Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/30 08:46

———————————————————————

Hi guys,
My name is Diane and I use the Monomachine and Machinedrum a lot in my music. I also work for Keith McMillen Instruments designing software for midi controllers. We have a keyboard controller called QuNexus which has pressure and tilt sensitive keys which works very nicely for me with the Monomachine.

I made a group of QuNexus presets which allows you to use polyphonic pressure and tilt to modulate Monomachine parameters normally controlled by the joystick on the discontinued SFX-6.

QuNexus will let you control these joystick parameters without taking your fingers off the keys and it is very portable and customizable. These joystick parameters can be assigned to control virtually any element in your own instruments, but there is also a Kit file included as an example, as well as a quickstart guide explaining how to set everything up.

Hope you like it and I'd love to hear any feedback/suggestions you have.

Here is a link to the project page where you can download it (the file was too big to be uploaded here.)

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/project-detail/1833820-qunexus-monomachine-control

Here's a video of me playing it:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XkXIbqLzg_w

And here is a link with more info about the controller:

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/qunexus/tour

Thanks!
-Diane

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by RyanA4 - 2013/08/30 09:23

———————————————————————

Wow. Might be the thing that pushes me over the top to finally get an MnM....

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by shemp - 2013/08/30 10:23

———————————————————————

Thanks for this Diane - I happen to have *just* picked up a QuNexus last week and am starting to dig into it.

Serendipity.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/30 11:22

———————————————————————

Thanks, guys!

I promise I'm not being a salesman for either company - both QuNexus and the Monomachine have been incredibly useful for me, I think they are a match made in heaven.

Let me know if you have any questions - I'll be keeping an eye on this thread, or you can PM me.
-Diane

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Shogun5000 - 2013/08/30 14:33

_____

WOW! look really good. How do you connect it to the monomachine? Can i use my TM-1 or do i need the SoftStep MIDI Expander?

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/30 15:16

_____

Hi Shogun5000,
You do need the SoftStep MIDI Expander to connect it to the monomachine if you want to do it without a computer, which is a nice simple setup for a live environment.

But another option would be to plug the QuNexus into your computer via usb and then route the midi out of the computer using something like (MaxMSP or a sequencer/DAW like Ableton Live) through your interface and into the monomachine. This is a couple more connections, but it would allow you to record and edit the midi data as you play, and create loops with the automation on the joystick parameters. Haven't tried that part yet myself, but I bet it would be useful...

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by josker - 2013/08/30 15:43

_____

Halo of Teeth wrote:
I promise I'm not being a salesman for either company - both QuNexus and the Monomachine have been incredibly useful for me, I think they are a match made in heaven.

And even if you were, this is that done right :) Full disclosure is always nice, and it's free, useful presets right on the forum where the relevant people are - served by the person who made them. Doesn't get better than this! Thanks.

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Shogun5000 - 2013/08/30 15:59

_____

Ok thanks. have to try that

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Shogun5000 - 2013/08/30 15:59

_____

Ok thanks. have to try that

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/30 16:12

_____

Awesome! Would love to hear what you guys come up with.

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/08/31 04:22

_____

Been waiting ages for this to be released in Europe....
It looks absolutely perfect, but it's not available here yet:(

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/31 04:25

_____

You mean QuNexus isn't available in your area? Where in Europe are you? I'm 99% sure they are available but I will check with folks at my work today for you.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/31 05:50

_____

Hey, I just checked. It is definitely available in Europe. Here's a link for you...

http://www.dv247.com/computer-hardware/keith-mcmillen-qunexus-midi-keyboard-controller--105389

...(ok in this post I am being a salesman haha :P :blush:)...

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/08/31 07:47

_____

That's brilliant - thank you
I'm in Denmark, and usually shop in Germany.....shame on me:laugh:
Can you clarify one thing for me... Why do I need the softstep controller ?
It will run as a standard midi controller as well.... Without the softstep...right?

Thanx for the link...ordering NOW:laugh:

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/31 08:02

_____

Hey, happy to clarify. QuNexus is a standard midi controller. You do not need the SoftStep controller as well (though it is useful too haha). SoftStep is a different midi controller that we make for your feet:

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/softstep/overview

However, QuNexus uses a micro USB connector:

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/QuNexus/faqs/#1643268-what-kind-of-usb-port-does

So if you want to plug it directly into the Monomachine using a standard 5-Pin MIDI cable without using a computer with a midi interface, you need to also get the MIDI Expander:

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/expander/overview

Let me know if you need a link for where to buy one in Europe. Does that answer your question?

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/08/31 08:04

_____

Hmmm they're using verified by visa which is not supported by my bank yet:(
Must wait 'till it's in stock in Denmark or germany!

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/08/31 08:05

_____

I have the iconnect midi - will that work?

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/31 08:09

_____

I will check. I'm also going to see if I can get you a different link.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/08/31 09:29

_____

OK, here's another link in Germany:

http://rockshop.de/en-de/products/32077

And I'm waiting to hear back for sure whether or not your interface will work. I'll let you know.

Thanks for your interest! :cheer:

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/08/31 21:40

_____

You've been veryhelpfull - thank you!
Turns out it's my new bank that's using systems my old one didn't
But I'm suspicious about pop ups requiring me to give away my card details
So I'll wait for local availability

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/02 22:27

_____

Halo of Teeth wrote:
Hi guys,
My name is Diane and I use the Monomachine and Machinedrum a lot in my music. I also work for Keith McMillen
Instruments designing software for midi controllers. We have a keyboard controller called QuNexus which has pressure
and tilt sensitive keys which works very nicely for me with the Monomachine.

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And here is a link with more info about the controller:

http://www.keithmcmillen.com/qunexus/tour

Thanks!
-Diane

Diane--

THANKS SOOOO MUCH!!! :woohoo: In just finished ordering both items then went to your website and ordered the CV Connection Cable Kit because it can be found nowhere else and if priced *anywhere else* via individual cables, it would cost at least 2x what KMI charges @ $29.95

Poly After Touch, and all else is just a no brainer and at the great prices!! I use a lot of hardware rack synths as well so this will just be like unlocking Pandora's Box to infinite possibilities.
Thanks so much for the files you supplied/shared with us:woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo: :woohoo:

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/03 02:45
_____

That's excellent, glad to see you're so excited! Thank you for the kind words, and let me know if you have any questions. Would love to see what you come up with, enjoy. ;)

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/03 02:46
_____

daffydub wrote:
I have the iconnect midi - will that work?

Also, I checked about iConnect. It will probably work, but we don't have one around the office to test with so we can't guarantee it. But no reason why not as far as I know...

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/03 04:45
_____

Halo of Teeth wrote:
That's excellent, glad to see you're so excited! Thank you for the kind words, and let me know if you have any questions. Would love to see what you come up with, enjoy. ;)

You are welcome and yes, I do have question(s) before my orders arrive, please?! I totally understand that not *all*

synths will respond to poly after touch and more that often it is "channel after touch" and my first question is this overcome somehow by QuNexus, and does QuNexus use standard midi controller numbers?

Lastly, with the pitch/modulation done by tipping one's playing of the individual QuNexus keys, is that addressed via midi as modulation wheel/pitch wheel midi cc's?

Thanks!

Even though I do use Reaper DAW to record my work and mainly audio rather than midi, even though Reaper is unique in that it treats both exactly the same, when I ordered, I did buy the MIDI Expander because it just seemed like a no-brainer how versatile that allows the QuNexus to be.

Sorry, my LAST question to you or ANYONE on here; Has anyone used the QuNexus as an external EXPRESSIVE as hell keyboard for the Analog Four? Rather than having to place parameter locks for after touch and velocity, this bad boy QuNexus should allow the keyboard player to lay in some dynamics (in theory) rather than using the on-board mini keypad. How cool!

Diane, so there's no drivers needed? How is this accomplished? All within the device, I presume?

Thanks again!

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/03 04:45
_____

Double Post! WTF???:angry:

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/09/04 02:58
_____

Finally everything worked out....ordered.....waiting.... Will post results with iconnect midiB)

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by johnathon doe - 2013/09/04 17:27
_____

Hey Diane,

Thanks for taking the time to make some Elektron presets!

I'm not in the market (broke!), but i'll be looking into this gear in the future for sure.

Be sure to sign up with an account to the NEW Elektron board.

elektronauts.com

This site will be going into freeze mode once the beta for the new site is done.

I'm sure A LOT of elektronauts will be interested in this kit on the new board as well.

peace

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/05 02:54
_____

Hi Namnibor,
Sorry it took me a couple days to get back to you, been working a lot, and I knew your questions deserved a detailed response. So here it goes... ;)

not *all* synths will respond to poly after touch and more that often it is "channel after touch" and my first question is this

overcome somehow by QuNexus, and does QuNexus use standard midi controller numbers?

QuNexus can send Midi CC's, the controller numbers are customizable by default it sends pressure on CC 1. It also can send channel pressure which is a continuous pressure value (from 0-127) for the entire keyboard (an average of the pressure of all keys on one channel). Or it can also send Poly Aftertouch messages, which is a different continuous pressure value for each note.

We have a couple ways of getting around synths that don't accept polyphonic pressure. When QuNexus sends pressure or tilt on a CC there is a priority you can set so that the latest, earliest, highest or lowest key controls the pressure/tilt output.

For the Monomachine I have used a different method of achieving polyphony. It accepts data on a different channel for each track, by default channels 1-6, where track 1 is channel 1, track 2 is channel 2, etc. This allows you to play polyphonically and stack the voices using the QuNexus if you use something we call channel rotation.

Channel rotation puts each note on a different channel as you play them. So the first note I play would go on channel 1 and trigger the machine on track 1. If I hold that note down and play a second one, that goes to track 2 etc.

You can also play polyphonically by playing on channel 9 (the "auto track channel") and putting the monomachine into poly mode. Then QuNexus will control whichever track is currently selected.

tipping one's playing of the individual QuNexus keys, is that addressed via midi as modulation wheel/pitch wheel midi cc's?

We call that the "tilt" source and you can assign it to be sent over pitch bend or midi cc's. By default it is sent with pitch bend.

On the Monomachine, pitch bend corresponds to the Joy Stick left/right control and it can be assigned to any 2 parameters, not necessarily pitch up / down. Also, CC 1 corresponds to Joy stick up and CC 2 corresponds to Joy stick down. Each of these controls can be assigned to 2 parameters as well.

To make it even more flexible, each track on the monomachine has a different assign page for the joystick parameters, all of which can be controlled on individual keys using channel rotation on QuNexus.

Say you have tilt assigned to pitch bend on QuNexus and you are using channel rotation with pressure assigned to CC 1.

And on the monomachine you assign CC 1 to the filter cutoff on track 1, but it's assigned to resonance on track 2.

Then pressing and tilting the first key you press will bend the pitch and modulate the filter cutoff on track 1. If you add a second key to that, separately tilting and pressing on it will separately modulate the pitch and filter resonance on track 2.

So that's how it works! :kiss:

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/05 02:54
_____

Finally everything worked out....ordered.....waiting.... Will post results with iconnect midi

Awesome, hope you like it! And please do post about the iconnect. I'm sure a lot of people would be curious to know if that works or not.

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/05 02:55
_____

Double post for me too, sorry...

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/05 02:59

_____

I'm sure A LOT of elektronauts will be interested in this kit on the new board as well.

Thanks! I'll be sure to do that.

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/05 04:33

_____

@Diane:

Thanks for that detailed response! helps a lot. Until I get the QuNexus and Midi Expander and register the products, it seems only then will I be allowed to have access to download the editor and a lot of other stuff for it on KMI website. My CV Connection Cable Kit will arrive from KMI next week as well...pretty excited. Watched many videos on KMI and loved the dramtic "Mission Impossible Theme" you were playing and the drama unfolding with your team. The QuNexus strapped to a Watermelon and dropped out a one story window, being driven over, and hosed--and still working is incredible....totally get off on this kind of stuff. Cool company!

Does *anyone* know if the QuNexus would be able to be connected to the midi in of the Analog Four and use THAT expressive playing to input notes within the A4 rather than just the mini keys on A4 so real playing expression and modulation could be played-in rather than having to always go in and add AT, Velo, et al with P-Locks after the fact? Anyone try? If not, I may be the "test subject"...LOL!

Thanks again Diane, printed that out to add to my addendum to Elektron manuals!

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/05 07:19

_____

Thanks for that detailed response!
No problem!

Does *anyone* know if the QuNexus would be able to be connected to the midi in of the Analog Four and use THAT expressive playing to input notes within the A4

It should... ;) I will be able to tell you for sure soon because I have one on order now. B)

That's the first thing I was going to try as soon as it gets here - I've already read up on it in the manual and QuNexus -> midi expander -> Analog 4 should work similarly to the monomachine.

This would allow you to either play the currently selected voice using the "Auto-Channel" (default 10) or stack the voices by using QuNexus channel rotation, where the first key you press plays a note and its pressure/tilt modulate track 1, the second note controls track 2, etc.

I can't swear to this because I haven't tried it yet, but according to the manual it should work. QuNexus does some fancy things, but it's all normal midi. No need for drivers either!

-Diane

===

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6

Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/05 08:07

_____

My QuNexus and Midi Expander arrives end if week or early next week as well. As I am definitely still learning the A4, please post your findings and any creative ways of doing just as we are hoping, if you will?! I still cannot believe the

reasonable pricing of KMI gear!! Well, can say the same about the Analog Four as well!! These are great times to be immersed in creativity!

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Blue Monster 65 - 2013/09/06 02:30
_____

Halo - have you tried either the QuNexus or QuNeo with the MachineDrum?   I'm specifically wondering about playing melodic lines with it.

Thanks in advance!

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/06 12:43
_____

I'll put something together for you and get back to you. ;)

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Blue Monster 65 - 2013/09/06 20:11
_____

Thanks!

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/09/07 08:01
_____

I'm so thrilled 'bout these.... Got my eye on a 2nd hand Quneo for the MachineDrum as well:laugh:

Qunexus arrives MondayB)

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/07 18:25
_____

Halo of Teeth wrote:
Thanks for that detailed response!
No problem!

Does *anyone* know if the QuNexus would be able to be connected to the midi in of the Analog Four and use THAT expressive playing to input notes within the A4

It should... ;) I will be able to tell you for sure soon because I have one on order now. B)

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I can't swear to this because I haven't tried it yet, but according to the manual it should work. QuNexus does some fancy things, but it's all normal midi. No need for drivers either!

-Diane

@Diane: Am I correct in reading when using the Midi Expander as the micro USB from QuNexus as Midi Express to a hardware midi device, that the external midi hardware needs to be set to midi channel 2? If so, how would this work with midi channel rotation?

Both KMI devices arrive today but will be out doing field recordings so thought to ask and/or you could help clear my brain-fog on this!:silly:
Thanks in advance!

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/09/11 09:36
_____

No luck yet
the iconnect simply doesn't "see" any incoming MIDI
Only spent half an hour or so.... Will keep tryin' !

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by sausmatoe - 2013/09/11 10:37
_____

daffydub wrote:
No luck yet
the iconnect simply doesn't "see" any incoming MIDI
Only spent half an hour or so.... Will keep tryin' !

Which version of iConnect Midi are you using?

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/11 13:48
_____

Am I correct in reading when using the Midi Expander as the micro USB from QuNexus as Midi Express to a hardware midi device, that the external midi hardware needs to be set to midi channel 2?

Not quite. The Midi Expander connects to the QuNexus Mini port, not Micro port (the one on the right) using a USB A-to-Mini cable. From the Expander you can plug a regular midi cable into the Monomachine input. The Midi Expander is just a different port to send on, it can send any midi channel. By default, the Monomachine actually receives on channels 1-6 for the individual tracks, and channel 8 for the auto-track which triggers whichever track is selected on the machine at the time.

If so, how would this work with midi channel rotation?

You can set a base channel for channel rotation in the QuNexus editor. This is the channel that your first note is sent on and they increment upwards by 1 with each note from there. By default the base channel is 1.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/11 13:50
_____

Also, how is it plugged into the QuNexus? Do the LEDs on the QuNexus light up when you press on the keys? If not then it is not getting power.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/11 14:06

_____

Sorry, my last post was @daffydub about the iconnect.

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/09/11 22:41

_____

It lights up real pretty and allB)
the "MIDI expander" port on Qunexus plugs into the standard Usb A on the iconnect...
As said - power is not the issue... Itried different presets onthe qunexus as well.....
Will maybe buy the Camera connection kit today - just to get it running on the ipad...no money for the Midi expander till
next month:(

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by daffydub - 2013/09/12 07:14

_____

Only just discovered how cheap the Midi Expander is.... Ordered B)

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by Halo of Teeth - 2013/09/13 02:45

_____

Awesome! Sorry it didn't work for you with the iConnect, the midi expander will definitely do the trick. :)

==

Re:Monomachine control with QuNexus to mimic SFX-6
Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/21 18:42

_____

Halo of Teeth wrote:
Am I correct in reading when using the Midi Expander as the micro USB from QuNexus as Midi Express to a hardware
midi device, that the external midi hardware needs to be set to midi channel 2?

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Mini cable. From the Expander you can plug a regular midi cable into the Monomachine input. The Midi Expander is just
a different port to send on, it can send any midi channel. By default, the Monomachine actually receives on channels 1-6
for the individual tracks, and channel 8 for the auto-track which triggers whichever track is selected on the machine at the
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and they increment upwards by 1 with each note from there. By default the base channel is 1.

I wanted to explain why I was initially *confused* on the aforementioned 'Channel 2'---what the QuNexus instructions are
referring to in Channels 1,2 and 3 are the various 'PORTS' on physical QuNexus while talking about using cv and midi
and use of Midi Expander, and various set-up scenarios! Still learning but can say I would love to just shake Keith
McMillen's hand and tell him "Well done!" because I really think everyone should spend the extra $49. on the Midi
Expander because it really opens possibilities wide open!

I have yet to try recording/playing notes into the Analog Four instead of the mini keyboard on A4, as still taking my time learning the A4.

LOVE the Toggle features on QuNexus and for such a small device, part of does wish it had a small rechargeable lithium battery within it for total mobility.

==