

# Mini Reviews

The latest musical bits and pieces racked and rated

## Shure SRH840 Studio Headphones | £213

[shure.com](http://shure.com)

**F**rom the moment you slip these onto your head, your ears begin to thank you. Firstly, they're supremely built with the majority of their construction being solid black metal.

The cups are large and comfortable and the seamless headband and adjusters mean they'll sit perfectly for hours without any sweat, slippage or fatigue. Little touches such as the highly visible L

and R labelling and the bayonet locking on the (removable and replaceable) 3m long cord mark these out as professional, but the ability to fold them up small and their comparatively light weight will make them just at home for (serious) casual listening or travelling.

It's the sound that amazes however, leaving all other bass-rich 'phones we've enjoyed seeming hyped and boomy in comparison. The bass

here feels true rather than enhanced. It's the mids that really work well best though. Shriill 'brick-walled' mixes, come through as defined and spacious while hats and cymbals have genuine live sizzle without sibilance.

They're pricey but we reckon you can hear the difference. Try them, then be prepared to buy them.

**Daniel Griffiths**

**9/10**



106 FutureMusic



## Sony Ericsson W715 | £15 per month

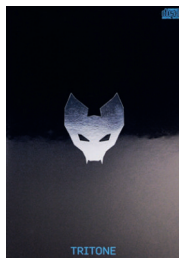
[vodafone.co.uk](http://vodafone.co.uk)

**S**ony – purveyors of the original Walkman – have added yet another W-musicphone to their already 26-strong range. The build is robust with a nice slide action. Using the supplied PC-only software MP3 and AAC files can be loaded onto the phone via USB or Bluetooth. Mac users will need to manually navigate the phone. The W715 control for the Walkman has to be the highlight. By pressing (and holding) the hotkey, volume can be increased or decreased by rotating the phone, or give it a shake for shuffle. Feature-packed and fun to use, this phone is everything that the W705 should have been.

**Phil Cheesbrough**

**8/10**





## Tritone Dark Side of the Tune | \$70

[darksideofthetune.com](http://darksideofthetune.com)

Themed around the legendary augmented fourth musical interval rather than a specific genre, this three-CD "salute to dissonance" draws together all of the offerings from sample newcomers Dark Side of the Tune as a boxed set.

The samples are OK, there just aren't many of them. We wonder why companies spread samples over a few CDs when they'd easily fit on one disc – the 725 files would easily fit on a single CD. It's cheap and cheerful but how about more content and file formats next time? **Greg Scarth**

**7/10**



## Sunrise Sessions | £60

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)

A blissful collection of down-tempo samples from the always reliable Sample Magic – this one's got a great relaxed feel to it without straying too far into the cheesy clichés that Chillout can sometimes occupy.

Although most of the samples would work well in any genre, some of the sounds bring to mind early Massive Attack and Tricky's softer side and would be great for mid-tempo Break-based production. Others show much more of a Balearic influence and would suit more House-influenced Chillout tracks.

Definitely worth a look if you're looking to calm things down a bit and would work well pretty much across the board.

**Chris Barker**

**8/10**



## Vintage R&B | £72

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)

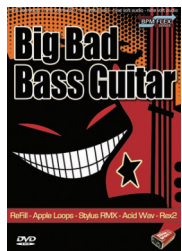
Big Fish Audio find form yet again with this fantastic collection of varied samples. Live drums, guitar, bass, keys and a huge selection of horns and percussion combine to make up 25 excellent construction kits.

Motown and Stax get a mention as inspiration but it's clear there's also a heavy influence from modern retro Soul in here too in a Daptone/Mark Ronson/Amy Winehouse kind of style.

The recording quality is top notch and the playing is tight and Funked-up throughout. Hip Hop, Pop and Breakbeat producers will find plenty to get their teeth into here. Excellent stuff.

**Daniel Griffiths**

**9/10**



## Big Bad Bass Guitar | £70

[timespace.com](http://timespace.com)

After Big Bad Guitars, Nine Volt Audio return with this dedicated bass guitar sample disc.

With everything from 80-152bpm, single notes, riffs, slides, song parts and long sustained notes, there should be just about everything you need to put together some monster basslines suitable for a wide range of genres. REX2, RMX, Apple Loops, Acidized WAV and ReFill files mean there's something for everyone in terms of formats available.

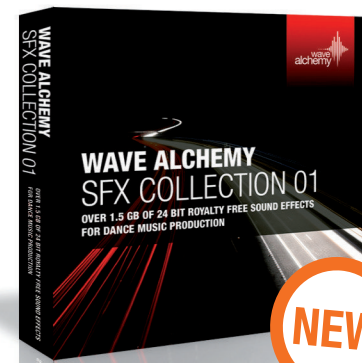
A lot of the sounds are quite Rock-y and it won't be to everyone's taste but if you're in need of some serious bottom end there might well be a few samples here that'll interest you.

**Greg Scarth**

**7/10**

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