



ON THE DVD

WHAT IS IT?

Multi-instrument mega-ROMpler with network capability

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** 40GB sound library
- 2** More than 180 instruments
- 3** 64-bit, network-enabled processing system



Quantum Leap Goliath | €582

As Quantum Leap super-sizes the multi-instrument ROMpler concept, **Karl Foster** tucks in...

SPECS

Mac: G4 1GHz or better, 1GB RAM, OS X 10.4+, DVD drive, iLok dongle, internet connection – supports Audio Units, Core Audio, VST, RTAS

PC: P4 2.5GHz processor, 1GB RAM, Windows XP/SP2/Vista, audio interface/soundcard, DVD drive, iLok dongle, internet connection – supports ASIO, DirectSound, VST, RTAS

Historically, Goliath was smaller than the Colossus of Rhodes. But Quantum Leap's latest ROMpler

Goliath, successor to QL's Colossus, not only has a Fender Rhodes, it packs a full version of the award-winning PMI Bösendorfer 290 grand piano. If that's too tenuous an intro gambit, let's just say that Goliath is in no way slight. It's big. Very big.

A six-DVD install, Goliath plunks 40GB of sample content onto your external, necessarily high-performance media drive (RAID 0 suggests itself) and a high-performance replay engine onto the system drive. In the past, Quantum Leap has used Native Instruments' technology to front-end its ROMplers, but Goliath is one of a new generation of QL products that uses the network-enabled Play engine, capable of both 32- and 64-bit operation, plus nifty interface design.

If you're using a 64-bit computer, such as a modern Mac or high-end Windows machine, Play is able to

address as much RAM as you can stuff onto the motherboard (up to 32GB with the Mac Pro), making for a massive 'live' sound-palette. Of course, when using Goliath as a plug-in, you'll also need a 64-bit host sequencer, such as Cubase or Nuendo 4.1.

In terms of timbre, Goliath covers a lot of ground, including basses, acoustic and electric guitars, percussion, acoustic and electronic pianos, organs, pop brass, orchestral instruments, choirs, ethnic instruments, atmospheres and a wealth of synth leads and pads.

Multiple choice

With more than 180 instruments and over 600 patches in the core library, you might think digging through them could be a chore. The good news is that the Play browser is well organised, grouping collections by type, and there's the facility to create Favorites' folders for rapid access to your most often-used patches.

Multiple patches can be loaded

into a single instance of the Goliath interface and routed to nine stereo audio outs, although any pair can be made mono. Sound-sculpting options are limited in that Delay has only Time, Feedback and Level controls, while Reverb presets are limited to a lone Level rotary. ADT, with modulation, features, as does a minimalist Filter with just Resonance and Frequency knobs.

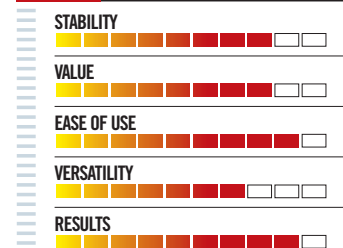
The Envelope section is more generous, with control over Attack, Hold, Decay, Sustain and Release. But what's really useful is that you can readily see any patch totting articulations, thanks to a panel at bottom right, and even switch them off or unload them. Articulation keyswitches are highlighted in blue on the keyboard at base.

Back to basics

Rather than bog the product down with whizzy extras, such as EQs and compressors, Quantum Leap appears to have concentrated on the quality of the basic sounds. Pounding through the patches rapidly reveals a wealth of well-recorded and cunningly processed sounds equipped with useful, velocity-switched variations and bags of opportunities for applying your preferred MIDI controllers.

While Goliath may not appeal to more left-field samplists seeking to use their own snippets and warp them beyond recognition, it does provide top-flight timbres that are ideal for use in songwriting projects, filmscoring and for more instant results.

It's easy to use, the Play engine is powerful and extensible, thanks to network support, and the price ticket looks more than reasonable considering the wealth of content available. Also, if you've recently bought Goliath's predecessor Colossus, there's a tasty upgrade deal to be had from the developer's website. **FM**

FutureMusic **VERDICT**

A monster amount of pro-quality sampled audio, fronted by a well-designed interface.