

The Modalio: Augmented Organ, between tradition and innovation

The Modalio is a sound transformation extension for pipe organs. Developed by Alter Instruments, it offers organists a wider range of sounds thanks to real-time digital processing of the sound signal. The Modalio offers various effects such as rhythm, pitch, timbre and space transformations, controlled by the organist via an intuitive interface featuring pedals and a touch screen. The aim of the Modalio is to broaden the sound palette of the pipe organ, making it more accessible to contemporary music and opening up new creative possibilities for performers.

A new dimension in sound

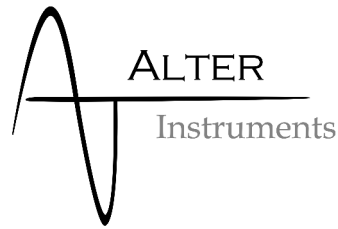
Modalio is an innovative device that integrates digital sound processing directly into the organ, without modifying the acoustic or historical structure of the instrument. Thanks to microphones placed inside the instrument, the sound of the pipes is captured, transformed in real time according to the organist's gestures on dedicated pedals, then broadcast via loudspeakers. This process creates a natural blend of acoustic sound and electronic transformations, opening up new expressive possibilities for performers.

An intuitive and autonomous approach

What makes Modalio unique is that it makes all the possibilities offered by sound processing technologies accessible to the performer themselves. Unlike temporary installations, which usually require the assistance of a technician, the Modalio is designed to be controlled directly by the organist via an intuitive gesture interface. It allows effects (delay, filters, modulations, etc.) to be applied in real time and in complete autonomy, without complex installation. What's more, it can read audio files and interact with other augmented instruments, expanding repertoire and creative possibilities.

A project supported and deployed internationally

Developed by Alter Instruments, Modalio was born at the request of organist Jean-Christophe Revel. Development is supported by the *French Ministry of Culture* (Innovative Digital Services 2022 program) and the *France National Music Centre* (Support for Innovation 2023). Several renowned organists were able to experiment with Modalio right from the prototyping stage. Its



mobile version traveled to Spain in 2024, and the first permanent installation, created in collaboration with organ builder Jean Daldosso, will be inaugurated in May 2025.

A lever for the future of the organ

By integrating innovative technologies while respecting tradition, the Modalio opens up new perspectives in organ pedagogy and discovery. Its intuitive approach makes it easy to explore contemporary and modern musical languages, attracting a wider audience, musicians from diverse backgrounds and new composers curious to experiment with this augmented instrument.

An instrument for today's and tomorrow's repertoire

Modalio is a tool for creation and reinterpretation. It enables composers to conceive original works and transcribe pieces from the electroacoustic repertoire for augmented organ. The sonic possibilities it offers make it an ideal tool for musical improvisation. Thanks to its connectivity, Modalio facilitates configuration exchange and access to a library of hundreds of works.

A complementary sound for the modern organ

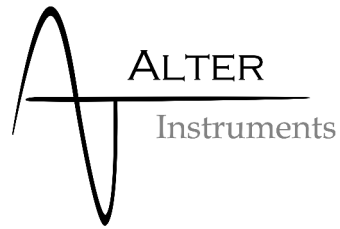
Technological innovations have always been part of the organ's DNA. Lately, we've been hearing a lot about hyperorgans, which, thanks to MIDI control of the valves, make it possible to obtain unprecedented effects such as glissandos and microtonal chords by acting upstream of sound production. The Modalio, on the other hand, intervenes after the initial sound production, capturing and transforming the sound of the pipes in real time via microphones and digital processing controlled by the performer. The result is a double layer of sound: acoustic and transformed. The new sound management technologies complement each other, each bringing a new expressiveness to organ music.

The Modalio opens a new era for the organ: a heritage instrument, now anchored in innovation.

Key features of the Modalio

Real-time digital sound processing

- Delays
- Feedbacks
- Harmonizer
- Filters
- Reverberation
- Volumes
- Panning



- Mixing of the organ's sound planes

Sound file playback

- Easy access to forward/backward functions for rehearsing
- Click-track for synchronisation

Repertoire

- Original compositions
- Transcriptions of existing repertoire
- Arrangements
- Improvisation
- Easy download of new electronic configurations
- Exchange of configurations with compatible instruments

Audio recording of the performance

- Built-in recording function
- Files can be downloaded from server

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<https://modalio.fr/en/press>