

Creating a Blackbox sample pack from a Kontakt Instrument

Kontakt is sampling powerhouse that allow you to create all sort of sample library as an Instrument. Kontakt Instruments are a great source of sounds and sometime available for free.

I come across a beautiful choir on the [Pianobook](#) site: Micah's Choir, that was available only as a Kontakt Instrument. So, I decided to convert it to a multisamples pack for my 1010music Blackbox.

That is the origin of this guide that I hope can be useful for others.

The Tools

Kontakt Player 6

Available for free on Native Instrument website:

<https://www.native-instruments.com/en/products/komplete/samplers/kontakt-6-player/free-download/>

Kontakt Player will be use to play the Kontakt Instrument.

Important to note, Kontakt Player will timeout after 15min. So, you might want to review the process and reload the plugin once you're ready.

MPC Beats 2.8

Also available for free on Akai site: <https://www.akaipro.com/mpc-beats> MPC Beats will be use a VST host and also include a great "Auto-Sampler".

The Process

Set up the VST

Once both installed, make sure Kontakt can be open from the MPC Beats. On MPC Beats:

- [Hamburger button](#) (top left)
- Edit
- Preferences
- Open the "Plugins" section
- Ensure the location that store your Kontakt VST is listed. If not, add it and press "Rescan All"

Set up the Project

On the MPC Beats, if not already done, create a new project:

- Hamburger button
- File
- New Project
- MPC Beats will list you different Template, select the “Empty” one

One on the “Main Mode” window, under the Track 1, click on the little plug icon (“Plugin”). This is show a new menu in the “Program” section. Click on the “Plugin” parameter and select Kontakt.

Set up your Kontakt instrument

- Open Kontakt by clicking on the tiny **window** icon present on the right of the “Plugin” parameter.
- Load your Kontakt instrument, with the “Micah’s Choir”, I simply drag&drop the .nki to the Player.
- Adjust the volume if necessary

Ensure that in the “Accept all notes off / all sounds off” is disable on the instrument. If not done, Auto Sampler might not play notes (cf.

<https://www.mpc-forums.com/viewtopic.php?p=1766014#p1766014>)

- Click on the wrench, to access the instrument options
- Click on the “Instrument Options”
- Go to the “Controller” section
- Disable the “Accept all notes off / all sounds off” check-mark

Disable loop (Optional)

The “Micah’s Choir” instrument was set to loop the sample when notes were sustain for a long time. I didn't want that to happen so I disabled it on the Wave editor. To do so, in the KontaKt instrument:

- Click on the wrench, to access the instrument options
- Click on the Mapping editor
- Go to the Mapping editor (you might have to scroll down to see it)
- Select all the zone from left to right
- Open the Wave editor
- In the “sample Loop” tab, click on the power button, that will disable loop on the last wave.
- click on the gear icon
- Select “to all selected zones/copy current zone loop settings”

We're ready to create the samples.

Run the Auto Sampler

Back to the main MPC Beats window

- Hamburger button
- Tools
- Auto Sampler
- Configure Auto Sampler

In this scenario, I used the following options. Feel free to adjust them to your need. Track Name: Track 1 Program Name: Plugin 001 Record from: Resample L+R

- Min note: G1
- Max note: E4
- Note Stride: 4
- Extend min/max notes: Off
- Velocity Layers: 1: 127
- Note length: 6.0s
- Tail: 0.0s
- Base Name: Micah's Choir
- Enable looping: Off

Click on "Do it".

MPC beats will play the notes, create sample for each of them. It will also set the right Root note for the sample and the velocity tag (not working as of now with Blackbox).

Collect the samples

Back to the MPC Beats main window, in the Project window:

- Right click on the newly create Program
- Select Save
- Chose a location to save the files.

Instrument hacking: map velocity to parameter (Optional)

Velocity layer don't seems to be compatible between MPC Beats and Blacbox, so this won't work. According to Aaron, both note and velocity are store on the "inst" tag.

<https://forum.1010music.com/forum/general-topics/19862-wav-tags-we-support>

<https://sites.google.com/site/musicgapi/technical-documents/wav-file-format#inst>

Micah's Choir have a great parameter that allow to adjust the archness of the voice using the modwheel. I wanted to map this to the velocity and create a multiple velocity pack. This is an totally optional step.

In Kontakt Player, open the Script Editor and the "Performance View" tab.

The parameter was handle by the \$Dynamics So, I:

- modified the \$Dynamics range from (0,100) to (0,127) during its declaration.
- Remove the *on controller* portion of the code
- Add the *on note* portion of the code (to associated the velocity to harshness)

```
declare const $Dynamics_CC := 1

  declare ui_slider $Dynamics (0,127 )

  make_persistent($Dynamics)

  set_control_par(get_ui_id($Dynamics), $CONTROL_PAR_ALLOW_AUTOMATION, 0)
end on

on note
  $Dynamics := $EVENT_VELOCITY
end on
```

Once done, I re-run the Auto-Sampler with multiple velocity layers:

- 1: 127
- 2: 96
- 3: 64
- 4: 32

Load the pack in the Blackbox

Once your samples are created, copy the folder to the SD card.

- Start your Blackbox
- Go to "Pads"
- Select an Pad
- Tap "Info"
- Tap "Load"
- Navigate inside your sample pack folder
- Tap "File"
- Tap "Load all"

Et voila!!

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Learning Python 3

Python is a great scripting language known to be both powerful and simple.

I recently start to re-learn it and use the occasion to look at Python 3. I found the following resources

really useful so let share them with world:

A byte of Python <https://python.swaroopch.com/> Clear and simple, nice beginner book that walk you through all the basics. Its short enough to let you learn really fast what you need to know to start writing your own script

Dive into Python update for Python 3 <https://diveintopython3.net/> "Python from novice to pro" as they say. More detailed than "A byte of Python", it also take longer time to go through. It is a good read once you get use to the basic of the language

Python 3 Documentation <http://docs.python.org/py3k/> The official documentation. You will love its Library Reference

Module of the Week <https://pymotw.com/3/> Really good blog that explore all the module available in Python. The code examples, recently switch from Python 2.6 to 3 \o/

Happy coding!

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Find large folder in command line

As the *info du* command state:

"du reports the amount of disk space used by the specified files and for each subdirectory (of directory arguments)."

It's really helpful when a partition get fill-up and you need to free some space.

If you want to check the size of folders present in your home directory for example, you can run this command: `du -max-depth=1 -h ~`

This is great, but it would be even better if the output what sorted by size.

Of course *sort* is the tool you need here and it now include the *-human-numeric-sort* option in it. This option is only new (it was had at the end of 2009) and present on the version 7.5 and above of *core-utils* (the package that contain *du*).

Here how to use it: `du -max-depth=1 -h ~ | sort -rh`

I like to combine all this with the *head* command to limit the output to display the by the command `du -max-depth=1 -h ~ | sort -hr | head -n 10`

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