



## Shure MOTIV MV51 | £159

[www.shure.co.uk](http://www.shure.co.uk)

The MV51 is a large capsule (25mm) cardioid condenser mic with audio interfacing housed in a hefty metal grille-fronted case. The pivoting kickstand leg allows desktop use, and removing the leg's rubber end also allows stand mounting.

The mic has inbuilt AD conversion and stereo headphone output (16 or 24-bit, 44.1 or 48kHz) and includes two connectors: a mini jack for the headphones, and a micro-B USB for interfacing (both USB/Lightning cables are included). The MV51 uses your device's integrated audio drivers (Windows 7 or 8, OS X 10.7 or later) and also supports direct connection to iOS devices (version 7 or later) and Android devices (must support USB 2.0 and Micro-B connectivity). iOS users can use Shure's free MOTIV app (requires iOS 8), which includes basic processing (EQ, limiter and compressor) and recording (MOTIV works as a recorder with your inbuilt iOS mic).

The mic front panel incorporates touch-sensitive switches for mic mute, mic gain (switchable to headphone gain) and five DSP presets (Speech, Singing, Acoustic, Loud and Flat). Sonically, it has a nice proximity up close, making it suitable for vocals and voiceovers. The onboard headphones also provide zero latency monitoring, blending the mic input and interface output for easy overdubbing. **Jon Musgrave**

8/10

## Elektron Overhub USB 3.0 Hub | £45

[eu.elektron.se](http://eu.elektron.se)

Hot on the heels of Overbridge is its ultimate accessory – Overhub. The diminutive little box is a USB 3.0 hub featuring a whopping seven ports. So that's all your peripherals and Overbridge-enabled Elektron instruments sorted then?!

Overhub is a very solidly built unit constructed in a steel chassis and, when combined with the adhesive rubber feet, won't be disappearing off your desk anytime soon – even when you have seven of Elektron's very nice, but rather chunky, USB cables attached.

Of all the items you will be attaching, the chances are you'll be wanting to plug in an external hard drive. Unfortunately, this is where the hub falls down slightly, as there is no power supply in the box and you will need it to run HDs and other power hungry items.

The Overhub is perfect for musicians but, at that price, it seems more of an Elektron fanboy purchase. Although it has to be said, you'll be hard pushed to find such a sturdy seven-way hub for much less.

My only real gripe with Overhub is that I wish it had a base to stand it on its end, thus saving that little bit more space on the desktop.

**Simon Arblaster**

8/10

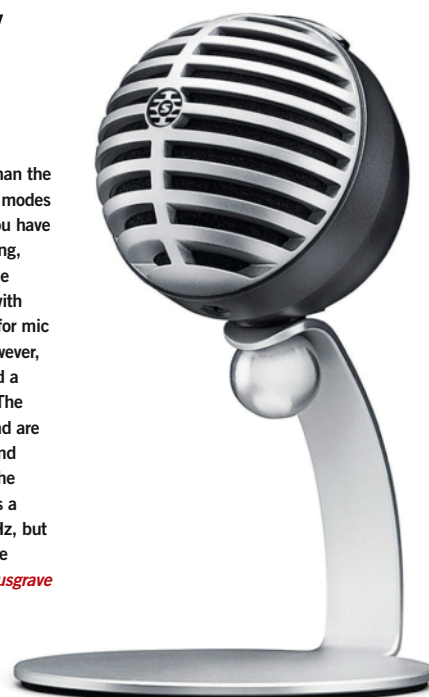


## Shure MOTIV MV5 | £89

[www.shure.co.uk](http://www.shure.co.uk)

The MV5 is a less rugged offering than the MV51 and includes only three DSP modes (Voice, Instrument and Flat). But you have the same Micro-B USB for interfacing, mini jack for zero latency headphone monitoring, and iOS compatibility with MOTIV. There's no onboard control for mic gain (set via your device driver), however, there is a mic mute on the back and a headphone level wheel on the top. The lightweight design and desktop stand are perfect for podcasting, voiceovers and even a bit of instrument tracking. The 16mm electret cardioid capsule has a slightly lumpy response above 10kHz, but it's our favourite sounding mic of the three, and seems very quiet. **Jon Musgrave**

9/10





# Shure MOTIV MV88 | £119

[www.shure.co.uk](http://www.shure.co.uk)

The MV88 is a stereo condenser mic that plugs straight into your Lightning equipped iPhone, iPad or iPod touch. It has two 1cm capsules in a mid-sides configuration, with 90 degree hinge and rotation of the overall capsule. The mic incorporates AD conversion (16-bit/44.1kHz or 24-bit/48kHz) but no headphone output, and needs Shure's free MOTIV app (iOS 8) for proper use. This provides adjustment of mic gain, mic pickup pattern (stereo, mono cardioid, mono figure 8 and raw mid-side) and M/S balance for the stereo option. There are also five DSP presets (as per MV51), an LF cut to reduce wind noise, L/R channel swap, and basic processing (EQ, limiter and compressor). The MV88 has a detachable foam windshield, and the whole kit is stored in a super-compact, black zip case. In use you'll notice it's much quieter than your inbuilt mic, and the stereo options are impressive. Nevertheless, basic cardioid operation is there should you need it. **Jon Musgrave**

**8/10**

## Class A Samples EDM Future vs Future House | £18.95

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



The guys at Class A Samples must have been living up to their name. Ten packs for the price of one?

You've got to be on the ten-pound pills to have okayed that one. Whatever the reason, it represents some real value for moolah, and is well worth pouncing on if you're in the market for a big stash of EDM and Future House sounds. The packs plundered include titles like EDM One Shots, Essential Big Room and Big Room Superstar Patches, so if you're after subtly, then jog on. There are over 1,200 WAV files to dig through, plus 99 MIDI files, and 469 VST presets for Sylenth, Massive and Serum. As with all the noise coming out of the Class A studios, the production is crisp and the loops inventive. **Roy Spencer**

**8/10**

## Vandalism Sounds Get Ready For The Drop 3 | £12.95

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



Ahh, the drop: that part of the tune that gives the drums a rest, and gives you a mo' to put your hands in the air. Signpost it well

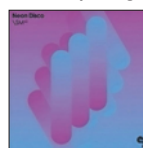
enough in your arrangement and you'll create electric tension on the dancefloor, and an epic contrast of build and release that'll drive crowds bonkers. Mess it up and the sound of disappointment will be the only thing ringing around the club. If you're having trouble fusing the right risers, FX, build-ups and booming fizzles into the right concoction in your tracks, then it may well be time to come and check out how the pros do it.

As with previous Get Ready For The Drops, you get a masterclass in build-up effects. Fusing multiple layers over the 50 loops on offer, Vandalism Sounds have packed a real punch into these eight-bar wonders. An essential addition to any sample library. **Roy Spencer**

**8/10**

## Sample Magic Neon Disco | £34.90

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



For SM65 the Sample Magic team have decided to shine a nostalgic hue on the type of Nu Disco that has been creeping

onto dancefloors of late. By breaking down its vital components and tracing its DNA strands back, in sample form, you get a well-balanced collection of old and Nu sounds. For every modern bassline they give you, you also get some old-school flavour. Classic '70s Disco grooves share space with the types of licks favoured by

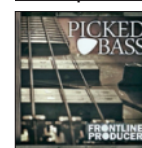
the Italo offshoots that followed, and vintage gear gets brought bang up to date.

The drum folders stock tweaked Linn and Roland lines, while the synth crop lets you choose between retro and modern hooks. All the folders are available separately on the Sample Magic site, so if you just want to break out some throwback cowbell and shaker loops, then you'll have change from a tenner. **Roy Spencer**

**8/10**

## Frontline Producer Picked Bass | £14.95

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



Put down your sine waves and wobbling synth loops for a minute and let's go back to the roots of

bass. The Frontline Producer crew certainly have, and then kindly pushed all the results through a crisp chain of vintage cabinets and Neve preamps, before capping it off with a meticulous Pro Tools polishing. We're talking hand-plucked and picked strings here, and ones that reverberate with the skilled touch of the live player. The resulting loops ooze an organic, hands-on groove, and are guaranteed to swell out your modern beats with a smoky Jazz club thump and Rock 'n' Roll dive-bar vibe. The two, four and eight bar loops come in keys of A, D, and E and slide along at 110, 120, and 130bpm, making them easy contenders for most Dance music genres, or even TV and film production work. **Roy Spencer**

**7/10**

## Dub Pistols Smoking Dubs | £29.95

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



Evergreen party starters, the Dub Pistols, have been welcomed into the Loopmasters sample

pack fold with open arms, and for good reason. The chance to plunder main man Barry Ashworth's beat banks is a rare treat, and anyone who has boogied to their patented blend of Ska/ Punk/Funk and Breaks will be equally buzzed with the opportunity to grab a slice of that flavour for their own productions.

The 999MB collection of loops, riffs, shots and hits have been handcrafted by Ashworth, and showcase the band's styles and influences from over the years. With one foot in the live scene and the other deep within their Loftworkz Studios in West London, this bumper crop of firing samples has something for everyone. From iconic Dub sirens and FX, to cone-melting bass sounds and epic horn lines, the emphasis is on the hard skank that only the Dub Pistols can bring. Smoking!

**Roy Spencer**

**9/10**