

realsamples

German Lautenwerck

Ludwig Richter, 1995
Edition Beurmann



Lautenwerck Reconstruction (Foto: Andreas E. Beurmann)

The *German Lautenwerck* library brings a long-gone instrument into your sampler: The Lautenwerck - or Lute-Harpsichord - was one of Johann Sebastian Bach's favourite instruments.

Despite 50 Lautenwerck builders in Germany, not a single instrument survived throughout the centuries. When the instruments had vanished, the awareness had gone as well: Only a couple of decades ago, musicologists found out that such an instrument had existed, solving the mystery of scores mentioning being written for

Lautenwercke. Until then, one would have guessed that the composer meant a regular lute instrument by that notion.

Back in the days of harpsichords and spinets, the lute-harpsichord offered a much warmer, soft and intimate yet defined tone. While having been built to imitate a lute on a keyboard instrument in the first place, it brings a consistent attack to the table (due to not being touch-sensitive, just like a harpsichord) and also by allowing for full decay of all notes due to missing dampers. This allows for a vibrating, reverberant yet still transparent sound.



Lautenwerck (or Lute-Harpsichord)- plain view (Foto: Andreas E. Beurmann)

The sample library offers the Lautenwerck in its original Valotti tuning at 412 Hz for your sampler.

Just like harpsichords and spinets, the Lautenwerck is not touch-sensitive. However, even if the differences are minuscule, not any given note will sound exactly the same

due to different resonances of body and strings. In order to pay tribute to the instruments' variances, every note was captured with 8 different samples.

The release sounds of the keys are also of major importance: What was originally side noise, contributes to the overall feel of the instrument and cannot be left out in artificial simulations. Therefore, we recorded 4 release samples of each note.

The sample library consists of nearly 700 single samples.

To start right away, presets are available for all common sample formats including HALion®, Kontakt2® and higher, EXS24® and GigaStudio3®.

For the critical task of recording the instrument, we employed vintage Neumann™ TLM-170® microphones in conjunction with Crane Song™ Flamingo® preamps and Universal Audio™ 2192® digital converters to do the instrument justice. For maximum sound quality, we recorded in 192 khz/24 bits resolution, downsampled to 44.1 khz/16 bits.

In addition to the samples, the library contains an essay in German from Professor Andreas E. Beurmann himself, explaining both the historical and musical background of the instrument.

Installation Notes

Please copy the files required for your sampler to your harddisk. In case you use the .wav files with a software sampler, please make sure to retain the file structure (German Lautenwerck/00 – G1/...), so your sampler can find all the necessary files when loading the presets.

If you load a preset and receive an error message of samples that could not be found, simply select one of the unlocated samples and assign it manually. Depending on your sampler, the remaining samples should then be found automatically.

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