

FuruBass-Fretless – User Manual / Read Me

Thank you for choosing FuruBass-Fretless!

FuruBass-Fretless was sampled from a fretless Jazz Bass, recorded using the exact studio equipment and recording workflow that bassist, composer, and arranger **Takahiro Furukawa** uses in his everyday productions.

The instrument features an **epoxy-coated fingerboard**, resulting in a fast attack and clear response—making it suitable for everything from supportive bass lines to expressive melodic playing.

As with all FuruBass instruments, the design philosophy is simple:

never interrupt musical inspiration.

All complex settings, confusing knobs, and key switches have been removed.

Just load the instrument and start playing— even straightforward MIDI input will naturally sound musical and expressive.

Installation

Compatible with **Native Instruments KONTAKT 5.8.1 or later**

⚠ Note: KONTAKT Player will run in DEMO mode and stop after a limited time.

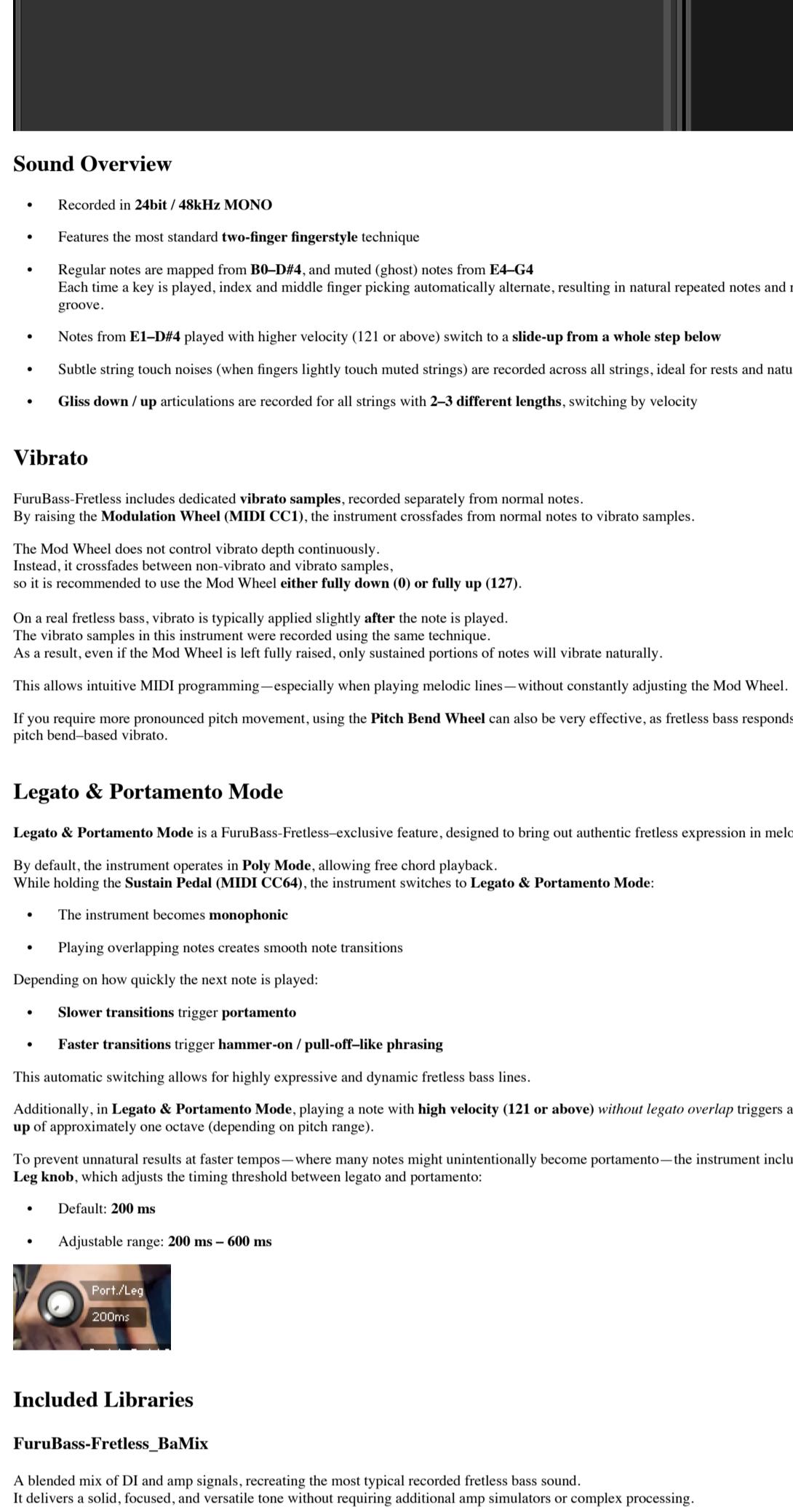
Please save the downloaded “**FuruBass-Fretless**” folder to a location that is easy for you to access.

* This instrument is recorded in mono. Using it on a mono instrument track is recommended, as stereo tracks will not provide additional sonic benefits.

1 Launch KONTAKT and select the “**Files**” tab in the top-left corner

2 Open the folder where **FuruBass-Fretless** is saved

3 Double-click a **.nki** file to load the instrument



Sound Overview

- Recorded in **24bit / 48kHz MONO**
- Features the most standard **two-finger fingerstyle** technique
- Regular notes are mapped from **B0-D#4**, and muted (ghost) notes from **E4-G4**. Each time a key is played, index and middle finger picking automatically alternate, resulting in natural repeated notes and realistic groove.
- Notes from **E1-D#4** played with higher velocity (121 or above) switch to a **slide-up from a whole step below**
- Subtle string touch noises (when fingers lightly touch muted strings) are recorded across all strings, ideal for rests and natural phrasing.
- Gliss down / up** articulations are recorded for all strings with **2-3 different lengths**, switching by velocity

Vibrato

FuruBass-Fretless includes dedicated **vibrato samples**, recorded separately from normal notes. By raising the **Modulation Wheel** (MIDI CC1), the instrument crossfades from normal notes to vibrato samples.

The Mod Wheel does not control vibrato depth continuously. Instead, it crossfades between non-vibrato and vibrato samples, so it is recommended to use the Mod Wheel **either fully down (0) or fully up (127)**.

On a real fretless bass, vibrato is typically applied slightly **after** the note is played. The vibrato samples in this instrument were recorded using the same technique. As a result, even if the Mod Wheel is left fully raised, only sustained portions of notes will vibrate naturally.

This allows intuitive MIDI programming—especially when playing melodic lines—without constantly adjusting the Mod Wheel.

If you require more pronounced pitch movement, using the **Pitch Bend Wheel** can also be very effective, as fretless bass responds naturally to pitch bend-based vibrato.

Legato & Portamento Mode

Legato & Portamento Mode is a FuruBass-Fretless-exclusive feature, designed to bring out authentic fretless expression in melodies and fills.

By default, the instrument operates in **Poly Mode**, allowing free chord playback.

While holding the **Sustain Pedal** (MIDI CC64), the instrument switches to **Legato & Portamento Mode**:

- The instrument becomes **monophonic**
- Playing overlapping notes creates smooth note transitions

Depending on how quickly the next note is played:

- Slower transitions** trigger **portamento**
- Faster transitions** trigger **hammer-on / pull-off-like phrasing**

This automatic switching allows for highly expressive and dynamic fretless bass lines.

Additionally, in **Legato & Portamento Mode**, playing a note with **high velocity (121 or above)** without **legato overlap** triggers a **long slide-up** of approximately one octave (depending on pitch range).

To prevent unnatural results at faster tempos—where many notes might unintentionally become portamento—the instrument includes a **Port/Leg Knob**, which adjusts the timing threshold between legato and portamento:

- Default: **200 ms**
- Adjustable range: **200 ms – 600 ms**



Included Libraries

FuruBass-Fretless_BaMix

A blended mix of DI and amp signals, recreating the most typical recorded fretless bass sound. It delivers a solid, focused, and versatile tone without requiring additional amp simulators or complex processing.

While light compression was applied to the amp signal during recording, no EQ or compression was applied after mixing the Line and Amp signals.

This allows you to freely shape the sound using your preferred EQ and compression depending on the track or phrase.

FuruBass-Fretless_Line

Recorded directly from **Umbrella Company SIGNALFORM ORGANIZER** into an audio interface, capturing a clean, pure, and uncolored fretless bass tone.

Compared to the more finished BaMix sound, this version is ideal for users who prefer to shape their tone manually. It offers a detailed high-end response and works well with amp simulators or re-amping workflows.

* **FuruBass-Fretless does not include an Amp-only library**, unlike other FuruBass series instruments.

Recording Equipment

Line

DI: Umbrella Company SIGNALFORM ORGANIZER

Amp

Bass Amp: Orange AD200B (Head), Orange OBC410 (Cab)

Mic: NEUMANN U47 FET

Mic Pre: AURORA AUDIO GTQ2

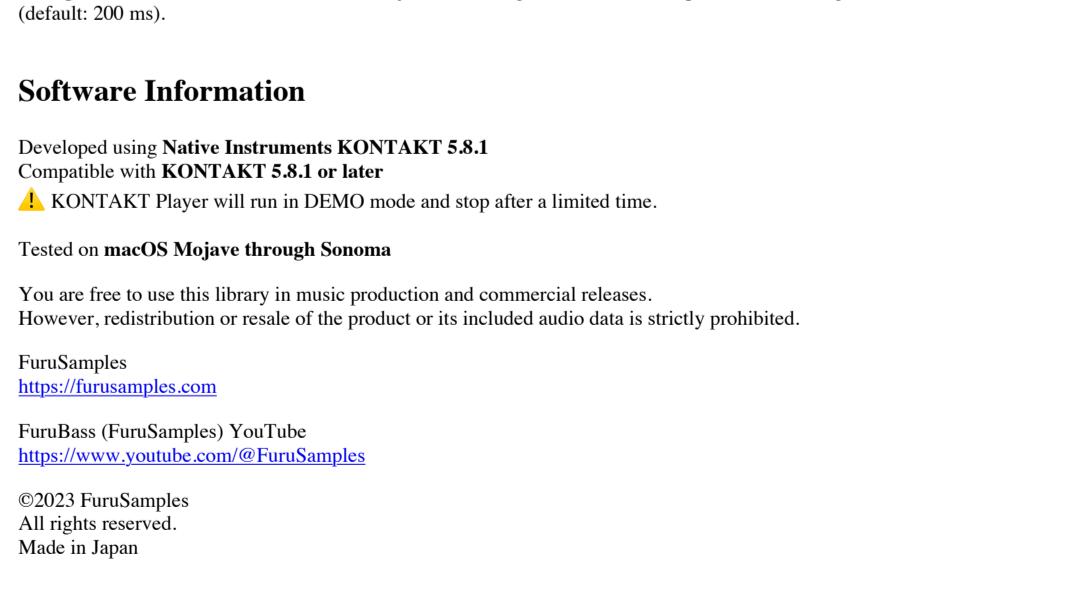
Compressor: WesAudio β76

User Interface

Manual Tab

The UI includes a **Manual Tab**, allowing you to check articulation layouts and trigger conditions directly inside the instrument—no external keymap is required.

Status Labels



- While holding the Sustain Pedal, “**Legato & Port ON**” is displayed, indicating that Legato & Portamento Mode is active.
- Displays the currently triggered articulation, such as portamento, legato, or slide-up, in real time.

Port/Leg Knob



In **Legato & Portamento Mode**, this knob adjusts the timing threshold between portamento and legato behavior, from **200 ms to 600 ms** (default: 200 ms).

Software Information

Developed with **Native Instruments KONTAKT 5.8.1**

⚠ Note: KONTAKT Player will run in DEMO mode and stop after a limited time.

Tested on **macOS Mojave** through **Sonoma**

You are free to use this library in music production and commercial releases.

However, redistribution or resale of the product or its included audio data is strictly prohibited.

FuruSamples

<https://furusamples.com>

FuruBass (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/@FuruSamples>

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