

Analogue Solutions Telemark v2 | £899

Bruce Aisher goes cable crazy and patches up an analogue feast of beautiful electronic noise with Analogue Solutions' latest baby

WHAT IS IT?

A homegrown MIDI-equipped patchable analogue synth using the classic Oberheim SEM architecture as its starting point

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 It sounds great
- 2 Extremely flexible
- 3 Plenty of connectivity

Just over four years ago I took a look at the first incarnation of Analogue Solutions' Telemark synth module. In the intervening time we've seen no abatement in the fascination, love and sales of analogue synths both new and old. In fact, despite the proliferation of virtual software variants, the price of original 'vintage' hardware has been rising steadily. Not only that, but there has been a rebirth in remakes and reinventions of some old classics including those from synth legends Tom Oberheim and Dave Smith (father of both MIDI and Sequential Circuits). And

last year Arturia (who up until then had dedicated themselves to the creation of emulative software) introduced a standalone synth with a completely analogue signal path that sported CV/Gate connectivity (see *Ins and Outs*).

It is in this landscape that I now find myself staring at the spacious cream livery of the Telemark v2. The most noticeable aspect of the v2 is that on first glance it is substantially similar to the original. In fact there is little to indicate that this is an updated version unless you really know what to look for. In this case it means the replacing of two 'MULTIPLE' patch

points with 'SUB-OSC/DIVIDER' and 'RING MOD' sections.

Analogue legacy

The Telemark was originally conceived as being a more feature-rich variation on Tom Oberheim's SEM (Synthesizer Expander Module) design from 1974. The Oberheim SEM achieved legendary status and went on to be the basis of some of the earliest polyphonic synth systems. Despite the similarities though, Analogue Solutions make very clear in the manual that it is "not intended to be and is not a clone of the SEM. If you want a true SEM sound, buy a SEM!". So you've been told.

In basic hard-routed terms Telemark v2 features two oscillators fed into a 12db/octave multimode filter (VCF) and amplifier (VCA). All these can then be controlled or modulated via two simple envelope generators, an LFO or MIDI. Each oscillator has independent tuning and modulation controls and can generate saw or square waveshapes (with sync) – there's also a white noise source. So not a vast feature set when compared to many virtual instrument monsters of today, but even in this configuration it is more than capable of some fantastic leads, basses and drum sounds. Where things get interesting is



