



*"The White Grand is the best piano sample I have heard. It sits beautifully in a mix, as well as alone. It actually sounds alive!"* – Paul Linford; film composer, mixer, programmer for Trevor Rabin

*"I had no idea a sampled piano could be this good. It was as if someone told me they had a guitar, and what they showed me was a '54 Strat."* – Trevor Rabin; film composer, guitarist

*"In the professional world we don't have time to waste in the studio, so when I need an acoustic piano, I always start with White Grand - it just works. It's presence and brightness is hard to achieve with other piano samples"* – Jerney Whaley; producer, composer, musician

*"Probably the very best pop/studio piano that has ever been released. In terms of its evenness and playability, and its consistency of presence from pp to fff, I think it is the best piano sample that has ever been released, period."* – Bruce Richardson; composer, sound designer, music-technology guru.

SampleTekk proudly presents the White Grand, in our opinion, *the* best contemporary pop/rock/jazz grand piano in the sampled world today.

We recorded The White Grand with the finest equipment available, using a specially designed digital recording technique to give you unequalled performance and sound.

Prepare to explore a tactile and expressive feast, unparalleled in sampled pianos today.

## ***White Grand today and tomorrow***

The White Grand pushes the envelope of what today's samplers can handle. As sampling platforms continue to evolve and grow, so will the White Grand. In our sessions for the White Grand, we recorded far more material than we can use in today's samplers. Rest assured, your purchase of today's White Grand is a great value--now, and tomorrow. All registered users of the White Grand will get free updates on future releases. You will only pay the cost of the actual CD's, postage and handling. Please register your copy today to take advantage of this continuing evolution of the White Grand.

## ***How to register***

Send an e-mail to [register@sampletekk.com](mailto:register@sampletekk.com) with your full name, place and date of purchase and the name of the product that you want to register. Simple as that!

## **Recording the White Grand**



The White Grand was recorded in Studio Kuling, one of Sweden's top-shelf studios for recording acoustic instruments. The large studio room is about 100 square meters, with five meters to the roof in 70% of the room. The rest is a more damped area, with more than two meters to the roof. The acoustics are fantastic, well suited for any type of recording! You can alter the room's response with both gobos and adjustable ceiling-mounted reflectors. Studio Kuling was designed by Ingemar Olsson, Sweden's number one acoustic designer.

## ***The instrument***



The source piano, a Malmsjo 275 cm (9 foot) Grand Piano, was used for its incredible tone and range. The White Grand was recorded to a Pro Tools HD 2 system in 24-bit stereo through a Solid State Logic 4040E Console using AKG, Rode and Neumann microphones and Millenia preamps.

## ***A bit about SLH***

When playing an acoustic piano, there is a critical relationship between volume and tone. Not only do you get a louder tone when you strike a key harder, you also get a brighter timbre. Softer playing brings out fewer of the upper overtones, giving a darker tone. Softer playing also excites less of the instrument's mass and fewer of the neighboring strings' overtones.

This gives the piano continuously evolving character and expression through dynamic playing. Since you can, in theory, strike a note with infinite different velocities, you can, even from a single note, get an infinite amount of different timbres.

Producing a sampled instrument is an act of balancing these infinite variables against finite realities, to best effect. When sampling a piano, you can't sample an infinite number of strike velocities. There are practical limitations in file size and the number of different velocities samplers can play. We must limit ourselves to a certain number of samples per note. A single instrument could fill multiple hard drives and never cover every possibility of tone and expression. We pick and choose what to represent, in order to achieve the highest level of expression in the most practical manner. In the "old" days ( five years ago...), large sampled pianos commonly featured only two to four discrete velocities per note. Some had only one. Today, with more advanced samplers, most serious sample producers have six, even eight different velocities per note. Many sampled instruments now capture the damper closing on the string, triggered by the release of the key. All of this increases the quality and accuracy of modeling the instrument. But even increased sampling depth brings its own set of compromises. Eight or more velocities become difficult to record, since it's very hard for even a trained player to consistently hit note after note with exactly the same strength.

This is why we have developed SLH.

SLH is a specially designed digital recording system that, among other things, allows us to record samples with an exactness of strike force from layer to layer, and note to note. The White Grand has thirty-six discretely recorded samples per note! This is divided into sixteen samples for pedal up playing, sixteen samples for pedal down, and four discrete velocities of release samples. This sampling depth, combined with the consistency of our SLH process translates the tactile sensation of playing *this particular piano* with surprising accuracy. You not only hear the instrument--to a degree you actually get a reproduction of its feel from one note to another. We think the most remarkable aspect of this technique is the feeling of control at the keyboard...an instrument you can truly learn to play with control and finesse.

In our somewhat biased (but hopefully still humble) opinion, the White Grand is truly a next-generation sampled piano, with playability beyond anything you've experienced! We hope you enjoy playing it as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you!

## **What's on the CD's**

### ***Installing White Grand***

The White Grand comes on two separate CDs. The files are compressed using WinRar. To unpack, you'll need the WinRar application (a evaluation copy is included in the utilities folder).

### **Mac users**

There are several ways of skinning a cat, and there are several ways of decompressing a .rar file on a Mac. In the Utilities folder you will find several versions of StuffIt that are supposed to unpack rar-files. Check out the White Grand resource page a [www.sampletekk.com](http://www.sampletekk.com) for more info.

You can decompress the files directly from the CD into your target drive, which takes a bit longer, or simply copy the files "White Grand.rar" & "White Grand.r00" directly from the CDs to your hard disk and decompress them from there. Once decompressed, you can safely remove the .rar and .r00 files from your hard disk.

Whichever method you choose, just start WinRAR, locate “White Grand.rar” and follow the online instructions.

Once decompressed you should have the following files in your target directory:

### **Gigastudio Format**

- White Grand HV.gig – Contains the top velocity layers
- White Grand MV.gig – Contains the middle velocity layers
- White Grand LV.gig – Contains the low velocity layers
- White Grand Release.gig – Contains the release samples
- White Grand.gsp – This is the file you should use, It loads up the 4 gig files in your Gigastudio.

Note: Loading the separate gig files individually will load only a portion of the White Grand. They are not ment to be used individually, but as a group. Always use the .gsp files!

### **Other Formats**

All other formats gives you a folder called “White Grand”. Inside you will find sample folder holding all actual samples plus the instrument file, (.nki, .fxp etc.)

### ***Playing the White Grand***

Now you've reached the easy part. Just load up White Grand and play away...the biggest problem you will have is tearing yourself away from the keyboard! Remember, eating and sleeping improve the musical experience immensely. There is not much to learn about the piano, once you understand how to load it. The only adjustment programmed for realtime use is control for the volume of the release samples, which is mapped to the modulation wheel.

### **System Requirements**

The piano is big! No doubt about that. Its size places considerable demand on your system's memory. We considered making smaller, economy versions, but then, it wouldn't really be the White Grand. However, in the future there will be .art files and special cutomization patches available on the White Grand resource page, at [www.sampletekk.com](http://www.sampletekk.com).

Some real-world examples of RAM usage (Gigastudio 16 bit version):

On a Pentium III 800MHz with 512Mb RAM it uses about 98% of the memory in GigaStudio. It plays great, but you can't have very much else running. This should be considered a minimum amount of RAM for using the White Grand. On an Athlon 1.4GHz with 760Mb RAM it uses about 40% and on a AMD Athlon XP2600 machine with 1.5 GB of RAM, it's using 32%

You also need at least 3.5Gb free diskspace, 4.8Gb with the 24 bit versions

### **Gigastudio Users**

*Since White Grand uses all four ports, you also need Gigastudio 160. There are workarounds using third party products, check out the White Grand resource page a [www.sampletekk.com](http://www.sampletekk.com) for more info.*

So, to recap, here's what you'll need to successfully experience the White Grand:

- Gigastudio 160, Kontakt or HALion 2.0
- System minimum (16 bit version): Pentium III 800 GHz with 512Mb RAM
- System minimum (24 bit version): Pentium IV 1GHz with 760Mb RAM
- Recommended: Pentium IV 1.4GHz with 760Mb RAM
- 3.5 Gb free disk space (16 bit versions), 4.9 Gb (24 bit version)