

BELLMASTER

BY ANDY DRUDY

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Introduction

BELLMASTER is a Kontakt 5.8 instrument. To use this instrument **you must have the full version of Kontakt** by Native Instruments (Not Kontakt Player).

BELLMASTER is a sample set of a set of Tubular Bells. Each sample is 24 bit at 44kHz. There are five different sample sets in all. The first and second are the bells played within the rack using both hard and soft mallets, which give either a hard and soft tone to the notes. The next two sets are of the bells removed from the rack and hung independently so as to reduce resonances produced by the other bells in the rack. This once again is done with both hard and soft mallets. The final set is of the bells hung in the rack with the damper on. This gives the bells a shorter duller sound.

Each set has three velocity layers. Tubular bells do not have a great deal of dynamic range. They are large and resonant and even a small tap will create a great deal of noise.

Each bell is like an instrument in its own right and will resonate and produce overtones in a completely different way to that of its neighbor in the rack. Similarly each bell may ring for a longer or shorter length of time to that of its neighbor. With many bells ringing simultaneously, the sound can be somewhat “chaotic”.

Installation

1. Decompress Bellmaster.zip to a directory or location of your choice.
2. Fire up KONTAKT
3. Click on the “Files” menu (under the Kontakt logo on the left).
4. In the browser window that appears underneath, search out the location where you unzipped Bellmaster.
5. Drag any of the .nki files into the adjacent window on the right and Bellmaster will open.
6. You can scroll through any of the 5 instruments by using the left-right arrows to the right of the instrument name. For example **TB Suspended Set Soft**.
7. You can use any of the other .nki files on a different midi channel by dragging them into the window to the right. This will create an additional instance of Bellmaster that works on the next available midi channel.

KONTAKT Compatibility

The recent upgrade to KONTAKT 6 has thrown up some compatibility issues. Here is a guide to where BELLMASTER will – and will not work.

KONTAKT 5.8 PLAYER (FREE version)

Bellmaster will only work for 15 minutes in DEMO mode.

KONTAKT 5.8 FULL

Bellmaster is fully working.

KONTAKT 6 PLAYER (FREE version)

Bellmaster **WILL NOT WORK!**

KONTAKT 6 FULL

Bellmaster is fully working.

The “Player” version of Kontakt has reduced capabilities and can really only be considered a demo version of Kontakt. Kontakt is best purchased as a part of the Native Instruments KOMplete package as it is not cost effective to purchase on its own. KOMplete is now regarded as an industry standard sample collection and represents really quite a staggering value for money and I would highly recommend that you buy one of the KOMplete packages from the online Native Instruments store

<https://www.native-instruments.com/en/>

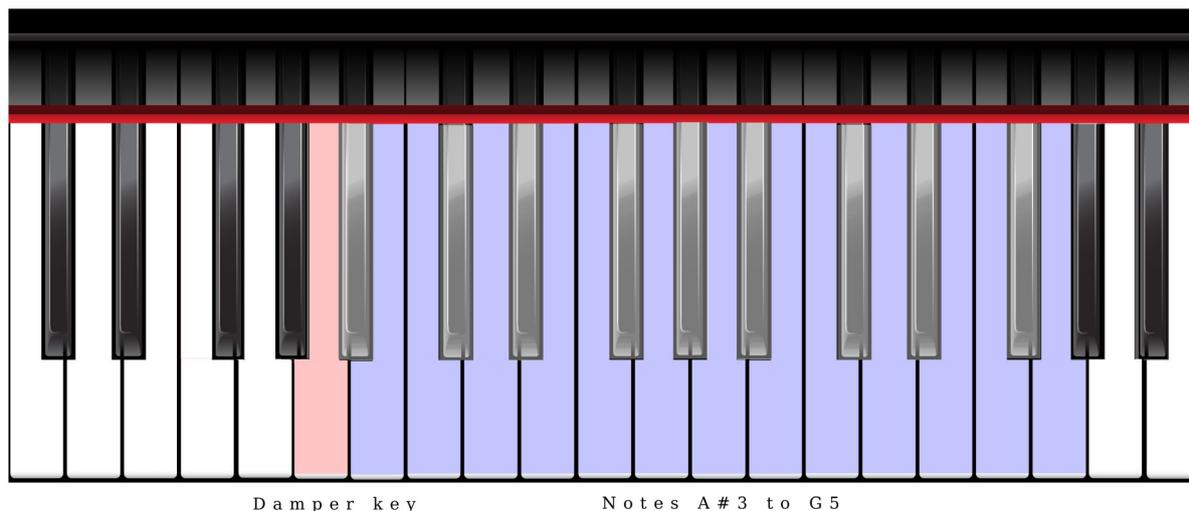
What are Tubular Bells?



Tubular Bells are a rather “Heath Robinson” contraption that made up a frame from which you hang a collection of “Bells” and a damper device across the middle, operated from a pedal. The Bells themselves are tubes of metal cut to a particular length to produce a particular note. Each bell has a metal cap and a rim. Notes are produced by striking the protruding rim with either a hard or soft mallet. There are two “rows” from which the bells are hung mimicking the pattern of the black and white notes of a piano keyboard. The range of notes can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer but our bells run from A#3 – G5.

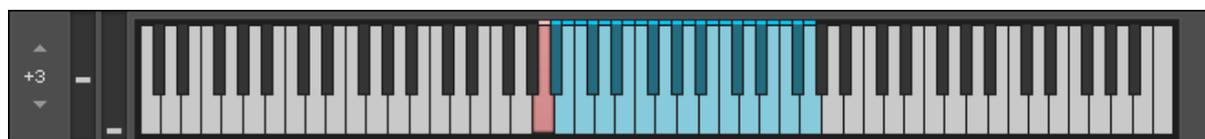
The damper acts similarly to that of the damper on a piano in that it acts across all notes at the same time. The bells when struck will sustain for a very long time, so using the damper is essential to kill off the notes so that they do not “overhang” unnecessarily. The action of the damper is as follows. The default position of the damper is ON. To play the notes you have to press the pedal which releases the damper and allows the bells to ring. When finishing a phrase, releasing the damper will kill off any resonating notes. This is necessary because a set of Tubular Bells is a massive, heavy collection of resonating metal. Without the damper it would resonate quite loudly in sympathy with any other sounds being played by the band or orchestra. The damper goes some way to muting that resonant noise. (Though not entirely!)

keyboard



The notes of our Tubular Bells run from $A\#3$ to $G5$ (illustrated in blue) . This range is mirrored on the controller keyboard. The damper is activated by pressing the $A3$ key (illustrated in pink). When the damper is activated on a set of Tubular Bells, the damper acts across all the bells and makes a quite “thud” as it hits the bells in the damper box. This sound is faithfully created when you hit the damper key. This sound may be turned off by flipping the release mute switch.

You may adjust where this appears on your keyboard by adjusting the octave control on the far left of the Kontakt keyboard.



Effects.

Reverb: Adds a stereo reverb effect to the output.

Chorus: Adds a beautiful soft thickening and widening of the stereo image.

Mute Release: Turns off the release mute sound of the damper acting on the bells (Similar to the sound of an acoustic piano pedal). The mute acts as normal.

Sample sets.

TB Rack Set HARD

This is a sample set of bells hung in the rack and struck with the hard mallet. When a note is sounded, when it is hung in the rack, to some degree or other all the other bells and the frame of the metal rack will resonate in sympathy. The bell may also touch the padded rim of the hole in the damper box. All this effects the resultant sound. This is the “default” sound of a set of Tubular Bells. When the damper is released, the sound of the damper touching the bells is replicated. This sound may be turned off by flipping the “Release Mute” switch.

TB Rack Set SOFT

Similar to **TB Rack Set HARD**, but this time the bells are struck with the soft mallet.

TB Suspended Set HARD

In this sample set, the bells have been removed from the rack and are hung independently and sampled using the hard mallet. It removes any interaction that might occur with the damper box (although the damper key still functions). It also means the bell is not interacting with all the other bells in the rack so the result is a much purer tone. These samples are long and tend to decay very slowly. When the damper key is activated, the sound of the damper touching the bells is replicated. This sound may be turned off by flipping the “Release Mute” switch.

TB Suspended Set SOFT

Similar to **TB Suspended Set HARD**, but this time the bells are struck with the soft mallet.

TB MuteSet

This set is the sound of the bells where the damper has not been taken off. The resultant sound is almost like a “thud” with a short sustain. The damper function is still enabled but may be of little use as the samples are much shorter.

Terms of use.

By purchasing this sample collection, you agree to the following terms. You are buying a license to use these samples for the sole purpose of music production.

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