

Nord C2D | £2,599

The C2D adds real drawbars to the already excellent and now improved C2 engine. **Dan 'JD73' Goldman** gets hands-on with Nord's new B3 beater

INCLUDES AUDIO

WHAT IS IT?

Upgraded version of the C2 organ with real drawbars, improved key click and percussion

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Lightweight, with B3-style ergonomics
- 2 Improved key click, percussion and new 122 rotary speaker model
- 3 Real drawbars

FutureMusic

Platinum Award

Almost three years after the launch of the C2, Nord present us with the C2D. Yes, the case maybe similar (albeit a darker red with a black/yellow panel) but the biggest difference is that the C2D is adorned with a full set of real drawbars, laid out in the main as a Hammond B3, so diehard organists will immediately feel at home.

This is something that has been sorely missed on Nord's of the past, at least by the Hammond purists, and so for them the C2D is now a hugely viable B3 alternative, not just in terms of sound but perhaps even more importantly, authentic playability.

Grabbing drawbars is an integral part of the tonewheel organ playing experience and as great as Nord's button/LED drawbar system is, you just can't beat the real thing. The four sets of drawbars (two for each manual and one set of pedal drawbars) also feel like those on a real B3 too, which adds to the overall experience. Close your eyes, grab some drawbars and you'd be hard-pushed to tell the C2D from a real B3, save for the air from the Leslie

blowing your hair (if you have hair of course, unlike me).

Key changes

So what else has changed? Well, the keybed feels pretty much the same as the C2, a little stiffer than a real

Hammond but nonetheless very playable and easy to control – note that the springs do slacken off a little once played in. The space either side of the control panel on the C2 is now gone, so there's no room to perch your laptop anymore, but that's no biggie. The preset controls (three per manual) are now conveniently positioned down the left-hand side of the keyboard for easy access, though it would have been great if the rotary controls had been squeezed in by the lower manual too, as if you don't shell out for the optional half-moon rotary switch (£126 inc VAT) you have to reach up to the main panel to change the rotary speed which is quite a stretch. The half-moon switch is therefore a must, so factor that into your budget – it really should be

Real Drawbars and Presets

At the top edge of each drawbar is a red LED that signifies which are active within each of the three available presets per

manual. To edit a preset, simply hold the corresponding preset button whilst moving one of the drawbars that has a

lit LED. The LED will switch on or off when the drawbar passes its stored position value, so you always know what the actual stored preset value is and how far from that you are when tweaking. Each manual also has a drawbar A and B button that makes them active in their current position and brings into focus either of the two sets for each manual. To make things even clearer, each drawbar set also has a focus button, so you always know which is active.



