CHROMAPADS user manual

loops de la Crème - June 2019

Thank you for purchasing **CHROMAPADS**!

This Kontakt library dedicated to cinematic pads offers 120 unique pads organised in 10 easily combinable modules.

The library also includes many sound presets for instant usability and inspiration.

INSTALLATION

To install the samples and instruments on your hard drive, unzip the file named CHROMAPADS.zip. On a Mac, use the default 'Archive utility'. On a PC, I recommend to use Winrar or Winzip to properly unzip the file.

You can then copy/paste the CHROMAPADS folder to your sample library hard drive, and make sure you make a backup of the library on a separate drive (or a SD card / USB stick...)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

!!! Please keep the CHROMAPADS folder structure intact: Do not move or erase a folder or a file from the main CHROMAPADS folder to ensure proper loading of the instruments.

LOADING INSTRUMENTS

To load patches, find the folder from the Kontakt files menu and select the patch you wish to load: just double-click on a patch or use drag- and-drop. You can also use Kontakt's '**quick load**' menu. Find more infos about this in Kontakt's user manual.

NB: Native Instruments Kontakt 5.3.1+ is required to fully use the instruments. Make sure you have the latest updates installed.

You can also load patches with Kontakt Free Player in demo mode (with a 15mn time limit and saving functions disabled).

Along this user guide, you'll find a pdf **License Agreement**. Please read this text carefully, it precisely explains the things you are allowed and not allowed to do with the sample library.

KONTAKT INSTRUMENTS

CHROMAPADS features 10 pad modules and many presets.

1. THE MODULES

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00_80s Synths.nki
00_Acoustic Pads.nki
00_FM Synths.nki
00_Oberheim Pads.nki
00_Organs.nki
00_PolyStrings.nki
00_Synth Pads.nki
00_Textures.nki
00_Vintage Pads.nki
00_Vox Pads.nki
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Each module contains 12 different pads:

80s Synths

Typical pads with a lovely 80s vibe, based on samples from a Roland D50, Wavetable Synths and other digital synths.

Acoustic Pads

Unique sounds created with flutes, wind tubes, singing glasses, whistling, melodicas. Some samples were recorded with a binaural stereo set-up to create a wide and rich stereo sound.

FM Synths

Original FM sounds sampled from an Elektron Digitone, a Yamaha FB01, and a Yamaha Reface DX.

Oberheim Pads

Gorgeous pads, strings and keys/EPs recorded on a DSI OB6.

Organs

A vibey collection of retro organ sounds, with samples from cult organs like the Yamaha analog PS20 organ.

PolyStrings

A collection of synth strings with lots of character, movement and texture. The sounds are based on single samples of mono analog synths (MFB nanozwerg, MOOG Minitaur, Roland SE-02...)

Synth Pads

A melting-pot of pads from analog and digital synths. Features super-saw sounds, raw oscillator pads, synced bass patches, and more...

Textures

A collection of unique sounds to add layers of texture to other pads. Features lofi synthetic textures, gritty acoustic recordings, ambiences...

Vintage Pads

12 vibey pads with a strong retro character. Features strings, vinyl pads, vintage choir samples...

Vox Pads

A collection of vocoder pads, retro vocal pads, 80s voice pads, and analog synth voice pads...

MAIN USER INTERFACE

Each module uses the same interface controls and functions:

Let's have a closer look at the user interface:

VOICE SELECTOR
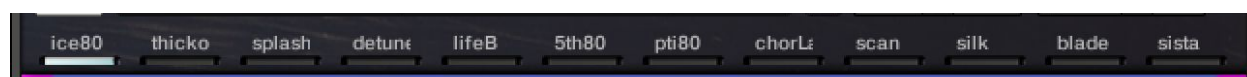
Simply click on one of the 12 pad names to select the pad. The blue line indicates the currently active pad.

Choose a pad, and then play and hold a note. While holding this note, you can change to another pad, and play extra notes: the original pad/notes will keep playing. This works well to quickly create chords where each note uses a different pad sound. It can also be nice to play a drone in the lower register with a certain pad sound, and improvise on top of the drone with a different voice!

NUMBER OF VOICES (unison) AND WIDTH

The button 'VOICES' lets you choose how many voices will be simultaneously played, creating a perfect ensemble/unison effect. Choose between 1, 2 or 3 voices. For settings of 2 or 3 voices, each voice will be slightly detuned and panned left or right. Use the WIDTH knob to control the stereo width of the extra voices.

NB: the WIDTH knob only works when VOICES is set to 'II' or 'III'.

MOD (modulation)

Each of the 12 pads has a specific pre-programmed modulation. Use the MOD knob to activate the modulation.

ADSR ENVELOPE

Traditional Attack, Decay, Sustain and Release controls. Decrease the Decay, Sustain and Release values to turn the pads into short and punchy sounds like stabs, keys and bass!

HIGH-PASS AND LOW-PASS FILTERS
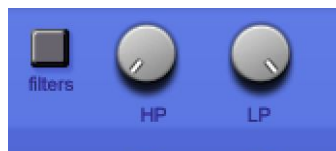
Use the FILTERS button to activate a high-pass and a low-pass filter. Each module uses a different set of filters with various amounts of resonance to achieve rich combinations of sounds.

NOTCH FILTER

Each module also features a specific 'notch' filter. This filter removes frequencies and help create a 'hollow' sound: perfect to layer different pads and avoid too much mid-frequencies build-up. Use the NOTCH button to activate the filter, and set the frequency (FREQ) and resonance (RES).
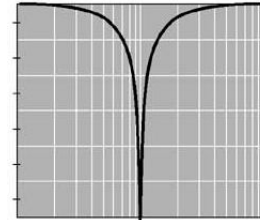
EFFECTS

● DRIVE: various emulations of overdrive, distortion or saturation. NB: some modules use a mono DRIVE model, reducing the stereo width of the signal.
● TAPE: Emulation of tape saturation and colour.
● LIMITER: a parallel compressor to control dynamics, and bring up quiet details and textures in the pads.

you can assign any knob from the Kontakt user interface to any of your hardware controller. To do this, right-click on the knob you would like to assign. Choose the option 'learn MIDI CC# Automation'. Then just move a knob on your controller (or the mod wheel). That's it!

To unassign the knob, right click on it again, and choose 'remove MIDI automation'

TWEAKING THE EFFECTS INSIDE KONTAKT:

You can easily change the effect parameters or replace effects for each module.

To do this, first click on the tool at the top left corner of the Kontakt instrument:

Then scroll down to the section 'INSERT EFFECTS':

You can see a chain of 8 effect slots. These effects are the same for each 12 pads in a single module.

The first one (here LdrNt) is the module's NOTCH filter.

The second and third effects are the HIGH PASS and LOW PASS FILTERS

The fourth effect (here Twang) corresponds to the module's 'Drive' knob.

The fifth one (Tape) is controlled by the 'TAPE' knob on the interface.

The sixth one (S-Comp) corresponds to the 'LIMITER' knob on the interface.

For each effect, you can press the red letter 'B' to bypass or activate the effect.

Click on the cross (x) to delete the effect, and replace it with a different one by clicking on the +

Click on the center of an effect slot to select it and have access to all effect parameters.

CHANGING THE MODULATION FOR A SPECIFIC PAD:

You can also change the specific modulation for each individual pad voice. Here is a step-by-step guide:

1. Activate the modulation by clicking on the 'MOD' knob on the main interface

2. click on the tool at the top left corner of the Kontakt instrument

3. Open the group editor. You will see 12 groups, one for each pad. Click on the group you would like to edit. *NB: To easily find the currently active group, simply play a few notes: the active group will turn orange when notes are played.*

4. Look at the 'Group Insert FX': the first slot is the modulation effect for the active group. This effect is controlled by an LFO. You can make changes to the effect, and use the drop-down menu in the Mod section to decide which parameter of the effect is controlled by the LFO. You can also use the slider (-/+) to change how much the LFO changes the effect:

5. To access the LFO settings, press the arrow in the Mod section. Here you can change the LFO shape, whether the LFO will retrigger with each key press, the LFO speed, or the time it will take for the LFO to start (fade-in):

When you're satisfied with the changes, scroll back to the top, and press the tool again to close Kontakt's edit mode.

!!! SAVING YOUR INSTRUMENTS:

You can then resave the patch in the files menu:

Use the function 'save as...' , rename the instrument, and choose the option 'patch only'

Please save your instruments in the original folder.

For multi patches, use the function 'save multi as…'

Please save your instruments in the original folder. Use numbers if you want to keep the library well organised.

Use a different name for your own patches to easily remember them and keep the original patches as well.

2. PRESETS

Kontakt nkm multi-presets (patches starting at #51)

These patches offer unique and creative sounds by combining several pad sounds together.

*All presets featuring 'ARP' in the name offer a tempo-synced sequence or arpeggiator.*

All presets ending with '_MW' let you use the modulation wheel to change the sound: this can be nice for performances, so make sure you check this out :)

!!! IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CPU USAGE !!!

All of the patches were designed to run smoothly on regular computers and laptops. However, according to the power of your computer, you might experience polyphony overload, audio issues or system instability. Here a few tips to avoid this:

- Increase the audio buffer in your DAW or in Kontakt 'Preferences' menu
- Try to reduce the number of notes simultaneously played

- Choose a shorter Impulse Response in the reverb menu
- Shut down other applications and softwares
- Reduce the length of the notes by turning down the Release knob on the interface.
- Decrease or increase the maximum polyphony of the patches:
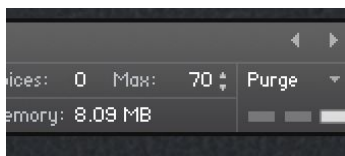
SAMPLES

The library features over 900 pad samples. The samples are organised in 26 folders and sub-folders.

UPDATES

The included patches are early versions of the software. They were thoroughly checked and tested before release. If you still find bugs or inconsistent behaviour, please report to office@julientauban.com

Also, don't hesitate to send me ideas or requests for future updates. You will be informed via email (from office@julientauban.com) about future updates and add-ons.

CREDITS

Recordings, mixing, programing and graphics by Julien Tauban.

Recorded at 4Tune Studio, Vienna, AUSTRIA, and on location in Vienna.

If you find a problem using the sample library, have questions or just want to get in touch, don't hesitate to send an email to office@julientauban.com

Thanks a lot for reading, I wish you lots of inspiration and fun with CHROMAPADS!

Best regards,

Julien Tauban

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