# A Yoshimi Cookbook

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#### 1 Introduction

This document is a follow-on to the author's "A Yoshimi User Manual" [10]. The user manual attempts complete coverage of the user-interface and concepts behind *Yoshimi*. This cookbook attempts to provide recipes to solve some common problems in getting *Yoshimi* to perform at its best for the user.

#### 1.1 Project Structure

The "Yoshimi Cookbook" project consists of two parts:

- The source material for this document.
- A self contained "yoshimi" configuration and data section to support the examples in this cookbook.

The documentation source-files are provided in the tex directory. They are use to create the cookbook via Makefiles and the external "latexmk" project. The result of a "make" is a new PDF of the cookbook in the pdf directory. The latest PDF is always provided there so that one does not have to install the external projects needed to create it.

The configuration, banks, presets, and instrument files can be used to supplement or replaces the user's own configuration and data files.

#### 1.2 What Game Shall We Play Today?

There are a number of recipes that are hinted at in the user manual, but that solve problems that the author has encountered while using *Yoshimi*.

- Banks and MIDI. Yoshimi has had recent modifications to support bank-switching and using program-change messages to make Yoshimi a more flexible MIDI playback tool.
- General MIDI. It should be possible to set up one or more banks that are General MIDI compliant.
- Usage of Modulators. Yoshimi provides a number of modulation setups, but it isn't clear how to use them, especially the ring modulator.
- More! ...

# 2 Concepts

This section, like its counterpart in our Yoshimi User Manual, presents some useful concepts, while keeping them out of the way.

#### 2.1 Concepts / Terms

This section doesn't provide comprehensive coverage of terms. It covers mainly terms that puzzled the author at first.

#### 2.1.1 Concepts / Terms / cent

The **cent** is a logarithmic unit of measure used for musical intervals. Twelve-tone equal temperament divides the octave into 12 semitones of 100 cents each. Typically, cents are used to measure extremely small finite intervals, or to compare the sizes of comparable intervals in different tuning systems. The interval of one cent is much too small to be heard between successive notes.

Since the detuning provided in *Yoshimi* is based primarily on cents (and octaves), it pays to understand cents. If a given frequency f' is offset from another frequency f, the relationships between them in semitones are:

$$f' = f * 2^s / 12$$

$$s = 12log(f'/f)/log2$$

In cents, these relationships become:

$$f' = f * 2^s / 1200$$

$$s = 1200 log(f'/f)/log2$$

These relationships hold whether f' is less than or greater than f. They provide an easy way to determine how much to detune a frequency in *Yoshimi*.

# 3 Creating Instruments

One of our goals in using Yoshimi is to support General MIDI (GM) to the greatest extent possible.

However, no banks have been created with GM in mind. And many of the instruments, though given names that indicate what they are intended to be, fall well short of being recognizable per their name; they should be doable with a complex synthesizer like *Yoshimi*.

It is true that there are a vast number of patches out there. The author has attempted a survey of them, and the task is all but impossible. Still, many candidates have been identified. Other candidates might be suitable with a little tweaking.

Here are a number of categories of instruments for which we want to assemble an improved set of instruments.

- 1. Bells
- 2. Ethnic
- 3. Drums
- 4. Effects
- 5. Piano
- 6. Leads7. Guitar
- 8. Strings (individual and ensemble)
- 9. Bass

#### 10. Saxophones

For these recipes, the banks and presets directories will be stored in the following directory of this project:

yoshimi/gm/demos

#### 3.1 Bells

The bells patches we've heard so far are nice, but a bit anemic.

Good bell patches need to include ring modulation, done right. We're not sure if there are any such patches extant; please send us to them if there are some.

In the meantime, creating bells is a good excuse to master *Yoshimi*'s ring modulator. However, we will first learn how to create a reasonable, clangy bell using just a few voices in an ADDsynth part, and no need for modulation.

#### 3.1.1 Bells by Voices

The following table comes from a tutorial ([2]). Along with a spectrum shown in reference [3], it allows us to recreate a simple, but realistic bell.

Wave Number	Frequency Fraction	Cents Offset	Relative Amplitude
1	0.56	-1000	0.5
2	0.92	-140	1.0
3	1.19	+300	0.5
4	1.71	+930	0.25
5	2.00	+1200	0.125
6	2.74	+1745	0.125
7	3.00	+1901	0.125
8	3.76	+2290	0.125
9	4.00	+2400	

Table 1: Simple Bell Tones

Note that the frequencies are relative to the fundamental frequency (F). Also note that wave 2 (F) can be missing and the sound is still bell-like.

The file yoshimi/banks/demo/Bells-simple-addsynth.xiz is the result of following the steps below. We start, as usual, with a newly-started *Yoshimi* instance.

- 1. Open the ADDsynth editing window by clicking the **Edit** button in the bottom panel, and then clicking the ADDsynth **Edit** button in the edit window.
- 2. Click on the **Show Voice Parameters** button. Note that it is **Current Voice 1**, and it should be enabled.
- 3. For voice 1, make the following settings:

• Octave: Set to 0.

• **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.

- FREQUENCY Detune: Set to -1000 approximately.
- 4. Go to voice 2, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 0.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to -140 approximately.
- 5. Go to voice 3, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 0.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 300 approximately.
- 6. Go to voice 4, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 0.
  - Detune Type: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 930 approximately.
- 7. Go to voice 5, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 1.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to Default.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 0.
- 8. Go to voice 6, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 1.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 545 approximately.
- 9. Go to voice 7, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 1.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 700 approximately.
- 10. Go to voice 8, and make the following settings:
  - Octave: Set to 1.
  - **Detune Type**: Set to E1200cents.
  - FREQUENCY Detune: Set to 1090 approximately.

These settings then end up roughly matching the settings of the first 8 waves in table 3.1.1. This instrument isn't perfect. It's not quite equally tempered, though close. The character of the tone changes a bit as the notes get higher. One can fiddle with the relative amplitudes of the various voices to change the character of this sound.

#### 3.1.2 Ring Modulation with 440 Hz Tone

Now for an initial demonstration of ring modulation. This demonstration does not create a bell tone, but does show the sound of modulation.

Start with a fresh *Yoshimi* and a cleared instrument ("Simple Sound"). Open the virtual keyboard using the **virKbd** button. Click a key and verify that you can hear a tone. We'll use the middle C key (the "comma" on the PC keyboard) as a reference.

The following steps will set up two tones, voice 1 and voice 2, and voice 2 will use voice 1 as an external modulator. Note that you can accomplish most of these steps by loading the project file yoshimi/banks/demo/Bells-440-ring-modulation.xiz, but use that only as a last resort.

- 1. Open the ADDsynth editing window by clicking the **Edit** button in the bottom panel, and then clicking the ADDsynth **Edit** button in the edit window.
- 2. In the **Amplitude Env** sub-panel, increase the **D.dt** and **R.dt** to give the current sound a nice slow decay.
- 3. Click on the **Show Voice Parameters** button. Note that it is **Current Voice 1**, and it should be enabled.
- 4. Switch to **Current Voice** number 2 and enable it. Play the "C" note, and observe that it is the same frequency, but louder.
- 5. Move the **FREQUENCY Detune** slider a bit, and play the "C" note. It should sound the same as before, but change slowly in amplitude, as heard and as seen on the **VU meter**. Try to set the detune back to 0; this is easier if you highlight the tuning knob and use the left or right arrow keys.
- 6. In the **MODULATOR** section of voice 2, for **Type**, select the **RING** value. (However, feel free to select one of the other modulators, to experiment, once you've mastered the ring modulator.) Press the "C" key again, and notice that the tone character changes a bit. This is due to the internal modulator.
- 7. For **External Mod.** for voice 2, select **Ext.M** 1, to use the voice 1 as the internal modulator. The "C" note may change in character, but only slightly. Apparently the default internal modulator is the same as the default external voice 1 waveform.
- 8. To actually hear some modulation, we have to separate the frequencies of voice 1 and voice 2. Click the **440Hz** check-box in the **FREQUENCY** section of voice 1. Press the "C" key and verify hearing a two-tone signal, somewhat like a phone tone.
- 9. Now go back to voice 2 and click the **Change** button to bring up the ADDsynth oscillator dialog.
- 10. Move the slider to maximum for harmonic 10. Press the "C" key and verify the new sound (a bit like a car horn). Set the sliders back to 0, and "C" will be a single tone again.
- 11. Change the **Octave** values of voice 2 in its **FREQUENCY** section and listen to the effects.

Now we need to see if we can apply modulation across instruments. Sadly, this does not seem to be possible.

#### 3.2 Ethnic

We've found a simple steel drum instruments, but think we might do better, creating one using ADDsynth and one using PADsynth.

Instruments we have not found, and would like to synthesize, are: bagpipes and arabic pipes.

#### 3.3 Drums

We want a decent drum kit that attempts to fill in the gaps for a GM-compliant drum kit with solid sounds, and we think we've done it, with the help of an existing kit.

#### 3.4 Effects

We've created a nice dial-tone effect that we'll describe here.

# 3.5Piano TODO. Leads 3.6TODO. 3.7 Guitar TODO. 3.8 **Strings** (individual and ensemble) TODO. 3.9Bass TODO.

### 3.10 Saxophones

TODO.

#### 4 Banks and General MIDI

Banks are discussed quite heavily in the user manual [10]. Banks have evolved quite a bit in *Yoshimi*, and are a powerful way to manage instruments, and more amenable to automation than ever.

In this section, we will attempt to set up a basic bank that is compliant with the General MIDI specification. In order to do so, we will cherry pick instruments from the package that is provided when *Yoshimi* is installed, renaming them as needed to fit into the appropriate General MIDI slot.

One problem is the selection of the *best* instrument for a given General MIDI program number. There are simply too many to be able to evaluate them all.

For this recipe, the banks and presets directories will be stored in the following directory of this project:

yoshimi/gm/basic

### 4.1 Creating a Basic GM Bank

Creating even a basic General MIDI bank is beset with issues, even if one has at hand a large number of pre-built instruments.

First, what is the purpose of the General MIDI specific? To provide a dependable set of instruments so that tunes will sound basically similar on different GM-compliant synthesizers. That's about it. It doesn't guarantee that the sounds are consistent, nor does it guarantee that they are all of high quality. The "FX", "Lead", and "Pad" instruments provide ambiguous descriptions that a wide range of sounds might fit. Getting a complete and high-quality set of sounds is extremely difficult.

Second, evaluating a large number of pre-built instruments takes a lot of work. We'd done some of this work for another project, and never finished. Nor is the naming of such instruments all that helpful; many of the file-names are misleading. Finding decent matches for a GM instrument takes time.

Third, there are many GM instruments for which we've been able to find no good ZynAddSubFX/Yoshimi counterpart. The only options are to pick a tolerable match, build a tolerable match oneself, or just plug in any old sound and wait for others to step up.

Nonetheless, let's forge ahead. The project file contrib/instrument.ods is a *LibreOffice* spreadsheet that represents some research in finding GM-compatible instruments. It's pretty bad; maybe 50% useful.

We converted it to contrib/gmcopy to copy the files into the project directory yoshimi/banks/gm/basic. We show the banks in table 4.1 for convenience.

Table 2: GM Basic Files

General MIDI Instrument	Yoshimi Instrument Used
0001-Acoustic Grand Piano	SynthPiano/0033-Analog Piano 1
0002-Bright Acoustic Piano	SynthPiano/0034-Analog Piano 2
0003-Electric Grand Piano	SynthPiano/0143-Space Piano
0004-Honky-tonk Piano	SynthPiano/0068-Synth Piano 3 fat
0005-Electric Piano 1	Rhodes/0002-DX Rhodes 2
0006-Electric Piano 2	Rhodes/0007-Dig Rhodes
0007-Harpsichord	Piano/0139-Home Piano
0008-Clavinet	Misc Keys/0060-Clavinet 1
0009-Celesta	Bells/0002-Music_Box
0010-Glockenspiel	Bells/0011-Glass bells
0011-Music Box	Bells/0013-Tiny bells
0012-Vibraphone	Chromatic Percussion/0045-Vibes no_trem
0013-Marimba	Chromatic Percussion/0056-FM marimba
0014-Xylophone	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0001-Xylophone
0015-Tubular Bells	Chromatic Percussion/0097-Marimba 3
0016-Dulcimer	Plucked/0004-Plucked 4
0017-Drawbar Organ	Organ/0001- $Organ 1$
0018-Percussive Organ	Organ/0012- $Organ 12$
0019-Rock Organ	Organ/0068-Square Organ
0020-Church Organ	Organ/0061-Great Organ
0021-Reed Organ	$Reed\_and\_Wind/0039$ -Reed 7
0022-Accordion	Organ/0097-Accordion Pad 1
0023-Harmonica	Reed_and_Wind/0099-Sharp Reed
Continued next page	

General MIDI Instrument	Yoshimi Instrument Used
0024-Tango Accordion	Organ/0101-Accordion 1
0025-Acoustic Guitar nylon	Piano/0144-Soft Piano1
0026-Acoustic Guitar steel	Guitar/0065-Clean Guitar1
0027-Electric Guitar jazz	Guitar/0066-Electric Guitar
0028-Electric Guitar clean	Guitar/0133-Smooth Guitar
0029-Electric Guitar muted	Guitar/0035-Short
0030-Overdriven Guitar	Guitar/0042-Trash Guitar 3
0031-Distortion Guitar	Guitar/0005-Dist Guitar 5
0032-Guitar harmonics	Laba170bank/0028-PianoBell
0033-Acoustic Bass	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0045-Steel Bass
0034-Electric Bass finger	Bass/0009-Electric bass 1
0035-Electric Bass pick	Bass/0041-Electric_Bass
0036-Fretless Bass	Bass/0050-Fretless Bass
0037-Slap Bass 1	Rhodes/0042-Hard Rhodes1
0038-Slap Bass 2	Rhodes/0042-Hard Rhodes1
0039-Synth Bass 1	Bass/0013-FM rubber bass
0040-Synth Bass 2	Bass/0024-Moog bass
0041-Violin	Strings/0051-Synth Violin 2 Fat
0042-Viola	Strings/0051-Synth Violin 2 Fat
0043-Cello	Strings/0051-Synth Violin 2 Fat
0044-Contrabass	Bass/0005-Bass 5
0045-Tremolo Strings	Strings/0001-Saw Strings 1
0046-Pizzicato Strings	Strings/0003-Saw Strings 3
0047-Orchestral Harp	Pads/0065-Soft Pad
0048-Timpani	Noises/0018-Gun
0049-String Ensemble 1	VDX/0065-Strings
0050-String Ensemble 2	folderol collection/0029-Full Strings
0051-Synth Strings 1	Strings/0010-Strings Pad1
0052-Synth Strings 2	Strings/0014-Strings Pad5
0053-Choir Aahs	Choir_and_Voice/0001-AHH Choir 1
0054-Voice Oohs	Choir_and_Voice/0004-Voice OOH
0055-Synth Voice	Choir_and_Voice/0005-Choir Pad1
0056-Orchestra Hit	Misc/0010-Industrial orchestra
0057-Trumpet	Leads/0027-Prophet horn 2
0058-Trombone	Brass/0033-Analog Brass 1
0059-Tuba	Brass/0001-FM Thrumpet
0060-Muted Trumpet	Synth/0001-Soft Synth 1
0061-French Horn	Brass/0034-Analog Brass 2
0062-Brass Section	Brass/0007-Synth Brass 5
0063-Synth Brass 1	Brass/0003-Synth Brazz 1
0064-Synth Brass 2	Brass/0004-Synth Brazz 2
0065-Soprano Sax	${\rm Reed\_and\_Wind/0066\text{-}Fat\ Reed2}$
0066-Alto Sax	$Reed\_and\_Wind/0065$ -Fat $Reed1$
0067-Tenor Sax	$Reed\_and\_Wind/0037$ -Reed 5
0068-Baritone Sax	$Reed\_and\_Wind/0099-Sharp Reed$
0069-Oboe	$Reed\_and\_Wind/0040$ -Reed 8
Continued next page	

General MIDI Instrument	Yoshimi Instrument Used
0070-English Horn	Brass/0034-Analog Brass 2
0071-Bassoon	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0102-Bassoon
0072-Clarinet	Reed_and_Wind/0006-Clarinet
0073-Piccolo	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0071-Ocarina
0074-Flute	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0057-Soft Flute
0075-Recorder	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0059-Ocarina
0076-Pan Flute	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0127-Pan Pipe
0077-Blown Bottle	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0125-Bottle
0078-Shakuhachi	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0125-Pan Pipe 32
0079-Whistle	Will_Godfrey_Collection/0027-Ghost Whistle
0080-Ocarina	Flute/0071-Ocarina
0081-Lead 1 square	Leads/0022-Square lead
0082-Lead 2 sawtooth	Louigi_Verona_Workshop/0008-saw-lead
0083-Lead 3 calliope	Leads/0018-Sine lead
0084-Lead 4 chiff	chip/0018-Chiffer_Chip
0085-Lead 5 charang	Louigi_Verona_Workshop/0001-progressive-lead-1
0086-Lead 6 voice	Choir_and_Voice/0067-Vocal Morph 3
0087-Lead 7 fifths	chip/0017-SuperSquare1
0088-Lead 8 bass lead	Strings/0157-Dual Strings Oct2
0089-Pad 1 new age	Pads/0028-Ethereal
0090-Pad 2 warm	Will_Godfrey_Companion/0019-Warm Square Swell
0091-Pad 3 polysynth	Dual/0065-Dream of the Saw
0092-Pad 4 choir	Alex_J/0100-Choir Pad
0093-Pad 5 bowed	The_Mysterious_Bank/0004-trance_strings_pad
0094-Pad 6 metallic	The_Mysterious_Bank/0011-dreaming_bells
0095-Pad 7 halo	Alex_J/RadioPulsePad
0096-Pad 8 sweep	Pads/0011-lightbeam
0097-FX 1 rain	The_Mysterious_Bank/0037-the_rain
0098-FX 2 soundtrack	The_Mysterious_Bank/0038-falling_stars
0099-FX 3 crystal	Will_Godfrey_Companion/0006-Tinkle Bell
0100-FX 4 atmosphere	The_Mysterious_Bank/0038-the_starting_machine
0101-FX 5 brightness	Noises/0014-droplets for chords
0102-FX 6 goblins	Noises/0002-Ioioioioioi
0103-FX 7 echoes	Noises/0072-Cave Gates
0104-FX 8 sci-fi	The_Mysterious_Bank/0031-etrange_sound
0105-Sitar	Guitar/0097-Space Guitar
0106-Banjo	Guitar/0065-Clean Guitar1
0107-Shamisen	Plucked/0034-Plucked String2
0108-Koto	Plucked/0003-Plucked 3
0109-Kalimba	Plucked/0001-Plucked 1
0110-Bagpipe	Reed_and_Wind/0033-Reed 1
0111-Fiddle	Laba170bank/0055-DevilsFiddle2
0112-Shanai	Reed_and_Wind/0035-Reed 3
0113-Tinkle Bell	Bells/0011-Glass bells
0114-Agogo	The_Mysterious_Bank/0028-snare
0115-Steel Drums	C_Ahlstrom/Add_Pseudo_Steel_Drums_2
Continued next page	,

General MIDI Instrument	Yoshimi Instrument Used
0116-Woodblock	The_Mysterious_Bank/0028-snare
0117-Taiko Drum	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028$ -snare
0118-Melodic Tom	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0119-Synth Drum	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0120-Reverse Cymbal	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0121-Guitar Fret Noise	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0122-Breath Noise	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0123-Seashore	Noises/0008-Wind and Surf
0124-Bird Tweet	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028$ -snare
0125-Telephone Ring	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0126-Helicopter	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0127-Applause	$The\_Mysterious\_Bank/0028-snare$
0128-Gunshot	Noises/0018-Gun
0129-Drum Kit	$C\_Ahlstrom/Natural\_Drum\_Kit\_Basic$
End of table	

Presumably, this basic bank could be improved enough to be useful for most music. Alternative (and better) banks could be created, as well.

#### 4.2 Root Paths

The first thing to do is to add the yoshimi-cookbook banks directory to your setup.

Run Yoshimi, and navigate the following user-interface path: Menu / Instrument / Show Root Paths ...

Then click **Add root directory...** Navigate to where the yoshimi-cookbook project is stored and add the **yoshimi/banks** directory. The result should be something like the following:

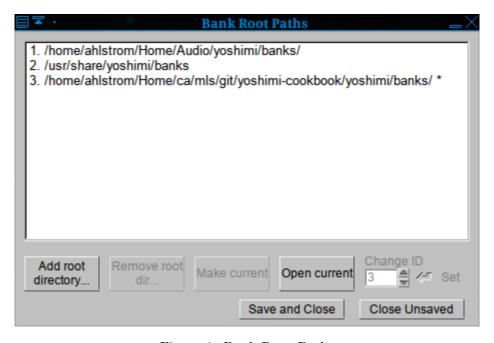


Figure 1: Bank Root Paths

Click on the new directory. It has ID = 2 in that diagram. We will refer to this value as the "GM path ID", and the actual path as the "GM path". Now click the **Make current** button. Verify that it now has the asterisk. Click the **Save and Close** button.

Now let's open the "gm-basic" bank. Run Yoshimi, and navigate the following user-interface path: Menu / Instrument / Show Banks ...

In the matrix of banks, you should see "gm-basic" somewhere. (We also have a "demo" bank in place.)

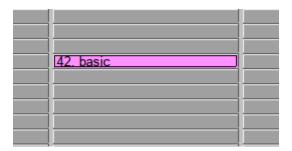


Figure 2: One Basic Bank

Click on the "gm-basic" bank. The larger dialog below will be shown.

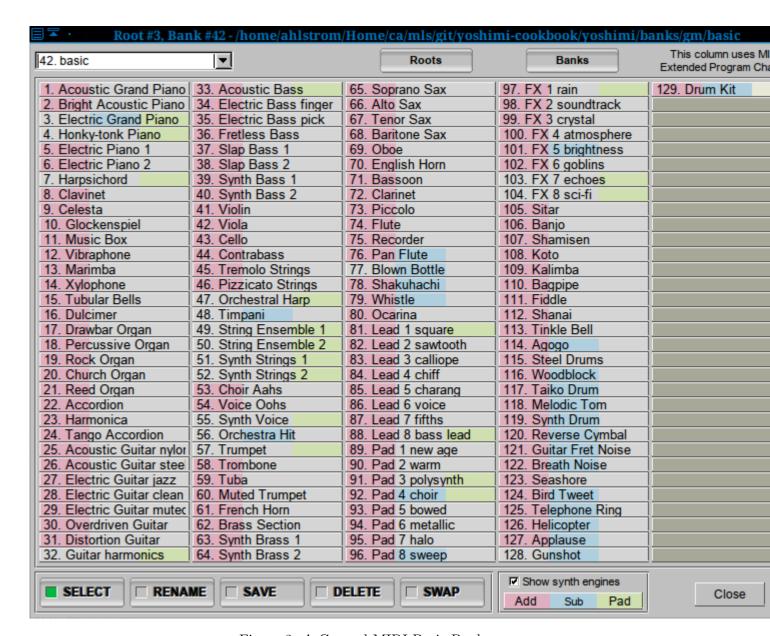


Figure 3: A General MIDI Basic Bank

Remember that these banks have GM names; the original files used to create each one are listed in the spreadsheet mentioned in the previous section.

Also note the drum kit, with an ID of 129. Normally, drum kits might be stored in a bank of drum kits, but here we have a GM-compliant drum kit, compliant in the sense that most of the keys are mapped correctly, and all keys will play *something*.

# 5 Summary

In summary, we can say that you will absolutely love cooking with Yoshimi.

### 6 References

The Yoshimi cookbook reference list.

### References

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