

# Mini Reviews

Lock up your wallet as we show you what's new in the world of sample libraries, generative lyric-writing software and drum ROMpler add-ons...

## EAST WEST

### Quantum Leap Gypsy

**CONTACT:** Via website [www.soundsonline-europe.com](http://www.soundsonline-europe.com)  
**FORMAT:** PC or Mac, VST/AU/Standalone, requires iLok **PRICE:** €322

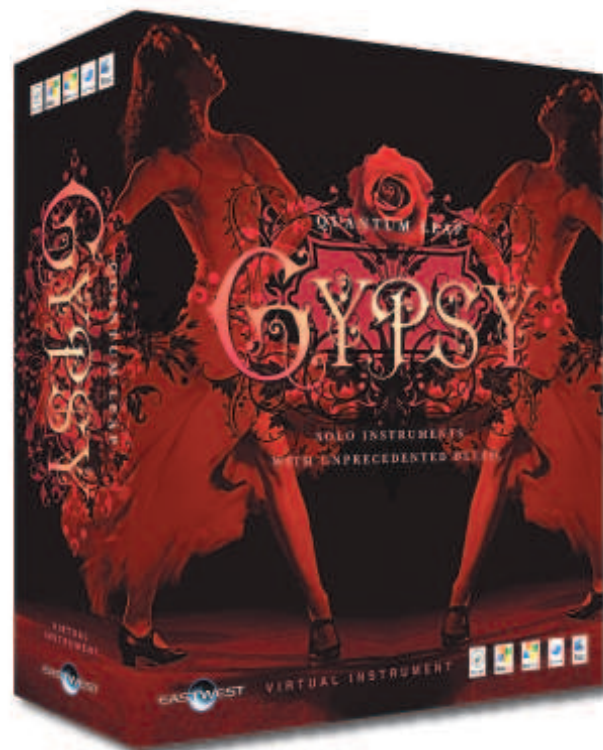
**O**ne of a new batch of six virtual instruments from East West, Gypsy focuses on folk-based solo sounds, ranging from guitar and violin to accordion and percussion.

Using EW's new PLAY instrument technology, this 64-bit compatible instrument not only offers fantastic output quality, but also impressive onboard effects and unparalleled cross-platform native compatibility (including Vista 64). As you may have guessed, it's a playback-only system, so you can't modify individual samples, but with many patches incorporating multiple keyswitching articulations, the idea is that you'll be drawn to the playability of the

instruments rather than the technology.

Musically, Gypsy is certainly a strange brew, and articulation options vary from instrument to instrument. But with only 13 instruments to choose from, it's easy to spot the good stuff, and we were particularly impressed by the flexibility of the violin and guitar patches.

It's never easy coaxing realistic solo parts from sample-based instruments, but Gypsy gets you one step closer. However, with a mere 13 instruments (albeit spread across 11GB of samples), you'd be wise to look carefully at the line-up before you splash any cash.



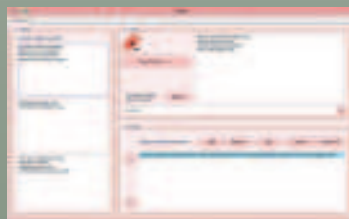
## INTERMORPHIC liptikl

**CONTACT:** Via website [www.intermorphic.com](http://www.intermorphic.com)  
**FORMAT:** Standalone application for OS X and Windows **PRICE:** \$59

**O**ne thing that computers have never been able to replace is the lyric writer. Until, perhaps, now.

The guys behind the generative KOAN software have developed a pair of new applications, one of which is designed to free the lyrically challenged from the burden of stringing words together in a semi-meaningful way (the other – noatkl – is a generative music app that we'll look at in a future issue).

The delightfully-named liptikl provides a simple interface into



which you enter words or phrases. The software then generates a stream of combinations in the meter of choice that can then be edited

and recombined to your liking.

As with all generative software, the results are mixed. Most are going to be useless, but repeated clicking may reveal a gem or two. At \$99 for a commercial license, it's a bit pricey, but if you don't plan to reap any reward from the results, it'll set you back 59 smackers instead. Not essential, but interesting.



## XLN AUDIO

### Retro

**CONTACT:** Arbitr Music Group, 020 8207 7860 [www.xlnaudio.com](http://www.xlnaudio.com)  
**FORMAT:** Addictive Drums ADpak **PRICE:** £100

**X**LN Audio turned some heads when they launched Addictive Drums, and now they're back with more content. Again, it's compact at 1.5GB, and as the title suggests, its emphasis is truly, well, retro!

All three kits are Ludwig classics: a Black Oyster from the 60s, and a Blue Oyster and a Vistalite from the 70s. A few alternate drum sizes are included, so in total there are five kicks, four snares and a whole bunch of toms. Cymbals are mostly classic Paiste 2002s, with some Meinls and Sabians thrown in. Although each drum kit is



available in 'clean' form, there are over 70 preset kits that use AD's onboard processing. Retro also features in excess of 1300 vintage-flavoured MIDI beats and grooves, and these can be browsed from AD's main library.

Kit sounds and beats range from Bonham to Ringo, with plenty of Motown, and with the

Oyster kits sporting coated drumheads, character is the name of the game. The kit presets definitely help Retro to cover more ground, and we spotted some tasty 70s sounds that are perfect for the disco. If you're an AD fan, this is £100 well spent.



# Samples round-up

Be inspired by the latest and greatest sample CDs...

## SoundSense **Ambiosis**

**CONTACT:** Time+Space, 01837 55200  
**WWW:** timespace.com  
**FORMAT:** Acidized WAV, AIFF, Apple Loops  
**PRICE:** £30



**T**he creative talents of veteran sound designer Ian Boddy are well showcased in this stupendously surreal collection. If you seek to conjure cinematic, ambient soundscapes for adding a certain zest to your sound palette, it would be difficult to top this. Listening through, it's very easy to get lost in the textures, seemingly

locked in another realm where the conventional laws of physics no longer apply. Atmospheric trance, drum 'n' bass, IDM and soundtrack composers will likely find the most use for these sounds, although they could feasibly be applied to just about any musical style, if suitable creative inspiration strikes.

**RATING**  
**9**

## Mutekki Media **Ultimate Vocals Vol. 1**

**CONTACT:** Time+Space, 01837 55200  
**WWW:** timespace.com  
**FORMAT:** Acid WAV  
**PRICE:** £69



**U**ltimate Vocals Vol. 1 is a brilliantly convenient disc, containing over an hour of audio, comprising hundreds of male and female vocal parts, handily labelled with tempos and suggested keys. Although for the most part the vocals are well recorded and performed to a high standard, the disc might not be the

ideal shortcut to a great vocal track, if only because the English isn't entirely consistent. But hey, if you're willing to get a little creative in the application of what's provided, then you might just find that missing detail your track needs to give it more personality and identity.

**RATING**  
**7**

## Sample Magic **Around the World in 80 Raves**

**CONTACT:** Time+Space, 01837 55200  
**WWW:** timespace.com  
**FORMAT:** Audio, WAV, Apple Loops, REX, NN-XT, Kontakt, EXS24, HALion **PRICE:** £60



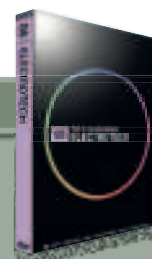
**R**ave pioneers Eat Static seem to have cut no corners with their remarkably ambitious trip around the globe. As the title would suggest, there's a particular emphasis on electronic dance genres, from psy-trance to drum 'n' bass, though you'll be escorted via an unusually exotic, scenic path. The samples in this pack are

deliciously clean and wide – although, there's plenty of lo-fi grit where required – making for a very mind-opening soundset. Although you won't find many basic bread-and-butter sounds, it's definitely the fresh, unique and interesting flavours that make this library highly usable indeed.

**RATING**  
**9**

## Digital Redux **Electrotech**

**CONTACT:** Time+Space, 01837 55200  
**WWW:** timespace.com  
**FORMAT:** Acidized WAV, AIFF, REX2, ReFill, Stylus RMX  
**PRICE:** £20



**T**his instalment in Digital Redux's A Class series brings a fusion of electro and techno samples, including some seriously reminiscent 80s sounds, as well as a good share of more futuristic offerings. The content comes packed on a well-arranged DVD, which contains many incarnations of around 650MB of

unique sounds. Every one is accurately categorised, with tempo and key handily listed in the filename. There are even ten construction kits, whose loops and one-shot samples are also made available for the picking, which makes it very easy going on new producers. Not bad for 20 quid!

**RATING**  
**7**

## Loopmasters **Airwave Triloops Dance Breaks**

**CONTACT:** info@loopmasters.com  
**WWW:** loopmasters.com  
**FORMAT:** Audio, Acidized WAV, WAV, Stylus RMX  
**PRICE:** £35



**D**ance Breaks is an outstanding collection of diverse, fresh, electronic drum loops, produced by respected producers Airwave. Suitable for just about any form of dance music, the tempos range from 60bpm to a rapid 140bpm. Even though there's a ridiculous level of diversity among these beats, what they nearly all

have in common is an extreme amount of groove and energy, and a chunky sound that's more commonly associated with real dance anthems than your average sample library. This pack is guaranteed to inject inspiration into your sessions and is a must-have for dance drum perfectionists!

**RATING**  
**10**

## Loopmasters **Marshall Jefferson House Generation**

**CONTACT:** info@loopmasters.com  
**WWW:** loopmasters.com **FORMAT:** Acidized WAV, WAV, Apple Loops, REX2, NN-XT, Kontakt, EXS24, HALion, Cakewalk, Ableton Live, ReFill **PRICE:** £30



**E**asily one of the biggest names on the circuit since the earliest days of house music, Marshall Jefferson has clubbed together a round of pro musicians to aid him in compiling this rather complete sample library. As well as live drums, percussion, guitars and even strings, there are some beautiful vocal hooks and

punchy brass licks as well as the essential programmed riffs and drum loops you'd hope to find on such a disc. House Generation takes you on a journey from the roots flavours through to the cutting-edge modern manifestations of the genre, making it ideal for any house producer.

**RATING**  
**9**