

News:

IN KONTAKT WITH AKOUSTIK PIANO Outstanding Sound Quality Meets Perfect Integration



Since its release in August 2005, AKOUSTIK PIANO has caused a great deal of excitement. With the recent release of the free [1.1 Update](#) a whole new level of product integration has been achieved: AKOUSTIK PIANO has not only been optimized in minute detail, but can now be comfortably loaded in KONTAKT 2.1. The same holds true for ELEKTRIK PIANO and BANDSTAND. Both have just been updated and now feature perfect KONTAKT 2.1 integration. Make sure not to miss our related [NI-VERSARY Offers](#): As a user of one of the above mentioned products you can crossgrade to selected Sampling Line products - and save up to 50%!

Grand Slam

AKOUSTIK PIANO fuses the sampled sound, expressiveness and playability of three of the most reputable grand pianos – the Steinway D™, Bechstein D 280™ and Boesendorfer 290 Imperial™ – as well as the charismatic Steingraeber 130™ vintage upright piano into one application. AKOUSTIK PIANO covers the entire range of piano sounds and styles, transfusing the sonic characteristics and subtle tonal nuances of all four into your computer – the perfect complement for studios, rehearsal rooms, schools, stages and clubs.



Under The Lid

AKOUSTIK PIANO is the new benchmark in sound quality, capturing the full body and feel of the originals with unprecedented authenticity. The latest recording technology as well as a specially developed microphone setup was used for all 4 pianos. The result is a uniquely warm, transparent and flexible sound that delivers the same distinctive character of each individual piano in exacting detail and can still be adjusted to meet specific needs.

Intelligent Ivory

AKOUSTIK PIANO plays and responds exactly as real pianos do. The keys were sampled at varying velocities and great care was taken to capture the entire sustain and release phases. The brand new Layer Morphing Technology generates a seamless dynamic gradient. The characteristic resonances caused by use of the pedals can be adjusted as can the subtle mechanical noises of the pedals and keys themselves. From perfect pianissimo to forceful fortissimo, this instrument delivers the same breadth and depth of tone as the originals.

Enchanting Ebony

AKOUSTIK PIANO has a first-class integrated convolution module, allowing highly authentic spatial characteristics to be added to the sound. Place the piano in a studio, jazz club, concert hall and a cathedral or use the dry signal as it is. The acoustic parameters of these spaces, such as the size, can also be manipulated. From the close mic setup of a jazz combo to the more ambient nature of classic solo performance, AKOUSTIK PIANO covers the whole spectrum.



Top Features

- ▶ Three famous grand pianos and one upright piano
- ▶ Exceptionally high sound quality including complete sustain and release phase
- ▶ Extremely intuitive and clearly structured user interface
- ▶ Integrated convolution module delivers controllable acoustics for four distinctive rooms: studio, jazz club, concert hall and cathedral
- ▶ Sophisticated and authentic emulation of the soft, sostenuto and sustain pedals
- ▶ Layer Morphing Technology ensures a consistent timbre and seamless velocity gradient
- ▶ Highly advanced audio engine including Direct from Disk (DfD) functionality
- ▶ Adjustable string resonance and mechanical noises of pedals and keys
- ▶ Integrated metronome, MIDI file player and recorder, export to WAV, flexible 3-band EQ and various tunings
- ▶ Keyboard dynamic range and velocity curve allows response to be adjusted to different master keyboards

Interfaces

Stand-alone, VST®, Audio Units™, RTAS™, DXi™, ASIO™, Core Audio™, DirectSound™

System Requirements



Mac OS 10.3.x, G4 1.2 GHz, 512 MB RAM



Windows XP, Pentium/Athlon XP 1.4 GHz, 512 MB RAM

Support for Intel-based Macs not included but coming soon. [More info...](#)

Recommended System



Mac OS 10.3.x, G5 1.8 GHz, 1.0 GB RAM



Windows XP, Pentium/Athlon XP 3 GHz, 1.0 GB RAM

AKOUSTIK PIANO 1.1 R2 UPDATE

New features

In AKOUSTIK PIANO 1.1 R2, a new **overtone technology** delivers strikingly realistic string resonances for all three grand pianos and the upright piano. To provide even smoother sonic characteristics across the full key range, the sample sets of all four included pianos have been meticulously retuned and re-adjusted for the new version.

The update also adds **Stretched Tuning**, the preferred tuning mode for classical solo piano performances, and adds highly realistic "Repedalling" behaviour to its implementation of the sustain pedal. Furthermore, AKOUSTIK PIANO 1.1 offers an enhanced user interface, an improved Recorder section with MIDI song import, MIDI automation for a wide range of sound parameters including volume and pan, an adjustable **"bass boost" function**, and an easy-to-use output limiter. The update also increases **the number of maximum voices to 150**, providing sufficient polyphony headroom for even the most demanding piano arrangements

Performance View for KONTAKT 2.1

Using and tweaking AKOUSTIK PIANO with KONTAKT 2.1 now is a breeze: KONTAKT's new Performance View allows you to take full control of all the AKOUSTIK PIANO sound parameters without losing the simplicity of the KONTAKT rack. This huge advantage is another reason why AKOUSTIK PIANO has not only become a standard in great piano sound but also delivers unknown flexibility.



NI-VERSARY Crossgrade Special Offers

Until September 10th, registered users of NI samplers can benefit from incredibly low-priced NI-VERSARY special offers:

Users of KONTAKT 2:

50% off on AKOUSTIK PIANO, BANDSTAND and ELEKTRIK PIANO.

[Order BANDSTAND online...](#)

[Order AKOUSTIK PIANO online...](#)

[Order ELEKTRIK PIANO online...](#)

Users of BANDSTAND, AKOUSTIK PIANO and ELEKTRIK PIANO:

40% off on the KONTAKT 2 Bundle (incl KONTAKT Experience & Tutorial DVD!)

[Order KONTAKT 2 Bundle online...](#)

[Order KONTAKT 2 Bundle at your Retailer...](#)

Users of NI-sampler-based 3rd party libraries*

40% off on the KONTAKT 2 Bundle (incl. KONTAKT Experience & Tutorial DVD!)

[Order KONTAKT 2 Bundle online...](#)

[Order KONTAKT 2 Bundle at your Retailer...](#)

ALL ABOUT AKOUSTIK PIANO PLAYING AND RECORDING

Eas of use

AKOUSTIK PIANO is a first-class instrument conceived for making music. That's why special emphasis has been put upon simple and intuitive usability, so that users can start playing immediately - like with a real piano. Simply choose between one of four piano-icons to load an instrument. If you prefer to place your piano into a special room like a concert hall rather than playing the pure and dry piano sound, just activate the corresponding room icon on the right hand side of the user interface. It couldn't be any easier, it couldn't be any faster!

Take a seat, start playing and dive into the opulent beauties of AKOUSTIK PIANO!



Recorder, Player, Metronome

AKOUSTIK PIANO includes in stand-alone mode a simple **two track recorder** allowing you to capture your inspirational moments. This device can be thought of as a two-track tape recorder. Whilst it doesn't use tape, the principles remain the same. Record track 1, record track 2, then save the result as one Song. Coupled with its player functionality, AKOUSTIK PIANO also doubles as a useful practice aid. Saved songs can then be loaded and used as backing tracks for practice. The Export Audio feature renders the song to an audio file.

This **Metronome** section helps you keep time, but that is not all: It can also be used to slow down and speed up takes in song mode.\$



THE MASTERS

Contained within an intuitive interface, AKOUSTIK PIANO combines pristine samples from 3 of the most prestigious and reputable grand pianos in existence – the Steinway D™, Bechstein D 280™ and Bösendorfer 290 Imperial™ – into a single, highly versatile software instrument. A particularly charismatic vintage Steingraeber™ 130 upright piano adds a further facet to the collection.

Bösendorfer™ – Viennese Classic

Model: 290 Imperial Grand

The Imperial is known for its unsurpassed power, singing tone and a resonance that seemingly lasts forever. These tonal characteristics derive from the unique craftsmanship and design which has made the Model 290 famous. The Imperial boasts the largest sound board area of any piano currently in production and it is the only concert grand with nine sub-bass notes - down to bottom C - which give it a full, eight octave range.

The Model 290 is truly capable of delivering the most thunderous piano concerto or a whisper soft recital.



Famous Fingers:

Franz Schubert, Frédéric Chopin, Richard Wagner, Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss, Leonard Bernstein.

Bechstein™ – Berlin's Vision

Model: D 280 Grand

Crafted in Berlin, Germany, the Bechstein™280's tone is one that is gentle in nature. Its duplex scale design provides subtle harmonic overtones which add to the tonal color and help shape the primary note. This piano is known for a clean, thin treble and strong, velvety bass, thus allowing players to produce powerful temperaments while retaining full freedom of expression.

Famous Fingers:

Claude Debussy, Franz Liszt, Elton John, David Bowie, Rick Wakeman, Supertramp and The Beatles

**Steingraeber und Söhne™ – Tried, Trusted and Tempered**

Model: Vintage Upright 130

The Steingraeber™ 130 is a vintage upright piano with a warm, charismatic, and compact sound which ideally suits productions that attain their charm through small quirks as opposed to clinically correct precision. When the „perfect“ concert grand sound isn't called for; the Steingraeber™ 130 with its characteristically charming tone is the ideal choice and is typically at home playing the blues, jazz, blue grass, and other individual forms.



TONAL PERFECTION

High definition sound and powerful sampler technology

AKOUSTIK PIANO is based on the award-winning and extremely powerful Native Instruments sampling engine, guaranteeing a completely realistic and reliable reproduction of the originals.

The keys, including the full sustain and release phases, were sampled at ten different velocities. A specially designed recording technique ensured that the different velocities remained uniform throughout the recording process, delivering exceptionally linear results. High-end microphones and audio equipment delivered the best possible quality of recorded material – a total of around 3 GB of sample data for each of the four pianos was accumulated.

The brand new **Layer Morphing Technology** generates a seamless dynamic gradient across the different velocity layers.



Highly advanced programming makes intelligent use of the samples and effects. These sophisticated techniques dynamically toggle effects on and off and trigger additional samples as needed – all in real-time. The result is that AKOUSTIK PIANO behaves and plays in exactly the same way as the real-life models it is based on.

The **Direct-From-Disk** technology minimizes the use of RAM storage space. When using a large amount of sample data simultaneously the "DFD" technology ensures that your RAM doesn't overload. Piano samples are read directly from the hard drive allowing you to play instruments in a much higher resolution than would otherwise be possible. For example, a 3 GB sampled-piano could then be played on a sufficiently powerful computer with as little as 512 MB RAM, so long as the hard drive is fast enough.

EFFECTS AND UNIQUE EDITING OPTIONS

Room To Play - integrated convolution reverb

AKOUSTIK PIANO's selection of venues combines the realism of real acoustic spaces with the flexibility and control possibilities of convolution-based signal processing.

By merging the impulse response of an actual, existing acoustic environment over the signal itself, the sound acquires an incredibly authentic spatial character.

Choose to use the dry signal as it is or blend in the characteristics of one of four different locations.

Place the piano in the immediate, heady surroundings of a jazz club, within the grandeur of a concert hall, in the spacious ambience of a cathedral or the in the precise, pristine acoustics of a studio.

The acoustic parameters of these spaces, such as their size, can be manipulated allowing highly individual results to be achieved.



Sound adjustments



Every piano can be customized to suit individual needs. Options to edit the positioning of the lid, the characteristic resonances caused by use of the pedals as well as the subtle mechanical noises of the pedals and keys themselves contribute to your individual piano sound.

- AKOUSTIK PIANO's **Sustain Resonance** feature controls the amount of sustain that can be heard when you using the sustain pedal, allowing you to adjust the tonal nuances caused by the strings and body after the dampers are lifted.
- A piano's highest notes do not have dampers. As a result, when a key is pressed and subsequently released, the strings of these notes resonate

slightly. The **Release Resonance** adjusts the intensity of this resonance.

- The **Key Noise and Pedal Noise** settings adjust the volume of the piano action as a key is released and the noise of a piano's pedal mechanism respectively. These parameters not only deliver a far more realistic sound but also allow for greater variations in the sound.
- The position of a grand piano's **lid** has a profound effect on the character of the sound produced. AKOUSTIK PIANO offers three alternative settings - open, half-open and closed - for the lid's position.
- The **Dynamic Range** parameter allows the total dB range of the piano, from the quietest to the loudest note possible, to be determined. This function can also be used to modify the dynamics of the whole instrument track without compression or adjusting the sequencer's note velocities.

Equalizer

AKOUSTIK PIANO's 3-band EQ relies on high-quality algorithms to deliver exceptional results. Fine tune the piano until you have the exact sound you are looking for.

Tunings

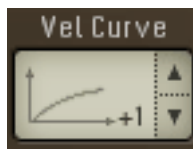
AKOUSTIK PIANO can be played in a wide variety of tunings:

- Equal temperament
- Pure tuning
- Overtones 16-32 (Harmonic)
- Pythagorean Tunings
- Meantone temperaments
- Well-temperaments: Werckmeister III, Kirnberger III, Vallotti, Young
- Quarter Tone (1/4 Tone)

The Fine Tuning parameter allows you to manually re-tune the piano between 430Hz and 460Hz while the Transpose function automatically transposes incoming MIDI data in semitone steps.

Velocity-Kurven

Not all MIDI keyboards transmit MIDI velocity data absolutely accurately. This is especially true of older and less expensive controllers. To overcome this, AKOUSTIK PIANO offers a selection of seven different velocity curve presets thus optimizing the interaction between individual keyboards, the software and your playing style.



<http://www.nativeinstruments.de>