

RIFFAGE : CLASSIC ROCK



Riffage: Classic Rock

An Impact Soundworks Instrument
for Kontakt Player 7.10.7+
Instrument Version 1.0.0

Product Manual

Introduction

Relive the glory days of rock 'n roll!

This massive collection of rhythm guitar loops—300 in total!—makes it quick and easy to lay down tracks with the heart of 60s and 70s rock music. All the classics are honored here, with rhythm guitar lines inspired by the Stones, the Who, the Beatles, Cream, Zeppelin, Queen, AC/DC, Aerosmith, Boston, and more, performed by a professional rock guitarist. With a great sound out of the box, featuring 6 legendary classic rock amps plus a convenient DI so you can customize your own tone, **Riffage: Classic Rock** is the perfect rhythm companion to Shreddage guitars or your own live guitar solos.

From riffs and licks in every key to straightforward rhythm guitar parts, there's enough room to build out a song in any key and any tempo you want. A variety of phrase endings help you stick the landing and give you even more combinations you can use to build out a sound that's uniquely yours.

The Phrase Browser lets you find what you need fast. Quickly narrow down your choices with filters based on articulation, riff/lick category, style, and tempo. Audition loops right in the browser with a simple mouse click. Use the waveform display in the GUI to quickly identify loops. We've also included all loops, both DI and amped, as separate WAV files that you can easily drag and drop into your DAW for total control over the source performances.

Riffage: Classic Rock gets you locked into a tight groove fast, with rhythm guitar licks and riffs looped to perfection, recorded on era-perfect Les Paul and SG-style guitars with humbucker pickups.

It's the garage rock jam of your dreams, and you can take it anywhere you want!

— *The Team at Impact Soundworks*

Installation

Please see our installation guide [here](#).

About Riffage: Classic Rock

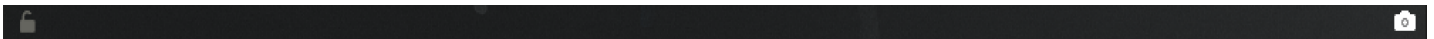
Riffage: Classic Rock includes 300 classic rock guitar phrases in a variety of keys, tempos, and styles.

Presets & Snapshots

Riffage: Classic Rock uses Kontakt's native 'Snapshots' feature to handle presets. These Snapshots are grouped by phrase type. Use them to pre-assign phrase types to the playable keyboard range so you can get started quickly!

Lock & Camera Icons

At the bottom of each tab's UI, you'll see two icons: a Lock (lower-left) and a Camera (lower-right):



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.

Note: *You can save your own Snapshots. Make sure to check your **Lock & Camera** settings when saving and loading!*

View 1: Main



IMPORTANT: Almost all controls can be MIDI-learned by (1) right-clicking the UI and (2) selecting 'MIDI Learn'. You will then need to move the control of your choice (i.e., fader, knob, et al.) on your MIDI control surface or in your DAW to establish the link. You can also use the Automation tab in Kontakt to drag-and-drop MIDI CCs onto the control you want to automate (note that in Kontakt 8, you will need to enable Classic View from the VIEW menu first, and then enable the Side Pane from the same menu, in order to see this option).

Tip: Once you MIDI-learn something, you should save your changes as a new preset so you can recall them again later!

Top Section



Phrase Controls

Affect the currently selected phrase

Volume

Controls the overall volume of the instrument. This is only applied to the signal level of the current active phrase. This value is applied first, before the Gain value (see below for more information).

Formant

Changes the perceived 'body size' and character of the instrument, using spectral pitch shifting to bring out different overtones. This change (alongside Fine Tune and Volume) is only applied to the currently selected phrase. Multiple phrases can have different Formant values simultaneously.

Turning the knob left gives the instrument a darker, fuller character. Turning the knob right gives the instrument a brighter, more present character.

Fine Tune

Fine Tune controls the instrument tuning on a small scale, with a sweep of +/- 1 semitone.

Global Controls

Affect the entire instrument

Tone

Controls a gentle pre-FX lowpass filter on the entire instrument. A lower value results in a darker tone as the high end gets cut off; when set to 100%, the signal is unaffected.

Gain

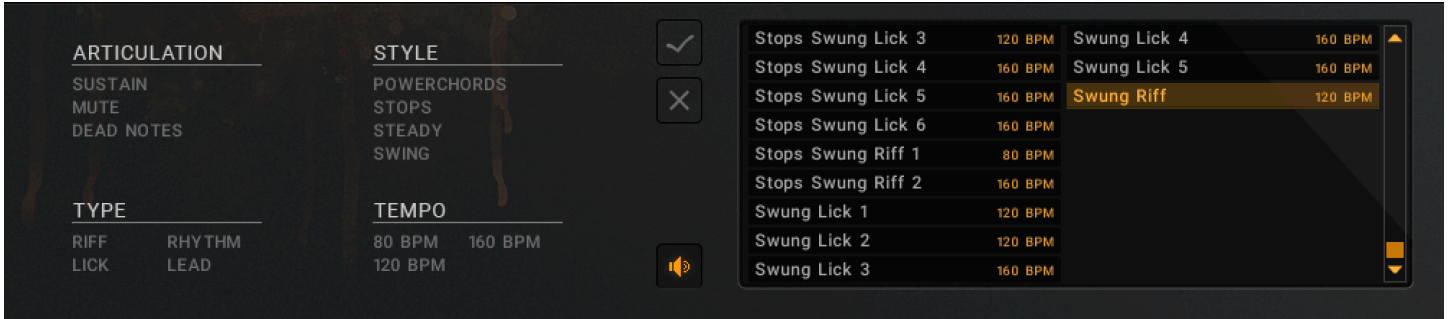
Controls the signal level of the instrument. This control is pre-FX, meaning it affects the signal that is being sent to Console, before any FX are applied. This value applies to the entire instrument, instead of the currently active phrase.

Phrase Browser



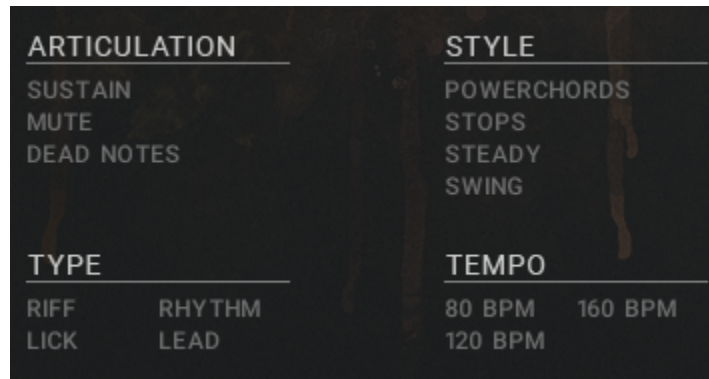
Performance Name

This drop-down menu selects from the various riffs and licks of **Riffage: Classic Rock**. Clicking on the active performance name toggles a new popover—a browser—on the UI's bottom third:



The left half of this browser contains tags by which the options on the right half may be narrowed down. Clicking on a **non-active** tag **selects** it, while clicking on an **active** tag **deselects** it.

Note: The tag selection system is subtractive, and will disable unavailable tags when a specific selection is made. For example, with 'Lick' selected, the 'Riff' tag will grey out and be unavailable for selection.



Articulation

Choose between performances that feature Sustains, Mutes, Harmonics, and/or Dead Notes.

Type

Choose between Riffs (which usually take the place of, or enhance, the underlying chord progression) and Licks (which usually connect or lead into/out of different formal sections of a track).

Style

Choose between performances that incorporate Power Chords, are performed with stop-time (Stops), and/or feature Steady, Syncopated, and Swung characteristics.

Tempo

Choose between performances originally performed at 80 beats per minute (slow), 120 beats per minute (medium), or 160 beats per minute (fast).

Note: Even when 'locking to host' [covered below], these tempos will still be valuable in determining the 'feel' or 'vibe' of the performance. It is also usually more naturalistic to shift tempo as little as possible, though your mileage may vary; you may enjoy greatly speeding up a slow performance or drastically slowing down a fast one!



Checkmark (✓)

Loads the selected sound. Single clicking loads the sound while leaving the browser open - Double-clicking loads the selected sound and then closes the browser.

Cross (✕)

Closes the browser without loading the selected sound.

Speaker (Auto-Preview):

When enabled, sound is previewed on single-click, and double-click loads the sound and closes the browser. When disabled, selected sound is loaded on single-click, while **Ctrl/Cmd+click** previews the sound. In addition, holding **Alt/Opt** will route the preview through the **Console** effects rack. Speaker (Auto-Preview) is enabled by default, shown by the highlighted speaker button.



Waveform View

This view shows the waveform shape of the currently-selected performance. A **green** Start bar selects the starting sample of the performance; default is the very beginning.

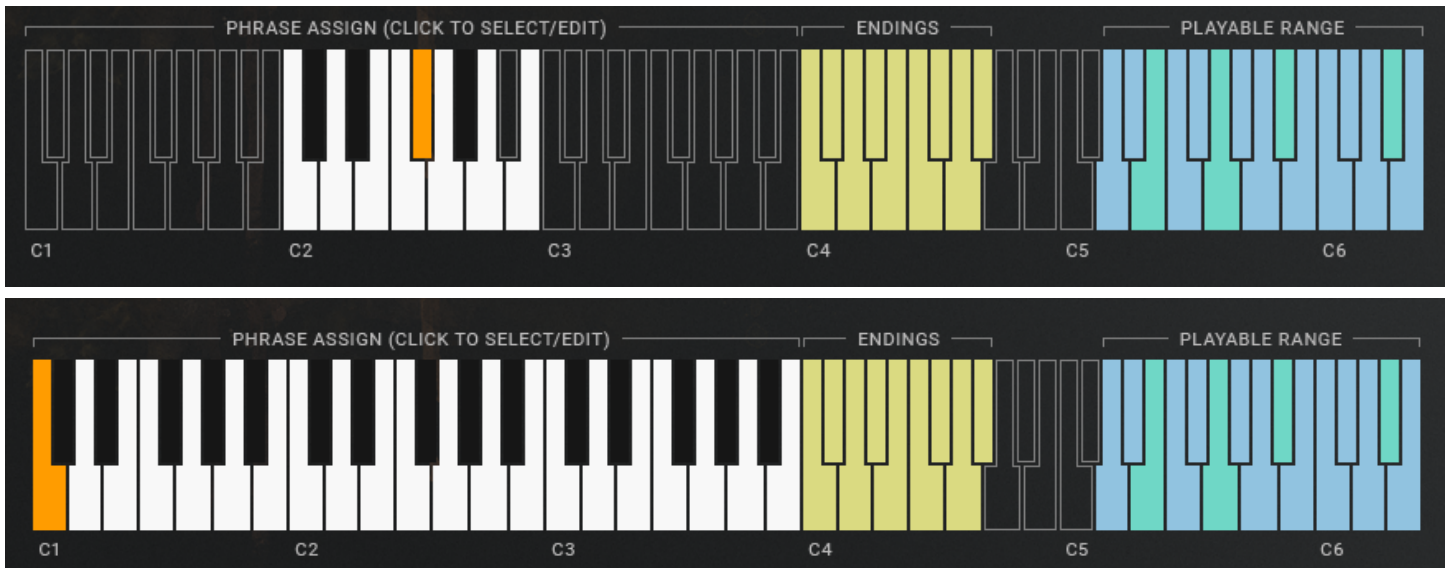
Lock To Host

Toggles performance playback tempo to be controlled either by the Speed Knob, or the host (DAW) session tempo. Disabled by default (enabled will have **gold** text as shown above).

Speed

When Lock To Host is disabled, this knob determines the playback speed of the performance, set on a sliding scale between 50% (half), and 200% (2X). 'Lock To Host' is disabled by default.

Keyboard Controls



Phrase Assign

Select a given key (C1 to B3, inclusive) to edit. **Alt/Opt+click** unloads the loaded performance soundsource from the key. Double-click opens the performance browser on an already-mapped key. An **orange** key indicates the currently selected and active phrase.

Endings

Select a given **yellow** key (C4 to G#4, inclusive) to play a single note. When holding one of these keys, playing in the blue playable range (D5-E6) will play single notes of a certain articulation instead of phrases.

C4	Slow Slide
C#4	Fast Slide
D4	Power Chord Slow Slide
D#4	Power Chord Fast Slide
E4	Power Chord Sustain
F4	Power Chord Chug (Palm Mute)
F#4	Sustain
G4	Vibrato Sustain
G#4	Chug (Palm Mute)

Note: You can also hold a phrase in the playable range, then tap an ending note to end the phrase with an articulation.

Playable Range

Select a given **blue** or **green** key to change the root pitch of the performance. **Green** keys represent the originally-recorded pitch centers of the performances; **blue** keys represent pitch-shifted performances.

View 2: Console



For more about the Console view, please see our standalone [Console Manual](#).

Tube Amplifiers

We have re-amped each performance through a suite of classic tube amplifiers that are easily switchable via the FX tab in our Console. Mix, match, pan and blend, or run individually to achieve a wide array of truly authentic and iconic classic rock tones.

Plex

1959 Marshall Superlead 100 Watt

This icon shaped the golden age classic rock tones of the 1960s and 1970s, characterized by a pronounced midrange, mid-high gain and the immediately recognizable British grit that belongs in a stadium cranked up to 11.

Mark II

Mesa Boogie Mark IIC+

A 1980s Classic Rock and Pop icon, this amp features thick rhythm tones and buttery smooth compression for leads and licks.

Brit AC

Vox AC-30

This classic 1960s British combo amp features a bright top end with plenty of chime and jangle in the mid range.

Tweed

Fender Bassman 5F6A

A true American Holy Grail amp that accentuates subtle dynamics and brings clarity and balance to any performance. The 5F6A amp circuit was the basis for many iconic classic rock amps including the Marshall JTM. Lauded for its extremely pleasant midrange, thick bottom end and smooth top, If you're unsure what amp to use, the Tweed will always deliver.

Prince

Fender Princeton AA1164

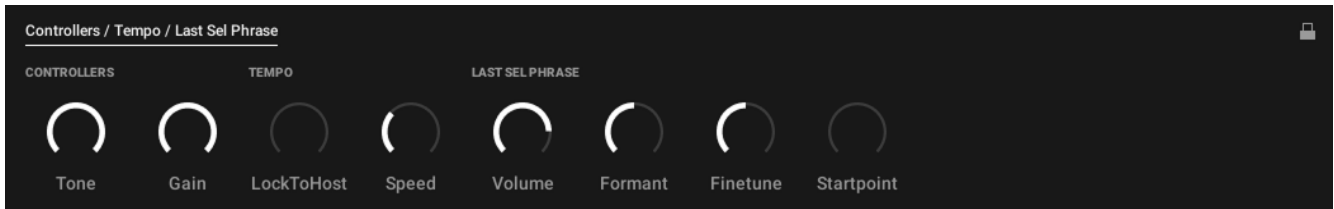
The gig master. The iconic 'Fender Blackface' sound that can do basically anything. From massive stadium-ready tones to small club gigs, the warm low end, round top and neutral mids of the Fender Princeton are the envy of the tube amp world.

Watts

Hiwatt DR-103

Crystal clean and deep, punchy and smooth, the Hiwatt DR-103 squeezes every ounce of juice it possibly can from the EL34 tubes powering it, featuring a warm, harmonically rich, and aggressive midrange, it maintains clarity while taming harsh high end.

NKS Layout



Riffage: Classic Rock has been set up for NKS (Native Kontrol Standard) and NKS compatible Komplete Kontrol software/hardware. The following functions have been mapped for ease of use and accessibility across these surfaces:

Tone (0% - 100%)

Controls a gentle pre-FX lowpass filter on the entire instrument. A lower value results in a darker tone as the high end gets cut off; when set to 100%, the signal is unaffected.

Gain (0% - 100%)

Controls the signal level of the instrument. This control is pre-FX, meaning it affects the signal that is being sent to Console, before any FX are applied. This value applies to the entire instrument, instead of the currently active phrase.

Lock To Host (Off/On)

Toggles performance playback tempo to be controlled either by the Speed Knob, or the host (DAW) session tempo. Disabled by default (enabled will have **gold** text as shown above).

Speed (50% - 200%)

When Lock To Host is disabled, this knob determines the playback speed of the performance, set on a sliding scale between 50% (half), and 200% (2X). 'Lock To Host' is disabled by default.

Volume (-60dB - +12dB)

Controls the overall volume of the instrument. This is only applied to the signal level of the current active phrase. This value is applied first, before the Gain value (see below for more information).

Formant (-100% - +100%)

Changes the perceived 'body size' and character of the instrument, using spectral pitch shifting to bring out different overtones. This change (alongside Fine Tune and Volume) is only applied to the currently selected phrase. Multiple phrases can have different Formant values simultaneously.

Turning the knob left gives the instrument a darker, fuller character. Turning the knob right gives the instrument a brighter, more present character.

Fine Tune (-1 semitone - +1 semitone)

Fine Tune controls the instrument tuning on a small scale, with a sweep of +/- 1 semitone.

Startpoint (0% - 99%)

Adjusts the starting sample of the performance; default is the very beginning.

Setup & Tweaking

Tips for Getting the Most out of the User Interface

→ Almost all controls can be MIDI-learned by (1) right-clicking the UI and (2) selecting 'MIDI Learn'. You will then need to move the control of your choice (*i.e.*, fader, knob, *et al.*) on your MIDI control surface or in your DAW to establish the link. You can also use the Automation tab in Kontakt to drag-and-drop MIDI CCs onto the control you want to automate (*note that in Kontakt 8, you will need to enable **Classic View** from the **VIEW** menu first, and then enable the **Side Pane** from the same menu, in order to see this option*).

***Tip:** Once you MIDI-learn something, you should save your changes as a new preset so you can recall them again later!*

→ **Riffage: Classic Rock** is fully NKS Compatible and features quite a few existing host-automatable controls. If you have a Komplete Kontrol keyboard or use the Komplete Kontrol application, you will be able to benefit from this functionality!

Tips for CPU & Memory Optimization

If you experience high CPU and memory usage with **Riffage: Classic Rock**, there are a number of things you can do to mitigate the issue.

Save CPU and memory by quitting unnecessary applications

For experienced users, this may seem obvious, but it's easy to lose track of how much computing power is being used by seemingly-innocuous applications. For example, it's not uncommon to have a Chrome browser, Discord, Slack, Skype, Zoom, and Dropbox all running at the same time. All of these not only take up RAM, but can also interfere with real-time audio playback by causing pops & crackles.

So, anytime you work on a very intensive DAW project, it's a good idea to close all applications and services you don't need—even if they just run in the background.

Avoid pops and crackles with a higher buffer size

This applies to your DAW settings in general. Typically, every DAW's audio settings allow you to change the 'buffer size' of the playback drivers. Sometimes, this may only be changeable in a separate application, such as with some RME products.

The buffer size (measured in milliseconds or samples, like `8ms / 512 samples`) determines the amount of latency in DAW output and input, inversely correlated to CPU usage. In other words, lower buffer sizes are much more demanding on your CPU than higher ones.

Though it feels great to perform and record MIDI at very low buffer sizes, this is also most taxing on your CPU. Consider increasing your buffer size once you're out of the MIDI recording phase, and on to editing, mixing, and mastering.

Credits & Acknowledgements

Executive Producer: Andrew Aversa

Producer: Shane Roberts

Performance & Recording: Patrick Windsor

Sample Editing: Jared Le Doux

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User Interface & Graphic Design: Paulo Nunes, Shane Roberts

Marketing: Lauren Liebowitz, Rachel Steele

User Manual: Fredrik Häthén, Kent Kercher, Evan Leffert, Shane Roberts

Quality Assurance: Fredrik Häthén, Kent Kercher, Evan Leffert, Shane Roberts

...And a big thanks to our beta team!

Troubleshooting

Having trouble with **Riffage: Classic Rock**? Use it in a project you want to tell us about? Drop us a line via our [Support Center](#) contact form (but be sure to read the FAQ first!)

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