

WHAT IS IT?
 A major update to Spectrasonics' flagship synthesizer

CONTACT
 Who: Time+Space
 Tel: +44 (0)901 8800002
 Web: spectrasonics.net

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 'Orb' sound design is genuinely thrilling
- 2 iPad remote useful for studio and live users
- 3 So much easier to see your editing choices via 'zoom' re-vamp

PRICING

V1.5 update:
£Free
 to registered users
 Omni TR iPad app:
£Free



Spectrasonics Omnisphere v1.5 Update | £329

Spectrasonics' Omnisphere was a powerful synth already but *Jono Buchanan* discovers that the 1.5 update takes it into the stratosphere...

While there are plenty of third-party synth plug-ins available on the market-place today,

it's fair to say that few pack as much sonic punch and are capable of quite such an array of sounds as Spectrasonics' Omnisphere.

I was lucky enough to run the rule over this synth behemoth when it first landed and was staggered by its capabilities. You'll recall that the 'oscillator' content for sound development in Omnisphere contains the famous burning piano, sampled

lightbulb filaments and a wide range of other leftfield sound sources and, combined with a monstrous synth engine, this gives Omnisphere a unique, 'organic' sound.

A major Omnisphere update is now available for free to all registered users and it's significant enough that we decided it was worthy of a review in its own right... So what's new?

The Orb

The Omnisphere makeover is most dramatically represented by the 'Orb' which is a circular real-time sonic

manipulation window, representing a kind of 'radar' read-out, complete with a centralised target. The original patch lies at the centre of this target, so by moving the point which you'll find there away from the centre, around the circles, parameters relating to the loaded patch begin to change, producing a constantly evolving set of sonic variations.

What's great is that the Orb has been configured for every single patch in the library with optimum settings to produce radical or subtle sonic manipulation depending on what seems most relevant for the sound you've loaded. Better still, however, if you don't like the sonic variations offered by the default Orb parameters, you can click the Dice button, which 'rolls' in a set of replacements, providing a second collection of assigned parameters.

Indeed, you can keep doing this until you find a collection of parameters which allow you to create the variations you can hear in your head. Suffice to say that, while preserving the sonic start-point of any program, this feature alone provides hours of intuitive sound design capabilities.

iPad support

For iPad owners, the news gets even better. Orb is also available via the Omni TR (Touch Remote) iPad application, which can be downloaded for free. When installed, this seeks out

