GALAXY PIANOS

Quickstart Guide



GALAXYINSTRUMENTS

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1. WELCOME

Thank you for buying a virtual piano from the Galaxy Piano line.
This quickstart guide will lead you through the installation process and will show you the basics of the Galaxy Piano user interface. For more information, use the info field in the Kontakt 4 library tab or go to www.galaxypianos.com .

1. Galaxy Piano Models

Currently Galaxy Pianos presents four pianos, the first three being part of the GALAXY II Grand Piano Collection. All pianos are also available as a Download Edition:

GALAXY STEINWAY	A handpicked STEINWAY D concert grand, recorded at Galaxy Studios, both in stereo and 5.1 Surround
VIENNA GRAND	A huge and powerful BÖSENDORFER 290
1920 GERMAN BABY GRAND	A 75 year old VINTAGE BLÜTHNER with a beautiful, intimate tone
GALAXY VINTAGE D	Bauer Studios' Vintage STEINWAY D from 1920, used in dozens of legendary Jazz Recordings

2. Features

- Every piano contains more than 2000 samples in 24 Bit
- Mapped in up to 13 modeled velocity zones for a wide and smooth dynamic range
- Real sustain resonance and release samples with multiple velocity
- Real una corda samples (soft pedal)
- Adjustable hammer, pedal, damper and string noises
- Sympathetic String Resonance with real overtones
- Sostenuto and redamper pedal functions
- Halfpedalling when used with continuous sustain pedals
- Adjustable piano lid
- Native Instrument's Kontakt Player 4 included
- Lossless sample compression
- Direct access to all parameters
- One-button control of tone colour, warmth, punch, brilliance, low keys and dynamics
- Adjustable stereo width and position
- Flexible and easy to use velocity editor
- Specially designed compressor for typical pop piano sounds
- Warp section with five FX machines for extreme sound design
- High-end convolution reverb with many different rooms, halls and ambiences
- Recorded at renowned recording studios

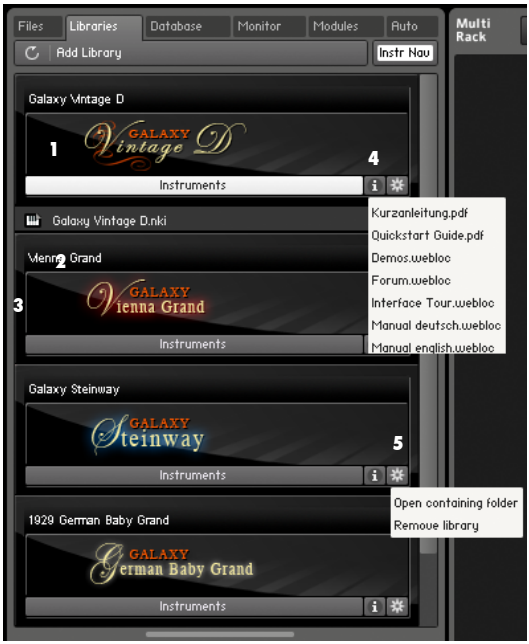
2. INSTALLATION AND LIBRARY TAB

1. Installation and authorization

To complete the full installation you need to install the library and the Kontakt Player 4 playback engine. The Kontakt installer can either be found on the installation DVD in your package or you can download the Kontakt 4 demo version from Native Instruments' website. After authorizing the library with Native Instruments Service Center the demo version of Kontakt 4 will serve as the Kontakt 4 player.

2. Libraries tab

After installation and authorization, start Kontakt 4 and go to the library tab, where you now can find your Galaxy Pianos library. Press on 'instruments', load one of the pianos and enjoy.



1. The Libraries Tab provides direct access to all Galaxy Pianos libraries installed on your computer.

2. Galaxy Piano Library

3. To load an Instrument, click on the Instruments button and double click on the instrument you want to load.
You can save your own Instruments to the original library or to any custom location. When saving your own variations to the original location of your library, these Instruments will also appear in the Libraries tab.

4. The Info menu provides access to the manuals and weblinks.

5. The Function menu provides access to maintenance tasks such as location of the library and removal of a library box.

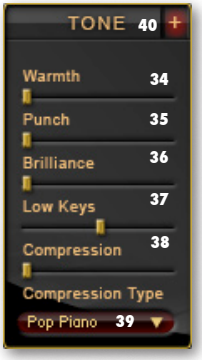
3. USER INTERFACE



1. Global Presets: Wählen Sie verschiedene Presets für bestimmte Musikstile (Style Presets) oder Effekt-Sounds (‘Playing with Pads’ und ‘Warped Pianos’).
2. Colour: Ändert die Klangfarbe bzw. das Timbre des Flügels von weich bis hart durch eine dyna mische Veränderung des Sample-Mappings bei gleichzeitigem Lautstärkeausgleich. Durch Drehung nach rechts wird die Klangfarbe härter, brillianter und attackreicher. Durch Drehen nach links wird der Klang wärmer, weicher mit weniger Attack.
3. Resonances: Pressing the sustain pedal on a piano raises all the dampers at once, enabling all strings to resonate sympathetically. This adds a much fuller and deeper sound to the note. The ‘Resonances‘ knob adjusts the volume of these string resonances, when the sustain pedal is down.
4. Lid: The lid of a grand piano reflects the higher frequencies from the soundboard, while the lower frequencies radiate in all directions. Closing the lid leads to a duller sound as the high frequencies cannot radiate as effectively. You can choose between open, half open and closed lid.
5. Tone +: Reveals additional tone parameters (page 8).
6. Dynamic: Compresses or expands the piano‘s dynamic range, while keeping the overall volume constant.
7. Repedalling: Enables repedalling: if the sustain pedal is depressed during note release, the remaining sound sustains. (see also page 9)
8. Halfpedal: Enables the use of a continuous sustain pedal for ’half-pedalling’. On a piano you can decide how far the dampers are lifted from the strings by controlling how far down you press the pedal. This affects the release time and the amount of resonance. When the Halfpedal button is unchecked, a continuous sustain pedal is transformed into an on/off switch. (For half-pedalling you need a special continuous sustain pedal, which outputs midi values from 1-127 instead of an on/off command.)
9. Silent Key: Enables the silent key function: very low key velocities result in no sound.
10. Una Corda: Loads the una corda samples, which are triggered when pressing the left pedal. Pressing the so called ’una corda’ or ’soft pedal’ shifts all the keys slightly to the right so that the hammer strikes fewer strings. When fewer strings are struck this creates a more ‚hollow’ timbre. (see also page 9)

11. Listening Position: The samples in Galaxy Pianos are panned with the low notes on the left and the high notes on the right, which corresponds to the listening position of the player. Using the 'Listening Position' button swaps left and right.
12. Tuning: Allows you to select different tunings. The default tuning is ‚stretched', which is the way the piano was tuned for sampling. Stretched tuning accommodates the natural 'inharmonicity' of metal strings. This 'inharmonicity' stretches harmonics beyond their theoretical frequencies. Solving this dilemma involves some stretching of the higher notes upward and the lower notes downward from their theoretical frequencies. The amount of stretching depends on the length of the string, thus the size of the piano.
13. Release Samples: Loads and enables release samples. When hitting a key, the damper leaves the string. When releasing the key, the damper comes down to the string again. The energy generated by a loudly vibrating piano string, especially by the longer more powerful bass strings, can't be stopped by the small felt damper right away. So the sound just sort of 'dies away', which takes some time especially in the low strings. This is represented by the release samples.
14. Hammer: Loads and enables hammer noise samples. When releasing a key, the hammer returns to its resting position. This noise, which happens along with the Release Sample, is called 'Hammer Noise'.
15. Pedal: Loads and enables pedal noise samples. Because the pedals in a grand piano are such strong mechanisms, they transfer a lot of energy to the whole piano body and the soundboard, resulting in some low frequency resonance. When using a continuous sustain pedal, the volume of the pedal, damper and string noises depends on the speed in which the pedal is pressed.
16. Damper: Loads and enables damper noise samples. The damper pedal raises all dampers from the strings at once when pressed and drops them back on the strings when released. Both result in a short 'damper noise'. This feature is dynamically playable with a continuous sustain pedal.
17. String: Loads and enables string noise samples. When the dampers leave the strings after pressing the damper pedal, each damper pulls its corresponding string a little bit, resulting in vibration of each string with its resonance frequency. (Dynamically playable with a continuous sustain pedal.)
18. Overtones: Loads and enables overtones. After hitting a key, the corresponding strings may resonate at their fundamental or overtone frequencies when other strings are triggered. These overtones add 'liveliness' to the sound. This is also known as ‚Sympathetic String Resonance'
19. Stereo Width: Widens or narrows the stereo field. The mid position corresponds to the stereo width of the original recording, left position to mono, turning it to the right enhances the stereo width.
20. Transpose: Transposes the piano in halftones via MIDI transpose up to three octaves.
21. Fine Tune: Tunes the piano in cents within +/- 50cents.
22. Basic Pitch: Lets you select the basic pitch, also often called ‚Concert Pitch', from 436 - 444 Hz.
23. Velocity: Opens the Velocity Editor.
24. Space: On/Off for convolution reverb. Convolution reverb uses the impulse responses of real acoustic spaces to simulate the acoustics of those rooms. These IR's are a bit like the room's ‚fingerprint'. Convolution reverb is unbeatable in quality and realism when it comes to simulating real acoustic spaces like concert halls, churches or studio rooms.
25. IR: Selects the Impulse Response file. When loading the Galaxy Steinway 5.1 in surround, there will be five additional IRs in the presets, which are sampled in 5.0 .
26. Send: Controls the amount of signal sent to the reverb unit, that is, the amount of reverb.
27. Size: Increases or decreases the virtual size of the chosen room type.
28. Pre Delay: Controls the amount of pre-delay before the actual IR reverb starts.
29. Pads: Activates or deactivates the Pad Machine.
30. Pad Presets: Allows you to select the pad preset you want to play.
31. Pad Volume: Controls the volume of the selected pad sound
32. Edit: Opens the Pad Machine.
33. Info: Opens an info page about the instrument and its recordings.

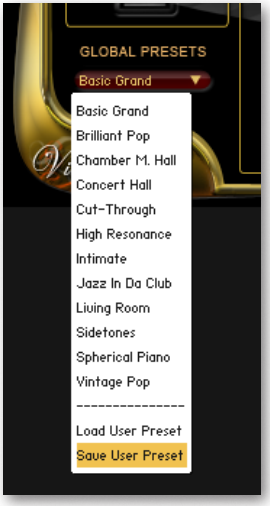
The ‘+’ button toggles between the two pages of the tone menu.



34. Warmth: Creates a warmer and deeper sound by using an intelligent EQ.
35. Punch: Increases the instrument‘s punch by using an intelligent EQ.
36. Brilliance: Boosts the instruments brilliance by using an intelligent EQ.
37. Low Keys: Changes the volume of the keys below middle C. The lower the key the stronger the effect.
38. Compression: Controls the amount of compression, combining several parameters and depending on the chosen compression preset. A compressor, besides controlling the dynamic range, changes a sound’s envelope and in this way the sound itself. Galaxy Pianos’ compressor is more of a sound tool than a dynamic tool, which especially serves well in a pop or rock music context.
39. Comp. Type: For choosing your desired compression type with different ratio, attack and release settings.
40. Tone +: To go back to the main tone pag

4. GLOBAL PRESETS

The Global Preset dropdown menu offers a couple of style presets and a load/save function for user presets.
For storing a user preset, adjust the controls of your Galaxy Piano the way you like it and choose ‘Save User Preset’ from the Global Presets’ dropdown menu:
This opens a dialog, enabling you to save your preset.
Choosing ‘Load User Preset’ opens the same Data folder, which contains all your user presets. Choose a preset and press ‘Open’ to load it.



5. VELOCITY EDITOR

Galaxy Pianos feature a special Velocity Editor for customizing the velocity response to your keyboard and your way of playing. You enter it by clicking on the ‘Velocity’ button within the Anatomy Menu.
The graph shows the current velocity curve. The horizontal axis represents the incoming velocity and the vertical axis, the corresponding output velocity after modification in the velocity editor:



1. Preset: Choose between different velocity curve presets. You can also store and recall user presets.
2. Type: Choose between ‚Allround Curve‘ and ‚Shift Curve‘. Allround Curve can be bent and minimum and maximum velocities can be changed. Shift Curve offers two more controls: ’Shift In’ and ’Shift Out’ (see below). With these controls you can set a spot on the curve, after which the curve is bent using the Bend knob.
3. Bend: Bends the chosen velocity curve.
4. Min. Velocity: Defines the minimum velocity output.
5. Max. Velocity: Defines the maximum velocity output.
6. Shift In: Shifts the bending point horizontally.
7. Shift out: Shifts the bending point vertically.
8. Main: To go back to the main page.

By clicking on the graph you can draw your own velocity curve.

6. PAD MACHINE

The Pad Machine is an easy-to-use sample player for atmospheric pad sounds. From the main window of the User Interface you can select a Pad Preset and adjust its volume. Clicking on the 'Edit' button next to 'Pads' opens the editor of the Pad Machine.



1. Preset: Pad presets
2. On/Off: Switches the Pad Machine on or off.
3. Volume: Pad volume
4. Cutoff: Filter cutoff frequency
5. Resonance: Filter resonance freq.
6. Attack: Envelope attack time
7. Release: Envelope release time
8. Voices: Sets the number of voices per note.
9. Fatness: Pans the voices left and right and detunes them in relation to each other.

For more information, tutorials, trailers, support and downloads please visit www.galaxy-instruments.com .

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