

ZITHERETTE^{version 1.1}

SOUNDIRON Zitherette



Welcome to the Soundiron Zitherette!

This enchanting little instrument is a simple 8-string fretless zither, roughly 12 x 20 inches in size. Zithers are a broad family of hollow-bodied string instruments common throughout all of Europe and Asia. Variants range from the dulcimer to the Koto, with countless other flavors unique to each region and culture. Common to each of them is the arrangement of multiple strings over a neck-less soundbox. The oldest known variant of the zither family dates back to 4th century B.C China, while new additions continue to spring up to this day.

Our particular hand-held zither has a smooth, dark tone, with a clean biting attack and long, natural decay. At it's softest, it has a pristine, almost harp-like sound, while the hardest notes bend deeply at the attack, with a pronounced twang. We chose a pluck articulation and captured it very close and dry, in wide stereo.

We sampled our little zither extensively, as we do with all of our instruments. Each string has an average of 8 velocity layers, with 4 round-robin variations per layer. We also captured palm mute release triggers, with 2 velocities and 4 round robins per note. We created a variety of presets, to allow maximum flexibility and intuitive playability. We also created an array of custom sound-designed fx patches, extending the creative possibilities even further. Lastly, we've created a "wet" version of most of the core patches, using our own custom-captured convolution impulses.

For version 1.1, we've improved the directory structure and fixed a few minor bugs to smooth automation controls in some of the ambiences and FX presets.

Please note: Version 1.0 of this library was originally published as "Zitherette" by Tonehammer, Inc.

SOUNDIRON

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OVERVIEW

25 Kontakt patches (unlocked)
319 Samples
627 MB Installed
24bit / 44.1kHz stereo PCM wav samples (non-unencrypted)

Note: Native Instruments Kontakt 3.5 or later full retail version required to use nki presets.

CREDITS

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Documentation by Mike Peaslee

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ABOUT THIS LIBRARY

Fidelity

This library was recorded in wide stereo at 44.1kHz / 24bit., in a dry and neutral studio environment. However, we also generally don't use low pass filtering in our recordings, because we believe in capturing the full depth and power of a sound source. It's much easier and more preferable to remove unwanted bass after the fact than it is to try to recreate and restore those lost elements after the fact. Also be aware that some sound sources are very quiet and to capture their full clarity and detail, it is necessary to allow low levels of preamp and mic hiss to exist in the recordings. We carefully choose our equipment and methods to prevent this wherever possible, but some sounds are just very small. Therefore, please do keep in mind that we don't claim or aim to provide perfectly quiet or perfectly sterile sounds or musical instrument samples.

Accessibility

All of the sample content and impulse files are included as standard non-encrypted PCM wav files and standard open-format Kontakt presets to allow you easy access to manipulate, reprogram and customize the sounds however you prefer. We know that it's important for many users to be able to go beyond the limitations of any one sampler or preset structure, so we've kept this library's directories and files open for advanced users. As a professional, you may have your own workflow or format requirements, and we trust that you'll respect our hard work and won't share this content with anyone who hasn't paid for it.

Keep in mind that to use and/or edit the Kontakt presets, you'll need the full retail version of Native Instruments Kontakt 3.5, Kontakt 4 or Kontakt 5. Please be aware that the free Kontakt "Player" and any other version or form of Kontakt that came bundled with any other library or software product (other than NI's "Komplete" package) will not support this library. The free Kontakt Player is NOT a full version of Kontakt and cannot load or play standard open-format Kontakt instruments or libraries.

While you can reprogram the samples or presets to other formats, we always recommend using Kontakt for best results, since it widely considered the industry standard and easily the most powerful sample programming and playback platform on the market. However, if you wish to convert or reprogram the wav files and instrument presets into any other sampler or softsynth format, including free and open-source standards like SFZ, then there are a variety of great tools that you can use to customize this library, such as Extreme Sample Converter and Chickensys Translator. Just be aware that not all settings and properties will translate accurately, reliably or even at all from one instrument or audio format to the next, due to vast differences in standards, behaviors, structures and capabilities that each platform relies on.

Custom Convolution Impulses

We enjoy capturing the unique acoustic characteristics of spaces and locations that we come across from time to time. Sampling environments is similar to sampling instruments in many ways. It's done with portable loudspeakers to produce a special sine wave sweep that covers a wide spectrum, from 22 Hz to 22 kHz. We then use dedicated deconvolution software to decode the resulting audio into an impulse response file, which is a wav file with special phase, frequency and timing information embedded in the audio.

Most impulses sound like an odd sort of sharp, reverberant snap, like a balloon pop or starting pistol fired in the environment that was captured – which is in fact how impulses used to be made. When loaded into a compatible convolution reverb effect plugin (such as the one built into Kontakt), these impulses can impart their sonic properties fairly well into most sounds. Of course, it's an imperfect science and much is lost in the translation, especially if the sound being played through it also has its own strong tonal, phase or reflective properties. Sometimes the results are incredibly lifelike. Sometimes they're awful. It all depends on the sound, the impulse, the plugin and the settings used. Sometimes these variables don't play nice. Then again, you may find some unexpectedly useful and interesting results through a little experimentation.

We've included a hand-selected collection of impulse files that we think compliment this library's sound. You can load them into most instrument presets by using the "Tone / FX" control panel tab and selecting an impulse from the Impulse drop-down menu. You can also manually import any of the wavs in the Impulses directory into any IR wav-compatible convolution effect plugin of your choice. Just please just make sure to keep your speakers or headphones turned down while you experiment. Convolution processing can often create powerful and piercing resonances when applied to many audio sources – especially loud sounds that contain strong mid to low frequency harmonic components.

System Requirements

The full retail version of Native Instruments Kontakt 3.5 or later is required to use this library. Please be aware that many instrument and multi-instrument programs in this library are extremely ram/cpu and hard disk-streaming resource intensive. We recommend that you have *at least* 2GB of system ram, a dual core cpu and at least a 7200 rpm SATA hard disk before purchasing this or any other Soundiron library. Large sample sets like those found in this library may load slowly and may cause system instability on older machines.

Download & Installation

The Kontakt sampler presets in this library is designed for the full retail version of Kontakt 3.5 and later **ONLY**. It cannot be used in the free Kontakt Player. Please read all instrument specs and software requirements before purchasing this or any other Soundiron products to see the full list of software requirements, features and format compatibility for each library.

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Next, copy-paste your download code from your download email into the Code box in the downloader window. Make sure to leave out any spaces before or after the code. Press the download button and select the location you'd like to download and install the library. It will automatically start downloading the file(s) and then error-check, extract and install the finished library. Once installation is fully complete, you can remove the .rar download files and store them in a safe place as a back-up copy. We always recommend downloading the latest version of our downloader before you begin. The link in your email will always take you to the latest version.

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Manual Download

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Preset Loading

Once installation is complete, you can browse and load the included .nki presets using the Files or Database tabs in the Kontakt Browser, or through the main File load/save menu. Please allow presets to finish loading completely before loading a new one. You can't use the Libraries view to load standard open-format Kontakt Instruments like this library. Only locked "Powered-By-Kontakt" Libraries are visible to that propriety browser view. The "Add-Library" function also does not support this product or any other open-format Kontakt library. This library doesn't require any special activation.

User Presets

If you create custom presets of your own, remember to save them with a new filename in the same directory as the original preset you've modified.. Make sure to select "patch-only" and uncheck the "absolute sample paths" box to preserve the proper directory path structure of the library. This will allow us to provide you future updates to the original presets without accidentally overwriting your custom settings and preserve the necessary relative sample, wallpaper and impulse scripting file path settings.

Batch Re-Saving

If you move or change the directory structure within the main folder of this library, you may see a "missing sample" warning box when loading the presets into Kontakt. This can generally be corrected by using the "Batch Resave" command, located at the bottom of the drop down menu you'll see if you click on the main File menu at the top of Kontakt. Then select the folder you would like to resave. Select this library's main folder and then if Kontakt asks you where to find the missing files, select that same main folder again and press OK to continue. That will update the file-paths stored in the instrument.



INSTRUMENT PROGRAMS

Plucked Presets:

Modwheel palm-mute control patches:

Zitherette_full_scale_simple.nki

This patch is the basic sustaining patch, tuned in half-steps.

Zitherette_full_scale_simple_palm-mute.nki

This version cuts the sustain and triggers a palm-mute on release. Use sustain pedal to hold notes.

Zitherette_full_scale_mw-mute.nki

Use the modwheel to switch between sustaining and palm-muted release articulations

Zitherette_full_scale_mw-mute_wet.nki

A "wet" version of the standard patch, using one of our custom reverb convolution impulses.

Zitherette_soft_full_scale_mw-mute.nki

An augmented patch intended for softer, smoother playing.

Zitherette_soft_full_scale_mw-mute_wet.nki

A "wet" version, using one of our custom reverb impulses.

Zitherette_natural_mw-mute.nki

This patch is locked to a B Major Pentatonic scale, the default tuning of our instrument.

Modwheel damper control patches:

Zitherette_full_scale_mw-damp.nki

This version allows you to damp note sustain with the modwheel

Zitherette_full_scale_mw-damp_wet.nki

A "wet" version, using one of our custom reverb impulses.

Zitherette_soft_full_scale_mw-damp.nki

An augmented patch intended for softer, smoother playing.

Zitherette_soft_full_scale_mw-damp_wet.nki

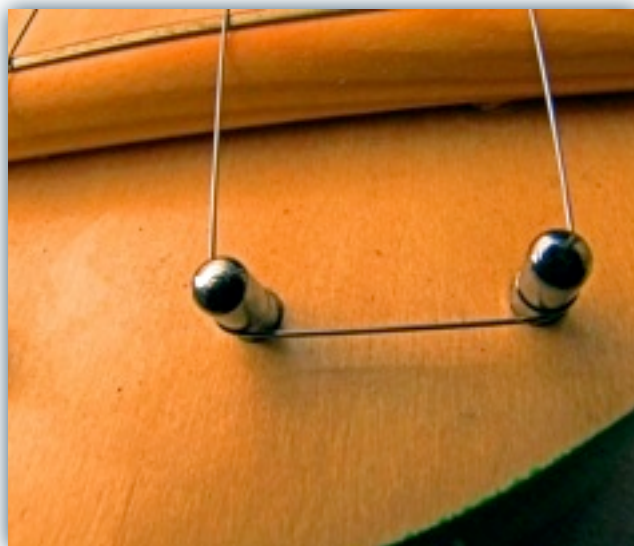
A "wet" version, using one of our custom reverb impulses.

Zitherette_BmHarmonic_scale_mw-damp.nki

This patch is locked to a B Minor Harmonic scale, to create a darker, almost hammered feel.

Zitherette_BmHarmonic_scale_mw-damp_wet.nki

A "wet" version, using one of our custom reverb impulses.



Ambience Presets:

These instruments were created by manipulating the original Zitherette source material heavily to create subtly self-evolving soundscapes for use as ambient beds, drones or other experimental sound design.. Some of them also incorporate our custom convolution impulses to open the sound up. Each of them use the modwheel to manipulate the sound in some way.

Please note: Some of these presets require significant ram and CPU resources to load and play and may cause system or host instability or even crash. Use them at your own risk!

Zitheramb_1.nki
Modwheel controls filter morphing.

Zitheramb_2.nki
Modwheel controls filter morphing.

Zitheramb_3.nki
Modwheel controls filter morphing.

Zitheramb_4.nki
Modwheel controls tri-layer sample crossfading.
This patch requires a lot of ram. Please use caution.

Zitheramb_all.nki
This patch incorporates all of the ambiences into one fluid patch. Modwheel controls filter morphing.
This patch requires a lot of ram. Please use caution.

FX Presets:

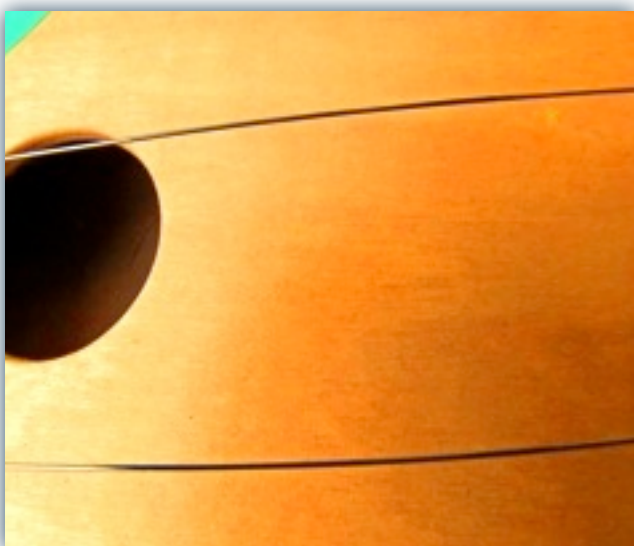
Zitherette_saturn_mw-warp.nki
The modwheel controls filter funk.

Zitherette_saturnIII_mw-warp_pedal_mute.nki
Something like a sitar pulled inside-out. Modwheel and sustain pedal control the flow of all sorts of mind-altering substances.

Zitherette_saturns_rings_mw-stretch_pedal_damp.nki
Shimmering on the edge of the void

Zitherette_splattern.nki
Falling ever upwards. Use the modwheel to decide how high.

Zitherette_splattern_anti-arp.nki
Inverted sun shower. Use the modwheel to increase the flow. Hit the sustain pedal to keep the ground away.



SOUNDIRON

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THANK YOU.

Thanks for loving the Soundiron Zitherette library and supporting all of our creations. If you have any questions, troubles, concerns, comments, love-letters or hate mail, feel absolutely free to send it on over to us:

info@soundiron.com

much obliged,

Mike, Gregg and Chris



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