



古箏

GU ZHENG
Yellow River Sound



Welcome to Yellow River Sound Gu Zheng

Gu Zheng, a revered symbol of Chinese culture, boasts a history spanning over two millennia. Today's version features 21 strings and movable bridges, a testament to ancient craftsmanship.

YRS Gu Zheng is a product of collaboration between Zhang Jian of the China Conservatory of Music and Ma Jing of ADSH, supported by Best Service. Local Chinese music producers meticulously captured the instrument's soul, infusing it with cultural understanding and passion.

Powered by Engine Audio's technology, this virtual instrument offers authentic articulations, echoing China's rich heritage. While other instruments engage in the "loudness war," YRS Gu Zheng offers delicate low-velocity samples, yet maintains a powerful dynamic range.

Experience the enchanting sounds of the virtual Gu Zheng and discover a tradition that spans generations.

Concept

Gu Zheng is Yellow River Sound's first product, an ethnic instrument to most musicians, so we have several concepts unique to this instrument.

Sympathetic Resonance

Gu Zheng, an open string instrument, produces vibrations across multiple strings when one is struck. To sample it effectively on a keyboard, we chose to capture its tones in D pentatonic, then bE pentatonic, and finally the remaining two notes to cover all 12 tones. The most authentic sound is achieved in D pentatonic due to correct sympathetic resonance.

One Shot Sample playback

To capture the open string sound, we utilize one-shot sample playback, commonly found in drum samples, where notes continue until they naturally decay, ignoring note-off messages. Gu Zheng's strings have a longer decay than drum sounds, making it challenging to conceal noise. Hence, we dedicated considerable effort to ensure the samples are as clean as possible.

Initial delay

Gu Zheng players use a "nail" fastened to their finger to pluck the string. When the player hits the string, it has a pre-attack before the string reaches its full level vibration. For a sustain note, which is the main articulation of Gu Zheng, this attack can be heard clearly, so we decided to keep the delay on Sustain (NV) and Sustain (Vib normal) to achieve a realistic playing experience. The delay is up to 30ms. However, depending on string velocity and player, the delay may vary. None of the bend articulations have that kind of delay.

Real sample and program control

Gu Zheng has many bend articulations, different scales and speeds. We have sampled more detailed bend sounds than ever, but still cannot cover all pitches. To solve this problem, you can use the pitch wheel (layer 05_gz_nv_pb) to get other bend sounds, although it is not as realistic as recorded samples.

Gu Zheng Interface

The controls offer Volume, Pan, and reverb adjustments. Turning the reverb knob down bypasses the effect entirely.

PATCH / ARTICULATION LIST

Gu Zheng offers various lifelike articulations, including sustained notes, bends, FX, and phrases. If you see (MW) in the name, you can switch between two variations using the Mod Wheel on your keyboard. Likewise, (VEL) means you can switch by playing softly or loudly.

Single Patches

- Bend Down 2 Slow (MW)
- Bend Down 3 Slow (MW)
- Bend Up 2 Fast
- Bend Up 2 Slow (MW)
- Bend Up 3 Slow (MW)
- Bend Up+Down 2 Fast (MW)
- Bend Up+Down 2 Slow (MW)
- Bend Up+Down 3 Slow (MW)
- FX
- Harmonics
- Phrases
- Sustain (NV fast + Midi Runs)
- Sustain (NV pb)
- Sustain (NV)
- Sustain (Vib normal)
- Sustain Vib Fast (MW)
- Tremolo

Keyswitch Patches

- HOLD KS + MW
- KS + MW
- HOLD KS + VEL
- KS + VEL
- Pentatonic (HOLD KS + VEL)
- Pentatonic (KS + VEL)



Gu Zheng's Keyswitch Patches offer a rich array of articulations, seamlessly switchable via the colored keyswitch keys positioned under the playing range. The currently active articulation is visibly displayed on the interface beneath the controls, ensuring clarity during performance.

When a patch is labeled "HOLD," it signifies that all Keyswitches, except for Sustains (green keyswitches), function as momentary switches, activated only while the key is held down. Conversely, if "HOLD" is absent from the patch name, all Keyswitches persist until replaced by another.

In Keyswitch Patches, much like in Single Patches, "MW" signifies that Mod Wheel adjustments can toggle between two variations of specific articulations, whereas patches labeled "VEL" are influenced by Velocity.

Pentatonic Patches stand out for preserving the instrument's original scale and tonality, offering a distinctive musical experience.

Credits

Producer: Zhang Jian, Ma Jing

Executive Producer: Cui Quan Gu

Zheng Player: Wang Ning Recording Engineer: Cao Meng Editing: Ma Jing

MIDI Demo: Zhang Jian, Cui Quan

Graphic Design: Wu Wei

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