

Korg Kaoss Pad Quad

£275

Chris Barker pokes his fingers where they're not wanted and as usual, Kaoss ensues

WHAT IS IT?

A touch pad style DJ effects controller with multiple, controllable effects layers.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 1,295 different effects combinations
- 2 Freeze controls bank
- 3 Simple to set up and use

The legacy of Korg's touch-feely effects boxes is well known, with the first unit spicing up DJ sets and studio sessions way back in 1999.

But it's worth mentioning that this isn't a replacement to the flagship Kaoss Pad 3, but a new model that slots somewhere between the tiny KP Mini and the sampling and looping might that is the Kaoss Pad 3.

The main focus here is solely placed on effects and the ability to

achieve multiple combinations of effects and control their parameters fluidly with the touch pad in the usual Kaoss Pad style.

Twenty different effects are included, with the usual suspects such as high, band and low pass filters, distortions, delays, reverbs and modulation effects like flanging and phasing. These sit among more modern, chaotic loop chopping, slicing and vinyl-style break effects. These are all grouped in their relevant four

families on push buttons on the surface of the device.

In sync

Unboxing the unit reveals a thin and light unit that feels quite plastic and not exactly gig-ready. The soft rubber buttons for effects selection and control are more pleasant, brightly backlit and look like they'll suffer a bashing. Each effect section is in four parts with a freeze button below to keep each effect at the point you left it on the touch pad if required.

There's the usual FX Depth control allows to feed through a certain percentage of the original signal and an input volume helps to keep things at the right level. So really, technically everything is relatively simple. But, this simplicity when you consider the price might raise a few questions.

Although the KP Quad's automatic bpm calculator is fairly accurate and tap tempo can adjust when necessary, when dealing with time sensitive effects like delays, the loop slicer or beat repeat style effects, the lack of MIDI means you can't completely sync 'worry-free' in all situations. Don't



