

Physis Explained

2. Modifying a voicing style

[Head shot of presenter]

In this tutorial, I'll be introducing you to organ Styles, one of the most useful features of the Physis organ system. Each Style stores a different voicing of the organ, which organists might want to use for playing repertoire from schools such as the French romantic or the German baroque.

When a voicer configures a new style they'll usually have a clear concept of the sound they want to achieve, and use voices that complement each other. For the beginner, it's probably best to stick with families of voices having similar characteristics. Rather like cooking, you need ingredients that create a satisfying whole. It takes a bold, experienced and innovative chef to combine wildly contrasting ingredients and achieve a successful result, so we'll stick to fairly simple recipes for now. That could mean, for example, using stops that make up an English diapason chorus, some complementary flute stops, and a group of English-style reeds.

To do that we're going to edit one of the user-modifiable Styles and begin to voice a diapason chorus on the Great.

A [Shot of display and controls]

We need to start by making sure we've selected the style USER 1, which starts out being an editable copy of the preset English voicing. Select the Style menu, and pick User 1.

We need to choose some voices to begin modifying this Style, [so we highlight VOICES on the home screen, and press ENTER to select it.](#)

You can see a display with three headings. VOLUME LEVEL allows you to adjust the loudness of each stop; EDIT PARAMETERS allows you to modify voicing parameters, and ALTERNATIVE VOICES allows you to select the voice that sounds when a stop is pulled. [We're going to skip straight to ALTERNATIVE VOICES.](#)

Now you see a list of the organ divisions – in this case PEDAL, GREAT, SWELL, but this may be labelled differently in your area, for example the manual divisions may be labelled Manual 1 and Manual 2. [I'm going to select the GREAT division.](#)

You now see a list of stops starting with the lowest pitched. What's shown here will depend to some extent on the configuration of your instrument and the

stops that are available. The pitch (e.g. 16 or 8 foot) is shown as a number after the stop name, and they should be in the order of the stops on your instrument, but they may have different names.

We'll scroll down to something that looks like the first 8 foot diapason voice, and press ENTER. The physical stop concerned may come on and its light flash as you select it in the list. On some organ models you can hold down or out the physical stop concerned to highlight the voice to be modified.

[Cut in shot of flashing stop and hold down to select]

What you see next is a list of all the alternative voices that can sound when this stop is used. Make sure it's on or pulled so that you can play it.

By using the arrow keys to scroll through the list you'll see a number of alternative voice titles. I'm going to find a basic 8 foot diapason sound as a basis for the chorus.

Here's one called OpDiap 8 1A so I'll play a few notes. If you don't like the sound you can try OpDiap 8 1B, for example.

Once you've found one you like, press ENTER to replace the current voice with the new one.

[Cut to black]

B

Using the procedure we've just gone through you can now go back and modify some more voices, to build up the diapason chorus.

So we'll select VOICES again on the home screen, then ALTERNATIVE VOICES, then GREAT again, to get back to the Great division stops. Now scroll down to find the 4 foot Diapason or Principal, or possibly hold down the relevant stop tab until it is selected. You can then go through the same process as before to find a suitable English 4 foot Diapason.

[Demo a few options]

While you do this, you'll want to try playing it together with the 8 foot diapason that you chose previously, to test the combined effect and find a complementary 4 foot. You can pull out other stops while you voice the one you're currently working on, to hear the combined effect. When you've found the 4 foot you like press ENTER to select it, and replace the existing voice.

C

At a basic level you can adjust the voicing by altering the relative volume levels of the voices you've just selected, using the VOLUME section of the VOICES menu. So, for example, we can go in and change the volume of the 4 foot diapason, with the 8 and the 4 drawn together and listen to the result. If we highlight the 4 foot principal we can see that its level is currently x dB, so we'll adjust it slightly to balance better with the 8 foot, as we've just selected a new voice.

[Head shot of presenter]

When you make changes to a saved style, such as selecting an alternative voice or changing a voicing parameter, the Physis system will store them automatically. If you turn the organ off and on again, or go back to playing, the altered style will be available.

So you've begun to learn how to voice an organ style using Physis. In another tutorial we'll take a look at some of the more detailed voicing parameters for an individual pipe sound.