LOFI PIANO COLLECTION

user manual

loops de la Crème - July 2018

Thank you for purchasing **LOFI PIANO COLLECTION**!

> This library for Kontakt is a collection of vibey, characterful instruments. It features clean and lo-fi acoustic pianos, sound design pianos, electric pianos and bonus acoustic instruments.

INSTALLATION

To install the samples and instruments on your hard drive, unzip the file named LOFI PIANO COLLECTION.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 LOFI PIANO COLLECTION folder to your sample library hard drive, and make sure you make a backup of the new samples on a separate drive (or a SD card / USB stick...)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

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

LOADING INSTRUMENTS

To load patches, find the folder from the Kontakt Files Tab 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

LOFI PIANO COLLECTION features one
main Kontakt patch, 8 single nki presets,
and over 28 multi presets (nkm).

00_LOFI PIANO COLLECTION.nki
20_Intimate Go To LoFi Piano.nki
21_Old Piano Kaputt.nki
22_FunkRiff Piano.nki
23_Tonk Producer.nki
24_Clean Baby Grand.nki
25_Cinematic Soft LoFi.nki
25_Old LP Piano.nki
26_That Old Sound_Grammophon.nki
50_LoFi Magic choir.nkm
51_Debussy and the Moon.nkm
52_CrateDigger Dusty Piano_MW.nkm
53_Rise and Bloom PianoPad_MW.nkm
54_Dub Piano_MW.nkm
55_Infinite Piano.nkm
56_Mon Souffle sur Ton Epaule_MW.nkm
57_Shimmer piano_MW.nkm
58_Shimmer felt upright.nkm
59_Detuned HonkyTonk.nkm
60_Like a Celeste_MW.nkm
61_Easy Soundscape_ambient EP.nkm
62_La Boite Magique_Magic LoFi.nkm
63_FM Poet Keys_MW.nkm
64_Organic Wurli_chorussy.nkm
65_EchoDubMeister Piano_MW.nkm
66_Kilimandjaro Keys_ethno_MW.nkm
67_Key Waves_MW.nkm
68_Cinematic Granular Glockenspiel.nkm
69_Dulcimer Glitch Stars.nkm
70_Magic Grain Pad.nkm
71_bliss Pad_feel good.nkm
72_Only the Top_MW.nkm
73_SuperDirt Piano.nkm
74_3D Morph Piano.nkm
75_ARP_Paris-Vienna Flight_MW.nkm
76_ARP_Ambient Arabesque in 3D.nkm

1. **Main patch and presets (#00 to 26)**

Use the main patch (#00) to
quickly get started :)
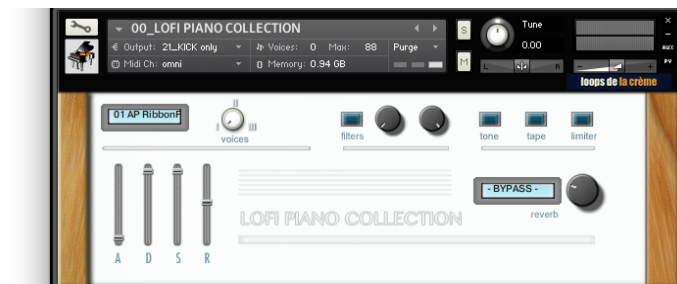
Use this drop-down menu to choose one of the 48 included sounds. See more info below about each sound in the section SOUNDS, SAMPLE AND RECORDINGS.

Use the 'voices' knob to choose how many voices are played simultaneously. This creates a detuning and widening effect similar to chorus or ensemble effects.

💡 *Recreate the sound of out-of-tune pianos, like old honky-tonky sounds, by choosing 2 voices. You can also get very wide and rich electric piano sounds with the setting on 3 voices.*
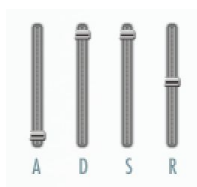
The ADSR envelope lets you adjust Attack, Decay, Sustain and Release. Use this for fine-tuning the attack, or for creating pads or short funky sounds.

💡 *Some of the lofi pianos can sound better with a softer attack: to do so, slightly bring the A slider up.*

💡 *Very long attack and release settings will be perfect for pads, while shorter decay, sustain and release will create nice short funky sounds :)*

This is the filter section, with a high pass filter and a low-pass filter to reduce low and high frequencies. By default, the filters are turned off.

💡 *Use the filters to help the piano fit in your mix.*

💡 *The filters are also very important to keep the low rumble and noise hiss under control: some of the most lo-fi presets have a lot of noise. When playing long sustaining notes or using a sustain pedal, the noise might become too obvious. The filters can really help in these situations and were specially chosen and fine-tuned for this purpose.*

These three master effects let you quickly change the sound: Tone is a slight boost in high-mids and high frequencies. Tape is an emulation of a light and warm tape saturation. Limiter is actually a parallel compressor that is fine-tuned for piano sounds. It will help control the dynamics, while slightly boosting the attack of the pianos.
See below more information on how to tweak these effects.

This is the reverb section. Use the drop-down menu to choose between 23 custom impulse responses. Use the knob to control the amount of reverb.

💡 *Take the time to get familiar with the custom IRs: most were specifically designed for this library and can really bring the sound to another level :)*

💡 *Five IRs are labelled with 'xl' at the end of the name (ex: 'mono abyss xl'). These are extra long Impulse Responses that are wonderful for cinematic sounds, big ambient washes and dreamy piano soundscapes. Due to their length, they will require more CPU resources, so make sure you keep an eye on the CPU meter at the top right corner:* See below for more infos about CPU usage.

All other single nki sound presets (#20 to #26) offer quick and practical access to a certain piano, with filters, ADSR, effects and reverb settings already saved.

*The library is vast and offers many sonic possibilities. When you find a piano sound and effect settings that you really like, make sure to **save the patch as a new nki preset**: this way, you will be able to quickly load it in the future! In the list of presets/patches, the numbers 01 to 19 have been left unused for this purpose. See more info below about saving your own patches.*

2. Kontakt nkm multi-presets (patches #51 to 78)

These patches offer unique and creative sounds by combining several piano sounds together. The results go from inspiring layers of piano and pad, epic ambient pianos, unique sound design patches, or tempo-synced sequences.

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 :)

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 MASTER EFFECTS INSIDE KONTAKT:

You can easily change the master effect parameters or replace effects for the master effect section.

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.

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The second and third effects are the master filters (HP and LP).

The fourth one (here SGEQ) corresponds to the interface's TONE switch.

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

The sixth one (S-Com) corresponds to the 'LIM' switch 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.

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

CHANGING THE EFFECTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS / GROUPS:

Some of the 48 included sounds also use their own individual effect(s). To make changes that will only affect one of the sound, follow these steps:

1. Use the drop down menu to select a sound to edit (ex: #15 AP Octave2)
2. Click on the tool at the top left of Kontakt.

3. Click on 'Group Editor'

4. Each sound has its own group with the corresponding number. Click on the number to make sure it is selected:
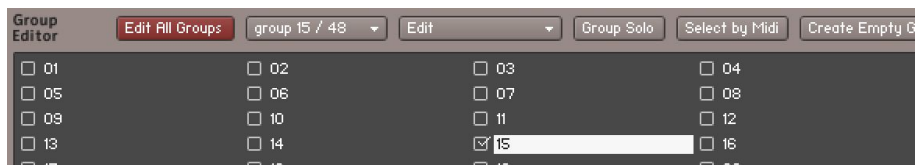
5. Selecting the group will let you see the effect for this group/sound in the section 'Group Insert FX':

6. Make any changes that you like: this will only apply to the selected group/sound. Once you're done, press the tool at the top left again to 'close' the editing mode of Kontakt and make sure you save the instrument.

!!! SAVING YOUR INSTRUMENTS:

You can then re-save the patch in the files menu:

For single patches, use the function 'save as...' , rename the instrument, and choose the option 'patch only'

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.

!!! 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:
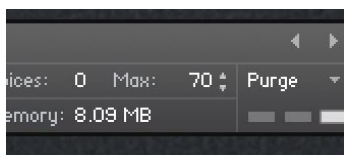
SOUNDS, SAMPLES AND RECORDINGS

The library lets you choose one of 48 different presets/sounds:

These sounds are organised in three categories: Acoustic pianos, Electric Pianos, and bonus acoustic instruments. Here are some details about each included preset:

A. ACOUSTIC PIANOS

01 AP RibbonFuzz

A LoFi piano recorded on a Steinway Baby Grand with a Sontronics Sigma ribbon microphone. A slight touch of extra saturation and pitch modulation add a lot of character to the sound.

02 AP Tape

This vibrant and intimate lofi piano is perfect for softer styles. Use the filters to reduce tape hiss if needed.

03 AP Attack80

A bright and cutting piano sound, recorded with a stereo ORTF set-up of AKG D112 microphones. These microphones are normally used for bass drums, but they also work wonders on other sources, with a sweet and detailed bass response, funky frequency capture and slight compression.

04 AP Vibrant

A clean and expressive piano, with extra pitch modulation for added vibrancy

05 AP RomBIT

A very characterful sound, based on a single 16bit piano sample. Extra filters, Bit reduction and compression allow this piano to be nicely playable across several octaves.

06 AP Vinyl

Originally captured with a portable Marantz recorder, all samples were heavily processed to create a piano instrument that sounds like it was directly sampled from vinyl.

07 AP Felt

An old out-of tune upright Piano was used to capture these 14 stereo samples, using a Sony M10 recorder. The felt damper of the piano gives a soft response. Use the 'voices' control to detune the sound even more!

08 AP ThinDream

This preset was recorded with a lapel omni Sennheiser MEK2 on a Feurich Grand Piano. The sound is thin but nicely balanced and organic: great for layering with other sounds!

09 AP SteinTape

This super vibey preset was recorded with a sony mini-cassette recorder. The samples were processed to minimize noise and extra effects in Kontakt are used to smooth out the natural tape overdrive and provide a nice velocity response.

10 AP Dictaphone

A unique and organic preset recorded with a small lofi dictaphone. With no pitch stability, reduced dynamic range and lots of noise, this is as LoFi as it gets!

11 AP Schoeps XY

A very clean and detailed rendition of a Steinway Grand Piano with the sustain pedal down, recorded with a stereo XY setup of two Schoeps MK4 microphones. Lovely, rich and inspiring.

12 AP RoomComp

Another perspective on the Steinway piano, recorded with a Neumann U87 a few meters away from the piano. A touch of compression is used to keep dynamics well under control and bring the sound slightly forward.

13 AP CleanStereo

This preset offers a clean stereo sound, with a slight emphasis on the mid frequencies, and a creamy tone.

14 AP Octave1

Recorded with an Audio Technica At871R boundary microphone positioned under a grand Piano. Two samples one octave apart are simultaneously played to achieve the classic octave piano sound.

15 AP Octave2

This preset is based on two layered stereo piano samples, one octave apart. The slight detuning of the samples and extra effects give a rich and interesting sound. Works best for melodies played between C2 and C5.

16 AP UprightBliss

Recorded with a Sony M10 recorder on a bright and lively upright piano using the sustain pedal.

17 AP Grains

A unique sound design piano preset, based on a single piano sample. Very short loops and pitch fluctuation are used to create a kind of granular sound.

18 AP BulletCream

This preset was created using a Shure Bullet microphone (that melodica/blues harp microphone!) on our Steinway piano. Lovely mid frequencies, instant vintage sound :)
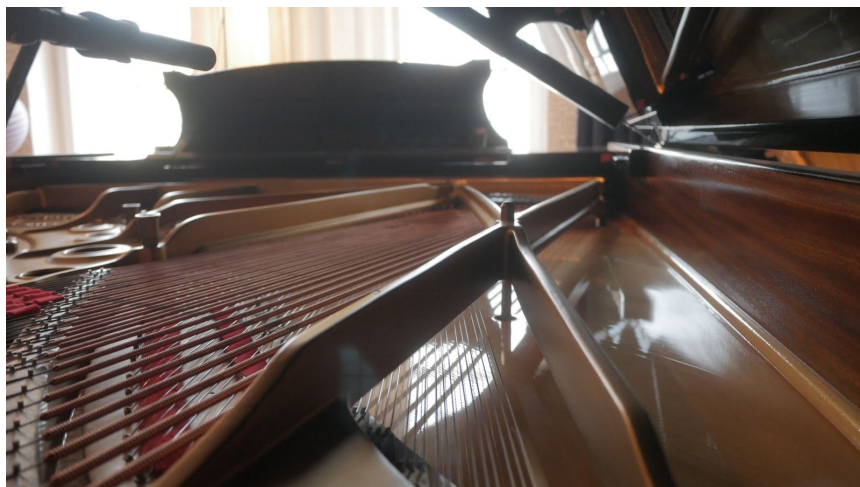
19 AP SoftLoFi

Recorded on an upright piano using the built-in felt damper. Use longer reverbs for a very cinematic, soft and dreamy piano sound!

20 AP CleanFocus

This preset was recorded on a grand piano using an AKG C480b with an omni capsule positionned inside the piano. It offers a nice, clean, and direct sound, a great alternative to other presets in the library.

21 AP Dizzy

A soft, dreamy piano based on heavy processing with tape noise, analog filters and digital reverb. Recorded on a Wendl Grand Piano.

22 AP Driven

This preset is based on samples recorded with a boundary microphone placed under a Feurich Grand Piano. Extra saturation, filters and random pitch modulation turn the samples into a unique and fun piano.

23 AP PetiteRoom

Created using a similar set-up as the #12 room comp preset, this piano offers a richer sound via the use of the sustain pedal during sampling.

24 AP Easy 70s

Another piano sampled with the Shure Bullet microphone. The samples were left raw, with just a touch of low boost in Kontakt. Perfect for retro sounds.

25 AP LoFi202

This preset was recorded on a Boss SP202 lofi sampler, using the 'lofi2' setting: this is a lovely lofi sound that is quite unique. Due to limited memory on the sampler, quite a few back-and-forth trips between the piano and my office were needed to record all 11 samples used here :)

26 AP Reverse

This sound design piano is based on a single piano sample, looped and played in reverse. Use lots of reverb for a nice cinematic sound.

27 AP Felt2

Recorded on tape using a vintage Beyerdynamic M420 placed behind an upright piano, this preset mixes the softness of a felt damper and the complexity of the sustain pedal. Expressive and warm!

28 AP Old Tape

This preset was recorded on an upright piano using a Sony mini-cassette recorder. A slight saturation, noise and pitch modulation help create a very retro sound.

B. ELECTRIC PIANOS

29 EP LoopGrains

This granular EP preset is based on a single Rhodes MKII sample. Amp emulation, random sample start, limiting, and filters help create a unique and inspiring sound.

30 EP Wurli

Based on 23 samples of a Wurlitzer 200A, this preset offers a cool retro sound.

31 EP FatRhodes

This warm preset was recorded on a Rhodes MKII. Complex filtering and pitch modulation are used to offer a highly expressive sound.

32 EP CP mellow

This preset uses a single lofi sample of a CP80 electric grand piano sampled on a Teenage Engineering OP-1 synth/sampler. Tape saturation, filters and EQs help the preset be very playable and responsive.

33 EP SynthDrop

Based on a casio SA21, this sound works very well when layered with clean pianos to create a unique vibe!

34 EP FM1, 35 EP FM2, 36 EP FM3, 37 EP FM4

These 4 FM electric pianos were sampled from a vintage Yamaha FB01. They are inspiring to play on their own, and offer stability and extended range when layered with weaker piano sounds.

38 EP Dictaphone

A crazy low-fi preset based on one sample of a Yamaha DX7 EP sampled on a dictaphone. Explore the low registers (C0 to C2) for some organic and vibey pads.

39 EP RhodesTape

Another very lo-fi preset: a tape recorder was used to record one sample of our Rhodes MKII. A great sound with lots of noise to layer with cleaner pianos.

C. BONUS ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS

40 Celeste202

This preset is based on samples of a celeste re-recorded onto a Boss SP202 sampler. The result is a unique lofi instrument that combines acoustic and electric properties.

41 Glockenspiel

This preset was sampled from a Sonor Glockenspiel recorded with a SE VR1 ribbon microphone. Use filters and a mono Impulse Response for a magical sound :)
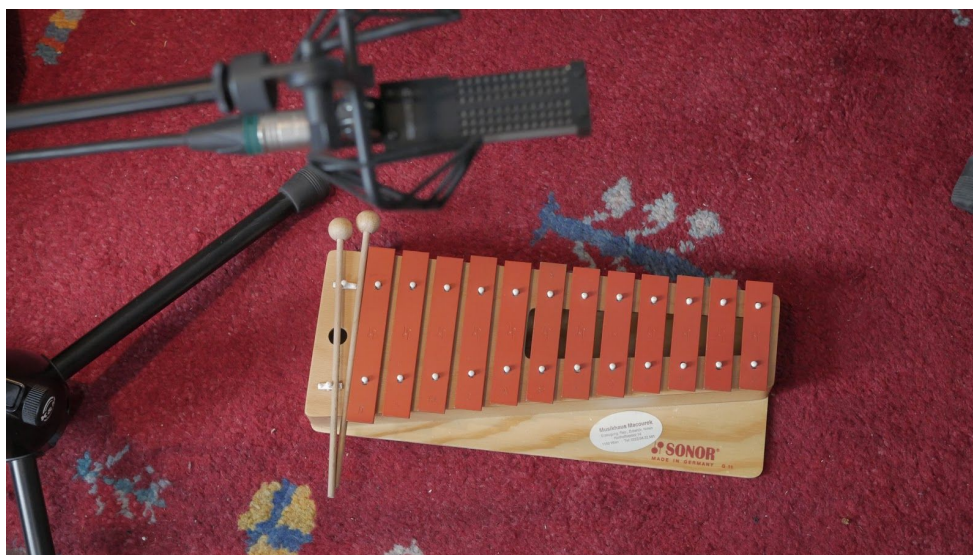
42 ClockPiano

This unique lofi preset was actually recorded on an old Gramer grand piano using the Boss SP202 sampler. A single sample of a high note is used to create a sound reminiscent of small digital clocks.

43 Marimba202

This preset is based on a single sample of a xylophone, even though it actually sounds more like a kind of marimba!! The original sound was first recorded on a TE OP-1 sampler, and then re-sampled using a Boss SP202. Very cool, lofi and noisy!

44 Vibraphon

This preset uses a layer of a marimba sample and a vibraphone sample, both recorded on a TE OP-1 sampler. This combination results in a highly expressive instrument, with a bit of organic noise and a slight chorus-like sound.

45 ToyPiano

This instrument is based on sample recordings originally made by Rhodri Marsden. You can read about the recording and download the samples (along with a Kontakt instrument) for free here: http://rhodri.biz/toy-piano/

I used only the right channel of the original samples, and slightly re-worked them (fades, eqs…) so that they would fit the library better. Big thanks to Rhodri for letting Loops de la Crème use these samples!!!

46 Hank Mallets

This preset is based on samples of a steel tongue instrument (also called 'hank'). The sounds were recorded with a rubber mallet, muting unplayed tongues to get a precise and nicely percussive sound.

47 Hank Grains

This preset is the result of a happy accident: I originally wanted to capture lo-fi samples of the steel tongue instrument using a newly acquired TE PO33 (the Pocket Operator lofi sampler from Teenage Engineering). It turns out that my PO33 had a big flaw and was glitchy and unusable. Before sending back the sampler, I still captured a couple of glitchy samples that turned out to be perfect for the library.

48 Vibes cassette

This preset is based on a lofi sample of a marimba recorded with a dictaphone. Perfect to layer with other instruments and add attitude and vibe!

The library features a total of 1624 samples, in various formats (mono and stereo WAV or AIFF, from 8 to 24bits, 44.1 or 48kHz)

▼ 📁 LOFI PIANOS Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Cassette Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano DictaSony Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Dizzy Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Felt Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Softy Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano SP202 Intern Mic Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Steinway MultiSamples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Steinway SoftPedal Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano TapeFuzz Samples
    ▶ 📁 A Piano Vibrato Samples
    ▶ 📁 Celeste 202 Samples
    ▶ 📁 EP FM Epiano1 Samples
    ▶ 📁 EP FM Epiano4 Samples
    ▶ 📁 EP FM NewEpiano Samples
    ▶ 📁 EP FM Trem Samples
    ▶ 📁 Grand W samples
    ▶ 📁 Hank Samples
    ▶ 📁 Toy Piano Samples
    ▶ 📁 Upright W Piano Samples
    ▶ 📁 Various Piano ROM Samples
    ▶ 📁 wurlitzer Samples
    ▶ 📁 Xylophone Samples

ALTERNATE SKINS

If you'd like, you can change the skin of the Kontakt instrument interface. The library offers 4 alternate skins:

ALTERNATE SKIN1_dark theme

ALTERNATE SKIN2_abstract lofi

ALTERNATE SKIN3_ebony ivory

ALTERNATE SKIN4_retro keys

TO CHANGE THE SKINS, FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Inside the library, find and open the following folder:

   LOFI PIANO COLLECTION/RESOURCES/Resources/Wallpapers

The folder 'Wallpapers' contains the active skin used by the instrument: the file is named LOFI PIANOS_6.png.

Different skins with the same file name can be found in the other folders.

2. Replace the file named LOFI PIANOS_6.png in the 'Wallpapers' folder with a skin from the folder of your choice. Make sure you keep all original files in their own folders: use copy/paste instead of drag and drop!!!

3. After replacing the file, you must restart Kontakt to make sure that the new skin will be properly loaded. You don't need to resave the instruments.

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

Concept, Recordings, mixing, programming and graphics by Julien Tauban, except original Toy Piano samples recorded by Rhodri Marsden (http://rhodri.biz/toy-piano/).

Recorded at Studio de la Crème, 4TUNE, CELESTE JAZZ CLUB, KLAVIER GALERIE, (and in my living room!!), Vienna, AUSTRIA, 2007 - 2018

Many thanks to Craig G. Richards for doing beautiful audio demos for the library, as well as providing nice feedback and great ideas during beta testing. (http://www.pianoproducer.com/)

Special thanks to Tobias Menguser for feedback and ideas.

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 LOFI PIANO COLLECTION!

Best regards,

Julien Tauban

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