TAMBOURINE SISTERS

user manual



loops de la Crème - February 2025

Thank you for purchasing TAMBOURINE SISTERS!

TAMBOURINE SISTERS is a unique Kontakt library focused on tambourines.

It features 2 complimentary tambourines deeply sampled with 2 microphone perspectives.

With tempo-synced grooves and 'magic' automatic functions, it's never been easier to create realistic and lively tambourine parts for your songs!

With a wide range of velocity layers and round-robins, the two tambourines are very dynamic and expressive, offering wonderful playability and realism when played live or programmed. For maximum versatility, Each tambourine can be used as a single solo instrument, or you can play them simultaneously, creating a rich, organic sound that captures the essence of two tambourine players grooving together. Perfect for adding a vibrant energy to your music!

The library includes three main style presets. The presets Funk/Gospel and Pop/Rock offer the same articulations but provide different sets of rhythms. The preset Orchestral merges the two tambourines into a harmonious, dynamic, and richly textured instrument.

For maximum versatility and usefulness, an ensemble of extra sound presets and Kontakt multis are also included.

INSTALLATION

To install the samples and instruments on your hard drive, unzip the file named TAMBOURINE SISTERS.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 TAMBOURINE SISTERS 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 TAMBOURINE SISTERS folder structure intact: Do not move or erase a folder or a file from the main TAMBOURINE SISTERS 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

TAMBOURINE SISTERS features three main style presets each with a different set of grooves.

Find more info about the grooves and sequencer below.

Variations of these style presets (#11 to #13) are also included: they offer a huge range of classic and modern tambourine sounds that will be useful for many styles.

#11 presets are based on the main 01 Funk Gospel preset, #12 presets are variations of the 02 Pop Rock preset, and #13 preset are based on the 03 Orchestral preset.

#20, 21, and 22 offer a selection of processed tambourine hits and accents.

#30 to 35 are multi-instruments (Kontakt nkm). They combine various tambourines and grooves to offer lively and realistic tambourine duos.



MAIN INSTRUMENTS

The library includes three main style presets. Each preset has its own sound, character, and set of grooves:



FUNK GOSPEL

Inspired by Motown, old school funk and Gospel music, this preset offers a raw sound and a great ensemble of lively, syncopated, fiery tambourine rhythms.



POP ROCK

With a useful set of typical tambourine patterns, this versatile preset will besuitable for many styles, from folk, blues, pop and rock,to electronic and world music.

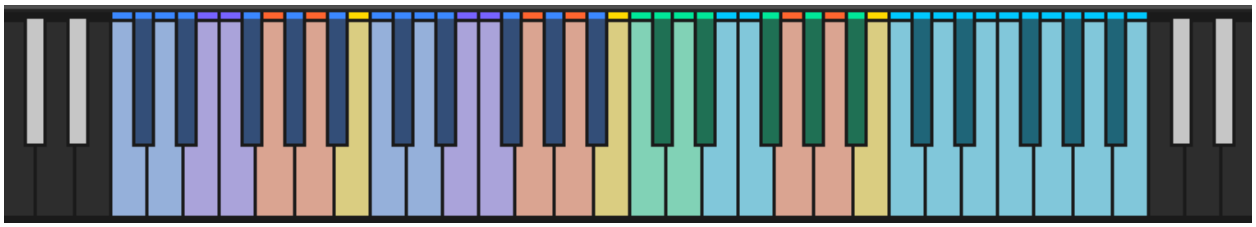


ORCHESTRAL

This preset merges the two tambourines into a single instrument, specifically designed for acoustic music and orchestral work. Instead of magic keys, this preset offers two extra articulations and an extended dynamic range.

KEYBOARD MAPPING

All presets have a very similar mapping, organized in four octaves:



OCTAVE 1 (C1 to B1)	**OCTAVE 2** (C2 to B2)	**OCTAVE 3** (C3 to B3)	**OCTAVE 4** (C4 to B4)
Rhythm Tech tambourine	**Ludwig vintage Tambourine**	**Tambourines layers** *(Optional: use ON/OFF switches)*	**Tempo-synced grooves** *(Optional: use ON/OFF switches)*







!!! Activate the **ON/OFF switches** to assign one or two tambourines to the third octave (C3 to B3) and the built-in grooves (C4 to B4). When the two switches are ON, both tambourines will be layered from C3 to B3, and the grooves will be simultaneously played by the two tambourines!

!!NB: Use only one of the ON/OFF switches to enjoy a parallel mapping for the tambourine of your choice: this will make it easier to play quick patterns with your two hands on two separate octaves.

OCTAVE 1, 2, and 3 MAPPING:

The two tambourines offer similar techniques and articulations:



SWINGS

C: main left swing, D: main right swing, E: tight L&R swing, F: soft open L&R swing

ACCENTS & STROKES

Headless RhythmTech Tambourine:

C#: vertical stroke 1
D#: vertical stroke 2
F#: horizontal stroke
G#: frame side stroke
A#: chest stroke

Vintage Ludwig Tambourine::

C#: vertical stroke
D#: open hand stroke
F#: horizontal stroke
G#: frame side stroke
A#: fingers stroke

AUTOMATIC SHAKE ROLL: B

Press and hold the yellow key to start a shake roll, and use the mod wheel to control the intensity. For maximum realism, start and end the shake roll with an accented stroke.

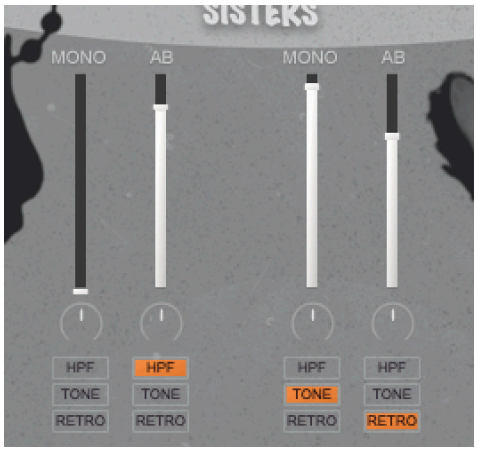
EXTRA KEYS (G and A)

- Funk/Gospel and Pop/Rock presets: *'Magic' keys:* **G:** 'magic' accents, **A:** 'magic' soft hits and shakes

- Orchestral preset: **G:** bass hit, **A:** automatic finger roll.

Cyan 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 tambourine sounds. The first two channels on the left control the Rhythm Tech Headless tambourine, and the two channels on the right are for the vintage Ludwig tambourine.
Each tambourine offers a dry and detailed **MONO** channel, and a wide **AB** stereo channel.
Use the Volume slider to adjust the channel volume, and the small knob underneath to adjust the stereo panning of the channel. For each channel, you can activate three effects:
HPF: high pass filter to reduce bass
TONE: a pre-set equalizer for an alternative sound
RETRO: a combination of effects to offer a warmer vintage sound

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

Microphone perspectives:

MONO: an AKG C480B with CK63 hypercardioid capsule: Detailed, focused and bright sound.

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

USING MULTI-OUTPUTS

It is possible to route each of the four microphone channels 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= MONO Rhythm Tech Tambourine, bus2 = AB Rhythm Tech Tambourine, bus 3 = MONO Ludwig Tambourine, bus 4 = AB Ludwig Tambourine) 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.

MASTER EFFECTS



All presets use the same master effects:

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

INSERT: sets the **insert reverb** amount. Click on the box to choose between 20 custom impulse responses. The impulse responses are organized from short to longer reverbs.

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 equalizer to adjust bass, low mids, high mids, and treble frequencies.

FILTERS: high-pass and low-pass filters to reduce bass or high frequencies and precisely fit the tambourines in your mix.

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

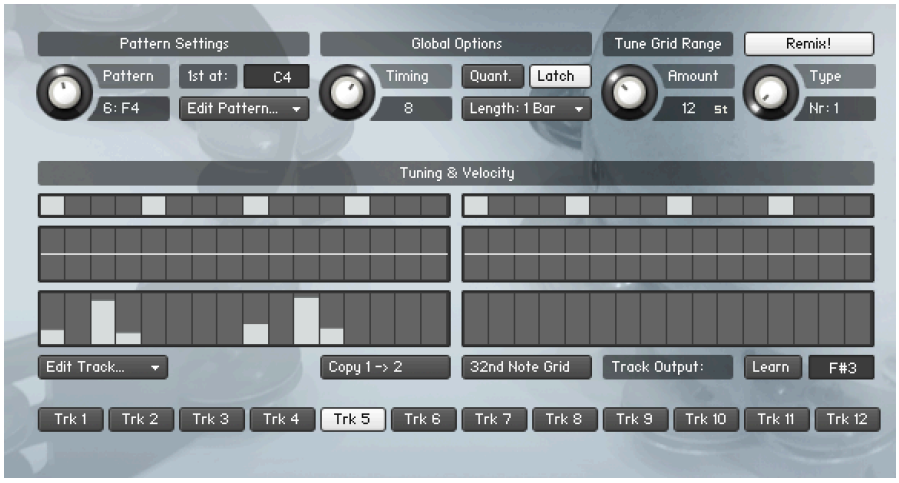
SEND: sets the amount of sound sent to the second reverb. *NB: the insert reverb is positioned before all effects, and the send reverb comes after all effects. Use two different IRs for rich results!*

!!NB: Use one of the built-in grooves and experiment with various levels of reverb, EQ, and limiting to easily fit the tambourines in your mix!

GROOVES

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





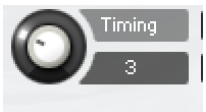
Here a few tips on how to use this interface:



Use this knob or press one of the groove keys (C4 to B4) 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 :)

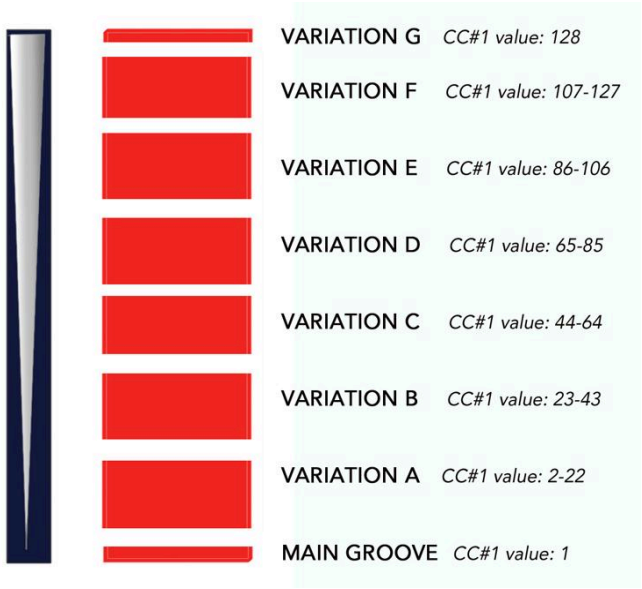
Use a main rhythm and experiment playing different keys

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

MODULATION-WHEEL GROOVE VARIATIONS:

TAMBOURINE SISTERS 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:

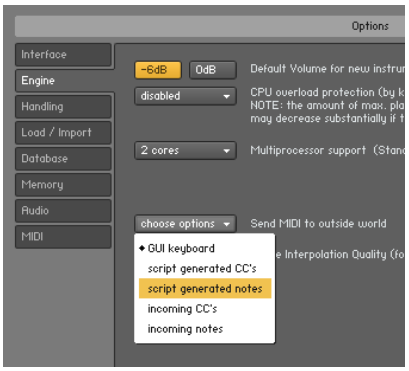


In the options box, choose 'Engine' and click on 'choose options' for the 'Send MIDI to outside world' category.

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 two tambourine players coming to your studio for a session with their favourite tambourines :)

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 TAMBOURINE SISTERS, 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 and add fills or variations in a fun and intuitive way :)

!!! 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.

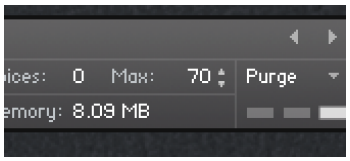


Use a different name for your own patches to easily remember them and keep the original patches as well.

!!! 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:



PROCESSED ACCENTS AND STROKES



This bonus preset offers instant access to 49 processed tambourine hits and strokes: these sounds are perfect to use instead of or layered on top of a snare drum for extra power in a song.

For practical uses, the samples are organized in categories, from left to right:

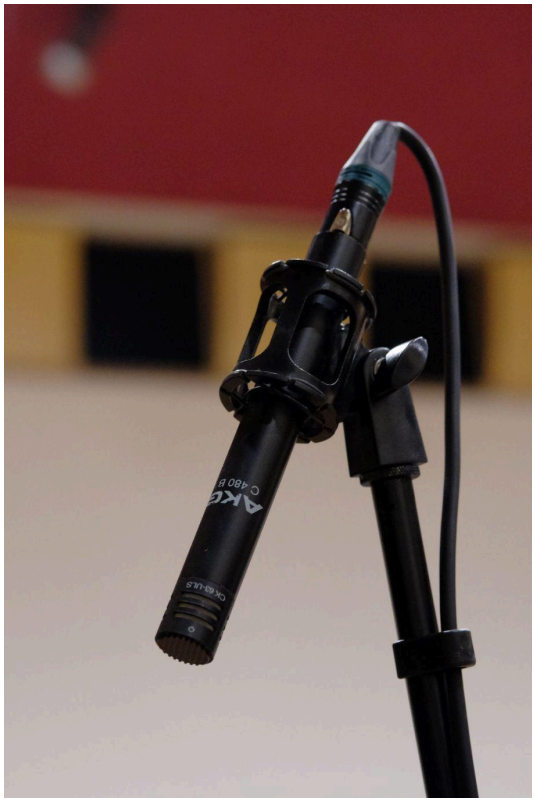
- Drier and shorter tambourine hits
- Longer (open ringing) tambourine strokes
- Long reverb tambourine hits
- Powerful tambourine accents
- Retro tambourine hits

Two variations of this preset are also offered. (#31 Power, and#32 Retro)

SAMPLES AND RECORDINGS

The library features 2143 samples organized in 3 folders.

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



The samples were recorded using an AKG C480B and a pair of Schoeps MK2H.

The recording session took place in Studios Palace, in Moulins, France.







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 behavior, 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 Studios Palace, Moulins, FRANCE, in November and December 2024.

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 TAMBOURINE SISTERS!

Best regards,

Julien Tauban

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