

Indie Melodica



User Guide

Table of Contents

Installation.....	2
Step 1: Extract the ZIP File.....	2
Step 2: Activate Through Native Access.....	2
Step 3: Load in KONTAKT.....	2
KONTAKT Sample Library Organization	3
What's Under The Hood?.....	4
Interface	5
Dynamic.....	5
Expression.....	6
Key Noises	6
Velocity > Attack Speed.....	6
Polyphony > Volume Reduction	6
Credits	8
Contact	9



Installation

Step 1: Extract the ZIP File

The first thing you need to do after downloading the ZIP file from your account on the Orange Tree Samples website is to extract Indie Melodica. Both Windows and macOS can natively extract ZIP files without requiring other software. The entire library is self-contained within this ZIP file, so you can always move the folder afterward to relocate the library anywhere you like.

Step 2: Activate Through Native Access

After the library has been extracted, it needs to be activated using the Native Access application.

Run Native Access and log into your Native Instruments account, registering an account if necessary. Next, click the "Add a serial" button and enter your serial number for Indie Melodica, which can be found in your account on the Orange Tree Samples website.

Afterward, click the "Locate" button next to Indie Melodica's listing in Native Access and then click the "Choose a location" button, which lets you browse to the library's folder. That way Native Access knows where you've installed the library. In this case, you'll need to select the main "Indie Melodica" folder.

Note: If you ever move the library's folder after it's been activated, you'll need to re-open Native Access to update its records about where the library's folder is located. Afterward, Native Access automatically relays this information to software like KONTAKT, Komplete Kontrol, and Maschine.

Step 3: Load in KONTAKT

Next, launch the KONTAKT plugin or standalone application. On the left side of KONTAKT's window, navigate to the "Libraries" tab, which lists all the KONTAKT Player libraries you own, and find the listing for Indie Melodica. After clicking on the "Instruments" button, double-click on the "Indie Melodica.nki" instrument.



After the instrument finishes loading, you're ready to play Indie Melodica!

KONTAKT Sample Library Organization

As your collection of KONTAKT libraries expands, it's important to keep them organized. For example, keep them all within a main "KONTAKT Sample Libraries" folder rather than scattered around your hard drive. Backing up the installation files for your sample libraries is also a good idea, although you'll always be able to re-download the library from your account on the Orange Tree Samples website if necessary.

The next step in organizing your sample libraries is in KONTAKT itself. One of the benefits of storing your sample libraries all in the same place is that it makes finding them faster when manually loading them. For KONTAKT Player instruments such as this one, the "Libraries" panel acts as a useful shortcut to access your libraries. However, bear in mind that this section is limited to KONTAKT Player libraries only.

Another convenient way to access your KONTAKT libraries is by adding them to the Quick Load panel. This allows you to create shortcuts to your libraries, sorted into any folder/subfolder arrangement you wish. The Quick Load panel can be quickly accessed with a single right-click in any empty area of the multi-rack (the large portion of KONTAKT's interface that displays the loaded instruments), or by clicking on the "Quickload" option available in KONTAKT's panel menu (the icon of three small rectangles in the top center of the interface). To load an instrument from the Quick Load panel, simply double-click on the patch you wish to load, or drag it into KONTAKT's multi-rack.



What's Under The Hood?

In order to capture the dynamic range of the melodica, we sampled the instrument's sustains at three dynamics. These samples were then phase-locked, so that you can smoothly morph between the dynamics without encountering any issues such as phase cancellation or chorusing.

In addition to the natural three octave range, we stretched the melodica's samples to the remaining range of the keyboard. That way, you can still access notes outside of the main playing range if needed, even if it's beyond the actual range of the instrument.

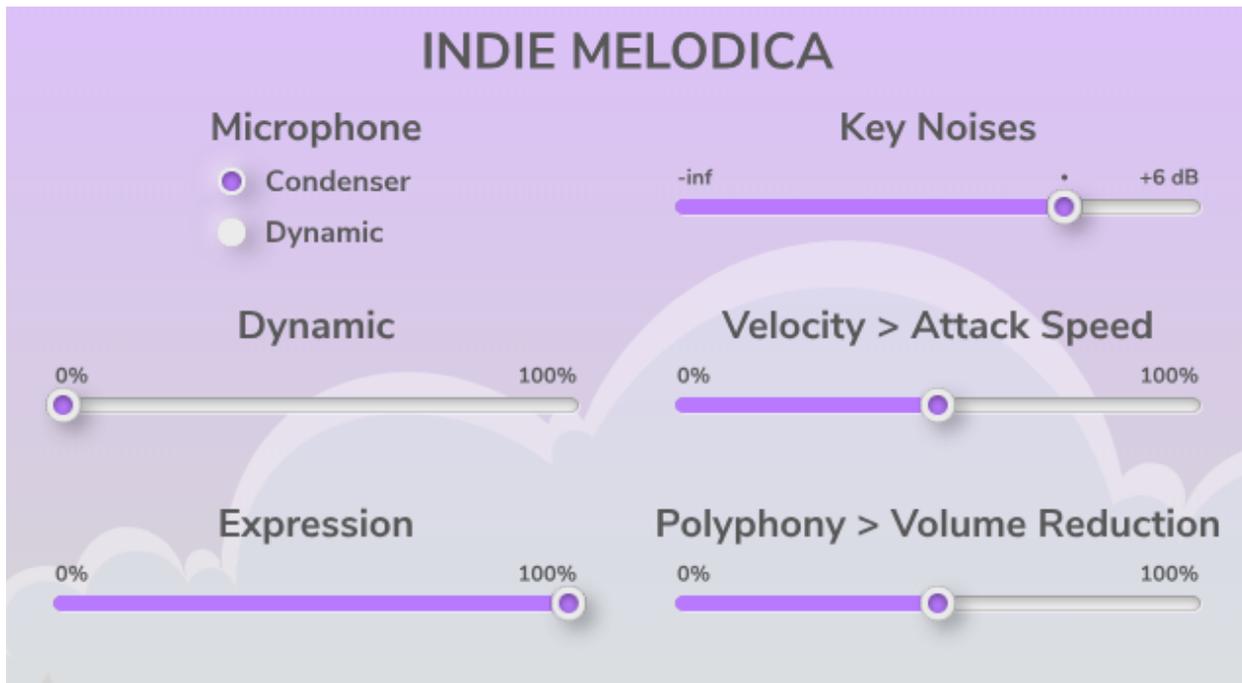
Although we sampled the melodica in a dry vocal booth, and the releases are fairly prompt on the melodica, there's still some subtle resonance that happens within the instrument right after releasing a note. We've included release samples to capture these nuances. If you need a slower release sound, gently fading the end of a note instead, a combination of the dynamic and/or expression controls can be utilized.

Finally, another detail that's included in the library are the key noises. Recorded at several dynamics, these happen independently of the instrument's sustained dynamic, based solely on the velocities of the MIDI notes. While subtle, the key noises add a slight percussiveness to the attacks of notes.



Interface

Indie Melodica's interface offers a variety of settings to alter the sound and playability of the instrument.



Microphone

Allows you to select between condenser and dynamic microphone options. The melodica was close miked in a dry vocal booth, so the microphone selection primarily offers a subtle tonal difference rather than capturing the sound of the room differently, for example.

Dynamic

Morphs in between the dynamic layers, a control which is best automated to a MIDI CC for real-time performance. Automated to the mod wheel (CC #1) by default.



Expression

Provides real-time control over the volume of the melodica, independent of the dynamic morphing. The control is automated to CC #11 by default, as is traditional with the expression parameter.

Key Noises

Boosts or attenuates the key press and release noises. At a value of -inf, the key noises are completely disabled, while 0 dB is the as-recorded volume. This position is marked with a small dot above the slider, and is also the default value for the slider when it is reset. However, we also allow you to boost the volume of these key noises up to +6 dB in case you want to accentuate these sounds.

Velocity > Attack Speed

Adjusts the amount that the velocity affects the speed of the attack. At higher values, playing soft velocities will have a slower attack while playing loudly will provide a more immediate attack. At 0%, the attack speed is set to a constant, prompt speed that works well for more agile playing. It's best to dial in this setting by ear, based on what provides the best sounding results.

Polyphony > Volume Reduction

When playing a real melodica, the more keys you hold simultaneously, the lower the dynamic naturally becomes. This is due to how the airflow gets divided between the reeds with multiple keys held. This setting allows you to adjust the amount of volume/dynamic reduction, from 0% completely disabling this effect to 100% emulating the effect to an exaggerated degree.



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Credits

Greg Schlaepfer

Scripting, graphics, melodica performance

Elan Hickler

Audio processing



Contact

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