

BALALAIKA

MANUAL



Thanks for purchasing Balalaika.

How to install?

To install, unzip and drag the instrument folder to any hard drive. Launch Kontakt 4 or higher and load the .nki instruments. Please do not move any file! By installing the product you accept the enclosed product license agreement. For any kind of questions please contact us at : support@cinematique-instruments.com

BALALAIKA



The Instrument - What is Balalaika?

The Balalaika is a small string instrument which most likely originates from central Asian lute instruments but is nowadays most closely associated with eastern european, especially Russian music. First mentioned in the 17th Century, it was primarily used for village and folk music whereas the Balalaika also starts to take part in concert performances since the 19th Century. This even lead to the forming of Balalaika orchestras. Additionally the Balalaika acquired its iconic triangular shape in that time.

The Balalaika we have recorded is a three-stringed prima Balalaika which has a typical E-E-A tuning.

BALALAICA



The Content – what we did.

In the history of our previous released string instruments we have again set a great focus on creating an instrument with a soft and warm sound which will have an organic and realistic feel.

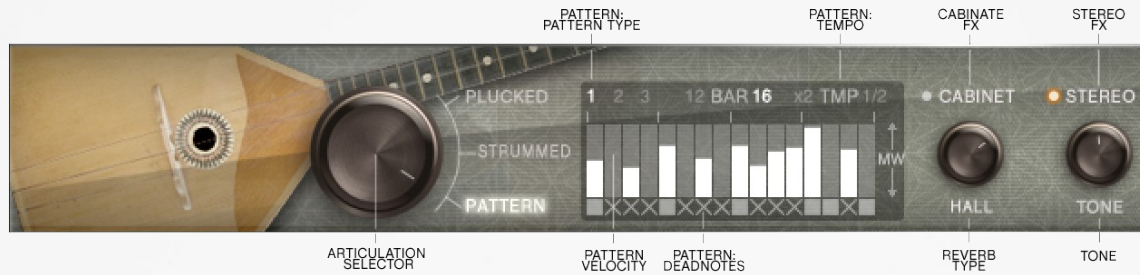
In order to concentrate on the main instrument articulations, we have recorded the Balalaika in the regular „plucking“ articulation in eight times round robin which is well suited for playing melodies but also offers many more uses. It features a „Tremolo-Option“ which is controlled over the Mod Wheel and is capable of creating a very tragic and dramatic but also extremely natural tremolo sound, which fits perfectly in a lot of different music styles and genres. The other articulation which we have captured is the „Strumming“. This is great for accompanying and creating a good backing for your music.

Along with these samples we have additionally recorded strummed deadnotes. You can play these notes manually or with a tiny but very powerful "Pattern" engine which lets you create patterns in an easy and self explaining way. Furthermore the Balalaika is equipped with different options to enhance the entire sound with three types of reverb, some fx features and editing possibilities.

BALALAICA



The functions in detail



- Tone** controls the intensities of a low shelf and a high shelf filter
- Cabinet** activates a speaker simulation
- Stereo** activates pseudo stereo spreading (attention: may result phasing issues)
- Reverb** you can select between three reverb types by clicking on the label. The knob controls the amount of reverb
- Articulation** this knob lets you switch between the following articulations: PLUCKED, STRUMMED and PATTERNtypes:



PLUCKED open, sustained notes. Adjust the sustain/ Release of the notes by switching between LONG and SHORT in the control. Please set in the line below the tremolo option to MODWHEEL, when you like to play a tremolo articulation (by moving the modwheel) or OFF in order to deactivate this option

STRUMMED This articulation is best suitable for playing patterns without using the pattern engine. You can either play deadnotes manually with the keys C1 (Downstroke) and D1 (upstroke). This is especially handy when you already established a right hand strumming rhythm in your sequencer and only want to change the left hand damping.

While holding the *pedal* the mandolin plays the upstroke while releasing the key.

PATTERN This articulation is the pattern strumming engine. You can either use the default patterns or create your own rhythms. The pattern performing is based on the notes you are pressing without using prerecorded loops.

The following options are only available if 'Pattern' is selected:



- Pattern 1,2,3** There are 3 different predefined patterns which can be overwritten. They are accessible via the yellow keyswitches and will automatically be saved within your DAW project file. You can also save them manually by renaming and saving the Kontakt patch on your hddisk.
- Tempo** Tempo this two buttons let you play the pattern in half- or double time in relation to the the host tempo
- Bar** You can select the number of steps between 12 to 16. By chosing 12 you can realize a three/quarter feel.
- Velocity** each bar is representing the velocity of the certain step. An empty bar stands means no note is played and the previous note will be sustained. To stop a previously played note insert a very soft deadnote (as if you would mute the strings with your hand)
- Deadnotes** use the 16 buttons on the lower side of the pattern sequencer to flip between open notes (square) and dead notes (X)





http://cinematique-instruments.com/inst_balalaika.php

Thanks to René, Max, Jakob, Jumpel and Niklas.

Copyright © March, 2017 by Cinematique Instruments, Cologne, Germany

