MAGIC HI-HATS

user manual



loops de la Crème - November 2024

Thank you for purchasing MAGIC HI-HATS!

MAGIC HI-HATS is a unique Kontakt library focused on Hi-Hat cymbals.

It features 4 different hi-hats deeply sampled with 4 microphone perspectives.

With 'magic' automatic functions, it's never been easier to create realistic hi-hat parts for your songs!

The library includes four main hi-hat instruments and 14 sound presets. With a wide range of velocity layers and round-robins, all four hi-hats are very dynamic and expressive, offering a wonderful playability and realism when played live or programmed.

All presets also offer two different ways to instantly create authentic and lively hi-hat grooves:

Use the built-in grooves to play 12 tempo-synced hi-hat rhythms with rhythmic variations controlled by the modulation wheel.

Another option to instantly create lively hi-hat parts is offered by an easy-to-use sequencer: quickly program a sequence, press any combination of keys, and you'll automatically get authentic results!

INSTALLATION

To install the samples and instruments on your hard drive, unzip the file named MAGIC HI-HATS.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 MAGIC HI-HATS folder to your sample library hard drive, and make sure you make a backup of the full library on a separate drive (or a SD card / USB stick...)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

!!! Please keep the MAGIC HI-HATS folder structure intact: Do not move or erase a folder or a file from the main MAGIC HI-HATS 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+ 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

MAGIC HI-HATS features four main instruments in two alternative metrics for the built-in grooves and sequencer (regular 4/4 metric, and 6/8 metric). Find more info about the grooves and sequencer below.

An ensemble of sound presets (#10 to #14) are also included: they offer a huge range of classic and modern hi-hat sounds that will be useful for many styles. Each sound preset has its own pre-programmed sequence for instant results.

- 00_HH_Paiste 1000_4-4.nki
- 00_HH_Paiste 1000_6-8.nki
- 01_HH_Zildjian K_4-4.nki
- 01_HH_Zildjian K_6-8.nki
- 02_HH_Istanbul Agop_4-4.nki
- 02_HH_Istanbul Agop_6-8.nki
- 03_HH_Meinl Thin_4-4.nki
- 03_HH_Meinl Thin_6-8.nki
- 10_HH_Sparkling Soul_Zildjian_4-4.nki
- 11_HH_Thick Smokey Rock_Istanbul_4-4.nki
- 12_HH_Chunky Disco_Zildjian_4-4.nki
- 13_HH_Fluid Pop_Istanbul_6-8.nki
- 14_HH_Bright 80s Pop_Paiste_4-4.nki
- 15_HH_Shiny Folk_Meinl_4-4.nki
- 16_HH_Thin like a 808_Paiste_4-4.nki
- 17_HH_Sharp Fusion_Istanbul_4-4.nki
- 18_HH_Philly Hip Hop_Paiste_4-4.nki
- 19_HH_Smooth and Silky_Zildjian_4-4.nki
- 20_HH_70s Dry and Wide_Istanbul_4-4.nki
- 21_HH_Warm Jazz_Meinl_6-8.nki
- 22_HH_Old School Breaks_Zildjian_4-4.nki
- 23_HH_Kingston 60s_Paiste_4-4.nki



MAIN INSTRUMENTS

The library includes four different hi-hats. Each hi-hat has its own sound and character:



ZILDJIAN K CUSTOM

A crip and powerful hi-hat, with a very balanced sound and a versatility that makes it perfect for rock, pop, metal, and funk.



PAISTE 1000

A bright and focused pair of Hi-hats from the late 80s. Great for rapid phrases, and perfect for disco, pop and modern RnB and electronic music.



ISTANBUL AGOP SIGNATURE

An amazing pair of hand-made cymbals from the signature line of Istanbul. Very expressive and articulate, this hi-hat will fit wonderfully in jazz, funk, or fusion tracks.

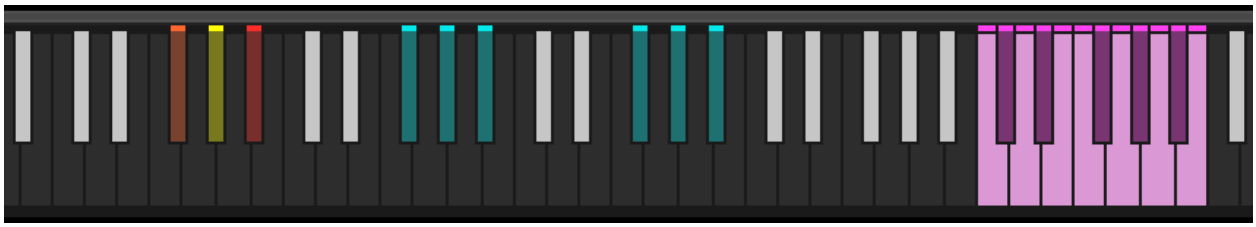


MEINL THIN JAZZ

A very thin pair of hi-hats, with a sweet, mellow, and warm sound. Excellent for jazz, blues, world music, and softer pop and folk music.

KEYBOARD MAPPING

All hi-hats have a similar mapping:



Magic keys (F0#, G#0, and Bb0):

These keys are 'magic' keys. A different sample is played each time the key is pressed. Up to 200 round-robin samples are programmed on these keys. The 'magic' keys are extensively used in the built-in rhythms, creating very realistic grooves with constant subtle variations. *NB: These keys are not velocity-responsive.*

F#0 (orange key): magic **regular closed**

G#0 (yellow key): magic **soft and tight**

Bb0 (red key): magic **full variation**

Regular articulations

These keys are the main playing area. They follow a regular GM drum mapping:

F#1: **regular closed**

G#1: **foot**

Bb1: **open**

Extra articulations

Alternative articulations can be found on those keys:

F#2: **closed to half open** (velocity layers go from tight and soft to accented half-opened)

G#2: **half-open**

Bb2: **foot splash** (an original hi-hat articulation where the two cymbals are quickly pressed against each other and released to create a splash / crash sound.)

Purple keys (C4 to B4): Built-in rhythms. *See the section 'Grooves' for more info.*

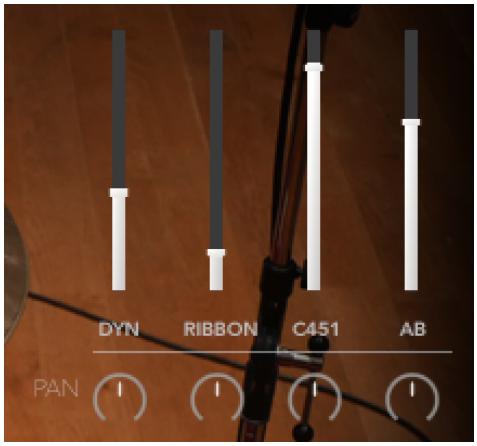
MIXER

Each instrument offers a very powerful mixer that will let you achieve a wide range of classic or innovative hi-hat sounds.

The controls are:

VOLUME (main vertical slider)
PAN (stereo position, round knob)

!!NB: use cmd+click (or ctrl+click) on any slider and knob to bring it to its default value.



Microphone perspectives:

DYN: a Beyerdynamic M201 very close to the hi-hats. Powerful, chunky and cutting sound

RIBBON: A Sontronics SIGMA microphone close and above the hi-hats. Silky, sweet and instant retro sound!

C451: A vintage AKG C45EB from AKG's golden era, in a typical overhead position. Detailed, focused and bright.

AB: a classy pair of DPA 4006A omni microphones in AB set-up, higher above the hi-hats. Wide, airy, and balanced, with a beautiful and realistic 3D sound.

USING MULTI-OUTPUTS

It is possible to route each of the four microphone perspectives to separate audio outputs. To do this, you need to use a multi-output version of Kontakt in your DAW and set audio channels accordingly. Please refer to your DAW's user guide for advice on this.

You also need to set Kontakt's output configuration in order to have at least 4 outputs available: Press F8 to view the output section, and create a new configuration if needed. (You'll find all info about this in Kontakt's user manual).

Each microphone is already routed to its own bus, (from left to right, Bus 1= DYN, bus2 = RIBBON, bus 3 = C451, bus 4 = AB, ...) and can be assigned to a separate audio output: Click on the tool at the

top left to 'open' Kontakt, and scroll down to the section Instrument Buses:



Select the bus you want to send to a separate output by clicking on the bus channel, or using the window menu.

At the bottom right, click on the Output section, and choose the output you need for this microphone perspective.

EFFECTS

SOFT ATTACK

This knob lets you gradually soften the attack (transients) of the samples. It uses a volume enveloppe to apply a very transparent and discreet fade-in at the start of the samples. Use the knob to change the attack time from 0ms (minimum value) to 2.4ms (maximum value)



*!!NB: This knob works specially well with the two microphone perspectives **C451** and **AB**.*

EFFECT CHAIN



All cymbals use the same master effects:

Use the switches (WIDTH, EQ, DRIVE, FILTERS, and LIMIT) to activate the corresponding effects.

REVERB: sets the **insert reverb** amount. Click on the box to choose between 20 custom impulse responses. The impulse responses are organised from short to longer reverbs.
!!NB: Use a short reverb at low value (knob at 11 o'clock) to increase the realism of rapid hi-hat grooves.

WIDTH: Control the stereo width of the sound from mono to extra wide stereo. *!!NB: This works very well to control the width when using the insert reverb or the AB microphones.*

EQ: a 4-band equaliser to adjust bass, low mids, high mids and treble frequencies.

DRIVE: a characterful saturation to add impact and substance to the sounds. Use the knob to adjust the amount of saturation gain.

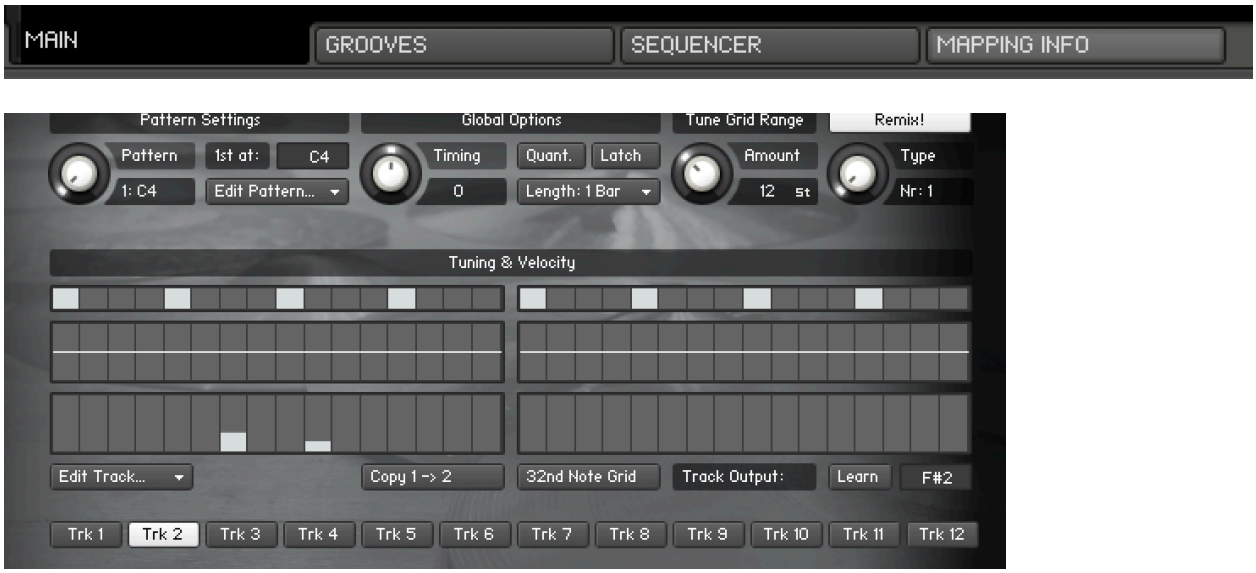
FILTERS: a high-pass and a low-pass filters to cut-out bass or high frequencies and precisely fit the hi-hats in your mix.

LIM: a master brickwall limiter to reduce strong transients and accents and avoid overloading Kontakt's outputs. Use the knob to set the input level going into the limiter.

!!NB: Use one of the built-in grooves or the sequencer, and experiment with various levels of reverb, saturation and limiting to easily fit the hi-hats in your mix!

GROOVES

Click on the GROOVES tab at the bottom of the interface to access the Grooves view:



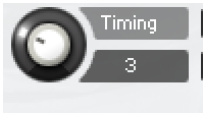
Here a few tips on how to use this interface:



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 **Timing knob** to change the placement of the steps and change the feeling of the groove. For instruments in 6/8, this knob changes the timing of step 2 and 3 of each beat. Going to a full value (between 30 to 40) will morph the groove into a 4/4 metric.
For instruments in 4/4, the knob adds a regular swing to the groove.
!!NB: Use a combination of instruments (Kontakt multi NKM) with various Timing settings for each instrument to create great organic rhythms.





Use this to go from a 1-bar pattern to a two-bar pattern. I like to start by programming a 1-bar pattern only, and then use the function ‘copy 1->2’ to duplicate it into a 2-bars groove, before making small changes to the second bar.



Each track controls a specific note for the instrument.



Press ‘Learn’ and then press a key to assign a different note to a track



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



Use the **LATCH** switch to change how the grooves are triggered: When activated, the groove will start when a key is pressed and will keep playing until the same key is pressed a second time. When de-activated, the groove will start only when a key is pressed and held.



Have fun jamming with the different rhythms :)

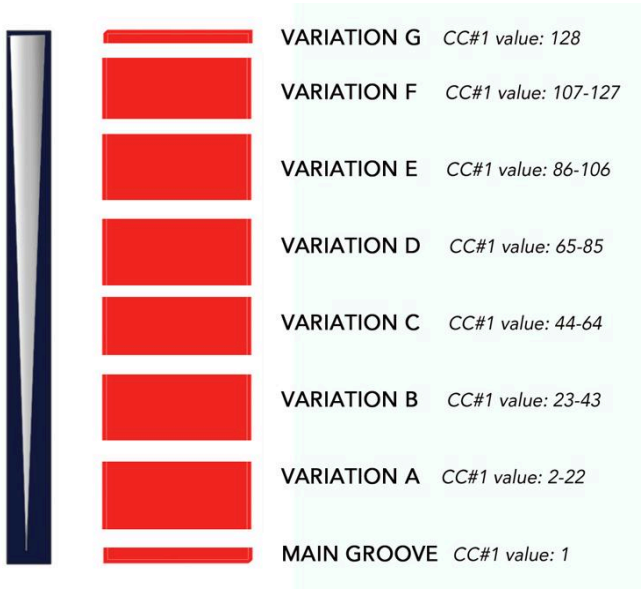
Use a main rhythm and experiment playing different keys

and quickly coming back to the main groove to create on-the-spot fill-ins!

MODULATION-WHEEL GROOVE VARIATIONS:

MAGIC HI-HATS offers a fun and instinctive way to bring the pre-programmed rhythms to life:

Once a groove is playing, you can easily get a groove variation by using the Modulation Wheel (or another controller sending Midi CC1). Eight 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 regular fill-in, 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 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:

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 rolls 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:

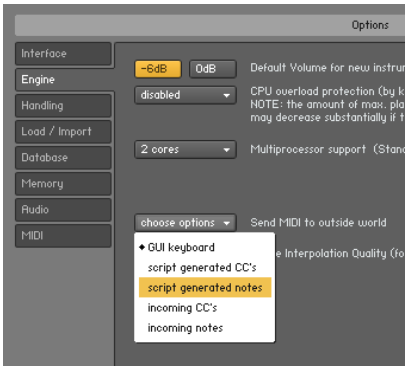


In the options box, choose 'Engine' and click on 'choose options' for the 'Send MIDI to outside world' category.

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.



!!! Recording the rhythms as **AUDIO** in your DAW:

For the included instruments, I highly recommend that you record the audio output of Kontakt on a separate track in your DAW: Just as you would if you had a drummer coming to your studio for a session with his favourite hi-hats :)

Set-up an audio track in your DAW, and make sure you route Kontakt's audio output to the input of this audio track. Please refer to your DAW's user manual for extra info on this configuration. You can then perform and record a few takes with MAGIC HI-HATS, and then edit the recordings to keep only the best parts!



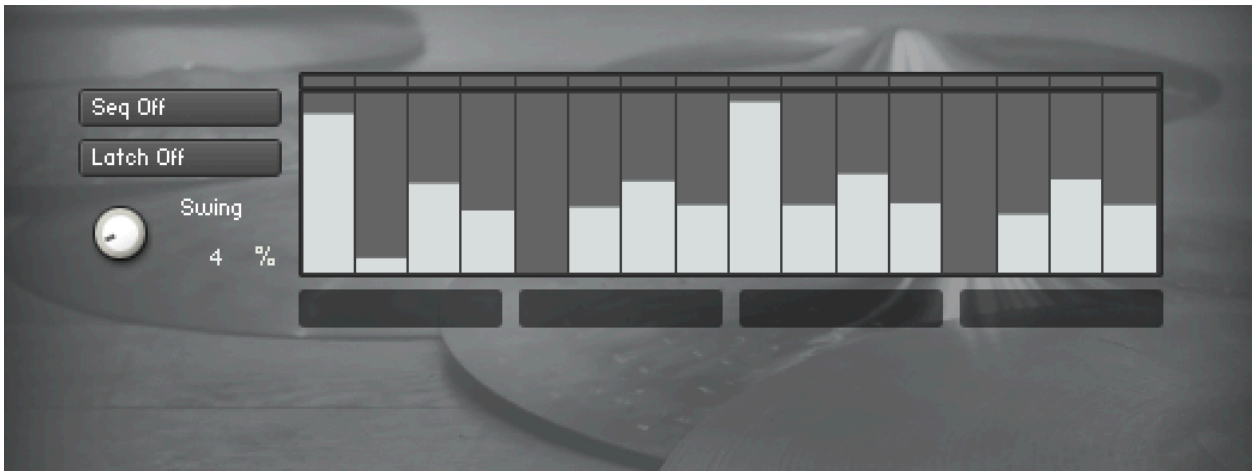
If you use the LATCH mode for the sequencer, you can simply program a 'starting note' in your DAW to make sure the beats will be synced and Start on time. Then you can switch rhythms, add fills or call & answers in a fun and intuitive way :)

SEQUENCER

Click on the SEQUENCER tab at the bottom of the interface to access the sequencer:



This sequencer is a powerful and easy-to-use tool to quickly create realistic hi-hats parts:



The sequencer is based on a simple arpeggiator engine. When activated, pressing and holding any key will start the programmed sequence. If several keys are pressed, the sequencer will randomly alternate between these keys: this works very well with the magic keys to create subtle variations typical of expressive hi-hat parts.

CONTROLS:

SEQ ON/OFF: use this switch to activate or de-activate the sequencer

LATCH ON/OFF: if latch is on, the sequence will keep playing even if you release the keys. When Latch is off, the sequence plays only as long as keys are held down.

SWING: Use this knob to add swing to the sequence.

SEQUENCE TABLE: Choose if one of the 16 steps (12 for the 6-8 instruments) is played or not. The velocity of each step is controlled by the vertical bar. Make sure you use various velocity settings for each steps to create dynamic and realistic Hi-Hat parts.

Since 'magic' keys are not velocity-sensitive, the velocity settings of the sequence will not affect these keys. However, for all other keys, the velocity settings will be proportional to the velocity applied when pressing down a key. To understand this function, activate the

sequencer and press F# at a low velocity, and then at a high velocity: in both cases, you will notice velocity variations, but these will be scaled-down proportionally when the key is pressed at lower velocity.

This dynamic velocity concept means that you can very quickly build a complex hi-hat part for a full song using the piano-roll editor of your DAW and only one sequence. Simply program different long held notes (or combinations of notes) at various velocities for each part of the song.

NB: If you simultaneously press any of the playing key (for exemple F#1) and a key without samples (ex: C1), the sequencer will randomly play pauses in the sequence! Use a combination of regular and magic keys, along with one or two keys without samples to create fully random hi-hat parts that will sound like a drummer freely improvising!

!!!NB: Make sure you turn the sequencer OFF when using the built-in grooves, otherwise the built-in grooves will not sound natural!

!!! SAVING YOUR INSTRUMENTS:

If you make changes to the effects, sequencer, or grooves of an instrument, you can re-save the patch in the files menu:

For single patches, use the function ‘save as...’ , rename the instrument, and choose the option ‘patch only’

For multi patches, use the function ‘save multi as...’

Please save your instruments in the original folder.

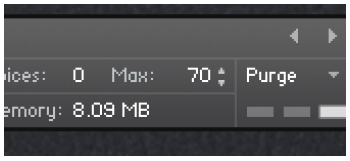


Use a different name for your own patches to easily remember them and keep the original patches as well.

!!! IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CPU USAGE !!!

All instruments and 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:

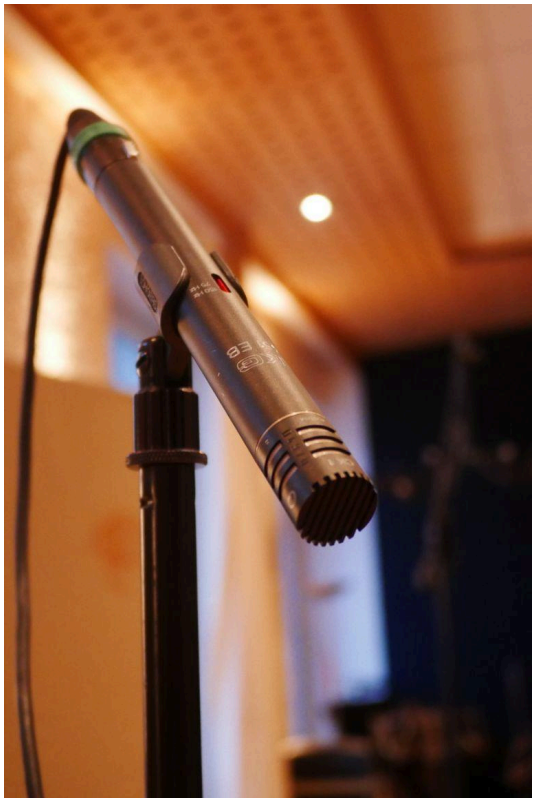
- Increase the audio buffer in your DAW or in Kontakt 'Preferences' menu
- In Kontakt's 'Options' settings, find the Engine section, and use the 'relaxed' or 'medium' setting for the CPU overload protection
- Try to reduce the number of notes simultaneously played
- Shut down other applications and softwares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



SAMPLES AND RECORDINGS

The library features 2761 samples organised in 4 folders.

The samples are mono or stereo WAV, in 24bit 48kHz format.



The samples were recorded using a rack of vintage NEVE 33115 modules, a Universal Audio LA610 MKii, and a zoom F8 recorder.

The recording session took place in 4TUNE Studios, Vienna.







UPDATES

The included files 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.

All samples recorded in 4TUNE Studios, Vienna, Austria.

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 MAGIC HI-HATS!

Best regards,

Julien Tauban

www.loopsdelacreme.com

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