

MINI REVIEWS



Korg Module for iOS | £28

www.korg.com

Following on from the success of their iPad 'studio' Gadget, Korg have returned with an app aimed squarely at keyboard players and live musicians. As its name suggests, Module is a sound module featuring five sound engines – acoustic piano, electric piano, clav, organ and multi – and

over 1GB of sound content. Each engine offers a range of different sounds with a limited, albeit well selected range of parameters for tweaking. There's also an image/PDF display function for viewing set lists and sheet music.

In short, Module offers the best piano and organ sounds we've tried

for iOS. It's not the cheapest app, but connect up a decent quality, iOS compatible MIDI keyboard and Module turns your iPad into a solid, portable and highly-convincing sound source which is more than capable enough for small gigs and practice studio jam sessions.

Gadget owners also get access to a selection of Module's sounds within that app too, which further sweetens the deal. **Si Truss**

8/10

Prodipe Studio Monitors Pro 6 | £270 per pair

www.redchilliaudio.com

Prodipe's Pro 6 monitor is a budget bi-amp (90 Watts) nearfield. Each unit combines a 6.5-inch black silk aluminium cone with two 1-inch silk dome tweeters. Connectivity is good (TRS jack, XLR and RCA phono) and further rear panel controls include volume (-30-6dB) and HF adjustment (+1, 0, -1 and -2dB shelving at 2kHz). It includes rear ported bass reflex, so it's important to keep it away from a rear wall, and the cabinet design allows both vertical and horizontal orientation. Each speaker is compact and fairly heavy (9kg), and construction and finish are excellent.

Twin tweeter loudspeaker designs are rare, in part down to the potential for a compromised off axis response. Alas, the Pro 6 does suffer here, and the speaker orientation dictates whether this is worse as you move vertically or horizontally away from the sweet spot. Nevertheless, it has good low-end extension and crisp, detailed mid range. The HF control allows for some tweaking (I preferred it at -1dB), but it's a shame there's no LF compensation for wall proximity.

All told it's not without limitations, but at just over £250 a pair, it will no doubt find its niche. **Jon Musgrave**

7/10



UDG Creator Laptop Stand | £130

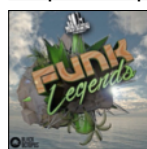
www.udggear.com

Space is a commodity that most of us have problems with. Luckily UDG have come to our aid. The Creator Laptop Stand is a very sturdy two-tier laptop/controller stand that offers tilt and swivel movement for the top shelf. The middle shelf is static however, but it's not a problem as there is plenty of height adjustment available. It packs down into a portable size and comes complete with a handy neoprene carry case. **Simon Arblaster**

8/10

Black Octopus Sound Basement Freaks: Funk Legends | £28

www.producerloops.com



George Fotiadis is possibly the hardest working man in Nu-Funk. He's the crown-ruler of Greece's bubbling funky breaks scene, and has had a slew of dancefloor bombs on taste-making labels like Goodgroove and Jalapeno.

For his first sample pack he's stripped out the backbone of what makes his music groove: The Funk. The 809MB of content is fit to bursting with killer live recordings of Funk staples like brass stabs and loops, flute, wah-wah guitar, clavichords and Moog bass. Percussion and drums are also taken care of with three full construction kits, and a lively collection of maracas, congas and shakers up for consideration. James Brown-style vocal adlibs round off a pack that helps it live up to the title of Funk Legends. **Roy Spencer**

8/10

Sample Magic Future R&B | £34.90

www.samplemagic.com



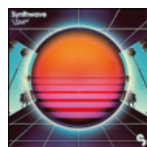
In this 1GB+ collection of forward-thinking electronica Sample Magic compile the type of blissed-out sounds that the more prescient producers have been hinting at of late. Think current Trap and FlyLo flavours.

Of the loops, MIDI files, hits and kits, the crisp rhythms, courtesy of Roland's classic drum machines, certainly stand out. TR-909 and 606 sessions form the basis of the drum loops on offer, and have bags of clap and character. These are complemented perfectly by warmly recorded synths like the Juno-60 and MS-20. The tempo groups glide from 110 to a more frantic 150bpm, allowing you to dip into everything from '90s R&B templates to more modern, skittering, programming styles. It's a drowsy palette of melodic sounds, and makes for quite the trip. **Roy Spencer**

8/10

Sample Magic Synthwave | £34.90

www.samplemagic.com



Looking for the kind of retro electronic sound Cliff Martinez channelled when sound-tracking Ryan Gosling's moonlighting getaway man in Drive? Look no further than this iconic collection of '80s-inspired licks and grooves. The vintage machines that made the era hum are all present and correct in this 1GB pack. From the mighty Linn Drum to the legendary Jupiter-8,

through to less-celebrated characters like the Yamaha RX21, you get a real selection of classic hardware to add to your sound banks. Of all the folders, the ones marked synth and bass hold the prize picks, with leads lovingly tweaked to produce an electric collection of loops and riffs. Same deal with the Inspiration Loops set, which boasts 40 folders (also available to buy separately) of full melodic mixes, and their individual stems.

With synth-laden, '80s electronica cropping up more in Hollywood film scoring, this timely collection could prove a hit with the next wave of midnight Moroder. **Roy Spencer**

8/10

Dope Ammo & Marvellous Cain Drum & Bass Fusion Vol 2 | £29.95

www.loopmasters.com

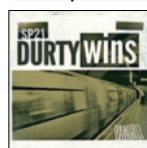


Old Skool Junglists will remember the name of Marvellous Cain spinning on their Suburban Bass 12-inches in the early '90s. Joining him on this mighty collection of 787MB of Jungle jams is the Drunken Master himself, Dope Ammo. The pair of original jump up bad boys complement each other perfectly here, and dig into their respective roots to breathe fresh life into the Ragga-inspired heyday that provided so many hits for the genre. As you'd expect, the basses are badass, and the synths super sharp. But it's the drums that are sure to cause Babylon to fall, with the renegade snares leading the charge. Added vocal presence comes from Dope Ammo and Yardrock stalwarts, Shaddy MC and Gigante. **Roy Spencer**

7/10

Rawcutz Durty Wins | £9.95

www.loopmasters.com



Because it's billed as "a jazzy expedition into the unknown", the one-shot sounds, stabs, kicks, breaks and snares in this 75.1MB pack resonate with a Blue Note. As with the rest of the Rawcutz camp's output, this collection has been put together using real instruments and draws its inspiration from the Golden Era of East Coast Rap production. The snares have neck-snap potential, the kicks are heavy, and the stabs are just begging to be loaded into an MPC to have their groove potential unlocked.

All the atmospheric samples have 24-bit sound quality so are crisp and clear, and are fitted with enough of a tail to hang just right when you drop one onto your beats. Another slamming selection of retro-sampled delia from the Rawcutz crates, then. **Roy Spencer**

9/10



samplemagic.com



ORGANIC CHILLOUT

£34.90

Assorted live instrumentation, mellow melodics and sparse lo-fi beats are the foundations of Organic Chillout: 1.3GB of vinyl-style beats and breaks, thick live bass, yearning keys, rich Rhodes, cinematic piano, jazz-infused music loops, evolving textures and more.



ABLETON INSTRUMENT RACKS

Five essential instrument racks for dance music production (bass, lead, kick, snare and hi-hat) integrating analogue sound design with Ableton's native processing tools.

£19.90



VINYL & TAPE MELODIC SHOTS

1750+ of our finest bass, synth, keys and pads tracked to tape and cut to vinyl for an essential selection of deep, rich, thick and warm melodic tools oozing analogue character.

£34.90



PROGRESSIVE ANTHEMS

Potent and pumping, melodic and euphoric: 1GB+ of chunky, floor-pounding beats, epic chord sequences, electro-tinged leads and throbbing bass – plus stacks of XXL FX, hits and kits.

£34.90