



## Plectra Series 5 Guzheng Manual

An Impact Soundworks Instrument for Kontakt Player 5.7

### INTRODUCTION

**Guzheng** is the 5th installment in our acclaimed Plectra Series. Also known as the Chinese zither, the guzheng is an ancient instrument comprised of 21 strings stretched over a long, decorative wooden body with movable bridges for tuning. It's traditionally tuned to a D major pentatonic scale and can be plucked or bowed.

This library was created in collaboration with classically-trained musician and sound designer Qianqian Jin, who lent her guzheng expertise to the project.

Plectra Series 5 Guzheng requires the full version of Kontakt 5.7 or above and includes 18 authentic performance techniques and 3 recorded mic positions, housed in a brand new engine that features our TACT (Total Articulation Control Technology) and Console mixer & FX.

### INSTALLATION

Step 1: Using your browser, download the packed library RAR files.

Step 2: Using a program like [WinRAR](#) (PC) or [Keka](#) (Mac), double-click on the **Plectra Series 5 Instruments Data** RAR file. This will create a new folder titled "Plectra Series 5 Guzheng" with the instrument and programming data, but not the samples.

Step 3: Double-click on the **Plectra Series 5 Samples Part 1** RAR file. You do not need to open any of the other RAR files. When prompted, **merge** the extracted files into the folder created in Step 2. This will simply add the "Samples" subfolder to the main folder created above.

Step 4: Move the "Plectra Series 5 Guzheng" folder to the location of your choice. We recommend an internal hard drive (especially a solid-state drive), or a USB3/Thunderbolt external drive.

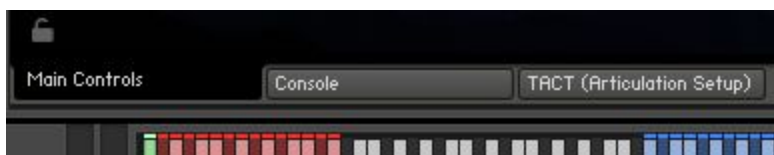
Step 5: Open Kontakt in your DAW or in standalone mode. Using the “Files” browser on the left-hand side, find the “Plectra Series 5 Guzheng” folder. From here, you can load the instrument patches from the Instruments folder by double-clicking the NKI, or by dragging and dropping it into the main Kontakt window.

Optional: Please see our [Kontakt workflow tutorial](#) for information on adding instrument files to the faster Quickload window or the Kontakt Database.

## SNAPSHOTS & SCRIPT TABS

Plectra Series 5 Guzheng uses Kontakt’s native “**snapshots**” feature to handle various types of presets. We’ve extended this feature allowing you to save and load **specific types of snapshots** without overwriting your entire patch.

To support this, Plectra Series 5 Guzheng uses **three** separate scripts for instrument editing, mixing & effects, and articulation mapping.



Each of these tabs can save or load its data **independently!** For example, you can load a mixer setup from **Console** without affecting your mapping, or load a specific performance preset without affecting your FX.

At the bottom of each tab’s UI, you’ll see two icons in the lower left and lower right: a **Lock**, and a **Camera**.



When the **Lock** icon is **enabled** (white), the contents of that tab **will not be overwritten** when you **load** a new Snapshot. When the **Camera** icon is **enabled** (white), the contents of that tab will be **saved** when you save a snapshot.

Snapshots in the factory library are split into three categories: Main Controls, Console, and TACT. Each snapshot has been saved with data from one specific tab. However, you can save *your own* snapshots using whatever combination of tabs you’d like. Make sure to check your Lock/Camera settings when saving and loading.

# MAIN CONTROLS

**IMPORTANT:** Virtually every slider and button on the interface can be MIDI learned! Simply right click and then move the desired MIDI CC to create a link.

Also, you can **hover** over any control to see help text at the bottom of the Kontakt UI. Try it!



## Articulations Panel

This panel displays a list of the 18 different articulations included in Plectra Series 5 Guzheng, as well as how to trigger them. Triggering rules can be customized using our powerful TACT (Total Articulation Control Technology), but more about that later.

## Settings Panel

This panel contains controls for setting various performance preferences. Let's run down what's here:

**Sustain Pedal Mute:** When enabled, sustain pedal will mute all playing voices (effectively muting all strings of the guzheng). When disabled, sustain pedal will sustain voices as usual. If any articulation has a PEDAL rule active, sustain pedal is completely disabled.

**Extra Dynamic Filter:** Toggles the additional lowpass filter used for smoothing out the changes in dynamics on/off.

**Scale Lock:** Toggles the locking to a particular fixed scale from one of available options on/off.

**Release Retrigger:** Toggles repeating the played note upon releasing a key on/off.

**Scale Type:** Selects which scale will be used when scale locking is enabled.

**Scale Root:** Adjusts the root key used for the scale locking feature.

**Vel Sensitivity:** Adjusts the overall velocity sensitivity of the instrument (for articulations not controlled via a continuous controller).

**Bend Range:** Adjusts the pitch bend range. Please set to 0 if using pitch bend as one of conditions for articulation triggering on TACT page!

**Vibrato Speed:** Adjusts the speed of emulated vibrato.

**Vibrato Depth:** Adjusts the depth of emulated vibrato.

## Envelope & Velocity Panels

The Envelope panel features Attack, Decay, Sustain and Release sliders as well as a menu for selecting the articulation for which the volume envelope will apply. The Velocity panel is where you can adjust the velocity curve to your liking, either by drawing it in manually or adjusting the three sliders on the left, right and bottom. These sliders change the maximum and minimum levels as well as the slope of the curve.

## CONSOLE & TACT

The second and third tabs at the bottom of the GUI, as mentioned earlier, are where you can find Console (our extensive mixer and effects rack) and TACT (our powerful articulation control customization system). Since these are extremely deep in scope and features we've created separate manuals for each, which are also included in your download files. They can also be downloaded here:

[Console Manual](#)

[TACT 2.0 Manual](#)

## CREDITS

**Lead Producer:** Andrew Aversa

**Programming:** Mario Kruselj & Nabeel Ansari

**Editing:** Anthony Mena

**UI Design:** Dickie Chapin

**Recording & Performance:** Qianqian Jin

## ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Qianqian Jin is a multimedia performance artist and designer with a strong passion for innovative sound design and composition. She began her Eastern classical training as a Guzheng player at the age of eight and received an education in Western music specializing as a digital composer at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Over the summer of 2017, she recorded over 50 GB of Guzheng samples using various techniques and tools to augment the capacity of the traditional Chinese instrument so it is available to more composers. She is currently inventing a customized midi controller for the Guzheng and frequently uses Arduino boards with various sensors. Read more about her at [www.qjin.xyz](http://www.qjin.xyz)



## TROUBLESHOOTING

Having trouble with Plectra Series 5 Guzheng? Use it in a project you want to tell us about? Drop us a line via our [Contact page](#) (but be sure to [read the FAQ](#) first!)

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