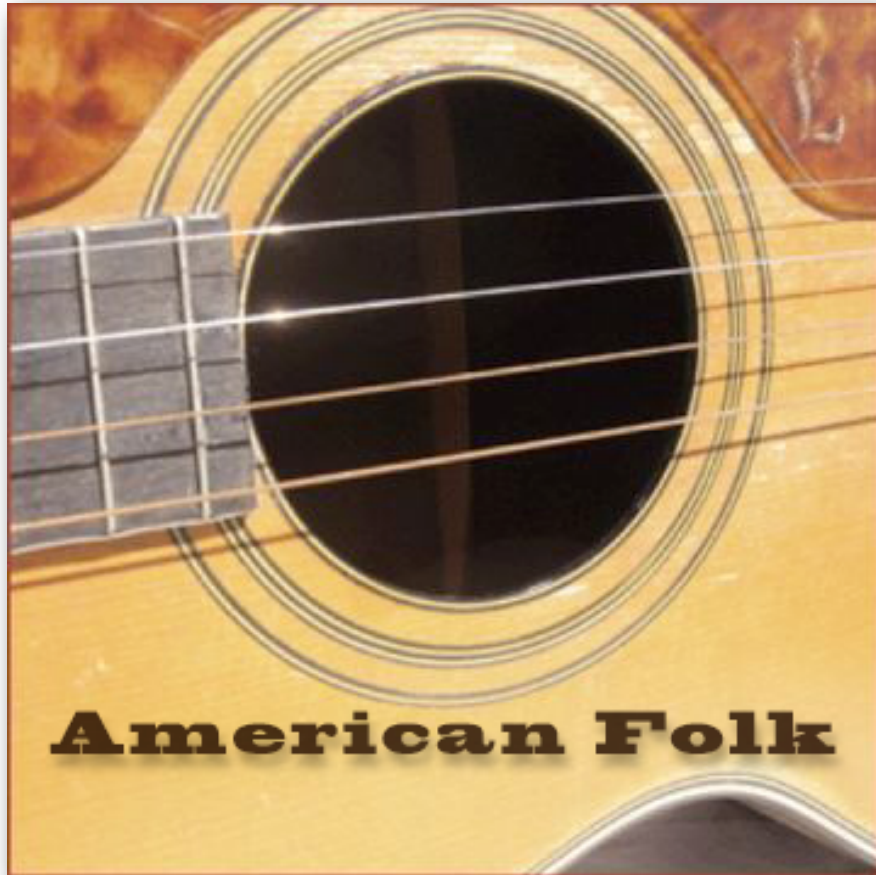


Best Of BOLDER Collection

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American Folk

Owner's Manual

KRONOS
Music Workstation

BOLDER *Sounds*

Overview

Welcome to the Best Of Bolder Collection: **American Folk**

This is a collection of American folk instruments from the plucked family - including garden variety folk instruments to the rarely sampled Mechanical Dulcimer, Gut-Strung Banjo and the Mandocello. The collection contains 25 Kronos Programs and 5 Combinations.

American Folk Instruments

- Autoharp
- 5 String Banjo
- Steel String Guitars (2)
- Fretless Gut-Strung Banjo
- Hammered Dulcimer
- Mechanical Dulcimer
- Mandolin
- Mandola
- Mandocello

Demo Sequences

Be sure to give the included demo sequence **American Folk.SNG** file a listen. It features 2 traditional folk tunes - He's Gone Away and Devils Dream.

Programs

American Folk provides 25 unique Programs that isolate each individual instrument.

All programs have been saved with appropriate or unusual preset KARMA patterns as well as Drum Tracks.

Program	Name
U-G000	Autoharp Strings
U-G001	AH Strummed Chords
U-G002	Autoharp Swirl
U-G003	Autoharp + Chords
U-G004	Banjo SW#1=Harmonics
U-G005	GL Steel String SW1=hrm
U-G006	GL Steel String alt SW1
U-G007	GL Steel Vel Sw.Harm
U-G008	Steel alt Vel=Harm
U-G009	Fretless Gut Banjo
U-G010	Hammered Dulcimer
U-G011	Mandocello

Program	Name
U-G013	Mandocello JS+Y=Tremolo
U-G014	Mandola
U-G015	Mandola Tremolo
U-G016	Mandola JS+Y=Tremolo
U-G017	Mandolin
U-G018	Mandolin Tremolo
U-G019	Mandolin JS+Y=Tremolo
U-G020	Mando Family Tremolo
U-G021	Mech. Dulcimer SW#1=Trem
U-G022	SC Steel String Guitar SW1=hrm.
U-G023	SC Guitar VelSw HARMONIC
U-G024	SC Guit. Psuedo 12 Str.

Combinations (Combis)

American Folk has 5 KRONOS Combinations that might be used as hybrid acoustic instruments or textures.

Combi	Name
U-G000	Dulcimer Gtr. Vel. Layer
U-G001	3 Plucked Vel. Layer
U-G002	Mando/Banjo Layer
U-G003	Mando/Banjo Layer #2
U-G004	Autoharp/Banjo Layer
U-G005	Ham.Dulc./Mech.Dulc.

Autoharp Programs

Autoharp Strings is a program with individually sampled plucked notes of the autoharp. The autoharp is generally played as a strummed instrument, however here we are using it like a plucked instrument much in the way you would a sampled guitar. It has a unique tonal quality and sounds particularly interesting in layers.

Autoharp Strummed Chords features a selection of minor and major strummed chords. All samples mapped below C4 are major chords and all above C4 are minor. And of course each strum is mapped to a key which is the root of the chord being played.

Autoharp Swirls are chromatic strums across the open strings of the autoharp and are intended as an atmospheric effect, they do not create specific chords.

Autoharp + Chords is a mapping of major and minor chords as well as the individual plucked note samples in one multisample. The chords are not spread out as widely as they are in the dedicated *Autoharp Strummed Chords* program, so there is less selection of possible chords. However having the strummed chords off the left side of the keyboard and the single string samples on the right will give the user a quick option to hear them used together.

Banjo Programs

Banjo SW#1=Harmonics you will notice at C3, the sampled pitches all of a sudden are higher than the pitches an octave higher. This area from C3 and below represent the 5th string of the banjo. It is placed in the bass area of the keyboard since this string is typically played with the thumb pick of the banjoist right hand. In terms of technique it is treated as a bass note, however in terms of the resultant pitch, it creates a high note. This high note created by the 5th string gives the banjo a shimmering effect when it collides with pitches of the 1st and 2nd string - this is one of the signature sounds of the banjo.

To create convincing arpeggios or *rolls* as they are called in the banjo world - hold down your sustain pedal, then play as one example - G2 - B3 - D4 G2 - B3 - D4 G2 - B3 in a steady stream of eighth notes. Then alter the B3 and D4 to C4 and E4 respectively. You'll get the idea after some experimentation. This 3 + 3 + 2 rhythmic grouping is quite common among bluegrass banjo players - and of course there are many, many more common patterns.

Fretless Gut-Strung Banjo is tuned in the key of F (rather than the key of G like the bluegrass banjo). The warm muted tone of this instrument is the result of the gut string being of looser tension, as well as the fretless neck. The same mapping scheme of the 5th string is employed as previously explained.

Steel String Guitar Programs

Both steel string guitars in this volume have sampled harmonics in addition to the standard string pluck articulation.

SC Steel String Guitar programs have 2 velocity levels sampled while the *GL Steel String Guitar* has only 1 velocity level sampled. However I am confident you will find the *GL Steel String Guitar* programs to be quite expressive.

GL Steel String Guitar programs that have the word *alt* in the name employ a bit of a tuning trick which shifts the timbre of the string giving the illusion that the string is a bit looser or of a lighter gauge.

Hammered Dulcimer Programs

Hammered Dulcimer is a instrument which has no damper pedal to cut notes off from ringing. So it is quite a realistic emulation if you hold down the sustain pedal even while the chordal harmony may change. Of course - this is entirely your choice. Part of the charm of the sound of this instrument is the way notes clash with each other as they die away. This is a standard 2 course dulcimer (each string consists of 2 strings, much like a 12 string guitar), which also creates a natural chorusing effect.

To create a realistic emulation of this instrument - only 2 notes can be sounded at the same time since the Hammered Dulcimer is played with a "hammer" in each hand.

The **Mechanical Dulcimer** is also of the Hammered Dulcimer family. This instrument was frequently sold by door to door salesmen from the 1920's up to the 1950's. It's selling point was that "anyone could play it". It was played by depressing spring steel strips that hold small lead hammers over the strings. It also had a tremolo effect in which the speed could be controlled by the pendulum setting on the instrument. Both long single notes and the repeated note effect (which I have labeled as tremolo) have been sampled. These articulations are triggered via SW#1 on the KRONOS. It is interesting to do a internet search on this instrument and see it played in a video. The Mechanical Dulcimer has been used by mainstream recording artists as well since it has such a distinct and unique sound.

Mandolin Family Programs

The Mandolin family has 3 members - the Mandolin, Mandola and the Mandocello. These are the equivalents of the Violin, Viola and Cello in the string world.

Each instrument was sampled with the standard pluck articulation as well as with signature tremolo articulation of the mandolin. Each instrument has a program which crossfades via the JS+Y from plucked into tremolo. This creates a very smooth transition from plucked to tremolo articulations with a bit of practice. Also each instrument has a dedicated tremolo program as well, with OSC2 triggering a release sample upon the key release. This is necessary especially when you are using the tremolo programs where the instrument is very exposed as opposed to being in a thicker mix. The release sample will give the impression of the instrument resonating once the tremolo is finished rather than being abruptly cut off.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy the KRONOS edition of the American Folk volume!
Dennis Burns - Bolder Sounds - December 2013

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