MODARTT presents PIANOTEQ 1.0
Piano modelling software [Mac/PC]

Pianoteq is the very first truly modelled piano, available for the VST and AudioUnit platform. The breakthrough technology introduces new possibilities and astonishing realism. Pianoteq is the beginning of a brand new generation of pianos!

Being a truly modelled piano, the sound is created in real time from scratch through a very sophisticated mathematical model that simulates an acoustic piano. It responds to how the pianist strikes each key and how the strings interact, just like a real piano. The result is a remarkably expressive and vivid instrument, placing it way in advance of the state of art.

The first generation of pianos began with Cristofori’s pianoforte in 1698 which came to maturity at the end of the 19th century with the acoustic grand pianos. It was followed in the 20th century by the second generation electro-acoustic pianos and the third generation sampled pianos where each note is a recording of how it sounded during a specific moment in time, not taking into account the complexity of the instrument.

Pianoteq is the first and only piano belonging truly to the fourth generation, developed in order to go way beyond the limitations of the third generation and to become a versatile and innovating tool.

Simulating acoustic pianos: Everything that characterizes an acoustic piano is there: the mechanical noises (optional), the complexity of pedals and strings in interaction, the percussion impact on staccato play, and of course the most important, the beauty of the piano sound. So, while playing you can actually feel the vividness of the piano as if you could just lean a bit forward to touch the strings...

New possibilities: The unique adjustable parameters result in great realism and even allow to go beyond the material constraints of an acoustic piano, thus being able to create new instruments and sounds.

Light requirements: Pianoteq can be successively used on a modern laptop. It adapts dynamically its CPU consumption to the resources available on your computer. It requires minimal computer memory, and its installation is fast and easy.

Pianoteq is distributed exclusively on the Internet

On our site http://www.pianoteq.com, you can listen to Pianoteq sounds and you can download a trial copy.

Feature Highlights
- Responds in real time to pianist’s interpretation.
- Sounds and behaves just like a real piano.
- Extraordinary playability and expressiveness.
- Advanced parameters for tuning, voicing and soundboard adjustment.
- Extremely small (8 MB) and fast.

The current piano settings which are presented today are the first instruments of a collection which will grow in the near future for the enjoyment of all musicians. Our costumers are invited to exchange their best settings through the FXP corner on our website.
Pianoteq for professional use and creation

Based on mathematical models, Pianoteq allows parameters to be stretched as long as the model permits, resulting not only in new performance styles but also in new piano sounds. Pianoteq is thus also an innovating tool for music creation and can be useful not only to musicians but also to piano manufacturers and piano tuners for simulation and training purposes. MODARTT provides services for particular professional adaptations.

The sound comes from 32-bit floating audio computation without any quantization noise, not even with the softest pianissimos. Expressivity is superior as it can handle all the 127 MIDI velocities for each note.

The high quality sound can be easily processed in a virtual studio for professional use.

The secret of Pianoteq

The idea of modelling the piano sound is not new, but no relevant solution has been found up to now. The Pianoteq history is strongly connected to the outstanding career of Philippe Guillaume, who, so to speak, had three lives in one. In a first life he was a high level expert in piano tuning and piano restoration. He worked with prestigious artists like Maria João Pires and Alicia de la Rocha.

Then at age 30, he started a second life with basic studies in mathematics and succeeded brilliantly in the prestigious French Agrégation competition. He earned in a very short time the title of Doctor in Applied Mathematics degree, then became a full professor, and the Director of the Department of Mathematics of INSA-Toulouse, France. His work on fast computation for a wide range of parameter variation led to the creation of the company CADOE, which is actually a part of Ansys, the world leader in engineering software.

The adventure of Pianoteq started when Philippe Guillaume tuned his first piano and when he wrote his first mathematical model.

The third life of Philippe Guillaume is devoted to developing and promoting Pianoteq.

The Pianoteq team

In addition to the contribution of Philippe Guillaume, the work of his colleague Julien Pommier was of crucial importance. Thus it is possible to run Pianoteq in real time on a standard PC/Mac.

Thanks to the excellent environment and the support provided by the INSA-Toulouse and its prestigious research laboratory MIP, the help of many colleagues, and a carefully chosen team of experienced musicians, step by step the idea turned into a vivid and convincing digital piano.

The Incubateur of the Region of Toulouse, France, Webcolibri and Comm’In provided a high quality support to the project.

Product release: August 26, 2006

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http://www.pianoteq.com
User testimonials

I believe that this is the finest, most expressive and realistic digital piano instrument that I've ever encountered. I'm sure that this will be the instrument I use for playing, practicing, and sequencing moving forward. I really can't say enough in praise of the technology. The dynamics are extremely convincing and much better than any sample library or ROMpler in my collection. Pianoteq even beats my Clavinova which I was convinced had the best dynamics until now. I especially enjoyed the ability of Pianoteq to catch a staccato note with an immediate press of the sustain pedal. This isn't something I was able to replicate with any other sample library.

Rodney Jones, Caledon, Canada

Taking into account Pianoteq’s mechanics possibilities, it places it on a pedestal compared to competing sampled pianos. It requires much less CPU and much less disk space, the sound is very vivid thanks to its irreproachable mechanics which allows a very high expressiveness, and provides a substantial playing pleasure because it behaves like an acoustic piano.

Christophe Jodon, Le Plessis-Luzarches, France

The interface is simple and logical in design. It is intuitive, and the inclusion of pop-up help is an especially bold stroke, since it not only reveals the function, but what the function affects. The technology is unbelievably innovative and revolutionary (and I don't use this term lightly). In the end however, it is the sound that counts. As amazing as the technology behind this piano is, it is remarkably overshadowed by its superb sound. The Pianoteq piano is by far more "vivid" than my favorite sampled piano.

Brian D. Schum, Port Arkansas, USA

Pianoteq is far more vivid than static samples. It invites the muse, and chords sound like chords (ensemble) as they interact. The massive harp (sympathetics) ringing on a full-compass glissando with pedal is truly staggering! It sounds just like a gliss while listening right over an open piano lid.

Brian McKinlay, Toronto, Canada