

VERSION 1.0.2

PRIPYAT PIANOS

USER GUIDE

1. DISCLAIMER

2. INTRODUCTION

3. INTERFACE

4. CREDITS

VERSION 1.0.2

1. DISCLAIMER

The information in this document is subject to change without notice and does not represent a commitment on the part of Strix Instruments, LLC.

The software described by this document is subject to a License Agreement and may not be copied to other media.

No part of this publication may be copied, reproduced or otherwise transmitted or recorded, for any purpose, without prior written permission by Strix Instruments, LLC, here in after referred to as Strix Instruments.

Document authored by: Volodymyr Savin

Software version: 1.0.2 (05/2021)

Document version: 1.0.2 (05/2021)

Strix Instruments, LLC

Vatslava Havela boulevard, 21

03124

Kyiv

Ukraine

<https://strixinstruments.com/>

2. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing PRIPYAT Pianos - a virtual instrument assembled from parts of the pianos left by residents in the abandoned city of Pripyat. The city was evacuated on April 27, 1986 due to the most powerful man-made disaster at the V.I.Lenin Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant: as a result of the experiment the reactor of the 4th power unit exploded at 1:23:47 am, releasing a huge cloud of radioactive particles that covered almost the entire globe.

At the end of each trip, shoes and clothes were thrown away or thoroughly washed out taking into account the radiation contamination of the soil, asphalt and dust particles in the air. Unfortunately, as you know, radiation accumulates in the human body, summing up to the dose that has already been received and will not be removed from the body throughout life, some isotopes will be active for thousands of years, i.e. much later than our death. We shortened our lives to create a truly unique instrument.

RADIOACTIVE PIANOS FROM THE CHERNOBYL EXCLUSION ZONE:

For seven years our team has made more than 25 trips to the city of Pripyat for detailed collection of audio materials. We've found and recorded 20 instruments in various parts of Pripyat that are of different levels of preservation and functionality. This amount of instruments was necessary to create a tool suitable not only for sound design, but also for writing compositions. Our goal was to create a virtual instrument which will show the nature of the degradation of instruments under the effects of harsh weather conditions and radiation, yet which also would have the most pure sound. All the pianos we could find participated in the creation of the final sound.

BEAUTIFUL AND SIMPLE INTERFACE WITH LIVE ELEMENTS:

Each of the 23 presets is supplemented with a photo of the place where the Impulse-Response was recorded, a brief description and the current level of gamma radiation in that particular location. Simply select the place you like from the drop-down list, touch the keys and feel the atmosphere of the Dead City. The main elements of control are the distance to the instrument, the ability to shorten the start of samples, adjusting the opening of the instrument lid, the convolution reverb control, as well as more detailed elements in the form of overtones, keystrokes, sustain pedal mechanism, dampers and the layer of sympathetic resonance, which was collected from 20 recorded pianos.

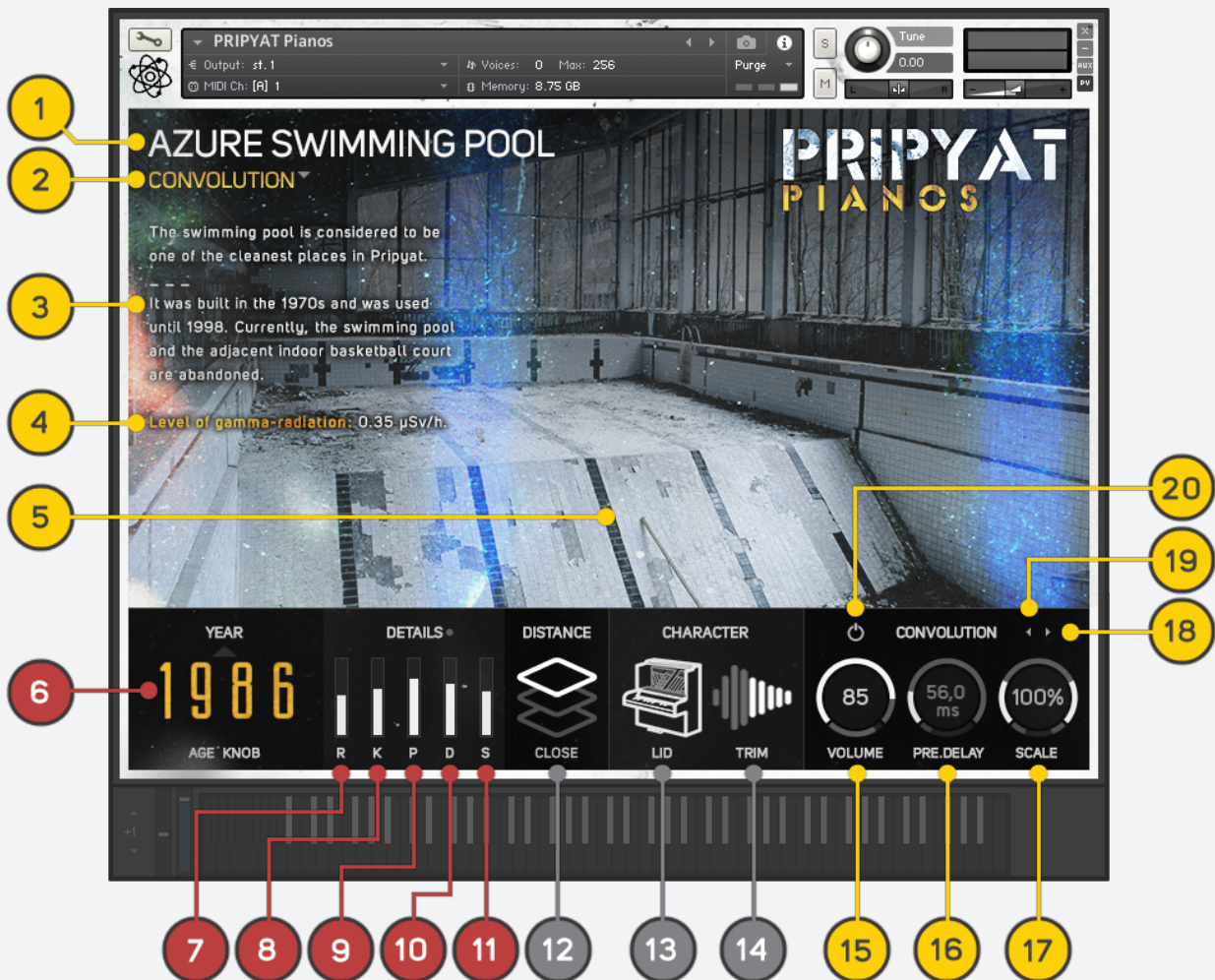
FROM 1986 TO 2019:

Age Knob - a slider that changes the instrument's behavior depending on the years of degradation from 1986 to 2019. The regulator allows you to hear almost untouched sound of notes from 1986. You can add special, lively notes, creating a unique sound with small age changes from 1986 and up, or a radical change installing 2019, which represents the current sound of the instruments at the moment. The sound of 1986 was created using the most suitable pianos and their keys. However, even they have string artifacts that we decided to leave to preserve authenticity.

AN APARTMENT IN PRIPYAT OR A NUCLEAR REACTOR?

One of the important features of PRIPYAT Pianos is the Impulse Responses collection for Convolution Reverb, recorded in well-known and not-so-known Pripyat sites, including the territory of the tragically known Chernobyl NPP. A series of rooms and open spaces from Pripyat are at your disposal. Some presets are more invisible and will give a light shade to the sound of the instrument, and others will convey the scale of city structures or internal structures of the 5th power unit of the ChNPP.

3. INTERFACE



1. Name of the Impulse Response preset.
2. Selects the Impulse Response file of the according real acoustic space.
3. Description of a Impulse Response preset.
4. Actual levels of gamma-radiation in this place on 2019 in $\mu\text{Sv/h}$
5. Actual photo of where Impulse Response was recorded.
6. Age Knob - Controls tune of the instrument depending on years of degradation.
7. Release - Controls release samples volume for each key.
8. Keys - Controls keys press volume to add more intimate sound.
9. Pedal - Controls volume of pedal up and down mechanism.
10. Damper - Controls volume of strings damper up and down samples.
11. Sympathetic Resonance - Controls volume of special layer that contains sympathetic strings resonance and strings artefacts.
12. Microphone Distance - Controls microphone distance in 3 states close, medium and far.
13. Piano Lid - Controls lid of the instrument, open, semi-open and close.
14. Notes Trim - Controls notes start offset.
15. Re-verb Volume - Controls amount of Convolution reverberation.
16. Pre. Delay - Controls delay time when convolution are applied to samples simulating distance.
17. Space Scale - Changes the scale of virtual room based on IR sample.
18. Selects the next IR in the list.
19. Selects the previous IR in the list.
20. Convolution Bypass - Controls bypass of convolution effect, basically ON or OFF state.

4. CREDITS

Produced by Volodymyr Savin, Jane Bart

Concept and idea by Volodymyr Savin

Scripting by Volodymyr Savin

Recorded and mixed by Volodymyr Savin

Additional images by Alexander Sirota and Pavel Floresku

Special thanks to Alexander Sirota, Alexander Novikov and Alexaner Rybak with organisation, material and additional information.