

Bolder Sounds

presents



Harmonium

NI Kontakt 2 or 3 / Apple EXS24 (480 mb)

Welcome to the Harmonium library from Bolder Sounds! This 3 and one half octave harmonium was chromatically sampled in single pitches as well as with the octave couplet engaged. Also included are samples with an open cover as well as closed. Closing the sliding cover creates a darker and warmer sound. And last but not least are key press and release samples for each key for added realism.

NI Kontakt and Apple EXS24 instruments all in one package

If you are using both Kontakt as well as the Apple EXS24 - instrument sets are available in this one zip package for both formats. The instrument files share the same sample data folder named *Harmonium samples*.

Kontakt 2 & 3 Installation

Double click on the .zip file to extract it's contents. Copy the *Harmonium K2 or (K3) Instruments* folder to your hard drive. Please **DO NOT** change the folder directory structure, this is to avoid getting the dreaded "samples missing" error from NI Kontakt. If you are not a EXS24 user, feel free to deleted the small EXS instrument folders if you wish. **DO NOT** delete the *Harmonium samples* folder, this is the sample data and it is very necessary!

Apple EXS24 Installation

Double click on the .zip file to extract it's contents. Copy or move the *Zither EXS* folder to your hard drive. Move the *Harmonium EXS Instruments* folder to Your EXS24 *sampler instruments folder* located at ~/Library/Application Support/Logic/Sampler Instruments. If you are not a Kontakt user, feel free to deleted the small *Kontakt instrument folders* if you wish. **DO NOT** delete the *Harmonium samples* folder, this is the sample data and it is very necessary!

PUMP THOSE BELLOWS! (Your Modulation Wheel that is)

Since the harmonium is a pumped bellow instrument (much like the accordion) it is essential to move your Mod Wheel to and fro in a constant (but not machine-like) motion to emulate the breathing of the bellows. The harmonium's bellows are pumped with the left hand while playing melodies, chords etc.. with the right hand. Experiment with different speeds of moving your Mod Wheel. Perhaps practice beginning a phrase with the Mod Wheel closer to a value of 127 (away from you) and then gradually swelling into the phrase. Harmonium players use the bellows as an expressive device much in the same way a good singer uses his or her breathing.

Also, as your Mod Wheels value increases there is generally a LoPass filter engaged as well to reduce some of the top end of the EQ. I've also used same technique with a HiPass filter (rolling off the low end a bit), the difference is subtle and is there as a second choice.

The harmonium is NOT a velocity sensitive instrument. The typical technique of having notes play much louder at higher velocities does not really apply here. *Use your Mod Wheel to control the volume of the harmonium.*

Kontakt 2 & 3 Harmonium Instruments

Each Kontakt instrument is presented as a KeySwitched instrument with the following assignments -

G#0 - single notes with the harmonium cover open.

A0 - single notes with the harmonium cover open.

A#0 - octave couplet notes with the harmonium cover open.

B0 - octave couplet notes with the harmonium cover open.

The Kontakt instruments utilize a very simple KSP script.



drop down menu

You will notice under *Select Group* there is a drop down menu with selections of the various groups in the Harmonium instrument (*key release noise*, *key press noise*, and the 4 sampled articulations previously mentioned) . You select the group desired by choosing from the drop down menu, from there you can make adjustments to Volume, Pan and Tuning for that group individually. Once this is to your liking, save the instrument under a different name of your choice. When you reopen the .nki instrument for future use the settings will be retained. This is particularly useful for setting the volume levels of the key press and release samples to your taste.

I have put 12 preset instruments as starting points. Most instruments have different IR convolution reverbs as well as filter settings and velocity responses.

Kontakt 2 & 3 Instrument list

Harmonium Key Sw default.nki - This is the default KeySwitched Harmonium instrument setting with a fast attack.

Harm Auto-Pump MW=Spd.nki - This instrument utilizes a LFO to automatically do the ‘pumping’ of the bellows for you. Your Mod Wheel controls the speed of the pumping. Probably not the most realistic pumping rhythm, but great if you left hand is tired!

Harm Auto-Pump NO Key noiz.nki - Same as above except with no key noise samples.

Harm vel=atk NO Key noise.nki - This .nki - A lower value velocity makes for a slower attack on the VCA envelope. Lower velocity attack values will barely effect the volume of the harmonium, so the sound will not be too weak when using this technique for a slower attack.

Harm vel=atk 2 No Key Noiz.nki - The same as above except the Velocity = Attack effect is more drastic.

Harmonium Key Rel Nz only.nki - The default harmonium with key noise samples only on the release of a key.

Harmonium less mid EQ.nki - with the mid EQ reduced and a slight boost in the high frequencies.

Harmonium MW+PW Wails.nki - Your Mod Wheel combined with your Pitch Wheel create a ‘wailing’ effect. This is not intended to sound like a traditional harmonium.

Harmonium MW=HiPas.nki - In previous instruments the Mod Wheel was routed to engage a LoPass filter. This instrument uses a HiPass filter instead, rolling off some of the low end as the Mod Wheel is increased in value.

Harmonium NO Key Noise.nki - This is the default KeySwitched Harmonium instrument with no key noise samples.

Harmonium Veloc=Atk Spd.nki - This is again an instrument where the VCA’s attack time is slowed down by a lower velocity level, however this time key press and release samples are audible.

Harmonium Zippered.nki - This is more of a special effect instrument and uses a NI convolution sample called *zipper up*.

EXS24 Programming Notes

The hierarchy of folders for the EXS Harmonium is arranged as follows -

Kontakt 2 & 3 Harmonium Instruments



Harmonium Keyswitch

Each EXS24 instrument is presented as a KeySwitched instrument with the following assignments -

G#0 - single notes with the harmonium cover open.

A0 - single notes with the harmonium cover open.

A#0 - octave couplet notes with the harmonium cover open.

B0 - octave couplet notes with the harmonium cover open.



Harm KeySw Hipass.exs

KeySwitched harmonium with a HiPass filter and volume decrease routed to you Mod Wheel.



Harm KeySw NO key noise.exs

KeySwitched harmonium with NO key press or release noise samples.



Harm KeySw pres+rel nz.exs

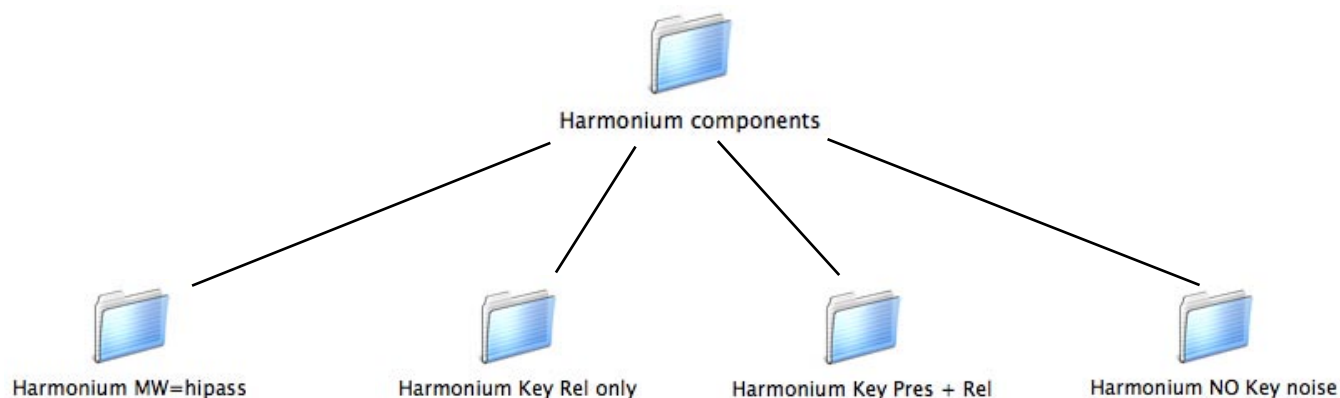
KeySwitched harmonium with key press and release noise samples.



Harm KeySw rel noise.exs

KeySwitched harmonium with release noise samples only.

The *Harmonium components* folder is offered if you wish to load only one component of the sampled articulations into the EXS24 rather than all 4.



Many thanks to my friend here in Boulder, Ramaya Soskin for allowing me to sample this beautiful harmonium!

I hope you enjoy it.
Dennis Burns - July 2009 - Bolder Sounds



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