

BOLDER *Sounds*

presents

Hammered Dulcimer Trilogy - Volume 2

Concert Grand Hammered Dulcimer

for NI Kontakt 2+



ABOUT THE INSTRUMENT

Most hammered dulcimers you see these days are double *course* instruments. Meaning they use 2 strings per note (much like a twelve string guitar). One of the unique things about the *Grand* is that it employs three courses making for a bigger sound as well as a bigger instrument. Not quite as big as the colossal Cimbalom, but still quite a big instrument to lug around. The Cimbalom's sound-print is quite a bit darker than this instrument. This style *Grand* triple coursed hammered dulcimers enjoyed a bit of a revival among folk musicians in the 1960's.



Concert Grand Hammered Dulcimer with triple course strings

Kontakt Installation

Before you do anything else - *please make a backup copy of the package you have downloaded!*

1. The ConcertGrand_KTK .rar file needs to be decompressed, there are many utilities on the internet which will do this on both the Mac and PC platform. Some are freeware and some are not. The one that I use on OS X is called RAR Expander, Stuffit expander will work as well. You can put the Concert Grand folder wherever you'd like on your hard drive.
2. Please do not change the folder structure, so that the Kontakt Instruments can reference their samples correctly.

Kontakt Scripting

A very flexible and musical script has been created for the ConcertGrand Dulcimer library. The user may edit many parameters using the graphical user interface and save them to be later recalled.

Notes on the Sampled Articulations

The Concert Grand hammered Dulcimer was sampled in stereo at 24 bits/44k into a Alesis ML9600 High Resolution Master Disc Recorder using a stereo pair of Nuemann KM 184 mics into a Grace Design 201 mic preamp. The 24 bit resolution has been retained for this Kontakt sample set.

The Concert Grand Hammered Dulcimer was sampled with wood and felt hammers as well as being plucked by the flesh of the thumb for a very dark and warm tone color.

The Drag Ornament

Also sampled with both wood and felt hammers were "drag" ornaments - created by one hammer bouncing repetitively on the string to be finally interrupted by the other hammer which plays a long accented note. This ornament is generally used leading into a downbeat. So the bouncing portion of the note is just ahead of the beat acting as a pickup or anticipation into the down beat.

Total size of this library is 452 megabytes.

Notes on the Concert Grand and the Kontakt front panel



In the lower right hand corner of Kontakt's default front panel, you will see a drop-down menu called Main Page. This gives the user access to three more pages, they are the EQ page, Reverb page and the Help page.

Playing Style - These three buttons shift between the different playing styles - thumb pluck, felt hammers or wood hammers.

Key Switches - C1 triggers normal hits while C#1 triggers the drag hits.

Damp - The Damp knob controls how long the strings ring, both when key is down or the key is released.

Pedal - Pressing the Sustain Pedal mutes or dampens the strings.

P. Damp - The P. Damp knob controls how much the strings are muted or damped when the Sustain Pedal is down.

EQ - The EQ button turns EQ On/Off. (Adjust the EQ on the EQ Page).

Reverb - The Reverb button turns Reverb On/Off. (Adjust the Reverb on the Reverb Page).

Reset - The knobs reset to a default setting when you CTRL + Click (PC) or Command + Click (Mac) on the knob.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Thank you to my good friends at H.B. Woodsongs here in Boulder, Colorado for all their help.

Thank you very much to Bo Clausen for his very musical Kontakt script for the Concert Grand.

Customer Support

For any questions, technical issues inquiries etc.... please contact Bolder Sounds via email at sales@boldersounds.net.

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