



**Hammersmith Free**  
user guide

Soniccouture

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INSTALLING YOUR SONICCOUTURE PRODUCT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RECORDING THE HAMMERSMITH</b>	<b>4</b>
BRITISH GROVE STUDIOS	5
MICROPHONE SELECTION	6
SAMPLING SPECIFICATION	6
FULL LIBRARY SPECIFICATIONS	7
FREE EDITION SPECIFICATIONS	7
MIDI	7
<b>THE KONTAKT INSTRUMENT</b>	<b>8</b>
BUILT-IN HELP	8
OVERVIEW	9
FX	10
PERFORMANCE OPTIONS	11
<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT</b>	<b>14</b>



## INSTALLING YOUR SONICCOUTURE PRODUCT

If you do not own Kontakt, you can install the free [Kontakt Player](#).

Kontakt 6.2 or above is required for this product.

The most up to date installation instructions can be found on the [Soniccouture Website](#)



## RECORDING THE HAMMERSMITH



The Hammersmith is Soniccuture's first traditional piano instrument. We have created sampled instruments using the piano before, in our Xtended Piano set of instruments, but this was the first straight piano.



We thought long and hard about how we wanted to approach it. We spent some time researching 'special' pianos with some significant recording or historical provenance, but none seemed right for us.

Eventually we discovered a Steinway specialist called Andrew Giller who had among his stable of pianos a Model D (the legendary full size Steinway Grand) which had been retro-fitted with a self-play MIDI system. This is very unusual to find in a full size concert grand; generally these systems are fitted to baby grands that will fit easily in the home. However, for whatever reason, a previous owner of this piano had spent a great deal of money to do so.



The reason this was exciting to us was that it would enable us to trigger the piano using MIDI, which has the following advantages:

1. It would give us a very even, consistent velocity response - the same levels for each and every key of the piano.
2. We would not need someone to play the piano: meaning that we could run much longer recording sessions with no mistakes, coughs or lunch breaks. In short, we would be able to capture huge amounts of clean, consistent data from the piano during our studio time.



## BRITISH GROVE STUDIOS

It was important to record the piano data in the most high-quality environment available - controlled, very sound-proof, and with a great acoustic. Peter Henderson, the recording engineer for the piano project suggested British Grove Studios in.. Hammersmith, West London. Built in 2002 by Mark Knopfler to represent the state of the art both in digital and analogue recording, there is no better studio in the UK. The recording room is large with a double height ceiling, and a very clear, pure acoustic.

Once in the studio, having ensured that the MIDI playback functioned properly and silently, we set up a great deal of microphones. Various options were recorded, and a final selection made in post production, away from the studio in 'real-world' listening conditions:



## MICROPHONE SELECTION

CLOSE MICS: NEUMANN M49 PAIR, AKG D19  
MID MICS : SCHOEPS MK4 PAIR, NEUMANN KM133D PAIR  
ROOM MICS: NEUMANN M50 DECCA TREE, NEUMANN KU100 HEAD

NOTE: Only the Schoeps MK4 pair is included in the FREE edition.

## SAMPLING SPECIFICATION

Over a 5 day session at British Grove, we planned to sample every note of the Steinway with 21 velocity layers, with the sustain pedal up, and then the entire process again, with the sustain pedal on. This doubled the studio time required, but would give us the sympathetic resonance of the all the strings ringing when the sustain pedal is pressed. The result is a very natural sustain sound, clearly different from using the unsustained samples in the usual sample-library way. Other details such as key-off noises, damper noise and pedal thumps were captured as well.

NOTE: Only the pedal up samples are included in the FREE edition.



## FULL LIBRARY SPECIFICATIONS

24 bit / 48 kHz stereo

52 GB

over 30,000 samples

21 Velocity Layers

Intelligent Round Robin

Real Sustain Pedal sampling

6 microphone channels

## FREE EDITION SPECIFICATIONS

24 bit / 48 kHz stereo

5 GB

over 5,000 samples

21 Velocity Layers

Intelligent Round Robin

1 microphone channel

## MIDI

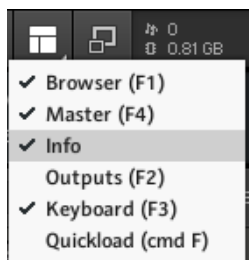
The Hammersmith will respond to MIDI notes from 21 (A-1) to 108 (C7), and to Continuous Controllers 64 (sustain), 66 (sostenuto), and 67 (soft pedal).



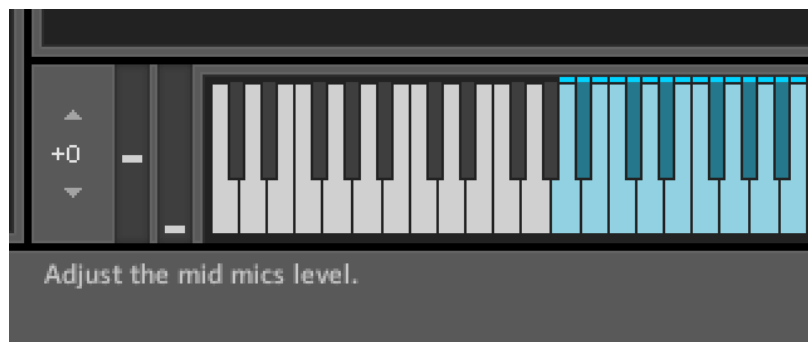
# THE KONTAKT INSTRUMENT

## BUILT-IN HELP

THIS IS REALLY USEFUL!



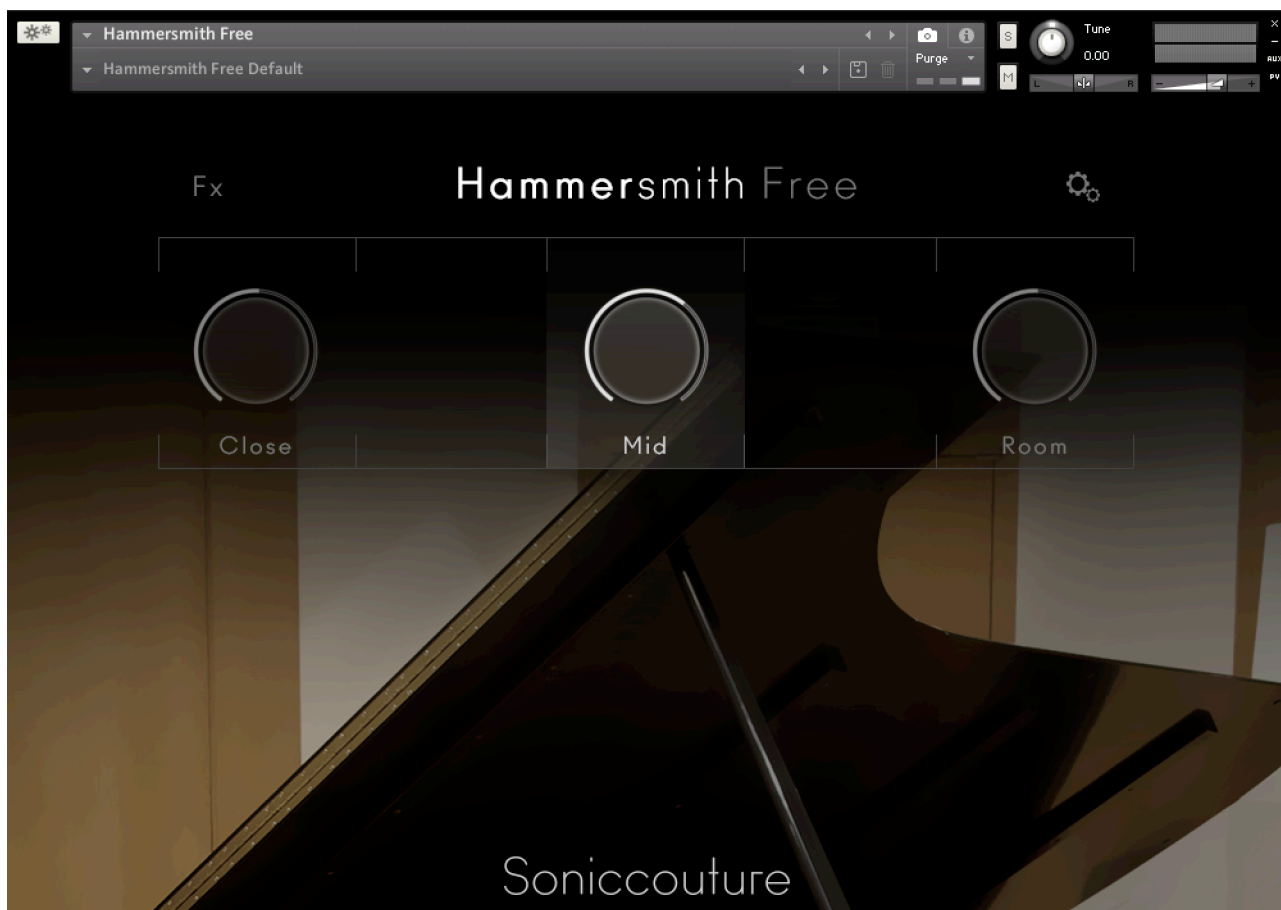
If you activate the Info pane in Kontakt, you can hover over any control in the instrument and a short note will appear in the Info pane at the bottom describing what that control does.





## OVERVIEW

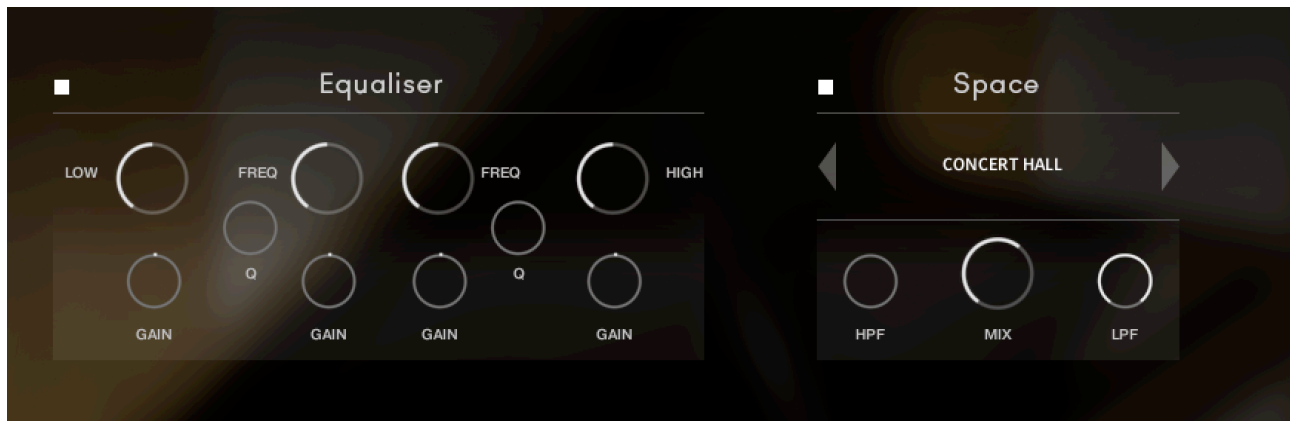
The main page of the instrument looks like this. There are three volume knobs, one for each microphone channel; Close, Mid, and Room. However, in this FREE edition only the MID microphone is included, so only the MID knob works.





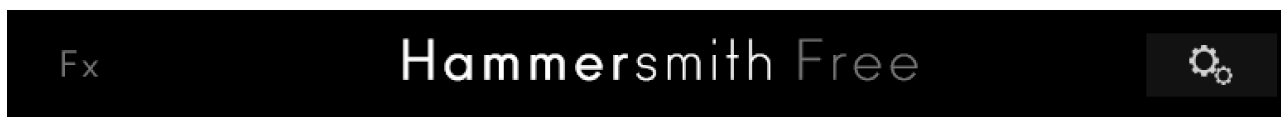
## FX

At the top left, there is an FX icon, this opens the FX editor.



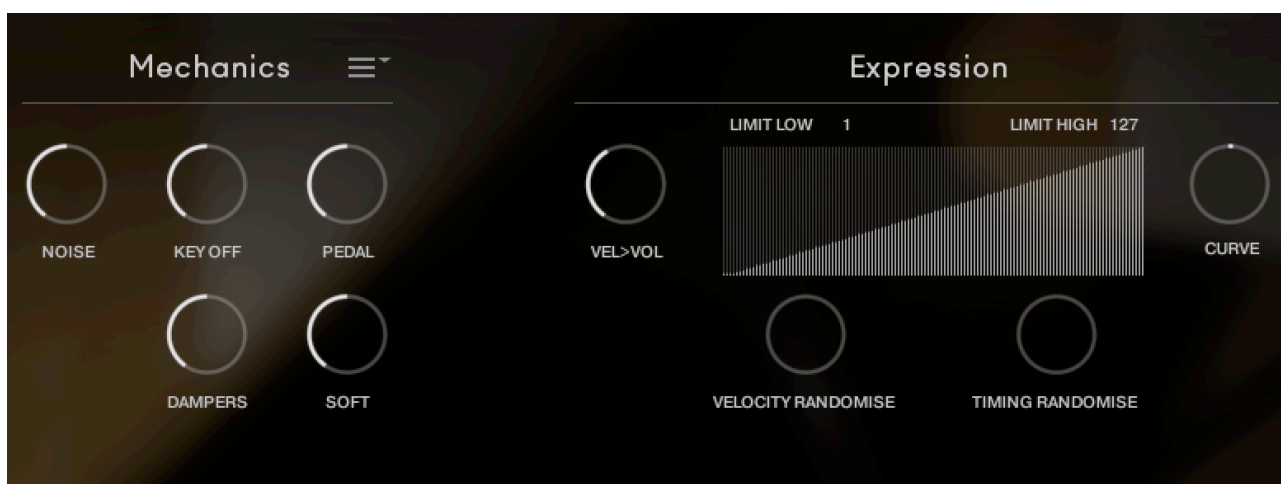
Here you can adjust the EQ or the Reverb of the instrument.





## PERFORMANCE OPTIONS

At the top right, there is a cog icon, this opens the Options editor. In this editor you can adjust the Expression, velocity response, curve and limits. You can also edit the Mechanics, various aspects of the piano.



### Mechanics Controls

**NOISE** adjusts the level of the ambient room noise.

**KEY OFF** adjusts the level of the release of the key.

**PEDAL** adjusts the level of the pedal mechanical noise.

**DAMPERS** adjusts the level of the dampers falling back into place after each note.

**SOFT** adjust the amount of damping of the soft pedal, CC67

### Expression Controls

Velocity **LIMIT LOW** and **LIMIT HIGH** can be set less than the entire range.

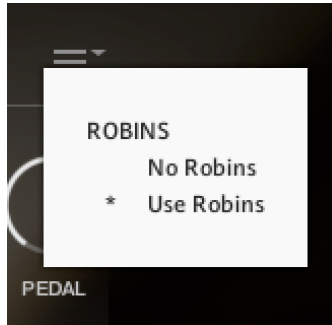
**VEL>VOL** adjust the velocity to volume depth.

**CURVE** adjust the velocity curve.

**VELOCITY RANDOMISE** and **TIMING RANDOMISE** can be used to introduce some 'human error' into a performance.



There is a menu over the Mechanics section with some other options that can be turned on or off. You can disable ROUND ROBIN behaviour if you like.



## SUPPORT

If you have any problems or questions relating to the use of this product, please feel free to contact us. You can email us at :

<http://www.soniccouture.com/en/support/>

We will always endeavour to reply to any enquiry within 24 hours. We are based in the UK, so please bear in mind differences in time zones.

While you are waiting, you will find lots of answers to common questions in our FAQ.



# END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT

PREFACE: This End-User License Agreement ("EULA") is a legal agreement between you and Soniccuture LTD for the Soniccuture product accompanying this EULA, which includes computer software and may include associated media, printed materials, and online or electronic documentation ("Software"). By installing, copying, or using the software, you agree to be bound by the terms of this EULA. If you do not agree to the terms of this EULA, you may not use the software.

The software is protected by copyright laws and international copyright treaties, as well as other intellectual property laws and treaties. The software is licensed, not sold.

Soniccuture Ltd grants the Owner of a Soniccuture product the right to create finished musical works and performances using the sounds and software that comprise the Soniccuture product.

The making of sample libraries in any form, commercial or otherwise, using Soniccuture audio or software (be they single hits, loops, fully mixed audio clips, or scripts) is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN without express written agreement of Soniccuture Ltd, and violations will be prosecuted to the full extent of international and local copyright law.

The ownership of all title and copyrights in and to the Software (including but not limited to any images, photographs, animations, video, audio, music, text, and "applets" incorporated into the Software ) is fully asserted by Soniccuture Ltd.

The Owner may only install and use Soniccuture libraries and software on multiple computers strictly under the following conditions: where multiple computers comprise part of a single composition workstation for a composer; or where the Owner has two non-concurrent sites of work, for example a studio desktop and a laptop for live performance.

The Owner may not transfer, modify, rent, lease, loan, resell, distribute, network, electronically transmit or merge the Software.

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: The software is provided "as is" and without warranty of any kind. The entire risk arising out of the use or performance of the software and documentation remains with user. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, Soniccuture further disclaims all warranties, either express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, with regard to the software, and any accompanying hardware. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event shall Soniccuture be liable for any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other damages whatsoever (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business profits, business interruption, loss of business information, or other pecuniary loss) arising out of this EULA or the use of or inability to use the software, even if Soniccuture has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

