

ES8 Portable Digital Piano: Product Overview

Flagship sound & class-leading touch within a portable instrument



The new ES8 portable digital piano combines Kawai's flagship sound technology, class-leading keyboard action, and high fidelity speaker system to deliver a professional instrument suitable for the home, classroom, studio, or stage.

Main Features:

- Authentic reproduction of three grand pianos: SK-EX, SK-5, EX
- Flagship *Harmonic Imaging XL* sound technology, 88-key sampling
- Class-leading *Responsive Hammer III* keyboard action
- Flexible *Virtual Technician* function with 19 adjustable parameters
- Powerful, high fidelity speaker system
- WAV/MP3 audio record and playback via USB memory
- Advanced *Rhythm Section* function with 100 backing accompaniment styles
- Contemporary design with matching stand & triple pedal accessories available

The rich, expressive sound of Kawai's celebrated grand pianos are at the heart of the new ES8, with no fewer than three world-class instruments lovingly recorded and faithfully produced using full 88-key stereo sampling: the flagship Shigeru Kawai SK-EX concert grand, the mid-sized SK-5 studio grand, and the acclaimed Kawai EX concert grand. With three distinctive Kawai grand pianos and even a traditional upright readily available, ES8 players can explore a variety of different piano sounds, and enjoy the contrasting properties of each.

The superior ES8 utilises Kawai's advanced *Harmonic Imaging XL* technology, with algorithms that reproduce how an acoustic piano's tonal character changes as dynamics increase. This ensures seamless expression when playing from gentle pianissimo to thunderous fortissimo, without sudden changes in sound. Moreover, extra-long 'XL' sampling takes advantage of the ES8's expanded memory, capturing additional details from the original acoustic pianos for a more natural sounding sustain when the damper pedal is pressed. And with an impressive 256 note polyphony, professional players need never worry about held notes 'dropping out' unexpectedly during more complicated passages.

The ES8 features Kawai's powerful *Virtual Technician* technology that invites discerning players to shape various aspects of the selected piano's character to suit their unique personal preferences. With 19 adjustable parameters, including a selection of new adjustments such as per-note voicing, volume, and tuning inherited from the leading *Concert Artist* instruments, the ES8's *Virtual Technician* provides an unrivalled level of piano customisation. For tablet owners, the dedicated *Virtual Technician* iPad app allows players to learn more about each adjustment, before tailoring their preferred sound from an attractive touch interface.

Connecting the ES8's flagship piano sound to the player is the latest *Responsive Hammer III* keyboard – the very same keyboard technology found in Kawai's award-winning CN35 and CN25 instruments. This class-leading action features graded hammers that replicate the heavier bass and lighter treble hammers of an acoustic piano, with additional counterweights embedded within the front of each black and white key that assist playing control during pianissimo passages. Unlike other portable digital pianos, the ES8 also utilises a modern triple sensor key detection system for improved repetition speed and responsiveness, allowing a greater range of expressive control from staccato to legato playing. The *Responsive Hammer III* action is equipped with premium *Ivory Touch* key surfaces that gently absorb fingertip perspiration to aid playing accuracy, and possess an attractive, natural matte finish that is smooth but not slippery. And underlining Kawai's rich acoustic piano pedigree, the ES8 keyboard even simulates the subtle 'let-off' resistance felt when playing the keys of a grand piano very softly, satisfying the expectations of the most experienced pianists.

Complementing the instrument's authentic piano sounds and class-leading keyboard action, the ES8 offers a selection of useful features that further enhance one's musical enjoyment. The powerful recorder function allows both WAV and MP3 audio files stored on a USB memory device to be played back through the instrument's high fidelity speaker system, or for performances to be recorded, overdubbed, and shared with friends and family online. The ES8 offers standard, Dual, Split, and Four Hands keyboards modes, in addition to a powerful *Rhythm Section* feature that provides 100 professionally arranged backing accompaniments for a range of popular musical styles. Supplementing the premium acoustic piano sounds, the ES8 also features a strong selection of additional instrument sounds, such as vintage electric pianos, drawbar organs (complete with authentic effects and amp simulations), strings and synth pads adding variety to the player's performance. Equipped with standard MIDI, USB-MIDI, Line Out, and Stereo In connectors, the versatile ES8 can be integrated into the home studio and classroom, while also serving as a performance piano for live stages and places of worship.

The stylish ES8 retains the same attractive design and strong aluminium chassis as its best-selling predecessor, with curved wooden side arms, an uncluttered control panel layout, and tinted LCD display. Available in a sophisticated Gloss Black or elegant new Snow White finish, the ES8's clean design is appropriate for both traditional and contemporary spaces, while matching designer stand and triple pedal accessories, allow this portable instrument to quickly transform into an ultra-compact piano replacement for the lounge, studio, or bedroom.

Flagship piano sound quality, class-leading keyboard action, and a variety of convenient and powerful features, all housed with an attractive, sturdy instrument suitable for a broad range of musical occasions. Kawai ES8: *portable piano perfection*.

■ Technical Specifications

Keyboard	88 weighted keys with Ivory Touch key surfaces Responsive Hammer III (RHIII) action with Let-Off, Triple Sensor, and Counterweights	
Sound Source	Harmonic Imaging™ XL (HI-XL), 88-key piano sampling	
Internal Sounds	34 voices (PIANO1, PIANO2, E.PIANO, ORGAN, HARPSI/MALLETS, STRINGS/CHOIR, BASS)	
Polyphony	max. 256 notes	
Keyboard Modes	Dual Mode, Split Mode, Four Hands Mode (Volume/Balance adjustable)	
Reverb	Type:	Room, Lounge, Small Hall, Concert Hall, Live Hall, Cathedral
	Parameters:	Reverb Depth, Reverb Time
Effects	Type:	Stereo Delay, Ping Delay, Triple Delay, Chorus, Classic Chorus, Tremolo, Classic Tremolo, Auto Pan, Classic Auto Pan, Phaser, Rotary. Combination effects x 4
	Parameters:	Dry/Wet, Time, Speed, Feedback, High Damp, Depth (Parameters dependent on effect type)
Amp Simulator	Type:	S.Case I, S.Case II, L.Cabinet
	Parameters:	Drive, Level, EQ Low, EQ High
Virtual Technician	Touch Curve:	Light+, Light, Normal, Heavy, Heavy+, Off (Constant), User 1, User 2
	Voicing:	Normal, Mellow 1, Mellow 2, Dynamic, Bright 1, Bright 2, User 1~4
	Resonance, Noise & Effects:	Damper Resonance, Damper Noise, String Resonance, Key-off Effect, Fall-back Noise, Hammer Delay, Topboard, Decay Time, Soft Pedal Depth
	Temperament:	Equal, Pure Major, Pure minor, Pythagorean, Meantone, Werckmeister, Kirnberger, User Temperament, Key of Temperament
	Others:	Stretch Tuning, Stretch Curve/User Tuning, User Key Volume, Half-Pedal Adjust, Minimum Touch
Internal Recorder	10 song, 2 track recorder – approximately 90,000 note memory capacity	
USB Functions	Playback:	MP3, WAV, SMF
	Record:	MP3, WAV
	Other:	Overdub Audio, Convert Song to Audio, Load Internal Song, Save Internal Song, Save SMF Song, Load Registration, Save Registration, Rename File, Delete File, Format USB
Metronome	1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 3/8, 6/8, 7/8, 9/8, 12/8 (Volume/Tempo adjustable)	
Rhythm Section	Styles:	100 rhythms (x 2 variations), 4-part accompaniment, 100 preset chord sequences
	Settings:	Rhythm Vol., Auto Fill-in, One Finger Ad-lib, ACC Mode, Preset Chord, Rhythm Parts, Bass Inv.
Demo Songs	Main demo song, Rhythm Section demo song, 27 sound demo songs	
Other Functions	Key/Song Transpose, Tone Control (incl. Brilliance, User EQ), Wall EQ, Speaker Volume, Phones Vol., Line Out Vol., Audio Recorder Gain, Tuning, Damper Hold, Four Hands, Startup Setting, Factory Reset, Lower Octave Shift, Lower Pedal On/Off, Split Balance, Layer Octave Shift, Layer Dynamics, Dual Balance, MIDI Channel, Send PGM#, Local Control, Transmit PGM#, Multi-timbral Mode, Channel Mute, Auto Power Off, Speakers On/Off	
Display	16 x 2 characters LCD	
Jacks	MIDI (IN/OUT), USB to Host, USB to Device, LINE IN STEREO, LINE OUT (L/MONO, R), DAMPER (for F-10H), DAMPER/SOFT (for F-20), PEDAL (for F-301), Headphones x 2	
Speaker System	Speakers:	(8 x 12 cm) x 2
	Output Power:	15 W x 2
Power Consumption	35 W	
Dimensions	1362 (W) x 361 (D) x 149 (H) mm / 54" (W) x 14 1/2" (D) x 6" (H)	
Weight	22.5 kg / 49.6 lbs.	
Incl. Accessories	F-10H damper pedal (with half-pedal support), metal music rest, AC power adaptor, owner's manual	

Specifications are subject to change without notice.