

Signor Paganini 1.0

Virtuoso Solo Violin Instrument for Kontakt

PRODUCT MANUAL



Introduction

Thank you for purchasing *Signor Paganini Solo Violin*. We are confident that the instrument offers the most natural and realistically responsive articulations available for spiccato, staccato, and other short-articulation applications.

Inspired by virtuoso violinists of the past, Signor Paganini is the ultimate Solo Violin spiccato/staccato library. Designed by Emmy Award-Winning composer and producer, Garth Neustadter, Signor Paganini defines a new level of realism in virtual solo string instruments.

Signor Paganini is the only virtual solo violin that can convincingly execute extremely fast playing with ease. Unlike any other virtual solo string instrument, the Kontakt interface allows users to apply EQ controls to each individual string, creating unsurpassed abilities for tonal and timbral shaping.

Ideal for film and classical applications, Signor Paganini Solo Violin was patterned after one of the most famous Stradivari violins created: the 1727 "Paganini" Strad. Virtuoso violinist, Nicolò Paganini, purchased the instrument in 1817 for a mere \$128. The instrument is now worth over 5 million dollars! Possessing a brilliant and strong tone accurately emulated by the virtual instrument, Paganini himself declared, "This violin has a tone as big as a double bass; never will I part with it as long as I live." He never did.

Featuring an extended sampled range almost an octave beyond similar solo violin sample libraries, the designers of Signor Paganini sought to retain many of the subtle nuances and "auditory cues" that define the performance of a great virtuoso violinist, from subtle attack sounds to natural releases.

Version 1.0 includes a single patch that focuses exclusively on spiccato, staccato, and ricochet articulations. Unlike other libraries, Signor Paganini truly captures the full dynamic range of a solo violin performances, from light sautillé bowings to heavy spiccato attacks, with 13 velocity layers.

Customers who purchase Version 1.0 will be automatically be eligible for free future upgrades and updates. Note that Signor Paganini 1.0 contains one performance articulation patch and no round-robins.

Installation

After unzipping the download file, copy the entire "Signor Paganini Solo Violin" folder to your sample directory. Make sure you keep the folder structure as it is, so that the Kontakt instrument can find its samples. Within Kontakt, under the "Files" tab, navigate to the Signor Paganini Solo Violin folder and open the "Signor Paganini Solo Violin.nki" instrument patch found within.

Quick Start Guide & Tips

Signor Paganini has greater *true* dynamic range than most solo violin libraries. It is imperative that your controller is accurately calibrated in order to achieve the best dynamic range and natural response. With many controllers, you may find that you can achieve more natural results by playing the instrument at lower velocities than typical and increasing the overall volume of the instrument to compensate. You might also experiment with your DAW's midi (not audio) input compressor to imitate the dynamic response of a real violin more closely.

Unlike many samples libraries, the designers of Signor Paganini preserved a great amount of high-frequency detail in the samples, identical to the frequency response of the Stradivari instrument on which it is based. Because of this, users may find the instrument to be "brighter" than desired upon initial use. However, because these high-frequency details are maintained, the instrument responds very well when filtered through EQ and has greater "pull" and natural response when filtered through reverb algorithms.

The range of Signor Paganini Solo Violin is from G2-E6. For your convenience, the E6 samples have been extrapolated to extend to G6. The instrument includes 13 velocity layers/note which was found to be the most natural in terms of playability and realism.

Users may find the onset or "attack" response time of the Signor Paganini samples to be slightly longer than typical libraries. This extended response time produces a more realistic onset, but may cause the instrument to sound "delayed" or behind the beat when quantized to a grid. It is recommended that you either manually move your midi data after quantizing to slightly anticipate the beat, or use your DAW's built-in midi delay compensation plugin to calibrate the samples to your liking.

Quick Start Guide & Tips

Signor Paganini does not have Kontakt's "release time" controls enabled by default, as they are not necessary in producing the most realistic results with short samples. For more experimental applications, you may wish to enable these within Kontakt's controls.

Although the reverb preset included with Signor Paganini is optimized for the instrument, many users will achieve superior results by bypassing Kontakt's internal reverb and utilizing a higher-quality 3rd-party reverb algorithm. Depending on the external reverb algorithm used, it may be useful to modify Signor Paganini's master "HF Rolloff" filter to more realistically place the instrument in your desired acoustical space. Increased realism may be achieved by using a 3rd-party Stereo Imaging plugin to imitate the natural stereo width of a violin within a real acoustical space.

Unparalleled tonal results and creativity can be achieved by using Signor Paganini's individual string EQ controls. The most realistic results are achieved by using these controls with subtle moderation. Adjusting the make-up gain "volume" control for each string is necessary to achieve even response across the instrument after applying the desired EQ per string. Note that each string's EQ settings are optimized for that particular string and desirable characteristics.

Signor Paganini uses a hybrid tuning scheme based on Just and Equal-Temperament tunings, the discussion of which is beyond the scope of this introduction. Like a true violin, you will find that the intonation changes very slightly per note, depending on the velocity of attack. On a real instrument, this is due to higher velocity attacks "pulling" the length of the string a greater amount and causing a temporary higher pitch on attack onset. This is especially noticeable at Signor Paganini's highest velocity and is a trademark of live solo string performances at high intensities.

Automation: Depending on your DAW and/or version of Kontakt, Host Automation of Signor Paganini's Kontakt parameters may be unreliable and is not supported in this release. If you are experiencing problems with automation within your host, it is recommended that you use the Auto/Host Automation tabs within Kontakt to apply custom programming to the knobs which you wish to automate.

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