Regardless of whether you're playing a gig on stage, practising for a recital at home, accompanying the local church choir, or studying Chopin in the classroom, the new Kawai ES8 is portable piano perfection.

Drawing upon Kawai’s 85+ years of knowledge and expertise crafting world-class acoustic pianos, the ES8 provides the most authentic playing experience ever realised in a portable instrument. Its improved Responsive Hammer III keyboard action recreates all the subtleties of playing a grand piano, with premium features such as Ivory Touch key surfaces, let-off simulation, counterweights, and a precise triple-sensor detection system.

The extraordinary ES8 utilises Harmonic Imaging sound technology to capture and reproduce every nuance of Kawai’s SK-EX and EX Concert, and SK-5 Studio grand pianos. Advanced resonance modelling and reverberation effects are then applied, delivering unparalleled acoustic realism, while unique Virtual Technician controls allow discerning musicians to personalise the piano beneath their fingertips.

Versatile and powerful, the multi-purpose ES8 also includes a selection of outstanding electric pianos, drawbar and church organs, strings and choir sounds, along with professional backing accompaniments to cover a wide range of musical genres. Favourite instrument setups can be stored and instantly recalled from Registration memories, while modern USB features allow MP3 and WAV audio files to be recorded and played back directly from the instrument’s control panel.

Yet, despite its class-leading keyboard action, breathtaking sound, and abundance of premium features, the Kawai ES8 remains a compact, elegant, and highly portable digital piano. A piano with a broad range of applications, and a piano for truly every musical occasion – anytime, anywhere.

Wherever the venue, whatever the occasion
The ES8’s class-leading *Responsive Hammer III* keyboard action recreates the supreme touch of an acoustic grand piano, with its realistic movement and rigid, springless design providing a smooth and natural piano playing experience. The instruments’ advanced triple-sensor key detection system enhances responsiveness and accuracy, while structural reinforcements throughout the action assembly help to minimise noise and key wobble during staccato and fortissimo passages.

The weight of the keyboard is appropriately graded to mirror the heavier bass hammers and lighter treble hammers of an acoustic piano, while *let-off* simulation recreates the subtle ‘notch’ sensation felt when softly playing the keys of a grand piano. These important characteristics allow discerning pianists to practise their expanding repertoire with confidence, and ensure that there are no unpleasant surprises when called upon to perform using the finest grand pianos.

The high specification ES8 features Kawai’s highly-regarded *Ivory Touch* key surfaces as standard. This finely textured material intelligently absorbs finger moisture to aid playing control, without dirt or grease permeating the keytops, and allows the piano’s keyboard to be wiped clean easily using just a damp cloth.

In addition to grade-weighted hammers, the RHIII keyboard action also features counterweights placed within each key. As with an acoustic piano, these finely balanced weights help to lighten the touch of the keyboard during pianissimo passages, while adding a feel of greater substance when playing with force.

The keyboard action of an acoustic grand piano is composed of black and white keys, graded hammers, and numerous intricate components working in harmony when each note is pressed. It is a beautifully designed mechanism that allows gifted pianists to express a wealth of feeling and emotion in their playing.

Translating the keyboard action’s elaborate movements to a digital instrument, while still retaining the tactile feeling and subtle nuance that one comes to appreciate in an acoustic, is a considerable challenge – a challenge that draws upon over 85 years of experience in building the world’s finest pianos.
When playing a fine piano, the amount of pressure applied to the keyboard affects not only the volume of the sound produced, but also the unique tonal character of each note. Therefore, in order to construct a realistic acoustic portrait of each grand piano, not only is each key recorded individually, but also at a wide variety of different volume levels, ranging from gentle pianissimo to thunderous fortissimo.

The rich, expressive sound of the SK-EX, SK-5, and EX grand pianos is at the heart of the new ES8, with all eighty-eight keys of these world-class instruments painstakingly recorded, meticulously analysed, and accurately reproduced as high-fidelity digital waveforms.

Recording each key individually in this way preserves the grand pianos’ unique harmonic character, and guarantees that the sound heard when playing any one of the ES8’s weighted keys is a faithful representation of the original acoustic source.

The ES8 offers a highly detailed acoustic portrait of each piano, with Harmonic Imaging XL sound technology ensuring smooth tonal transitions across the keyboard and throughout the entire dynamic range.

Earning a reputation as the ‘premier pianos of Japan’, Shigeru Kawai instruments grace the stages of concert halls and musical institutions throughout the world, and are prized for their outstanding tonal clarity and exceptional dynamic range.

The new ES8 captures the magnificent tone of two Shigeru Kawai instruments, the flagship SK-EX Concert and medium-sized SK-5 Studio grand pianos, allowing musicians to enjoy the contrasting properties of each.

In addition, the ES8 also features the distinctive sound of Kawai’s highly acclaimed EX concert grand piano, which has frequently been selected by professional pianists in such prestigious events as the Chopin, Tchaikovsky, and Rubinstein international piano competitions, among countless others.

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This unique design allows for a compact, portable instrument, capable of enthralling medium-sized audiences, without the need for additional amplification.

Complementing the various classical, jazz, and pop grand piano sounds, the ES8 also features a distinctive upright piano sound, captured from one of Kawai’s popular K Series instruments. Vintage electric pianos, drawbar organs, and warm synth pads are also available, allowing this portable piano to serve as a convenient gigging board, while church organs, strings, and graceful choir voices ensure that the versatile ES8 is equally at home in places of worship.
Flexible USB connectivity

The ES8’s USB ports enable the instrument to be connected to a computer for MIDI use, or to load and save data directly to USB memory. This latter USB to Device functionality allows favourite registration settings and memorable recorder songs stored in internal memory to be safely preserved on USB, or standard MIDI files (SMF) downloaded from the internet to be conveniently played back through the instrument without additional hardware.

Personal piano enhancements

The ES8’s comprehensive Virtual Technician function invites discerning players to shape aspects of the selected piano’s character to suit their unique personal preferences. Perform touch weight and voicing adjustments, regulate subtle hammer and key release noises, and fine-tune string, lid, and damper resonances – all in real-time. Adjustments can be made directly from the ES8’s control panel, or via an attractive touch interface using the dedicated Virtual Technician iPad app.

Professional backing styles

In addition to the standard Dual and Split playing modes, the ES8’s Rhythm Section feature offers solo performers a selection of professionally arranged backing accompaniments at the touch of a button. Whether you need a practice partner, some quick ideas for a new piece, or to simply play along with their favourite songs. It is even possible to record entire performances directly as MP3 or WAV files for emailing to family and friends, casual listening away from the piano, or for further editing using an audio workstation.

Convenient MP3 recording

USB memory devices can also be used to play back MP3 or WAV audio files, allowing musicians to learn the chords or melody for a new piece, or to simply play along with their favourite songs. It is even possible to record entire performances directly as MP3 or WAV files for emailing to family and friends, casual listening away from the piano, or for further editing using an audio workstation.

Inspiring features, Personality & Convenience

Studio quality effects with vintage flavour

The ES8’s powerful digital effects engine further enhances the instrument’s superior core sounds, applying additional layers of detail and realism that bring performances to life. Tailor an instrument’s character and feeling with a range of studio quality chorus, tremolo, delay, and auto-pan effects. Add vintage warmth to electric pianos and trademark growl to drawbar organs using the dedicated Amp Sim speaker models. Then adjust the instrument’s reverb controls to position yourself within one of six acoustic environments, ranging from a small practise room to an inspirational grand cathedral.

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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/CHORUS, 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
  - 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 PG#,
  - Local Control, Transmit PG#, 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), PEDESTAL (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.

Specifications are subject to change without notice.