



ANTIQUE ZITHER

BY GOURLIE





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Thanks for downloading my Decent Sampler library!

This is my first Decent Sampler instrument and already have plans for many more to come!

To Install:

- Ensure you have the Decent Sampler VST installed on your computer. If you don't have it, you can download it for free from decentsamples.com
- Open up an instance of Decent Sampler in your DAW.
- Drag the .dslibrary file from your file browser onto Decent Sampler, press Yes to install, and vwoila! It should load. (If this gives you problems you can also press "File" in Decemtp Sampler then "Load" and click the same file)

Use of this instrument is bound by the following license terms:

- All the sounds/samples in this instrument are royalty-free and there is no need to credit Gourlie Records (although it is appreciated).
- Only the purchaser of this instrument is granted rights to use it.
- You may not redistribute the instrument or samples. If you wish to share this instrument then please direct people to the download page on my website. Redistributing this on your own is basically pirating, and pirates get scurvy and lose legs and eyeballs... don't be a pirate!



About the Zither (lap harp)

I often meander through antique stores and on a recent journey sifting through a seemingly endless supply of old glassware and door knobs I found a spinning display in a corner with this sweet little guy hanging out all the way in the back. Without hesitation I scooped it up. Best \$25 instrument score I've ever come across!

Despite some strange discoloration patterns on the surface (which I hope to God isn't lead paint) this harp ended up being in really nice shape and even had all its strings and came with little sheets of music that slides under the strings to tell you which notes to play (I now can play a killer rendition of Silent Night).

One of the biggest limitations of a harp like this is that you have to tune all 15 strings to one scale which means you're stuck to one major/relative minor scale and it only has a limited range of scales it can be tuned to before you snap the strings or they become too loose. But you don't have to worry about that with a digital version!

I thought this little guy deserved a full immortalization which I feel I have granted it through this Decent Sampler library. **Enjoy!**



Parameters

Tone - This is the low-pass filter cutoff frequency. As you turn it down, high-frequencies become choked off.

Reverb - Dry/wet signal knob for reverb

ADSR - Attack, decay, sustain, release knobs for the amplitude envelope. If you're unfamiliar with what these are then just give up music, for good! (Just kidding, could you imagine if I was actually that much of a dick? Gourlie Records is just as much an educational channel as anything else. Tips for ADSR on the next page, my friend!)

Shimmer - As you turn this up it increases the chorus stereo widening mix, delay mix, feedback, and a slight bump to filter resonance (the latter of which can be noticed when Shimmer is up high and Tone is turned down lower). All around things that make this puppy "shimmer," if you will.

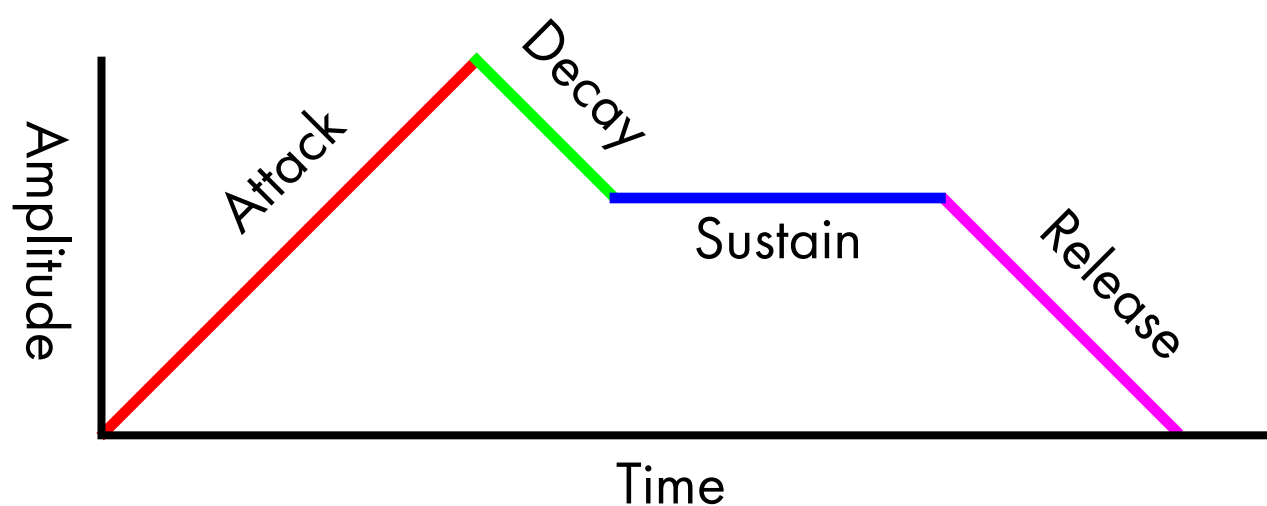
Time - Adjusts the time for the delay time & stereo offset that gets mixed in with Shimmer. Time is adjusted in an exponential curve (min=0 seconds, max=8 seconds). Syncing to DAW tempo is not possible in DS, yet. Adjusting this while playing will make some crazy noises.

Keyboard - The green notes are the natural, recorded range of this Zither (G3 to G5) and are the truest tone to the real thing. The white keys are the lowest/highest ranges I could extend the samples to before it started to sound bad. Grey keys on the extreme ends play no noise.

Learning ADSR

ADSR (Attack, Decay, Sustain, Release) is a way to control the amplitude envelope of Antique Zither. You'll see these types of envelopes on most synths and often even see a filter envelope as well which automates the cutoff frequency opening and closing... but for this instrument we'll just focus on the amplitude envelope.

There are 2 axis which make up an ADSR envelope: **Amplitude & Time**



Attack - This is the time it takes for amp to get to full volume. With the attack set at 0, full amplitude is achieved right away. Turn it all the way up and it takes longer to go from no sound to full sound. (For a plucked instrument like this, slow attack times remove the initial pluck)

Decay - Again another time measurement and this is how long it takes for the signal to transition from the top of the Amp into the Sustained level.

Sustain - This is not a measurement of time, but rather how loud your note will be once the Attack and Decay times have resolved. Turning Sustain all the way down means once A/D times have resolved there will be no more sound as the sustain volume is set to 0. Turn it all the way up and it will sustain the note at full amplitude. Note that if you turn Sustain all the way up then Decay has basically no audible effect because there is no lower volume to "decay" the signal into.

Release - This is the time it takes for the sound to mute after you release your notes. Turned all the way down, the sound will cease as soon as you lift your fingers (reverb and delay signals will still be audible). Turned all the way up and the amp will slowly turn down over time letting the note gradually ring until it's muted. (Like plucking a string on a Zither)

Round Robin Recording - This instrument is recorded and setup with "round robins." This means that for each note there are 3 sample recordings that Decent Sampler will automatically cycle through for that one note. All samples were recorded by hand so each one has a slight character and volume difference which means when you pluck the same note repeatedly, it doesn't sound robotic. Give it a go with some "fast-picking" by tapping the same note repeatedly.

Have fun!

This is the first Decent Sampler instrument that I have recorded and coded but I really enjoy this platform and have long waited for the ability to create my own instruments like this. Expect more Decent Sampler instruments going forward. (Signing up to my newsletter on my website is the best way to notified of new releases)

When you make a track with this instrument, feel free to share it with me as I would love to hear what you've made with it. You might even earn yourself a shoutout on my channels!

Shoutout to my testers (give 'em a follow):

Chris Sayburn	instagram.com/commonbeats
Robert 'BADCOMBINA'	instagram.com/badcombina
Ed Oyama	instagram.com/oyamasmusic
Gargøynes	instagram.com/gargoynes_music

If you're a content creator, please reach out to me as a cash-commission incentive program is in the works for those who make videos about my packs.



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