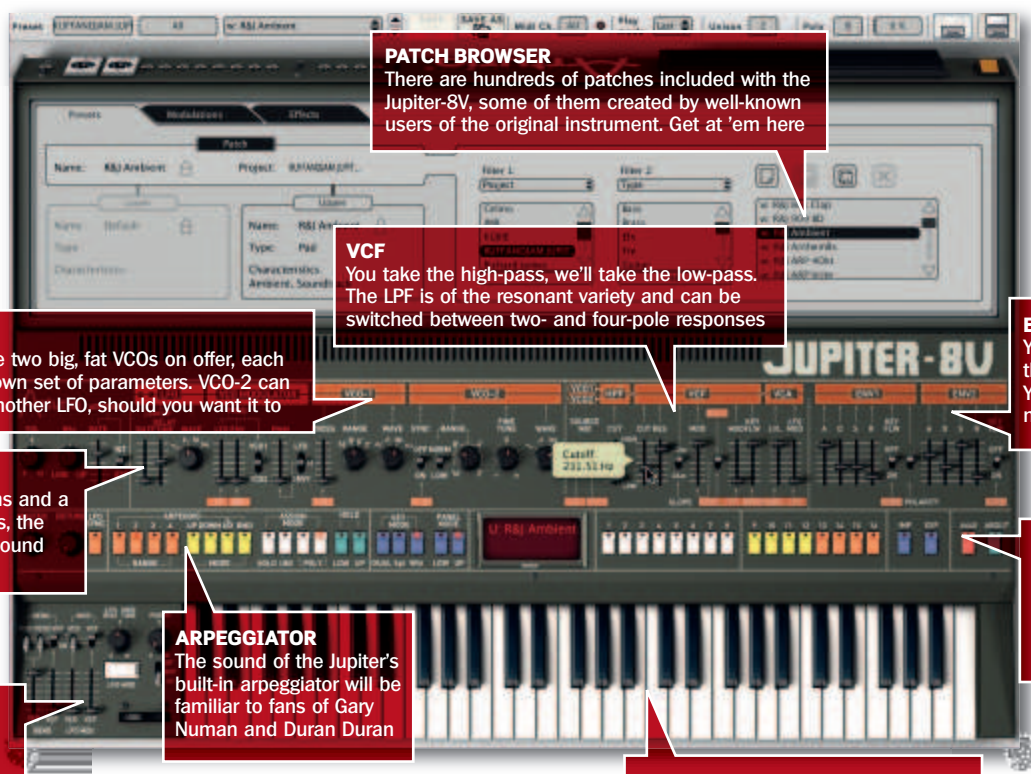


Mac PC What is it? A Roland Jupiter-8 emulation PRICE: £150

CONTACT: Arbitr, 020 8207 7880 WWW.arturia.com



**PATCH BROWSER**  
There are hundreds of patches included with the Jupiter-8V, some of them created by well-known users of the original instrument. Get at 'em here

**VCF**  
You take the high-pass, we'll take the low-pass. The LPF is of the resonant variety and can be switched between two- and four-pole responses

**VCO**  
There are two big, fat VCOs on offer, each with its own set of parameters. VCO-2 can act as another LFO, should you want it to

**ENVELOPES**  
You get two of 'em, and they're standard four-stagers. You can invert them for negative modulations

**LFO**  
With four waveforms and a host of destinations, the Jupe's LFOs are a sound designer's dream

**A440**  
Do we really need a button that activates a 440Hz tone? In the old days, this was used to tune up temperamental analogue synths

**ARPEGGIATOR**  
The sound of the Jupiter's built-in arpeggiator will be familiar to fans of Gary Numan and Duran Duran

**LEFT-HAND CONTROLLERS**  
Set up your pitch and modulation wheels using these familiar left-hand control parameters. Did anyone really like that Roland pitchbend wheel?

**TICKLE THE IVORIES**  
There is, of course, a virtual keyboard. The JP-8V allows for splits and layers across the keyboard for thick sounds

# ARTURIA Jupiter-8V



**On the DVD**

**AUDIO DEMOS**  
You can hear Jupiter-8V's arpeggiator, ring modulation and unison options in action in the Audio Demos folder

Some thought it would never happen, but at long last, we have a software version of Roland's much sought-after analogue polysynth...

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

**PC:** 1.5GHz CPU, 512MB RAM, Windows 9x/2000/XP  
**Mac:** 1.5GHz CPU, 512MB RAM, OS X 10.3 or later

**TEST SYSTEMS**

**Mac:** iMac Intel Core 2 Duo 2.16GHz, 1GB RAM, OS X 10.4.9, M-Audio FireWire Solo, Steinberg Cubase 4  
**Mac:** PowerMac G5 Dual 2GHz, 1.5GB RAM, OS X 10.3.9, MOTU 828MkII, Ableton Live 6, Apple Logic Pro 7  
**PC:** AMD Athlon 64 3000+, 512MB RAM, Windows XP Home, M-Audio Audiophile 24/96, Cakewalk Sonar 6 PE

The developers at Arturia must be putting in some serious hours at the moment. They may be busy putting the finishing touches to their Origin hardware synthesizer, but somehow, they've also found the time to release the Jupiter-8V. Synthesizer aficionados have long desired a software emulation of Roland's classic eight-voice analogue instrument (that'll be the Jupiter-8), and the original developers actually took a sort of sideways stab at it when they released their hardware-dependent VariOS-8 a few years ago. However, this wasn't terribly convincing.

Fortunately for us, Arturia's offering is a different kettle of fish entirely. The company have already made a name for themselves with some cracking software emulations of classic synths, though it should be said that a couple of their recent releases have been just a touch disappointing. With the Jupiter-8V, though, they're firmly back on track.

**Jumpin' Jupiter!**

The synth is a cross-platform, 32-voice instrument that can be used standalone or as a plug-in (all the major formats are supported). On the

surface, it looks much like the hardware on which it's based: it sports a pair of oscillators per voice, a dual filter design and standard ADSR envelopes. There's a pair of LFOs onboard and, as you would expect on a modern instrument, some built-in effects processors. An arpeggiator has been thrown in for good measure.

These features can actually be found in any number of synthesizers, but the Roland Jupiter-8 wasn't just any synthesizer. Even polyphonic instruments were a rarity in 1981, but the Jupiter went further still by being multitimbral. It was also one of the first

synths to offer splits and layers across the keyboard, and Arturia's emulation shares this ability. This enables the creation of deep, complex sounds that can be nothing short of huge. In fact, even if you don't do any layering at all, the Jupiter-8V is capable of some seriously massive timbres and, if these aren't enough, you can always use the unison function. This takes you from massive to practically galactic – trance fans are going to eat this thing up.

### It's a gas

So the basics are all here, but it's the little things that make the Jupiter stand out. You'll find cross-modulation between the oscillators, for example, and you can also sync the oscillators for those ever-popular 80s leads. VCO2 can also be switched between normal and low-frequency modes.

While we're on the subject of the oscillators, we should say that they offer six different wave shapes between them, including noise and modulatable pulse waves.

Once you've selected your waves, you can mix them and send them

## "ARTURIA HAVE OUTDONE THEMSELVES WITH THE FILTER"

through the dual filters. You get a 6dB non-resonant high-pass filter and a low-pass filter with a selectable slope (12 and 24dB) and a resonance slider. Neither filter self-resonates (but neither did those on the real thing). The filter can be modulated by the LFO,

## Sequence of events

Users of the Jupiter-8V will find another new modulation source that wasn't present on the original hardware: a 32-step sequencer. Though Roland were famed for their sequencers – from the dedicated hardware MC-8 to the now-ubiquitous grid-style sequencers that they built into their drum machines – they didn't actually bother to build one into the Jupiter-8. And even if they had done, we doubt that it would have had the power of the Jupiter-8V's sequencer module.

Sequences are entered into a familiar-looking grid, while glide and accent are offered for each step (for those moments when you just have to imitate a TB-303). The JP-8V will generate a random sequence, should you want it to, and you can sync to the host and control up to three different modulation destinations. These include the pitches of the VCOs, the cutoff of both filters and the resonance of the LPF. Patterns can be played forward, backward, back and forth, and randomly, while swing is on tap, too. This is all good fun, though we wish that the sequence length could be modulated so that we could capture the spirit of those old-fashioned Berlin School jams. Still, while it's not as innovative as the



▲ Roland sure loved their step sequencers, and now the J-8V has one too

Galaxy module, the sequencer module goes some way towards ensuring that the Jupiter-8V won't get lost in the crowded VA marketplace.

keyboard and Envelope 2, in both positive and negative directions.

And the sound? It's superb! Arturia have outdone themselves with the filter: it sounds warm and alive and reacts smoothly to real-time tweaking.

The Jupiter-8V's modulation sources include the aforementioned pair of

controller, but one in which the X and Y outputs are spun around on their axes (you can choose three destinations for each of these). The Galaxy module is an interesting and inspiring modulation source that's a lot of fun to watch, too.

As you'd expect, there are loads of built-in effects: delays, reverbs, choruses and all the usual suspects. What isn't so usual is the ability to plug effects in at various steps in the synthesis signal path; you can stick a chorus in after the oscillators but before the filters, for example. What's more, effects can be modulated by a handful of sources, including the Galaxy module. Cool.

### Not of this Earth?

The Jupiter-8V is a bit special. Its sound is convincingly analogue (if a little 'precise'), and there are enough new features to keep things interesting. We can't say enough about the Galaxy module, and we wish all built-in effects processors were this flexible.

It isn't perfect, though. We suffered a crash during the course of our review (though it was just the one) and then there's the CPU consumption. On our 2.16GHz Core 2 Duo iMac it sucks up 6% of the CPU just sitting there. Playing a four-note chord can drive the CPU meter to over 26%, and you can double this for the same patch on our Athlon 64 3000+.

So, what we have here is a big synth with a big sound and a big appetite. Rest assured, though, that the Jupiter-8V is well worth the processing power – this is arguably Arturia's best effort yet. **cm**



▲ Stare too long at the Galaxy module and you'll be hypnotised (possibly into buying more Arturia gear)

### ALTERNATIVELY

#### LinPlug Albino 3

cm104 » 9/10 » £133

This popular four-oscillator hybrid may not be a direct descendent of the Jupiter-8, but it offers many similar features and comes at an agreeable price point

#### GForce impOSCar

cm71 » 8/10 » £90

A recreation of another early-80s favourite, impOSCar is very easy to use. It sounds less analogue than the Jupiter-8V, though

## VERDICT

### FOR

- + Big, bold sounds
- + Galaxy module is cosmic, man!
- + Flexible effects processors
- + Easy layering of sounds
- + Nifty built-in sequencer...

### AGAINST

- ...Now if only we could modulate the sequence length too!
- CPU usage is stratospheric

We've been critical of some of Arturia's recent efforts, but this one is right on the money. Jupiter-8 fans are going to love it

### RATING

