



# Soniccouture

Kim User Guide

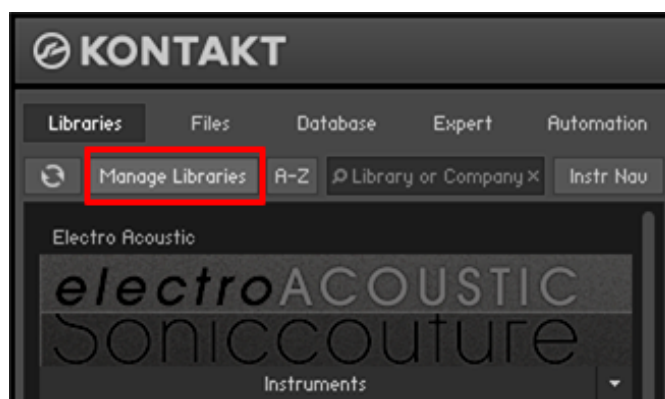
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## INSTALLING YOUR SONICCOUTURE PRODUCT

If you do not own Kontakt, you can install the free [Kontakt Player](#)



If you have an earlier (pre 5.6.8) version of Kontakt, [click here](#)

1. Open NI Kontakt in **standalone mode**.
2. In the *Libraries* tab, click **Manage Libraries**
3. Click **Launch Native Access** : Login or create an account if you don't have one.
4. Click **Add A Serial** (find it in your [SC account](#) with the product download).
5. Copy and paste the number in the box and click **Add Serial**
6. Navigate to the downloaded product folder and select it
7. Click **INSTALL** to complete the process.

**NOTE:** The login for **NI Native Access** is not the same as your login for the Soniccouture site. You must create an account with Native Instruments if you don't already have one.



## INTRODUCTION

The Kim is a type of dulcimer or zither from Thailand, and is related to the Chinese yangqin. It is sometimes spelled khim.

The Kim consists of a flat soundbox with 42 wire strings stretched across in 14 sets of 3. The courses are struck with two thin bamboo mallets with soft leather tips. There are two bridges on the soundboard, and 7 of the courses cross both bridges, tuned either side of the bridge a fifth apart. This provides a potential total of 21 pitches, but in a typical tuning some notes are duplicated, so there are less than that available.

It is practically impossible, and not in fact authentic, to tune the three strings of each course precisely to the same pitch. Therefore some natural chorusing occurs due to the slight pitch variations within each note. This is an essential part of the Kim's character.

The Kim is not a very loud instrument, and is typically played with a lot of tremolo.

As there is no damping mechanism, the strings ring to their natural decay, and in practise this gives an eerie resonance to the background of a Kim performance. The Kim is used in both solo and ensemble situations.

### The Sampled Instruments

Our Kim was sampled at 44.1kHz / 24 bits. Each course of strings was sampled at several velocity levels, twice for a round robin. The round robin effect gives more variation to the instrument and avoids a repeated note "machine gun" effect.

Each note was allowed to ring to the end.



# THE KONTAKT INSTRUMENT



## CONTROLS

|         |                                                  |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|
| ATTACK  | adjusts the attack time                          |
| RELEASE | adjusts the release time                         |
| CUTOFF  | adjusts cutoff frequency of the low pass filter  |
| RES     | adjusts resonance of the low pass filter         |
| HPF     | adjusts cutoff frequency of the high pass filter |
| VEL     | adjusts the velocity sensitivity                 |
| REVERSE | reverses the samples, a special effect           |

At the bottom of the instrument panel you will see three tabs, SPACE, TREMOLO, and STRUM. These are as follows:



## SPACE

This is a reverb section, and you can choose a type of reverb from the drop down menu and the level of it's return, the MIX

## TREMOLO



This tremolo imitates a technique commonly used on the Kim, where held notes are repeated very quickly. Using this processor you can easily create a simulation of this effect without playing a lot of notes. The knobs are for the VELOCITY, TUNING, and SPEED of the tremolo, and for each of these you can set the RANDOM amount, which is a subtle variation to make the result more “human” sounding, and you can set a MOD depth for each.

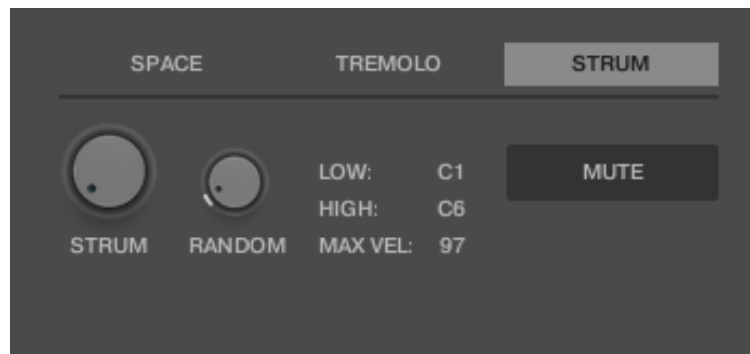
The MOD depth allows you to vary the tremolo using a MIDI controller. The CC that creates the variation is called the MOD CC and set at the bottom right.

The basic speed or tempo of the tremolo is set at the bottom left, and is always related to the current tempo.

The TREMOLO is turned on and off using the big “TREMOLO” switch at the bottom, or else by using a trigger key “TRIGGER”, set at the bottom left.



## STRUM



This STRUM module is another performance tool, this one allowing you to strum a chord of any notes (those you are currently holding down). The STRUM knob at the left can be assigned to a MIDI CC by right clicking on it, by default it is mapped to CC1, the Mod Wheel controller.

When the STRUM knob, or the assigned CC, is moved, a chord is strummed from LOW to HIGH, but only including the notes you are currently holding down on the keyboard.

The STRUM will use the velocity of your last played note as a reference, but will add a bit of variation to the velocity of the strum as well. The amount of random variation to the velocity is set with RANDOM. The MAXIMUM velocity allowed in a strum can be set with MAX VEL.

MUTE stops live playing from being heard, in case you want to ONLY hear the output of the STRUM module.



## SUPPORT

If you have any problems or questions relating to the use of this product, please feel free to contact us. You can email us at :

<http://www.soniccouture.com/en/support/>

We will always endeavour to reply to any enquiry within 24 hours. We are based in the UK, so please bear in mind differences in time zones.

While you are waiting, you will find lots of answers to common questions in our FAQ.





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