Vienna Symphonic Library PC Setup Guide for Kontakt

Overview

The Vienna Symphonic Library is a comprehensive sample library, containing thousands of articulations and playing techniques for all featured instruments. It is divided into 2 major components:

1. Single Note Samples, featuring playing techniques from staccato to sustained notes, tremolos, trills, dynamics and much more.

2. Performance Instruments which need the famous **Performance Tool** to work properly. The Performance Tool is the key to authentic **Legato** lines and **Repetitions**.

> **All instruments which have a "perf" in their name (such as, e.g., VI-perf-leg_f) NEED the Performance Tool.**

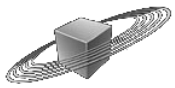
The Performance Tool's **Alternation** Mode automatically switches between different playing techniques or variations of so-called "Combination Instruments".

The mixture of these 2 components is what makes your music come alive, and it's up to YOU to choose the right articulation for your arrangement.

There are **three methods** of implementing the Performance Instruments of the Vienna Symphonic Library in conjunction with **Kontakt**. We refer to those methods as **"Live" Mode**, **"Monitor" Mode** and **"Stand-alone" Mode**.

Kontakt is a stand-alone sampler as well as a VST-instrument.

If your soundcard is a multiclient device, the "Stand-alone" Mode will facilitate your work regarding Performance Instruments.



Installation

First register your Vienna Symphonic Library Horizon Series product and download the Kontakt programs (.nki files) from the User Area of our website www.vsl.co.at/user.

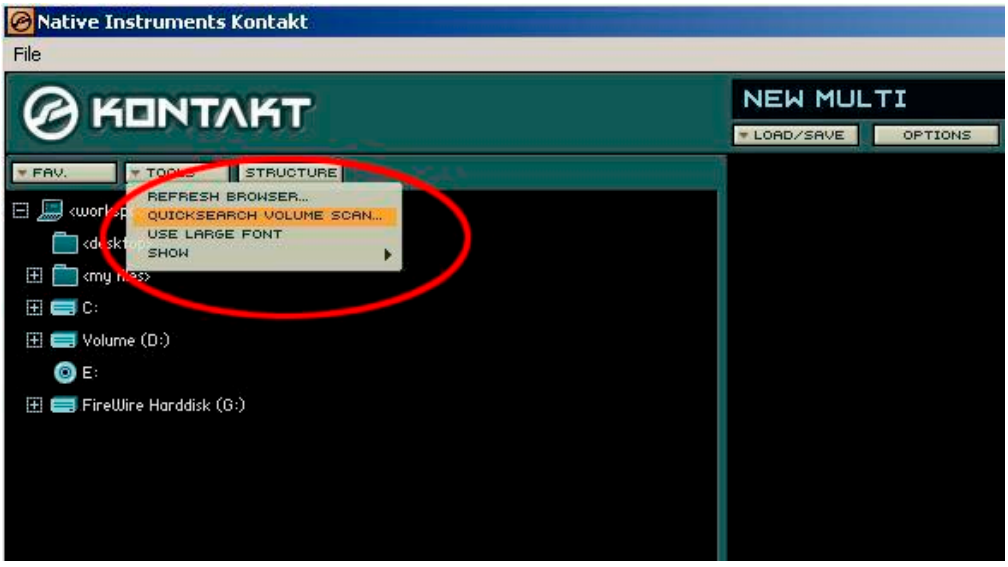
Then double-click on the folder “Exs” on your DVD, open the folder “Samples” and extract the files to your hard disk.

You do not have to extract the “Sampler Instruments” folder, as this contains only EXS-specific files.

The files on your DVDs are packed as self-extracting files. To extract them on a PC, simply double-click on a file and specify the target folder. You can also use WinRar (included on your DVD) to extract single files.

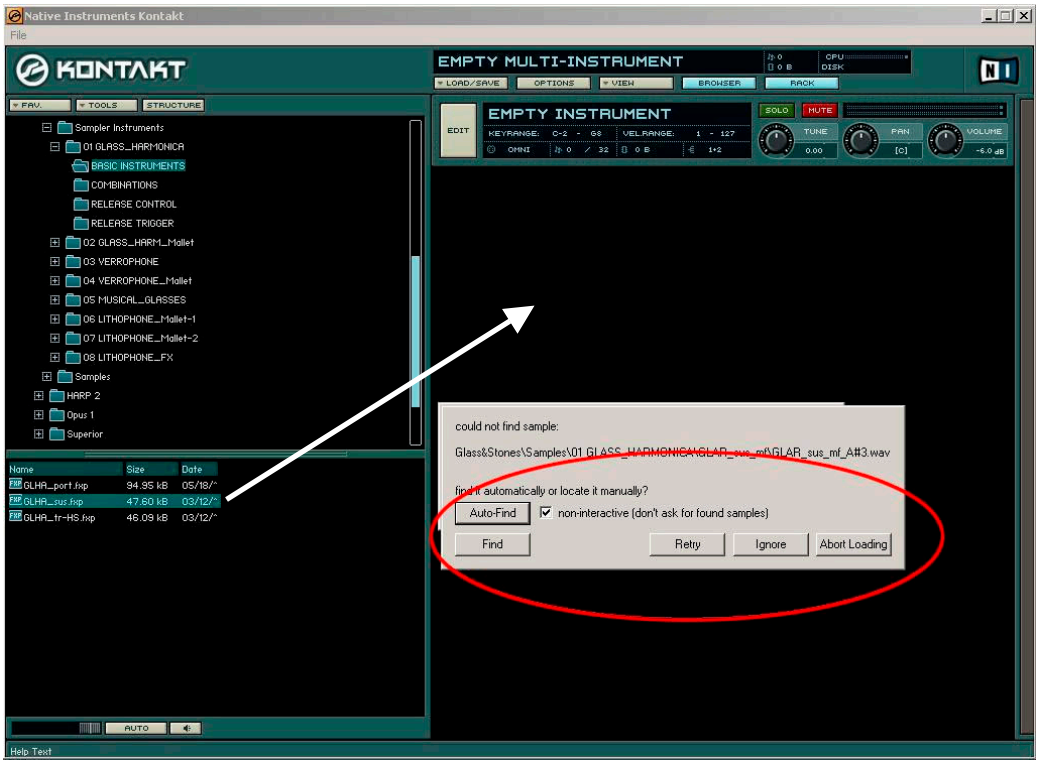
Sample management with Kontakt

After starting Kontakt (v. 1.5.3) click on the TOOLS button and click on "Quicksearch Volume Scan".



Click on the hard disk that contains your samples. Now click "SCAN!" and a window will open, saying "Do you really want to rebuild your QuickSearch Database"? Select "Yes".

When you are loading a program for the first time (doubleclick or drag the instrument from the instrument browser into the instrument window), a message window will appear which says "could not find Sample". Please activate the checkbox "non-interactive" and choose "Auto-Find".



Important: **The best way to speed up loading times in Kontakt is to store each program again after your loading process is completed by overwriting the old .nki file. This way Kontakt will always know where to find the corresponding samples for each program.**

Attention:

When you load a program that features **modwheel blends**, touch the modwheel before starting to play. Kontakt 1.5.3 needs this activation before it plays back modwheel blend programs!

Integrating the Performance Tool

The Performance Tool needs **virtual MIDI Ports** to receive and output MIDI Data from and to your sequencer. Please download the free **VSL MIDI Router** from **www.vsl.co.at/user** as the connecting virtual MIDI cable from your sequencer to the input of your Performance Tool (Monitor and Stand-alone Mode), and **Maple Virtual MIDI Cable** – available for free on **www.marblesound.com** – to connect the output of your Performance Tool with your Kontakt.

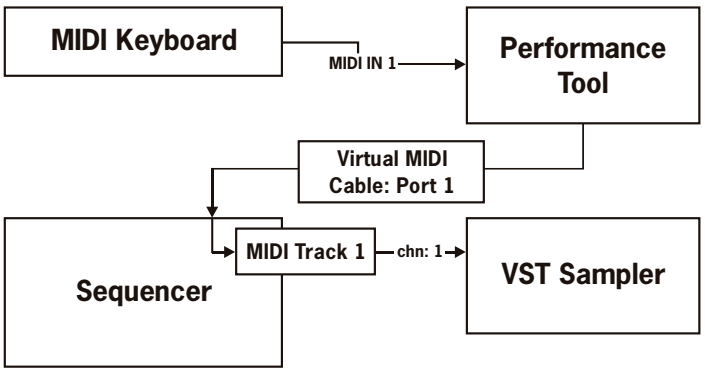
1. Live Mode

Background

This tutorial shows how to record a live performance (i.e., playing directly from a MIDI keyboard) in your sequencer using the Vienna Symphonic Library's Performance Tool in **Legato Mode**.

In Live Mode, it is not possible to edit your recorded legato line, as the MIDI data the Performance Tool produces is rather complicated!

The diagram below depicts the high level setup for this approach:



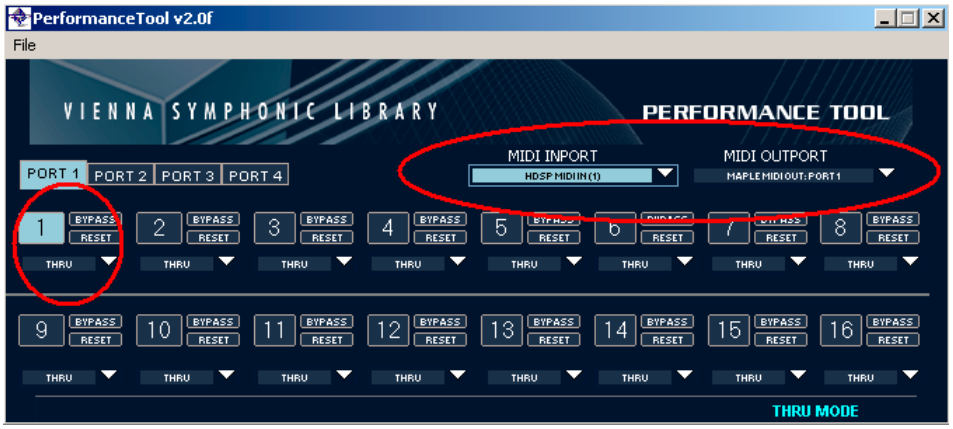
This is the simplest approach to using the Performance Tool with Kontakt when recording or performing your live performance with Kontakt. But as your sequencer records all the modified MIDI data coming from the Performance Tool when using Performance instruments, it will be hard (if not impossible) to edit your performance on the MIDI level.

Getting Started

- Create a new blank project in your sequencer.
- Load up Kontakt as a VST instrument.
- Load a Performance Legato program into Kontakt (in this tutorial we use the Legato Clarinet **KLB_perf_leg_f**).

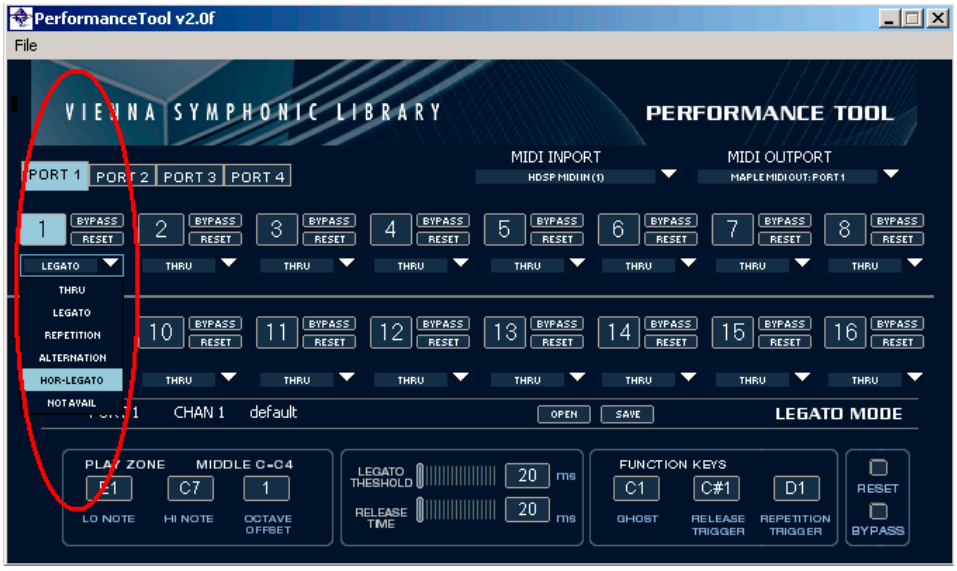
Configuring the Performance Tool

Launch the Vienna Symphonic Library Performance Tool to configure the **MIDI In-Port, MIDI Out-Port** and the **Performance Mode**.

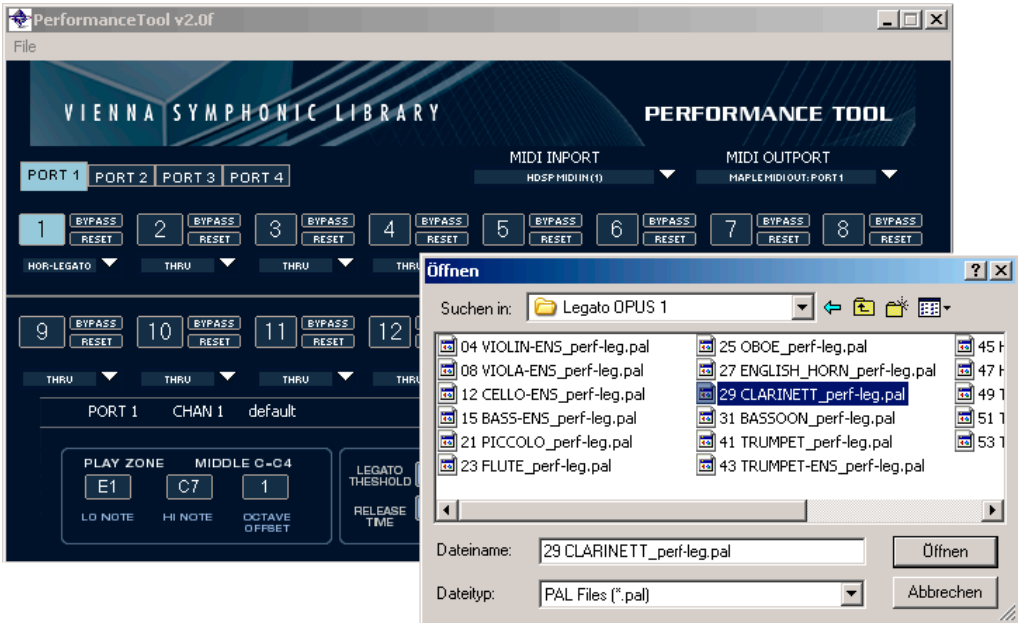


This setup depends very much on the setup you are using. The **MIDI In-Port** has to be the MIDI port where the data from your keyboard come in (in this case USB Keystation). For the **MIDI Out-Port** select the first port of your virtual MIDI ports (here: “Maple MIDI Out: Port1”).

Finally, select **“Hor-Legato” Mode** (for the Horizon Series) for the channel into which you loaded a Performance Instrument in your sampler (in this case channel 1).

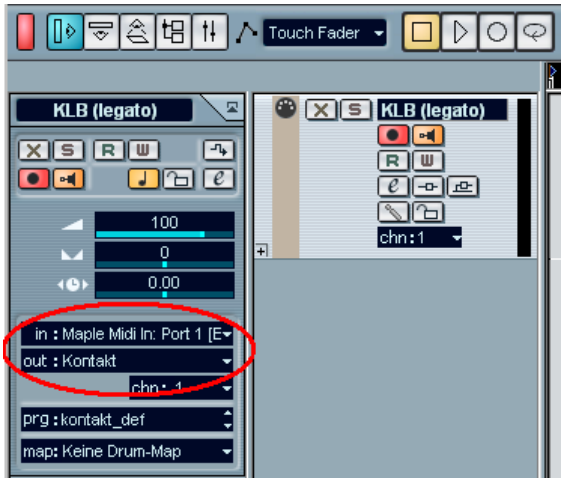


Legato Mode should also be configured with the appropriate Tool Template file (.pal), in this example KLB_perf-leg.pal. Download the **Tool Templates** for your purchase from our website www.vsl.co.at/user. Click “open” and select the right .pal file from your Tool Templates folder.



Configuring the Sequencer

Add a new MIDI track in your sequencer (in this case Cubase SX) and configure it to accept inputs from the Performance Tool Out-Port (in this case Maple MIDI in: Port 1) and output its data to Kontakt.



Now, prepare the MIDI track for playback and/or record and start playing your Performance Legato Instrument. When you play back your recorded passage, the Performance Tool will not be an active part of the MIDI chain.

Exporting to Wave Files

If you want to capture your performance as a wave file, you can easily export an audio mixdown of your instruments (just as with any other VST-plugin).

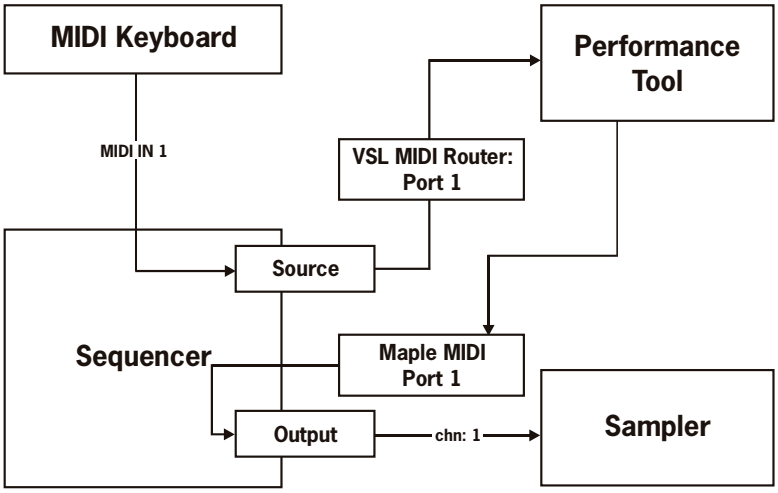
2. Monitor Mode

Background

This tutorial shows how to record a live performance and maintain the original source (for editing purposes) in your sequencer using the VSL Performance Tool's Legato Mode.

In this mode, you record your melody on a **"Source"** Channel and by routing your MIDI data through the Performance Tool, you trigger the Performance Instrument loaded into your Kontakt through a second **"Output"** channel. This way, you can easily edit your melody in the "Source" channel, and when you are satisfied with the result, you simply record the MIDI data the Performance Tool produces to your "Output" channel.

The high level design for this approach is depicted below:



Getting Started

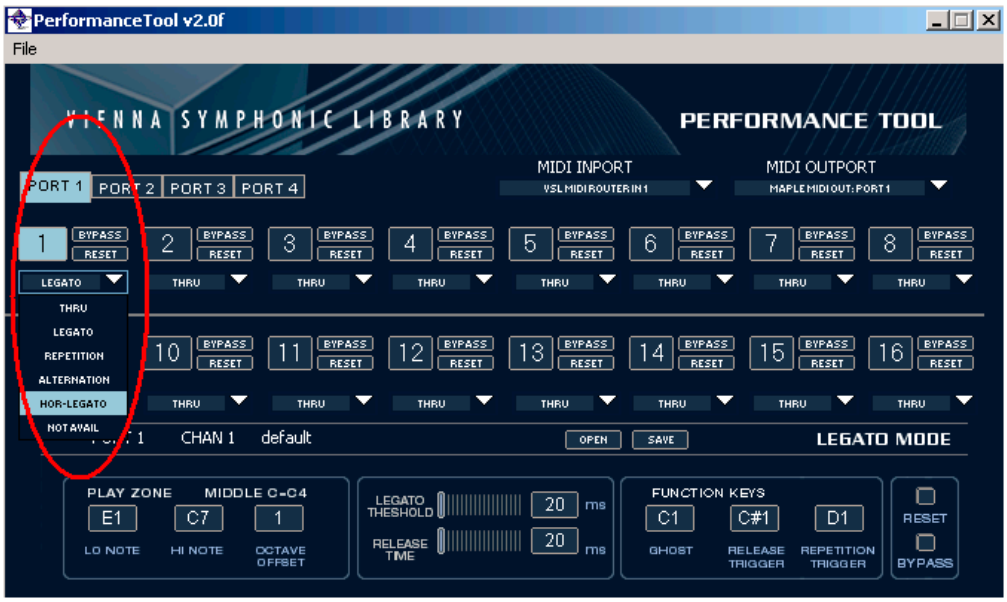
- Create a new blank project in Cubase.
- Load up Kontakt as a VST instrument.
- Load a Performance Legato program into Kontakt (in this tutorial we use the Legato Clarinet **KLB_perf-leg_f**).

Configuring the Performance Tool

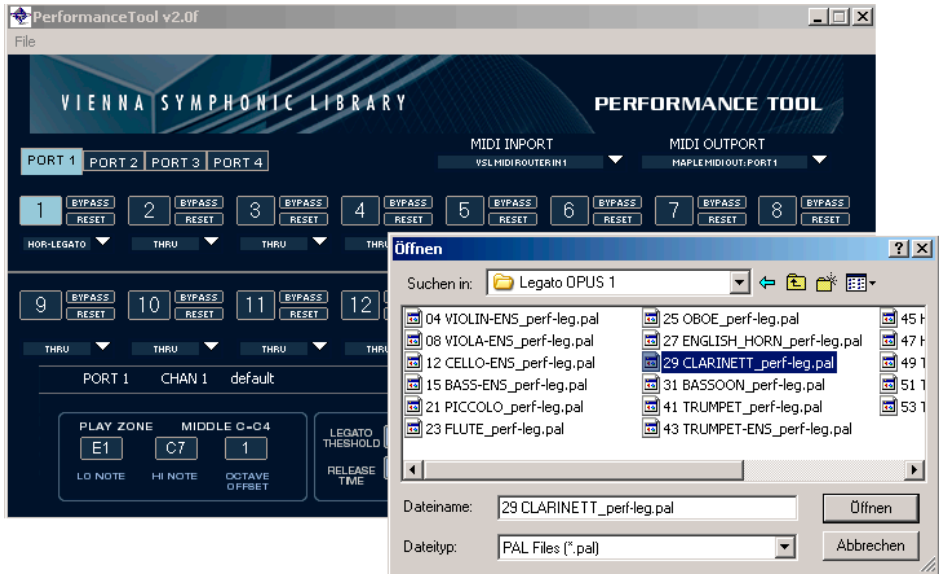
Launch the VSL Performance Tool and configure the **In-Port, Out-Port** and the **Performance Mode**.

The **In-Port** should be configured to receive data from a virtual MIDI Port (in this case VSL MIDI Router: In 1) whereas a second virtual MIDI Port (Maple MIDI Out: Port 1) is used for the **Out-Port**.

Finally, select **"Hor-Legato" Mode** (for the Horizon Series) on the channel into which you've loaded a Performance Instrument in your sequencer (in this case channel 1).



Legato Mode should also be configured with the appropriate Tool Template file (.pal), in this example KLB_perf-leg.pal. Download the **Tool Templates** for your purchase from our website www.vsl.co.at/user. Click "open" and select the right .pal file from your Tool Templates folder.



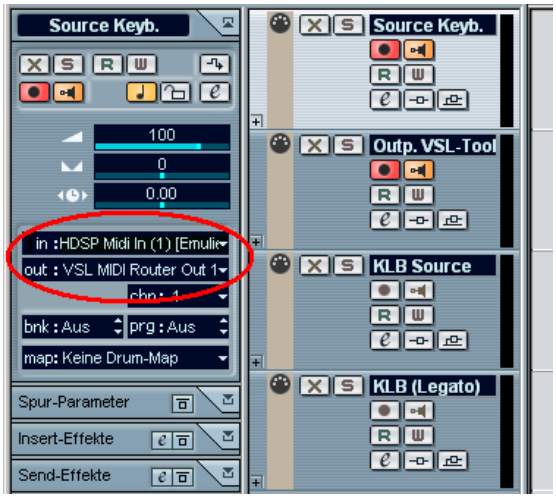
Configuring the Sequencer

Add four new MIDI tracks in the sequencer (in this case Cubase SX).

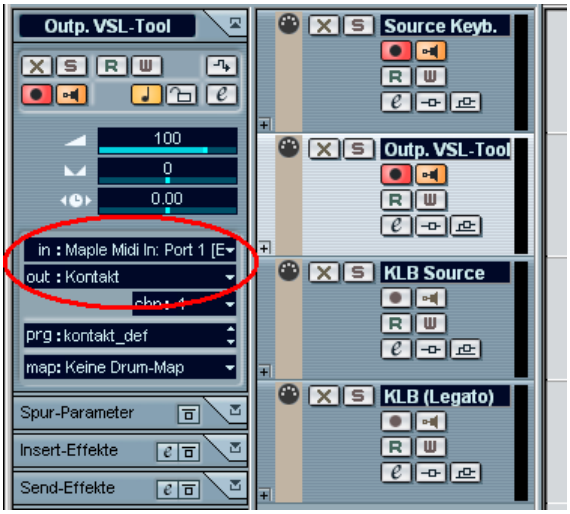
Two tracks will be used for recording source and Performance data (call them **"Source"** and **"Output").** The other two tracks (which should be named after the instrument) are used for holding the instrument's specific data.

> *This may seem like overkill – but unfortunately, this approach is required as Cubase MIDI tracks receive on all 16 Channels at once, so that it is impossible to route the Performance Tool outputs on channel level. If this was possible, naturally there would be no need for the Source and Output tracks.*

The MIDI Track **Source** should be configured to accept inputs from your MIDI Keyboard (here HDSP MIDI OUT 1) and output to the Performance Tool In-Port (here VSL MIDI Router: Out 1).



The **Output** Midi Track should be configured to accept inputs from the Performance Tool Out-Port (in this case Maple Midi In: Port 1) and output its data to Kontakt.



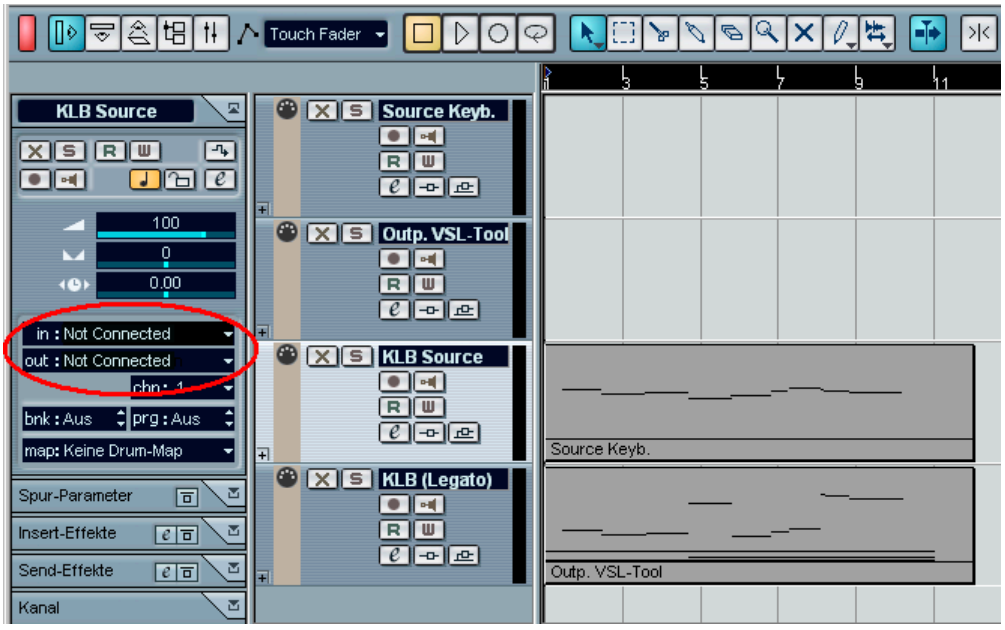
Now prepare both Source and Output MIDI tracks for playback and/or record and start playing your Performance Legato Instrument.

Record some MIDI Data on both tracks at the same time. Of course you can also wait with the recording of your **Output** track until all the editing you find necessary is done.

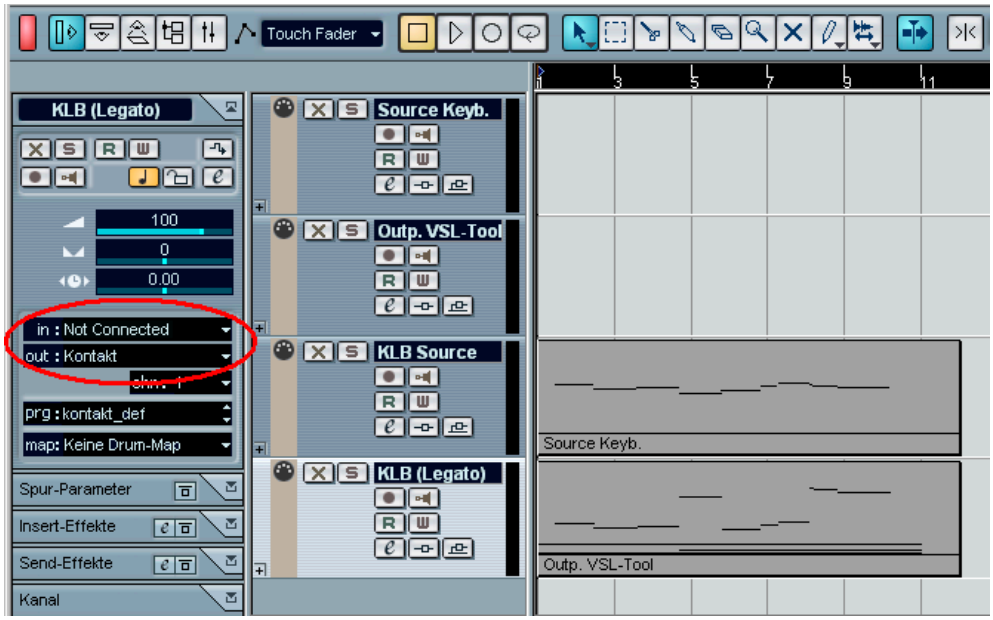
Using Source and Output

Once you have some data in **Source** and **Output** tracks it can be copied down into the KLB_Source and KLB (Legato) MIDI Tracks.

The **KLB_Source** MIDI track should be configured without any inputs or outputs (i.e. “Not Connected”) as shown below. Basically, this is a track with no purpose other than allowing you to edit your music at a future time if necessary.



The **KLB (Legato)** MIDI track should be configured without any inputs but with its output set to Kontakt.



This is the track that will actually “play”, using the MIDI data generated by the Performance Tool. This data is being sent to Kontakt. If you want to edit your source data (your melody), do so and simply record the output data of the Performance Tool once more.

Exporting to Wave Files

If you want to capture your performance as a wave file, you can easily export an audio mixdown of the **Output** channel connected to **Kontakt**.

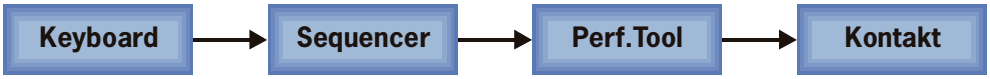
3. Stand-alone Mode

Background

This mode shows you how to use Kontakt as a stand-alone application. This way your recorded MIDI data will be sent to your Kontakt. Please remember to save the setup you are using in Kontakt separately, as it will NOT be saved with the arrangement in your sequencer. Also, don't forget to save the settings of your Performance Tool.

To record audio data from your stand-alone Kontakt on ONE computer, you either need a soundcard that is multiclient compatible, or you will have to use your soundcard's physical outputs and inputs (digital or analog) to record the signal by sending it through your audio mixer.

The setup for this approach is very simple:



Always make sure that you send your MIDI data to the right port in your sequencer, so that the Performance Tool can send the modified MIDI data to your sampler. Please look up your Performance Tool Manual for more details.

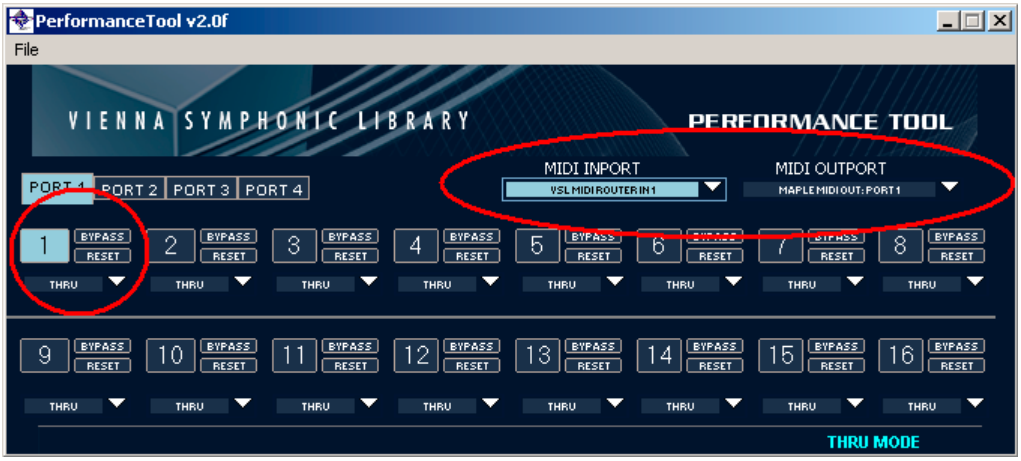
If you are using **Kontakt on a dedicated machine**, we suggest using **MIDI over LAN** (available at www.musiclab.com) to send the MIDI data from your sequencer to the Performance Tool on your second (Kontakt) computer.

Getting Started

- Create a new blank project in your sequencer.
- Load up Kontakt as a stand-alone application.
- Load a Performance Legato program into Kontakt (in this tutorial we use the Legato Clarinet **KLB_perf-leg_f**).

Configuring the Performance Tool

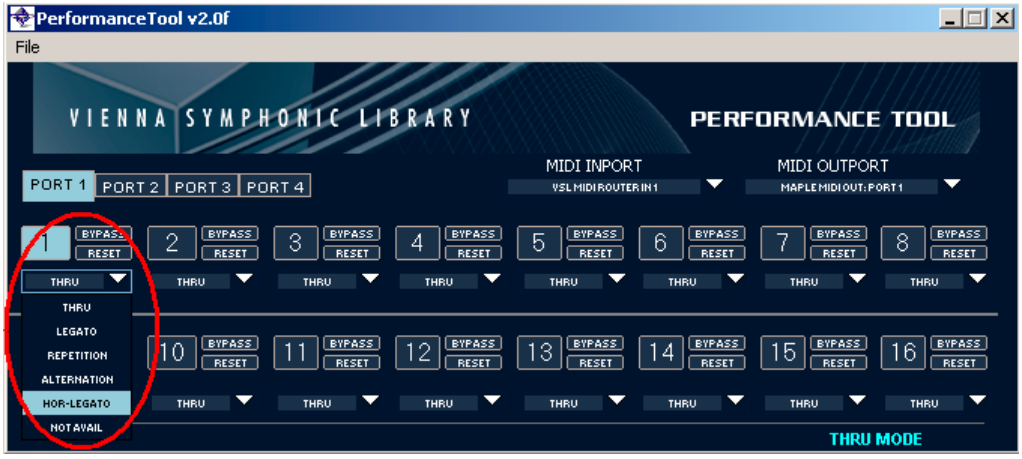
Launch the Vienna Symphonic Library Performance Tool to configure the **MIDI In-Port, MIDI Out-Port** and the **Performance Mode**.



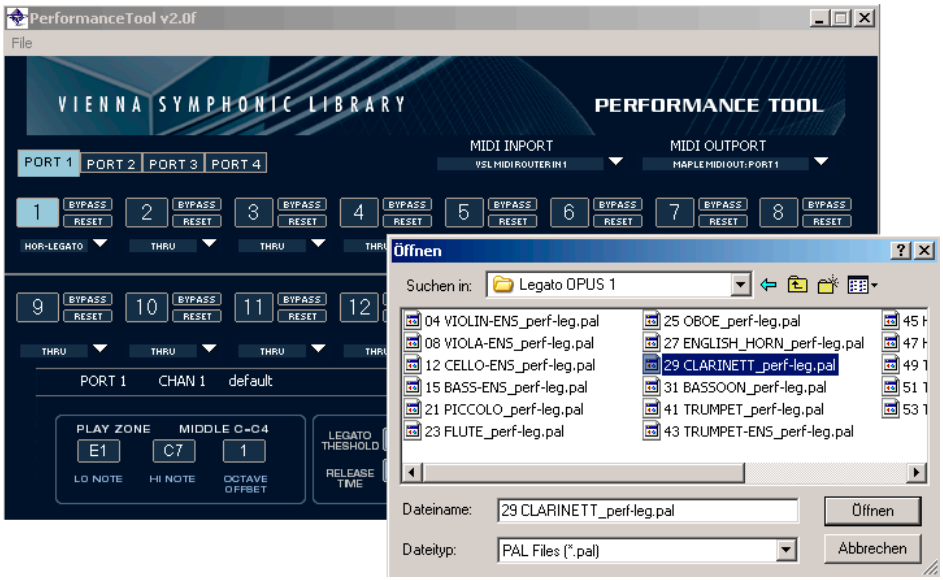
This setup depends very much on the setup you are using. The MIDI In-port has to be the MIDI port where the data from your sequencer comes in (in this case VSL MIDI Router: In 1). For the MIDI Out-port select the port you chose as your MIDI Inport for **Kontakt** (in this case Maple MIDI Out: Port1).

As you can run several instances of Kontakt in stand-alone mode simultaneously, make sure that each port is configured with the right MIDI In and Out Ports!

Finally, select **"Hor-Legato" Mode** (for the Horizon Series) for the channel into which you've loaded a Performance Instrument in your sampler (in this case channel 1).

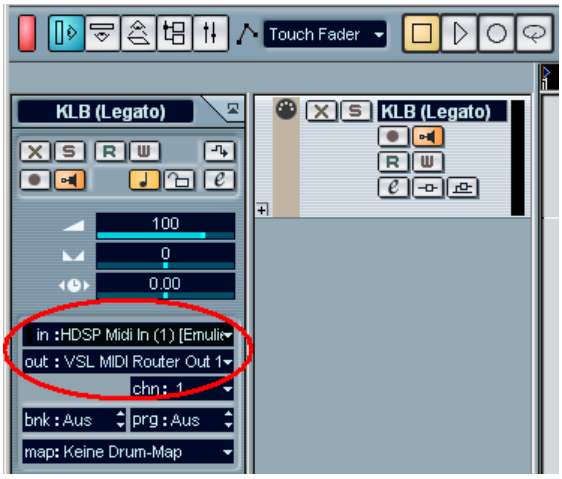


Legato Mode should also be configured with the appropriate Tool Template file (.pal), in this example **KLB_perf-leg.pal**. Download the **Tool Templates** for your purchase from our website www.vsl.co.at/user. Click “open” and select the right .pal file from your Tool Templates folder.



Configuring the Sequencer

Add a new MIDI track in your sequencer (in this case Cubase SX) and configure it to accept inputs from your keyboard (in this case HDSP MIDI in:1) and output its data to the port you assigned as your MIDI In Port in the Performance Tool (in this case VSL MIDI Router: Out 1).

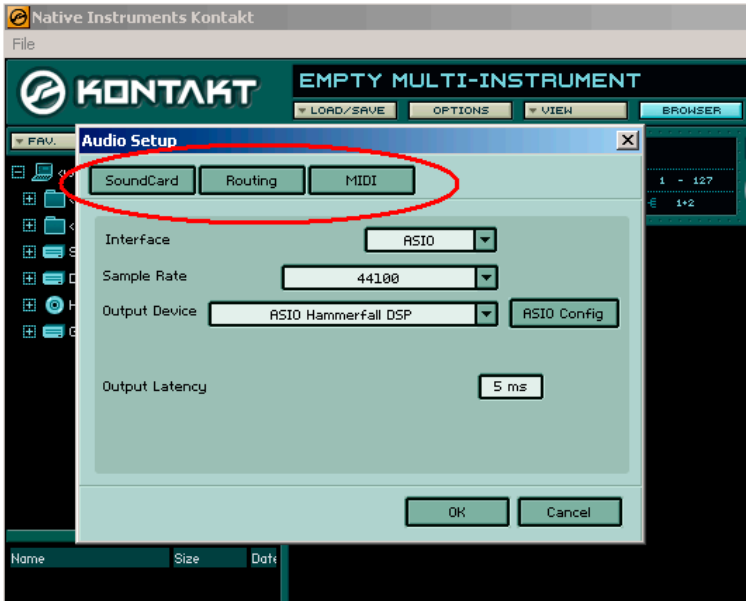


Now prepare the MIDI track for playback and/or record and start playing your Performance Legato Instrument.

Exporting to Wave Files

Make sure to configure the Setup (in the pop-up “File” menu) to the correct settings concerning the **ASIO Device, Routing** and **MIDI Input** (in this case Maple MIDI In Port 1).

To record audio data from your Kontakt you need to send the signal through a hardware mixer! Then send the signal to any input of your sequencer.



Learn more about the Performance Tool from the Performance Tool Manual.

Enjoy the sounds of the Vienna Symphonic Library!

Your Vienna Symphonic Library Team

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