

User Manual

ROLA-8000

KONTAKT instrument



Version 1.0.0

ROLA-8000 - User Manual

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1 Introduction

Welcome to the ROLA-8000 KONTAKT Instrument.

Requirements

Requires the full version of Native Instruments KONTAKT 5.8.1 or higher.

Important: This instrument will not work as expected in the free KONTAKT Player.

Description

ROLA-8000 is a virtual re-creation of the ROLAND CompuRhythm CR-8000 drum machine from the early 1980s.

This KONTAKT instrument has been carefully created to be as accurate to the original as possible.

Setup

Unzip the archive to a folder of your choice. This will create a sub-folder called *Forgotten Keys*. All recent Forgotten Keys instruments (those that require KONTAKT 5 or higher) can safely be unzipped to the same folder.

Backup

It is recommended that a backup of the archive file is made in case it needs to be re-installed at a later date.

2 Usage

Drag ROLA-8000.nki onto the KONTAKT rack or browse for it within KONTAKT in the usual way (see the KONTAKT documentation).

Note: This instrument will not show in the KONTAKT library tab.

The KONTAKT instrument interface has two tabs: *Rhythms* and *Sounds*.

2.1 Rhythms

The Rhythms tab comprises of a main section that resembles the real drum machine and a footer section with additional controls.

Main section

Instrument knobs

The six Instrument knobs set the volume level of their respective sounds. They do so by creating an offset to the volume level sliders on the sounds tab rather than setting the volume level directly. This is to avoid conflict with the sounds tab sliders as some of the knobs are assigned to multiple sounds.

Volume knob

Adjusts the overall instrument volume mirroring the KONTAKT instrument volume slider.

Accent knob

Each of the preset rhythms has an accent pattern associated with it that affects the volume level on certain beats. This knob adjusts the amount of accent applied.

Note: All sounds affected by accent have been sampled at multiple accent levels rather than just increasing the volume level.

Tempo knob

Adjusts the tempo between 30-300 beats per minute. Only active when the sync switch is off (see below).

Tip: Click on a knob while holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard to set it to its default value.

Tip: Hold the shift key on the computer keyboard while moving a knob to get a higher resolution for more accurate control.

Preset rhythm controls

There are three rhythms associated with each of the preset rhythm switches. You select between them using the bank switches to their left.

Arranger switches

The arranger switches (apart from shuffle) add a preset pattern of the sound shown to any playing rhythm. If the rhythm already uses that sound then the arranger pattern will replace it.

When the shuffle arranger switch is enabled, certain rhythm pulses are skipped giving the rhythm a swing/shuffle/triplet feel.

Note: The swing control in the footer section works differently by shifting note timing to create the swing feel. Switching one on will cancel the other as they are not compatible with each other.

Intro/Fill-in switch

Pressing this switch while the rhythm is stopped will play a one-bar intro then proceed to the selected rhythm. Pressing while a rhythm is playing will produce a fill-in.

Measures knob

Sets how often an automatic fill-in will play. For example, if set to 4, there will be 3 bars of normal rhythm followed by one bar of fill-in. If set to *off*, no automatic fill-ins will occur.

Start/Stop switch

Starts and stops the rhythm.

Register switch

Allows you to toggle between two states of all rhythm selector switches, bank switches and arranger switches.

Crash switch

When enabled, the crash cymbal sound will play on the first beat after an intro or fill-in has played.

Important: Make sure that the program mode switch is set to *play* as the register and crash switches have other functions when programming a rhythm.

Programmer section

It is possible to program eight rhythms and four intro/fill-ins on the ROLA-8000.

Follow this procedure to program a rhythm:

1. Slide the rhythm mode switch to basic.
2. Select one of the eight programmable rhythm switches.
3. Clear the rhythm by holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard while pressing the register or crash switch.
4. Select a sound from the instruments selector knob.
5. Enter notes or rests using the switches marked register (note) and crash (rest) for two bars.
6. Choose another sound from the instruments selector knob and repeat from step 5.
7. When finished, slide the program mode switch back to play.

8. Press the start/stop switch to hear the results.

To program an intro/fill-in, make these changes to the above steps:

- Slide the mode switch to fill-in in step 1.
- Select one of the programmable intro/fill-ins (marked red) from the intro/fill-in knob in step 2.

Footer section

Values switch

Displays the value of knobs and sliders briefly in a pop-up window while adjusting them.

Tip: To show the tempo value only: Turn the switch off then click on it while holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard.

UI FX switch

Adds a touch of realism to the interface by playing real sounds of switches and knobs while interacting with them.

Sync switch

Allows the tempo to be controlled by the host. This will likely be a DAW or KONTAKT itself if in stand-alone mode. The start/stop controls of the host will also start/stop rhythm playback. When the switch is off, the tempo control on the interface will become active.

Swing controls

Shifts the timing of notes to produce a triplet/swing/shuffle feel. You can adjust the amount of shift by using the swing knob. You can also select 8th or 16th triplet feel.

Note: Experimentation is recommended for the swing controls. Not all rhythms are suited to it.

Free Fills switch

When enabled, the manual or auto variation will play a fill-in created from randomly chosen snippets of the existing fill-ins giving many more variations.

MIDI file recorder

A MIDI file can be recorded and exported using this section. It is the recommended way to play this instrument from a DAW because you can start and stop playback anywhere, even mid bar, and it will always be in the right place.

The procedure is as follows:

1. Select a rhythm and any other desired settings such as swing.
2. Press the record button to start recording.
You can change rhythms during recording if desired.
3. Press the button again when enough has been recorded.
4. Save the MIDI file by doing either of the following:
 - Drag the file to a folder or to a track on a DAW using the control with the drag and drop symbol.
 - Click where it says <enter name here>, enter a name for the file then press the save button or press enter on the computer keyboard.

The file will be saved in the same location as the instrument file running in KONTAKT.

Important: If no name is entered, the file will be saved as *untitled.mid* and will overwrite any existing file with the same name.

5. Press the erase button to clear the recording.

Note: Only note information is recorded. Volume and other controls will have no effect on the final MIDI file.

Note: The sync switch should be set to *off* when playing back a MIDI file from a DAW.

2.2 Sounds

The Sounds tab comprises of a mixer section and a footer section with additional controls.

Mixer section

Output menus

Allows you to send each sound to any of the currently available outputs. What outputs are available depends on how this has been set up in KONTAKT. If in doubt, leave on *Def* (default).

Tune sliders

Raises or lowers the pitch of the sound by up to one octave either way.

Pan sliders

Sends the sound to the left or right channel or somewhere in-between.

Solo switches

Mutes all other sounds except the soloed sound. Multiple solo switches can be active at the same time.

Mute switches

Mutes the selected sound. Multiple mute switches can be active at the same time.

Tip: Hold the control/command key on the computer keyboard while selecting a solo/mute switch to cancel all other solo/mute switches.

Volume sliders

Adjusts the sound's volume from off to 0dB.

Footer section

Values switch

Displays the value of knobs and sliders briefly in a pop-up window while adjusting them.

Order switch

Displays a row of small switches marked < (left) and > (right) under each mixer channel. Clicking on one will move that channel left or right.

Holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard while clicking on a < or > switch will reset the mixer to the default order.

Info switch

Displays general information about this KONTAKT instrument such as the version number.

3 Version History

1.0.0

- Initial release for KONTAKT 5.

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