

A decorative border with a repeating floral motif in gold, pink, and green, framing the central text and image.

ARABIC PERCUSSION COLLECTION



BASSAM AYOUB

MANUAL

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The Arabic Percussion Collection offers a detailed and expressive sample library featuring 13 authentic Arabic percussion instruments, each carefully recorded to provide up to 60 articulations. Designed for both studio work and live performance, this collection delivers a high level of playability, allowing you to easily control every instrument through an intuitive user interface.

In addition to the rich, lifelike sound, each instrument includes a set of pre-recorded MIDI grooves, capturing a wide range of Arabic music styles—from traditional to more intricate patterns. These grooves are instantly playable on your keyboard, offering ready-to-use rhythms that fit seamlessly into any production or performance.

The collection is available as a complete product or in 5 smaller libraries, giving you flexibility based on your specific needs.

Bassam Ayoub

Born in Syria, Bassam Ayoub is a musician and singer who has travelled with various bands to many Arab countries and Europe. As head of his recording studio in Wiesbaden, Germany, he has worked with renowned manufacturers of keyboards and expanders such as Korg and Farfisa.



The Interface



1. Volume / Pan Controls:

Change the volume and panorama of the instrument.

2. Reverb Dry/Wet & Room Preset Selection:

The Dry/Wet knob adjusts the mix of original and reverb.

The preset knob selects different reverb types or disables the effect when turned fully left.

3. Articulation List

The articulation list shows all available articulations and their key ranges, with some spanning multiple keys. Additionally, a real-time indicator highlights which articulation is currently being played, ensuring precise feedback during performance or composition.

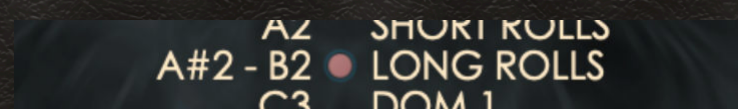
Play Range & Midi Grooves



The main play range of the instrument is divided into distinct color-coded sections, with each articulation group assigned its own unique color. This visual aid matches the color of the corresponding light indicator of the articulation list, allowing you to quickly identify the currently played articulations. The range covers multiple keys for certain articulations, offering versatile performance options while ensuring clear visual and functional feedback.

In addition to the main play range, there is a separate section higher on the keyboard dedicated to pre-mapped MIDI grooves (green keys). This section allows for quick access to unique rhythm patterns and fills for each instrument, all composed and performed by Bassam Ayoub, offering authentic percussive movements typical of oriental music.

Mod Wheel (CC1)



Most Long Roll articulations can be controlled with the Mod Wheel and automated with MIDI CC1 to change volume and intensity of the roll.

Articulations

The following list shows the typical playing styles and articulations found in most instruments of the Arabic Percussion Collection. These techniques are essential to the performance and sound of traditional Arabic percussion.

- Dom:** A deep, resonant sound played by striking the center of the drumhead with the palm of the hand. It forms the bass note of most rhythms.
- Pa:** A muted version of the Dom, typically played with less force or by applying slight pressure to the drumhead to dampen the sound. Also known as Sak or Tak
- Tik:** A sharp, high-pitched sound created by striking the edge of the drum with the fingertip, producing a crisp and quick note.
- Tak:** A bright, cutting sound, typically produced with more force, also played near the edge of the drum.
- Ka:** A short, light stroke usually made with the non-dominant hand, complementing the Tak and adding rhythm complexity.
- Cha:** A quick, muted sound created by lightly tapping the drum, often used as a filler between stronger strokes.
- Chek:** A similar articulation to Cha but played slightly differently, often used in rapid, syncopated patterns to create intricate rhythmic textures.

In addition to the essential articulations, all instruments feature additional ones such as human claps, rolls, noises, and unique group variations. To get a better feel for the instrument, we recommend experimenting with the MIDI grooves, as they showcase its full range of capabilities.

Instruments

The complete collection features 13 authentic Arabic percussion instruments, each vital to oriental music. With up to 60 articulations, multiple velocity layers, Round Robin variations, and a wide selection of MIDI grooves specifically programmed for each instrument, it provides an unmatched level of realism and detail.

Daf



The Daf is a traditional Arabic frame drum known for its deep, resonant tone and distinctive, sharp slaps. Widely used in both folk and classical music across the Middle East, the Daf's versatile design allows for a range of dynamic rhythms, making it an essential instrument of Arabic Percussion Collection. Its rich history and diverse timbres bring a unique depth to any musical performance. The library features four different Dafs - two made from skin and two from plastic - each offering its own unique sound.

Darbuka



The Darbuka, also known as the Doumbek, is a prominent percussion instrument in Arabic music, celebrated for its crisp, melodic tones and powerful rhythmic potential. Typically made from ceramic, metal, or plastic, its goblet-shaped body allows for a wide range of striking techniques, from sharp slaps to deep bass tones. The Arabic Percussion Collection includes both a Clay Darbuka and a Metal Darbuka, each offering its own unique tonal qualities.

Riq



The Riq is a small, handheld tambourine-like instrument in Arabic music, known for its sharp jingles and vibrant rhythmic tones. Played with the fingers and palms, it adds a lively texture and is essential in both ensemble and solo performances, creating intricate rhythms and dynamic melodies.

Katem



The Katem is a traditional Arabic percussion instrument known for its deep, resonant tones. Crafted from clay or metal, it has a distinctive bowl-like shape that allows for a range of sounds, from rich bass to sharp rhythmic taps. Played by striking different parts of the surface, the Katem provides a versatile rhythmic foundation, making it a standout instrument in percussion ensembles.

Sajat



The term "Sajat" refers to cymbal instruments, encompassing two distinct types: the Sajat and the Tura. Sajat are small finger cymbals, often used in Middle Eastern music and dance to create sharp, ringing tones. Tura, on the other hand, are larger hand-held cymbals with a deeper, more resonant sound. Together, these instruments provide rhythmic accents and metallic textures in musical performances.

Mazhar



The Mazhar is a large, heavy tambourine commonly used in Arabic music. Its frame is typically made of wood, and the head is considerably thicker than that of its smaller relative, the Riq. Some versions of the instrument feature brass zills, which are about 10–13 cm in diameter and can be played using a shaking technique. The Mazhar produces a deep, resonant sound, with the zills adding a shimmering, metallic texture. It is used in ensembles to provide both rhythmic drive and a powerful sonic presence.

Tambourine



Tambourines are an essential part of Oriental music, adding rhythmic energy and bright, metallic tones. The Arabic Percussion Collection features two distinct tambourines, each contributing unique textures and dynamics to musical performances.



Credits

Bassam Ayoub

Recording, Production, Development and Concept

Recording: STUDIO AYOUB in Wiesbaden

Dan Corches:

Development, GUI & Manual Design

ENGINE AUDIO

Engine Player scripting & uber-human programming

For technical support, please contact
support@bestservice.com

More information and updates can be found at
www.bestservice.com

Manual Version 1.0

