The Best of Bolder

Pianos
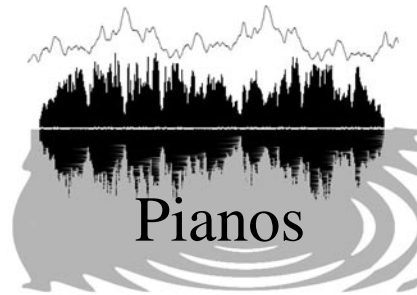
For Tascam Gigastudio 2

Yamaha C7 Grand Piano - This piano was sampled at mf and ff dynamic levels. I also sample it by plucking the strings inside the lid of the piano with a guitar pick while the sustain pedal was depressed, this program is called "Yamaha Guitar Picked Piano". It makes a wonderful gigantic autoharp type sound. I used a set of AKG 414 mics set to a figure 8 pattern which gives this instrument a nice "wide open" sound. This piano was "extracted" from Bolder Pianos CD ROM library. With exception to the "guitar picked piano", these samples are all unlooped. I begin the program list with velocity switching between the 2 recorded dynamic levels. The velocity switch is offered at midi velocities of 85, 95 and 105 to suite various playing styles. If none of these presets seem to your liking in the velocity department, read the documentation of your controller keyboard to see if you can set up velocity curves to your liking. A number of programs will offer the ff layer with "darker" filter settings.

Steinway D Grand Piano - This piano has a warm "aged" sound to it. It was recorded in stereo at ff and mf dynamic levels in a differnt studio than the C7 using the same mic preamp but this time usng a set of Nuemann TLM 170 microphones. The mf and ff samples were used to create a velocity switched piano which is 233 MB in size.

Prepared Piano - This is not a prepared piano in the John cage sense of the term. It is simply some fun I had with the Yamaha C7 from Bolder Pianos. I used glass rods, strips of rubber, screws and magic markers (to the best of my recollection). "Muted Piano" utilizes the rubber strips to mute the strings.... this is a good percussive sound with pitch. "Hi & lopass velocity layer" uses the highpass filter when played lightly, as you play harder you hear the lowpass filter come in for a more full-bodied sound. "Glass Rod Piano shifted down" simply maps the samples to a key an octave higher, yet the correct pitches are retained by re-setting the unity note. The effect is something that happens at a slower speed and sounds a bit "deeper". "Glass layer" uses the original pitch plus the layer which has the unity note re-set as a layered program. Most of the "FX piano" samples were made by throwing a magic marker into the piano while the sustain pedal was depressed. "Use that Mod Wheel" mixes the muted effect with the glass effect. "Mod Wheel caution!" mixes all three effects... you can make some glorious noise with this program!

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Thank You!
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