16 Portato

Keyswitch is A0. Body Group, Bowed Articulation.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Portato.

2.2.17 Diminuendo

Keyswitch is A♯0. Body Group, Fingered Vibrato Articulation - Vibrato sustain fading from strong to weak.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Diminuendo.

2.2.18 Sforzando

Keyswitch is B0. Body Group, Fingered Vibrato Articulation - Vibrato sustain from strong to weak, then back to strong.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Sforzando.

2.2.19 Espressivo

Keyswitch is C1. Body Group, Fingered Vibrato Articulation - Vibrato sustain from weak to strong, then back to weak.

- Velocity controls the start point. Higher velocity results in a later start point.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Espressivo.

2.2.20 Vibrato

Keyswitch is C♯1. Body Group, Fingered Vibrato Articulation - Straight vibrato sustain.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Vibrato.
- Vibrato Sustain is most suitable for lyrical passages.

2.2.21 Trill

Keyswitch is D1. Body Group, Fingered Trill Articulation - High velocity triggers uniform-speed trill, low velocity triggers variable-speed trill.

- Major or minor 2nd trill is selected automatically based on current Key setting.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Trill.

2.2.22 Mordent

Keyswitch is D♯1. Body Group, Fingered Trill Articulation.

- Major or minor 2nd mordent is selected automatically based on current Key setting.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Mordent.

2.2.23 Inverted Mordent

Keyswitch is E1. Body Group, Fingered Trill Articulation.

- Major or minor 2nd inverted mordent is selected automatically based on current Key setting.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Inverted Mordent.

2.2.24 Double Mordent

Keyswitch is F1. Body Group, Fingered Trill Articulation.

- Major or minor 2nd double mordent is selected automatically based on current Key setting.
- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Double Morden.

2.2.25 Slide Turn Up

Keyswitch is F♯1. Body Group, Fingered Slide Articulation.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Slide Turn Up.

2.2.26 Slide Turn Down

Keyswitch is G1. Body Group, Fingered Slide Articulation.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Slide Turn Down.

2.2.27 Slide In Below / Slide Out Downward

Keyswitch is G♯1. Body Group, Fingered Slide Articulation.

- Playing the musical note triggers Slide In Below. Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Slide Out Downward.

2.2.28 Slide In Above / Slide Out Upward

Keyswitch is A1. Body Group, Fingered Slide Articulation.

- Playing the musical note triggers Slide In Above. Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will transition to Slide Out Upward.

2.2.29 Portamento

Keyswitch is A♯1. Legato Group, Fingered Slide Articulation - High velocity triggers Fast Portamento. Low velocity triggers Slow Portamento.

- Press this keyswitch first, then play two legato notes to slide from the first note to the second.
- Supports real sampled Portamento within one octave.

2.2.30 Virtual Portamento

Keyswitch is B1. Legato Group, Fingered Slide Articulation.

- Virtual Portamento with adjustable speed.
- Supports virtual Portamento within a major third.

2.2.31 Lick

Keyswitch is C2. There are 37 improvisation licks.

2.2.32 Reverse

Keyswitch is D2.

- Playing the keyswitch while a note is sounding will reverse playback from the current position.

2.3 Sound Mode

The ACEH is recorded with 5 microphones. You can adjust the volume and channel EQ of different microphones to get more sound.

1.  AB Mode
2.  Wide AB Mode
3.  MS Mode
4.  Bright MS Mode

2.4 Expression

The default MIDI CC is CC11. The Expression controls the dynamic of the sound.

2.5 Key

Controls major 2nd or minor 2nd intervals for fingered ornament articulations (Trill, Mordent, Inverted Mordent, Double Mordent).

2.6 Playing Mode

- **Monophonic Mode:**  You can play mono note and legato in this mode.
- **Polyphonic Mode:**  You can play chords in this mode.

2.7 Fingering Mode

Outer String Mode:  Prefer playing on outer strings.

Inner String Mode:  Prefer playing on inner strings, commonly used in traditional repertoire.

Position Mode:  Fingering is organized in positions of 7 semitones and distributed across inner and outer string.

2.8 Legato Mode

2.8.1 Legato Mode

The mode triggers Straight Legato When the interval between notes is shorter than Legato Time (adjustable in Settings), Straight Legato is triggered.

When longer than Legato Time:

Velocity (126-127)	triggers Ornament Legato
Velocity (96-125)	triggers Straight Legato
Velocity (32-95)	triggers Espressivo Legato
Velocity (1-31)	triggers Soft Legato

2.8.2 Slide Legato Mode

Slide Legato Mode: Within one octave, velocity 1–31 triggers Legato Slide.

* Authentic Fingering Rule: Legato transitions must occur on the same string.

2.8.3 Legato Smooth

In the real performance of the Erhu, the legatos are ever-changing, sometimes hard and sometimes soft. Legatos without changes cannot completely simulate real performance.

You can adjust the Legato Smooth in the Settings to suit different legato needs.

2.9 Sample Loop

As to bowed string instruments, for higher velocity, the tone is brighter and cleaner and the duration is shorter; for lower velocity, the tone is darker and the duration is longer. If longer notes are needed, it can be done by turning on Sample Loop.

On: Enables infinite sustain and legato playback.

Off: Enables natural endings with full release tails.

2.10 Bend

Please refer to the Settings manual.

2.11 Mod Wheel

Please refer to the Settings manual.

2.12 Hold Pedal Toggle

Hold Pedal On: Double Legato Mode. For example, when playing a legato from D to E, and releasing E while holding the D, the D will be automatically triggered.

2.13 Position Assignment

The keyswitch for Position Force is C♯2. Playing the keyswitch in Position mode, then play one note in D2 - E4 will set the position to 0 - 14.

* A position covers 7 semitones.



2.14 D String Assignment

The keyswitch is D♯2.

2.15 A String Assignment

The keyswitch is E2.

2.16 FX Sound Group

Note	FX Sound
G♯5	Scratch Noise
A5	Hit
A♯5	Portamento FX
B5	Horse
C6	Bird
C♯6	Laughing
D6	Crying

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