

Clavia Nord C2 | £2,311



have been moved from the drawbar area to a much better place with the rest of the vibrato/chorus controls. One thing missing is the old C1 Unison Mode (that was a kind of three mode stereo chorus) not a big deal for me, but still worth mentioning.

Pedal pusher

Also, the rotary speaker controls now double as couplers in the pipe organ mode, allowing one manual's stops to be played by the other, coupling of the lowest bass note to the super low bass stop for massive rumbling bass, plus further coupling of both manual's stops to the pedals and more (there are seven coupler modes for maximum flexibility). While on this topic, there's been a slight renaming of the break control from 'break' to 'stop' (used to stop the rotary speaker spinning). Pipe organ stop names have now been added under the drawbars too and preset space has been

Now with added pipe organs and extras, Nord bring us the C2. **Dan JD73** Goldman pipes up!



WHAT IS IT?
Second generation Nord Combo Organ with B3, Vox Farfisa and now Pipe Organ emulation

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HIGHLIGHTS
1 Very portable and well built
2 A doddle to use
3 Every emulation sounds very authentic and it's a joy to play

The C1 Organ was Nord's first dedicated two manual Hammond B3/Vox/Farfisa emulator and it's fair to say that Clavia got it pretty much spot on first time round.

However, with a continuing quest to bring new and improved products to their customer base, the C2 promises to improve on an already winning formula that has many fans. The C1 was already considered pretty authentic and established itself quickly with the very hard to please Hammond emulator community. So what's new and improved this time around?

On first glance you would think not much has changed but there are numerous improvements both under the hood and cosmetically. First up the percussion controls have been moved much nearer the manuals, which is very

welcome, and now have additional coupler modes in the new pipe organ mode. The vibrato/chorus (and now tremulant) controls have also been moved to a more easy to reach position and the vibrato/chorus manual selectors

Additional Features

The onboard amp models (Roland Jazz Chorus and Fender Twin) work well and are great for that un-Leslie'd straighter Rock sound, while the drive control sounds rich, and full allowing some real power-organ playing or subtle grit. The delay, three-band EQ and five reverb modes

are musical, high quality and flexible, bringing realistic and natural sounding acoustical support to all the sounds. In particular, the delay is great for Reggae or Dub especially along with the tap tempo function. One of my favourite features is the ability to add a set of MIDI bass

pedals to control the pedal manual. Further to this, the Synth Bass mode adds a synth bass sound to further beef up the low end. Perhaps in the future, Clavia could augment this feature with some different synth tones, plus the ability to turn the full lower manual into a synth bass.





increased from 100 to 126 slots to accommodate the extra pipe organ programs, so there's plenty of scope for creating plenty of your own sounds.

New features

The review model arrived with the front mounted rotary speaker flick switch (an extra cost option), which works great and goes in the same position as on a real B3 to preserve the authentic feel. This connects to the rear panel via a jack and screws into the front underside of the C2. All in all, the C2 is much more logically laid out and quicker to

what is overall a beautifully put together and great looking instrument.

One of the most endearing features of the C1 organ was its lightweight form factor and the C2 thankfully retains this lightness too, being only one pound heavier than its predecessor. It's very easy for one person to pick up which is great for such as large instrument and certainly it beats dragging a real Hammond around!

The action of the manuals is pretty much the same as the Nord Electro 3 and is great for organ playing. It's slightly stiffer than a real Hammond but

volume, decay, rotary speaker horn and bass rotor speed and acceleration, plus there are three tonewheel modes that allow you to turn your C2 into a beaten up sounding or brand new sounding organ as you wish. There's also the possibility to cancel the ninth drawbar when percussion is engaged as on real Hammond's – very authentic.

Music sounds better

So what of the sounds? Well the new pipe organs are superb and couple with the onboard reverbs, really transport you into the grand surroundings of

cathedrals, churches and concert halls.

The samples are excellent, the tremulants are authentic and it's incredibly easy to use. I can see many a church

organist and new players alike having fun with this instrument but in a recording context it also works brilliantly. Same goes for the B3s, Voxs and Farisas – they are all superb.

I really can't find fault with any of the emulations – they are authentic throughout and very inspiring to play. In comparison with my 1958 Hammond B3 and 122 Leslie the C2 really does capture the mojo and overall tone/feel.

To conclude, as far as B3/Vox/Farfisa/Pipe Organ emulators go this board cannot be beaten in terms of sounds, playability and portability. Put it at the top of your list immediately! **FM**

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use on the fly than the C1 which is a real bonus. All the easy to access sub menu features are listed in full on the front panel too which is handy, though as I mentioned in my Nord Electro 3 review sometime ago, I wish this was a peel off sticker as it does detract from

still a joy to play and it's possible to set the organ to play with a very quick trigger point for super fast playing. Keyboard click can be altered to taste too and most other sections have further tweakable parameters in the sub menu system. It's easy to change percussion



SPECS

- General:** 126 Program Locations, 2 Live Buffers
- Organ Section:** Hammond B3, Vox Continental- and Farfisa-models, Pipe Organ-Baroque style with 21 stops, Bass models (tonewheel, synthbass and pipe organ bass), 20 Digitally Controlled Drawbars, 6 Drawbar Presets per Program Location
- Percussion Controls:** Vibrato/Chorus/Tremulant Control
- Effect Section:** Three-band Equalizer, Overdrive, Three Speaker Simulations – (JC/Twin/Rotary), Delay with feedback and tap-tempo function, Reverb with five algorithms
- Keyboard:** Two x 61 Medium Weighted Waterfall Keys
- Connections:** Jack Stereo Headphone Output, Two Main Jack Outputs, High Level Outputs: 11-pin Leslie standard connector or jack, Mini jack monitor input, Jack Sustain Pedal Input, Jack Rotor Control Input, Jack Swell Pedal Input
- MIDI:** MIDI In, Out plus dedicated Bass Pedal MIDI In.
- USB
- Dimensions**
966 x 163 x 445mm
- Weight**
15.5kg

ALTERNATIVES



Hammond XK3c
£2,166

Hammond's single-manual B3 emulator. Can be coupled with the XLK3 for a dual manual beast.

hammondorganco.com



Roland VK8
£1,596

Portable board with real drawbars, chorus/vibrato/reverb plus additional orchestral sounds including strings, choirs and pianos.

rolandus.com

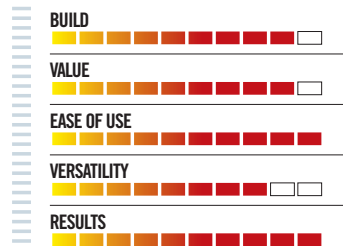


Korg BX3
£TBC

Two sets of real drawbars, extensive MIDI control options plus Vibrato/Chorus/Overdrive/Reverb.

korg.co.uk

FutureMusic VERDICT



The C2 is hard to beat. It looks and feels great and delivers authentic emulations across the board.