

Moog Sound Studio From \$1,399

Moog bundle up their semi-modular Mothers but, **Si Truss** discovers, it's more than your average 2-in-1 deal

CONTACT WHO: Moog **WEB:** moogmusic.com **KEY FEATURES** Synthesiser bundles including two instruments, racks stand, summing mixer, cables and patch lead organiser, art print and patch guides. **PRICING:** Mother 32 plus DFAM: **\$1,399**, Subharmonic plus DFAM: **\$1,449**



Bundle reviews are rare for us, but Moog's new Sound Studio sets are a little different. Each kit packs two instruments from the company's semi-modular Mother range with everything you need to start, from a stand and cables to guides and games. In Moog's words, "just add headphones".

The Sound Studio bundles come in two varieties, both contain a DFAM percussion synth, paired with either a Mother-32 or the more recent Subharmonic. The Mother-32 is the more straightforward monosynth, while the Subharmonic is geared to non-traditional harmonics and polyrhythmics, so is naturally more leftfield. Both bundles offer plenty of scope for experimentation and adventurous patching though.

The synths themselves come with the usual manuals and power supplies, but the bundles include a variety of accessories to help them work together. There are a pair of rack ends to create an angled two-tier stand, which comes with an attachable patch lead holder – a nice addition. There's even a small phillips head screwdriver included, to help you put it all together.

The kits also come with a compact summing mixer, which doubles as a power hub for the two synths meaning they can be run from a single wall socket. The mixer actually has three power outputs, handy should you want to add a third 'Mother' to your setup in the future. Audio-wise there are four jack inputs, switchable between mono or stereo pair operation, and a mini-jack headphone out with volume control. It's a shame not to have a master output separate from the headphone, but it's hardly a dealbreaker.

Beyond this, each package comes with an assortment of extras ranging from aesthetically-pleasing to educational. There are a pair of lovely illustrated posters, one of which doubles as instructions for building and connecting the kits as well as several colourful pop-out characters (I have two children under five at home, so these disappeared from my desk within minutes).

Each kit comes with an excellent patch guide highlighting techniques for connecting and combining the two instruments. There's also a neat dice



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game, housed in a fold-out cardboard recreation of the Moog factory, designed to get you experimenting with patch point connections.

I tried these exercises with the DFAM/Subharmonic bundle. While I was familiar with the former instrument, this was my first time using a Subharmonic. The guided patches and games provided an excellent introduction, making it easy and fun to get up to speed with the workflow of the two instruments. While you could hardly describe these as 'entry-level' packages given the price and complexity, they would make an excellent step-up into the hardware or modular realms.

The price is roughly in line with what you'd spend on instruments and accessories separately – and if you were to hunt for deals you might pick

up the core elements cheaper.

Considering the quality of the packages though, from the lovely art style to, more significantly, the excellent guides and exercises, these bundles are easy to recommend. **FM**

FM VERDICT

9.0

Combining useful accessories and inspirational resources, this is a great showcase for the power and fun of Moog's Mother range

THE PROS & CONS



Contains everything you need to get going with the Mother hardware

Inspirational guides and games are an excellent introduction to the synths

Patch cable organiser is a very nice touch



Not much of a discount on buying the synths individually

Summing mixer has only a single headphone out