An Impact Soundworks Sample Library for Kontakt 4™

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing **Plectra Series 3: Kazakh Dombra**! This library was designed and recorded in Kazakhstan by Sergei Smorgov (aka Fyzer), who first told us about the fretted *dombra* (also spelled *dombyra*) instrument. Since the earliest days of Impact Soundworks, we've sought to deep-sample unique instruments from around the world. We're proud to enter the dombra in our **Plectra Series** of meticulously sampled stringed, plucked, picked and strummed instruments!

The dombra is a traditional instrument of Kazakhstan, with origins going back many centuries. It is a two-stringed lute that can be played as a solo instrument, as part of an ensemble, or to accompany epic songs and poetry. In fact, the dombra has historically been an integral part of the oral history of Kazakhstan passed down through generations. The bright, percussive tone of this instrument lends itself to quick rhythmic playing, strums, and rapid solo lines.

Plectra Series 3: Kazakh Dombra is composed of over 1,500 recordings, compressed in Kontakt's NCW format to reduce memory footprint and speed loading times. A single .NKI patch contains all articulations and a slick scripted interface allowing you to customize the instrument to your liking.

We hope you'll find this library enjoyable to play, easy-to-use, and a brilliant addition to your tracks!

INSTALLATION / GETTING STARTED

To install the library, first ensure that you have the RAR file completely downloaded - it should be about 390mb. You should see the following subfolders:

Instruments
Samples

Within Instruments, browse and select the .NKI patch and load it into Kontakt 4+ by dragging and dropping or using Kontakt's built-in browser. That's it!

USING THE LIBRARY

Plectra Series 3: Kazakh Dombra was created with playability and flexibility in mind.

The instrument's natural pitched range extends from **D2** to **D4**, though it is playable from **C2** to **C5**.

pitched playing range

Fully choked strums can be triggered from **B0** to **B1**. These are useful for rhythmic emphasis. Playing higher notes will result in strumming up the neck and a slightly brighter sound.

semi-pitched full chokes

The **white keys** from **D5** to **B5** are repetition keys. These will re-trigger any notes held down in the left hand. The **black keys** in this range trigger non-pitched full strokes.

white notes = pitched repetition
black notes = non-pitched full strokes

The notes from **C0** to **A#0** are reserved for user-defined keyswitches.

keyswitch range

In summary, from low to high...

C0 to A#0: User-definable keyswitches
B0 to B1: Semi-pitched full chokes
C2 to C5: Normal playing range
C#5 to B5 (White Keys): Repetition (re-triggers any notes held in the left hand)
C#5 to B5 (Black Keys): Non-pitched full chokes.

The list of articulations is as follows:

Sustains: Standard picked sound, sampled 8x down and 8x up per note.
Minor Trill: A repeated trill going up and down a minor 2nd.
Major Trill: A repeated trill going up and down a major 2nd.
Tremolo: Repeated striking of the same note. **Modwheel controls tremolo volume!**

Mordent: A single pitch bend up and down a minor 2nd.
Hammer / Pull: Legato playing that only triggers with overlapping notes.
Muted: Notes strummed when the strings are muted with the palm.
Slides: Full slides up and down the neck of the instrument. Triggered when the pitch wheel is pushed up or down and a note is struck.

SCRIPTING / USER INTERFACE

The script for **Kazakh Dombra** automatically handles placement of notes on the correct string (D or G string). There are a variety of additional controls available for your convenience and customization.

the performance page

Equalizer Section: A simple 3-band EQ that is great for quickly adjusting tone.
Reverb: Enables convolution reverb.
Wetness: Controls reverb amount.
Size: Controls reverb length.
Monophonic: Sets instrument to monophonic mode (only one active note at a time). Good for lead playing.
Reset RR Seq: Resets the order of round robin variations. Use this before rendering if you want a render to sound the same way each time.

Master Volume: Controls volume of all sounds in the instrument.
Releases: Controls volume of release noises.
Strums: Controls volume of re-triggered notes in the right hand (D5-B5).
Mutes: Controls volume of muted notes.

Performance / Mapping: Switches UI pages.
Reset to Defaults: Does what it says!

the mapping page

This page can be used to enable or disable any articulations, as well as map articulations to a specified velocity range, or assign an articulation to a specific keyswitch.

Pressing an unassigned keyswitch key will reset the active keyswitch. For example, if you have Tremolo mapped to D1, but nothing to C1, you could push D1 to switch to tremolo, and C1 to switch back to normal mapping.

Note that the **Hammer/Pull articulation** cannot be assigned to a keyswitch. This is again because hammer-on and pull-off playing can only be triggered by overlapping (legato) notes in the specified velocity range.

Slides are likewise not customizable in their mapping, as they are pre-set to trigger when the pitch bend/wheel is pushed up or down, and a note is then played.

HmrRange: Sets the maximum range where hammer-on or pull-off samples are triggered with legato playing. For example, holding C2 and playing D2 with a Hammer Range of "2" semitones will trigger a hammer-on sample. However, holding C2 and playing E2 (4 semitones) would not.

Hammer Realism: Reduces the volume of multiple subsequent hammer-on or pull-off samples.

CREDITS

Produced by Sergei Smorgov (Fyzer)
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TROUBLESHOOTING & FEEDBACK

Have you used **Plectra Series 3: Kazakh Dombra** in a project recently or have a demo or song that you'd like to share? You can email us (admin@impactsoundworks.com) or tell the world at our Facebook page here: http://www.facebook.com/ImpactSoundworks

You can also catch us on Twitter at [@ISoundworks](https://twitter.com/ISoundworks)!

We encourage all our users to share and promote their work. Word of mouth is the #1 way people find our samples, so it also helps us to produce more great libraries for you!

For any technical support issues regarding the library, don't hesitate to email support@impactsoundworks.com.

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