

User Manual

KING-2

KONTAKT instrument



Version 1.0.0

KING-2 - User Manual

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Forgotten Keys
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1 Introduction

Welcome to the KING-2 KONTAKT Instrument.

Requirements

Requires the full version of Native Instruments KONTAKT 5.8.1 or higher.

Important: This instrument will not work as expected in the free KONTAKT Player.

Description

KING-2 is a virtual re-creation of the Maestro Rhythm King MRK-2 drum machine from the late 1960s.

This KONTAKT instrument has been carefully created to be as accurate to the original as possible.

Setup

Unzip the archive to a folder of your choice. This will create a sub-folder called *Forgotten Keys*. All recent Forgotten Keys instruments (those that require KONTAKT 5 or higher) can safely be unzipped to the same folder.

Backup

It is recommended that a backup of the archive file is made in case it needs to be re-installed at a later date.

2 Usage

Drag KING-2.nki onto the KONTAKT rack or browse for it within KONTAKT in the usual way (see the KONTAKT documentation).

Note: This instrument will not show in the KONTAKT library tab.

The KONTAKT instrument interface has two tabs: *Rhythms* and *Sounds*.

2.1 Rhythms

The Rhythms tab comprises of a main section that resembles the real drum machine and a footer section with additional controls.

Main section

Instrument buttons

The eight instrument buttons trigger the individual sounds marked beneath them. They have been included solely to replicate the original drum machine and are not very useful in a virtual machine where the sounds can be triggered from a keyboard or sequencer. It should be noted that these buttons do not represent all the sounds included in KING-2.

Volume knob

Adjusts the overall instrument volume mirroring the KONTAKT instrument volume slider.

Balance knob

Controls the relative volume levels between the drum and cymbal sounds.

Tempo knob

Adjusts the tempo between 30-300 beats per minute. Only active when the sync switch is off (see below).

Tip: Click on a knob while holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard to set it to its default value.

Tip: Hold the shift key on the computer keyboard while moving a knob to get a higher resolution for more accurate control.

Preset rhythm switches

The rhythm switches are divided into three groups: Latin, American and Traditional. As well as the 18 rhythms from the MRK-2, there are two extra – disco and paso doble – that were only found on the MRK-1 model that preceeded it.

By default, selecting a rhythm cancels any other selected rhythm. You can combine rhythms by holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard while selecting a rhythm.

On-Off-Pilot switch

On the real MRK-2 this is the power on/off switch but here it is used as the rhythm start/stop switch. The MRK-2 doesn't have a front panel start/stop switch, a foot switch is used instead.

Footer section

Values switch

Displays the value of knobs briefly in a pop-up window while adjusting them.

Tip: To show the tempo value only: Turn the switch off then click on it while holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard.

UI FX switch

Adds a touch of realism to the interface by playing real sounds of controls while interacting with them.

Sync switch

Allows the tempo to be controlled by the host. This will likely be a DAW or KONTAKT itself if in stand-alone mode. The start/stop controls of the host will also start/stop rhythm playback. When the switch is off, the tempo control on the interface will become active.

Swing controls

Shifts the timing of notes to produce a triplet/swing/shuffle feel. You can adjust the amount of shift by using the swing knob.

Note: Experimentation is recommended for the swing controls. Not all rhythms are suited to it.

MIDI file recorder

A MIDI file can be recorded and exported using this section. It is the recommended way to play this instrument from a DAW because you can start and stop playback anywhere, even mid bar, and it will always be in the right place.

The procedure is as follows:

1. Select a rhythm and any other desired settings such as swing.
2. Press the record button to start recording.
You can change rhythms during recording if desired.
3. Press the button again when enough has been recorded.
4. Save the MIDI file by doing either of the following:
 - Drag the file to a folder or to a track on a DAW using the control with the drag and drop symbol.

- Click where it says <enter name here>, enter a name for the file then press the save button or press enter on the computer keyboard.

The file will be saved in the same location as the instrument file running in KONTAKT.

Important: If no name is entered, the file will be saved as *untitled.mid* and will overwrite any existing file with the same name.

5. Press the erase button to clear the recording.

Note: Only note information is recorded. Volume and other controls will have no effect on the final MIDI file.

Note: The sync switch should be set to *off* when playing back a MIDI file from a DAW.

2.2 Sounds

The Sounds tab comprises of a mixer section and a footer section with additional controls.

Mixer section

Output menus

Allows you to send each sound to any of the currently available outputs. What outputs are available depends on how this has been set up in KONTAKT. If in doubt, leave on *Def* (default).

Tune sliders

Raises or lowers the pitch of the sound by up to one octave either way.

Pan sliders

Sends the sound to the left or right channel or somewhere in-between.

Solo switches

Mutes all other sounds except the soloed sound. Multiple solo switches can be active at the same time.

Mute switches

Mutes the selected sound. Multiple mute switches can be active at the same time.

Tip: Hold the control/command key on the computer keyboard while selecting a solo/mute switch to cancel all other solo/mute switches.

Volume sliders

Adjusts the sound's volume from off to 0dB.

Footer section

Values switch

Displays the value of knobs and sliders briefly in a pop-up window while adjusting them.

Order switch

Displays a row of small switches marked < (left) and > (right) under each mixer channel. Clicking on one will move that channel left or right.

Holding the control/command key on the computer keyboard while clicking on a < or > switch will reset the mixer to the default order.

Info switch

Displays general information about this KONTAKT instrument such as the version number.

3 Version History

1.0.0

- Initial release for KONTAKT 5.

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