

HALion 6  
HALion Sonic 3  
Absolute 3

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# REVIEW GUIDE



# Welcome to the family

## Tradition of excellence

Since the first version of HALion in 2001 Steinberg set the standard for virtual instruments time and again and continued with its tradition of excellence, acclaimed technology and outstanding sound. The HALion platform gradually took off and provided the framework and engine for all the other HALion outlets that are available today.

## Design and execute

HALion and HALion Sonic are the core of the HALion universe. HALion provides all the powerful sound design tools, features and editors to create your own sounds, instrument libraries and even user interfaces. HALion Sonic however is a versatile and convenient music production workstation for musicians, producers and composers.

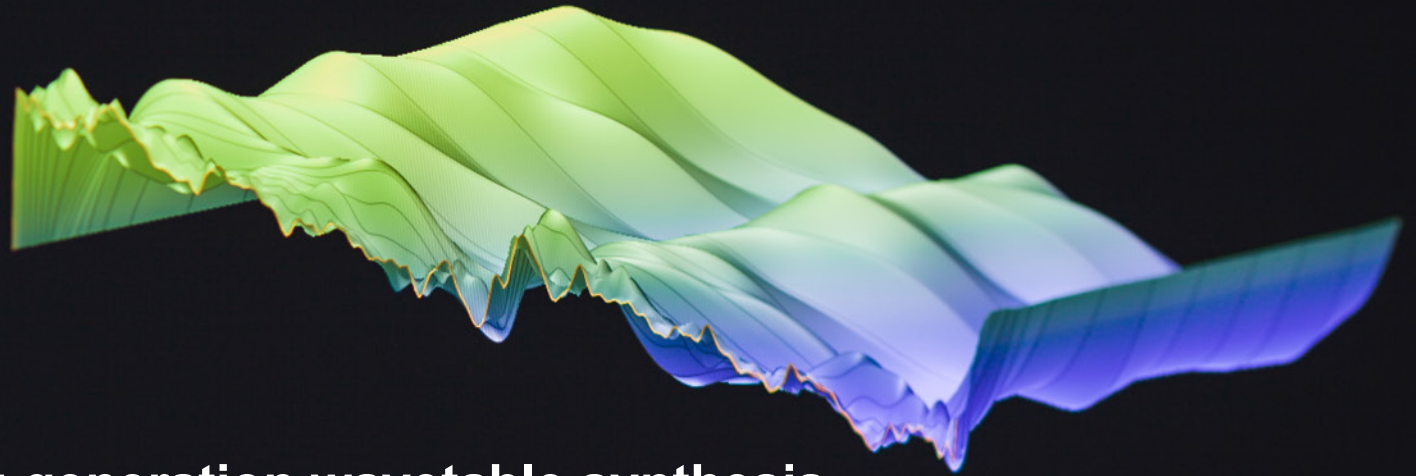
## All in one box

With Absolute the full range of Steinberg's VST instruments is combined in one comprehensive collection. Alongside HALion and HALion Sonic, the rest of the HALion platform family like Retrologue, Padshop, The Grand, Groove Agent and HALion Symphonic Orchestra are included.

The background image shows the HALion 6 software interface. It features a dark theme with various control panels. At the top, there's a 3D visualization of a waveform. Below it, there are several knobs and sliders for parameters like 'Level', 'Pan', and 'LFF'. A 'MULTI OSCILLATOR' section is visible with controls for 'Detune', 'Pan', and 'Spread'. At the bottom, there are 'Cutoff', 'Resonance', and 'Distortion' controls, along with 'Env Amnt' and 'Key Follow' options.

# Start creating the future with HALion 6

The most comprehensive sound design environment available has been lifted to the next level: HALion 6 drastically augments your sound design experience with mind-blowing new tools and instruments for modern composers and sound designers. The next-generation wavetable synthesizer with ground-breaking editing and analysis tools leaves nothing to be desired. The new live-sampling editor lets you record, map and play your sounds directly in HALion. Six new instruments expand the content library with over 25 GB of high-quality samples. With the new Macro Page Designer, the introduction of HALion Script and the convenient Library Creator, the process for crafting custom instruments has been streamlined to the greatest extent. Start creating the future with HALion 6.



## Next-generation wavetable synthesis

HALion ushers in the next generation of wavetable synthesis with an unprecedented consolidation of oscillators, envelopes and editing tools for yet unheard-of sound creations.



## HALion live-sampling

Record directly into HALion from any internal or external source and have your samples cut, mapped and ready to play in no time with the new live-sampling editor.

**Macro Page Designer**

Create custom user interfaces with the what-you-see-is-what-you-get Macro Page Designer. The template-based tool lets you design complete user interfaces for your sound creations conveniently via drag and drop.

## Instruments and FX

HALion 6 and HALion Sonic 3 come with six new instrument libraries including beautiful acoustic instruments, a staggering wavetable synth and eerie cinematic sounds. The Resonator extends the wide range of effects in HALion 6.



### The Eagle

The Eagle Grand piano impresses with its rich, transparent and brilliant sound suited not just for traditional classical music, but also for modern pop, rock and jazz productions.



### The Raven

The Raven Grand piano stands out with its compelling range of nuances, beautiful harmonic richness and a natural, precise and smooth playing feel that convinces instantly.



## Studio Strings

Studio Strings delights with an out-of-the-box string ensemble sample library tailored to film scores, pop arrangements and live performances and combines great playability and vibrant sound.



## Hot Brass

Hot Brass is a high-energy multi-sampled brass section library with a remarkably fat, tight and authentic sound. Best suited for contemporary pop, funk, reggae and soul productions.





## Anima

Anima features two wavetable oscillators, a flexible modulation section and the powerful arpeggiator, and comes with over 300 cutting-edge synth sounds for modern electronic productions.



## Skylab

Skylab combines granular synthesis with a vast sample library, filled with analog circuitry sounds and futuristic textures for deep electronic projects and thrilling cinematic scores.



## HALion scripting

HALion Script is powerful, fast and easy to learn. Multiply your sound design opportunities manifold with advanced instrument behaviour and custom script modules.

## Library Creator

Create and export VST Sound libraries of your custom instruments for HALion and HALion Sonic, conveniently and easy with the help of the Library Creator.

## HALion Combi Library

The new Combi library uses HALion Sonic's unique layer architecture by bringing together all kinds of acoustic instruments and synthesis patches to beautifully rich sounds and multifaceted new instrument creations.

## What else?

Many additional improvements and features can be found in and around HALion:

- The new Library Manager for user libraries
- AAX support
- Steinberg Download Assistant
- Online scripting reference for HALion Script
- Soft eLicenser copy protection
- And more



# HALION 6

VST Sampler & Sound Creation System

## Create the future

### Streamlined to the greatest extent

HALion is the most comprehensive virtual sampling and sound design system available today and excels the present creative process for producers and sound designers in all areas.

It covers the complete creative workflow from recording and sample editing to programming advanced synthesis and modulation setups. With HALion, create customized user interfaces and export ready-to-release instrument libraries with every step streamlined to the greatest extent.

The powerful set of oscillators for seamless sample playback as well as the next-generation synthesis make HALion a versatile creative tool in simply every situation. Its broad library includes thousands of high-class and deep-sampled instruments and cutting-edge synthesizer sounds for all kinds of musical genres.

### Top new features

- Next-generation wavetable synthesis for stunning re-synthesis and unheard-of sound creations
- Smart live-sampling engine for direct recording, mapping and triggering of sounds
- Macro Page Designer allowing convenient user interface creation for user instruments and commercial libraries
- HALion Script for advanced instrument programming and custom MIDI modules
- Convenient Library Creator for compiling custom instruments with the greatest of ease
- 6 new instrument libraries including brasses, two beautiful grand pianos, strings, cutting edge wavetable synthesizer and eerie cinematic sounds
- 3-band Resonator with 14 different filter configurations and integrated LFO
- Expanded compatibility options with native 64-bit AAX support



## Feature highlights

- State-of-the-art sampler and sound creation system tailored to the demands of professionals
- Advanced library creation tools including Macro Page Designer, drag-and-drop Library Creator and HALion scripting
- Powerful multi-timbral audio engine with disk-streaming sample playback, tone-wheel organ simulator and high-end virtual analog, granular and wavetable synthesis
- Outstanding library including over 3,300 synthesized sounds and breathtakingly authentic acoustic instruments
- Flexible user interface with multi-monitor support allowing you to customize and save your own windows and screen sets
- AudioWarp for cutting-edge time-stretching and pitch-shifting
- FlexPhraser module drives beats, arpeggios and complex tonal phrases
- Wide range of high-end audio effects, including REVerence convolution reverb, VST Amp simulation and many more
- Up to 192 kHz, 32 stereo outputs and 6-channel surround support
- Cross-platform compatibility: Windows (VST 3, VST 2, AAX) and macOS (VST 3, AU, AAX) plug-in and standalone support

[ABOUT HALION](#)[WHAT'S NEW?](#)[VERSIONS](#)[PRODUCT FACTS](#)[PRICING](#)[CONCISE COMPARISON](#)

# HALION SONIC<sub>3</sub>

Premier VST Workstation

## The ultimate creative tool



### Elevate your sound

HALion Sonic brings the concept of all-in-one workstations to the virtual world. With a massive sample content library in combination with powerful synthesizer engines, HALion Sonic is a versatile sound production instrument comprising everything from deep-sampled acoustic instruments to cutting-edge synthetic sounds. Equipped with an easy-to-use interface, intuitive workflows and an extremely stable audio engine, HALion Sonic lets you focus on being creative. Developed for the studio as well as the stage, its pristine audio quality, the excellent content library and the wide range of high-end effects make HALion Sonic the ultimate creative tool for musicians, producers and composers worldwide.

### Top new features

- Massive 25 GB library expansion with hundreds of new presets in 5 new acoustic instrument libraries, including two grand pianos, a brass section, strings and cinematic sounds
- New wavetable synthesizer loaded with cutting-edge sounds for modern electronic productions
- 9 new effects including 3-band Resonator, Vintage Compressor, Tube Saturator and many more
- Expanded compatibility options with native 64-bit AAX support



# HALION SONIC<sub>3</sub>

Premier VST Workstation

## Feature highlights

- Easy-to-use yet powerful premier music production workstation for synthesized sounds and breathtaking recreation of acoustic instruments
- Outstanding library, including over 3,000 instrument sounds created by top sound experts at Steinberg and Yamaha
- Powerful multi-timbral audio engine with disk-streaming sample playback and high-end virtual analog, granular and wavetable synthesis
- Wide range of high-end audio effects, including REVerence convolution reverb, VST Amp simulation and many more
- FlexPhraser for dynamically driving beats, arpeggios and complex tonal phrases
- Unique morphing filters, seamlessly blend between up to 4 out of 24 filter types
- MediaBay sound management system for immediate access to the libraries
- Stage-optimized workflows with dedicated player view, rapid building of keyboard splits or layers, and switching of entire multi-setups with a single command
- Full VST Expression 3 support for smart articulation editing in Cubase
- Cross-platform: Windows (VST 3, VST 2, AAX) and macOS (VST 3, AU, AAX) plug-in and standalone support



# ABSOLUTE<sub>3</sub>

VST Instrument Collection



## Get the absolute advantage

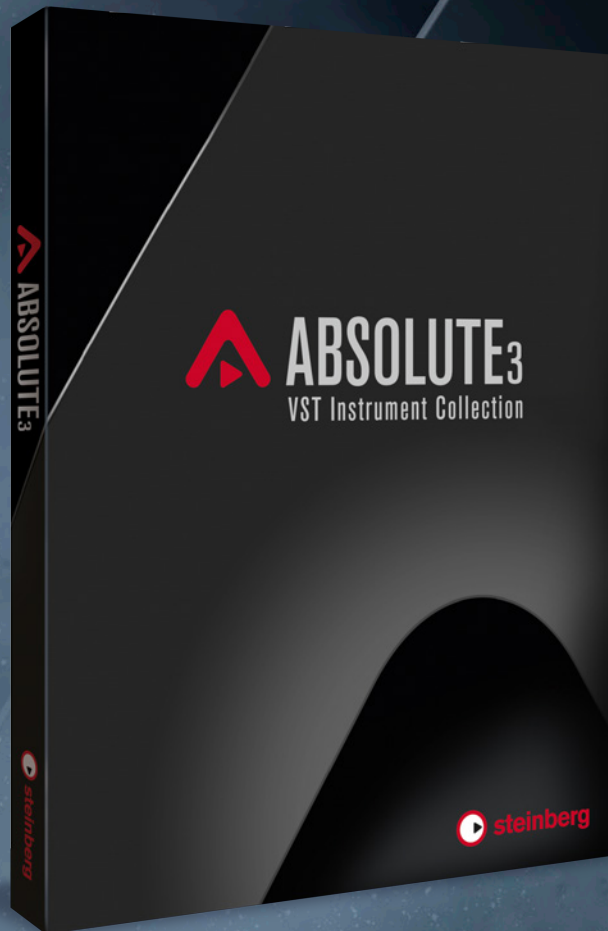
### Follow the flow

With over 6,000 presets and over 80 GB of first-class sounds, advanced VST technology and state-of-the-art sound design, Absolute presents the top range of Steinberg's highly acclaimed VST instruments in one comprehensive collection.

Absolute includes excellent acoustic instruments like The Grand and HALion Symphonic Orchestra, the ultimate drum studio Groove Agent, the granular synthesizer Padshop Pro, the classic virtual analog synthesizer Retrologue, the powerful music production workstation HALion Sonic and the heavyweight sound creation system HALion. Dark Planet, Hypnotic Dance and Triebwerk add even more samples and presets to the massive arsenal of sounds. Absolute combines exceptional quality and premium value at a fantastic price.

### Latest additions

- HALion 6 excels your creativity in all areas with ground-breaking new sound design features, next-generation wavetable synthesis, easy live-sampling tools and jaw-dropping new instruments.
- HALion Sonic 3 elevates your sound with a massive 25 GB library expansion including no less than six stunning new instruments and nine amazing new effects.



## All instruments included

- HALion 6 is a powerfully inspirational virtual sampling and sound design instrument that forms the heart of modern sound creation and production environments.
- HALion Sonic 3 features the latest sample and synthesis technologies, a world-class library and an intelligent user interface that excels in the studio as well as on stage.
- Groove Agent 4 combines three specialist instruments for creating dynamic drums, dancefloor-filling beats and sizzling percussive grooves in almost any genre.
- The Grand 3 features five premium piano models with an overwhelming sound quality, different microphone positions and usability due to the range of included tools.
- HALion Symphonic Orchestra puts the awesome emotive power and sheer sonic majesty of a full symphonic orchestra under your total control.
- Padshop Pro introduces a new way of granular sound design. Get yourself ready for out-of-this-world atmospheres and far-out effects.
- Retrologue offers old-school analog synth sounds and biting sonic blocks, ideal for creating fat and funky lead and bass sounds.
- Hypnotic Dance is a treasure trove for electronic music producers with solid bass lines, cutting leads and beautifully textured pads.
- Triebwerk is the go-to choice for club-worthy dance sounds with soaring synths, four-to-the-floor drum kits and queasy vocals.
- Dark Planet is best-suited for cinematic scores and musical excursions, comprising creepy sounds, shattering loops and eerie instruments.
- Zero Gravity is the exceptional expansion pack for Padshop Pro and comes with 250 new presets and a fully loaded new SoftGrain Wave ROM.



## Grace period process

HALion family Grace Period update: This is valid for purchases (activation) of HALion Sonic 2, HALion 5 and Absolute 2 as of December 29, 2016.

Customers that buy HALion Sonic 2, HALion 5 or Absolute 2 (full retail, EDU and updates/upgrades) from December 29, 2016, qualify for the Grace Period. This means that they will receive a free update to HALion Sonic 3, HALion 6 or Absolute 3, respectively, when the updates become available.

## Language versions and support

The GUI is provided in English only.

The installation guide is provided in 9 languages:

- **English**
- **French**
- **German**
- **Japanese**
- **Spanish**
- **Italian**
- **Chinese**
- **Portuguese**
- **Russian**

The manual is provided in 4 languages:

- **English**
- **French**
- **German**
- **Japanese**

## Components included

The box includes the following:

- **Essential Program License Information (EPLI) with download access code (DAC)**

## System requirements

### HALion 6 and HALion Sonic 3

Mac	PC
OS X 10.11 / macOS Sierra	64-Bit Windows 8.x / 10
VST 3, AAX or AU compatible host application for using as plug-in	VST 2, VST 3 or AAX compatible host application for using as plug-in
64-bit Intel or AMD multi-core processor (Intel i5 or faster recommended)	
4 GB RAM (8 GB or more recommended)	
40 GB free HD space	
1366 x 768 display resolution (1920 x 1080 recommended)	
OS-compatible audio hardware*	
-	
Internet connection required for activation, account setup, access to manual and personal/product registration. Additional downloads may be required for the installation.	
* ASIO compatible audio hardware recommended for low-latency performance.	

### Absolute 3

Mac	PC
OS X 10.11 / macOS Sierra	64-Bit Windows 8.x / 10
VST 3 or AU compatible host application for using as plug-in	VST 2 or VST 3 compatible host application for using as plug-in
64-bit Intel or AMD multi-core processor (Intel i5 or faster recommended)	
4 GB RAM (8 GB or more recommended)	
90 GB free HD space	
1366 x 768 display resolution (1920 x 1080 recommended)	
OS-compatible audio hardware*	
USB-eLicenser (not included)	
Internet connection required for activation, account setup, access to manual and personal/product registration. Additional downloads may be required for the installation.	
* ASIO compatible audio hardware recommended for low-latency performance.	



Product	UD / UPG source products	€ SRP*
HALion 6 Retail GBDFJ		€349
HALion 6 EE GBDFJ		€209
DL HALion 6 Retail		€349
DL HALion 6 from trial		€349
DL HALion 6 EE		€209
DL HALion 6 Update from H5	From HALion 5	€99.99
DL HALion 6 Update from H4	From HALion 4	€199
DL HALion 6 UG 1 from HS3	From HALion Sonic 3	€99.99
DL HALion 6 UG 2 from HS1&2	From HALion Sonic 1&2	€199
DL HALion 6 Competitive Crossgrade	(online only)	€249

\* SRP includes 19% German VAT

### Update from HALion 1, 2, 3

For HALion 1, 2 or 3 customers, HALion 6 is available at a reduced price point of EUR/USD 249.

This offer, however, is not available from within the Steinberg Online Shop. Customers will have to get in touch with the support team via the support form in their MySteinberg account to participate in this offer. HALion 1 & 2 customers will be asked to send the HALion installation CDs and a form including their contact data to the regional support as a proof of purchase. HALion 3 customers will have to provide their MySteinberg account details for us to check if the HALion 3 license is registered. HALion 1, 2 or 3 customers will then receive a link to the online shop where they can purchase a HALion 6 retail box at the reduced price point.



Product	UD / UPG source products	€ SRP*
HALion Sonic 3 Retail GBDFJ		€249
HALion Sonic 3 EE GBDFJ		€149
DL HALion Sonic 3 Retail		€249
DL HALion Sonic 3 from trial		€249
DL HALion Sonic 3 EE		€149
DL HALion Sonic 3 Update from HS 2	From HALion Sonic 2	€99.99
DL HALion Sonic 3 Update from HS 1	From HALion Sonic 1	€199

\* SRP includes 19% German VAT



Product	UD / UPG source products	€ SRP*
Absolute 3 GBDFJ		€499
DL Absolute 3 Retail		€499
DL Absolute 3 Update from A2		€99.99
DL Absolute 3 Update from A1		€299
DL Absolute 3 Crossgrade from H6	From HALion 6	€349
DL Absolute 3 Crossgrade from HS3	From HALion Sonic 3	€399
DL Absolute 3 Crossgrade from GA4	From Groove Agent 4	€399
DL Absolute 3 Competitive Crossgrade		€399

\* SRP includes 19% German VAT

FEATURE	HALion Sonic SE 3	HALion Sonic 3	HALion 6
Library content size (NEW)	>3 GB uncompressed	>40 GB uncompressed	>40 GB uncompressed
Number of presets (NEW)	>1,400 (Cubase Pro 9)	>3,000	>3,300
Number of MIDI Channels	16	16	64
Real-time audio FX (NEW)	54	68	68
Stereo output channels	16	16	32 + 6 channel surround
Sample player engine	√	√	√
Virtual Analog synthesis	√	√	√
Wavetable Synthesis (NEW)	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
Granular Synthesis	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
Tone-wheel organ	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
REVerence convolution reverb	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
VST Amp	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
Resonator (NEW)	<i>Library support only*</i>	√	√
Wavetable Editor (NEW)			√
Macro Page Designer (NEW)			√
Library Creator (NEW)			√
Sample Recorder (NEW)			√
Multi-monitor support			√
Flexible User interface			√
Sample Editor			√
Slicing			√
AudioWarp			√
Sample import			√

\*The feature is supported by the engine but not featured in the included library nor available for editing. Libraries that use the feature are supported though.

## Credit notice

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