



Virtual Grand Piano 3

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User Manual

Art Vista Virtual Grand Piano 3 is based on recordings of a 1960 Hamburg Steinway Model "B" and offers stunningly realistic piano presets for every possible recording genre. It includes preset emulations of famous piano recordings from the 1950's through today by artists such as Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Norah Jones, Diana Krall, Donny Hathaway, Chet Baker, Jan Johansson, Ray Charles, John Lewis, Bobby Timmons, Billy Preston, Keith Jarrett, Jackson Browne, Leon Russell, John Legend, Arthur Rubinstein, and Bill Evans. A hybrid waveform element offers a simple way to modify the original recordings.

Instruments Folder

Load VGP3 from the "Instruments" folder. Clicking on the Instruments folder in the upper browser pane will display the content of the folder in the lower pane. Double-clicking, or, dragging "Virtual Grand Piano 3.nki" into the main window (right) will load the instrument.



Preset Folders

The Instruments folder also contains two sub-folders, “Recording Styles” and “Special Effects”.



VGP3 Interface Controls – Main View



1. **Settings** - toggles between the interface “Main View” and the “Settings View.”
2. **Reset** – resets the current preset to its original parameter settings.
3. **Presets** – calls up presets for different recording styles. The “Classical” preset represents the piano as it was recorded. Some of these presets are fast loading versions of the artist-specific presets found in the “Recording Styles” folder. (See VGP2 “Recording Styles Presets” below.) Some of them are generic presets for a certain genre. For example, the “Vintage Pop” preset is a fast-loading version of the “Elton John Style” preset from the presets folder, while “Rock Ballad” is a generic preset capable of both subtle quiet passages as well as cut-through dynamics.
4. **Keyboard** – calibrated keyboard response settings for most midi keyboards on the market. Generic presets are also included. Using a calibrated keyboard-specific setting will ensure a full dynamic range from ppp to fff, and will provide an accurate “feel” to the keyboard touch. It will also ensure the same keyboard response when using different keyboards - on tour, in the studio, etc.
5. **High Attenuation** – attenuates the top octave of the piano.
6. **Exciter** – adds high EQ and narrows the stereo width. May be used to better fit the piano in a dense mix.
7. **Hall** – Controls how much of the natural ambience from the recording venue is included. If turned off, the effect will be that of a completely “dry” studio recording. A completely dry signal may be desirable, for example, if a reverb will be used.

8. **Hybrid Factor** – A waveform is added to the recorded piano waveforms to allow manipulation of the sound.
9. **Pedal** – controls the level of the sound from the sustain pedal and string dampeners engaging and releasing.
10. **Equalizer** – gain section for the parametric three-band EQ. (See also #17.)
11. **Microphone Position** – provides the effect of the microphone being moved away, or set off-axis in relation to the bass strings. A lesser pickup of bass frequencies from the bass strings will allow more room in the mix for other bass instruments.
12. **Mud Cut** – cuts the “muddy” mid-range frequencies.
13. **Width** – expands or shrinks the stereo width of the recording.
14. **Tape Saturation** – emulates the saturation found on recordings made on magnetic tape.
15. **Reverb** – built in reverb.
16. **Limitter** – increases loudness and lifts subtle passages into a higher dynamic range.

Interface Controls – Settings View



17. **EQ Frequencies** – selects the frequencies for the parametric equalizer.

VGP2 Recording Styles Presets

The recording styles presets that were included with VGP2 can all be loaded from VGP3. These presets emulate piano sounds of famous piano recordings. For example, shown below is a preset with an emulation of the piano sound on the Bill Evans record “Portrait in Jazz” from 1960. These presets can be found in the “Recording Styles” folder.



VGP2 Special Effects Presets

Also, the special effects presets that were included with VGP2 can be loaded from the VGP3 “Special Effects” folder. For example, shown below is the preset “Delay Piano” with a built in rhythmic ping-pong effect.

