



Real Trumpet - Volume 1

Created and Performed by Rob Birdwell
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What is Real Trumpet?

Real Trumpet is an extensive library of audio loops that can be integrated into your own songs, games, movies, commercials, and other media productions, using compositional software tools like SONAR®, Project5® (www.cakewalk.com), ACID® (www.sonicfoundry.com), and many others.

Real Trumpet audio clips are loop-enabled or "ACIDized" so, using your music production software or loop-based composition tools (like SONAR® or ACID®), you can preview the clips, then drag and drop them right into your own musical projects. Some Real Trumpet audio clips were recorded as "one-shots" or licks, while others were recorded with the intention of looping over and over. Although every Real Trumpet audio clip is loop enabled, the creative choice of how to use these clips in your own musical productions remain entirely up to you.

Real Trumpet audio clips have “extra musical” attributes as well - they convey emotion, sensitivity, humor, frustration, and the joy of making sound. With over 500 audio clips to choose from, the Real Trumpet audio library represents a valuable addition to your music production library.

System Requirements

Unlike “software” the Real Trumpet audio library’s requirements may vary from user to user depending on how the audio library is being used. In general, to get the most out of this library, you will need the following:

- CD-ROM player in your computer
- Sound card of your choice
- Audio/MIDI composition or production tool(s) of your choice (for example, SONAR®, ACID®)
- Software that can open/play/edit .WAV audio files (primarily Windows®, but possibly other operating systems too)

Support and Troubleshooting

Support is available to registered and licensed users of this product. For questions and support on this product, please do the following:

- Read the documentation that comes with this product first! The answer to your question might be there already!
- Visit <http://www.birdwellmusic.com> and search for “Real Trumpet” – you will likely get links to the latest documentation available.

- The Real Trumpet home page is, as of this writing, located at <http://www.birdwellmusic.com/Products/RealTrumpet/> - but keep in mind that hyperlinks have a funny way of changing over time, so check www.birdwellmusic.com if this link ever breaks!
- For email support, provide the following information:
 - Click this link: <http://www.birdwellmusic.com/Contact.aspx>
 - Provide the following information:
 - Your name
 - Your return email address
 - Your Real Trumpet license key
 - Date you purchased Real Trumpet
 - Describe the problem or question in detail
 - Email your support questions to <http://www.birdwellmusic.com/Contact.aspx>

How The Real Trumpet Audio Files Are Organized

The Real Trumpet audio clips are distributed on a CD and licensed exclusively through www.BirdwellMusic.com. The audio files that make up the Real Trumpet audio library are located in the respective sub-directories of the "Real Trumpet" directory on the media. There are 5 directories that each contain a unique series of audio loops under the "Real Trumpet" directory – they are as follows:

- Flugelhorn Open
- Trumpet Plunger
- Trumpet Cup
- Trumpet Harmon
- Trumpet Open

Within each of the above sub-directories you will find 105 files, representing the Real Trumpet audio clips for that particular instrument/mute series, for a total of 525 audio clips. The naming convention for each Real Trumpet audio file is as follows:

[Instrument]-[MuteType]-[Ordinal]-Tempo-[Tempo]-Beats-[Beats]

For example: *Trumpet-Cup-001-Tempo-100-Beats-08.wav*

You can garner the following information just by looking at any Real Trumpet audio clip file name – in the above example we know the following:

- It's a "Trumpet" audio loop;
- The instrument uses a "Cup" mute;
- The loop is number "001" of the series (out of 105 loops in each series); and
- The loop was originally recorded at a tempo of 100 beats per minute.
- The loop is 8 beats long.

All other Real Trumpet audio files will be named similarly so you can tell at a glance a few of the characteristics of the loop. Naturally, you will need to listen to the clip to get a sense of its true character and potential use.

How The Loops Were Recorded

This volume of Real Trumpet was recorded dry (without any additional effects like echo, reverb, or equalization). This provides you the composer/producer with a great deal of control over the final produced sound – you can shape the Real Trumpet audio clips any way you like to serve your own musical needs.

These loops were recorded and produced by Trumpet/Flugelhorn player, composer and songwriter, Rob Birdwell, in his studio in Corvallis, Oregon. Striving for quality loops in terms of content and performance, great care was made to ensure the signal and noise levels were suitable for professional recording artists.

For this release, Rob Birdwell recorded with his silver Bach Stradivarius Trumpet (Model 43L) and his silver Yamaha Flugelhorn, model #731. He used a Sennheiser MD421 microphone through a Roland UA-30 USB audio interface and edited the audio clips using SONAR 2.2 on Windows XP.

The 001-059 Series of Loops

Loops numbered 001-059 were intended to be free-form "one-shot" licks. In other words, they are primarily short improvised licks – using these in your production will give your tracks a very organic sound. Within this series you will find a wealth of interesting lines, hits, licks, improvisational riffs and beautiful melodies. As with all Real Trumpet audio, the clips in this series are loop enabled. Some licks are almost mini-tunes within themselves (16 or 32 beats long in some cases), presenting you with some excellent thematic material to enhance existing tracks or build your tracks around.

The 060-105 Series of Loops

The musical material for tracks numbered 060-105 were intended to serve as building blocks for reusable musical elements within your composition. The musical material is the same for each respective track number (or ordinal) across all series and recorded in multiple ranges. For example, the musical material for the clip named "Trumpet-Cup-060-Tempo-100-Beats-004.wav" (which consists of four legato quarter notes played on a concert B flat) is the same as "Trumpet-Harmon-060-Tempo-100-Beats-004.wav" (as well as the other similarly numbered loops) - however, since they are different takes and feature different kinds of mutes, they can be mixed, played together, harmonized and combined in a number of different ways – it's totally up to you. If you are looking for long sustained notes, like whole notes or simple quarter note articulations, hits, falls, crescendos, etc., there's a good chance you'll find those types of basic musical elements in the track series numbered 060-105. Additionally, if a certain attack or dynamic in the track series numbered 060-105 is not to your liking, be sure to compare it to the performance in another series with the same number (ordinal), as some the same musical material is performed slightly

differently depending on the instrument/mute being used (and, of course, the mood of the player at the time it was recorded!).

About Trumpet Mutes

There are three types of mutes featured in this Real Trumpet audio loop collection: **Harmon Mute**, **Cup Mute**, and **Plunger Mute**. The “Straight Mute” (often used in classical and other modern music) was not featured in this collection, nor were several other flavors of mutes (i.e., Bucket, Hat) – those mutes may be explored in other volumes of Real Trumpet. For this Volume 1 release of Real Trumpet, Rob Birdwell used a genuine “Harmon” mute (stem out), the Humes & Berg “New Stone Lined” Cup mute, and a 6 inch diameter toilet plunger (painted gold).

Although there are (allegedly) Flugelhorn mutes, this particular Real Trumpet volume does not feature any. The term "Open" refers to the instrument (Trumpet or Flugelhorn) as not having any mute inserted in the bell. The “Open” sound produces the most natural sound of the instrument. The "Cup" mute generally supplies a soft, velvety sound. The "Harmon" mute (recorded with the stem out) can produce a simultaneously smoky and edgy tone – this tone will be evocative of the sounds produced by Miles Davis on many of his famous recordings (e.g., Kind of Blue). The "Plunger" mute is exactly what the name implies - the semi-circular rubber bulb part of a classic American toilet plunger (a small one, without the stick of course), which is held in the left hand and used to oscillate between opened and closed sounds from the bell of the Trumpet - slides and growls are produced (with some help from the player's tongue and/or throat). Many unique and useful sounds are produced with the Plunger mute!

Real Trumpet Key and Pitch Information

The musical content (key, pitch, choices of notes, etc.) of each Real Trumpet audio clip varies from clip to clip. Since many of the licks and lines were improvised (albeit in a very controlled way) each Real Trumpet audio loop (particularly those in the numbered series 001 – 105) will reflect a unique character and mood. That’s the beauty and power of this collection! Additionally, unlike “rhythm” audio loop tracks (like bass, guitar, etc) where one would typically expect specific key centers, most of the Real Trumpet audio loops, even if they do imply a key center, can very easily sound great in multiple keys.

You should preview each Real Trumpet audio clip using the audio software of your choice (e.g., SONAR®, ACID® and others) to determine if the clip is a candidate for use in your own musical composition. By default, the ACIDized audio will reflect a base key of "C" regardless of the tonality of the actual performance.

Changing the pitch up or down on any Real Trumpet audio clips is easy to do with most audio loop software. For example, if a lick implies the key of G (either by hanging on the note or other notes in the key of G) and your song or production is in F, you can simply knock the pitch down two steps to make it fit. Then again, many Real Trumpet licks are non-tonal (growls, effects, etc.) and will likely work in any key. Naturally, the closer to the original recorded Real Trumpet audio pitch center, the better the quality will be. **However, changing the pitch of the original loop audio is simply part of the creative process in adapting these sounds to fit your own production or song.** Fortunately, changing the pitch of any Real Trumpet audio clips is typically

very easy to do, especially with many of the affordable yet sophisticated audio composition and loop-aware software tools available (e.g., SONAR®, ACID®, and others).

Tempo Information

Each series of Real Trumpet audio clips were recorded at specific tempos (also known as the “Original BPM” or beats per minute). The following table displays the series of Real Trumpet clips and what tempo they were originally recorded at:

Real Trumpet Clip Series Number	Original Recorded Tempo
001 – 020	100 BPM
021 – 030	120 BPM
031 – 043	140 BPM
044 – 059	110 BPM
060 – 105	100 BPM

Since all Real Trumpet audio clips are loop enabled, they will stretch or compress to the tempo of your own production. Tempos that deviate too far from the original recorded tempo of the Real Trumpet clip will likely produce unintended audio artifacts which may or may not be desirable.

Even though the originally recorded tempo might have been one of the 5 different tempos above, the “calculated” clip tempo, in some cases, might actually reflect a slightly different value (either slightly faster or slower). Generally speaking, if the tempo of the clip properties varies from the tempo listed on the table, the “properties” tempo may more closely reflect the ideal tempo for the clip.

If you get clipped or “bumpy” sounding playback when trying to incorporate any Real Trumpet audio clip into your project’s specific tempo, consider one or more of the following:

- Compare the original tempo of the Real Trumpet audio clip to your projects – generally if you’re within 10 beats, you should get very good results with Real Trumpet audio.
- If the originally recorded Real Trumpet audio was recorded at a tempo greater or less than 20 beats (or even more), you may consider removing or re-editing some of the original “Slice Markers” from the specific ACIDized Real Trumpet audio clip. (You’ll need to consult your specific audio editing software tools for more information on this.)
- If possible, adjust the tempo of your project to more closely playback at the original tempo the Real Trumpet audio loop was recorded at.

Suggested Uses For Real Trumpet Audio

- Layer the same lick across two or more audio tracks but change the pitch up or down a 3rd, 4th, and 5th in order to obtain a harmonized sound. Layering or stacking horn lines like this is a very common device and can produce some nice compositional effects.
- Use fragments of long licks – loop clips need not always start from the beginning!
- Mix together different muted and open audio licks to obtain unique colors and characteristics in your composition. Whether your music is country or hip-hop, blending different horn sounds (muted, open) will add interest to your finished mix.

- If you need simple whole notes or background “pads” explore the clip series numbered 060 through 105.
- If you want a hot improvised line, explore the clip series numbered 001 through 059.
- Add audio effects to Real Trumpet audio clips: reverb, chorus, flange, distortion, echo, etc.,
- Pan the Real Trumpet clips (your “horn section”) in interesting ways.
- Transpose lower and mid-range audio clips down an octave – the Trumpet, down an octave, sounds very much like a Trombone or French Horn in some cases!
- If you play other instruments, play along with the Real Trumpet lick, doubling it in unison, harmonizing with it, up or down an octave, or double it with another MIDI patch.

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Contact Information

For more information, explore the additional documentation shipped with this media or on the web. Visit <http://www.birdwellmusic.com> for the latest on-line information about Real Trumpet!

Rob Birdwell
Creator and Performer of Real Trumpet

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