
Got my Spectralis!

Posted by breitt - 2006/08/11 09:00

I debated on this one for months-the unfinished OS, the complexity of it and its price had me worried. But, the .97 version was released a few weeks ago and everyone was raving about it, so I broke down and bought it. Holy crap! Best-sounding synth EVER! Blows away Moog and any other analogs you can think of. The interface is, in fact, complicated and the machine is a work in progress, but having a synth that is analog, a groovebox (with decent drums), a sequencer and a sampler (among other things) is a dream machine. Has numerous odd features like "probability" which, I believe, allows you to select the odds that a particular note will be played during a sequence. For instance, if you select "50%" for a particular step, there's a one in two chance that the sequencer won't play that note each pass. The purpose?--To randomize and add some flavor to the patterns. Very cool. You have to hear this thing to believe it. I'll include a link to a song I wrote using only one pattern; my (lack of) compositional skills don't do this thing justice, but at least you can get an idea. If you don't like the song, at least you should chuckle at the title.

<http://mp3unsigned.com/Showband.asp?id=15870>

Here's more info on the "Speckie."

<http://www.radikaltechnologies.com/Products/SPECTRALIS/spectralis.html>

P.S.--Anyone ever used one of these in conjunction with a Mono or MD?

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by texmex - 2006/08/11 13:47

Nice demo you have there, brett! The probability function really seems to work and add some life to the rythm. It didn't sound repetitive at all.

Funny that so extremely simple concept can be so powerful. Now let's keep our fingers crossed so that Elektron would implement this feature too :)

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by - 2006/08/11 14:19

sounds good...

have you tried sequencing other gear with it ?

and what kind of stuff can you do with the samples ?

anything like the MD UW ?

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by emisor9 - 2006/08/11 15:42

You are having severe GAS my friend :-o

The unit seems to have very good sounds, some demos on their site are killer, but I doubt the interface has the same immediacy which makes the MnM so attractive.

Texmex:

About the probability factor, Elektron has given you LFO's for that.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by texmex - 2006/08/11 16:20

eminor9 wrote:

About the probability factor, Elektron has given you LFO's for that.

Hmm... how you can do such thing just with LFO? Applying noise sample&hold to VOL won't do it, because it just plays each note with random volume. Besides the sample&hold is buggy... Maybe with some gating it could work...

But I'm all ears :-)

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by breitt - 2006/08/11 17:16

eminor9 wrote:

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The unit seems to have very good sounds, some demos on their site are killer, but I doubt the interface has the same immediacy which makes the MnM so attractive.

Texmex:

About the probability factor, Elektron has given you LFO's for that.

Not sure what the "severe gas" comment means, but I wasn't attempting to compare or compete with the Mono. They are different animals with semi-similar concepts. They each excel at what they do. From experience, I can tell you that the Mono interface is, as you stated, more immediate and intuitive, but the Spectralis sound is much fatter, lush, and deeper-due, in no small part, to it being analog, having killer filters and being polyphonic. Either way, they're both monsters and I was wondering what they sound like together.

As far as LFO's vs. probability: Two different concepts. The LFOs are actually modulating the sounds of the notes; the probability only changes the chances of the sound being heard. FWIW, Speckie also has LFOs.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by breitt - 2006/08/11 17:23

b0unce wrote:
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I've only had the Revolution sequence the Speckie. It worked fine. I haven't gotten around to using the Speckie as a master. I also haven't even touched the sampling stuff yet. 48 hours and I haven't scratched the surface. I hear it takes people months to really explore this thing. That would translate into years for someone like me. :-)

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by watson - 2006/08/11 19:58

how many VCOs are in the spec?

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by breitt - 2006/08/12 12:58

watson wrote:
how many VCOs are in the spec?

4 of the finest made.

More info here:

http://www.spectralis.de/english/Guided_TourE/Oszillatoren-E/oszillatoren-e.html

Interesting when they talk about the "living sound."

I believe that Klaus Schulze from Tangerine Dream had some kind of input on the design.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by - 2006/08/12 15:03

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Interesting when they talk about the "living sound."

I believe that Klaus Schulze from Tangerine Dream had some kind of input on the design.

hey breitt...I am a big klaus schulze fan...anyone who hasnt heard 'dark side of the moog' SHOULD!

where did you hear he had a hand in the spectralis ?

he promoted some quasimidi stuff when it was launched but I dont know if that was because he is involved in its R&D....or just because he's a suitable candidate for doing all the PR for a synth company.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by SH01 - 2006/08/12 17:07

sorry, but..., afaik Klaus did never been a member of TD. TD are the Froebes, isn't it. KS did a lot of stuff, but with TD? Well, teach me better if i am wrong.

By the way, i own this Record from KS "are you sequenced", on the second cd is a song remixed by Joerg Schaaf, which is the Father of Spectralis.

It is true that you can't compare Spectralis's analog voice with a moog (i've have the Voyager here), but Spectralis is very fat and got a lot of routing choices, the Filterbank, etc., which is very flexible and very FAT. It is more like a modular voice, but not so big and heavy. At the end, it is an very great tool and instrument after you step into it. And since we can send sequences to other synths, 'Spectralis is my center tool. Since now the synchronisation with other Sequencers is not working like it will be, hopefully with the next OS. I would like to use Spectralis as Master.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by - 2006/08/12 18:49

regarding tangerine dream, read this

http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/1994_articles/dec94/tangerinedream.html

klaus schulze was indeed a member.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by - 2006/08/15 15:32

and I just paid for the polymorph, by quasimidi. Designed in part by klaus schulze...i've had a gear-boner for this for ages but never seen anyone selling one, let alone at the same time that I have spending money...

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by emisor9 - 2006/08/16 16:37

Either you are in the negation phase or it's you first confrontation but GAS is the abbreviation for Gear Acquisition Syndrom :-)

What I meant with the LFO statement was that you could do roughly the same trick by applying LFO to volume and another LFO to the first LFO (i.e. you don't know exactly when the trig will sound). I could be all wrong of course since I don't have hands on experience with the Speckie.

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Re: Got my Spectralis!

Posted by breitt - 2006/08/17 07:30

emisor9 wrote:

You are having severe GAS my friend :-o

I didn't know what you meant until I finally ran into the term on another site:

"Over that time I have been through lots of makes of synths, still doing it yet, it's a thing people call GAS or gear acquisition syndrome."

And you, my friend, are correct-I've got a VERY bad case of it. I've often said that all I need is my underwear and a synth. That may become a reality if I keep it up at the current rate.

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