Best Of BOLDER Collection

Slate Rocks

Owner's Manual

KRONOS
Music Workstation

BOLDER Sounds

Welcome to the Best Of Bolder Collection: **Slates Rocks!**

Background

I found myself in a commercial rock yard in Longmont, Colorado one very cold December morning sorting through a pile of jagged and odd sized Slate Rocks. As I picked up each rock and struck them with my various mallets, the workers at the rock yard looked on in amazement and wondered why I was not institutionalized. Once I explained to them what I was doing and what kind of sound I was looking for - they joined the sonic hunt and had some fun!

My friend Tom Wasinger here in Boulder, CO introduced me to the whole concept of using Slate Rocks as a percussion instrument. Tom carefully built and tuned each rock to make a Rock Drum Kit of sorts and released a very cool recording called *Rock Music* in 1991.

Suspended Slate Rocks was the original title of this library upon its first release. The Slate Rocks were suspended from some heavy gauge fishing line spanning the width of my home recording studio - (you can see some of the fishing line in the above picture). The Slate Rocks had to have holes carefully drilled in order to thread the fishing line through the rock so as to not crack the rock.

I ended up using 7 of the 13 selected Slate Rocks for the final sample library. They will be labeled Slates 1 - 7 on the KRONOS.

Demo Sequence

A demo sequence called *Slate Rocks Demo* is included in the file **Slate Rocks.SNG** which can be loaded with your sounds if desired.

Slates Rocks and Pitch

The pitch of these rocks can vary wildly depending on how hard they are struck. One of the contributing factors in their unique sound is how two or more very strong frequencies can reside so close together. This can be quite deceptive as to what the dominant pitch is. Example - a sample that has a strong fundamental frequency at both C4 and D4. When played at C4, C4 is perceived to be the correct pitch. But when that same sample is played an octave higher, the D frequency comes across stronger - it is a mystery to me!

Organizing the Slates

As previously mentioned - we have 7 Slate Rocks as sample sources. KRONOS Multisamples sub-categories have been created as follows -

Menus / Mixes / Spreads / Sharp Attacks / Soft Attacks.

Menus - These are Multisamples labeled 1 - 7 with each sample of that particular rock mapped chromatically with no pitch transposition. In other words - they are the original samples at their original pitch. The lowest and highest samples of each of these Multisample menus are stretched out to cover most of the keyboard at a constant pitch.

The above *menus* are simply there so the users can easily audition the original raw material used in this library.

Mixes - These are Multisample maps with random mixes of the above 7 Slate Rocks. The pitch of each Slate Rock in these maps is also somewhat random. These rocks take on entirely different characteristics when played back at different pitches. They are particularly cool when played back at a lower pitch than they were sampled at.

Spreads - These are Multisample maps that are quite similar to the *Menus* mentioned above. However each Slate Rock sample is not mapped chromatically - they are spread out anywhere from 3 half steps to as much as 7 half steps. This give the user the original pitch of the sample as well as a sample (or set of samples) higher and lower than the original pitched sample.

Some *Spread* Multisamples offer more variety than others, since some Slates offered a higher number of useable samples than others. For example - from Slate 1, I used 49 samples. Slate 3 had only 19 useful samples. So when spreading out 19 samples there is more room to spread out each sample. Whereas with 49 samples, the change from one samples span to another, occurs more frequently before running out of keyboard range.

Sharp and Soft Attacks - These are Multisample maps of each Slate Rock categorized into Sharp and Soft attacks. Sharp attacks were generally created with a wood stick and soft attacks with a soft rubber mallet.

For example - *Multisample slate 1 SOFT ATK* consists of all samples taken from Slate Rock 1 that have a softer attack. After that, those samples are evenly spread out over the keyboard.

KRONOS Slate Rock Programs

Program	Name
U-G000	Slate 7 Soft to Sharp
U-G001	Slates mix 1-2 JS+Y
U-G002	5 Velocity Layers Low
U-G003	Slate 7 Sharp Atk.
U-G004	Slate 3 Soft to Sharp
U-G005	Slate 6 Soft to Sharp
U-G006	Slate 5 Spread Out
U-G007	Slates 5 4 3 Vel. Switch
U-G008	Slate 5 Soft Atk.
U-G009	Slates mix 2-1 JS+Y
U-G010	Slate 1 Sharp Atk.
U-G011	Slate 1 Velocity Octs
U-G012	5 Velocity Layers Soft
U-G013	Slate 5 Soft to Sharp
U-G014	Slate 1 Soft to Sharp
U-G015	Slate 1+2 Velocity Layer
U-G016	Slate 1 Soft Atk.
U-G017	Slate 5 Sharp Atk.
U-G018	5 Velocity Layers 1
U-G019	Slate 6 Spread Out
U-G020	Slates mix 1-3 JS+Y

Program	Name
U-G021	Slate 6 Soft Atk.
U-G022	Slate 7 Soft & Low
U-G023	5 Velocity Layers 2
U-G024	Slate 7 Soft Atk.
U-G025	Slate 7+6 Soft Mix
U-G026	Slate 7 + 6 Vel=Ptch. 1
U-G027	Slate 6 +7 Vel=Ptch 2
U-G028	Slate 1+4 Vel Xfade
U-G029	Slate 6 Sharp Atk.
U-G030	5 Velocity JS+Y=Sharp
U-G031	Slate 1 Spread Out
U-G032	Slate 7 Spread Out
U-G033	Slate 4 Soft to Sharp
U-G034	Slate 1 Menu
U-G035	Slate 2 Menu
U-G036	Slate 3 Menu
U-G037	Slate 4 Menu
U-G038	Slate 5 Menu
U-G039	Slate 6 Menu
U-G040	Slate 7 Menu

* Each of the above 41 Slate Rock programs have been saved with suitable KARMA GE patterns.

Programs Notes

Below I will not describe every program in detail, but will give example explanations of specific programs and programming approaches as reflected in their titles.

000: Slate 7 Soft to Sharp
This program has a KARMA GE engaged by default. This features Slate 7 with a velocity crossfade from soft to sharp attacks. Be sure to experiment with your KARMA control sliders as well!

001: Slates mix 1-2 JS+Y
This 2 oscillator program uses your Joystick to crossfade between Mix Menus 1 and 2.

008: Slate 5 Soft Atk.
Using Slate 5 Multisample of soft attack samples only. Pitches are *approximately* assigned as explained above in the *Slate Rocks and Pitch* section.

011: Slate 1 Velocity Octs
Slate 1 crossfades into the same Multisample tuned an octave lower via velocity level.

012: 5 Velocity Layers Soft
This program does not follow the traditional use of higher velocity levels creating a louder and more intense sound. It uses velocity in a very random way for some interesting and surprising results.

026: 5 Slates 7 + 6 Vel=Ptch.1
Higher velocity levels make the pitch of the Slates drop. Great for a *Talking Rock* effect.

The last 7 programs are represented by the 7 basic menus as described in the *Organizing the Slates* section of this manual.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy the KRONOS edition of the BOB Slate Rocks!
Dennis Burns - Bolder Sounds - December 2013

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