

FUNK/SOUL PRODUCTION

Vintage Big Band

MADE IN USA



USER MANUAL

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Instrument Introduction

Vintage Big Band (VBB) is a massive collection of sampled instruments designed for writers, arrangers, and producers of Big Band and small combo Jazz.

VBB features over 75 style-specific instruments, designed and performed to emulate the playing styles of Jazz musicians from the 1930s and 40s (early Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, etc) through the 1950s (Count Basie, Rat Pack-era Frank Sinatra with Nelson Riddle/Billy May, etc) and 1970s (Buddy Rich, Thad Jones & Mel Lewis, Maynard Fergusson, etc).

VBB is easy and intuitive to use. A one-page GUI with Arranger's Tools and other features designed for users of all experience-levels, VBB is useful for beginners, students, teachers, as well as professional composers and arrangers. In short, VBB includes everything composers and arrangers need to faithfully re-create the sound, color, and character of big bands and small combos from the 1930s-1970s and beyond.

Weighing in at nearly 18GB, this library includes:

33 Brass and Woodwind instruments, including multiple styles of Trumpets, Trombones, Alto Saxes, Tenor Saxes, and Bari Saxes, plus Bass Sax, Bass Trombone, Flugelhorn, and Tuba.

27 Rhythm Section instruments, including 5 Jazz Drum Kits, a set of Latin Percussion instruments, Upright and Electric Basses, Upright and Grand Pianos, Electric Pianos, Hammond Organs, Jazz Guitars, and Vibes

7 Arranger's Tools, including Jazz Guitar & Piano chord-instruments, Jazz Drum loops, and Latin Percussion loops, all designed to make it easier to quickly create professional sounding arrangements, demos, and mockups.

12 Multis for small and large ensembles, designed to emulate various eras and musical styles.

Runs in Kontakt Player 6.6.0 or higher.

User Interface

Vintage Big Band's interface is simple and easy to use. The controls include:

Reverb - This knob controls the amount of reverb added to the instrument sound.

Reverb Select - Click this drop-down menu and choose between ten different convolution reverbs.

Tape Sat - Adds simulated analogue Tape Saturation.

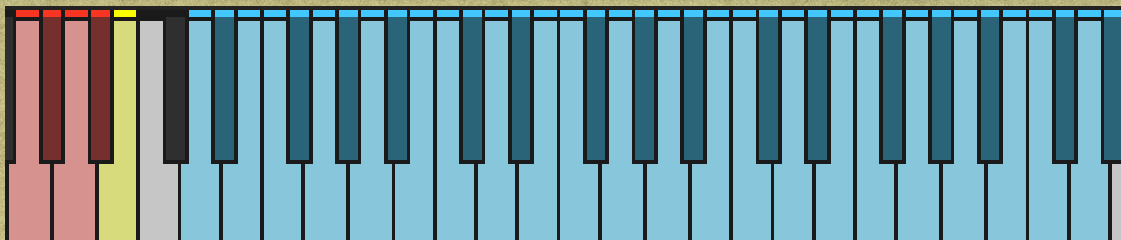
Bass - A bi-polar knob that allows you to increase or decrease low end.

Treble - A bi-polar knob that allows you to increase or decrease high end.

Articulation - This window shows the currently selected articulation. Note that when using the Arranger Tools Chord instrument, this window shows Chord Type instead.



Keyboard Layout (Brass & Woodwinds)



Blue Keys - The instrument's playable range.

Red Keys - Use these key switches to select different articulations. The active articulation will be yellow

(For brass/wind instruments only)

B - Sustains: This articulation is useful for most basic writing and arranging, as it allows you to play both short and long notes. Sustained notes are looped and will play for as long as you hold down the key(s) - unlike actual horn players, who cannot hold notes indefinitely.

Bb - Staccatos: Notes of very short duration, useful for fast passages.

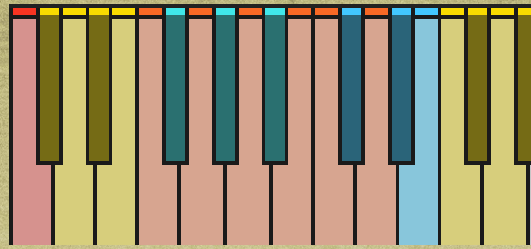
A - Stab: A staccato note with a fast bend downwards.

Ab - Falloff: Plays the target note plus a fast downwards glissando.

G - Doit: Plays the target note followed by a quick upwards glissando.

F# - Shake: An articulation used only for trumpets. Plays the target note(s), which is then lipped upwards and downwards, creating a "shake" effect. Note that for Flutes, this key switch is used for Trills.

Keyboard Layout (Drum Kits)



Each drum kit piece is colored to help you keep track of what each trigger does. Each drum kit is unique so the keyboard layout will vary from kit to kit.

Red Key (Far Left) - Kick

Yellow Keys - Snare

Orange Keys (Middle) - Tom / Percussion

Blue Keys - Hi-Hat / Cymbals

More Articulations

VBB includes three additional articulations that do not use key switches (and do not appear in the Articulation window). These articulations are activated using the mod wheel and pitch wheels of your keyboard controller, as follows:

Mod Wheel Sforzando: You can create a sforzando effect (quick attack followed by a sharp decrease in volume and gradual increase in volume) by playing the note(s) and moving the mod wheel upwards; the speed of the crescendo can be controlled by how quickly the mod wheel is moved. Return the mod wheel to the default (down) position when you want to go back to using any other articulation.

Mod Wheel Swell: You can create a swell (crescendo from near-silence to loud volume) by moving the mod wheel up very slightly just before you play any note(s). This will reduce the note volume to near zero, after which you can increase it as quickly or slowly as you want by moving the mod wheel upwards. Return the mod wheel to the default (down) position when you want to go back to using any other articulation.

Pitch Wheel Vibrato: You can add vibrato to any instrument by gently rocking the pitch wheel up and down; this will allow you create a narrow or wide vibrato, at any tempo needed. Note that this articulation will not work well for the early Jazz brass and woodwinds, which were played and sampled using a wide vibrato that was popular during the 1920s through early 1950s.

Arranger Tools

The Arranger Tools folder contains two different types of instrument patches that can help you quickly and easily create rhythm tracks for a variety of different Jazz compositions. The two types of instruments are:

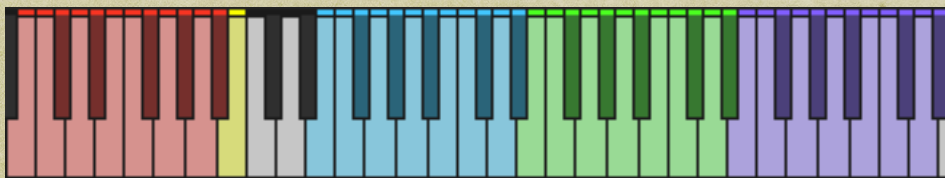
1) Drum and Percussion Loops: a large collection of loops that automatically sync to the tempo of your song.

2) Chords: Jazz guitar and piano chord patches that can be used to create basic accompaniment tracks for your song. The keyboard located at the bottom of the Kontakt window provides information on how these two patches work.

- The Jazz Piano Chords patch makes it easy to quickly play classic sustained Jazz chords. Each blue key plays the chord back in the corresponding key.



- The Jazz Guitar Chords patch features three different articulations: Sustains (blue, starting at E1), Staccato (green, starting at E2), and Falls (purple, starting at E3).



- Both of the chord instrument patches allow you to choose the type of chord played by using the key switches (red keys) to the left. The chords and their key switches are as follows:

B2 = Dominant 7 (default when you open the patch)

Bb2 = Dominant 7 add 9

A2 = Dominant 7 #9

Ab2 = Dominant 7 b9

G2 = Dominant 13 add 9

Gb2 = Minor 7

F2 = Minor 9

E2 = Major 6

Eb2 = Major 6 add 9

D2 = Major 7 b5

Db2 = Major 9

C2 = Augmented

B1 = Diminished

The currently active chord type is displayed in the Chord Type window on the right hand side of the GUI.

Multi Patches

Multis are groups of instruments, each pre-assigned to a separate MIDI channel. In this folder you'll find Multis for a variety of ensemble types, from small combos to big bands, with instruments most commonly used for various eras and styles of Jazz. Multis can be used as templates that will allow you to quickly and easily set up a new song or arrangement. See the Instrument Patches section below for a complete list of Multis for VBB.



Instrument Patches

HORNS & WOODWINDS

Alto Sax 1	Solid Big Band Alto Sax
Alto Sax 2, Ballad	Cool Jazz Alto Sax
Alto Sax 3 Vibrato	1930s-50s era Alto Sax with wide vibrato
Bass Sax	Low sax popular prior to the invention of the electric bass
Bass Trombone	Used much in Big Band, replaced Tuba
Bari Sax 1	Solid Big Band Bari Sax
Bari Sax 2, Ballad	Nice bari for ballads and Cool Jazz
Clarinet	Popular during the Big Band era
Flugelhorn	Good for ballads and Cool Jazz
Flute, Alto	Lower-pitched, warmer Flute
Flute, Soprano	Most commonly used Flute
Tenor Sax 1	Solid Big Band Tenor Sax
Tenor Sax 2	A more cutting Big Band Tenor Sax
Tenor Sax 3, Ballad	Good for ballads, Cool Jazz
Tenor Sax 4, Ballad	2nd ballad-style Tenor Sax
Tenor Sax 5, Vibrato	1930s-1950s-era Tenor Sax with wide vibrato
Tenor Sax 6, Vibrato	2nd 1930s-1950s-era Tenor Sax with wide vibrato
Trombone 1	Solid, brassy Big Band Trombone
Trombone 2, Ballad	Warmer-toned Trombone, good for ballads
Trombone 3, Harmon Mute	Trombone with Harmon Mute
Trombone 3, Open Vibrato	1930s-1950s-era open Trombone with wide vibrato
Trombone 5, Plunger Vibrato	1920s-1940s-era Trombone with wide vibrato and wah-like plunger mute

Instrument Patches (Continued)

Trumpet 1	Solid Big Band lead Trumpet
Trumpet 2	2nd lead Trumpet with a less cutting tone
Trumpet 3	Nice Big Band section trumpet
Trumpet 4 Ballad Open	Nice for ballads, Cool Jazz
Trumpet 5 Muted	Big Band Muted Trumpet
Trumpet 6 Muted Ballad	Softer, ballad-style Muted Trumpet
Trumpet 7 Vibrato	1930s-early 50s-era open Trumpet with wide vibrato
Trumpet 8 Vibrato	Cuban Mambo-style Lead Trumpet with vibrato
Trumpet 9 Plunger Vibrato	Popular in 1950s Cuban Mambo and 1930s-40s, wha-like sound, wide vibrato
Trumpet 9 Plunger Vibrato	Popular in 1950s Cuban Mambo and 1930s-40s, wha-like sound, wide vibrato
Tuba	Used instead of upright bass in many 1920s-30s ensembles

KEYBOARDS & VIBES

Baby Grand Piano	Good for ballads, Cool Jazz, and Big Band
Fender Rhodes	Popular with 1970s Jazz Rock-style big bands
Soul Jazz Organ 1	Soul Jazz organ inspired by Groove Holmes's
Soul Jazz Organ 2	Soul Jazz organ inspired by Jimmy Smith's sound
Upright Piano 1	Nicely well-worn upright piano
Upright Piano 2 Old	Very worn-in upright piano, loosely tuned, good for 1920s-1930s ensembles
Vibes	Includes no-vibrato, vibrato, and muted key-switched articulations
Wurlitzer Electric Piano Clean	Well-worn vintage Wurlitzer, popular in 1950s R&B-style Big Band

Instrument Patches (Continued)

BASS & GUITAR

Fender Jazz Bass	Started being used in Big Bands in the 1970s
Jazz Guitar No Pick	Classic Jazz guitar sound inspired by Wes Montgomery
Jazz Guitar Pick	Brighter, picked Jazz Guitar
Upright Bass	Popular in Jazz from the 1920s until today

DRUMS & PERCUSSION

Big Band Drum Kit Brushes	Solid big band kit played with brushes
Big Band Drum Kit Sticks	Solid big band kit played with sticks
Cocktail Drum Kit Brushes	Smaller kit for small ensembles, played with brushes
Cocktail Drum Kit Sticks	Smaller kit for small ensembles, played with sticks
Latin Percussion Kit	Congas, bongos, timbales and hand percussion
Soul Jazz Drum Kit	Edgier cocktail kit used in 1960s Soul Jazz
Soul Jazz Drum Lo-Fi Kit	Trashier version of the above

ARRANGER TOOLS

Jazz Drum Loops
Jazz Guitar Chords
Jazz Percussion Loops
Jazz Piano Chords
Latin Percussion Loops
Soul Jazz Drum Loops
Soul Jazz Percussion Loops

Instrument Patches (Continued)

MULTIS

Ensemble 1 1960s -1970s Big Band

Ensemble 2 1960s -1970s Ballad Big Band

Ensemble 3 1960s-1970s Jazz Rock Big Band

Ensemble 4 1950s Vegas Big Band

Ensemble 5 1960s Soul Jazz Combo 1

Ensemble 6 1960s Soul Jazz Combo 2

Ensemble 7 1950s-1960s Cool Jazz Combo 1

Ensemble 8 1950s-1960s Cool Jazz Combo 2

Ensemble 9 1950s Cuban Mambo Big Band 1

Ensemble 10 1950s Cuban Mambo Big Band 2 (no Trombones)

Ensemble 11 1930s-1940s Big Band

Ensemble 12 1920s Jazz Combo

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Credits

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