Sitar Nation: Classical Instruments of India

An Impact Soundworks Sample Library
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Overview

Sitar Nation features four deep-sampled instruments from India: the sitar, tampura, tabla, and baya. These instruments were chosen not only because they've remained a foundation of Indian classical music for centuries, but also because they have even permeated Western music since the 50s. We've captured each instrument in exquisite detail, allowing you to control and play them without relying on excessive tweaking or programming.

Sound Content

The library features 8 deep-sampled "Natural" Combinator patches for melodic and percussive instruments, plus a suite of 15 "FX" Combinator patches which morph and mangle the source material in various musically interesting ways. The NN-XT patches are used within the Combinator patches and contain the same audio, without the bonus effects and tweaks in the Combinator.

Please note that this library focuses on **depth** of sampling as opposed to hundreds of patches with relatively few samples. We meticulously recorded thousands of samples for these instruments with multiple velocity (dynamic) layers, round robin (RR) variations, articulations, and other techniques.

A selection of MIDI files are also included for the percussion (tabla & baya).

User Interface (UI)

All patches share some common features in the Combinator UI.

* Mid-Sweep / EQ: When EQ is enabled, the Mid-Sweep knob controls the frequency boost range.
* Squash / Saturator: When Saturator is enabled, the Squash knob controls the depth of the saturation.
* Reverb: Adds reverb ambience to the instrument.
* Imager: Enables stereo widening.
* Release: Controls the release time of the sounds.
* Limiter: Adds a hard limiter to prevent clipping.

The Thor instance labeled **Thor FX** adds a couple of additional controls:

* DDL / DDL Feedback: Digital delay and feedback amount.
* Chorus / Chorus Mod/Rate: Digital chorus and modulation amount/rate.

The **Modwheel** adds vibrato.

Patch List

Sitar - Chikari Tampura
This patch is played from C1 to B5. C1 through G2 play the **tampura** (low drone) samples, while G#2 through A4 contain the main playable range of the **sitar**. C5 through B5 triggers the sitar's **chikari** strings, which are basically pre-recorded 4th and 5th chords, and can be used for extra accompaniment and harmony.

Sitar - Chikari
The **chikari** strings only, from C5 to B5.

Sitar - Glissandos KSW
A "menu" of glissando sounds from G#2 to G4. The notes from G#2 to G3 are in a major key scale, and the notes from G#3 to G4 are in a minor scale. You can switch the glissando sample used by **pressing and holding** C1 or C#1. This is known as "keyswitching" (hence "KSW" in the patch name.)

Sitar - Mordent
Contains the "mordent" articulation, which is a quick bend up and down performed once (as opposed to vibrato which is repeated). This is mapped on the sitar's normal range, C2 to A4.

Sitar - Phrases KSW
Short phrases mapped from F2 to F4. The phrase can be changed by **pressing and holding** C1 through D#1.

Sitar - Tremolos
Contains tremolos played on the sitar mapped from D2 to A4. The **mod wheel** is not used for vibrato, but instead smoothly controls the volume of the tremolo.

Sitar - WT Bends
Slow whole tone (WT) bends mapped from D2 to A4.

Tabla and Baya
Deeply sampled percussive hits played on the baya (A1 to G#2) and tabla (A2 to A#3). Each key has many velocity (dynamic) layers and round robin (RR) variations. Each key represents a different 'stroke', or articulation.

** Note: All FX patches below are similar in that they provide synth-like sounds mapped over a large part of the keyboard. Since they are more creative in purpose and scope, they do not require a special explanation or usage guide, thus we have simply listed them! **

Additive Morph
Air Tampura
Air Tampura (RT)
Chikari Resonator
Deep Chime
Livewire Drone
Percussive Chime
Shaped Kit Crushed
Shaped Kit
Soft ROMpler Sitar
Soft Sitar
String Constructor
Tabla Melodic
TremPad
Warp Field

Credits

Sitar Nation was designed, edited, and produced by Andrew Aversa and Will Roget, II. It was recorded by Alec Henninger in Philadelphia, PA and performed by Thomas Flanagan (sitar, tampura) and Jeremy Dyen (tabla, baya).

Reason conversion by Anthony Mena.

Troubleshooting and Feedback

Have you used this library 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

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