



Sound Control - 6 : New Sounds in Revision 35 – Part 4

In this article we shall be looking at the following sounds:

E-Guitar Ricky
Contrabass Ensemble
Trumpet Ensemble
Classical Small Strings
Stratocaster Without Vibrato

In each case the factory settings for each of the six Sound Control parameters will be presented in a table from my own Sounds database. The result of adjusting each of the parameters will be outlined with some recommendations of suitable values to achieve particular results. The comments are, of course, just my opinion!

E-Guitar Ricky : 093-000-093

This is another Electric Guitar sound to add to the list. Excuse my ignorance but who is Ricky? Could it be Ricky Nelson, or am I just showing my age? This sound has a special effect when Aftertouch is selected. By wobbling your finger on the key a mild vibrato can be triggered, much like on the Yamaha EL900.

Here are the Sound Control default settings:

SC Number	SC Parameter	SC Inst Value
1	Release	71
2	Echo	20
3	EQ	63
4	Tone	127
5	Color	63
6	Attack Shape	0

Release has its usual function. Be careful not to raise it too high as, although the additional long reverb effect that will provide is quite pleasing and will allow a staccato touch while still maintaining a slow decay of the sound, when all playing stops the overall sound takes a while to disperse.

Echo provides a single echo at this low value while higher values will introduce multiple echoes. Too high a value and the sound will become very muddled but could be useful for a spot effect.

EQ provides a change in the level of the higher frequencies within the sound, low values losing those frequencies while higher values enhance them.

Tone acts as a more brutal treble cut at values below 64.

Color has various switching positions: 19; 35; 51; 67; 83; 98; 114. The higher the value the brighter the sound is.

Attack Shape has the effect of reducing the volume and brightness of the sound as its value increases.

Contrabass Ensemble : 093-000-094

The Contrabass sound which exists at 091-000-092 is a solo double-bass instrument. This new sound clearly is an ensemble which is best kept within the compass of normal double-basses. Aftertouch appears to have no effect.

Here are the Sound Control default settings:

SC Number	SC Parameter	SC Inst Value
1	Release	69
2	Attack	7
3	Treble	63
4	Color	63
5	Color	63
6	Attack Shape	38

Release has its usual function with a narrower range of usable values, though.

Attack also has a narrow range of usable values, with 14 providing a lazy double bass ensemble.

Treble provides a "sheen" to the sound at higher values, removing that effect at lower values.

Now there appears to be two parameters with the name "**Color**". The first one (number 4 above) appears to be mis-labelled. Its effect is to alter the bass part of the sound, higher values increasing the bass and vice versa. I'm therefore calling it "**Bass**".

Color (true Color) appears to have no effect.

Attack Shape appears to make no difference.

Trumpet Ensemble : 093-000-095

A useful trumpet sound though difficult to gauge how many trumpets are in the ensemble. Aftertouch appears to have no effect.

Here are the Sound Control default settings:

SC Number	SC Parameter	SC Inst Value
1	Release	53
2	Attack	5
3	Treble	63
4	Bass	63
5	Color	63
6	Attack Shape	0

Release and **Attack** have their usual effects, though with a fairly narrow range of usable values.

Treble and **Bass** control those tones respectively, acting in a subtle way to change the timbre of the sound.

Color offers a less subtle way to change the timbre of the sound. High values give a brighter sound.

Attack Shape provides almost a percussive beginning to the sound which becomes more noticeable as the value increases.

Classical Small Strings : 093-000-096

This is a collection of stringed instruments playing in ensemble with fewer instruments than in Classical Large Strings and providing a different sound. Aftertouch appears to have no effect.

Here are the Sound Control default settings:

SC Number	SC Parameter	SC Inst Value
1	Release	65
2	Treble	63
3	Bass	63
4	Violins	63
5	Celli	63
6	Contrabass	63

The full collection of parameters here provides considerable variation in the sound according to the emphasis to be placed on sections of the ensemble. The sound could be just a Contrabass ensemble when the Bass value may be raised to advantage. Or a bright Cello group could have both the Treble and Bass raised etc. The best way of experiencing this is to experiment with it yourself. All controls have a full range, though, as before, Release is best kept within narrow limits of the Inst value above.

This sound can be the starting point of many further different sounds for storing in the User edited sounds section of the database.

Stratocaster Without Vibrato : 093-000-097

Although there is no built-in vibrato with this sound, the Modulation Wheel will add a little vibrato to it. Aftertouch appears to have no effect.

Here are the Sound Control default settings:

SC Number	SC Parameter	SC Inst Value
1	Release	71
2	Width	63
3	EQ	63
4	Tone	127
5	Color	63
6	Attack Shape	0

Release has a very wide range of usable values.

Width refers to the stereo spread of the sound, higher values increasing the spread while lower values focus the sound down to a single, mono source.

EQ emphasizes the higher frequencies with higher values and vice versa.

Tone appears to have no effect.

Color provides switched changes in timbre at: 14; 40; 67; 98; 125.

Attack Shape progressively dulls the attack as the value is increased.

In the next (final) article in this series we shall be looking at the final five sounds in this set:

Solo Trumpet 2

Natural Guitar Slide

Pedal Steel Guitar

Pedal Steel Slide Guitar

Marimba Repeat

plus

Brass Shake (the new sound given with R36).

In the meantime, enjoy your explorations.

Colin
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