S L O W E R

USER MANUAL

e-instruments

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What Is Slower?

Slower is a multi-sampled instrument library offering 65 professionally recorded sound sources, captured to tape and then pitched down to half-speed. The original sound sources of Slower are taken from performances of instruments you'll already recognise. The twist comes with the tape-processing of these sounds, being recorded to tape and slowed to half-speed. As the sounds are pitched down by an octave, this brings something new to your sound palette, magical sounds that are altered but somehow familiar. Recording to tape brings a new sound of its own; a certain warmth with subtle imperfections that transform the sound into a blend of both the tangible and ethereal. With exaggerated audio artefacts and emphasised imperfections, the timbres created are something of their own, truly unique and original. For example, we recorded a softly played alto sax, then pitched down via characterful vintage tape machines. The result is a very rich and deep saxophone tone but with amplified breathiness. Slower takes half-speed recordings and combines them with powerful sound design tools to create one-of-a-kind patches. This library is a fun and inspiring addition to your audio palette with an endless creative streak.

WHAT IT'S NOT

Slower is not an emulation. It is the real thing… 65 complete sample-sets recorded onto four tape machines and played back at half-speed. It's the unique timbre of low-speed playback that forms the heart of this innovative concept. The recording technique emphasises the desirable imperfections that occur when recapturing to tape. This is a sound you won't get from any tape emulation plug-in.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Slower is for everyone who is looking for special sounds with a touch of retro magic (and those who just love the vintage warmth of tape). The sounds of Slower are perfectly suited for producers who write Ambient, Lofi, Hip Hop and Indie. Media composers will also be served up lots of production-ready pads, keys, strings, and more characterful audio nuggets.

Enjoy this inspirational instrument from the Slower production team.

Tech Specs

38.42 GB sample content

24 bit 48 kHz

One patch for Kontakt Player 7.10.2

Compatible with Komplete Kontrol and NKS 1 and 2

System Requirements

Intel Macs (i5 or higher): macOS 12, 13 or 14 (latest update)

Apple Silicon Macs (via Rosetta 2 & natively on ARM in Standalone or in hosts that support it): macOS 12, 13 or 14 (latest update)

Windows 10 or 11 (latest Service Pack), Intel Core i5 or equivalent CPU

Graphics hardware support for Direct 3D 11.1 (Feature Level 11_0) or higher

4 GB RAM (6 GB recommended for large Kontakt Instruments)

Quick Overview

The Main Page offers direct access to the most important functions. At the heart of Slower are the presets, accessible via the browser (top left) and the four different tape machines (bottom row).
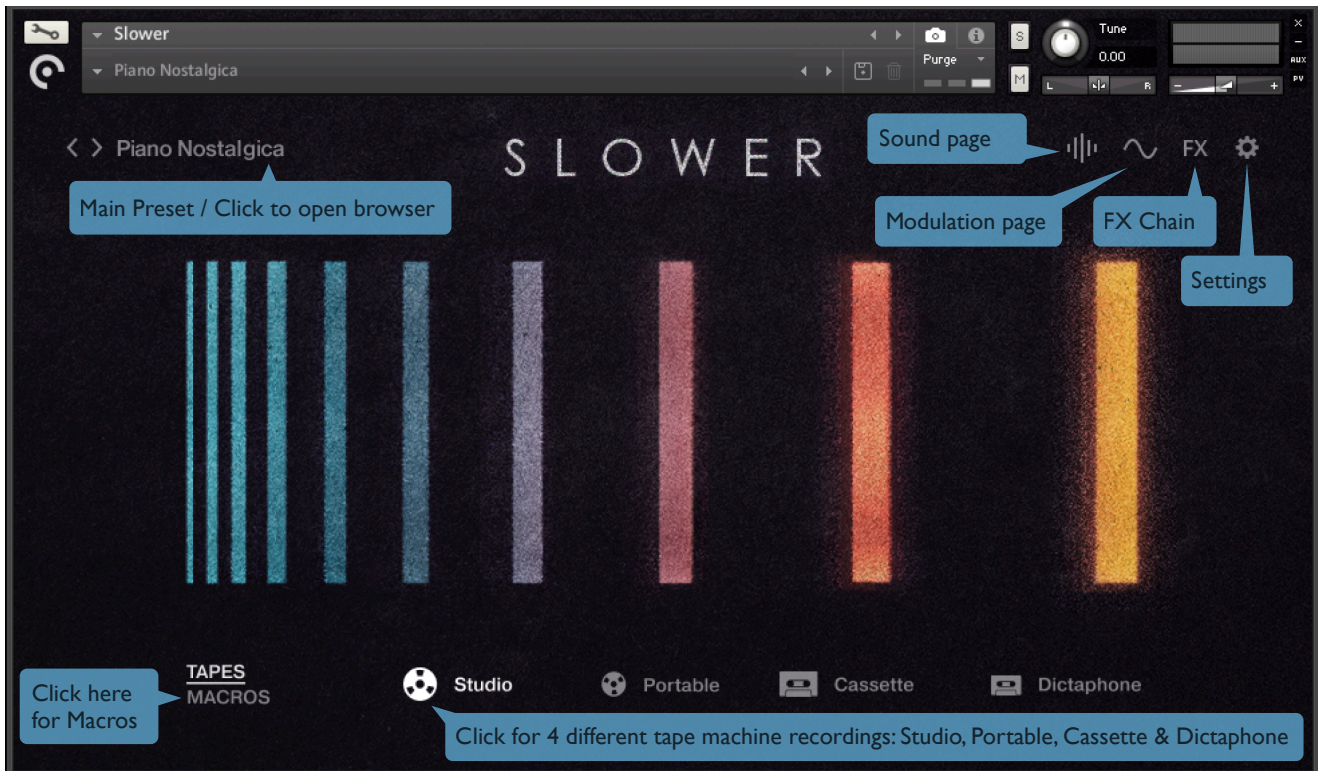
From this page you can also access…

- Macros : 3 per preset in different flavours each time

- Sound page : Source sound selection and parameters / Amp Envelope / Noise & Wobble

- Modulation page : Two LFOs / Mod Envelope / Step Sequencer

- FX Chain Page : 27 FX in a chain of 5

- Settings Page : Pitch Bend / Velocity Curve / Key Range

Main Preset Browser

Slower comes with 230 Main Presets, all expertly designed to evoke certain moods and characters. A main preset consists of a sound source, the selected tape machine, macro and modulation assignments and an FX chain.

The Main Presets are organised with a tagging system in the Main Preset Browser. Here you'll find inspiring presets, classified into different categories, with 4 distinct types of tags…

INSTRUMENT

These are the different sound sources that have been captured for Slower. From Grand Pianos to Electric Guitars, from shimmering synths, to unusual rarities and everything in between. Bear in mind that due to both the transformative nature of the tape machines used, and the under-the-hood processing, instruments won't sound as you might expect them to in more traditional sample libraries. A full list of all the articulations and descriptions is outlined within the Appendix.

MACHINE

With Slower, you gain access to four different tape machine types. Each offers unique audio qualities and characteristics. From the subtle warmth and fidelity of the Studer A812 High-End open reel to reel recorder to the lo-fi crunch of the Sony M650v Dictaphone, these machines provide a range of vibes and moods. This variety allows you to explore and experiment with different tape flavours, giving you the flexibility to find the perfect sound for your productions.

Studio: Studer A812 and Revox PR99 - large open reel to reel

Portable: Uher 4400 Report IC and Uher 4400 Report Monitor - small reel to reel

Cassette: Tascam Portastudio 424mkiii - standard cassette

Dictaphone: Sony M650v dictaphone - micro cassette

MOOD & CHARACTER

The sounds themselves, the type of tape used and the macros, modulation and FX all contribute to the Mood and Character of the presets. From bright pianos to pulsating synths, feel free to explore the different timbres and vibes of the presets - and then tweak them to your needs.

Macros

The 3 macros have different feature sets per preset and can be fully customised, edited, and even renamed. Depending on the preset a macro may dial in some extra tape wobble, noise or modulation. Macros can also add space by dialling in reverbs and delays. Often a macro is assigned to a variety of simultaneous controls via a complex modulation matrix.
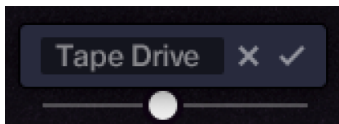
Presets that you choose via the main browser already have macro assignments set up, along with appropriate names. However, you can easily change these assignments via the Modulation and FX windows. Double click a macro name to rename it.

Sound Page

INSTRUMENT

Click here to get to the Instrument / Sound Source browser and choose a sample set.

SOUND

Volume of the source sound, Panning, Tuning, Tightness (moves the sample start into the sample, in case you don't want to hear the natural attacks), Reverse (blends between forward playback on the left to reverse on the right), Reverse Tuning (tuning only of the reverse layer).

AMP ENV

This is a common ADSR (Attack, Decay, Sustain, Release) envelope. For example, increasing the Attack can be a simple and effective way to turn a piano sound into a pad.

SPECIAL

Noise: For each tape machine we recorded its distinctive noise, which can be dialled in with this knob if you prefer. The little knobs on the right (LP / HP) are low pass and high pass frequency filters for the noise layer.

Wobble: Emulates the Wow and Flutter of tape machines. Depending on your chosen tape machine, you may hear wow and flutter baked-in to the samples, but if you want to add some extra tape pitch modulation, this is the control for you.

Note: For more granular control over any parameter knob / slider, hold the shift key whilst you drag with your mouse. This will enable you to fine-tune values in a more detailed way. For the Tune and Rev Tune dials, this will allow tuning in cents, rather than the normal semitones. Click on a knob to see the values displayed.

Cmd click on any control or knob to return to the default value.

Below Is an image of the Instrument Browser. We recorded 65 Instruments (or sound sources). Most are self-explanatory, apart from Processed, where you'll find sounds which are processed with FX before the Tape re-recording. For example, "Piano Cloud", which employs a baked-in granular delay effect. You'll find a complete list of the instruments in the appendix.
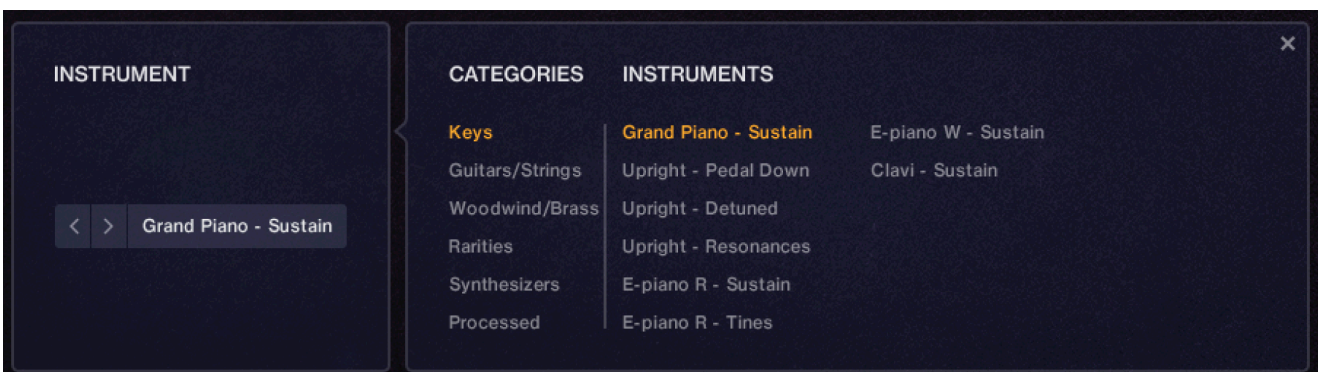
Modulation Page

The left tab (LFO & ENV) of the Modulation Page gives you access to two LFOs and a Modulation Envelope (ADSR). Click on the LFO shape to access the LFO type browser.

RETRIGGER

When activated, the Retrigger button will ensure that the LFO playback begins from the same point each time you press a key. This can make for more consistent and predicable playback.

FADE IN

The Fade In dial determines how long the LFO takes to fade in after a note is triggered. The LFO depth will be steadily increased during the set fade in time.

RATE

The LFO rate parameter (sometimes called speed) is how frequently the LFO oscillation occurs. The little note symbol next to a Rate knob indicates that the LFO rate is synced to the host. Click on it to set it to Hz if you prefer.
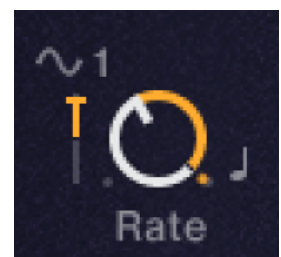
Modulation Sources

On the left side of the LFO rate knobs (and lots of other knobs with Slower) the connection to other modulation sources are displayed. Click on the three dots to open the Modulation Source Browser where you can choose to have the currently selected parameter modulated by one of these sources:

None, Macro 1 (circle symbol), Macro 2 (triangle symbol), Macro 3 (square symbol) (note: the macro names vary per preset, the symbols stay the same), LFO1, LFO2, Modulation Envelope, Step Modulator, Mod wheel, Aftertouch or Keytrack.


Understanding Modulation

Once a modulation source has been chosen for a parameter, there are a few editable values that will affect how modulation is applied to that parameter. Set the parameter knob to a default value, and the slider on the left to modulation range; upper half positive, lower half negative from the knob value. The range of modulation will be displayed in orange, with an animated orange dot to show the modulation movement as a note plays.

Step Modulator

Another powerful modulation source is the Step Modulator. You can draw the values of up to 16 steps, or get inspired by some of the functions below.
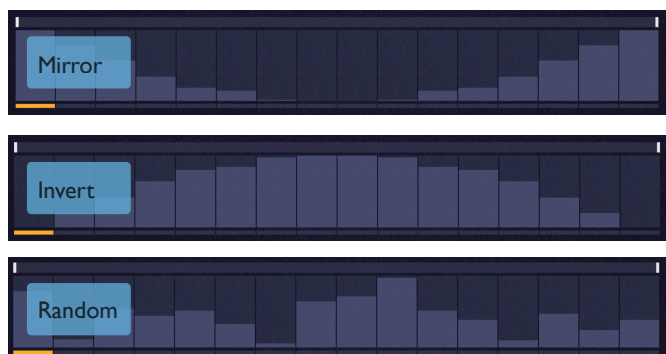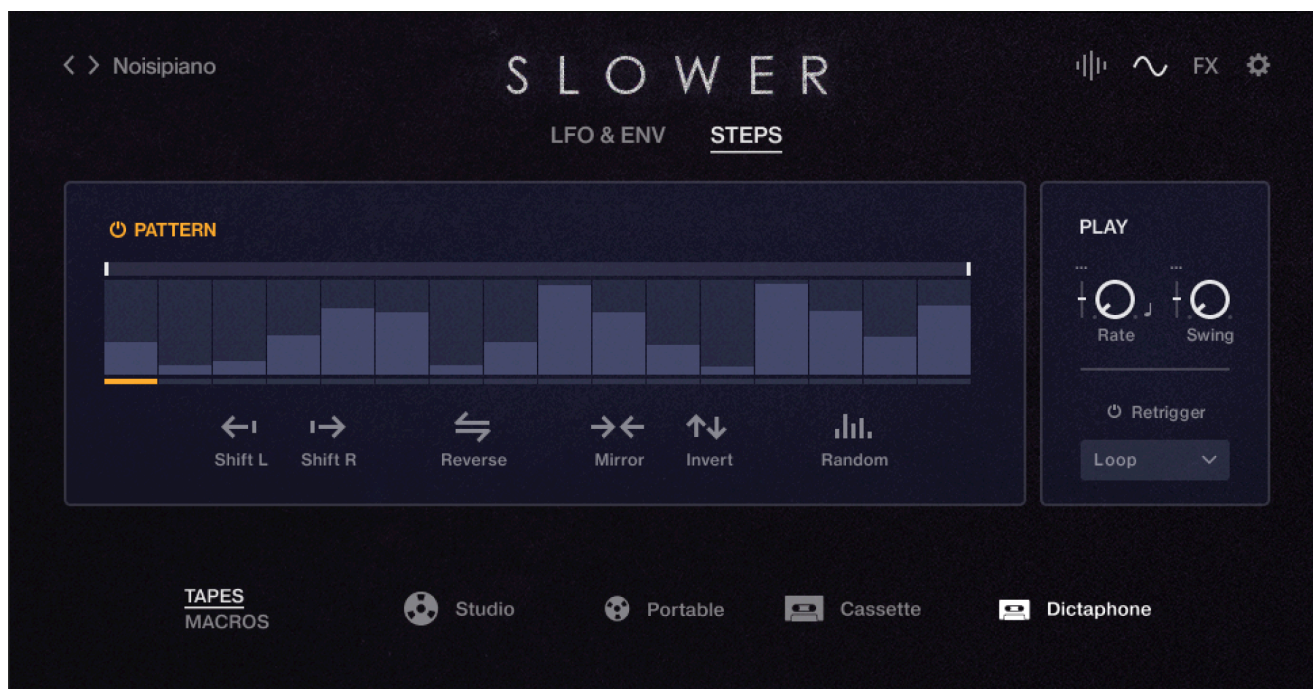
SHIFT L and SHIFT R shifts the pattern one step to the left or right.

REVERSE reverses the pattern.

MIRROR mirrors the pattern, from the centre outwards.

INVERT inverts the value of the steps.

RANDOM generates random patterns.

PLAY WINDOW

You set the speed of the pattern grid here (set it to "synced to host" or "Hz" by clicking on the note symbol). You can also dictate the swing amount.

You can set the length of the pattern by dragging the Loop Indicator at the top of the step sequence grid and pick from 3 different Loop modes.

Loop: loops as long as you press a key

Latch: The loop will run independently from pressed keys (exception: if Retrigger is switched on).

One Shot: will play the pattern only once (for every key on).
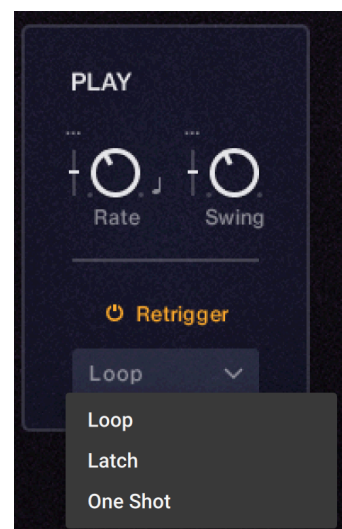
FX Chain Page

Each Preset that you load already has a dedicated FX chain preset already set up, with up to 5 loaded FX. Many of the FX parameters will already come with pre-assigned modulation sources; 3 macros, Mod Wheel, LFOs, Envelopes, Step Sequencer, Velocity, Aftertouch and Keytrack. These modulation sources can be clicked to reassign. To easily change the order of FX in the chain, drag them left and right with the small 4-line icon. Click a magnifier to open an FX browser.

If you want to switch off all FX to audition the sounds without any transformations, you can use the Effects on/off toggle at the upper left side of the interface. Additionally, you can deactivate individual FX with the power button for each.

Slot FX Browser

You can open any FX slot to dial in lush delays, reverbs and other selected outboard FX. By clicking on the magnifier button of each FX slot, you will get to this browser, where you will find a selection of additional FX to audition and add to the chain. These are named as descriptively as possible for ease of identification.

Choose up to five single Slot FX and create your own FX chain, then save the patch via snapshot, along with the NKI or with the DAW project.

Most of the FX are self-explanatory with parameters that should be familiar to you. All will have suitable parameters available to tweak or to assign to macros / modulation.

Settings

Use this menu to set some global parameters of Slower.
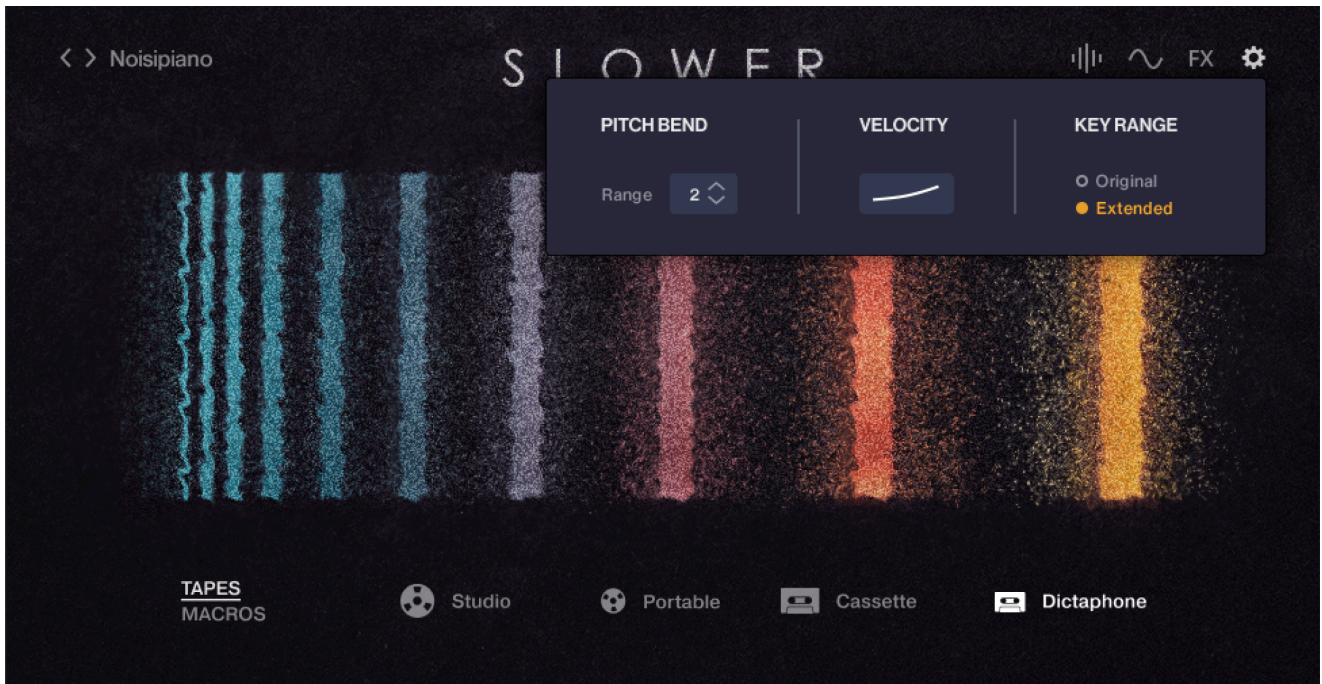
Set the Pitch Bend range to up to 12 semitones. Drag to change the Velocity Curve to suit different playing styles. Extend or narrow the Key Range. For any given instrument (or source sound) this will map the highest sample up to MIDI C7 and the lowest sample to MIDI A-2. You can also select Original Key Range to limit all presets and sound sources to the natural tonal range. This feature maybe useful in some cases or sound a little strange in others - that's half the fun!

Playing Slower

The basic method of playing Slower is very simple, just press a key in the blue key range - from MIDI A-1 to MIDI C7.
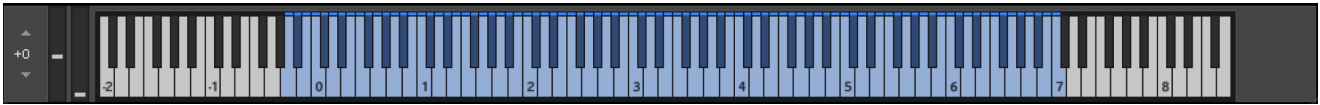
There are plenty of dynamics captured, so be sure to play with a range of velocities to hear the entire dynamic range of the instruments. MIDI CC11 (Expression) controls volume by default.

Press a sustain pedal to hold the notes.

The pitch bend range for all presets is two semitones, but this can be changed in the settings menu from 0 to 12.

Mod Wheel behaviour varies, depending on the patch. It can be assigned as a modulation source to almost any parameter.

Native Instruments Komplete Kontrol

Slower is designed to integrate seamlessly with Native Instruments Komplete Kontrol keyboards. If you are a user of one of these controller keyboards you can make use of all the features and functions that come with the NKS standard, which include:

Key lights on your keyboard showing the corresponding colours of the playable ranges, audio previews and graphical displays. In addition, the rotary controls of your keyboard will be automatically assigned to the most commonly used functions within Slower.

There are also some great accessibility features built in that make using the instrument from your NI keyboard that much more intuitive and fun!

Tips & Tricks

- Slower is very different to traditional instrument libraries, enabling you to play transformed and evolving sounds right out of the box. Make sure to experiment with the different presets to find sounds that are right for you.

- For any sound, you have the option of choosing between the 4 different layers of tape degradation: Studio, Portable, Cassette and Dictaphone. Toggle these different layers to find your perfect sound.

- Each tape machine has a unique noise profile. Dial noise in with the Noise knob in the SPECIAL window and use the low and high pass filters to shape the sound.

- Source sounds can be totally different when played backwards. Crank up the Reverse dial in the SOUND window to hear the difference.

- Don't forget to make liberal use of your keyboard's Mod Wheel. Depending on the preset or your own assignments, it can be used to introduce wobble, noise, or blend between forward and reverse layers.

- If you enjoy the modulation / macro assignment of a preset, but want to hear that same processing on a different sound, use the INSTRUMENT browser in the first interface window to select an alternative source sound.

- Presets have 3 pre-assignment Macro controls, accessible from the bottom of the interface. These are unique to each preset and give you a quick and easy way to manipulate the sound.

- Hold the shift key to move any dial or slider in a more granular way.

- Cmd click on a knob to return to the default value.

- MIDI CC11 (Expression) controls volume by default.

- You can right-click on almost any dial within Slower to assign a MIDI CC controller. This is especially useful for the individual FX dials and macro dials, as it will give you a huge amount of flexibility to change effects settings during live playback.

Credits

Produced by e-instruments

Recorded by Thomas Koritke, Lars Dahlke, Andreas Rogge, Ivo Sloman

Sound Design / Sample Editing: Lars Dahlke, Sascha Haske, Dr. Florian Pfeifle, Thomas Koritke, Jackson Almond, Victor Morello, Bastiaan Barth (Solidtrax), Bigtone soundworks, Michael Gentner

Script Programming: Hadi El Hosri, Ivo Sloman, Tristan McGuire, Till Weinrich

Interface Design: Martin Bartsch, Voger Design

Project Management: Iain Horrocks

Product Marketing: Iain Horrocks, PJ Gibbs, Sebastian Nevermann, Reuben Cornell

Creative Design: Matt Amos, Voger Design

Manual: Reuben Cornell

Appendix - Sound Categories & Sources

CATEGORY	INSTRUMENTS / SOURCE SOUNDS
KEYS	Grand Piano - Sustain
	Upright Piano - Pedal Down
	Upright - Detuned
	Upright - Resonances
	E-piano R - Sustain
	E-piano R - Tines
	E-piano W - Sustain
	Clavi - Sustain
GUITARS / STRINGS	E- Guitar - Sustain
	E-Guitar - EBow
	E-Guitar - Harmonics
	E-Guitar - Feedback Swells
	Ac. Guitar - Sustain
	Strings - Sustain
	Strings - Pizzicato
	Cello - Sustain
	Cello - Sul Pont
	Viola - Harmonics
	Violin - Sul Tasto
	E-Bass - Sustain
WOODWIND / BRASS	Flute - Sustain
	Flute - Vibrato
	Flute - Flutter
	Alto Flute - Sustain
	Alto Flute - Vibrato
	Brass - Sustain
	Trumpet - Muted
	Flugelhorn - Sustain
	Trombone - Sustain
	Alto Sax - Sustain
	Baritone Sax - Sustain
RARITIES	Glockenspiel - Sustain
	Kalimba - Sustain
	Dulcimer - Sustain
	Dulcimer - EBow
	Dulcimer - Plucked
	Dulcimer - Riccochet
	Harmonium - Sustain
	Harmonium - Tremolo
SYNTHS	MG - Aliens
	MG - Dark Clouds
	MG - End Of Days
	MG - Stringz
	MG - Traveler
	OB - Romulus
	OB - Pretaped
	PP - MorphB
	PP - Wave Pad
	RD - Synth Strings
	Sawtooth
	Triangle
PROCESSED	Piano Cloud
	Upright Shimmer

	E-Piano Space
	E-Piano Bite The Dust
	Clavuitar
	Electric Guitar Post Rock
	Concert Guitar Tek
	Brass Haunted
	Brass QPAS
	Glockenspiel Space
	Kalimba In The Mist
	Dulcimer Frozen
	Harmonium Dirt
	Nervous Strings

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