

# nord piano 5

V I R T U A L   H A M M E R   A C T I O N   T E C H N O L O G Y

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## USER MANUAL

Nord Piano 5  
*English*

OS version: 1.2x

Edition: D



**CAUTION:** TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

**ATTENTION:** POUR EVITER LES RISQUES DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE, NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE.

AUCUN ENTRETIEN DE PIECES INTERIEURES PAR L'USAGER. CONFIER L'ENTRETIEN AU PERSONNEL QUALIFE.

**AVIS:** POUR EVITER LES RISQUES D'INCIDENTE OU D'ELECTROCUTION, N'EXPOSEZ PAS CET ARTICLE A LA PLUIE OU L'HUMIDITET.



The lightning flash with the arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated voltage within the products enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

*Le symbole éclair avec le point de flèche à l'intérieur d'un triangle équilatéral est utilisé pour alerter l'utilisateur de la présence à l'intérieur du coffret de "voltage dangereux" non isolé d'ampleur suffisante pour constituer un risque d'électrocution.*



The exclamation mark within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

*Le point d'exclamation à l'intérieur d'un triangle équilatéral est employé pour alerter l'utilisateur de la présence d'instructions importantes pour le fonctionnement et l'entretien (service) dans le livret d'instructions accompagnant l'appareil.*

Instructions pertaining to a risk of fire, electric shock or injury to persons.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

### SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

**Warning** - When using electric products, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:

- 1) Read these instructions.
- 2) Keep these instructions.
- 3) Heed all warnings.
- 4) Follow all instructions.
- 5) Do not use this apparatus near water.
- 6) Clean only with dry cloth.
- 7) Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 8) Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- 9) Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- 10) Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- 11) Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- 12) Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
- 13) Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- 14) Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.



### Additional Safety Information

No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus;

Do not use the apparatus in tropical climates.

**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

The apparatus shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing and that no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on the apparatus.

The mains plug is used as the disconnect device and shall remain readily operable.

Il convient de ne pas placer sur l'appareil de sources de flammes nues, telles que des bougies allumées;

L'appareil n'est pas destiné à être utilisé sous un climat tropical.

L'appareil ne doit pas être exposé à des égouttements d'eau ou des éclaboussures et de plus qu'aucun objet rempli de liquide tel que des vases ne doit être placé sur l'appareil.

Lorsque la prise du réseau d'alimentation est utilisée comme dispositif de déconnexion, ce dispositif doit demeurer aisément accessible.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for choosing the Nord Piano 5. This instrument combines an uncompromising piano playing experience and inspiring sound creation features in a portable format. The triple sensor keybed coupled with our Virtual Hammer Action Technology provides an unprecedented level of realism and enables a wide range of piano playing techniques. Powered by the free Nord Piano Library, our collection of meticulously sampled piano and keyboard instruments, we hope the Nord Piano 5 will be a lasting source of inspiration.

## FEATURES

These are the main features of the Nord Piano 5:

- Piano section with acoustic *Grand* and *Upright* pianos, tine and reed based *Electric* pianos, *Clavinet* and *Harpichord* sounds and a *Digital* category which also contains rich pre-layered combinations. The *Misc* category is home to non-piano sounds, such as a Marimba and a Vibraphone
- 88 or 73 key Triple Sensor keybed with grand weighted action
- Nord Virtual Hammer Action Technology
- Easy-to-use Sample Synth section
- Piano and Sample Synth section *Layers* allow for using two different Piano and/or Sample Synth sounds, in layered or split configurations
- Comprehensive Effects section
- Seamless program transitions
- Keyboard split with cross-fade options, allowing sounds to smoothly transition across the split point

## NORD ONLINE

On the [nordkeyboards.com](http://nordkeyboards.com) website you will find:

- Information about the Nord Piano 5 and other Nord instruments
- Latest Operating Systems for download
- Free software: Nord Sound Manager and Nord Sample Editor 3
- Nord Piano Library and Nord Sample Library sounds for free download
- Nord World: Nord related news stories and videos
- Newsletter: Receive news about the Nord Piano 5 and notifications when new OS versions or sounds are released
- User Manuals for download
- Tutorials can be found at [nordkeyboards.com/tutorials](http://nordkeyboards.com/tutorials)

Follow Nord Keyboards on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Feel free to tag your content with our official hashtag #iseenord.

## ABOUT THE USER MANUAL

The manual is arranged mainly as a reference manual. In many cases you will also get tips on how to practically use the various features in a musical context.

## READING THE MANUAL IN PDF FORMAT

This manual is available as a digital PDF file. It can be downloaded from the Nord Piano 5 section on our website.

## RESTORING THE FACTORY PRESETS

The factory programs, samples and pianos as well as a complete backup of the entire instrument are available for download from our website.

## OS UPGRADES

The latest OS (Operating System) version for the Nord Piano 5 is always available for download from our website. Please visit our website from time to time to make sure you are using the latest version.

## FREE SOUNDS

Since the Nord Piano 5 is designed as an open system, each and every piano and sample in the Nord Piano 5 can be replaced. This is done using the *Nord Sound Manager* software which is available as a free download from our website.

The Nord Piano 5 is compatible with the extensive Nord Piano Library and the Nord Sample Library. As new sounds become available, these can be downloaded for free from the Sound Libraries section of our website.

## CUSTOM SAMPLES

Using the free *Nord Sample Editor 4* you can quickly and easily create your own sample instruments. Whether creating a fully mapped instrument or a simple FX sound this software opens up many possibilities together with the Nord Piano 5.

## DISCLAIMER

Any trademarks and brand names mentioned in this manual are the property of their respective owners and are not affiliated or associated with Clavia. These trademarks and brand names are only mentioned to describe certain sound qualities reproduced by the Nord Piano 5.

# 2 OVERVIEW



⋮  
PIANO

⋮  
SAMPLE SYNTH

⋮  
PROGRAM

⋮  
EFFECTS

## THE PIANO 5 PANEL

The Nord Piano 5 is designed to be a musically inspiring yet easy-to-use instrument. Below is a brief overview of its panel sections.

### PIANO SECTION – PAGE 10

The Nord Piano 5 benefits from the ever-growing Nord Piano Library and includes a wide range of piano and keyboard sounds right out of the box. New sounds are regularly made available free of charge on the [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com) website.

The two Piano Layers are easily turned On or Off, or combined, using their dedicated panel controls. There are also controls for activating the Advanced String Resonance feature (for acoustic pianos), adjusting the keyboard velocity response or quickly altering the character of a piano sound using the dedicated Timbre settings. The Layer Detune feature can be used for slightly, or more severely, detuning two Piano sounds.

The included Nord Triple Pedal enables the dynamic Pedal Noise which mimicks the sounds produced by a mechanical damper pedal. The Triple Pedal also enables half pedaling techniques as well as using Una Corda and Sostenuto pedaling to enrich the performance.

### SAMPLE SYNTH SECTION – PAGE 13

The Nord Sample Library gives Piano 5 owners access to a huge, free library of world-class sounds, including the famous vintage Mellotron and Chamberlin sounds, lush Symphobia string sounds and much more. A large selection of samples are included from the start and the *Sample Synth* section is where these are browsed and loaded. The character and response of the sample can be adjusted in a variety of ways, directly from the panel.

As with the Piano section the dedicated Layer controls are used for combining two Sample Synth sounds or turning each Layer On or Off.

### PROGRAM SECTION – PAGE 15

A program on the Nord Piano 5 contains settings for both the Piano and Sample Synth sections, as well as all the effects. The *Program* section, with its large OLED display, is where programs are navigated and stored, and various performance features and settings menus are accessed.

### EFFECTS SECTION – PAGE 18

The *Effects* section puts a wide selection of classic effects at your fingertips:

The *Mod 1* and *2* units provide essential modulation effects such as Tremolo, Chorus and Phaser – modelled after legendary stomp boxes and effects units.

Classic amplifier simulations, tube-like distortion and a punchy compressor effect are found in the *Amp/Comp* section.

A versatile *Equalizer* with sweepable Mid range frequency can be applied to any of the Piano or Sample Synth layers – or to all of them – for powerful tone sculpting.

The *Delay* effect can be used for anything from subtle ambience or slap-back effects to almost endless soundscapes.

Finally, the lush *Reverb*, with its optional Bright or Dark modes and a characterful “Chorale” setting, provides an array of small and large room simulations for instant atmosphere.

# 3 GETTING STARTED

## HOOKING IT UP

- 1 Connect the Nord Piano 5 power cord to the unit and a mains power supply, connect the sustain pedal and a set of headphones or a sound system.
- 2 Make sure to turn on the Nord Piano 5 first, *before* the sound system. Please be careful with the output volume!

For more information on all the connections of the Piano 5, see the Connections section on page 26.

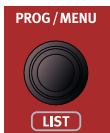
## PANEL CONTROLS

### DIALS AND KNOBS

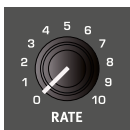


**LEVEL** dials are surrounded by LED indicators. These provide a visual indication of the current value for the associated volume level control.

The *dials* on the Nord Piano 5 are knobs without fixed start and stop positions, used for navigating parameters and settings. The **PROG/MENU** dial is one such example. In this manual dials are sometimes also referred to as *encoders*.



Potentiometer-type *knobs* are used for many parameters on the Nord Piano 5. When a program is loaded the physical positions of these knobs will in most cases not correspond to the actual parameter values. As soon as a knob is turned however, its associated parameter value will “snap” to the knob's position.

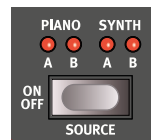


- 💡 Hold the **SHIFT** button and turn a knob to view the stored setting of a parameter without changing it.

### BUTTONS



*Selector* buttons are used to select one setting in an array. They have a set of round or triangular LEDs to indicate its current setting. Press the button repeatedly to cycle through the available options.



**ON/OFF** buttons are used for activating a function or a group of functions such as effects and have one or more LEDs close to them to indicate the on/off status and in the case of most effects also the Piano or Sample Synth Layer assignment.

- ❗ The On/Off buttons of the Effects shown here can also be used for selecting the Effect source. Press once to turn the Effect on, and press immediately again to select the “next” available source.

### THE SHIFT BUTTON

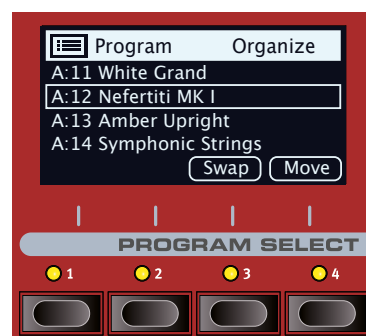


Many panel controls on the Nord Piano 5 have a *secondary* function, which is printed immediately below it. These are accessed by pressing and holding **SHIFT** while operating the control.

The Shift button is also used to **EXIT** a menu or to cancel an ongoing Store operation.

### SOFT BUTTONS

A menu or settings page, as well as the Organize view shown below, may contain several related options in which case “soft buttons” are used for focusing a setting or performing a task. Soft buttons are placed at the bottom of the display and are controlled with the **PROGRAM SELECT 1-4** buttons. As an example, pressing Program Select button 3 in the example below will select Program A:12 for a Swap operation.



## PROGRAMS

The *Program* section with its OLED display is located centrally on the panel. One program contains complete settings of every parameter on the panel and is stored in the program memory of the Piano 5, which can hold up to 400 programs.

Programs are organized into 16 banks, labeled A-P. All programs can be edited and replaced as you wish.

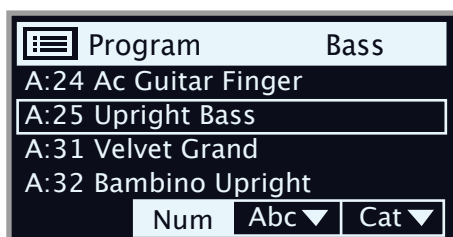
- ❗ A complete set of the factory programs is available on the [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com) website. This means that the program memory can always be restored to its original state.



## SELECTING A PROGRAM

- 1 Programs are selected by pressing any of the five **PROGRAM SELECT** buttons, located below the display, or by turning the **PROGRAM** dial. A Program bank on the Nord Piano 5 can contain 25 programs divided into 5 program “pages”.

## LIST VIEW



Any dial that has **LIST** written below it, such as the Program dial, can be used to access a useful list view.

- 1 Press **SHIFT** and turn the **PROGRAM** dial to enter a list view of all the Programs.
- 2 Browse to any program by turning the **PROGRAM** dial. All 16 program banks can be accessed when in List mode.
- 3 Try out the **Abc** and **Cat** soft buttons respectively. In Abc mode all programs are sorted and listed by name and in Cat mode by program category.
- 4 Press **SHIFT** again to **EXIT** the List view.

*List views for the Piano Select and Sample Select dials work in a similar way, except that categories are browsed using the on-panel controls.*

## EDITING A PROGRAM

Editing a program is as easy as turning a knob or pressing a button to change an existing setting.

- 1 Select a piano based program for use with the following steps.
- The controls for the Piano instrument are located at the left side of the panel. Press the “Prog View” button in the Program area and notice that the Piano section of the Program area display now shows the name of the selected piano sound for the active Layer.*

## SELECTING A NEW PIANO SOUND

- 2 Use the **TYPE** button to select the Type of piano sound that you would like to use, for instance *Grand*, *Upright* or *Electric*.
- 3 Turn the **PIANO SELECT** dial to select a piano sound of the selected Type.
- 4 Try selecting a piano sound from the **LIST** view, accessed by pressing **SHIFT** and turning the **PIANO SELECT** dial. Use Shift again to **EXIT** the list view.

Note that changing any parameter on the panel causes an “E” to appear next to the program number in the display. This is to show that the program has been *edited*, but not yet saved. If another program is loaded before a Store operation is performed any edits are lost and the program will have its original settings the next time it is loaded.

## MEMORY PROTECTION

The Nord Piano 5 is shipped from the factory with its memory protected to prevent accidental overwriting of original programs. Memory protection can be turned off in the System menu.

- 1 Hold **SHIFT** and press the **SYSTEM** (Program Select 1) button below the display.
  - 2 Memory Protect is the first setting of the *System* menu. If the display shows a different setting, use the soft buttons to navigate to the Memory Protect setting.
  - 3 Change this setting to *Off* by turning the **PROGRAM** dial.
  - 4 Press **EXIT** (Shift button) to exit the *System* menu.
- This setting, like most other System settings, will be permanently stored until it is changed again.*

Read more about menu settings on page 22.

## STORING A PROGRAM

- 1 Press the **STORE** button above the display once to begin the process of storing the current program.
- 2 The **STORE** LED will begin to flash and the display will ask you for the location to which you want to store the program.



- 3 If you want to store the edited version to the *current* location, replacing the original, simply press **STORE** again. If not, use the dial and/or **PROGRAM SELECT** buttons to choose a different location.
- The program in the selected location becomes active on the keyboard, allowing it to be auditioned before it is replaced by the program being stored.*
- 4 When you have found a suitable location for your program, press **STORE** again to confirm the store operation.
- Press Shift/Exit to exit the Store process if you change your mind.*

Read more about Store and how to *name* a program in the Program chapter, on page 15.

## LIVE MODE

The five **LIVE MODE** programs differ from other programs in that all edits made to them are instantly stored, with no need for a manual Store operation.

- 1 Press **LIVE MODE** and use the **PROGRAM SELECT** buttons to navigate the five Live programs.
- 2 Make an edit, such as activating one of the effect sections, to one of the programs.
- 3 Select a different Live program and then return to the one that was edited. Note that the edit was automatically stored.



- Press the Live Mode button again to exit Live Mode and return to the Program banks.

If Live Mode is active and you wish to store the settings permanently as a program in one of the Program banks, you can do so using the standard Store methods (see the previous section). Conversely, programs can also be stored *into* any of the Live Mode memory locations by pressing **LIVE MODE** and selecting one of the Live program locations, at the “Store Program To” stage.

## ACTIVATING EFFECTS

- Make sure a piano based program is selected.
  - Activate the reverb by pressing the Reverb **ON** button.
  - Adjust the **DRY/WET** balance with the knob above the reverb selector.
  - Activate the delay effect by pressing the **DELAY ON/OFF** button.
  - The LEDs above the button indicate which sound engine and Layer is routed to the effect; **PIANO A** and/or **B** or **SYNTH A** and/or **B**. Or in the case of the Delay and EQ effects, *all* sources. Press **SHIFT** and the Delay **SOURCE** button so that the **PIANO A** LED is lit, if it is not already.
- 💡 *Double-clicking the On Off / Source button is a shortcut for quickly changing the source for any effects unit, between any of the currently active Layers.*
- Try the **TEMPO**, **FEEDBACK** and **DRY/WET** controls, to alter the character and intensity of the Delay effect.

## LAYERING WITH SAMPLE SYNTH

- Activate **LAYER A** in the Sample Synth section.
- Turn the **SAMPLE SELECT** dial and select a string sound from the Sample bank. Use the **CATEGORY** dial to select the *Ensemble Strings* category if not already selected. The location and name of the sample are shown at the bottom of the display while browsing.
- Use the **LEVEL** control to set an appropriate sound level for the strings.

When a sample is selected, *preset* settings for the Sample Synth envelope (Attack, Decay/Sustain/Release) and Dynamics settings are also loaded. These parameters can subsequently be adjusted manually as desired. Descriptions of these controls are found in the Sample Synth reference chapter, starting on page 13.

## ADDING A SECOND PIANO SOUND

Continuing on with the same example, let us now add a second Piano sound to it:

- Hold down the **LAYER A** button of the Piano section and press once on **LAYER B**. Note that both Layer LEDs now are lit, but that the Layer B LED is blinking, indicating that it is *focused* for editing.
- With Layer B focused, select a different Piano sound using the **PIANO SELECT** controls.
- Adjust the Level of each Piano sound by focusing each Layer respectively using the Layer A and B buttons, and turning the **LEVEL** dial.

- 💡 *Feel free to try the Octave Shift controls (Shift+Layer A/B) to transpose each Layer by octaves, as desired.*

Adding a second Sample Synth sound is done the same way, except that the *Sample Synth* **LAYER** buttons are used instead.

To turn one of two active Layers off, hold down the button for the Layer that should *remain active* and press once on the other **LAYER** button.

- 💡 *If you would like to see what sound is selected for each layer at all times, press the **PROG VIEW** button in the Program section.*

## CREATING A SPLIT

Each Piano or Sample Synth Layer can be freely assigned to either side of the keyboard split point. This allows for various combinations of layered and split sounds. Below is how to set up a split using a Piano sound on the left side of the split point and a Sample Synth sound on the right:

- Make sure that both a Piano and a Sample Synth Layer is active.
- In the Piano section press the **KB SPLIT** button until only the **LO** LED is lit.
- In the Sample Synth section press the **KB SPLIT** button until only the **UP** LED is lit.
- To adjust the *position* of the Split point, press the KB Split **KEY** button in the Program section repeatedly to select one of the available positions. The selected position is indicated by a corresponding LED above the keyboard.

The keyboard is now divided into two zones, the split point being indicated by a green LED above the keyboard.

Use the **OCTAVE UP/DOWN** controls in the Piano and Sample Synth section for accessing different ranges of the respective sounds.

### SETTING UP A CROSS-FADE (X-FADE)

With **X-FADE** enabled the sounds on either side of the split point gradually transition between one another:

- Press **X-FADE** (Shift+KB Split). X-Fade **1** is now selected, which is a shorter cross-fade of 6 notes below and 6 notes above the split point.
- Press **X-FADE** (Shift+KB Split) again to select X-Fade **2**. This is a longer cross-fade encompassing 12 notes below and 12 notes above the split point.

Playing across the Split point will now “cross-fade” between the lower and the upper sound.

# 4 PIANO



## LAYER A AND B BUTTONS

The Nord Piano 5 has two independent Piano Layers. They are turned **ON** or **OFF** using the **LAYER A** and **B** buttons.

If one Layer is active, pressing the other Layer button toggles to that Layer.

### COMBINING LAYER A AND B

Two Piano sounds can be combined by holding down the button for the *active* Layer and pressing once on the other Layer button. The Layer that is *focused for editing* is indicated by a blinking LED.

To turn *off* one of two active Layers, hold down the button corresponding to the Layer *that should stay active* and press once on the other Layer button.

To turn off *both* Layers, press once on both Layer buttons simultaneously.

## KB SPLIT

When none of the two KB Split **LO** and **UP** LEDs are lit, the Piano sound of the active layer is assigned to the entire keyboard.

Each Piano Layer can be assigned to either the lower (**LO**) or upper (**UP**) side of the split point, by pressing the Piano **KB SPLIT** button.

Read more about KB Split options on page 15.

## LAYER INIT

Press **LAYER INIT** (Shift+KB Split) to initialize the Nord Piano 5 so that only the currently focused Piano Layer is active. The Layer Init operation also initializes each effect so that the active Piano layer is set as its source

## LEVEL

The **LEVEL** dial controls the volume level of the Piano sound for the *currently focused* Layer.

Press **SHIFT** and turn the **LEVEL** dial to change the Level of all sounds that are layered with the focused Layer, including Sample Synth layers.

- When a Volume Pedal is present the Level dial reflects the current volume level as the pedal is operated. When the pedal is inactive, the dial returns to showing the set "max" level.

## OCTAVE UP/DOWN

Use **OCTAVE UP** (Shift + Layer B) to transpose the Piano section up by one octave (+12 semitones) and **OCTAVE DOWN** (Shift + Layer A) to transpose down by one octave (-12 semitones). When assigned to the entire keyboard it can be transposed one octave up or down. When a split is active the available transpose values will vary, but always provide access to the entire range of the Piano.

## SUSTAIN AND VOLUME

**SUSTAIN** (Shift+Layer Detune) activates any attached sustain pedal, such as the Nord Triple Pedal, for the focused Piano Layer. Read more on how to configure an attached pedal in the Menus chapter, on page 23.

**VOL PED** (Shift+Touch) assigns an attached control pedal as volume control for the focused Piano Layer.

## ABOUT THE PIANO SOUNDS

The Pianos in the Nord Piano 5 are organized into six *types* (categories) Each type can contain several instrument *models*. New piano sounds can be downloaded from the [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com) website and added to the Nord Piano 5 by using the Nord Sound Manager.

Right out of the box, the Nord Piano 5 features a fine collection of carefully selected acoustic and electric pianos, digital piano sounds and piano layers.

- When you download piano instruments with the Nord Sound Manager, these will always automatically be placed into their corresponding category.

A program "knows" which piano to use by referencing to the category and the model number. If a program references a piano that is not currently downloaded onto the Nord Piano 5, the display will read "Piano not found". If this happens; either navigate to another instrument model from the same or another category (using the Piano Select dial) and select to use this piano instead, or use the Nord Sound Manager application to download the missing instrument to the Piano 5.

## ABOUT PIANO SIZE

Nord Piano Library sounds come in up to four different sizes. Below is an overview of how they differ:

	Sml	Med	Lrg	XL
Stereo sampled	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detailed velocity mapping	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fully mapped keyboard				✓
<i>String resonance</i> for entire range			✓	✓
<i>String resonance</i> for middle range		✓		

*Extra Large* (XL) versions are “fully mapped” across the keyboard, meaning that each key on the Nord matches its equivalent on the original instrument.

The *Large* (Lrg) versions have the pedal-down String Resonance samples all across the keyboard.

The *Medium* (Med) versions include pedal-down String Resonance samples for the important middle region of the range.

*Small* (Sml) piano files use the least amount of space in the piano memory as they do not contain any pedal-down String Resonance samples at all.

### PIANO INFO

Pressing **PIANO INFO** (Shift + On) displays additional info about the currently selected model, such as its version number and exact size.

## PIANO SELECT

### TYPE AND MODEL

Use the Piano Select **TYPE** button to choose the *Type* (category) of piano sound to choose from. These are the six types into which all piano sounds are placed:

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Grand	Acoustic and electric grand pianos
Upright	Upright pianos
Electric	Electric Pianos (tine and reed based)
Clav/Hps	Clavinets and Harpsichords
Digital	Digital and Layer piano sounds
Misc	Non-piano/keyboard sounds

❗ *Pianos can not be moved from one category to another.*

Use the Piano Select *dial* to browse the different *models* within the selected *Type*. The name of the selected model is shown in the Program section display, at the row corresponding to the focused Piano layer.

### ABOUT THE CLAVINET

All original Clavinet D6 pick-up combinations are available on the Nord Piano 5:

*Clav Model A:* Only the “neck” pick-up; a warmer, less bright sound.  
*Clav Model B:* Only the “bridge” pick-up; a bright sound.  
*Clav Model C:* Both pick-ups on and in phase; a very full sound.  
*Clav Model D:* Both pick-ups on but 180 degrees out of phase. The fundamental is almost cancelled out and the sound becomes thin.

## LIST VIEW

Pressing **SHIFT** and turning the **PIANO SELECT** dial activates the **LIST** view for piano sounds.

Grand	3/9
White Grand	XL
Royal Grand	XL
Velvet Grand	L
Silver Grand	L
Grand Imperial	L

The Piano list top row displays the current *Type* (“Grand” in this case), the number of models of that *Type* (9), and the index of the currently selected *Model* (3).

To change *Type* while in List view, use the **PIANO SELECT** button just as in non-list view.

## LAYER DETUNE

When both Layer A and B are active in a layer configuration, the Layer Detune feature can be used to detune the two piano sounds. There are three different degrees of detune, **1**, **2** and **3**, ranging from a subtle chorus-like effect to more severe detuning for instant saloon atmosphere.

## KB TOUCH

Pianos from the Nord Piano Library typically have a very wide dynamic range, and their dynamic response can be adjusted according to what fits your preferences or the context of your performance.

The **HEAVY** setting facilitates playing softly yet expressively. With each increment of the Touch setting (**MEDIUM** and **LIGHT**) less effort is required to play loudly.

## DYN COMP

**DYN COMP** (Dynamic Compression) reduces the dynamic range of a piano sound by raising its minimum sound level. Choose between the **1**, **2** and **3** settings, where 3 provides the most compression. This feature is very useful for maintaining an audible performance and even sound level, even when playing very softly or dynamically. The dynamic range in terms of *timbre* remains intact.

💡 *Unlike the Compressor (Comp) effect in the Effects section, which affects the attack and contour of the sound (often desired traits when using compression as an effect) the Dyn Comp feature does not alter the character of the selected piano.*

❗ *The Dyn Comp feature is compatible with version 6 piano sounds only. The version of a selected piano sound can be checked by pressing **INFO** (Shift + Piano Select button).*

## STRING RES AND SOFT RELEASE

### STRING RESONANCE



String Resonance refers to the acoustic phenomenon that occurs when strings, or parts of strings, resonate at their fundamental or harmonic frequencies when other strings are played.

When **STRING RES** is turned on all notes you play will affect each other to reproduce the wonderful acoustics that occurs inside an acoustic grand or upright piano.

Also, when the sustain pedal is pressed down the fact that all dampers are being lifted will further add to the resonance effect.

The sound level of the string resonance effect can be set in the Sound menu, see page 22.

- ❗ *If a piano is selected that is not compatible with the String Resonance feature, this function will be disabled. This applies to e.g. small (Sml) versions of the grand pianos and uprights, and the electric, digital and layer pianos.*

### SOFT RELEASE

Activating **SOFT RELEASE** will add a slightly longer and less pronounced release to the piano sound. This is equivalent to what happens when you adjust the damper tension in an acoustic or an electromechanical instrument. The added release is individual for every note and responds dynamically to the force with which you play.

- ❗ *Some Piano types, such as Clavinets and Harpsichords do not support the Soft Release feature. In these cases the function will be disabled.*

## NORD TRIPLE PEDAL

The included Nord Triple Pedal enables the following techniques and features:

### PEDAL NOISE

The **PEDAL NOISE** (Shift+Acoustics) feature recreates the mechanical noise that occurs when operating the damper pedal on an acoustic piano. The noise level dynamically reacts to the force with which the sustain pedal is pressed. The pedal noise level can be set in the Sound menu, see page 22.

### HALF PEDALING

The sustain pedal on the Nord Triple Pedal can be used with half pedaling techniques, meaning that the “virtual” dampers of the piano can be held in positions that are not entirely lifted or lowered, resulting in a “half dampened” sound.

### SOSTENUTO

When the Sostenuto (middle) pedal is operated, notes held at the moment the pedal is pressed down are sustained, while succeeding notes are not.

### SOFT PEDAL

To the left is the soft pedal, also known as the Una Corda. With this pedal pressed, all played notes will be slightly lower in volume and also have a more subdued tone quality.

## TIMBRE



Use the Piano **TIMBRE** settings to quickly alter the frequency content and character of the selected piano sound – while keeping the EQ unit of the Effects section free for other tasks.

### ACOUSTIC PIANO TIMBRE SETTINGS

The **SOFT** setting gives the sound a subdued and intimate quality by dampening high frequency content and emphasizing the low end.

The **MID** mode de-emphasizes both high and low frequency ranges, making for a focused and cutting sound with a prominent mid-range.

The **BRIGHT** mode emphasizes the high frequency range, producing a very bright and brilliant sound.

### ELECTRIC PIANO TIMBRE SETTINGS

When an Electric Piano is selected, the Timbre settings are tailored specifically to suit these sounds.

The **SOFT** setting reduces the treble and bell sound, while retaining a focused and punchy sound.

The **MID** setting boosts the upper mid-range, adding “presence” and cut to the sound.

The **BRIGHT** setting boosts the upper mid-range and adds brilliance/treble, giving both presence and clarity to the selected piano sound.

The **DYNO 1** and **DYNO 2** settings are both based on sounds produced by a custom preamp and EQ, which was a common addition to tube based electric pianos in the 70's and early 80's. Both settings greatly enhance the inherent “bell” sound of the electric piano sound. The Dyno 2 setting also boosts the bass register, resulting in a distinctly “mid scooped” sound.

### CLAV EQ SETTINGS

An original Clavinet is equipped with 4 rocker switches which control the on-board EQ. Most of the combinations produced by these switches are available on the Nord Piano 5.

*Available settings are: Soft, Treble, Soft+Treble, Brilliant, Soft+Brilliant, Treble+Brilliant, Soft+Treble+Brilliant.*

# 5 SAMPLE SYNTH



## LAYER A AND B BUTTONS

There are two independent Sample Synth Layers. They are turned **ON** or **OFF** using the **LAYER A** and **B** buttons.

If one Layer is active, pressing the other Layer button toggles to that Layer.

## COMBINING LAYER A AND B

Two Sample Synth sounds can be combined by *holding down* the button for the *active* Layer and pressing once on the other Layer button. The Layer currently *focused for editing* is indicated by a blinking LED.

To turn *off* one of the two active Layers, hold down the button corresponding to the Layer *that should remain* and press once on the other Layer button.

To turn off *both* Layers, press once on both Layer buttons simultaneously.

## KB SPLIT

When none of the two KB Split **LO** and **UP** LEDs are lit, the Sample Synth sound of the active layer is assigned to the entire keyboard.

Each Layer can be assigned to either the lower (**LO**) or upper (**UP**) side of the split point, by pressing the Sample Synth **KB SPLIT** button.

Read more about KB Split options on page 15.

## LAYER INIT

Press **LAYER INIT** (Shift+KB Split) to initialize the Nord Piano 5 so that only the currently focused Sample Synth Layer is active. The Layer Init operation also initialises each effect so that the active Sample Synth layer is selected as its source.

## LEVEL

The **LEVEL** dial controls the volume level of the Sample Synth sound for the *currently focused* Layer.

Press **SHIFT** and turn the **LEVEL** dial to change the Level of all sounds that are layered with the focused Layer, including Piano section layers.

**i** When a control pedal is connected and Vol Ped (Shift + Dynamics) is turned on, the Level dial reflects the current volume level as the pedal is operated. When the pedal is inactive, the dial returns to showing the set "max" level.

## OCTAVE UP/DOWN

Use **OCTAVE UP** (Shift + Layer B) or **OCTAVE DOWN** (Shift + Layer A) to transpose the Sample Synth section up or down by octaves (+/- 12 semitones). When assigned to the entire keyboard it can be transposed one octave up or down. In KB Split mode the available settings will vary, but always provide access to the entire range of the synthesizer.

## SUSTAIN AND VOLUME

**SUSTAIN** (Shift + Timbre) activates an attached sustain pedal for the Synth section.

**VOL PED** (Shift + Dynamics) assigns an attached control pedal as a volume control for the Sample Synth section.

Read more on how to configure attached pedals on page 23.

## ABOUT THE SAMPLE SYNTH

The versatile Sample Synth section comes with a large number of sample instruments right out of the box. Additional sample instruments can be found in the Nord Sample Library section of the [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com) website, and are downloaded to the instrument using the Nord Sound Manager software. Custom user sample instruments can be created from any sound source using the Nord Sample Editor 3 application, also found on the Nord website.

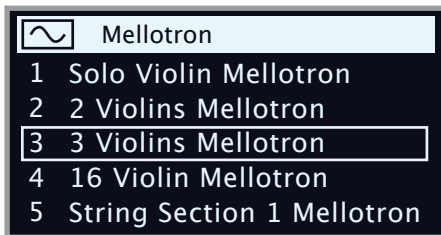
## SELECTING A SAMPLE INSTRUMENT

The **CATEGORY** dial is used for navigating and selecting any of the available categories, as hinted by the display.

When a category is selected, all sample instruments within that category are available for selection with the **SAMPLE** dial. The position and name of the selected sample instrument is shown in the Program area display.

### LIST VIEW

Pressing **SHIFT** while turning the **CATEGORY** or **SAMPLE** dial allows for browsing sample instruments in a list view. Use the Category and Sample Select dials for navigation, just like in non-list mode.



### ALPHABETICAL ORDER

At the end of the Category list there is an *Alphabetical Order* option. When selected, use the **SAMPLE** dial to browse all sample instruments in one list ordered by *name* rather than category.

## SHAPING THE SOUND

There are several ways to fine-tune the sound and behaviour of a loaded sample instrument, in order to make it more or less dynamic and responsive. Each sample instrument comes with *preset* values for the parameters below, which are automatically loaded when a sample instrument is selected. All controls can also be adjusted manually.

### DYNAMICS

The **DYNAMICS** control determines the velocity response of the amplifier envelope (in effect the dynamic volume level) for the selected sample instrument.

With each Dynamics setting; **1**, **2** and **3**, the sample instrument has an increased dynamic range. When Dynamics is turned off, all velocity controlled parameters, including preset filter settings are deactivated.

### ATTACK, SUSTAIN AND DECAY/RELEASE

These controls allow for setting the contour, or envelope, of the Sample Synth sound:

**ATTACK** controls the time it takes for the sample to reach its full level while **DECAY/RELEASE** determines how quickly the sound fades after having been triggered. At 12 o'clock the sound is in **SUSTAIN** mode, meaning that a sample instrument will sound as long as the key is being pressed. Settings past 12 o'clock gives the sound an increasingly long tail after the key has been released.

### TIMBRE

The **SOFT** setting activates a custom filter which dampens high frequency content in the sample instrument, useful for making brighter sounds more subdued.

With the **BRIGHT** setting, high frequency content in the sample instrument is emphasized. This can be useful for having a sound cut through better, for instance in a layer configuration.

### VOICE

With the **MONO** or **LEGATO** voice mode active, only one note is played at a time, just like on a traditional monophonic synthesizer. In Mono mode the Envelope is retriggered with each stroke whereas it is only retriggered with detached ("non-legato") strokes in Legato mode, which produces a smoother and more even sound.

When none of the Mono and Legato LEDs are lit, the Sample Synth section is in its default polyphonic mode.

### GLIDE

The **GLIDE** function makes the pitch "glide" from one note to the next when playing (traditionally referred to as *portamento*) and is available in Legato and Mono voice mode only. The **1**, **2** and **3** settings provide three different Glide times to choose from.

### UNISON

The **UNISON** feature creates an ensemble-like sound by combining multiple, slightly detuned and stereo panned, copies of the source sample.

There are three different degrees of Unison, **1**, **2** and **3**, each providing an increasing degree of detune and stereo spread.

### VIBRATO

When set to **ON** the Vibrato is instantly applied to the selected Sample Synth sound when a note is played.

In **DLY** (delay) mode the Vibrato is introduced some time after a note is played. The Vibrato delay time can be set to *Short* or *Long* (see Vibrato Settings below).



When set to **BTN/PEDAL** the Vibrato is activated either while pressing the **VIBRATO** button at the left side of the panel or by using an attached pedal. This could either be the middle pedal of the Nord Triple Pedal or an attached Control Pedal. The middle pedal mimics the Vibrato button's "on-off" functionality, whereas a control pedal gives continuous control over the Vibrato amount. Settings related to this feature can be found in the **PEDAL** menu (Shift + Program 4), see page 23 for details.

### VIBRATO SETTINGS

The Vibrato Rate, Amount and Delay time for the Dly (Delay) mode are set in the Vibrato **SETTINGS** menu (Shift + Vibrato). Each of these parameters is accessed by pressing its corresponding soft button.

Rate can be set to values between 2 and 8 Hz and Amount between 0 and 10. Dly (Delay) can be set to *Short* or *Long*.

**i** When a sample instrument is loaded, settings for Vibrato Rate and Amount are loaded as part of its sample instrument preset.



# 6 PROGRAM



The Program section contains functions such as loading and storing programs, access to Live programs, keyboard split functionality and more. This is also where menus containing *System*, *Sound* and *MIDI* settings are found. The menus and their settings are covered in a separate chapter, starting on page 22.

## STORE



The **STORE** button is used for storing an edited program to any location in the program banks. Storing a program will overwrite the existing data in the selected memory location.

- When the Nord Piano 5 is shipped from the factory its memory is protected to avoid accidental overwriting of programs. To be able to store Programs, the Memory Protect parameter needs to be set to "Off" in the System menu. Read more about this on page 22.

## STORING A PROGRAM

Here is how to store a program *without* changing its name:

- Press the **STORE** button once. The Store LED will start blinking and the display will show the name of the program and its location.



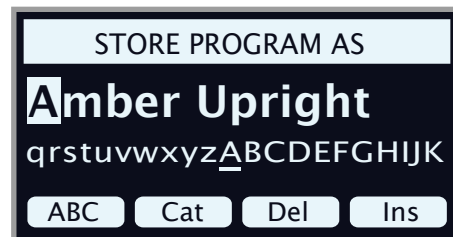
- To select a different store location use the dial and/or the **PROGRAM SELECT 1-5** buttons. A program can also be stored to one of the Live program locations by pressing the **LIVE MODE** button and then selecting the desired Live location. The program at the selected

destination can be auditioned by playing the keyboard.

- To cancel an ongoing Store operation, press **EXIT**.
- When a suitable location has been selected, press **STORE** again to confirm the operation.

## NAMING A PROGRAM (STORE AS...)

- To store *and name* your program press **STORE AS...** (Shift + Store).
- The **ABC** soft button brings up a row of alphanumeric characters. Use the dial to set the character for the current position. Let go of the **ABC** button to move the cursor ahead. The dial can be used to move the cursor freely. The **Ins** soft button is used for inserting a blank space at the cursor position and the **Del** soft button is used for deleting the selected character.



- To set a category for your program, hold down the **Cat** soft button and select a category from the list.
- Press **STORE** to bring up the *Store Program To* screen. Use the dial and/or the Program Select buttons to select a location.
- When a suitable location has been selected, press **STORE** again.

*Naming programs can also be done with the Nord Sound Manager.*

## PROG VIEW

The **PROG VIEW** button switches between two distinct view modes for the display. The default view shows only the Program name and number, with the lower half of the display reserved for showing parameter hints as panel controls are changed.


The second view mode shows the Program name and number in smaller print and utilizes the lower half of the display to show the current selection for each active Layer.

- The lower half of the display will show parameter hints as panel controls are adjusted in this view mode too, temporarily hiding the Piano and Sample Synth Layer information.

## TRANSPOSE ON/SET

The Nord Piano 5 can be transposed in +6/-6 semitone steps on a per-program basis. Pressing **TRANSPOSE** turns this function on or off. Hold down **TRANSPOSE** and set the value by turning the dial. Transpose settings are saved and recalled as part of a program.



 To set up a transpose that affects **all** programs, use the *Global Transpose* parameter in the System Menu.

The Transpose parameter can be applied to *MIDI* in two different ways, either transposing *outgoing* or *incoming* MIDI, based on the "Transpose MIDI At" setting in the MIDI menu. Read more about this on page 22.

## MONO

Press **MONO** (Shift + Transpose) to set the outputs of the Nord Piano 5 to mono. This is a global setting which affects all programs until it is deactivated or the Nord Piano 5 is turned off.

## KB SPLIT

When a **KB SPLIT** (Keyboard Split) is active the keyboard is divided into two zones, allowing for a variety of split and layered configurations.

Layers are assigned to the lower and upper sides of the split point by using the KB Split **LO** and **UP** settings in the Piano and Sample Synth sections.

### CHOOSING A SPLIT POSITION



Press **KEY** to move the split point incrementally between the 7 keyboard split positions, C3-C6, until the desired location is reached. LEDs are provided above the keyboard, indicating which split position is active.

Holding down the **CLEAR** button, as indicated by the "▼" symbol, resets the KB Split setting for all active layers.

### SPLIT X-FADE SETTINGS

Normally the transition between two keyboard zones is immediate, with no overlap between the sounds selected for each zone. By activating one of the **X-FADE** settings, sounds can instead be mixed or "cross-faded" across the split point, creating a smooth transition between the sounds. The three available options are:

When X-Fade is turned *Off* there is no cross-fade between sounds.

The **1** setting represents a total width of 12 semitones. The sound *below* the split point fades out across 6 notes *above* it and sounds *above* the split point will similarly reach 6 notes *below* it.

The **2** setting provides a width of 24 semitones, 12 below the split point and 12 above it.

## MIDI LED INDICATOR



The **MIDI** LED, located below the Master Level dial, blinks as incoming MIDI messages are received by the MIDI In port, or over USB.

## PROGRAM DIAL

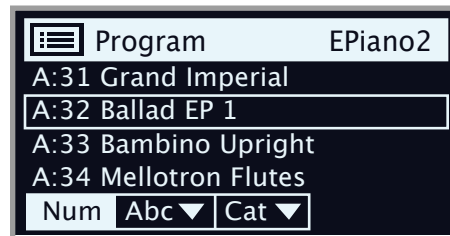


The **PROGRAM** dial to the left of the Display is used to select programs, to set parameter values and to enter characters in program names. Pressing **SHIFT** while turning the dial activates the **LIST** function, which will display all programs in a list.

### PROGRAM LIST, ABC AND CAT

The **LIST** (Shift + Program dial) view provides great overview when browsing programs linearly (**Num** selected in the display) but also presents two additional sort modes: **Abc** (Program Select 2) and **Cat** (Program Select 3).

*Abc* sorts the list alphabetically while *Cat* will display all programs of the selected category. To select a specific character or category, hold down the **Abc** or **Cat** soft button respectively (as indicated by the "▼" symbol) and use the dial.

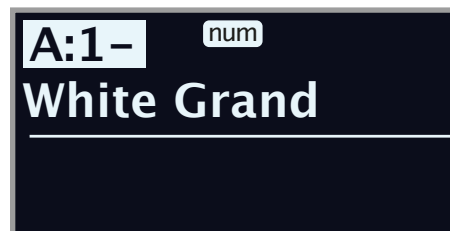


### NUMERIC PAD NAVIGATION MODE

There are two distinct options for how programs and banks are navigated: The default "page based" mode and the *Numeric Pad* mode. To enable or disable Numeric Pad mode press **NUM PAD** (Shift + Prog View).

In Numeric Pad mode the Program Select 1-5 buttons are used for entering any program number (11-55) within the current bank, rather than directly switching between the 5 programs on a page. As an example, to select program 12 within the current bank, first press Program Select 1 (to select page 1) and then Program Select 2 (to select program 2 within that page). Here are some additional points to keep in mind:

- The Program dial can be used for switching programs incrementally, just as in the default navigation mode.
- A "num" symbol at the top of the display indicates that Numeric Pad navigation is active.



*In this example, the Program Select 1 button has been pressed. The dash (-) indicates that another digit can be entered, to select program 11-15.*

## LIVE PROGRAMS



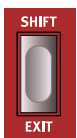
The Nord Piano 5 has five easy-to-access Live programs. These programs are special in that edits to them are *automatically stored*. When exiting a Live Program or powering off the machine all edits are saved, without the need for a manual Store operation. To select a Live Program, press **LIVE MODE** and then any of the 1-5 buttons in the Program area.

A Live program can be stored to a location in the program banks using the Store function. Conversely, a regular program can also be stored into a Live program location.

### PANIC

If hanging notes are experienced when using the Nord Piano 5 in a MIDI setup, or if all sound should be terminated for other reasons, press **PANIC** (Shift + Live Mode). This will execute an internal "All Notes Off" message, and reset incoming CC messages.

## SHIFT / EXIT BUTTON



Many controls have a *secondary* function which is accessed by holding **SHIFT** and pressing the button or turning the dial. Shift functions are always printed *below* the corresponding control. For example, holding Shift and pressing the Program 2 button will open up the Sound Menu. The Shift button is also used to **EXIT** menus, or for cancelling Store operations.

*The value a parameter is set to can be monitored – without changing it – by pressing down Shift and turning the knob associated with the parameter.*

## PROGRAM SELECT BUTTONS

The **PROGRAM SELECT 1-5** buttons give you immediate access to a range of five programs – a *Page* – within the current program bank. They are also used as *soft buttons* when operating menu settings. Read more about soft button functionality on page 7.

### WHAT IS A PROGRAM?

A *Program* contains references to the selected piano and/or sample instrument, as well as all settings made on the panel except for Master Level. A program does *not* store settings made in the System, Sound or MIDI menus.

*Note that some programs are named after a particular Piano sound or sample instrument, for instance "Silver Grand". If you were to store that program with a different Piano sound loaded, the program name would not change automatically, as the name is manually assigned to each program.*

## SYSTEM, SOUND, MIDI AND PEDAL MENUS

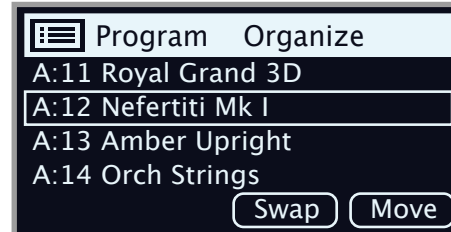
Press **SYSTEM** (Shift + Program Select 1), **SOUND** (Shift + Program Select 2), **MIDI** (Shift + Program Select 3) or **PEDAL** (Shift + Program Select 4) to enter the System, Sound, MIDI or Pedal menu. To read more about all available menu settings, turn to page 22.

## ORGANIZE

The **ORGANIZE** (Shift + Program Select 5) view allows for moving or "swapping" programs within the program banks.

### ENTER THE ORGANIZE VIEW

① Press **ORGANIZE** (Shift + Program 4)



### SWAP TWO PROGRAMS

A Swap operation interchanges the positions of two programs.

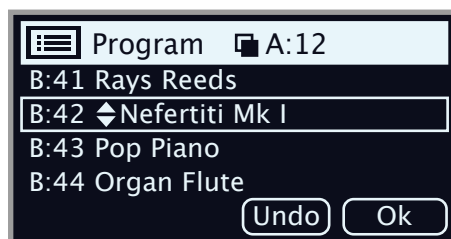
② Use the dial to select the program location which should be swapped with another and press **Swap**.



③ Use the dial to select the destination and press **Ok** to complete the Swap operation. Pressing **Undo** will instead cancel the operation.

### MOVE A PROGRAM

④ Use the dial to select a program which should be moved to another location and press **Move**



⑤ Select the *destination* location for the operation, using the dial and press **Ok**. Pressing **Undo** will instead cancel the operation.

*Note that programs between the source and destination locations are shifted one step up or down, changing which programs are part of each page within the affected range.*

*Programs can also be organized using the Nord Sound Manager computer application.*

# 7 EFFECTS



## ACTIVATING EFFECTS

To enable an effect, press its **ON/OFF** button. The LEDs above the button indicate which sound engine and layer(s) the effect is assigned to; **PIANO A** and/or **B** or **SYNTH A** and/or **B**.

**i** The Delay and EQ units can be set to have effect on all layers, indicated by all Source LEDs being lit.

Press **SOURCE** (Shift+On/Off) to change the sound engine assignment. With Source pressed down, as indicated by the "▼" symbol, the **PROG/MENU** dial can also be used for selecting the source.

Apart from the above method there are two alternate "short-cut" methods for assigning an effect source:

- 1 Pressing down one or more Layer buttons and clicking an effect Source button. The reverse also works; i.e. pressing down an effect Source button and clicking one or more Layer buttons.
- 2 Double-clicking the Source button. In this case only layers that are active on the panel can be selected.

## MOD 1

The **MOD 1** unit offers six different types of modulation effects. Use its Selector button to switch between the available settings.

### TREM (TREMOLO)

**TREM** (Tremolo) provides a volume modulation that continuously varies the volume of the output signal. Tremolo is a very common effect to use with electric pianos.

There are three intensities, **TREM 1, 2** and **3** (1+2) to choose from.

### PAN (AUTO PAN)

**PAN** is an automatic panning modulation that smoothly moves the signal between the left and right sides of the stereo panorama.

There are three different intensities, **PAN 1, 2** and **3** (1+2) to choose from.

### WAH

The **WAH** (Wah-Wah) effect gives the sound a characteristic, "Quack"-like character and can be extremely useful on electric pianos and Clavinets. The Wah-Wah modulation is a lowpass type of filter that can be swept across the frequency range using the **RATE** knob. During the sweep, the filter's characteristics also changes.



The Wah effect uses the signal's amplitude to control the filter sweep range, making the effect “velocity sensitive” (technically referred to as an “envelope follower”).

☞ *This effect can also be used as a traditional Pedal Wah with a control pedal connected to the Nord Piano 5 if **CTRLPED** is engaged.*

## RM (RING MODULATION)

Ring Modulation (**RM**) is a type of modulation where two signals are multiplied with each other, resulting in an in-harmonic “bell like” sound. On the Nord Piano 5 the instrument signal is multiplied with a sine wave, and a fixed modulation amount is used.

## CTRL PED

All effects in the Mod 1 section can be controlled by a pedal connected to the Ctrl Ped input jack, achieved by pressing **CTRLPED** (Shift + Mod 1 selector). For the Tremolo and Pan effects, the pedal controls the effect *amount* – something which can not be done from the panel.

For Wah and RM, the pedal mirrors the Rate knob which in case of the Wah makes it behave as a traditional Pedal Wah, and with the RM effect provides pedal control of the modulation rate.

## MOD 2

**MOD 2** provides a selection of modulation effects, including two types of Phaser, a Flanger, two Chorus types and a Vibe effect. Each effect has its rate, or speed, controlled by the **RATE** knob.

## PHASER 1 & 2

The **PHASER** effect produces a characteristic “sweep” effect, commonly used with electric piano sounds. The digital models for the phasers of the Nord Piano 5 are inspired by classic units such as the Small Stone and the Bi Phase.

## FLANGER

The **FLANGER** produces a dramatic comb filter effect, giving the sound a “swooshy” and resonant quality.

## CHORUS 1 & 2

The versatile **CHORUS** effect gives the impression of “widening”, or with more extreme settings severely detuning, the sound – achieved by blending a number of modulated copies of the audio signal. There are two Chorus types, the second being more bold in character.

## VIBE

The **VIBE** effect draws its inspiration from a classic foot pedal effect and produces a sound with both pitch-bending and phasing qualities. The effect is created through a digital model of a staggered series of phasing filters, unlike the usually aligned filters of a normal phasing effect.

## DEEP

Engaging **DEEP** mode (Shift + Mod 2 selector) increases the modulation *amount* for the selected effect.



## AMP/COMP

The **AMP/COMP** unit includes sophisticated amplifier and speaker cabinet simulations, a versatile tube distortion setting and a useful compressor effect. The amount of drive or compression is controlled with the **DRIVE/COMP** knob. The LED indicates whether any overdrive is active, and will light up whenever the compressor is working.

## AMP MODELS

There are three different amplifier/speaker simulations, each with its distinct character:

**SMALL**: A simulation of the built-in tube amp and speakers of a reed-based electric piano.

**JC**: A simulation of a classic solid-state amplifier and speaker cabinet.

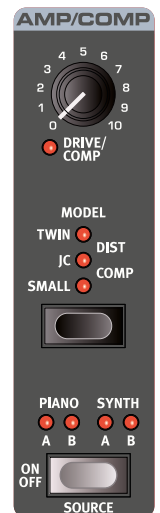
**TWIN**: A simulation of a classic twin speaker tube amplifier and cabinet.

## DIST

The **DIST** (Distortion) setting provides a tube style overdrive effect which can be used for anything from subtle saturation to screaming distortion.

## COMP

The **COMP** (Compressor) effect reduces the dynamic range of the sound, making low level signals louder and high level signals more quiet. This produces a tight, punchy sound and makes the overall level easier to control in a live mix situation.



## EQUALIZER

The 3-band equalizer features bass, sweepable midrange and treble controls. The **BASS** frequency is 100 Hz, the **TREBLE** frequency is 4 kHz and the **MID** frequency can be set between 200 Hz to 8 kHz, using its **FREQ** knob. The boost/cut range is +/- 15 dB.



ⓘ *The Equalizer unit can be set to have effect on all Layers, indicated by all source LEDs being lit.*

## DELAY

The **DELAY** unit produces echo/repeat effects. The Delay time is set by tapping the **TEMPO** button, or by pressing down on it and **SET** the tempo using the Program section dial.

💡 *With the Tempo Set button pressed down, the Dry/Wet knob can be turned and used as a short-cut for changing the tempo.*

The **FEEDBACK** button determines the number of delay repeats, or taps. At the lowest setting (LED unlit) only the initial tap is heard, while the **1, 2** and **3** settings give an increasingly long feedback tail.

## PING PONG

In **PING PONG** mode (Shift + Tempo) delay repeats alternate between the left and right channels. If short delay times are used, these repeats will be “asymmetrical” and produce delays that are more like early reflections in reverb units.

The **DRY/WET** knob adjusts the balance between the dry signal and the delay repeats.

## TEMPO TAP

Use **TAP** to set a delay time matching the tempo of a song. Simply tap the Tempo button in the tempo you wish the delay to sync to a number of times, and the delay time will be adjusted automatically.

❗ *The Delay unit can be set to have effect on all Layers, indicated by all source LEDs being lit.*



## REVERB

The **REVERB** unit simulates the natural sound reflections in various acoustic environments. The Reverb is a “global” effect, which is to say that it will always be applied to *all* active sound engines.

The Reverb unit is turned On or Off by pressing **ON**.

The five available reverb types; **BOOTH, ROOM, STAGE, HALL** and **CATH** (Cathedral) represent increasingly larger environments – from a short, reflective ambience in Booth mode, through more natural sounding rooms in Room, Stage and Hall modes to an extremely large and immersive reverb in Cath mode.

**CHORALE** (Shift+Type) is a distinctly modulated variation of each Reverb type, useful to give the Reverb signal more movement.

With the **BRIGHT** option active, more high frequency content will be preserved in the Reverb signal. In **DARK** mode, high frequencies are dampened.

The **DRY/WET** control sets the balance between the unprocessed and the processed signal.




# 8 MIDI

## MIDI FUNCTIONS

The Nord Piano 5 can be used as a master keyboard to control other hardware units or software sound sources, and it is also possible to control the Nord Piano 5 from a separate keyboard or MIDI device.


### MIDI CHANNEL

The MIDI channel is used both for transmitting and receiving MIDI information, at the same time. It allows for external control over every aspect of the Nord Piano 5 – much like playing its own keyboard – and is used for sending keyboard, pedal and panel actions to another MIDI device or sequencer.

 *MIDI messages are sent and listened to on both the USB and MIDI In/Out connections simultaneously.*

### RECORDING A PIANO 5 PERFORMANCE TO A MIDI SEQUENCER OR DAW

Here is how to record a Piano 5 performance including any pedal actions and parameter adjustments to a DAW or MIDI sequencer.

- 1 Set the DAW or sequencer to use the Nord Piano 5 USB MIDI driver, if connected through USB, or the appropriate MIDI interface if connected through the 5-pin MIDI connectors.
  - 2 Set the DAW or sequencer track to route back incoming MIDI on the MIDI channel set on the Nord Piano 5.
  - 3 Set Local in the System menu to *Off* on the Nord Piano 5.
  - 4 Select the Program on the Nord Piano 5 that you wish to use.
  - 5 Start the recording on the sequencer.
-  *If a Transpose value is set, either by the panel Transpose function or the Global Transpose setting in the System menu, its effect on MIDI depends on the “Transpose MIDI at” setting – see page 22.*

## MIDI MESSAGES

The following MIDI messages can be transmitted and received by the Nord Piano 5:

### NOTE ON/OFF

- Note On and Note Off messages including velocity are transmitted and received.

### CONTROLLERS

- From the System menu it can be determined whether the Nord Piano 5 should transmit and/or receive Control Change messages. See


- If a Control/Expression pedal is connected to the Control/Volume Pedal Input, this is transmitted and received as Controller 11 (Expression).
- If a sustain pedal is connected to the Sustain Pedal Input, this is transmitted and received as Controller 64 (Sustain Pedal).
- Almost all other controls (knobs and buttons) on the front panel are also transmitted and received as Control Change messages. This can be used for recording front panel actions into a MIDI sequencer. For a full list of MIDI Control Change messages, refer to page 27.

## PROGRAM CHANGE

Loading a program, Live program, Piano or Sample will send a Program Change message on the global MIDI channel, each content type identified by its Bank MSB value. Conversely, incoming Program Change messages will select the corresponding content on the Piano 5. The message consists of three parts, as defined in the table below:

	Program	Piano	Sample	Live
Bank MSB (CC# 0)	0	3	4	6
Bank LSB (CC# 32)	0-15	0-5	0-X	0-1
Program Change	0-24	0-X	0-49	0-3

*X = the amount of relevant values depends on the number of pianos/samples in memory.*

-  *A Program Change message that reaches the Nord Piano 5 unaccompanied by Bank Select messages will take effect in the currently selected Program or Live bank.*

In the System Menu, you can select if the Nord Piano 5 should send and/or receive Program Change messages on the Global channel. See page 22 for further details.

## LOCAL CONTROL ON/OFF

If Local Control is set to *Off*, the keyboard and the panel on the Nord Piano 5 will be “disconnected” from its sound engines. Use the *Off* setting when the instrument is set up in a MIDI loop, for instance when using it in conjunction with a DAW or sequencer. Local Control On/Off is set in the MIDI menu, which is described on page 22.

## PANIC



If hanging notes are experienced when using the Nord Piano 5 in a MIDI setup, or if all sound should be terminated for other reasons, use the **PANIC** (Shift + Live Mode) function. This will execute an internal “All Notes Off” message, and reset incoming CC messages.



# 9 MENUS

Settings that are made in the *System, Sound, MIDI and Pedal* menus have immediate effect and are stored until they are changed again, except for the *Local Control* MIDI setting. This setting always reverts to "On" when the Nord Piano 5 is powered up.

Enter a menu by holding **SHIFT** and pressing **SYSTEM, SOUND, MIDI** or **PEDAL** (Program Select buttons 1, 2, 3 and 4). Menus are navigated with the on-screen ◀ and ▶ soft buttons and settings are changed with the **PROGRAM** dial. Soft buttons are also used to access additional settings, where applicable. Exit a menu by pressing **EXIT** (Shift).

## SYSTEM MENU

### 1 - MEMORY PROTECT

The memory protection setting is *On* when a Nord Piano 5 leaves the factory, preventing accidental overwriting of programs. Setting this to *Off* enables Store operations. Menu settings and Live programs are not affected by this setting.

*Range: On (default), Off*

### 2 - GLOBAL TRANSPOSE

This setting allows for transposing the entire Nord Piano 5 in semitone steps. This setting will be *added* to any on-panel transpose value stored with a program.

*Range: +/- 6 semitones (default value is "none")*

### 3 - FINE TUNE

Fine Tune can be used to fine tune the pitch of the Nord Piano 5 in finer increments.

*Range: +/- 50 Cents (+/- half a semitone). Default value is "0"*

### 4 - VERSION AND MODEL INFO

The Version and model info menu page shows the full version number of the currently installed OS (Operating System) and, when turning the Program dial, hardware information for the instrument.

*Use the Program dial to switch between Version and Model info*

## SOUND MENU

### 1 - PIANO PEDAL NOISE LEVEL

Sets the level of the dynamic Pedal Noise feature which can be turned on for pianos that support it, if a Nord Triple Pedal is connected to the Nord Piano 5.

*Range: +/- 6 dB (0 dB default)*

### 2 - PIANO STRING RES LEVEL

Sets the level of the String Resonance feature that can be turned on for selected pianos (acoustic Med, Lrg and XL sizes).

*Range: +/- 6 dB (0 dB default)*

## MIDI MENU

### 1 - LOCAL CONTROL

MIDI Local Control determines if the Nord Piano 5 keyboard and panel will control internal sound engines and programs or only transmit MIDI. Local Control *On* is the normal "play mode". When Local Control is in *Off* mode, front panel and keyboard actions are transmitted via MIDI only.

*Range: On (Default), Off*

- ❗ *Local always defaults back to "On" every time the Nord Piano 5 is powered on*

### 2 - MIDI CHANNEL

This sets the transmitting and receiving MIDI channel for the Nord Piano 5. This MIDI channel transmits all keyboard, pedal and panel actions as MIDI signals. It can also be used as a receiving channel with full control of the entire Piano 5.

*Range: 1-16, Off (Default 1)*

### 3 - CONTROL/PROGRAM CHANGE MODE

#### CC (CONTROL CHANGE)

This allows you to set if you want your Nord Piano 5 to transmit and/or receive MIDI Controller Messages or not on the MIDI channel.

*Range: Off, Send, Receive, Send & Receive (Default)*

#### PC (PROGRAM CHANGE)

This setting determines whether your Nord Piano 5 transmits and/or receives MIDI program Change Messages, on the MIDI channel.

*Range: Off, Send, Receive, Send & Receive (Default)*

### 4 - TRANSPOSE MIDI AT

When set to *In*, active transpose values (global and/or set per program using the on-panel Transpose control) are *not* applied to outgoing MIDI, but only to incoming MIDI data. In *Out* mode sent MIDI notes are transposed but not incoming ones.

*Range: In (Default), Out*

### 5 - MIDI OUT VELOCITY CURVE

There are three options for how the velocity of outgoing MIDI notes is scaled. When set to *Heavy*, the generated MIDI corresponds to



the dynamic range of the Nord Piano 5 Piano engine, and this setting should be used when playing the Nord Piano 5 in Local Control “Off” mode from the local keyboard. The *Medium* and *Light* curves require increasingly less effort to generate higher velocity values.

*Range: Heavy (Default), Medium, Light*

---

## PEDAL MENU

### 1 - SUSTAIN PEDAL TYPE

This allows you to select the type of pedal connected to the **SUSTAIN PEDAL** jack, in case the functionality of the pedal is reversed (when the pedal is up, sustain is on and vice versa). The Auto setting can automatically determine the pedal type.

*Range: Triple, Open, Closed, Auto (Default)*

### 2 - MIDDLE PEDAL FUNCTION

By default the middle pedal of a connected Nord Triple Pedal functions as Sostenuto pedal for both the Piano and Sample Synth sections (refer to page 12 for an explanation of Sostenuto pedaling). When set to *Vibrato* the middle pedal can instead be used to activate the Sample Synth Vibrato when set to its **BTN/PED** option.

*Range: Sostenuto (Default), Vibrato*

### 3 - CONTROL PEDAL

#### TYPE

The Nord Piano 5 accepts many of the most commonly available control pedals through its **CONTROL PEDAL** input. Select a setting here that matches the pedal being used.

☞ *If a connected pedal is operated while in this menu, a percentage indicating the range of the connected pedal is displayed.*

*Range: Roland EV7 (default), Yamaha FC-7, Korg, Fatar/Studiologic*

#### GAIN

This setting allows for adding some gain to the pedal signal. This can be useful if an attached pedal does not reach its maximum level or setting.

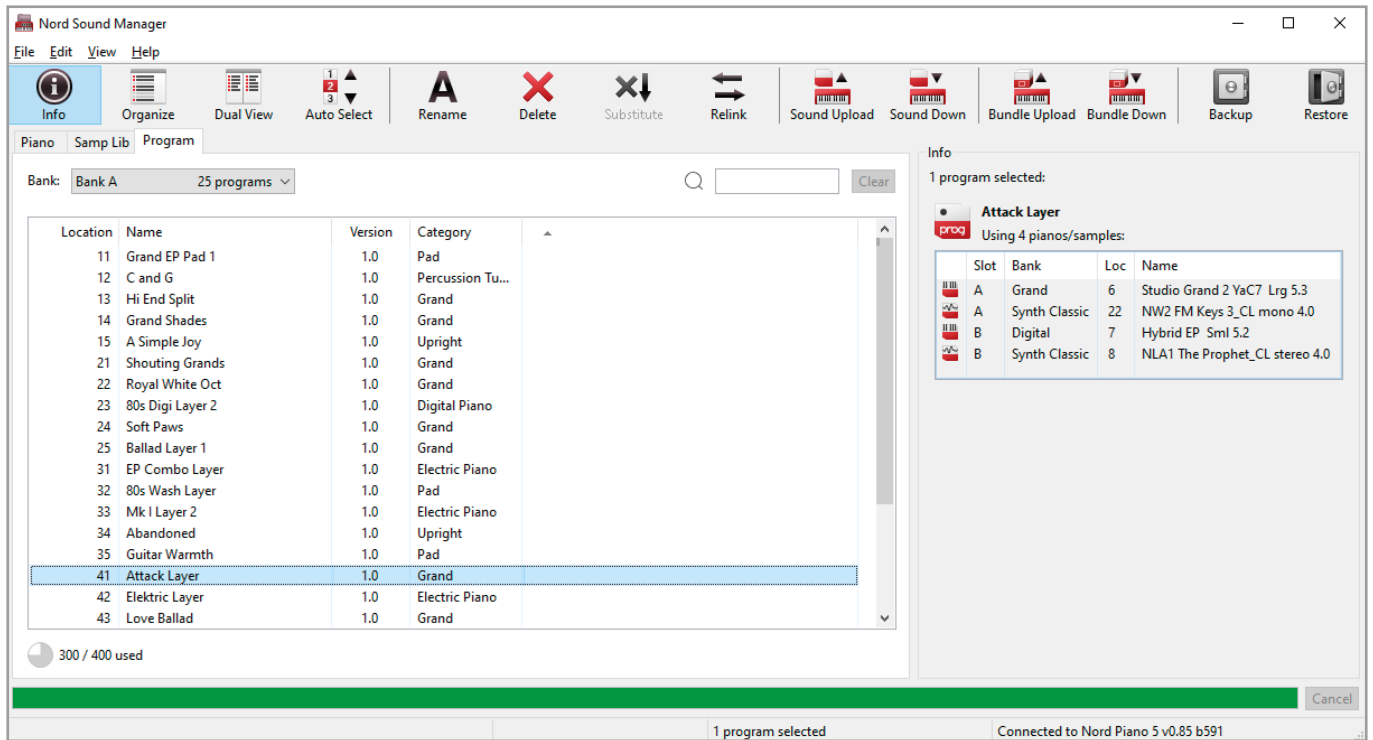
*Range: 1 - 10*

### 4 - CONTROL PEDAL FUNCTION

The Control Pedal is by default used for controlling the volume of any Layer where *Vol Ped* has been turned on and for the Mod 1 effect unit if its *Ctrl Ped* function is active. It can also be set to control the Sample Synth *Vibrato*, when set to its **BTN/PED** option, by selecting the *Ctrl+Volume+Vibrato* setting.

*Range: Ctrl+Volume (Default), Ctrl+Volume+Vibrato*

# 10 NORD SOUND MANAGER



## ABOUT NORD SOUND MANAGER

Nord Sound Manager is an essential application for any owner of a Nord instrument, which allows for organizing, altering and backing up content within the various memory areas on the Nord Piano 5. These are some of the common tasks performed through the Nord Sound Manager:

- Organizing and naming Programs.
- Downloading new Piano sounds to the Piano partition.
- Downloading new Samples to the Sample partition.
- Uploading Programs from the Nord Piano 5 to a computer.
- Uploading *bundles* containing programs *and* their associated piano and sample files.
- Performing backups of the entire instrument.
- Restoring the entire instrument to a previous state from a backup file.

The Nord Sound Manager *and the user manual* for the application can be found at the [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com) website, in the *Software* area.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.10 or later

Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10.

Nord USB Driver version v3.0 or later required for Windows.

# 11

## NORD SAMPLE EDITOR 4



### ABOUT NORD SAMPLE EDITOR 4

The Nord Sample Editor 4 is a tool for creating custom sample instruments, playable on your Nord Piano 5. Simply press record or drop audio files (.wav or .aiff) on the desired keys, set Start, Stop and Loop points in the waveform editor and your custom sample is ready to be transferred to your connected Nord Piano 5!

Whether creating a fully mapped instrument, a simple FX sound or assigning a sampled song intro to a single key, the Nord Sample Editor 4 opens up many possibilities together with the Nord Piano 5. Here are some of the key features:

- Intuitive user interface
- Built-in recording functionality
- Drag and drop single or multiple samples
- Automatic and manual import options
- Edit multiple zones at once
- Support for silent zones

The Nord Sample Editor 4 can be downloaded from the *Software* section at [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com).

### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.10 or later

Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10.

Nord USB Driver version v3.0 or later required for Windows. This is normally installed automatically through Windows Update, but can also be downloaded from [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com).

# 12 CONNECTIONS



## AUDIO CONNECTIONS

General guide on audio connections: Before turning on your amplifier, make all audio connections. Always turn on the amplifier last, and when shutting down, always turn off your amplifier or active speakers first.

⚠ *Using your Nord Piano 5 at high volumes can damage your hearing.*

### HEADPHONES

1/4 inch stereo headphone jack. Audio is always output through the Headphones output, regardless of Output Routing settings.

### LEFT & RIGHT OUT

1/4 inch unbalanced line level outputs for amplifier or recording equipment. The Nord Piano 5 is a stereo instrument with separate signal paths for left and right audio channels.

### MONITOR IN

1/8 inch jack for connecting devices such as smartphones, tablets or computers to the Nord Piano 5. This is useful for playing and rehearsing to pre-recorded music or a metronome, or to use an additional sound source on stage. The Monitor In signal is routed to the Headphones and Left & Right outputs.

⚠ *The Nord Piano 5 Master Level control does not affect the level of the Monitor In signal. Use the volume level control of your playback device to set the desired level.*

## MIDI CONNECTIONS

### MIDI IN

The 5 pin MIDI In connection is used for receiving MIDI data sent from external devices such as controller keyboards, sequencers and computers.

### MIDI OUT

The 5 pin MIDI Out connection will send MIDI data to devices such as external sound modules and computers.

## USB CONNECTION

The USB port is used for connecting the Nord Piano 5 to a computer. The connection can be used for transferring MIDI, for OS updates and for connecting to applications such as the Nord Sound Manager or Nord Sample Editor. These applications, and the latest OS version can always be found for download at [www.nordkeyboards.com](http://www.nordkeyboards.com).

ⓘ *MIDI over USB and standard 5 pin MIDI connectors are both active at the same time.*

## PEDAL CONNECTIONS

### SUSTAIN PEDAL

1/4 inch connector for all common types of sustain pedals, and for the included Nord Triple Pedal. Sustain pedal polarity can be detected automatically or set manually in the Pedal menu, see page 23.

### VOL/CTRL PEDAL

1/4 inch connector for an expression pedal of continuous type, used for controlling Piano and/or Sample Synth volume, and/or Effect 1 amount. Most of the common expression pedal makes and models are supported, and can be selected in the Pedal menu, see page 23



# APPENDIX: MIDI CONTROLLER LIST

Nord Piano 5 Parameter	MIDI CC #
<i>Bank Select MSB</i>	0
<i>Bank Select LSB</i>	32
Volume	7
Pan	10
Sustain	64
Soft Pedal	67
Sostenuto	66
Ctrl Pedal (Expression)	11
KB Split Key	5
KB Split X-Fade	6
Transpose On/Off	9
Piano Layer A On/Off	33
Piano Layer B On/Off	37
Piano Level	34
Piano Octave Shift	35
Piano Sustain Pedal	49
Piano Volume Pedal	50
Piano Timbre	40
Piano Acoustics	52
Piano Touch	51
Piano Pedal Noise	53
Piano Layer Detune	54
Piano KB Split	55
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Effect Mod 1 Source	84
Effect Mod 1 Ctrl Ped	85
Effect Mod 1 Rate	86

Nord Piano 5 Parameter	MIDI CC #
Effect Mod 2 Enable	91
Effect Mod 2 Type	87
Effect Mod 2 Source	88
Effect Mod 2 Deep	89
Effect Mod 2 Rate	90
Amp/Comp Enable	118
Amp/Comp Type	100
Amp/Comp Source	119
Amp/Comp Drive	117
EQ Enable	105
EQ Source	106
EQ Bass	102
EQ Mid	103
EQ Treble	104
EQ Mid Frequency	107
Delay Enable	97
Delay Source	92
Delay Ping Pong	98
Delay Dry/Wet	93
Delay Rate	94
Delay Feedback	95
Reverb Enable	116
Reverb Type	115
Reverb Dry/Wet	113
Reverb Bright/Dark	112
Reverb Chorale	111

Nord Piano 5 Parameter	Bank #
<i>Bank Select MSB Program</i>	0
<i>Bank Select MSB Live</i>	6
<i>Bank Select MSB Piano</i>	3
<i>Bank Select MSB Sample</i>	4



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# FCC Information (U.S.A.)

## 1. IMPORTANT NOTICE: DO NOT MODIFY THIS UNIT!

This product, when installed as indicated in the instructions contained in this manual, meets FCC requirements. Modifications not expressly approved by Clavia may void your authority, granted by the FCC, to use the product.

**2. IMPORTANT:** When connecting this product to accessories and/ or another product use only high quality shielded cables. Cable/s supplied with this product MUST be used. Follow all installation instructions. Failure to follow instructions could void your FCC authorization to use this product in the USA.

**3. Note:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment is found to be the source of interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Unauthorized changes or modification to this system can void the users authority to operate this equipment.

This equipment requires shielded interface cables in order to meet FCC class B Limit.

For Canada

## NOTICE

This Class B - digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

## AVIS

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B - est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

## DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY Compliance Information Statement

**Model Name:** Nord Piano 5 88, Nord Piano 5 73

**Type of Equipment:** Digital Organ and piano

**Responsible Party:** Clavia DMI AB

**Address:** P.O. BOX 4214. SE-102 65 Stockholm Sweden

**Telephone:** +46-8-442 73 60

