CELESTA

KEYBOARD OPERATED IDIOPHONE

Celesta

Keyboard Operated Idiophone

"The magical box of mystery"

Sonokinetic BV © 2014

Built For Kontakt Player 5.7.1+ and compatible with Komplete Kontrol and NKS

Celesta

Sonokinetic proudly presents 'Celesta'.

One of our personal favourite instruments of all time, the Celesta (or Celeste), has been capturing people's imaginations for centuries and will continue to do so for many years to come. The instrument really has a magical sound and every time we happen to cross paths with a real one and open the lid it amazes me how inviting this instrument is to play. Of course, most of them are a bit off pitchy the keys don't always react the way you'd want them to but that adds to the beauty. You cannot force this instrument where it doesn't want to go but it'll always take you in an interesting direction.
We found our Celesta and the recording room in the Netherlands, in Hilversum, the same place we recorded our much-acclaimed Mallets library. We had the luxury of being able to choose from three different instruments, and I hope you'll agree we picked the right one.

We recorded in a medium sized, high ceiling studio with 5 microphones: A Neumann large membrane microphone for close (about 10 cm from the tines), a Violet Audio Flamingo stereo microphone for the mid position and a Schoeps Colette stereo set on the balcony. There are knobs in the interface that let you choose which sound you like best, or mix them. If you like your hall a bit bigger, use the reverb control where you can add some acoustics to the equation.

This all seems very simple, but there is a lot going on script-wise to get all the samples to play in the correct ways. There are separate samples for pedal up and pedal down, multiple velocity release samples and we have applied our round robin augmentation method that we first used in Da Capo and subsequently in all our multisampled instruments, providing you with up to 15 round robins per velocity layer per key.

We wish you the best inspiration and creativity,

The Sonokinetic Celesta Production Team

CONTENT

3.1 GB sample pool, 4000+ samples

Three velocity levels

Separate samples for Sustain pedal on and off

Multiple round robin samples

Celesta Reverb

Three Microphone positions

Custom designed interface

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Celesta Reference document (PDF)

Artwork: "Celesta" DVD cover. Designed by Sonokinetic

All files in 44.1 kHz, 24 Bit NCW format.

THE INTERFACE

The main user interface for Celesta contains all the functions you need in one place. Reverb controls are on the left-hand side and microphone mixing options feature on the right.

THE INSTRUMENT

Playing the Celesta works exactly the same as a piano keyboard. The blue keys indicate the playable range. This all seems like a rather simple affair, and the user interface is very simple indeed, in line with our philosophy to not let technical stuff get in the way of your creativity.
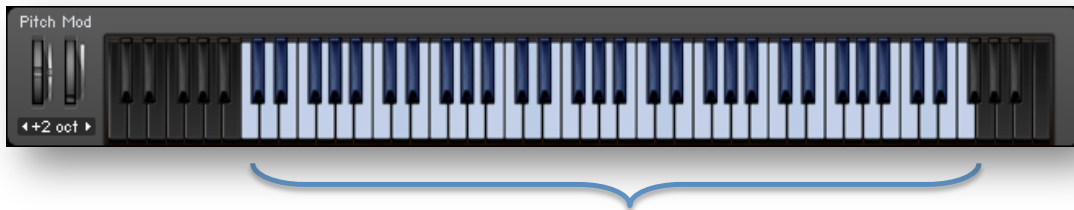

Playable Range

Under the hood there is a lot going on. There are multiple release samples for all notes being triggered when you let go of the key. Different samples are recorded for pedal up and pedal down positions. Combining this with our round robin augmentation script that allows for up to 15 different round robins per key per velocity range, randomly chosen from the pool, makes this a very expressive instrument that will sound unique each time you play it.

REVERB

Celesta comes with a bespoke reverb to simulate a realistic playing environment. Turn the reverb on and off with the button indicated here.

The **Amount** and **Size** of the reverb can be adjusted with these two dials below. This will mimic the depth and size of a real space.
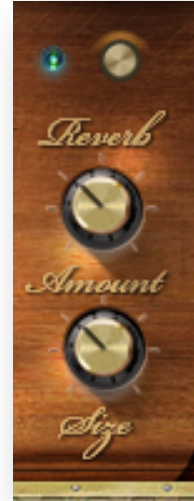
You can further customize or replace the impulse response within the Kontakt instrument editor Insert Effects panel, shown below:
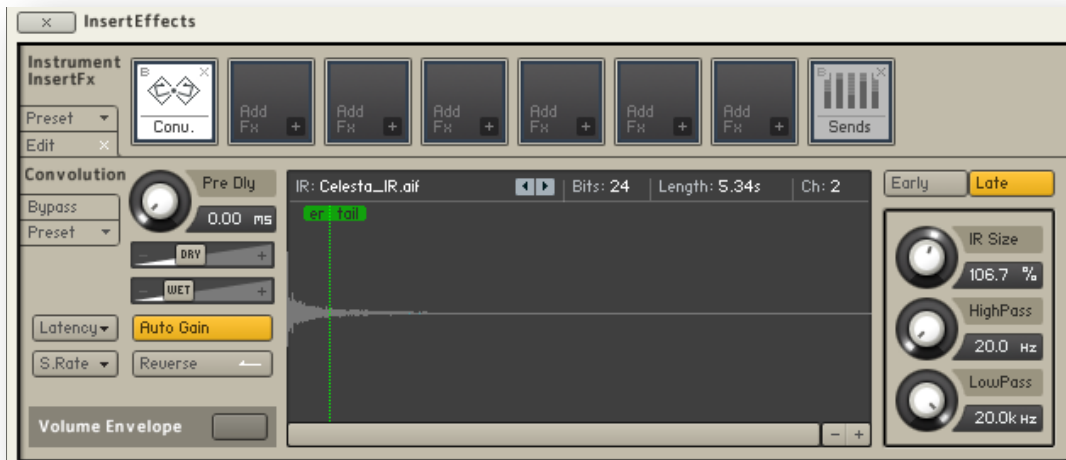
MICROPHONE MIXING

We have sampled our Celesta from 3 distinctly different microphone positions. The **Close**, **Overhead** and **Balcony** dials allow for mixing of the different signals. Click and drag the dials to adjust the levels of the 3 positions.

Close gives an intimate sound with a mono feel

Overhead is a wider, stereo sound captured from above

Balcony is the most ambient sounding position

A NOTE ON THE SOUND

We have maintained the character of our sampled Celesta by capturing all the nuances of the original instrument with multiple round robins and velocity mapping. The samples include all of the character and noises from the ancient instrument. Use the unique charm of these extraneous sounds to give your Celesta parts depth and charm.

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all the creative best,

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