

The Best of Bolder



Crystal Glasses & Meditation Bowls

For Tascam Gigastudio 2

Crystal Glasses - This is one of my favorite sets in this collection. I'm a sucker for sounds that have a beautiful attack followed by a lovely sustain.....crystal glasses have both. Crystals 1 - 50 are single hits of various size glasses with various types of attacks. Each crystal is mapped to the correct pitch on the keyboard so you can easily layer it with your favorite synth pad or whatever. Keep in mind that as Giga interpolates these sample during transposition up or down from the original pitch they will tend to sound more out of tune due to their overtone series.

The glasses were struck with a finger flick, plastic fork, soft mallet, screwdriver, hard mallet, pencil, pencil with a ball end made by rubber bands etc..... There are also a few samples recorded with the glass filled half way with water which gives it sort of a natural vibrato-LFO type effect. Starting at program 51, we have samples of the sustain of the glass created by running a wetted finger along the rim of the glass. These are presented as a simple program alone, then they are combined in layers which creates a nice fat chorused type ethereal atmosphere. The various programs which are called "crystal mixes" are just that.... they are the first 50 samples combined in various ways into one keyboard mapping. I simply randomly combined various crystals based on their sound characteristics and saved the ones I liked. Then you'll see a program like "Cry Sus(tain) 1+2, these are the layered sustain programs I referred to above. Programs 77 - 80 combine both the crystal hits with the sustained samples..... quite lovely for Holiday music! After all this I recorded (in a separate session) a crystal that is labeled as "Big Crystal". You'll notice the quality of this crystal is not quite up to the standards of the previously recorded crystals in that it has a bit more of a "tubby" quality to it. I thought I should include it anyway. You'll see the word (hand) after a couple of the Big Crystal programs, this means I struck it with the palm of my hand. I'd love to do another set of recording of these types of glasses in stereo..... perhaps next time around!

Meditation Bowls - Six meditation bowls were sampled for this set. If you've ever heard these things you'll know that after they are struck they sustain for a LONG time (a few minutes). So I did loop these samples, but I feel confident you'd never be able to tell. the bowls are labeled in ascending order; D - big, E - big, F# - big, F, F# and G. The bowls called "big" are bowls which sit on the floor, the other bowls are hand held bowls. So there are 3 "floor bowls" and 3 hand held bowls. This first set of programs utilize the F# bowl. This bowls (and most other bowls) were struck with various type mallets for different attack qualities. They are mapped to F# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. So, depress these keys to hear the samples at their original pitch, then play any other keys you like to hear them at different pitches through out the octave. So when you see a program "bowls at F", play each octave of F to hear the original sample and then go from there. Sometimes the bowl samples are mapped out an octave lower than their original pitch, some of these bowls sound wonderful an octave down. Then they may be incorporated into a layer of original pitch and octave down transposition, at times this technique is mixed with the use of the Mod. Wheel. there are programs called "soft sets" and hard bowl sets". These are simply grouped sample sets according to how they were struck, they are "mixed and matched" sets of different samples with similar attacks. I'd like to thank my friend Russ Agee for letting me sample these wonderful bowls!

Meditation Bowl Sustains - The sustain samples of the meditation bols was recorded at a later date. therefore they were saved in GigaStudio 3 format. These were created by running the stick along the edge of the rim of the meditation bowl, the sustain samples are looped. The sustain samples sound beautiful when layered with the hits meditation bowls!

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Diane Hanto - Crystal Glasses, Russell Agee - Meditation Bowls

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