

User Manual

ROLA-77

KONTAKT instrument



Version 2.1.0

ROLA-77 - User Manual

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Forgotten Keys
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1 Introduction

Welcome to the ROLA-77 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

ROLA-77 is based on the ROLAND Rhythm-77 or TR-77 from the early 1970s. This was the first product to be released under the ROLAND brand name.

Its original purpose was to provide rhythms to home or professional organists. Its long slim design with built-in music rest is ideal for sitting on top of an electric organ.

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 ROLA-77.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

Rhythm controls

There are 20 rhythm switches 18 of which play the rhythm shown. The 2-beat and 4-beat switches however are connected to the knob on their right which allows you to select one of 6 variations each.

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

Metronome switch

Replaces the selected rhythm with an appropriate metronome pattern.

Tempo slider

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

Instrument sliders

The four instrument sliders control the volume level of their associated sound.

Volume slider

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

Tip: Click on a slider 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 slider to get a higher resolution for more accurate control.

Footer section

Values switch

Displays the value of knobs and sliders 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 switches and knobs 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 order as follows:

- > will reset to default order which is roughly in line with the keyboard layout and loosely based on the standard GM drum layout.
- < will reset to legacy order as used with previous versions of this instrument.

Info switch

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

3 Version History

2.1.0

- Change instrument name to ROLA-77.
- Add DAW automation of mixer controls.
- Add ability to change the order of mixer channels.
- Add switch to show/hide current value while adjusting controls.
- Allow rhythm start/stop switch to stop MIDI recording and playback.
- Change voice assignment of each sound to just one so that quick re-triggering sounds more authentic.
- Change volume slider range to mirror KONTAKT instrument volume slider.
- Improve various graphics and text.
- Fix tempo not changing when host tempo changes.

2.0.0

- Add dedicated switch for host sync control.
- Add GUI effects switch.
- Add LED-style volume level meters to mixer channels.
- Add solo switches to mixer channels.
- Add swing feature.
- Allow host sync to respond to DAW transport controls.
- Improve and fix MIDI file creator.
- Improve various graphics.
- Move about switch to sounds tab.
- Remove In-built help.

1.2

- Move about menu out of the tabs area for KONTAKT 6 compatibility.

1.1

- Improve MIDI file player code and graphics.

1.0

- Initial release for KONTAKT 5.

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