

---

## Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/06/16 10:54

---

the store i ordered from was not supposed to have them until june 24t, so imagine my surprise when i went to walk outside, and there was a box, with the korg logo just sitting at the end of my driveway, i nearly fainted!! I quickly ran inside, canceled my plans, and re- arranged some stuff on the side of my studio desk to make it nice and reachable to tweak.

Ive played with it a good ammount, and I dont think a lot of other people have recieved theirs yet... at least that I know... so if anyone has any specific questions they want answered.... i will answer them for you.. maybe will make you order one, or maybe it will make you cancel your order.... but ask away!

steve

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by jonah - 2013/06/17 01:47

---

Is there any reason not to get one?:dry:

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by mcpepe - 2013/06/17 03:00

---

Is there any posibility to use parameter locks with my Octatrack and a Korg MS20?

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by VennDiagram - 2013/06/17 07:34

---

mcpepe wrote:

Is there any posibility to use parameter locks with my Octatrack and a Korg MS20?

Nope - it is basic note on of recieve only.

If you had an Analog 4 you could parameter lock CV values etc...

That said the SubPhatty will do this and is very well implemented midi specification wise.

Just for the record I have both an MS20Mini and a Sub Phatty - the Sub Phatty may be better suited if that's how you want to work but it will in no way sound like an MS20.

Totally different sonic footprint all round.

That said there is nothing stopping you sequencing teh MS20Mini from the OT , tweaking live, sampling the results and mangling the bejesus out of the recordings in the Octatrack either ;).

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by recyclinglostcities - 2013/06/17 07:46

---

You should also be able to use parameter locks with the Bass Station II when it is released.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by VennDiagram - 2013/06/17 08:26

---

recyclinglostcities wrote:

---

You should also be able to use parameter locks with the Bass Station II when it is released.

Indeed - this one looks like pretty good option also.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/06/17 11:08

---

sorry guys, i made this, and nobody replied so i kinda forgot about it. (too busy playing with my ms 20 haha) so first question is there any reason not to get one? .... i would say money thats about it. I pre ordered it in march and used a 20 or 25 percent off coupon from musicians friend and it came to like 460 or something and it wasnt a steal, it was a HEIST! using this thing with the A4 and monotribe is just out of control. When i got into synths, synthesis etc for some reason i wanted an ms20 so so so bad. I dont know why, the look? i mean the sound is great, but it was always an instrument that just looked like plug shit into me, go crazy, etc, but it was like 3k on ebay for something that could potentially die 2 days after i got it....

So sorry for the super long answer, if you can afford it, get it. Like other people have said, you can use P locks using the A4, you can feed it into the OT, Mangle the shit out of it. Its nice. The Ring mod with an var. par lock values to an Lfo , with a long asssss dark reverb from OS 1.25, or the supervoid verb from A4 is just so so so nice.

and in regard to the bass station 2, It was anounced literally like 2 days after i got my minibrute. The LAST thing i need is another monosynth..... DAMN YOU NOVATION.. ( i love you)

the real question is.... it was down to MD or OT, i needed something for drums, and midi sequencing , and i chose OT, and its been great.... but i feel like i would love a MD. Do i need the UW??? .i really want a poly analog synth.... well i kind of want a poly evolver, and its so much money so i was thinking not get the UW, and put that money towards the poly.... do i need the UW?? Hows the monomachine drums?

sorry if i sound like a tweaker writing this Ive had like 4 cups of coffee today, and ive been making patches for about 9 hours. thanks

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by recyclinglostcities - 2013/06/17 12:44

---

How are the knobs? In some of the coverage I've seen, they seem like they'd pop right off with little effort.

I predict that a lot of Minibrutes are going to start popping up used as these and the BSII start hitting the shelves.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/06/17 13:39

---

it seems that korg tried to predict which knobs would get used the most and made those more heavy duty, like cutoff freq. and the wave shapes, tuning dials etc... other knobs are a bit wobbly, but they are fine honestly. I wouldnt take it out to a gig where i was going to be drinking and tweaking the shit out of them, but for controlled enviroments, studio work they are absolutely fine. As more people start getting theirs I can see more people coming up with better solutions to make them sturdier, more mods just like the monotribe/monotron mods (PWM SOMEONE?!?!?) etc. Im just in heaven right now, i got an ms20 in my living room, the A4 hooked up to it, making sequences that would make the sq-10 proud.... and lifes ok today.

As for the minibrute, i can use that, and the ms20 with the A4 and do some wacky shit with it, I also have it cv'd up to my monotribe, which acts kind of like a midi/cv converter since i have the midimod on it.... so its ok. The minibrute is quite brutal, but it can kind of be gentle too... I like it

Ill eventually get a bass station, i know myself. but first comes the MD, poly evolver or mopho x4 or something of that nature, MnM maybe need more research, and I find myself wanting an OP 1 really badly for some reason recently. Ive

---

convinced myself im going to write masterpieces on the train or something.

but yeah.... such is life with OCD and GAS

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by vern - 2013/06/18 00:19

---

QUESTION: Does it have background hiss/noise when a key is pressed(most noticeable on bass/sub bass sounds)?

I have seen a couple youtube videos of bass patches, but they don't sound very good to me because of background hiss whenever key is pressed...This reminds me of how noisy the monotrons are, which is why i got rid of them....:dry:

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by stiiiiiive - 2013/06/18 02:54

---

steevyhead wrote:  
Do i need the UW???  
You do need it.

Check out the other topics about that. Long story short: the UW addition really takes the MD way higher. :)

Back to your MS20mini: the only thing preventing me from ordering one (exepcted being reasonable haha) is the size (they say it doesn' matter though). The minijacks, well, I can live with them. But I'm a keyboard player and those not-so-minikeys... I don't know. So the question is: are you primarily a keyboard player? And -if so- what do those keys feel like under fingers?

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by snowcrash - 2013/06/18 06:32

---

Well it sounds like a MS20 and that is noisy and distorted and anything else than clean and what you know from any other modern analog. I did a side by side comparison of the old and new model and I must say it is not really that much less noisier. But there should be no hiss, rather like pink noise when the low pass gets closed. But only when opening the VCA.

The thing is, the MS20 is not famous because it is such a precise pleasant sounding synthesizer tool. It is the complete opposite of a Moog except for its liveliness and organic sound and sometimes unpredictable behaviour that mostly turns out to be surprisingly musical.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by VennDiagram - 2013/06/18 12:11

---

stiiiiiive wrote:  
steevyhead wrote:  
Do i need the UW???  
You do need it.

Check out the other topics about that. Long story short: the UW addition really takes the MD way higher. :)

Back to your MS20mini: the only thing preventing me from ordering one (exepcted being reasonable haha) is the size (they say it doesn' matter though). The minijacks, well, I can live with them. But I'm a keyboard player and those not-so-

---

minikeys... I don't know. So the question is: are you primarily a keyboard player? And -if so- what do those keys feel like under fingers?

MS20 is not quite mini key size - it sits somewhere in-between standard keys and Korg mini-keys. It isn't velocity sensitive, has zero after touch but it's playable enough - besides which it can be triggered via midi in from a keyboard with a better action if you own one.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by VennDiagram - 2013/06/18 12:14

---

snowcrash wrote:

Well it sounds like a MS20 and that is noisy and distorted and anything else than clean and what you know from any other modern analog. I did a side by side comparison of the old and new model and I must say it is not really that much less noisier. But there should be no hiss, rather like pink noise when the low pass gets closed. But only when opening the VCA.

I would agree that the sound is almost like LP filter pink noise and is only a real issue when the VCA is cranked wide, that said the hissy raspy quality is part of the synths tonal character truth be told. it wouldn't really sound like an MS20 without it. It is definitely quieter than on a real MS20 (so there's been some effort on Korg's behalf to reduce the noise floor of the original) but it isn't a deal breaker in my book.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/06/18 16:51

---

vern wrote:

QUESTION: Does it have background hiss/noise when a key is pressed(most noticeable on bass/sub bass sounds)?

I have seen a couple youtube videos of bass patches, but they don't sound very good to me because of background hiss whenever key is pressed...This reminds me of how noisy the monotrons are, which is why i got rid of them.....dry:

they sound very good to me, very raspy and throaty which i think that subtle noise when the filter opens is partially responsible for, if you take LP down to maybe 90-92% its pretty gritty and noiseless... they are NOWHERE near monotron level. Monotron is bad, monotron delay is worse... never used/had a duo. but monotribe, and now ms20 mini are useable tools to me personally. Ive never had the satisfaction to see let alone play an original, but from what i know it was a beast that needed to be tamed. While there are minijacks, and shaky knobs this is the world we live in now. Things are not made like they used to be, from a pair of pants to instruments.... they are putting this on the shelf at 599, and giving us, well me, an experience that is 10000000 times better than the alternative software + ms20 midi controller legacy thing crap.

stiiiiiiive wrote:

steevyhead wrote:

Do i need the UW???

You do need it.

Check out the other topics about that. Long story short: the UW addition really takes the MD way higher. :)

Back to your MS20mini: the only thing preventing me from ordering one (exepted being reasonable haha) is the size (they say it doesn' matter though). The minijacks, well, I can live with them. But I'm a keyboard player and those not-so-minikeys... I don't know. So the question is: are you primarily a keyboard player? And -if so- what do those keys feel like under fingers?

Haha point taken. ive been told UW mk 2 no substitutions, ill just take that as more reassurance. Ill tell you flat out. The keys are utilitarian at best. Like others said there is no velocity, no aftertouch, they are about 70% as springy as a good synth action, but they work, and they can be triggered by midi and usb, so if you got a master midi keyboard youre all set. I am a guitar player, i play keys .... im self taught and can hold my own, but im probably not the one to ask. They are

---

quite playable, but to me my novation SL mk2 and ultranova have the best synth action ive personally played if that tells you anything, my minibrute keys i felt were too big, and micro korg is unplayable, while they could be a TINY bit bigger, they are not micro korg, they are pretty much like everything about this synth 86% or whatever it is. My buddy is a player, a serious player, he came over and while he doesnt know ANYTHING about synthesis, i set up a patch and he SHREDDDED the shit out of this thing.  
Hope i was a little help. If youre on the fence.... jump it.

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by stiiiiiive - 2013/06/18 16:59

---

Thans guys. I guess I'll try to find one to try here on the fence, then decide if I give it a chance :)

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by VennDiagram - 2013/06/18 22:21

---

stiiiiiive wrote:

Thans guys. I guess I'll try to find one to try here on the fence, then decide if I give it a chance :)

Stiiiiiive - keep in mind that the MS20 really comes alive with a touch of fx processing, nothing much more than a quality delay and/or reverb will really make this thing sing in a wonderful way and it brigs out a wonderful character to the filter in doing so.

This is in a pretty raw state still - it's a work in progress but it uses the MS20Mini, Nord Modular Sub Phatty (processed through the A4), 1 A4 part (with neighbour track processing and the Novation Nova - all percussion is MD and Octatrack ( the composition is sequenced on the Octatrack too ).

The MS20 certainly has a raw and dirty vibe in some respects but it works well in context IMHO.

Might give you some idea of how it sounds even in a pretty rough mix.

<https://soundcloud.com/venndiagram/wip-gelatine-part-2-fleshing>

=====

## Re:Q and A session if anyone has some ms20 mini questions!

Posted by stiiiiiive - 2013/06/18 22:26

---

Thanks mate :)

I have some cool delay/reverb units so it can be good only. Even have some CV'd controllable stompboxes ;)

I'll listen to your track when I'm at home tonight.

=====