

## **Knauf**

**Founded/Born**

1789 - 1904

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

no

### **Description**

The Knauf family is renowned as a German organ-building family that operated from 1789 to 1904, spanning four generations in Thuringia and southern Westphalia. During the 19th century, the Knaufs were among the most productive organ builders in Thuringia, crafting over 300 organs. The family's legacy began with Johann Valentin Knauf, who was granted an organ-building privilege in 1789 and whose work was documented from 1794 to 1835. His sons, Friedrich Christian and Gottlieb Knauf, continued the family tradition, expanding the business and contributing significantly to the organ-building craft.

The Großtabarz and Gotha branches of the Knauf family included Friedrich Christian Knauf and his son Guido Knauf. Friedrich Christian started his work in the family workshop in Großtabarz and later moved the workshop to Gotha in 1870. Guido Knauf took over the business in 1855, eventually becoming the sole owner until 1900. The Bleicherode branch, initiated by Gottlieb Knauf, included his son Robert and grandson Ernst Knauf, who introduced pneumatic actions learned in Switzerland. The family business faced challenges after Ernst's death, with the company ultimately being taken over by Friedrich Johnsen and later by Jakob Kießling, whose firm managed many Knauf organs until 1939.

### **Sources**

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knauf\\_\(Orgelbauer\)#Robert\\_Knauf](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knauf_(Orgelbauer)#Robert_Knauf)

## Palsmane, Palsmanes evaņģēliski luteriskā baznīca

Blome — Birzuļi — Palsmane, Palsas veikals, LV-4724 Palsmane, Latvia



<b>Builder</b>	Knauf
<b>Year</b>	ca. 1878
<b>Period/Style</b>	Romantic
<b>Stops</b>	13
<b>Keyboards</b>	2+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Tuning</b>	Equal at 444 Hz

### Description

The Palsmane organ, built in 1878 by the Thuringian organ builder Guido Knauf, has been preserved in nearly its original condition to this day. This instrument is almost identical to another organ built by Knauf in the Opekalna Lutheran Church in the same year.

Inside the cover of the second manual's keyboard are inscriptions indicating maintenance and repairs: the organ was cleaned from May 26-30, 1922, by Aug. Ieviņš, P. Ieviņš, and A. Krāns from Riga, and it was tuned and repaired by Veiklis on September 8, 1959. This organ represents the work of the widely branched Knauf organ-building dynasty in Thuringia. It features a classic two-manual romantic small organ disposition, typical of Knauf instruments in Latvia, with pipes for both manuals placed on a single wind chest with two valve boxes.

## Stoplist/Disposition

<b>I. Manual</b>	<b>II. Manual</b>	<b>Pedal</b>
Bourdon 16 Fuss	Salicional 8 Fuss	Subbass 16 Fuss
Principal 8 Fuss	Flauto traverso 8 Fuss	Cello 8 Fuss
Gedact 8 Fuss	Principal 4 Fuss	Gedactbass 8 Fuss
Octave 4'	Flauto dolce 4 Fuss	
Quinte & Octave 2 Fuss		
Mixtur 3fach		

**Additional:** Pedal Coppel, Manual Coppel, Calcant

## Sources

[https://orgcat.lv/palsmane\\_main.htm](https://orgcat.lv/palsmane_main.htm)

## Upītes, Opekalna baznīca

vecais lielceļš, LV-4336 Upītes, Latvia



<b>Builder</b>	Knauf
<b>Year</b>	ca. 1883
<b>Period/Style</b>	Romantic
<b>Stops</b>	13
<b>Keyboards</b>	2+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Tuning</b>	Equal at 443 Hz

### Description

The organ in the Opekalna Lutheran Church was built in 1883 by Thuringian organ builder Guido Knauf. This is confirmed by a publication in "Mājas Viesa" at the end of 1884. The inscription on the organ indicates the absence of pipes, as noted by J. Blūms on May 3, 1920, which stated that 77 pipes were missing at that time. These shortages were resolved only in 1932 when the organ, including at least part of the pipes, was restored by Riga master Jānis Ķukulis.

In 1994 and 2000, the organ was further restored by Viesturs Ilsums and Alvis Melbārdis. During these restorations, the bellows were completely re-glued, and a motor was installed. Melbārdis noted that many pipes had been replaced with zinc substitutes, some were inserted into different registers, and others had been shortened or adapted. By the time of restoration, 53 metal and 30 wooden pipes were missing. These missing pipes were crafted in 2000 by Melbārdis and Ilsums, based on the original measurements by G. Knauf. The organ, although differing slightly in appearance, is structurally similar to the 1878 organ built for the Palsmanes Lutheran Church, representing a classic two-manual romantic small organ disposition typical of Knauf instruments in Latvia.

## Stoplist/Disposition

<b>I. Manual</b>	<b>II. Manual</b>	<b>Pedal</b>
Bourdon 16 Fuss	Salicional 8 Fuss	Subbass 16 Fuss
Principal 8 Fuss	Flauto traverso 8 Fuss	Cello 8 Fuss
Gedact 8 Fuss	Principal 4 Fuss	Gedactbass 8 Fuss
Octave 4 Fuss	Flauto dolce 4 Fuss	
Quinte & Octave 2 Fuss		
Mixtur 3fach		

**Additional:** Pedal Coppel, Manual Coppel, Calcant

## Sources

[https://orgcat.lv/opekals\\_main.htm](https://orgcat.lv/opekals_main.htm)

# Nereta, Neretas evaņģēliski luteriskā baznīca

Rīgas iela 2, LV-5118 Nereta, Latvia



<b>Builder</b>	Knauf
<b>Year</b>	1893
<b>Period/Style</b>	Romantic
<b>Stops</b>	16
<b>Keyboards</b>	2+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical
<b>Tuning</b>	Equal at 439 Hz

## Stoplist/Disposition

<b>I Manual</b>	<b>II Manual</b>	<b>Pedal</b>
Bordun 16'	Salicional 8'	Subbass 16'
Principal 8'	Flöte traversa 8'	Octavbass 8'
Gambe 8'	Lieblich gedackt 8'	Posaune 16'
Hohlflöte 8'	Flöte-Octaviant 4'	Cello 8'
Octave 4'		
Octave 2'		
Mixtur 2 2/3' 2-3f.		
Trompete 8'		

**Additional:** Pedalcoppel, Manualcoppel, Kalkanten Zug

## Sources

[https://orgcat.lv/nereta\\_main.htm](https://orgcat.lv/nereta_main.htm)