DS Drum - RCS Essentials Manual

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Italian Craft, Limitless Potential!

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the DS Drum - RCS Essentials Manual. This guide will help you understand and utilize all the features of the DS Drum - RCS Essentials virtual drum library. Whether you are a seasoned music producer or a drum enthusiast, this manual will provide you with the information needed to create stunning drum tracks with ease.

2. Installation

To install the DS Drum - RCS Essentials library, follow these steps:

1. **Download & Create an account:** Create a Native Instruments account and download and install there plug-in manager tool called "Native Acces"
2. **Add Library to Kontakt:** Open Native Access and log in to your account. Click on "Add a serial" and enter the serial number provided with your purchase. Click "Add Library" in Kontakt, and the library will be added to your collection.
3. **Activate the Library:** Open Kontakt, navigate to the "Libraries" tab, and find DS Drum - RCS Essentials. Click on the "Activate" button and follow the prompts to complete the activation process.
4. **Load the Library:** Once activated, you can load the library by double-clicking it in the "Libraries" tab or by using the "Files" tab to navigate to the library folder and load the .nki file.

Visit this page for more details:

https://www.redpackdrums.com/ni-install-page

3. Overview

The DS Drum - RCS Essentials library offers an extensive collection of drum sounds, recorded and processed to provide the highest quality and versatility. With 30 gb of data and 80,000 samples, this library allows you to recreate the authentic sound of DS Drum kits on your electronic drum kit or in your home productions.

4. Detailed Features

Dashboard

The Dashboard is designed for quick and easy auditioning of presets.

Preset Selection: Select a preset from the top left corner. Kontakt will load the necessary samples.
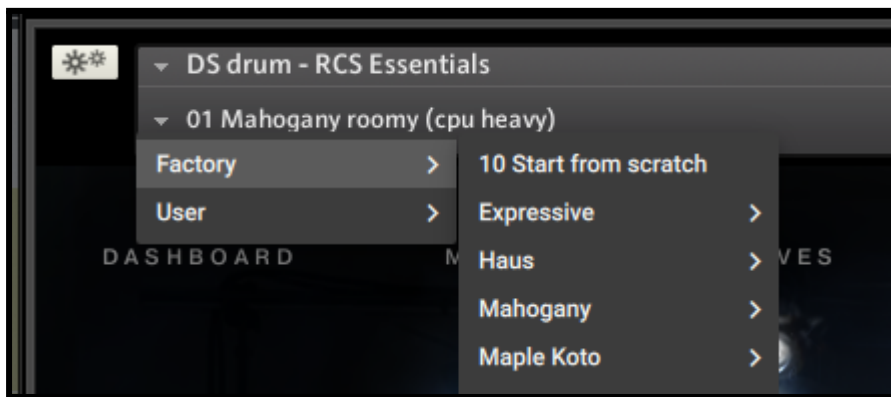
Play Button: Hit the large play button in the middle to start a drum groove to be able to audition presets fast.

Hit Strength Slider: Adjust the hit strength slider to tailor the velocity response to your playing style or MIDI programming. *This is a global midi curve adjustment which is the same on all screens*

Workflow Example:

1. *In Kontakt, click the snapshot preset icon above "Purge."*
2. *Select your desired snapshot/preset.*
3. *Press the large play button in the center of the dashboard to play a tom groove synced to your DAW's tempo.*
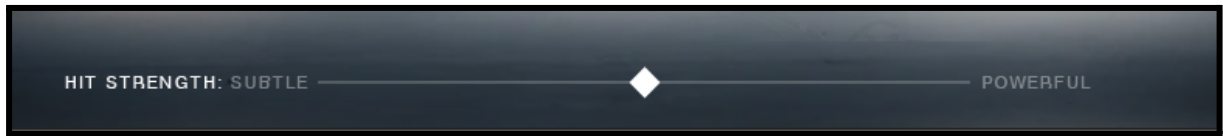4. *Browse through presets to find the best fit for your project.*
5. *Adjust the hit strength slider and tempo of your DAW to taste*

Pro Tip: Double-click on a different groove on the groove screen to choose a different groove.

Drum Selection Screen
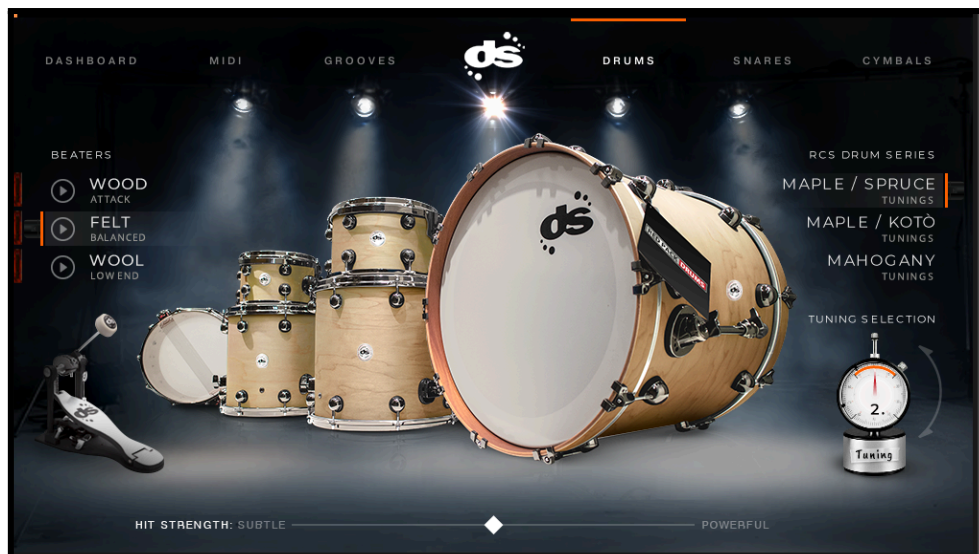
On the drum selection screen, you can select and customize different drum kits.

1. **RCS Drum Series:** Choose from three recorded kits: Maple Spruce, Maple Koto, and Mahogany. *This will change all drums in one click and set them to tuning 1*

2. **Beaters:** Select between wool, felt, and wood beaters for nuanced attack differences.
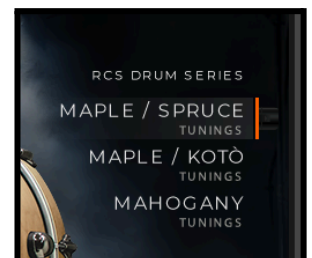
3. **Tuning Selection:** Use the drum dial to select different tuning presets for the entire kit. <u>For specific tuning and drum shell selection, click the DS Drum logo in the middle of the drum shell.</u>

Snare Selection Screen
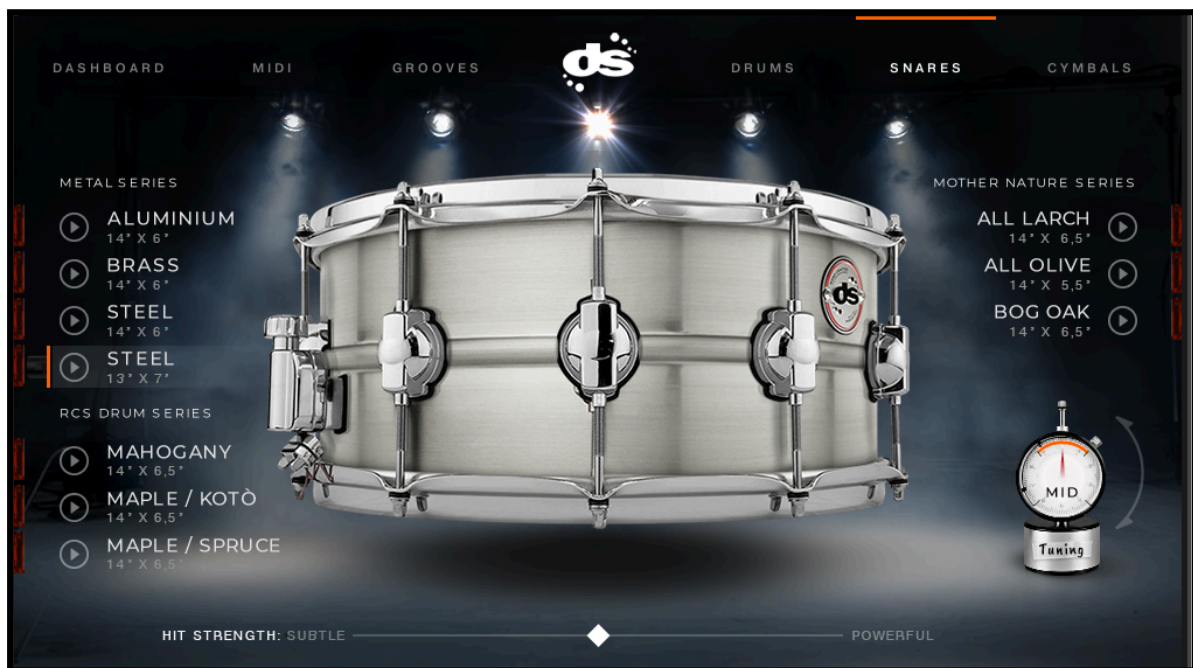
Similar to the drum selection screen, the snare selection screen allows you to audition the sounds by hitting the play buttons and choose various snare drums and adjust their tunings.

Tuning Dial: *Switch between recorded low, medium, and high tunings of the selected snare.*

Cymbal Selection Screen

The cymbal selection screen provides twelve cymbals at your disposal.

1. **Selection and Audition:** Select and audition different cymbals using the dropdown menus and play buttons.

Groove Page

The groove page features artist grooves for inspiration.

1. **Select Groove:** Choose a groove from the list and hit play to audition.*(double click the files)*
2. **Drag and Drop:** Drag and drop grooves into your DAW for further editing and integration into your projects with the "Drag midi groove to DAW" button below.
3. **BPM Matching:** Grooves will match the BPM of your DAW when Kontakt is used as a plugin.

Mixer

The mixer is accessible by clicking the DS logo at the top of the plug-ins screens and is equipped with comprehensive controls for detailed sound shaping.

Tab selection: At the top of the mixer you can find the different mic selections

ALL Tab: Quick adjustments for instrument balances without navigating through multiple tabs. *Act as DCA faders*

Close, Overheads, Room, Character, Squash and Beef Mics: On these tabs you can balance and process all microphones of all instruments individually.

Example: *Here you can determine the amount of spill of the kick in the overheads, or in the room mics, but also process these signals*

FX button: Access transient designer, tape saturator, parallel compression, and reverb sends for each channel by clicking on the FX button above each channel.

The switch above the modules acts as a bypass button

EQ button:

Click the EQ button above each channel to access a 4-band EQ and high-pass filter.

Use the colored diamonds to adjust specific frequencies.

The resonance wheel adds a resonance bump at the low cut frequency, controlled by the white slider beneath the colored diamonds.
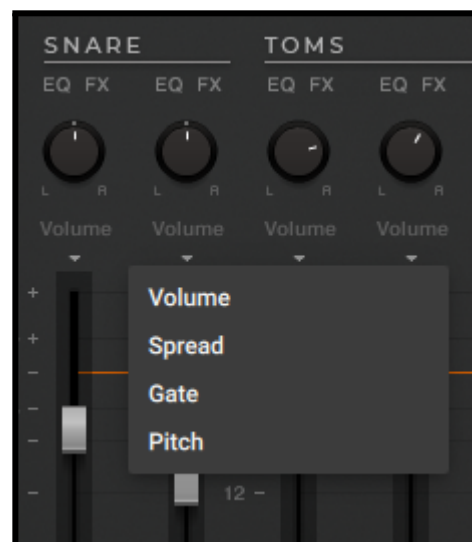
You can toggle the top and bottom frequency bands between shelf or band-pass by clicking the diagram above the gain knobs.

Both the high-pass filter and EQ can be bypassed using the switch.

Additional Processing Features

The Mixer Tab includes advanced processing tools by clicking the volume dropdown above a channel:

1. **Volume:** Adjust volume of selected channel
2. **Gate:** Utilize gate settings to control the decay and sustain of each drum sound. Pull the white bars down to adjust, from left to right, Attack, Hold and Decay settings
3. **Spread:** Adjust the stereo to mono enhancer to control the width of your drum sound.
4. **Pitch:** Use a digital tuner to ensure each drum is perfectly tuned to your desired pitch.
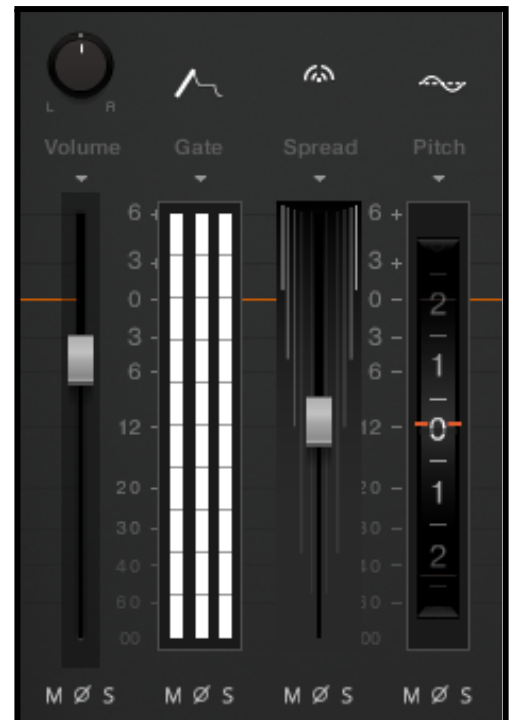
Hit Strength Slider

The hit strength slider is a velocity curve adjuster. This tool helps you fine-tune the response of the drum kit to match your playing style or MIDI programming.

1. **Middle Position (Linear):** When the slider is in the middle, the velocity response is linear. This means the input velocity from your playing or MIDI data is directly translated to the output volume and intensity.
2. **Slider Down (For Hard Hitters):** If you are a hard hitter or if your MIDI parts have high velocities, adjust the slider down. This setting compresses the velocity curve, making it easier to achieve higher velocities with less force. This ensures that your hard-hitting style doesn't cause the drum sounds to become too harsh or loud.
3. **Slider Up (For Soft Hitters):** If you are a soft hitter or if your MIDI parts have lower velocities, slide the slider up. This expands the velocity curve, making it easier to achieve a wider dynamic range with softer playing. This ensures that your soft hits are still audible and expressive.

By adjusting the hit strength slider, you can tailor the drum kit's response to suit your personal playing style or the specific dynamics of your MIDI programming, ensuring a natural and balanced performance. *This is a global midi curve adjustment which is the same for all screens*

5. MIDI Page

Customize your MIDI mapping on the MIDI page.

MIDI Learn: Assign articulations to notes using the MIDI Learn function.

Maps: Load and save custom MIDI maps. Import and Export midi maps

Hi-Hat CC: Learn your hi-hat pedal for electronic drum kits.

Invert CC: Enabling this feature will invert the CC pedal

Humanize: When this feature is enabled, the library will bypass round robin samples

Auto Rim Shot: When the snare drum center hit is set to this articulation, the samples will automatically switch to rimshots, with the threshold adjustable via the slider.

Mapping your e-kit:

There are a few ways to map your e-kit and hihat pedal, which depends on your electronic drum kit pads and module, here are two suggestions

1. Hardware Setup:

- Connect the MIDI output from your drum module to an interface or computer. The setup may vary depending on your module and computer/laptop.

2. Configure Kontakt to Recognize MIDI Device:

- Open Kontakt and go to the settings (top right corner).
- Navigate to the MIDI tab under settings.
- Find your MIDI device listed under "Inputs" and assign it to a port (e.g., Port A).

3. Assign MIDI Channels in Kontakt:

- Click on the information button in Kontakt.
- Go to MIDI settings and set the MIDI channel to "Omni" to capture all incoming MIDI events.

4. Load and Clear the Default MIDI Map:

- Open the RCS Essentials and go to the MIDI tab.
- Click "Load Map" and clear the existing map.

5. Start MIDI Mapping:

- Use the MIDI Learn function to map each instrument:
  - **Kick & Pads:** Map each by hitting the corresponding pad or cymbal twice.

6. Map the Hi-Hat Pedal:

- **Pedal Closed:** Click learn button and press the pedal to register the note.
- **Tip Tight:** Keep the pedal pressed, click learn Tip tight and hit the hi-hat tip, and register the note.
- **Tip CC (Open):** Click the learn button for Tip CC and Hit the hi-hat tip while the pedal is open.
- **Repeat:** If you have two zones on your hi hat repeat the process for edge tight and Edge CC
- **Hit Learn CC:** Press the pedal again to register the continuous control.
- **Invert CC:** If the hi-hat sounds reversed (open when closed), check the "Invert CC" box.

Example of how the mapping should look below:

Alternative Method to Map Your Hi-Hat Pedal:

1. **Clear the Map:**
   - Begin with no notes mapped to any hi-hat articulation.
2. **Learn CC:**
   - Press the "Learn CC" button and press the pedal without hitting the hi-hat.
3. **Map Tip Articulations:**
   - Fully press the pedal and keep it pressed.
   - Click the "Learn Tip CC" button, then hit the hi-hat tip zone.
   - Release the pedal so the hi-hat is fully open, then hit the tip zone again.
   - Ensure two different notes are registered in the CC tip map.
4. **Map Edge Articulations:**
   - Follow the same steps as above for the "CC Edge" map, but hit the edge zone of the hi-hat.
5. **Map Pedal Closed Articulation:**
   - Map the pedal closed articulation and check if the hi-hat needs to be inverted.
6. **Final Check:**
   - The mapping should show different notes on the CC articulations based on your kit. The rest of the articulations should be empty

HIHAT				
Tip Tight	-	♪	-	♪
Tip Closed	-	♪	-	♪
Edge Tight	-	♪	-	♪
Edge Closed	-	♪	-	♪
Open 1	-	♪	-	♪
Open 2	-	♪	-	♪
Open 3	-	♪	-	♪
Pedal Closed	F#-2	♪	-	♪
Tip CC	D#-1	♪	E-1	♪
Edge CC	C2	♪	F2	♪

Tip:

Experiment with different mappings to find what works best for your e-kit and playing style.

7. Save Your Custom Map:

- Save your mapping as "Custom 1" for easy recall later.
- To be safe always export the mapping to your HHD to ensure you won't have to map it again if you re-install the library or computer

8. Start Playing:

- With the kit fully mapped, you are ready to play.

6. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I install the DS Drum - RCS Essentials library?

A: Follow the steps in the installation section of this manual. You can also refer to our website for detailed instructions.

Q: How can I change the drum tunings and shells?

A: On the drum selection screen, click the DS Drum logo in the middle of the drum shell to interchange drum pieces and tunings. Use the drum dial for tuning presets or adjust individual tunings for each kit piece.

Q: What does the hit strength slider do?

A: The hit strength slider adjusts the velocity curve. Move it up for softer hits and down for harder hits to match your playing style or MIDI programming.

Q: How do I use the additional processing features?

A: Access the mixer tab to use EQ, transient designer, tape saturator, parallel compression, and reverbs. Each tool is designed to enhance your drum sounds.

Q: How do I customize the MIDI mapping?

A: Use the MIDI page to assign articulations to notes, load and save custom maps, configure the hi-hat pedal, and enable humanization features.

For more FAQs, visit our website

For additional support, visit our website at www.redpackdrums.com

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Conclusion

Thank you for choosing the DS Drum - RCS Essentials library. We hope this manual helps you get the most out of your virtual drum kit. Happy drumming!