

Sitar nation

CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF INDIA

SERUM 2 · SFZ · WAV



Sitar Nation - Serum 2 · SFZ · WAV

An Impact Soundworks Instrument
for Serum 2 and .sfz compatible plugins

Instrument Version 1.0.0

Product Manual

Introduction

We at Impact Soundworks are proud to present **Sitar Nation**, a collection of instruments from India, in the same vein as Koto Nation!

The sitar, tampura, tabla and baya were chosen for our library not only because these instruments have remained a foundation of Indian classical music for centuries, but also because they have permeated Western music since the 50s and 60s. The library covers a variety of important playing techniques for all four instruments.

Also included with **Sitar Nation** is a set of 15 FX patches which take the core audio content into new directions using both pre-rendered offline processing and effects/programming within Kontakt. The result is a wide variety of highly useful sounds, from drones and percussion to chimes, pads and keyboards.

Sitar Nation - SFZ Version is a slightly slimmed-down version of the Kontakt instrument of the same name; we have included an easy-to-install Serum 2 preset pack with both natural and designed patches for all instruments, as well as .sfz files - compatible with all SFZ players. You also have the option of downloading all of the samples in WAV format as a separate folder.

Thank you, and please enjoy **Sitar Nation**!

— *The Team at Impact Soundworks*

Installation

The process of installing **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version** will differ slightly depending on what plugin you intend to use it with.

First, install [Pulse Downloader](#).

Open the Pulse Downloader app, and click the 'Add a Product' button. In the dialog box, paste in the Pulse product key you received in your order confirmation email; the format will look like this: xxxxxxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxxxxxxxxxx (containing only lowercase letters and numbers). Select an installation destination, and Pulse will download **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version**.

The Installation Folder Structure

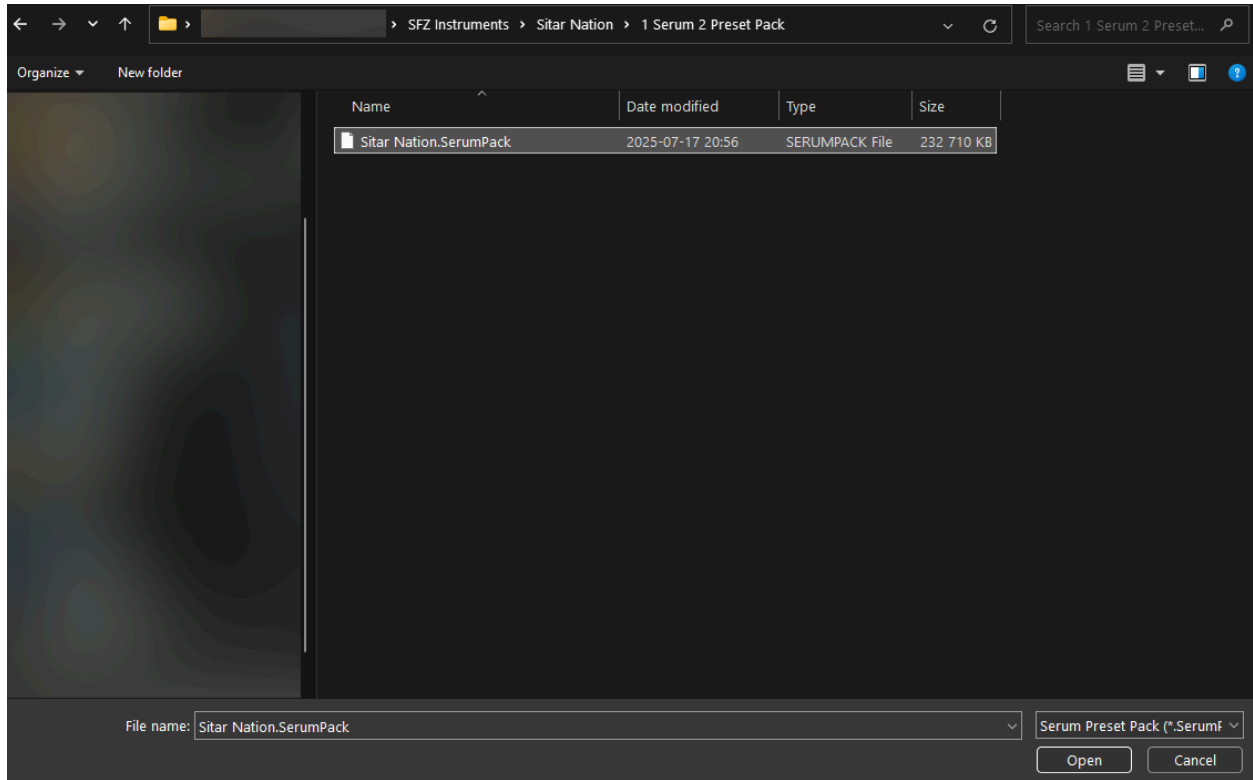
Inside the downloaded folder you will find three sub-folders: *1 Serum 2 Preset Pack*, *2 Sfzs + Samples* (which contains two subfolders: *1 Sfzs* - which in turn contains 4 sub-folders, one for each main patch - and *2 Samples*), and *3 Samples (WAV)*.

Serum 2 Preset Packs

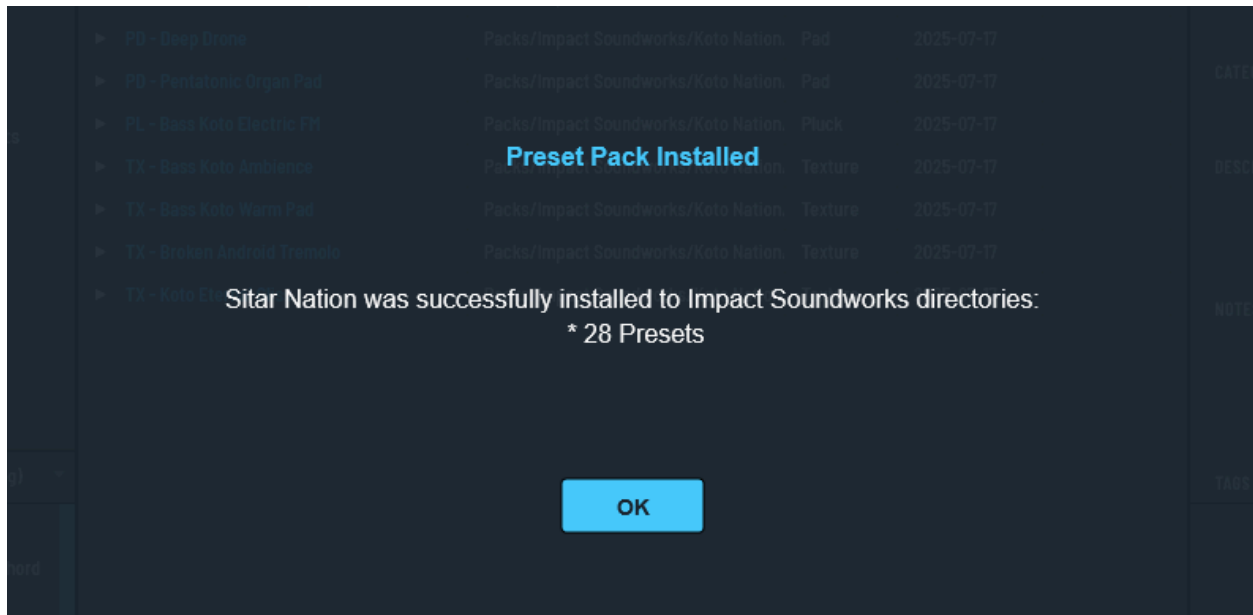
If you own Serum 2, the process of installing **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version** is very straightforward. Open up Serum 2, open the *Menu*, and select *Import Preset Pack...* in the dropdown menu:



In the dialog box that appears, navigate to the *Shou Drum* folder you downloaded with Pulse, open the *1 Serum 2 Preset Pack* folder, and open the 'Koto Nation.SerumPack' file:



You should see a confirmation message that looks like this (it can take a few seconds before it appears):



Open the Preset Browser and navigate to *Packs > Impact Soundworks > Sitar Nation*. This folder contains sub-folders for the included instruments and their articulations [see pages 7-9]. Selecting

either of them shows the available presets in the browser window (and selecting *Sitar Nation* shows them all); click the preset you want to load and you are ready to go!



These presets all use the first oscillator in Serum 2 in Multisample mode and there is a lot of flexibility to change things around as needed (add additional oscillators, per-oscillator filters, effects, and a whole ton more). **NB:** The additional oscillators in Serum 2 are disabled in these presets by default, but they have been gain-staged to match the samples, so if you turn them on they will blend with the samples immediately!

The sheer power and scope of Serum 2 is outside the scope of this manual, so please check out the [Serum 2 User Guide](#) for more info!

It's also important to note that, much like the more 'generic' .sfz files, the Serum 2 presets for **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version** do not contain all of the controls present in the Kontakt version.

Generic SFZs + Samples

This folder contains what we refer to as 'generic' .sfz files; these can be opened in most .sfz players.

NB: The internal folder structure of the '2 Sfzs + Samples' folder **must** remain unchanged. If this folder structure is altered, you will run into errors attempting to load the .sfz file.

Since the most common .sfz player is Sforzando, we will briefly go over how you load these files in that player here.

Sforzando

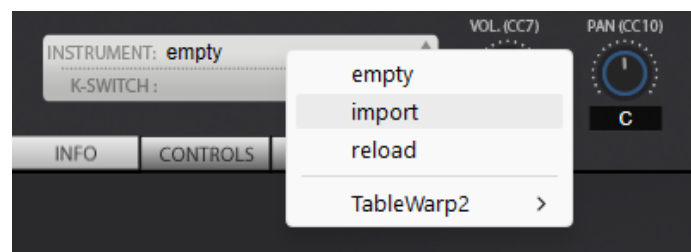
Sforzando is a free SFZ player made by Plogue, available for Windows, Mac, and Linux (in beta).

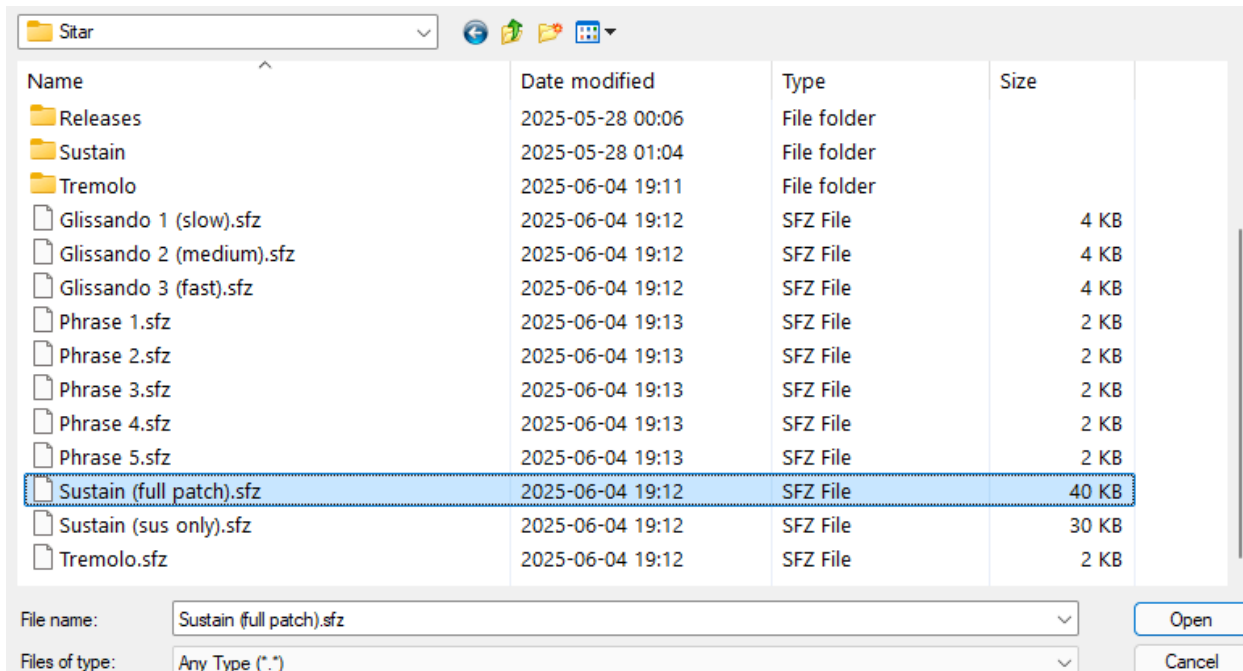
First, head over to <https://www.plogue.com/downloads.html#sforzando> and download the version that's appropriate for your system. The Windows and Mac installers should guide you through the process and install the plugin in a directory of your choosing (keeping in mind that the plugin component(s) should be installed to a directory your DAW scans for new plugins).

When you load the Sforzando plugin, you will see this interface:



Drag-and-drop an .sfz file from the *2 Sfzs + Samples* folder into the plugin window to load it, or click the Instrument section, select 'import', navigate to the *2 Sfzs + Samples* folder, and load the desired .sfz file from the sub-folder you want:





It's important to note here that **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version** is (necessarily) a simplified version of [the Kontakt library of the same name](#), so the controls available to you in the Kontakt version are absent here.

Samples (WAV)

This folder contains audio files in .wav format of all samples used to build the three instruments and the FX patches. You can load these in your favorite sampler or drop them into your DAW for processing and additional sound design - the sky's the limit!

List of Instruments and Articulations

Sitar Articulations

Glissando (slow, medium, fast)

Glissandos with major and minor articulations, split into three separate patches.

Phrase (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Short phrases and turns ending on a single note. Each numbered variant is pitched across the keyboard.

Sustain (sus only)

A sustain patch without any bends (see next entry in the list). On C5 and up, you get the chikari strings (tuned to the 5th, tonic, and tonic an octave above).

Sustain + Bend

The 'bread and butter' patch, with ornamentation dependent on MIDI note velocity: Velocity between **1 - 109** results in a sustain articulation, **11-124** plays a mordent, and **125-127** plays a bend.

NB: *There is a slight discrepancy between the SFZ version and Serum 2 preset here; in Serum 2, the patch is called 'Sustain + Bend', and in the SFZ version, it's called "Sustain (full patch)".*

Tambura Articulation

Tambura

Sustained notes, pitched across the entire keyboard.

Tabla and Baya

Tabla + Baya

A range of percussive articulations for each of these hand drums. The baya, played with the left hand, is a 10-inch drum that produces lower-pitched hits; the tabla, played using the right hand, is a higher-pitched 6-inch drum accompanying the baya.

For **Sitar Nation - SFZ Version**, we have mapped the baya and tabla from the lowest octave up until **C3**, at which point the tabla takes over. For both drums, their different hits are mapped in sequence, which repeats each octave. Here is a list of the hits:

Baya Mapping

Partially muted: C-C#

Center: D-D#

Pitched strike Long: E

Pitched strike Medium: F-F#

Pitched strike short: G-G#

Mute: A-B

Tabla Mapping

Te: C-C#

Di: D-E

Nat: F-F#

Tin: G-G#

Tun: A-B

FX

The *FX* category contains a couple of designed patches built from the instruments in **Sitar Nation**. Here is a list of them (**NB**: *The list is categorized according to how the patches are grouped in the Serum 2 pack; if you use the .sfz files directly you won't see this categorization in the folder itself*):

Drumkit

Shaped Kit

Shaped Kit Crushed

Mallets

Air Tampura

Tabla Melodic

Twilight Air

Pad

TremPad

Warp Field

Pluck

Additive Morph

Electric Taraf

Livewire Drone

Soft ROMpler Sitar

Soft Sitar

Perc

Deep Chime

Percussive Chime

Synth

Chikari Resonator

Credits & Acknowledgements

SFZ / Serum 2 Version

SFZ Version: Jared Le Doux

User Manual: Fredrik Häthén

Quality Assurance: Fredrik Häthén, Shane Roberts, Jared Le Doux

Original Kontakt Version

Design, production, editing, and programming: Andrew Aversa, Wilbert Roget, II

Recording Engineer: Alec Henninger

Performer: Thomas Flanagan (sitar, tampura), Jeremy Dyen (tabla, baya)

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