Dear customer, thank you for buying My Piano. My Piano is a sampled upright piano for Native Instruments Kontakt.

It is designed for delicate and cinematic music, but it is also a good choice for romantic jazz and classical music.

We worked very hard to reproduce the many different aspects of a real piano. My Piano features many different layers of dynamics, release samples, internal resonances of the piano body, sympathetic and pedal resonance, pedal sounds and much more.
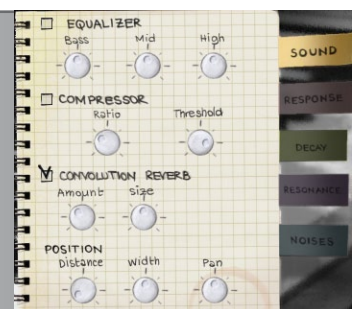
INSTALLATION

Extract the files in a new folder, and just open MyPiano.nki in Kontakt.
If you don't know how to open .rar files, we suggest to download 7zip from www.7-zip.org (windows users) or www.unrarx.com (mac users).

THE INTERFACE

There are five interface tabs in My Piano to customize the sound and the behaviour of the instrument.
Let's see them in detail:

SOUND

This page allows you to control various aspects of the piano sound.

EQUALIZER
The *equalizer* controls three basic parameters of piano sound, by using the basic Kontakt Three Band EQ.

COMPRESSOR
Compressor allows to achieve a "larger-than-life" effect by reducing the difference in gain in samples.
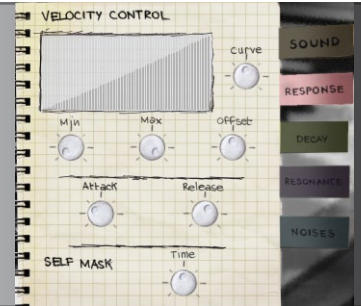
CONVOLUTION REVERB
Switched on by default, you can control the amount of reverb and hall size (since it is based on a convolution IR sample, we suggest not to push the size knob to the extremes to avoid artifacts).
We also recommend to keep the *Convolution reverb* on to take full advantage of the *Distance* knob.

POSITION
This section is very useful to help you place the piano in a mix. The *Distance* knob controls different parameters to give the illusion of moving the piano on the z-axis. This is done by altering four different parameters: by reducing the width of the stereo field, increasing the reverb and equalizing the piano, this knob is very effective to reproduce the different positions of a classical piano recording (Close, Near, Far).

The *Width* knob will simply reduce or widen the stereo separation. This will be affected by the *Distance* knob.

Pan simply controls where the piano is sitting in the stereo field (left or right).

RESPONSE

This page contains the basic parameters for customizing the piano response to the user playing style.

VELOCITY CONTROL
The velocity control section allows to change the piano response to the user's input velocity. You can draw the curve directly by dragging the mouse over the velocity table or by using the knobs.

ATTACK/RELEASE
These knobs just controls how fast the main layer will fade in or out. The default settings will work on most of the cases, since we carefully tweaked them to get a sharp sound without clicks and sudden note drops, but you can change them as you prefer.

SELF MASK
This simple knob is very powerful indeed. It is the basic control of our *Self Masking* system, that fades an existing voice when another one on the same key is pressed. We replaced Kontakt velocity-to-volume control with a customized scripted version, so the script will compare the actual playing voice volume to the new one that is beginning to play. The lower voice on gain is "marked" to fade out in a short time. With this knob you can control how fast you want the voices to be faded.

This feature is very important for two reasons: *Self Masking* helps to avoid the common phasing artifacts that happen when layering many notes on the same pitch and to prevent the polyphony from raising too much (especially when the pedal is pressed down).

DECAY
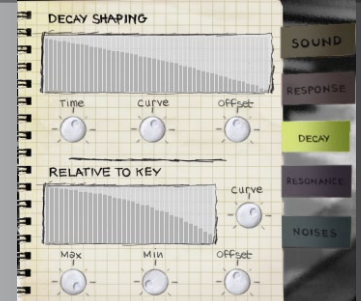
This page contains various parameters for customize piano decay. Usually you don't have to bother with this, but if you want to experiment or fine-tune something, you get full control over voice fading.
Remember that those controls work on piano notes lower than G5, since the upper notes have no looping.

DECAY SHAPING
This is the main curve of piano voices decay.
Since we used a technique involving looping at about an half of voice life, we implemented a script for note fading. With these parameters you can modify the duration of this fade and its shaping.

RELATIVE TO KEY
We carefully measured decay time in releation to the key; upper keys fade out faster and lower keys fade out slower. So if you want to customize this behaviour, just use controls to modify the fading in relation to the key.

RESONANCE
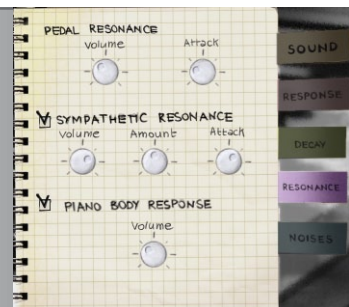
Resonance page contains controls to customize the internal resonances of My Piano. This page contain sthe main controls that characterize My Piano sound.

PEDAL RESONANCE
My Piano doesn't have a different sample set for *Pedal Up* and *Pedal Down* keys. We found another way to isolate the resonances of the piano when the pedal is down. With our technique you can really customize how much resonances you get when the pedal is down.

SYMPATHETIC RESONANCE
Sympathetic Resonance is the interaction between the open strings in the piano when a new key is pressed. On a real piano when you hold down C4 note and then press C3, you will hear the harmonics of C4 resonating in the piano.
We emulated this kind of interaction making a piano sound that is never the same if different notes are already pressed.
This is the key of My Piano warmth.

This feature will raise polyphony a bit, but thanks to Self Masking we managed to keep it under control.

PIANO BODY RESPONSE
Piano Body Response is a custom control that emulates the internal resonance of the piano body. This is done through an IR that controls how the piano itself diffuses the sound.
In combination with the convolution reverb on Sound page, this can be very heavy on the CPU. Moreover, there's an issue in older Kontakt versions (4.2.3 and lower), causing a "Memory Corruption Error". This is solved in Kontakt 4.2.4 update.

NOISES
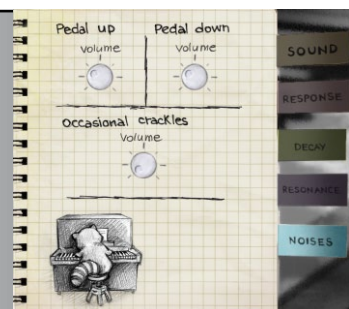
Every piano produces noise when played. The smarter the piano manufacturer is, the less noises are present, but an absolutely silent piano is certainly recognized as a fake one.

PEDAL UP - PEDAL DOWN
The knobs control how much you will hear the piano up and down, when you play with the MIDI pedal on your keyboard.

OCCASIONAL CRACKLES
Occasional crackles is the most amousing feature in My Piano. To emulate a live performance, you can raise this control a bit and some natural noises will be randomly produced. The more notes you play the more chanche you have to have noises reproduced.

CREDITS

My Piano was created by programmer, composer and sound designer Paolo Ingraito at FluffyAudio.

Thanks to Luca Thomas (www.dreamaudiotools.com), to Roberto Soggetti for his wise suggestions and lovely demo piece for My Piano. Thanks to Enrico Siringo for manual revision, to our friends at Racoonstudio (www.racoonstudio.com) and Valeria Armeni, for Fluffy the Raccoon drawings.

Thanks to Olmo Chittò and Giulia Calovini for supporting us with passion.

Have fun with AudioTrap,
FluffyAudio.

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