

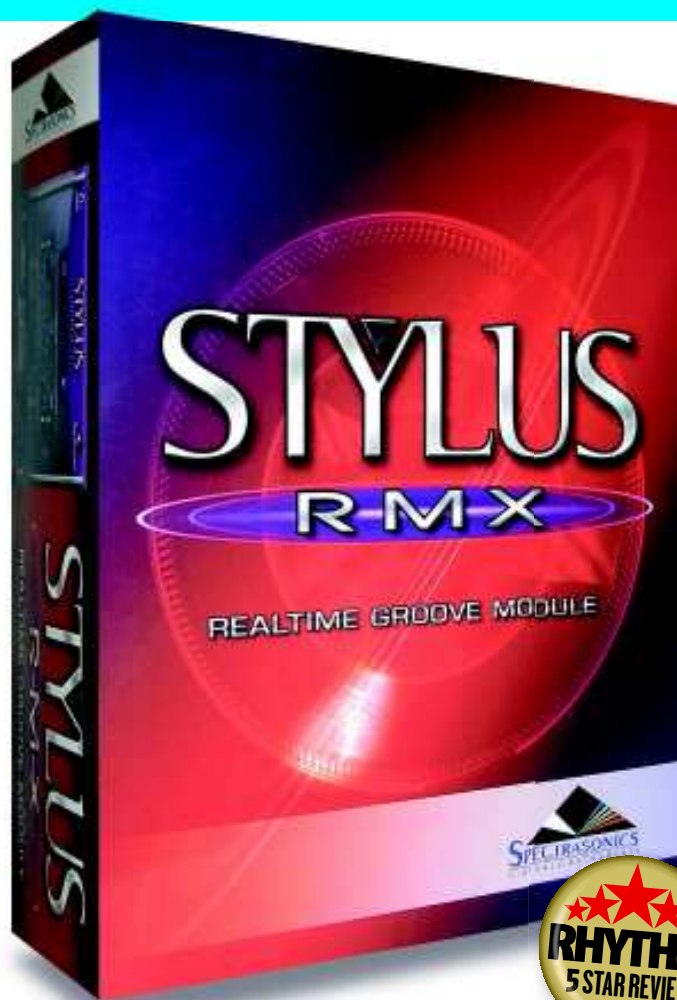
# NEW GEAR

ROUND-UP

## DRUM SOFTWARE

From £75 Cliff Douse gives his verdict on some of the latest drum software packages available

Drum software is hugely popular in modern music studios and it's easy to see why. The latest generation of drum sample players (BFD2, Superior Drummer 2, Battery 3 and Addictive Drums) sound breathtakingly authentic without having to be tuned, set up or miked up, while loops and MIDI files provide drummers and non-drummers alike with easy access to a huge range of authentic beats. Here are four of the most exciting products that are currently available. Each can be used within your host sequencer on a modern PC or Mac, but make sure you have enough disk space to accommodate their substantial sample libraries!



### SPECTRASONICS STYLUS RMX XPANDED 1.9 £269

This 'real-time groove module' has come a long way since we last reviewed it in *Rhythm* and versions 1.5, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 have all added significant updates to the original software. This latest version also includes five additional expansion libraries: Backbeat, Retro Funk, Burning Grooves, Metamorphosis and Liquid Grooves. It can even convert all formatted loops (including your own) into practically any time signature you like and 'groove lock' the feel of one groove to another in real time. Single hits are included too. **R**

**System Specs:** OSX 10.5, 1GHz G5 (Mac)/Windows XP/Vista, 1GHz P4 (PC), plus 1GB RAM, 8GB disk space.

Rating ★★★★★

Time + Space: 01837 55200/www.timespace.com

### TOONTRACK THE LOST NEW YORK STUDIOS £125



This Superior Drummer 2.0 expansion pack consists of drum sounds recorded at Allaire Studios and The Hit Factory in New York, both of which are now closed. A decent selection of kicks, snares, cymbals and toms is included, covering a wide range of sounds that can

be used for many different styles. We particularly like the sweet-sounding 16" Sabian hat (made from two crash cymbals!) and the meaty 26" Slingerland kick from the Allaire kit. **R**

**System Specs:** Mac/PC, Superior Drummer 2.0, 12GB disk space.

Rating ★★★★★

Time + Space: 01837 55200/www.timespace.com

### TOONTRACK CUSTOM & VINTAGE £125



Superior Drummer 2.0 expansion pack boasting a mouth-watering supply of vintage kick, snare, cymbal and tom samples, all played with sticks and brushes. Standouts include the Ludwig Black Beauty, Slingerland Radioking and Craviotto Timeless Timber

snares, and a charismatic 1950s Zildjian 22" ride, all recorded beautifully using an EMI TG Desk (used on The Beatles' *Abbey Road* and Pink Floyd's *Dark Side Of The Moon*). **R**

**System Specs:** Mac/PC, Superior Drummer 2.0, 12GB disk space

Rating ★★★★★

Time + Space: 01837 55200/www.timespace.com



### TOONTRACK DRUMTRACKER £75



If you've ever wanted to convert your home-made drum tracks into MIDI files for sequencing, now's your chance because this nifty little device does just that. Drumtracker has built-in filters that detect the most common drum instruments and you can also specify the velocity threshold

for each section of your song. It works great on simple, well-defined rhythms but struggled a bit with a super-fast Billy Cobham-style groove. **R**

**System Specs:** OSX 10.4, 1.25 GHz Dual G4 or better (Mac)/Windows XP/Vista, 1.8 GHz P4/Athlon (PC), plus 1GB RAM.

Rating ★★★★★

Time + Space: 01837 55200/www.timespace.com