

# Mini Reviews

The latest musical bits and pieces racked and rated

## Ambient Works | £90

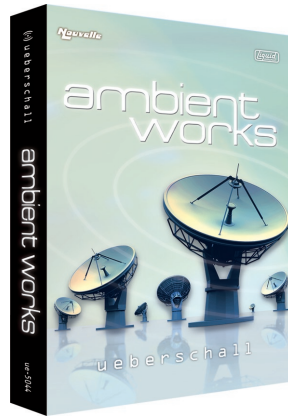
[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)

**W**hat sets Ambient music apart from other genres, in terms of composition and production, is that the notes themselves are usually much easier to come up with than the individual sounds themselves. That means an Ambient sample DVD is going to have to focus heavily on the sound design rather than notes and riffs. Who better to cover the genre than sound experimentalists Ueberschall. Thankfully, all the sounds here are

excellent and their Elastik player works well for this type of music, but at this price point you could buy yourself some very nice soft synths which would allow you to recreate all these sounds and more so, it really comes down to ease of use and immediacy in results.

If you're looking for a quick fix to get your productions off to a flying start, this is the best ambient package around. **Greg Scarth**

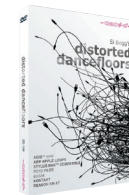
**9/10**



## Distorted Dancefloors

| £60

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



One of the most prolific producers around, Si Begg comes up trumps again with this collection of dirty mangled sounds covering a huge range of genres including Glitch, Techno, Electro and

Breaks. The price is maybe a little on the high side given that there's plenty of competition in the dirty/grimey/glitchy sample DVD market sector. Overall though, it's a pretty good package if you're looking for a bunch of samples to dirty up your tracks and productions.

**Greg Scarth**

**7/10**

## Mirrorball | £72

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



If Disco-y retro House vibes are your thing, this collection of 32 awesome construction kits is sure to appeal to you. 100-135 bpm with all formats

catered for and all kinds of loops and hits included. Everything's nicely recorded and the samples are generally pretty versatile.

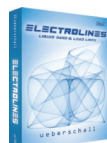
It's definitely a very good package but breaking the 70-quid barrier puts this disc at the top end of the market and there are other good options here. I personally prefer the style of Satin Grooves (£78.25, also from timespace.com) so be sure to check that out too before you make a purchase.

**Declan McGlynn**

**8/10**

## Electrolines | £90

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



A sample pack of Electro-tech leads and basslines is hardly ground-breaking stuff, but Ueberschall tend to produce high-quality

samples. The Elastik Player format that they insist on using has its disadvantages in terms of memory use, but the ability to shift key and pitch so easily is a definite bonus. We'd really like to see the samples included in regular formats so you could choose whether to use Elastik or not. The main problem is there's only 800MB of content, which makes it very difficult to recommend Electrolines at this price.

**Greg Scarth**

**5/10**

## Vocal Foundry | £78

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



High-quality vocal samples are a difficult thing to find. The problem is that the commercially-produced stuff often sounds awkward and underdeveloped compared to what you'd get if you used an acapella of a commercially-released track. A lot of the more 'urban' content on this DVD is a little on the cheesy side so if you make Grime, Rap or Garage/Bassline you're probably better off looking elsewhere, but for commercial House and Electro producers this could be a pretty useful source of vocal tracks which don't sound like they've been thrown together in five minutes.

**Greg Scarth**

**7/10**

## Textured Guitars | £70

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



Most guitar sample DVDs might seem poor value at first, but the more you play with this one, the more you realise it's actually quite useful. There aren't really any standout samples to knock your socks off, just a big collection that should have something to suit everyone. A lot of the simple loops could be recreated in a few minutes with a cheap electric guitar and a few plug-ins but the more complex loops are interesting and the ease with which all the samples can be integrated into existing productions makes them useful to have in your collection.

**Will Seelig**

**7/10**

## Ghetto Grooves Volume 3 | £44

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



The ultimate factor in determining whether you like this latest sample package from Tekniks will be how much emphasis you place on originality. Some of the samples on this disc sound so incredibly similar to commercial releases that I had to check I wasn't listening to *Now That's What I Call Some Recent Rap and R&B Hits 2009*. If you're looking to put together a near note-for-note remake of 50 Cent's *Candy Shop*, this is the disc for you. Good quality samples with an authentic polished sound, but absolutely no marks for originality. **Greg Scarth**

**5/10**

## Sample Magic SM11: Minimal Techno | £59

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



Sample Magic have been putting out some of the best sample discs around and this is no exception. With 2.3GB of files on the DVD, there's plenty to get stuck into, and everything's nicely sorted so you can easily find what you're looking for. Sample Magic have kept things simple and stuck to the 125-130bpm area, with just about every sample sounding slick, professional and ready to slot straight into your mixes. There are plenty of good Minimal discs about at the moment but this is predictably right up there with the best of them. **Daniel Griffiths**

**9/10**

## Deep, Tech and Minimal House | £40

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)



This new one from Loopmasters is a real cracker of a package for the aspiring House producer. There's a definite Deadmau5 kind of vibe to a lot of the material here – we'll let you decide if that's a good thing or not.

There are tons of loops to mix and match, including basslines, drums (with

extra percussion and variations on the main patterns), leads, glitchy riffs, chords and vocals. On top of all that, you'll find plenty of effects and a comprehensive set of individual drum sounds for dropping in your own sampler. Most of it is pretty flexible for working into your own mixes and this would make an excellent first package, if you're just starting to build a sample library. Also available as a download for £35. **Chris Barker**

**8/10**