

Mini Reviews

The latest musical bits and pieces racked and rated



Ortofon O-One | £150

ortofon-dj.com.com

Probably better known for their turntable cartridges, Ortofon have been a recognised brand among DJs for years. This new set of cans sees them entering the DJ monitor market using the same tried and tested shell design as their competitors. Whether you choose these or not will entirely depend on your DJ style, because if you're the type of DJ that is constantly whipping

your headphones on and off then the build quality of these might not fill you with confidence. If, however you keep your headphones on your noggin most of the time, then these are a comfortable set with a really open sound. I really enjoyed listening to music on these headphones, but they'd last less than six months in my DJ bag. **Chris Barker**

8/10

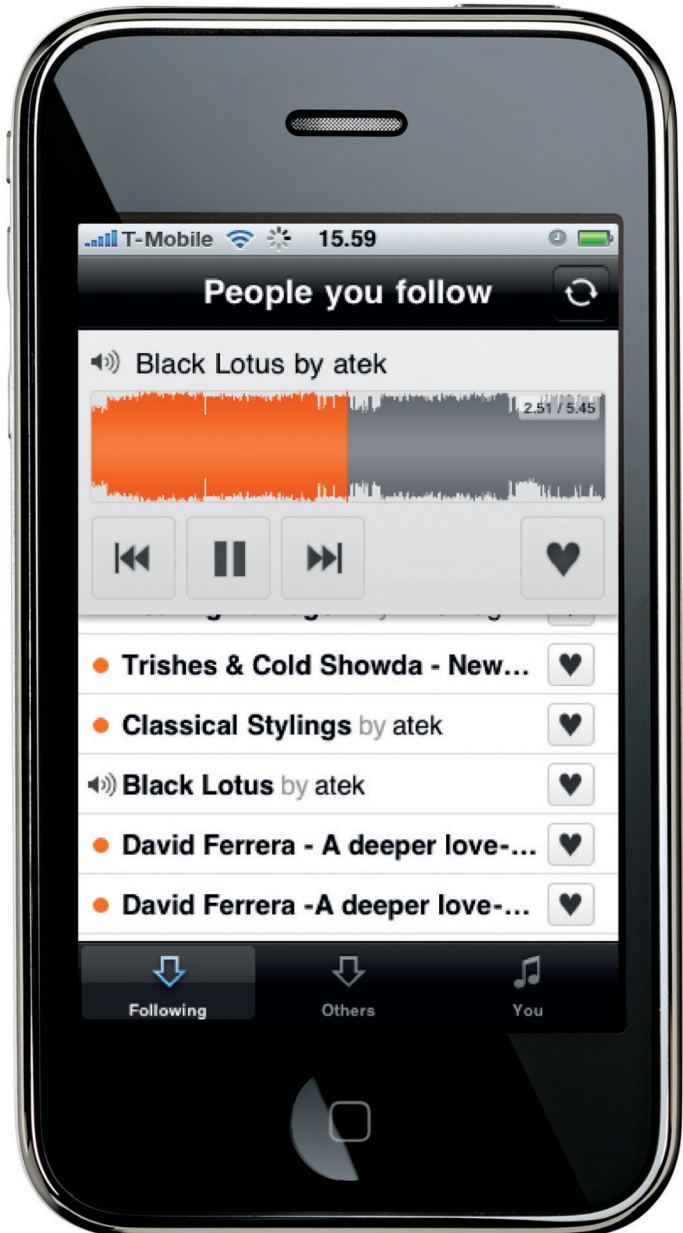
bx_cleansweep | £Free

brainworx-music.de

Since winning the world-famous *Future Music Plug-ins of the Year* award in 2008, Brainworx been churning out some smaller but no less impressive plugs, including *bx_boom*, a kick-specific weighty processor and the free *bx_solo*, an handy M/S tool. Next up is *bx_cleansweep*, a simple high- and lo-pass filter plug, taken from their acclaimed *bx_digital EQ*

section. Brainworx encourage you to slot cleansweep in first in the chain in every channel of your mix and, it's a valid argument when you consider the channel strips of classic consoles from SSL and Neve. Cleansweep performs beautifully, filtering in a very musical and clean way, creating aural holes for each element in the mix. Controlling the low-end is vital for a clean and tight mix and with cleansweep, your high and low frequencies are in good hands. And it's free. What are you waiting for? **Declan McGlynn**

9/10



SoundCloud iPhone App | £0.59

soundcloud.com

Although SoundCloud is just over one year old, its intuitive features, friendly GUI and private sharing functions have made it incredibly popular among producers, musicians and corporations alike. Its waveform interactivity and user feedback focus meant that it was destined for mobile use and Apple's AppStore is its first stop. As expected, the app looks great, with three concise options in the menu: Following, Others and You – all pretty self-explanatory. Rather

than it being a SoundCloud mobile solution though, it's more the website, optimised for iPhone/iPod – we would have liked to see some mobile-exclusive features. Perhaps cache your tracks for offline listening or even uploading or downloading direct to iPhone? If you're a heavy user of the site, for the price, and for the ease of use and access, it's a no-brainer.

Declan McGlynn

8/10



Ambient Glitch Vol 2 | £15

producerloops.com

Producer Jeff Rhodes delivers the goods again with this highly original library of beats, loops and riffs. To add even more glitchy goodness, a lot of the material here is heavily processed using effects like bitcrushing and excessive compression and the end result is an excellent library of inspiring loops and hits. Available in Apple Loops or Acidized WAV format, the samples generally range from around 80-140bpm, providing a wide variety of different options and making them incredibly versatile. Even if you wouldn't describe your music as Ambient or Glitch, there's bound to be something here which you'll find useful. *Declan McGlynn*

9/10



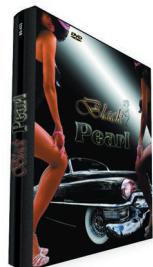
Liquid Drum and Bass | £20

producerloops.com

With just five construction kits in the pack, Liquid Drum and Bass might seem like a small collection, but with 30-40 individual loops for each kit there's enough content here to make this one well worth checking out. All of the 24-bit samples aim for the higher end of the Drum 'n' Bass tempo range, clocking in at 177bpm, but Producer Loops have created samples which are versatile enough that they won't restrict D&B producers to Liquid. In fact, even producers of Breakbeat and Dubstep will find plenty here that could easily fit into their productions. Highly recommended.

Greg Scarth

8/10



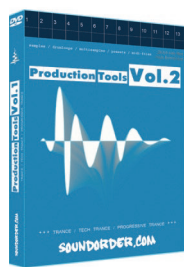
Black Pearl | £87

timespace.com

With 35 construction kits covering a variety of R&B, Hip Hop and Pop flavours, Black Pearl is a pretty good place to start if you want a broad-ranging collection of urban loops and sounds, covering most standard formats such as REX, Acid Loops, WAV and HALion.

Tempos range from a positively lethargic 63bpm right up to 104bpm, covering most of the current R&B flavours along the way. With drums, bass, brass, strings, synths and percussion loops to choose from, this slick, comprehensive package offers a little bit of everything and is definitely worth a look if you're just starting to build your own R&B sample collection, with a good price for the broad range. *Greg Scarth*

7/10



Production Tools Vol 2 | £75

timespace.com

Germany's soundorder.com are better known for their soundsets but this complete sample package, the second they've released, shows that they can compete with the big boys in this field too. There are 35 demo tracks to help you audition all the samples and give you an idea of what's on available and everything's presented in 24-bit WAV and Apple Loops AIFF format.

The content is very Trancey, with a nod to Progressive and Tech along the way. It's all very German but that's no bad thing right now, with so many top House producers looking to our Teutonic friends for inspiration. With 3.5GB of content there's certainly plenty to be going at.

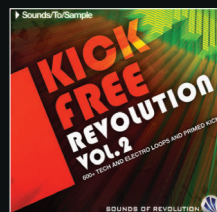
Chris Barker

8/10

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SELECTED PRODUCTS

Sounds/To/Sample

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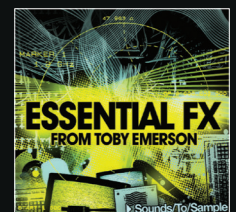
Sounds Of Revolution Kick Free Revolution 2

NEW & EXCLUSIVE!
The legend returns with 550+ all-new tight, trashy, techy tops and deep, tribal percussive workouts. Check it out. **£29.95**



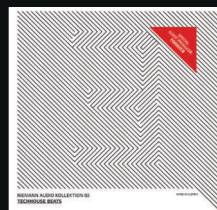
Motion Samples Hoodlum Orchestra

160 all-new lush horn and string compositions and melodies for bangin' urban anthems and easy-flowin' hip hop beats. **£21.19**



Sounds/To/Sample Essential FX

EXCLUSIVE!
Mighty sweeps, ring-mod falls, huge bombs, uplifiers, glitches, grime and more in this essential 650MB+ collection of prime effects. **£19.95**



Riemann Kollektion Tech-House Beats 3 feat. Format:B

Massive third release on Florian Meindl's label that takes a minimal, tech, afro-influenced route. In the number 1 spot for the fifth week. **£19.95**



Sample Magic Dubstep & Grime

EXCLUSIVE!
Aggressive beats, raw rhythms and abrasive basslines in the latest from Sample Magic, featuring 100s of dark, dubbed-out hardstep grooves. 1.5GB total content. **£38.99**



Wolsfraektroes Music Tech House and Progressive House Sessions

Sublime collection of progressive house song-starters featuring 280+ raw loops and 10 construction unique kits - including Midi files! **£18.95**



Industrial Strength DnB Rough Connections 3

BHK and Industrial Strength are back with Rough Connections 3 featuring 780MB of all-new rippin' reeses, ball-bustin' breaks and slackin' synths for filthy DnB. **£29.99**



Bluezone Afro Tribal Drumloops

20% OFF!
Down and dirty rhythm injection of rich, warm African and ethnic tribal percussion. 180MB of deep loops and sublime one-shots. **£11.95**



Zenhiser Pure Minimal Groove Loops

60 unadulterated grooves for the concerted minimalist, with beats, rhythms and basslines built from the ground up to deliver nothing but pure detail and raw funk. **£4.99**

www.soundstosample.com