

M3 Tips

Bobby Nelson's Tips of
the Month: May '08

KORG

M3
MUSIC WORKSTATION/SAMPLER



COOKIN' WITH THE M3

Now for more delicious tips on the juicy M3 – bon appétit!!!

-Bobby Nelson, Korg USA Technology Product Specialist

Here's what you'll learn in this month's collection of tips:

- ✓ **Effects Routing De-Mystified**
- ✓ **Customizing and saving an Effect**
- ✓ **Working with Total Effects**

FX Routing DeMystified!

Part of the M3's power lies in the ability to route effects with all the flexibility of the best mixing consoles. Each Timbre in a Combination or Track in a Sequence may be routed through single or multiple Insert Effects. The signal may then be routed to two Master Effects. Lastly, the signal can pass through a final effect known as the Total Effect.

Let's examine a complex Combination to see an example of FX routing...

1. Select **I-C-060, Analog Analogies** > Press the **PAGE SELECT** switch, and then touch and select **P8-1, IFX Route 1/1-5**.
2. Touch the **Route 1, 1-8** tab, if not already selected, and look at the choices:

A Timbre/Track may bypass the Insert Effects and be sent directly on to the two Master Effects. Look at Timbres 3 and 4. The Bus Select choice is “L/R”: these sounds are routed to the Main Left and Right outputs.

- ✓ Timbre 3 (8’ Harpsichord) is not routed to an effect.
- ✓ Timbre 4 (Sticky Finga Clav) has a Send 2 value of 038: it is being sent to MFX 2 (Smooth Hall Reverb) before proceeding to the Main Outs.

A Timbre/Track may be routed through an Insert Effect, or a chain of Insert Effects. Notice that Timbres 1 and 2 are both bussed to IFX2. So, **Multiple Timbres/Tracks can be routed to the same Insert Effect.**

- ✓ Also notice that IFX2, a Stereo/Cross Delay, is chained to IFX3, a Stereo Mastering Limiter, indicated by the bracketed arrow in the upper right of the Display.

Insert Effects do not have to be adjacent to be chained together. Notice the bass (Timbres 6 and 7) are bussed to IFX1 (Stereo Mastering Limiter) which is then chained to IFX5 (Stereo Chorus). **The signal flow is more apparent if you touch the IFX Setup tab (the third tab from the left at the bottom of the Display).**

- ✓ The “Chain To” field permits you to chain any insert to any IFX location farther down the list.

The IFX Setup tab is one of two screens that allow you to send a Timbre/Track through the two Master Effects. If there is a chain of effects, this setting is made after the last effect in the chain. The column to the far right is labeled “Send 1/2”; this is where you set the Send levels into the two MFX.

- ✓ In our present example, the synth sounds in Timbres 1 and 2 are routed to IFX2, which is chained to IFX3, and then fed via Send1 into MFX1 (Stereo Random Phaser). The other screen that allows you to make these settings is accessed by pressing the **PAGE SELECT** switch, then touch **P8-2, IFX Route 2.**

The Insert Effects and Master Effects may now be sent through a Total Effect.

Press the **Page Select Button** and choose **P9 MFX/TFX...**

- ✓ In our example, the Total Effect is a Stereo 4-band Parametric EQ. The on-screen Master dial lets you make a final decision about the overall level of this Combination.

Any Timbre/Track may be routed to the Aux outs, before or after the Insert Effects.

Press the **Page Select button** and choose **P8-1 IFX Route1/1-5**

- ✓ To route a Timbre/Track to an AUX OUT, or an AUX OUT pair before any Inserts, simply touch the pop-up arrow under the desired Timbre. The numbered choices 1, 2, 3, 4, 1/2, and 3/4, are the Aux Out selections.
- ✓ Send Timbres 1 and 2 in our example to Aux Outs 1 and 2. These synths now drop out of the Main Stereo Mix, and are isolated to these two outputs. **Caution: These Aux Out choices are un-attenuated, meaning the signal output is very hot!**
- ✓ **To route to an Aux Out after an Insert Effect:** Touch the **IFX Setup** tab, and touch the **Bus** pop-up for the desired Track/Timbre. If two or more effects are chained, the desired Bus pop-up will be the one after the final effect in the chain. In our example, the synths in Timbres 1 and 2 enter IFX2 and are chained to IFX3; Select the Bus popup to the right of IFX3. **Once again, be prepared to attenuate these outputs on your mixer.**

Customizing and saving an Effect

Let's explore how you can personalize and customize the effects within the M3:

Select Program I-B-088 Gospel BX3 as example, and then...

1. Turn the **Rotary Speaker OD** Effect off for now: Press the **Page Select** switch and touch **P8, IFX** in the display.
2. Touch the **IFX Setup** tab, and touch the **ON** box for **IFX2** so that it turns **Off** (*Short cut: press Mix Play/Mute (Solo) switch #2*).
3. Play the keyboard. Still hearing some pitch modulation? Touch the **IFX1** tab for the explanation. One of the exciting new effects in the M3 is a separate Organ Vib/Chorus effect, which accurately emulates the three vibrato and three chorus speeds of a classic organ we all know and love.
4. Touch the field **Preset Type** and use the **VALUE SLIDER** to change the types of Vibrato. Play the keyboard as you familiarize yourself with the choices.
5. What if you weren't limited to six choices, but could actually model a custom speed? Touch **Control Mode:** and change this to **Custom** instead of **Preset**, by hitting the **UP** arrow switch once. Change the **Custom Speed** field to some exaggerated speed, perhaps 10.00 or higher.
6. You can even modulate the speed factor! Touch the **Src:** pop-up after **Custom Speed**, change this to **After Touch**, and dial up an **Amt** of +12.00 or more. As you press harder on the keys, your Chorus effect will speed up.

✓ *Have fun exploring what you can do with a single effect. If you create a winner and wish to save it back to the same sound location, the M3 offers a short cut: Simply press the Sequencer REC/WRITE switch and touch OK in the display.*

✓ *If you wish to save this sound as an alternate, use the tried-and-true method of writing the sound to another memory location (Upper right corner: Write Program).*

Press the COMPARE switch on the numeric keypad to get back to the original Program, and touch the IFX2 tab for the Rotary Speaker OD effect. There are many useful possibilities for customization here:

***Don't want to take your hand off the keyboard to switch your rotary speed by using the pre-programmed JS+Y move?** Touch the **Src:** pop-up after **Speed Switch**; change it to **Damper: #64**. Now you have hands-free speed control: step on the pedal once; it speeds up; step on it again, and it slows down. Another useful source could be **After Touch**; and this choice could be further customized by changing the **SW:** (switch) mode from **Toggle** to **Moment** (Momentary): now the rotary speeds up only when you press harder; the moment you lighten up, it slows down!*

***Want to emulate various vintage rotary cabinets?** Change the **Horn/Rotor Balance** value for an immediate change; or dig deeper, and play with **Horn Acceleration**, **Rotor Acceleration**, **Horn Ratio** and **Rotor Ratio**.*

***Want a 'dirtier' organ?** Turn **Overdrive ON** and play with **Overdrive Gain**, **Overdrive Level**, and **Overdrive Tone**.*

***Tip:** If you overwrite an Internal sound location and later regret it, you can always grab the original sound from the M3's Preload (Global: Basic: Load Preload/Demo Data: Kind: Single (Program or Combi): any sound can be written to just about any destination!*

Check out these Programs and Combis using the Total (final) Effect:

Program I-A-077, Tranceferrance Lead:	TFX: Stereo Limiter: Turn on KARMA/Drum Track for full effect.
Program I-B-068, Nu Style Kit:	TFX: OD/Hi.Gain Wah: Fader 7 controls the Wet/Dry amount.
Combi I-A-025, Love for Trance:	TFX: St Tube PreAmp
Combi I-A-044, SupaDupa Zinth:	TFX: St. Mastering Limiter
Combi I-A-077, Paisley Groove:	TFX: St Exciter/Enhancer
Combi I-B-124, ...and keeps on picking!:	TFX: St. Tube PreAmp
Combi I-B-025, Power Monster Synth:	TFX: St. Tube PreAmp

Combis using TFX, Modulated by X-Y Mode:

I-A-90, "Please...just hold me":	TFX: St Ring Modulator (+X: Wet/Dry; +Y, Frequency)
I-B-093, Watching the Virus Grow:	TFX: St. Random Flanger (+X: Wet/Dry)
I-B-014, EuroPop Supa'Starr:	TFX: Bass Amp+Cabinet (+X:Wet/Dry)
I-C-042, Shifting Cells:	TFX: St. Vintage Wah (Turn on KARMA) (+X: Wet/Dry)
I-A-087, Jazz Organ & Pedals:	TFX: Stereo BPM Delay (+X: Input Level Dmod)
I-A-063, Jam on da M3 Pads! :	TFX: Grain Shifter (+X: Wet/Dry; +Y: Duration)

Hopefully, these examples have given you some ideas on how you might apply the Total Effect and the X-Y Mode in your own music.

Remember that X-Y Motion parameters and effects can be freely copied; even between different Modes of the M3 (e.g. from Program into Combi, from Combi into Sequencer, etc.)

Example: Let's use that great delay from **Combi I-A-087** above, on **Program I-A-002 (Steel Ac Guitar)**.

1. After selecting this guitar Program, press the **PAGE SELECT** switch.
2. Touch **P9 MFX/TFX** in the display.
3. Touch the upper right drop-down arrow and touch the fourth command, **Copy MFX/TFX**.
4. Touch the popup after **From:** and select **Combination**.
5. Touch the popup > for the location and choose **I-A87**.
6. Check the box for **TFX** and touch **OK**.
7. Touch the **TFX** tab to confirm that your selection has been copied.
8. Turn on the **X-Y MODE** switch and play, adding delay as your finger travels +X.

More tips and tricks coming next month! In the meantime, practice, and make great music!

-Bobby Nelson

For more information, see the *M3 Parameter Guide*, and make sure to visit korg.com/m3, karma-lab.com and www.korgforums.com for support, tips and tricks!