

Mini Reviews

The latest musical bits and pieces racked and rated

Stylophone Beatbox | £20

stylophonica.com

As if the humble stylophone wasn't cool enough already, they've gone and made a pimped out, urban beatbox version. It's jammed with lo-fi crusty beats and cheesy sounds that will have you prodding it for hours, including lip-splitting sounds from the UK's very own beatbox champion MC Zan.

As well as the built in speaker and battery operated portability, an audio 3.5 jack output means you can plug it in to a decent set of speakers for

some real lo-fi spitting beatbox action. There's also a neat looping function, an audio input for jamming along to your MP3s and a tempo pitch adjust. You'd have to have a heart of stone to not fall in love with this buzzing little beatbox. *Chris Barker*

9/10



Ortofon 02 Headphones | £105

ortofon-dj.com

Aimed at the DJ market, these styling cans are based around a chassis built by Ultrason, although the drivers themselves are built by Ortofon. As I often say in headphone reviews, plastic headphones and DJing do not mix. But, if you're a not as careless as me when

DJing, then the sound of these cans is actually very nice. Loads of mid make hearing the details in percussion and vocal very easy. There's reversible housing and enough cushioning for comfortable long sessions and best of all, they go extremely loud without distorting.

At around the £100 mark, they are top contenders in this price bracket. Give them a listen before you go with the obvious brands. *Chris Barker*

8/10



Urban Ears Headphones |

£55

urbanears.com

Sold mostly in the trendy art-meets-highstreet store, Urban Outfitters, these beautiful headphones are available in a selection of cool pastel shades and the usual matt black and white. They're lovingly crafted with a material finished headband and rope-like lead which give them a drool-worthy finish. Aside for the good looks and trendy retro design, the real unique thing is the ability to chain another set of headphones from a 3.5mm jack output located underneath one of the ear cups. So, one music source can be shared with ease. For the money the sound is pretty decent and for on the go listening and Smartphone/iPod purposes, there aren't too many better looking headphones for this price.

Chris Barker

7/10



Drum Tools 01 | £40
loopmasters.com



This impressive new release from Wave Alchemy contains just under 2,000 individual drum hits in 24-bit and 16-bit WAV format, along with sampler patches in all the most common formats, including Battery, Kontakt, EXS24 and Halion. Although it's clear that the sounds were designed with Minimal Techno and Tech House in mind, most of the samples are versatile enough to fit into any production style.

It's clear that the Wave Alchemy boys have put some serious effort into the creation of *Drum Tools 01* and as a result it comes highly recommended for producers of all Electronic genres.

Daniel Griffiths

9/10

Ambient Glitch Vol 3 | £15
timespace.com



We were big fans of the last volume of Ambient Glitch, so when Producer Loops' latest release arrived in the *FM* inbox we were keen to give it a listen. Comprising drums, percussion loops, lo-fi synth riffs, heavily processed bass loops and individual hits, *Ambient Glitch 3* is a weird and wonderful collection of samples which would be great for producers of atmospheric Dubstep, Hip Hop and Jungle.

As we mentioned in our review of volume 2, there's no need to be put off by the title if you don't produce Ambient or Glitch style music – this is an incredibly versatile collection, which should come in handy for producers of any genre. And at that price, you can't argue with that.

Greg Scarth

9/10

Trance Elevation Vol 2 | £35
loopmasters.com



With a whopping 5GB of sample content, this collection of ten construction kits contains just about everything you need to make your own big-stadium Trance anthems.

From synth riffs to slamming drum loops, you'll find everything here. We especially like the fact that variations and filtered versions of the riffs are included, allowing you to develop slowly evolving tracks. MIDI data is also included, making it easy to edit the notes, program variations and play back the patterns using your own synths.

Most parts are supplied as dry versions in addition to their processed form, making this a versatile Trance package at a competitive price.

Greg Scarth

8/10

Producers Loops: Lenny Dee – Hard Electronic | £20
timespace.com



New York Techno legend Lenny Dee joins forces with Producer Loops to present this package of nine Techno and House construction kits aimed at the harder end of the market. Content is delivered in Acidized WAV, Apple Loops, REX and ReFill formats, totalling 3GB of top quality content.

The samples range from drum loops to vocals and FX, plus just about everything in between. As you'd expect from someone involved in Electronic music since its infancy, production values are top notch.

At times things get pretty aggressive and Industrial, making this an ideal collection for producers of in-your-face House and Techno. **Greg Scarth**

8/10

Disco Gold | £80
timespace.com



Hot off the presses from Zero G comes this collection of over 800 samples grouped into 34 construction kits which offer a contemporary twist on classic Disco sounds. Don't be fooled into thinking this is just a retro package filled with Saturday Night Fever-esque strings – the content has all been created with modern Dance styles in mind.

As usual for Zero G, the samples are all 24-bit and supplied in just about every format you can imagine, along with patches for all the common software samplers. It's not cheap, but *Disco Gold* contains everything you need to add a pinch of Studio 54 magic to your tracks.

Greg Scarth

9/10

Nic Fanciulli by Global Underground | £20
loopmasters.com



Global Underground's Nic Fanciulli has accomplished much in his career thus far – gracing magazine covers, starting his own Saved label and countless remixes and big name collaborations. Not bad for a lad from Maidstone.

Now, he's sharing some of his success, offering 500MB of bass, drum and musical loops in three bpm's (120, 125 and 130) as well as 320 one shots in what he calls 'the perfect audio library'.

Those looking for something that pushes the envelope will need to look elsewhere as this is aimed squarely at the House fan. Bearing that in mind, this collection has a good selection of genre sounds, the one shots being particularly useful. For me the bass and white noise samples are where this pack delivers.

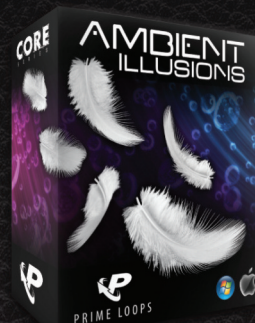
Roger Watson

7/10

PRIME LOOPS

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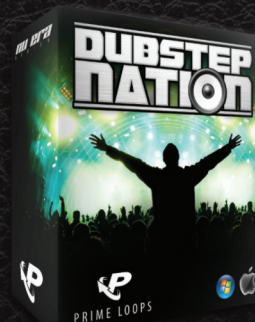
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