

# Mini Reviews

The latest musical bits and pieces racked and rated



## Pocket Lab Works iRiffPort iOS | £79

[www.pocketlabworks.com](http://www.pocketlabworks.com)

**I**OS accessories are springing up from every corner as manufacturers try and capitalise on the success of Apple's magical devices. The iRiffPort is another attempt at providing a simple and effective solution for iOS guitarists looking to hook their beloved six-string to a quick practice amp app and start wailing.

It's a straightforward affair with a 30-pin Apple connector and 3.5mm Line Out on one end and a mono 1/4" jack and headphone out on the other – an inspired move that keeps everything neat and lets you play 'away' from your iOS device. Though Pocket Lab Works suggest you use it with their PocketAmp app, it worked

as a generic input source for GarageBand and all the apps we tried it with. In fact PocketAmp is a pretty basic option with only a few amp sims and tweaking parameters so we'd recommend branching out asap.

The iRiffPort itself feels well made, it works well, it's simple and it sounds good – better, in fact, than Line 6's cheaper Mobile In. And that neat 'plug in your headphones at the guitar connection' cable arrangement sets it apart for ease of use.

So it sounds great, it's built well and an ideal quick fix for guitarists. But for studio use you may need a fuller-featured dock. *Declan McGlynn*

**8/10**

## Prodipe Studio 22 Pro Audio Interface | £150

[www.zenaudio.com](http://www.zenaudio.com)

**F**rench music technology manufacturer/developer Prodipe's brick-like audio interface is a class-

compliant USB box aimed at the producer on a budget. It features two phantom-powered combi ins mixed with a pair of phono ins (for four channels of input, albeit summed to a stereo output), and two quarter-inch jack outs mirrored by a pair of phono outs. MIDI I/O, separate main and

headphone volume controls, input gain controls and a direct monitoring mix knob add up to a good array of functional options.

Prodipe make a lot of noise on their website about the Texas Instruments chipset at the heart of the unit, and it does indeed perform quite well for the price. The specs aren't up there with the likes of Apogee or RME, clearly (the quoted 93dB dynamic range and 89dB SNR

are decidedly unimpressive), but in use, it sounds pretty good. PC users benefit from an ASIO driver that lets them combine up to four Studio 22 Pros, record at 32-bit depth and get latency down to 2ms.

Mac users, however, are stuck at 16-bit/44.1kHz operation, which could well be a showstopper for many. *Martin Delaney*

**7/10**



## Sasha Soundlab | \$99

[www.audioraiders.com](http://www.audioraiders.com)

**T**his is more than a sound library" they say, and we agree. *Sasha Soundlab* is a vast Kontakt instrument that

really feels like a bunch of synths and drum machines, by virtue of making great use of Kontakt interface. And beneath the impressive construction is a library that's plentiful and quality with over 4,000 sounds arranged across Bass, Drums, FX and more. It's quick and easy to get a Sasha-soundalike tune moving in minutes. And the variety on board makes it an ideal shot in the arm for any flavour of House or IDM. *Daniel Griffiths*

**9/10**



## ShamanStems Acid House | £13

[www.soundstosample.com](http://www.soundstosample.com)



A shamelessly anachronistic library of drums, synths, vocals and FX, ShamanStems' latest certainly puts stylistic authenticity high on the agenda. Drawing on a host of classic synths and drum machines by Roland, Korg, Boss and Yamaha (starring the xOx range, as you'd expect), what *Acid House* lacks in surprises and originality it makes up for in energy and retro appeal.

It's hard to highlight anything in particular, as it's all pretty predictable, but the beats are nicely produced, the 303s are well programmed, and some of the textures are ace. I can't really fault this endearing collection of genuinely rave-tastic sounds in terms of value for money, and it does all sound pretty good. Just don't expect to hear anything even remotely original or contemporary.

Ronan MacDonald

# 7/10

## SM101 Sylenth Techno Patches | £17

[www.soundstosample.com](http://www.soundstosample.com)



101 presets for Lennar Digital's soft synth classic aimed at producers of all kinds of Techno. From melodic yet aggressive chords and moody, atmospheric pads to high-impact effects and some truly phenomenal bass sounds, everything here is fully on-point in terms of genre identity and fair bristling with attitude. The only real negatives are that there are no percussion sounds (could have been fun), and that it would have been nice to have the library included as a complete bank as well as separate presets. Other than that, though, this is a veritable Techno toolbox – a masterfully produced, wonderfully eclectic set of sounds that every Sylenth user should have on their hard drive.

Ronan MacDonald

# 9/10

## Hauswerks – A Spectrum of Haus | £25

[www.loopmasters.com](http://www.loopmasters.com)



Hauswerks debuts his sample making skill with this size-able 760MB offering. £25 gets you the usually bass, drum, and musical loops plus five decent construction kits and a plethora of one shots. The most striking thing about this pack is how instantly usable the drum and percussion loops were. There's a thick slab of warmth threaded into these and without much tweaking I was making hypnotic, Tribal House music. The bass loops are

deep and punchy, if perhaps a bit samey at times. The musical loops were one of this pack's few letdowns, sometimes uninspired and not meeting the same high standard elsewhere. Some of the one shots fell short, sounding the wrong side of retro, but on the whole quite crisp. If you like your House deep, grooving and soulful, you could do a lot worse than getting your hands on this pack. A well put together pack with plenty of authenticity.

Greg Scarth

# 8/10

## Glenn Morrison – Late Nights Early Beginnings | £61

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



An amazingly thorough collection of synthetic tones that would find a place in practically any EDM or IDM. There's hundreds of track-ready synth textures with a real emphasis on ambient and soundtrack-style sounds. The glitch beats and hits err on the side of Germanic Kraftwerkianism rather than dirty underground and the whole package feels super clean and perfect, in a sea of soundalike dirt, grunge and grime. Even the beats are precise and accurate rather than truly banging. For that reason it's a stand-out title but one that won't work for everyone. If you're remixing Pop tunes for an edgier tone or want to get a little more avante garde in your productions then this is for you, but if it's slamming in-your-faceness you're after then step back. And quality like this doesn't come cheap either.

Greg Scarth

# 8/10

## Quantum Loops Disco Drums | £20

[www.loopmasters.com](http://www.loopmasters.com)



Quantum Loops offer an authentic spin on classic Disco drums with this mouth watering pack coming in at just over 1GB. Within you'll find 45 drum loops (all at 123bpm) complete with natural groove and humanistic swing, great for injecting some life into robotic loops.

Accompanying these are stems will make up the said loops (usually kick, snare, overhead, hi-hat and room mics are provided). This was a nice touch and allowed more careful processing but felt were a bit tepid and needed work to slot into modern productions. Finally there's a comprehensive one-shot library, with similarly mic'd samples.

All in all, this was a nice idea, well executed but felt the level of detail was a step too far for the average producer, that said there are some great grooves in there. The 1.3GB size of the library can be a little deceiving.

Greg Scarth

# 7/10

# PRIME LOOPS

## WE'RE IN THE MIX

Prime Loops provide award-winning sound libraries, fresh in-tune with the evolving music scene. We are an extremely passionate team of engineers, sound designers & DJs, hailing from London, UK



## DUBSTEP SFX

"Dubstep SFX" is the ultimate heavyweight dubstep sound effects library, dealing out the drops blow by blow, delivering the percussive concussion that your production requires to reign in the ring with that thumping phat bass wobble! This pumped up SFX powerhouse has been primed specifically for the dubstep massive and is essential to any artist, producer or DJ!

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## TRAP ATTACK

Arm yourself with over 500Mb of the hottest super-slow, tricked-out dirty south rhythms, ultra-subterranean bass, operatic trap synth leads and so much more sound material to seriously step up your game. With Prime Loops' latest stash of trap music samples on your side, you won't need Admiral Ackbar to tell you when it's trap time!

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## DIRTY SOUTH VOCAL SAMPLES

Cut right through the sticky, urban air with Prime Loops' blazin' hot "Dirty South Vocal Samples" collection! This is the ultimate one-stop shop for all the Dirty and Southern vocal hooks, group shouts, urban hype hooks and hip hop phrases you'll ever need to make your tracks stand out!

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