DynaSample XPression / XpressO

Creating an external system drive from downloadable files

Download all 8 recovery files (size approx. 5 GB) and copy them to a USB (FAT32) drive. Linux ext4 works as well.
NTFS, FAT, exFAT or Mac file formats will NOT work ! ! !
Don't use your oldest / slowest drive or it might take forever ...

For the **XpressO** or **XPression** software version 2.0 go here for downloading:
https://www.dynasample.com/xpsystem_image/xpsystem_v3.0/

For the older **XPression** software version 1.3 go here for downloading:
https://www.dynasample.com/xpsystem_image/_xpsystem_v3.0_(xp_v1.3)

Please unzip all archives first.
Check the size of the (unzipped) files by right clicking and looking at the properties. They should all have the same size 650 MB (681,574,400 Bytes) except for the last one which has 616 MB (646,706,652 Bytes).

You might want to backup all user banks that you want to use in your new system!
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Instructions for drive creation:

You need two USB drives. One is holding the 5 GB downloaded files and the other one will be the new backup drive (not smaller than 16 GB, read/write 15/10 MB minimum – faster (USB3) is recommended!

The latter will be overwritten, so make sure to backup any important data beforehand!

1) First update any older XPression to 1.3 (the XpressO needs no update) as instructed in the Update_ReadMe.pdf
2) Copy the system image files to the top level (i. e. not inside a folder) of a USB drive (5.04 GB / 5,417,.727,452 Bytes)
3) Start the XPression with no USB devices connected
4) Go to [**Utility**] and several times to the left to "Create Backup Drive from downloadable files on an external USB drive"
5) Connect the drive with the (unzipped) downloaded source files and press [**OK**]
6) the XPression/XpressO checks (only) for the first file and - if found - asks you to connect the backup destination drive (16 GB or larger) - use a fast USB2.0 or better USB3.0 16GB (or 32GB) drive - the faster the better.
   Slow drives might not work at all (USB2 read/write 15/10 MB/s minimum).
7) Press [**OK**] to start creating the backup drive.

This might take between 20 minutes several hours! Do not interrupt or power down the unit in any case!
You can interrupt the process with [**Escape**] even though this is not recommended!
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- After the creation of the drive has finished turn the XpressO / XPression off and disconnect the drive containing the original downloaded files. Leave the new backup drive in place.
- Turn off the internal drive switch (bottom position) on the rear of the XpressO / XPression and start up from the new drive.
- Now you need to go through the following steps to make your new drive a fully workable system drive:

1) Update the external drive to the latest software version (this sets up the audio and MIDI hardware correctly).
   Alternatively you can also go to [**Utility**] and to the left until you see “Generate Hardware Files” and press [**OK**].
   This will set up the correct hardware files and then restart automatically.
2) Reset the global settings on the external drive by doing this:
   - go to [**Utility**], 2x to the right to "internal Backup - all Settings & Maps" and select "restore6 - Akai EWI"
     (or select another appropriate backup for your controller).
     Then press [**OK**] and confirm once more with [**OK**].
3) Go to [**Utility**], 4x to the right to "internal Backup of all Presets & ChordMapper Banks" and select "restore6 - Factory->User Banks". Then press [**OK**] and confirm.

All of these operations on the external drive can be extremely slow as the writing speed of the USB drive might be several times slower than the internal flash drive. You need to be patient.
You might possibly think that the unit could have crashed but it might simply need a little extra time!

Once everything is set up and you can boot from the external drive and play normally you can proceed with restoring the internal drive from your external drive.

You can download the "XPression-RestoringTheSystemDrive.pdf" with the instructions here:

www.dynasample.com/downloads/XPression-RestoringTheSystemDrive.pdf (English)
www.dynasample.com/downloads/XPression-Systemlaufwerk_Wiederherstellen.pdf (German)

The picture are from the XPression but the procedure is the same for the XpressO.
The internal drive switch of the XpressO is located next to the MIDI Thru port.

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Troubleshooting

Authorization:

If your XpressO / XPression says “Hardware Not Authorized” please update to the latest software version.
The authorization is included in the software. If the software is older than your unit you will see this message.

The drive is not being recognized:

Only USB (source) drives formatted with **FAT32** or Linux **ext4** will work.
Do not format them on a MAC or with NTFS or exFAT on Windows.

If you still have trouble try switching the ports or connect them directly instead of using a hub.
If you use an extension cable change the cable if possible. Sometimes the mainboard can be a bit picky.
Make sure that especially your target USB drive is a good quality and fast USB3 drive to avoid data errors.

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Make sure to back up all of your needed user banks before copying the new system to your internal drive.
The drive containing all of your personal data will be overwritten!

BTW, you can copy your user bank(s) afterwards to the external USB drive as well. This way you have a current exact emergency backup with you on gigs in the future.

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IMPORTANT:

Check these global settings in [**Utility**] since those are different on different hardware configurations:

[**Utility**]: Sound Card Number: Set to “1” on XPression units starting with serials 011-…, 012-…, 013-…
Set to “2” on units starting with 015-…
The Sound Card number on the XpressO should be set to “0”.

If you do not get any sound at all go to [**Utility**] and a few times to the right to “Set Soundcard Number”
Change the number and set it back to the above recommended number.

ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESTORING THE INTERNAL DRIVE

(From an external USB Linux LIVE CD or system drive – like Ubuntu or Debian, etc.)

If you have an external USB drive with a Linux system or a Linux Live CD (https://ubuntu.com/download or https://www.debian.org/distrib/) you can restore a broken internal system drive (without any working XPression or XpressO) like this:

(First you need to connect a HDMI (or VGA – if available) monitor, a USB mouse and a USB QWERTY keyboard, maybe a USB-Hub – don't connect the target data drive to the hub, though!

1) Turn off the internal drive (with the switch at the rear of the XpressO / XPression) and boot the unit from your external hard / flash drive or Live CD/DVD.

2) After the system has loaded open a Linux terminal / console and type sudo -i followed by [ENTER].

3) Enter the following command: fdisk -l (fdisk, space, minus, small letter "L" as in "love")

This will list the available drives that are currently connected starting in alphabetical order with letter a), b), etc.

When starting from an external USB hard / flash drive you should see drive letter a), i.e. sda or sda1 (within some larger context like partitioning information and size, etc.).
In some Linux distributions this could also be hda or hda1. In this case you need to change sda1 to hda1 in the command lines below.

When starting from CD/DVD you shouldn't see sda.

4) Connect the drive with the source files (see on the very top) and repeat "fdisk -l" by simply using the arrow [Up] key (the command should be seen already) followed by pressing [ENTER].

5) Now you should see drive sda) and sdb) when starting from a USB thumb drive or only sda) when starting from CD/DVD.

6) Plug in the target USB system drive and repeat "fdisk -l" by simply using the arrow [Up] key.

7) Now you should see drive sda), sdb) and sdc) when starting from a USB thumb drive or sda) and sdb) when starting from CD/DVD.

8) If all drives are visible enter the following commands for

a) **If starting from CD/DVD then type:**

mount /dev/sda1 /mnt

press [ENTER] and type (or copy/paste)

cd /mnt

press [ENTER] and type (or copy/paste)

cat xpsystem.dd.bz* | bunzip2 -dc | dd of=/dev/sdb

For the XPression v1.3 type (or copy/paste): ***cat xp_os_v2.0.dd.bz* | bunzip2 -dc | dd of=/dev/sdb***

b) or else **when starting from a hard / flash drive type:**

mount /dev/sdb1 /mnt

press [ENTER] and type (or copy/paste)

cd /mnt

press [ENTER] and type (or copy/paste)

cat xp_os_v2.0.dd.bz* | bunzip2 -dc | dd of=/dev/sdc

For the XPression v1.3 type (or copy/paste): ***cat xp_os_v2.0.dd.bz* | bunzip2 -dc | dd of=/dev/sdc***

! (Be sure to mount the drive letter containing the files to /mnt) !

Press [ENTER] to start restoring …
(this can take between 10 minutes and 2 hours [or even more] depending on your drive speed)

During the process of restoring the cursor will be blinking …
When done it will show several lines giving information on the amount of data that was copied.

If the screen saver becomes active and turns off the screen press the [Alt] key to reactivate the screen!

9) Type **exit** followed by [**ENTER**] to close the console.

10) Shutdown the system from your Linux menu. **DONE!**

11) Disconnect all drives and start the XpressO / XPression normally from its internal flash drive.

After this you need to update the software to the latest version. This will not only make sure that you are using the newest software but it will also set up your hardware components correctly.

IMPORTANT:

Check these global settings in [**Utility**] since those are different on different hardware configurations:

[**Utility**]: Sound Card Number: Set to "0" on XPression units starting with serials 011-…, 012-…, 013-…
Set to "1" on units starting with 015-…
The Sound Card number on the XpressO should be set to "0".

If you do not get any sound at all go to [**Utility**] and a few times to the right to "Set Soundcard Number"
Change the number and set it back to the above recommended number.