80s TOM DESIGNER

user manual



loops de la Crème - Jan 2026

Thank you for purchasing **80s TOM DESIGNER**!

80s TOM DESIGNER is a dedicated 80s-style tom instrument with 60 tom sets from iconic drum machines, processed FM and synthwave kits and acoustic toms, mapped across six pitches for immediate playability. Its dual reverb engine, integrated effects, and performance sequencer make it a fast, inspiring source of epic tom fills and grooves.

Based on a set of 945 raw and processed samples, 80s TOM DESIGNER lets you quickly create your own set of classic and modern toms. The presets offer authentic tom grooves and fills, and you can play live variations of the grooves with your modulation wheel: fun and intuitive!

INSTALLATION

To install the samples and instruments on your hard drive, unzip the file named 80s TOM DESIGNER.zip. On a Mac, use the default 'Archive utility'. On a PC, I recommend to use Winrar or Winzip to properly unzip the file.

You can then copy/paste the 80s TOM DESIGNER folder to your sample library hard drive, and make sure you make a backup of the new samples on a separate drive (or a SD card / USB stick...)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

!!! Please keep the 80s TOM DESIGNER folder structure intact: Do not move or erase a folder or a file from the main 80s TOM DESIGNER folder to ensure proper loading of the instruments.

LOADING INSTRUMENTS

To load patches, find the folder from the Kontakt Files Tab and select the patch you wish to load: just double-click on a patch or use drag- and-drop. You can also use Kontakt's '**quick load**' menu. Find more infos about this in Kontakt's user manual

!!! NB: Native Instruments Kontakt 5.8.1+ is required to fully use the instruments. Make sure you have the latest updates installed.

You can also load patches with Kontakt Free Player in demo mode (with a 15mn time limit and saving functions disabled).

Along this user guide, you'll find a pdf **License Agreement**. Please read this text carefully, it precisely explains the things you are allowed and not allowed to do with the sample library.

KONTAKT INSTRUMENTS

80s TOM DESIGNER features one main 'INIT' patch and 30 sound presets:

Use the main patch (#00) to quickly get started :)

The other sound presets use various mixer settings and effects to achieve a different sound.

The presets are organised in categories:

- *10 to 15: classic and modern electronic toms*
- *16 and 17: high-pitched electro toms*
- *18 to 19: warm and mellow toms*
- *20 to 23: dry and short electro toms*
- *24 to 36: various acoustic toms*
- *37 and 38: cinematic toms*
- *39 to 43: FX toms*

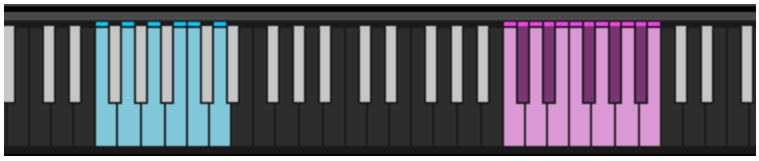
All these presets use the same keyboard layout.

For maximum realism, try to actually play, perform, and record this instrument live in your tracks! Use Pad controllers or keyboards.

*I highly recommend choosing the **velocities** (how hard a key is played) according to the sound you are aiming for.*



About the key colours:



The keyboard layout is organised in two categories:

1.BLUE KEY, F1 to D2: playing zones (GM drum mapping)

These keys let you play the tom sets:

- *F1: low tom 1*
- *G1: low tom 2*
- *A1: mid tom 1*
- *B1: mid tom 2*
- *C2: high tom 1*
- *D2: high tom 2*

Each tom set is mapped across six pitches on a familiar GM-style layout (F1, G1, A1, B1, C2, D2), making it easy to play convincing tom lines, fills and runs straight from your keyboard or pads.

2. WHITE, C4 to B4: TEMPO-SYNCED RHYTHMS

These keys let you easily play beats and fill-ins.

The white keys (C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4) offer 7 different fills, and the black keys (C#4, D#4, Gb4, Ab4, Bb4) let you play tom grooves.

How to use the tempo-synced grooves:

- Press and hold one of these keys to play a rhythm.
- Once a groove is playing, press a different key to switch to another rhythm.



Have fun jamming with the different rhythms :)

Use a main rhythm and experiment playing different keys

and quickly coming back to the main groove to create your own fill-ins!

MODULATION-WHEEL GROOVE VARIATIONS:

80s TOM DESIGNER offers a fun and instinctive way to bring the pre-programmed rhythms to life:

Once a groove is playing, you can easily switch to a variation of this pattern by using the Modulation Wheel (*or another controller sending Midi CC1*). Eight groove variations are pre-programmed and directly accessible via the modulation wheel.

TIPS:

- *Always access the main groove by bringing the Mod Wheel to the lowest position.*
- *You can leave the Mod Wheel at a different position to let a variation play.*
- *To replicate a drummer's typical rhythmic variations, simply follow your instinct and quickly change the mod wheel to a different value before returning to the main groove.*
- *Play mod-wheel variations with the left hand and switch patterns and fill-ins with the right hand to easily create expressive natural rhythm tracks!*

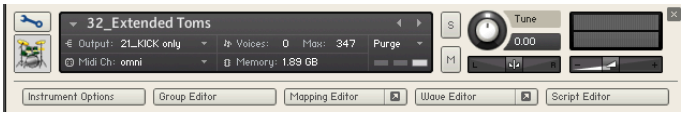
!! HOW TO DISABLE THE MODULATION WHEEL FUNCTION OR ASSIGN GROOVE VARIATIONS TO A DIFFERENT CONTROLLER:

Follow these steps if you don't want to have the variations assigned to the MOD WHEEL:

Click on the tool to 'open' Kontakt



Click on **SCRIPT EDITOR**



Click on the tab **DRUM COMPUTER**



Locate the Knob under the label 'Remix'.
Right-click on this knob



Click on the option *'Remove MIDI Automation: CC#1 (1group)'*



That's it: the groove variations won't be linked to the Mod-wheel!

You can **choose a different controller** to switch groove variations:

Simply right-click on the knob again, choose the function 'learn MIDI CC# Automation', and move one of your MIDI controllers: the function will be automatically assigned to this new controller!

Don't forget to save your instrument if you like the changes you made!

!!! Recording the rhythms and fills as **MIDI** in your DAW:

It is possible to record Midi data into your DAW from the built-in grooves.

To do this, click on the icon 'Options' at the top:

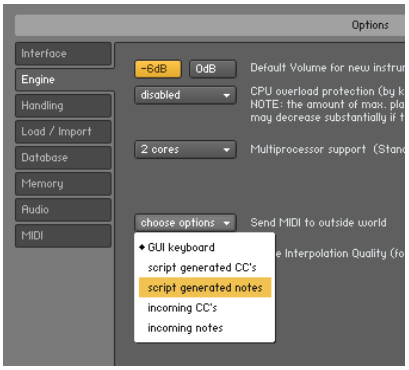


In the options box, choose 'Engine' and click on 'choose options' for the 'Send MIDI to outside world' category.

Choose the option 'script generated notes'

That's it, Kontakt will now send MIDI notes when rhythms are played.

Make sure you **properly configure a MIDI track in your DAW** to receive and record these MIDI notes. Since all DAWS have a specific way of configuring tracks, you can check your DAW's user manual or do a search on the internet if you haven't done this before.



USING THE INTERFACE:

The interface is organised in several sections:

1. VOICE SELECTOR:



This section lets you load the tom sets, and control the attack and release of the samples.
Click on the menu window to load one of the 60 tom sets. You can also use the arrows to go through each tom set one by one.

The tom sets are organised per category:

- *01 to 16: Classic electronic 80s toms*
- *17 to 28: High-pitched electronic toms*
- *29 to 37: Classic and processed TR808 and TR909 toms*
- *38 to 45: Additional electronic and special FX toms*
- *46 to 60: acoustic tom sets*

Use the A (Attack) and R (Release) knobs to control the ADSR enveloppe of the samples.

2. TRANSIENT MIXER:



Add bite or punch to the sounds with three additional transients.

Use these three knobs to add a short metallic transient ('Spike'), the impact of a drum stick ('Stick'), or a deeper punchy transient ('Thump') to the toms.

3. INSERT REVERB:



This first reverb is placed before all other effects in the signal chain. Click on the menu window to access one of 30 custom Impulse Responses, or use the arrows to go through the IRs one by one. The impulse responses are organized per size:

- *short gated reverbs*
- *Natural medium rooms and plates*
- *Long halls*
- *Special effect reverbs*

4. EFFECTS:



Following the insert reverb, the sound goes through a chain of 5 effects. Use the switches to activate or deactivate the effects. Use the knobs to change the effect parameters.

FILTERS: a high-pass and a low-pass filter to reduce high and low frequencies and better integrate the toms into your mixes.
COMP: a parallel compressor that replicates the behaviour of typical 80s bus compressors. Use the Attack knob to shape how quickly the compressor reacts and starts leveling the signal. All the way counter-clockwise is a fast, nearly immediate reaction.
Use the mix knob to go from an uncompressed sound to a fully compressed sound.
EQ: a four-band equaliser to easily change the tone of the toms. *(!!NB: Use the Bass and HF knobs in combination with the Filters to precisely shape the bass and treble parts of the sound!)*
DRIVE: A subtle saturation that adds body and bite to the toms.
LIM: A transparent output limiter that uses extreme compression to ensure the signal does not go above a given output level. It can increase the perceived loudness or thickness of the toms.

5. STEREO CONTROLS:



These stereo controls let you set the panoramic position of the toms to create classic left-to-right (or right-to-left) tom fills that sweep across the stereo field.
Use the knob to go from tight mono (all the toms are positioned in the center) to extra wide (the toms are spread across the stereo field).
Use the switch to change the order of the toms:
LT <-< HT: Low toms on the left side, high toms on the right
HT >-> LT: High toms on the left side, low toms on the right.

6. SEND REVERB:



The second reverb is used as a send effect: Use the knob to control how much of the dry toms signal (*before* all effects!!) is sent to this reverb. Click on the menu window to access one of 30 custom Impulse Responses, or use the arrows to go through the IRs one by one. The impulse responses are the same as the Insert Reverb.

NB: Use different Impulse Responses for each reverb engine to add depth and dimension to the toms.



Use one of the built-in grooves and experiment with the knobs and the choice of samples: It will be easy and fun to tweak the sound and nicely fit the toms in your track!



To quickly bring one of the control back to its default value, use cmd+click or ctrl+click



If you use higher effects and reverb levels, you might want to turn down Kontakt's output to avoid clipping.



You can assign any knob from the Kontakt user interface to any of your hardware controllers. To do this, right-click on the knob you would like to assign. Choose the option 'learn MIDI CC# Automation' and move a knob on your controller (or the mod wheel). That's it!

To unassign the knob, right click on it again, and choose 'remove MIDI automation'

!!! SAVING YOUR INSTRUMENTS:

If you make changes to one of the preset, you can then re-save the patch in the files menu:

Use the function 'save as...' , rename the instrument, and choose the option 'patch only'

Please save your instruments in the original folder.

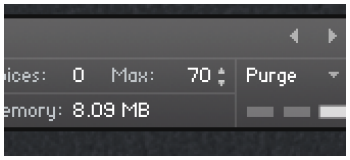


Use a different name for your own patches to easily remember them and keep the original patches as well.

!!! IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CPU USAGE !!!

All presets were designed to run smoothly on regular computers and laptops. However, according to the power of your computer, you might experience polyphony overload, audio issues, or system instability. Here are a few tips to avoid this:

- Increase the audio buffer in your DAW or in Kontakt's 'Preferences' menu
- **In Kontakt *Options / Engine*, use 'relaxed', 'medium' or 'strict' for the CPU overload protection**
- Try to reduce the number of notes simultaneously played
- Shut down other applications and software
- Decrease or increase the maximum polyphony of the patches:



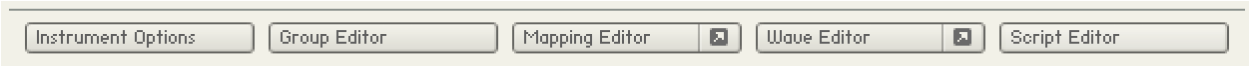
TWEAKING THE FILLS AND GROOVES AND CREATING YOUR OWN RHYTHMS:

The grooves use a 'Drum Computer' script. You can easily access it and make changes to existing grooves or create your own beats.

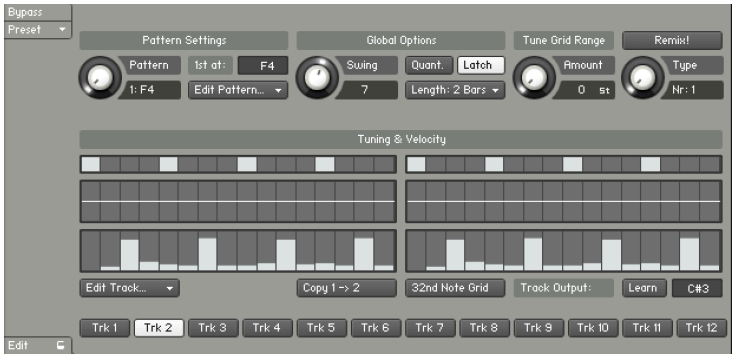
To do this, first click on the tool at the top left corner of the Kontakt instrument:



Then click on the ‘Script Editor’ tab at the left:



You can now see the Drum Computer interface:



Here a few tips on how to use this interface:



Use this knob or press one of the white keys to choose the pattern you want to edit.



Use ‘Edit Pattern’ to copy, clear, or paste a pattern



Use the swing knob to add swing to the groove. Values around 30 will replicate a triplet kind of groove: great for 80s funk :)



The first 6 tracks control the 6 tom pitches, from lowest to highest.



This is where you enter the notes and choose the velocity for the note.

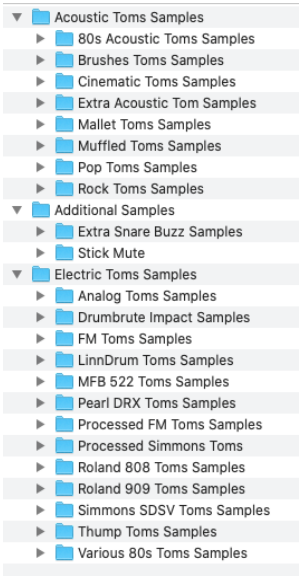
SAMPLES AND RECORDINGS

The library features 945 Samples (mono and Stereo WAV, 24bit, 48kHz) organised in 26 folders and sub-folders.

The classic electronic toms were recorded from a variety of vintage drum machines. (LinnDrum LM1 and LM2, Roland TR808, TR505, and TR909, Alesis SR18, Simmons SDS 800 and SDS3, Pearl DRX, MFB 522, ...)

Various synthesizers and expanders were also used to design analog toms (Prophet 6, Roland SE-02, MFB Nanozwerg, Dreadbox Typhon) and classic FM toms (Yamaha FB-01, Reface DX, Elektron Digitone).

The acoustic toms were recorded on several tom sets at Studios Palace, in Moulins, France. The samples were created using several high end microphones (Neumann U87, Beyerdynamic MD541 and M201, SE VR1, Schoeps Mk21 and Mk4, Shure Sm7, Beta 57...)







Processing:

A lot of world-class studio hardware was used to process the samples. Some favourites include the UREI 1178 limiter, API 550b EQs, Neve 33115 pre/EQ, and the classic Lexicon 480L reverb.

Extra processing was done using various software for maximum versatility.

UPDATES

The included patches are early versions of the software. They were thoroughly checked and tested before release. If you still find bugs or inconsistent behaviour, please report to office@julientauban.com

Also, don't hesitate to send me ideas or requests for future updates.You will be informed via email (from office@julientauban.com) about future updates and add-ons.

CREDITS

Concept, sampling, editing, mixing, programming and graphics by Julien Tauban.

Linn Drum LM2 photos by Tristan Pilon in Paris, France.

Samples recorded in Vienna, Austria, 2012-2019, and Moulins, France 2020-2026.

Processing in 4Tune Studios in 2018, and in Moulins, France, in 2025.

If you find a problem using the sample library, have questions, or just want to get in touch, don't hesitate to send an email to office@julientauban.com

Thanks a lot for reading, I wish you lots of inspiration and fun with 80s TOM DESIGNER!

Best regards,

Julien Tauban

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