

Press release – for immediate release

Native Instruments Announces KONTAKT 4

New version of the leading sampler adds “Authentic Expression Technology,” lossless sample compression and tag-based database

Berlin, September 1st, 2009 - Native Instruments today announced KONTAKT 4, a new version of the industry-leading software sampler. Taking the unrivalled performance and versatility of KONTAKT for music production, live performance and sound design even further, the fourth generation adds powerful “Authentic Expression Technology,” unique sample compression, an extended studio-grade sound library complete with a convenient new database system, and much more.

Already based on the most versatile sampler engine on the market, KONTAKT 4 establishes the next level in sampling with the addition of exclusive new Authentic Expression Technology (AET). With AET, the dynamic tonal behaviour of original instruments can be replicated in new and highly expressive ways. The technology enables the seamless transformation between the spectral characteristics of different sounds, achieved via a phase-corrected convolution technique based on FFT analysis of the original sample. AET avoids the typical shortcomings of conventional velocity layer techniques, and gives additional realism to sampled instruments like strings, brass, woodwinds and choirs. AET also makes it possible to combine and blend the spectral characteristics of any set of sounds in real time, opening up vast new possibilities for creative sound design.

KONTAKT 4 also introduces an exclusive sample compression technology that allows musicians and producers to get more performance out of their setups. Specifically developed for KONTAKT, the new NCW compression format reduces sample size by up to 50%, alleviating the space and bandwidth requirements for the computer RAM and hard disk. During playback in KONTAKT 4, the sample material is decompressed to its exact original format with minimal CPU load, and without any loss in audio fidelity. This can substantially widen the typical performance bottleneck of today's computer systems, and enable useful performance gains for complex multi-timbral arrangements and high-polyphony instruments especially with direct-from-disk streaming.

The acclaimed sound library of KONTAKT has been enhanced and expanded once again in its fourth revision. A major addition is a full-featured chamber choir collection, recorded exclusively for KONTAKT 4 and equipped with AET-based vowel morphing controls. Further additions

include solo strings and a concert organ from the acclaimed VSL library, as well as a painstakingly sampled Mellotron that complements the extensive “Vintage” collection in the KONTAKT factory library. A new professional impulse response library also expands the value of the powerful convolution effect integrated in KONTAKT. Now at 44 GB, the KONTAKT 4 factory library provides a comprehensive arsenal of acoustic and synthetic instruments for all areas of professional composition and music production.

To utilize the KONTAKT library in the most efficient way, KONTAKT 4 also introduces a new sound browser with greatly enhanced convenience. Users can search for instruments, multis, samples and even effect presets based on clear musical attributes, making it easy to find the right material for any application and context. Drag-and-Drop assignment and support for custom attributes allow to easily manage even the most diverse sound collections, and get the most out of the unparalleled range of KONTAKT-compatible instrument content on the market.

Other improvements in KONTAKT 4 include the unique Kontakt Script Processor (KSP), which now offers a whole new level of functionality through powerful “Multi Scripts.” The new version also offers greatly enhanced design possibilities for Performance View panels, which brings improved usability and a more distinctive look to KONTAKT-based instruments.

Pricing and availability

KONTAKT 4 will be available in October 2009 for a suggested retail price of \$399 / 379 €, and will also be part of the new KOMplete 6 bundle.

An update for owners of previous versions of KONTAKT will be available for \$149 / 129 €.

Further product information and press material

Additional information on KONTAKT 4 is available at

www.native-instruments.com/kontakt4.info

A digital press kit including picture material is available at

www.native-instruments.com/press.info

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About Native Instruments

Native Instruments is a leading manufacturer of software and hardware for computer-based music production and performance. The company's mission is to develop innovative, fully integrated solutions for all professions, styles and genres. The resulting products regularly push technological boundaries and open up new creative horizons for professionals and amateurs alike.

Native Instruments opened up the fascinating world of real-time sound synthesis on standard computers in 1996, and today offers an extensive product range for the Instruments, Guitar and DJ markets, designed and developed by three corresponding divisions within the company. Native Instruments currently employs more than 150 people in its two offices in Berlin and Los Angeles, and works closely with more than 40 international distribution partners to ensure its future growth and success.