VELVET

— GUITARS —

USER MANUAL

e-instruments

Table Of Contents

Velvet Guitars

Velvet Guitars elevates classic guitar tones with a warm, emotive glow. From gentle sustains to imaginative soundscapes such as toothbrush-played strings and bowed, evolving textures, it offers a uniquely emotional palette of sounds. With five signature guitars, two iconic amps, real spring reverb and expressive FX, Velvet transforms every idea into a rich and evocative creation.

Velvet Guitars captures a wide emotional and sonic spectrum, from soft, velvety tones to raw, cinematic textures that push the guitar beyond its traditional role. It's about warmth and depth, but also atmosphere, tension, and movement.

It offers familiar, soulful tones alongside distinctive articulations like shimmering harmonics, reversed swells, and textured feedback drifting through real amps and spring reverbs. These tones can sit at the heart of an intimate ballad or expand into sweeping cinematic soundscapes.

Every sound was recorded through real amps, real spring reverbs, and with creative performance techniques, resulting in tones that feel intimate or unsettling, nostalgic or otherworldly.

Velvet Guitars includes five distinct personalities, each tuned for warmth and color:

• Velvet Guitar - a classic semi-hollow icon, played with fingers and subtle vibrato.

• Mellow Baritone - a semi-hollow baritone with a thick, woody tone, played with a pick.

• Shimmer Guitar - a '60s-style solid-body offset with unmistakable jangle and a floating tremolo system.

• Semi Hollow - a non-traditional jazz guitar with a rich, rounded tone, played with an extra-thick pick.

• Amped Acoustic - a vintage acoustic recorded through a magnetic pickup and routed through the same two vintage amps as the electrics.

Together, these instruments offer a broad emotional spectrum while maintaining a cozy, velvety, and distinctive overall character.

Articulation options include sustains, mutes, dead notes, bowed and other experimental tones, slides, swells, tremolo, lush chords, random texture patches, and more. Each preset provides a blend of both vintage amps, with separate dry and wet versions so you can shape the amp tone and spring reverb to your liking.

We hope you have fun with these characterful guitar tones and can't wait to hear the music your product with Velvet Guitars,
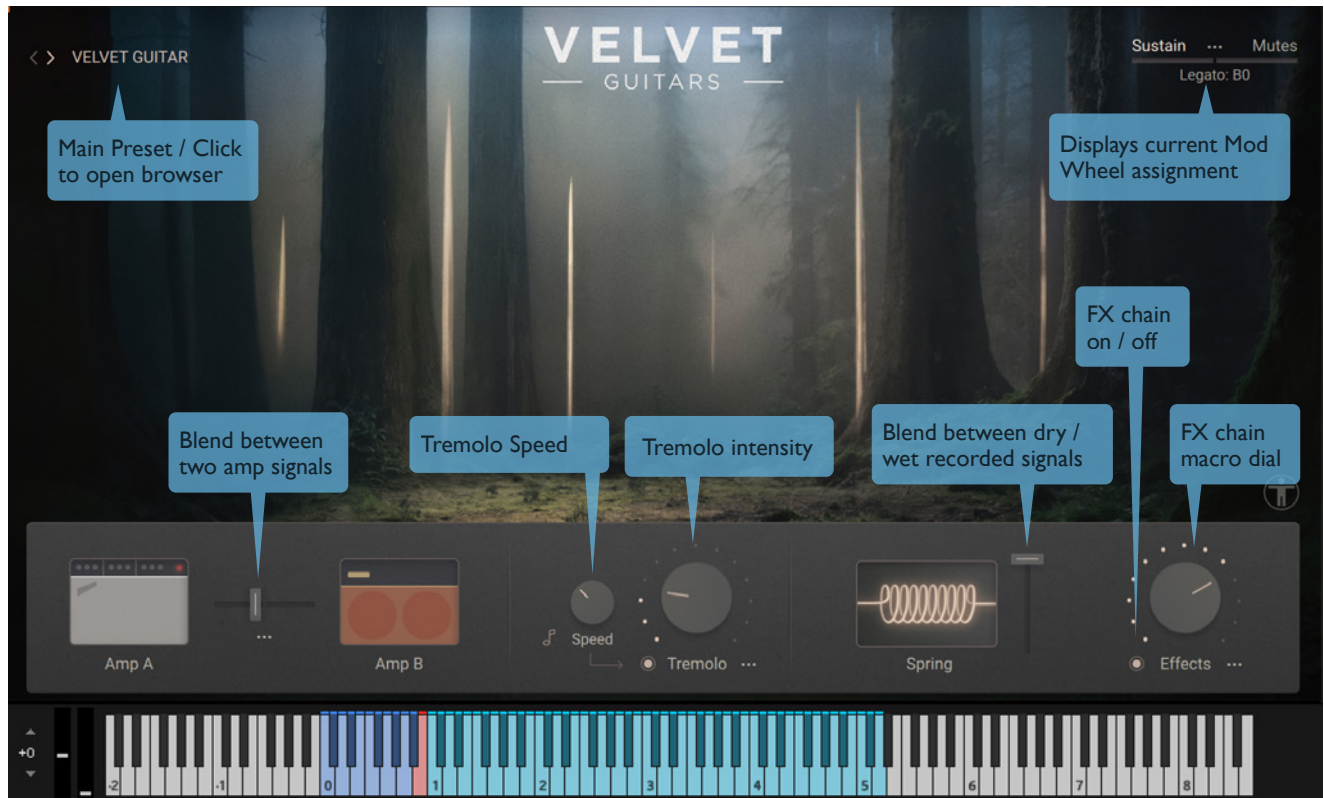

Velvet Guitars Production Team

Tech Specs

61,649 samples (34.7 GB sample content)

24 bit 48 kHz NCW format

One patch for Kontakt Player 8.5.1 or higher

Compatible with Komplete Kontrol and NKS 2

Quick Overview

All the most important controls of the interface are directly accessible on the Main Page…

- Amp blend slider

- Tremolo Speed

- Tremolo Depth

- Amount of Spring reverb: This blends between the dry and wet recorded signals.

- Effects Macro knob: A macro dial that controls multiple FX parameters of the FX chain. Global Effects On/Off button.

- Main Preset Browser: Upper left - with arrows can be used to step through those presets.

- Mod Wheel & Key Switch assignments: Upper right - showing pre-defined controls per-preset.

- The three dots open options pages for Amp Blend, Tremolo Types, Effects Page & Mod Wheel Settings.

It's important to remember that each preset blends between 4 recorded signals; 2 amps with and without real spring reverb.

So each note you play triggers actually plays 4 signals at once: Amp 1 dry / Amp 1 wet / Amp 2 dry / Amp 2 wet.
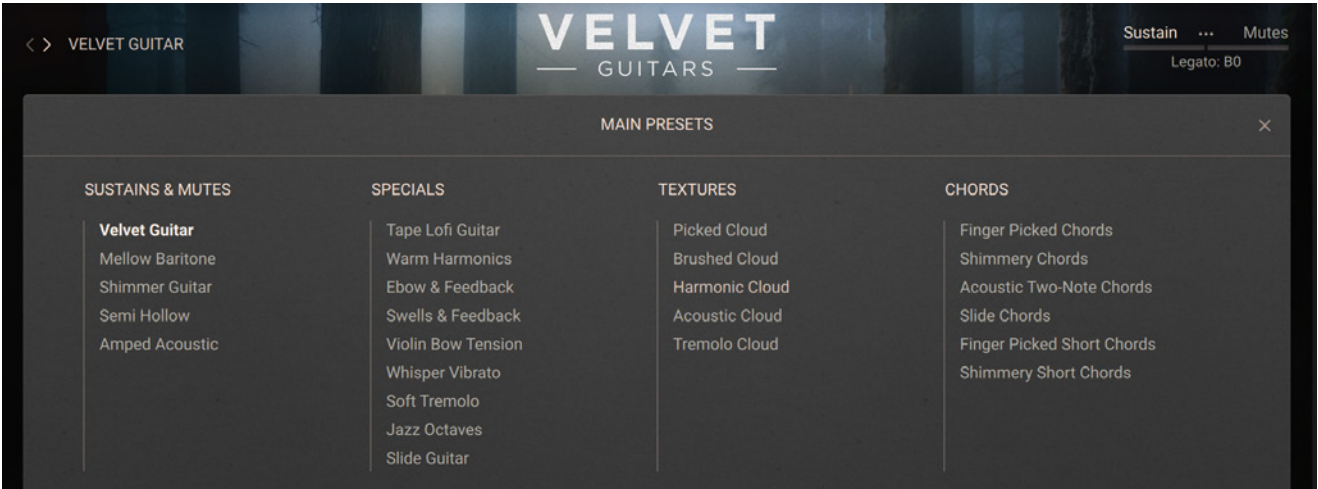
You can blend these 4 signals by using the amp-blend slider and the spring slider.

The Accessibility function increases the size of all values for improved readability.
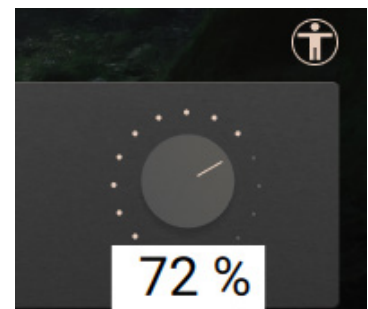
Preset Browser

Click to the upper left of the interface to access the preset browser.

Here you'll find authentic guitar presets, classified in 4 categories…

SUSTAINS & MUTES
These are the main patches, with Open Sustains, Mutes, Legato Transitions of our favourite guitars. All of the content is recorded with round robins and velocity layers. All of these patches come with Accents and Dead Notes mapped from C0 to Bb0.
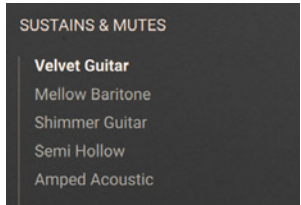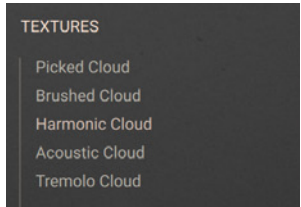

SPECIALS
Useful variations of guitar techniques including Harmonics, Feedback, Tremolo, Octaves and Slides. Alongside a variety of playback options including Ebow, Swells and Reverse.
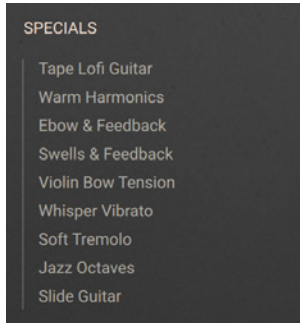
TEXTURES
Clouds of notes played with different guitars techniques (e.g. picked, toothbrush, tremolo) and pedals including options for Density, Tremolo and Reverse.

CHORDS
Various useful Chords Patches, recorded in major and minor for each key. Playing at different velocities will change the strum speed of the chord playback, along with the dynamics.
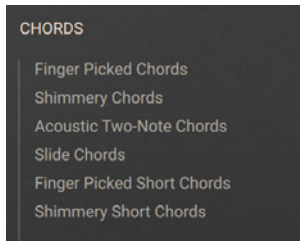

A full list of all the articulations and descriptions is outlined within the Appendix.

Mod Wheel & Key Switch Settings

The Main Presets come with different Mod Wheel and Key Switch settings per preset. The Mod Wheel is used as the main control parameter to playback different articulations playing styles. Each patch has their own specifically different, yet intuitively understandable Mod Wheel toggles for each patch. You may notice that patches have up to 4 different settings for the Mod Wheel, with the most complex ones for the Picked presets, enabling expressive blending through sample sets and picking performances.
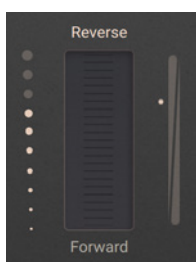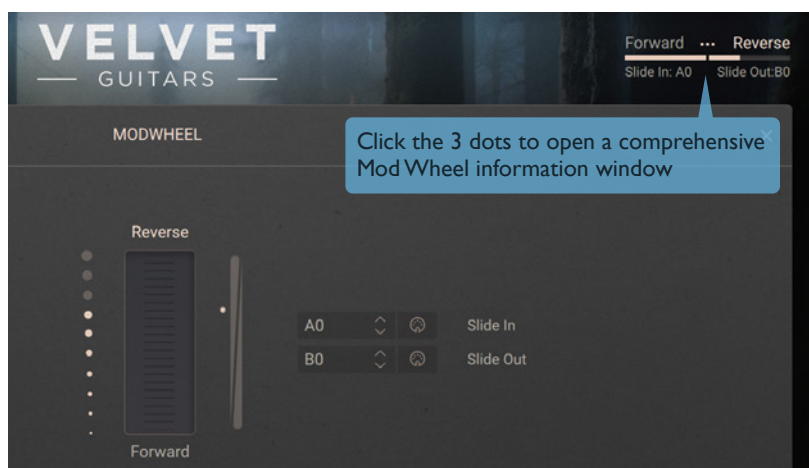
For example…
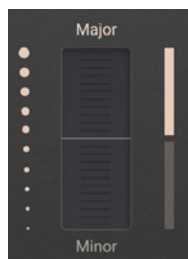
Chords and Textures: Major **<>** Minor
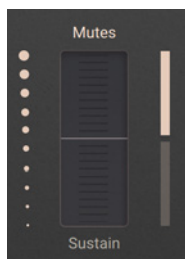
Sustains & Mutes: Open Sustain **<>** Muted

Specials: Reverse playback **<>** Forward playback

Any specific patch's Mod Wheel assignments is shown in summary at the top right of the main interface. Click the 3 dots to open a window that shows more comprehensive information about the Mod Wheel behaviour, along with any applicable Legato and Slide settings.

LEGATO is built in a way that you can play legato on one string, while another string is still ringing. This is achieved by holding down a Key Switch to engage Legato playing, set by default to MIDI B0. Drag the up / down arrows to set the legato Key Switch note. Alternatively, click the small MIDI icon to assign a note by pressing a key on your MIDI controller keyboard.

Here's one example of the usefulness of Legato mode: Play the open low E-String, let it ring, press the legato Key Switch and then play a Hammer On from A to B. For that reason, the Legato Key Switch works temporarily and not as a remaining switch. This means as long as it's pressed, you're in legato mode. Once you release the Key Switch you are back to polyphonic mode

If you prefer, you can set legato to a fixed mode by clicking the legato display on the upper right corner on the UI.
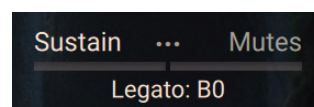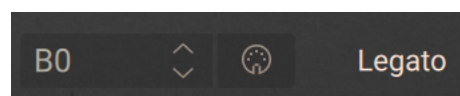
AVOID OPEN STRINGS: We recorded the Open Strings and their fingered alternative for all of the main sustain presets. If you want to have the Open Strings triggered, deactivate the button.
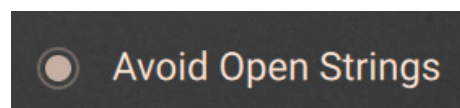
| MAIN PRESET NAME	MOD WHEEL	KEY SWITCH
SUSTAINS & MUTES		
Velvet Guitar	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Mellow Baritone	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato E1
Shimmer Guitar	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Semi Hollow	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Amped Acoustic	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
SPECIALS		
Tape Lofi Guitar	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Warm Harmonics	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Ebow & Feedback	Blends between Ebow / Feedback	-
Swells & Feedback	Blends between Swells / Feedback	-
Violin Bow Tension	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Whisper Vibrato	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Soft Tremolo	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Jazz Octaves	Blends between Forward / Reverse	Slide In D1 / Out E1
Slide Guitar	Blends between Forward / Reverse	Slide In A0 / Out B0
TEXTURES		
Picked Cloud	Blends between Calm / Random Picks / Reverse	-
Brushed Cloud	Blends between Calm / Random Picks / Tremolo	-
Harmonic Cloud	Blends between Calm / Medium / Fast / Reverse	-
Acoustic Cloud	Blends between Calm / Octaves / Busy / Reverse	-
Tremolo Cloud	Blends between Random / Random Trem / Reverse	-
CHORDS		
Finger Picked Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Shimmery Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Acoustic Two-Note Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Slide Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	Slide In A0 / Out B0
Finger Picked Short Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Shimmery Short Chords	Switches Minor/ Major	-

Amp Signal Blending

Combining the two recorded amp signals is a vital component of Velvet Guitars. The physical amp settings were carefully chosen individually per preset in the recording process. We tried to hit the sweet spot between having the two amps sounding different from one another but also working in an effective combination to give you multiple timbre choices. Each amp setting sounds great on its own, and in most cases, the blend between the amps sounds like kind of a blend from a reasonably 'clean' and bright sound, to a more wooden and crunchy setting.

Like other aspects of the library, click into the 3 small dots to adjust the panning of each amp, along with options for solo and mute.


In practice, we've found it most useful to have both amps centred (not panned at all) so that's what we've programmed with the majority of the presets.
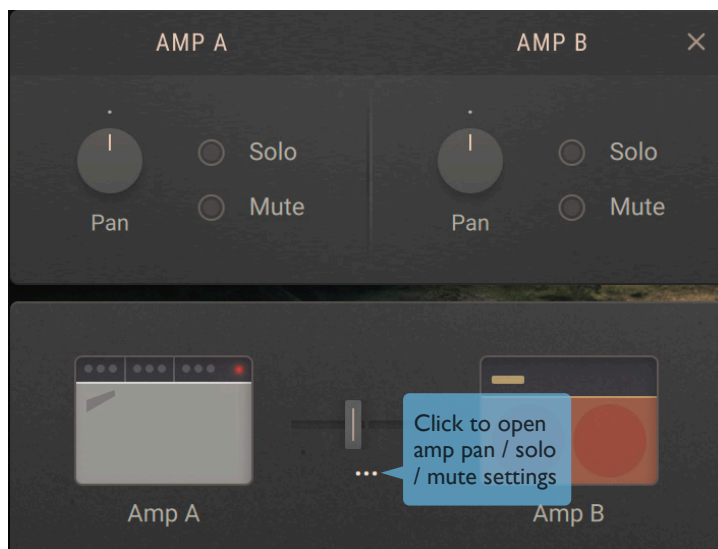
Tremolo

Every facet of Velvet Guitars focuses on the authenticity of the sound, right down to the tremolo including two genuine tremolos modelled from the vintage amps used. We painstakingly recreated these tremolos to offer an exact sound faithful to the originals, ensuring that your music carries the spirit of the classics. We've even taken tremolo options to the next level, by adding three extra tremolo styles inspired by popular pedals. It's all about giving you a diverse palette of tremolo effects to infuse character into your compositions.

In the spirit of modern convenience, we've also included sync-to-host functionality, providing you with the best of both analog heritage and digital convenience for seamless integration into your music production workflow.
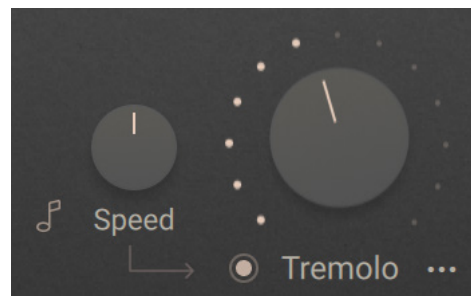
Click the little note symbol next to the speed knob to sync the tremolo to your DAW project.

Clicking the three dots on the right will open the Tremolo Type selection browser. In addition to the two modelled tremolo types from the amps we added some more modern ones to give some variety. There's also a vibrato, inspired by classic guitar FX pedals.
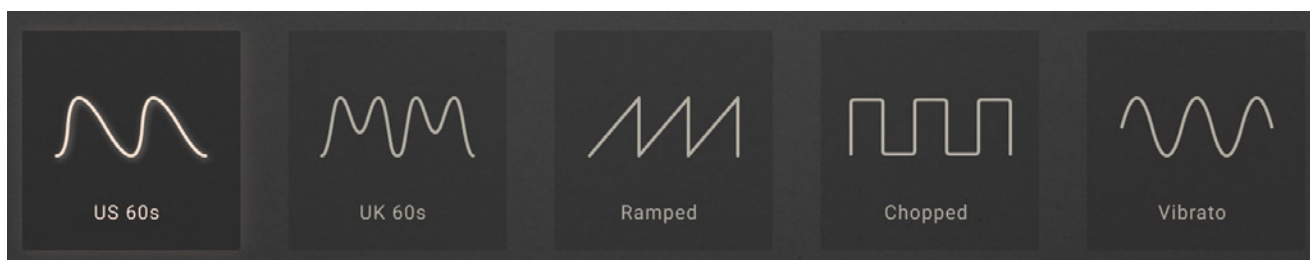
FX Chain Page

Each Preset comes up with a dedicated FX chain preset, which is connected to the Effects Macro knob on the bottom right on the interface. You can dial in lush delays, reverbs and other selected outboard FX with just that single button. Choose to select another FX chain preset from the browser, tweak it, or create your own bespoke FX chains.

To keep the Interface as straightforward and user-friendly as possible, we've omitted some of the possibilities to surgically tweak the parameters linked to the macro knob. However, you can easily deactivate the connection to the Effects Macro Knob by clicking the small arrow underneath a knob. It's also possible to change the starting point of a parameter if a preset macro connection is already set up - just move a knob.

To easily change the order of FX in the chain, drag them left and right with the small 6-dot icon.

By clicking on FX CHAIN PRESETS you will get to this browser, where you will find a selection of additional FX chain presets to audition. These are categorised and descriptively named to help you easily identify the characteristics of the processing.
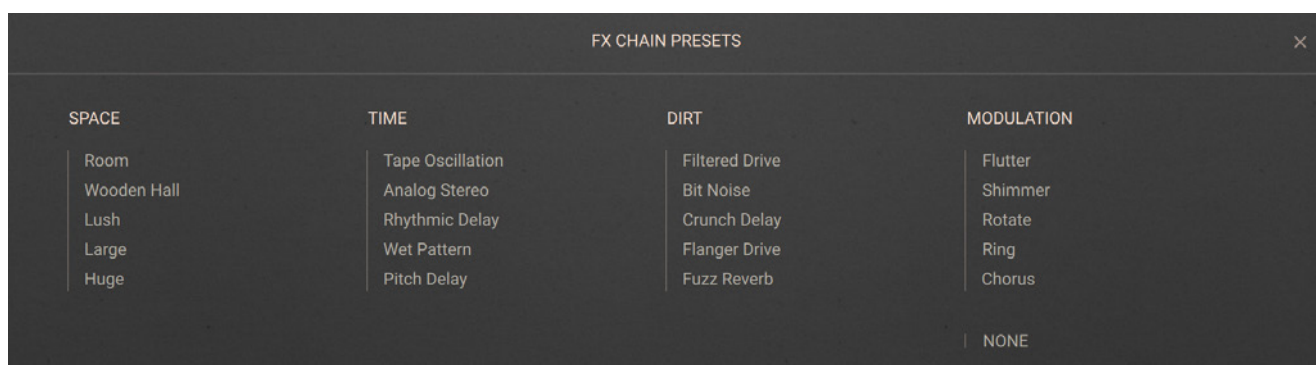
FX Chain Browser
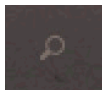
 Clicking the magnifying glass of an FX Slot will reveal the Slot FX Browser:
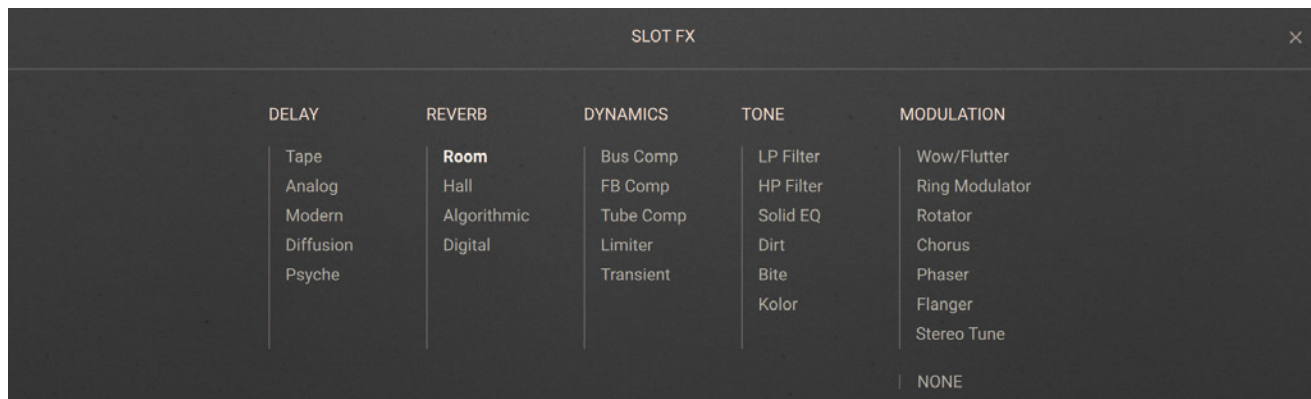
You can also pick up to six single Slot FX and create your own FX chain, save it via snapshot, along with the NKI or with the DAW project.

Most of the FX are self-explanatory with parameters that should be familiar to you. However, some of the FX have a raster knob on the left. In the example shown below, the raster knob will give you access to 7 different impulse responses of different sized halls. The halls become larger the more you turn up the knob.

Similar raster knobs are used for the following Slot FX: Room, Hall, Algorithmic, Digital & Grit
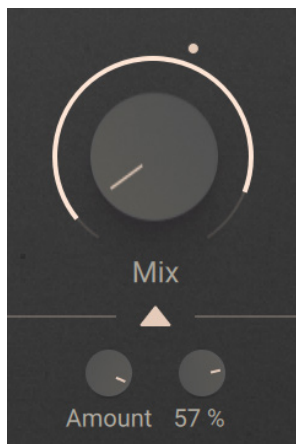
 The small arrows underneath some knobs can be clicked to reveal Amount and Curve settings for each of the parameters. These settings work in tandem with the Effects knob on the main page, so you can fine tune the range and response of the parameters as the Effects knob is moved.

Playing Velvet Guitars

The basic method of playing Velvet Guitars is very simple, just press a key in the light blue key range - usually the 4 octaves up from MIDI C1. You will find that a few patches contain slightly more or fewer notes, depending on the capabilities of the particular instrument sampled. The sustain presets also include dead notes and noises, which are usually mapped to the octave below the playable key range, and are coloured darker blue on the Kontakt interface keyboard.
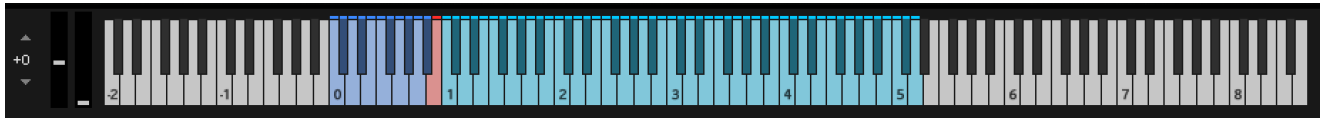

There are plenty of round robins and dynamics captured, so be sure to play with a range of velocities to hear the entire dynamic range of the instruments.

Press a sustain pedal to hold the notes.

The pitch bend range is one or two semitones, depending on what sounds most naturalistic for each patch.

Mod Wheel behaviour varies, depending on the patch - see this manual's Appendix for full details.

All of the Sustain & Mutes patches come with a number of useful Dead Notes mapped from C0-Bb0.

Some patches have a legato capability, triggered by a Key Switch. Using this will enable you to hear hammer-on and pull-off note variations.

Some patches have slide behaviour, triggered by a Key Switch - see this manual's Appendix for full details.

Native Instruments Komplete Kontrol

Velvet Guitars 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 and any applicable Key Switches, audio previews and graphical displays. In addition, the rotary controls of your keyboard will be automatically assigned to the most commonly used functions in Velvet Guitars

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

- Velvet Guitars is very different to traditional guitar libraries, enabling a great-sounding playable tone straight out of the box. Make sure to experiment with the different presets to find the sound that's right for you.

- For each preset, the two amps sound different. Choose Amp A or Amp B, or blend between them for different timbres. For a very wide sound, pan each left and right.

- Don't forget to make liberal use of your keyboard's Mod Wheel. Depending on the preset, it can be used to switch between articulations, change from major to minor chords, blend between forward and reverse layers, or change the picking speed.

- All of the Sustain & Mutes patches come with a number of useful Dead Notes mapped from C0 to Bb0.

- Tremolo models can be changed by clicking the 3 dots next to the 'Tremolo' legend. Find one that's right for your you and then tweak it with the Speed and Intensity dials. You can match the Speed to your DAW's BPM by clicking the little note icon.

- Spring reverb is not modelled in Kontakt, it was sampled completely independently for each guitar, preset and amp. This makes it 100% real - so dial it in with the Spring fader for authentic spacial effects.

- The Effects dial is a macro control, changing several parameters at once. To enable / disable a specific parameter of an effect in the chain, open the FX Chain Presets window and click the small arrow underneath a dial, adjusting the Amount and Curve values.

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

Credits

Musicians Lars Dahlke

Recorded by Lars Dahlke, Thomas Koritke

Product Design by Lars Dahlke

Sound Design / Sample Editing: Lars Dahlke, Sascha Haske, Dr. Florian Pfeifle, Thomas Koritke,

KSP Script Programming: Matt Pike

KUI Script Programming: Hadi El Hosri

Interface Design: Resonant Design,

Product Marketing: PJ Gibbs

Manual: Reuben Cornell

Appendix - Articulation Information

PRESET NAME	ARTICULATION INFO	MOD WHEEL	KEY SWITCH DESCRIPTION
SUSTAINS & MUTES	All the Sustain & Mutes patches come with Dead Notes and accents mapped from C0- to Bb0.		
Velvet Guitar	Open Sustain and Mutes played with Fingers on an vintage Semi Hollow Guitar with decent vibrato.	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Mellow Baritone	Open Sustain and Mutes played on a Semi Hollow Baritone Guitar with decent vibrato.	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato E1
Shimmer Guitar	Open Sustain and Mutes played on an „offset guitar".	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Semi Hollow	Open Sustain and Mutes played on a different vintage Semi Hollow Guitar.	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
Amped Acoustic	Open Sustain and Mutes played on a rare vintage Acoustic Guitar with a boutique magnetic pick up.	Switches Open Sustains / Mutes	Legato B0
SPECIALS			
Tape Lofi Guitar	Another articulation of the „offset guitar" recorded on slightly worn tape, played back at half speed.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Warm Harmonics	Harmonics played chromatically on a semi hollow.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Ebow & Feedback	Played carefully with an E-bow on a Semi hollow.	Blends between Ebow / Feedback	-
Swells & Feedback	Swells on yet another semi hollow guitar.	Blends between Swells / Feedback	-
Violin Bow Tension	Played with a real violin bow on an Electric Bass for the lower range and a Semi hollow for the upper.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Whisper Vibrato	Played with strong vibrato of the left hand only. The highest notes are played using a coin on the string.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Soft Tremolo	Tremolo played with a soft pick on a fat Semi Hollow.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	-
Jazz Octaves	Played octaves with the thumb on a Jazz Guitar.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	Slide In D1 / Out E1
Slide Guitar	Played on a boutique Lap Steel. With Slide In and Outs.	Blends between Forward / Reverse	Slide In A1 / Out B0
TEXTURES	All the cloud patches blend between 3-4 layers of varying musical densities for endless and ever evolving textures.		
Picked Cloud	Randomly picked notes on a Semi Hollow.	Blends between Calm / Random Picks / Reverse	-

Brushed Cloud	Played with a toothbrush on an „offset guitar".	Blends between Calm / Random Picks / Tremolo	-
Harmonic Cloud	Randomly picked Harminics on a Semi Hollow.	Blends between Calm / Medium / Fast / Reverse	-
Acoustic Cloud	Randomly picked notes and octaves on a vintage Acoustic.	Blends between Calm / Octaves / Busy / Reverse	-
Tremolo Cloud	Random Tremolo on a Jazz Guitar.	Blends between Random / Random Trem / Reverse	-
CHORDS			
Finger Picked Chords	3 Inversions of major and minor chords played with fingers on a Semi Hollow.	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Shimmery Chords	3 Inversions of major and minor chords played with pick on a bright offset guitar.	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Acoustic Two-Note Chords	3 Inversions of major and minor decimal chords (played on 2 strings only:root plus the third one octave above) Played on a vintage Acoustic Guitar.	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Slide Chords	3 Inversions of major and minor chords played with fingers on a Lap Steel Guitar, also with Slide In and Outs.	Switches Minor/ Major	Slide In A1 / Out B0
Finger Picked Short Chords	3 Inversions of short major and minor chords played with fingers on a Semi Hollow.	Switches Minor/ Major	-
Shimmery Short Chords	3 Inversions of short major and minor chords played with pick on a bright offset guitar.	Switches Minor/ Major	-

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