



WHAT IS IT?

Version 2 of Arturia's highly acclaimed virtual Minimoog clone

CONTACT

Who: 2Twenty2
Tel: +44 (0)1326 212175
Web: arturia.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 'Motion' options galore for liquid sound design
- 2 Vocal Filter
- 3 Sound Map – preset choosing has never been so fun!



Arturia Minimoog V2 | €229

Arturia's original Moog clone was popular with the purists. Have they over-stepped the mark with V2? *Jono Buchanan* doesn't think so...

SPECS

System Requirements
PC: 2000/XP/Vista, 512 MB RAM, 2GHz DualCore CPU
Mac: 512 MB RAM; 2GHz DualCore CPU, 10.4 or higher or Universal Binary Standalone, VST, RTAS or AU hostA

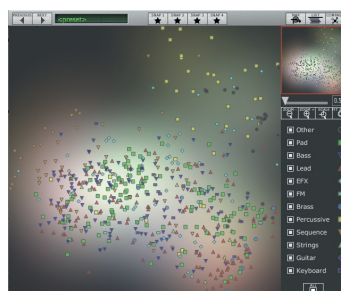
We wouldn't be flattering Arturia too much to suggest that, when it comes to software

recreations of some of Electronic music's most celebrated synthesizer technology, they're up there with the best. And one of their best loved titles – the Minimoog V – has just been treated to a Version 2 – an interesting challenge requiring a balance between respecting the tradition of the most famous synthesizer ever made and a set of new possibilities which have a place in the 21st Century. Did they succeed?

What's New?

Before I get to that, what's new? Well, plenty. Arturia's original Minimoog V set about trying to recreate the sound of the famous Moog hardware and as this hasn't changed (obviously!) nor has the main part of the Minimoog V GUI. However, if you click either the upper

edge of the synth's display or the 'Open' button in the top right hand corner, hey presto, the upper section of the synth falls forwards to reveal Arturia's pimped up 'extras rack'. There are several new highlights here. Firstly, there's a Motion Recorder in the top left hand corner, which allows you to choose four colour-coded parameters and draw envelopes for these, which can create dynamic change in a sound as it plays. You can sync these 'envelopes' to



The beautiful Sound Map screen in all its glory

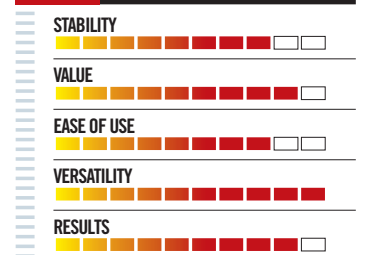
tempo, loop them and set their speeds, so wild and crazy moves are absolutely possible now. There's also a 'vocal filter' which applies 'vowel formants' to any sound. The Minimoog filter is famous of course but Arturia haven't been afraid to offer this timbral alternative, which, if you'll excuse the pun, speaks for itself, the moment you 'push' a sound towards any of the five vowel targets on offer. Next comes a revised Modulation Matrix, which is where you can set eight sources and destinations with independent 'amounts' available to each of these routings. The new filter and extra new options like twin 'Sample and Hold' triggers are available as sources so again, the options for sound design are vastly increased. There are even additional coding developments too to modify the 'circuit modelling'.

A sound decision

However, my favourite new feature has nothing to do with the sound engine at all but the way in which Arturia have presented a new approach to preset browsing. The 'Sound Map' comprises a window with all presets mapped like a constellation of satellites with 'similar sounding' timbres occupying neighbouring portions of the display. You can click on a preset to audition it or select a nearby sound to hear a 'related' variation. The further you travel the more the sound changes and it's even possible to morph from one sound to another. You can filter your search to maximise the chance of finding something you're after or just dive in at random. The window looks like a night sky without cloud cover – beautifully designed and extremely effective.

If the purists come down on Minimoog V2 for altering a classic, they've missed the point. This remains a great sounding Moog clone but it now has both feet planted firmly in the present and offers enough for the future. If you're after a pimped up Moog in software form, be here now. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



A radical and effective re-vamp of a classic studio stalwart.