
If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/08/26 03:55

....is anything you really missed on the Tempest?

I've had mine for 1.5 years, gotten proficient at all the essentials, made some interesting sounds.... and am still not totally stoked over it. I'm sure it's just a matter of personal taste. I think maybe it's not -quite- what I wanted in a bigass drum machine, but the parameters and programmability convinced me it would prove to be an endless source of great percussion synthesis. Ok, it is all that, and a lot more. But I still am not in love with the thing.

The MD-s 12-bit factor was the deal-breaker for me, but now when I listen to some MD stuff, I feel that is the stuff I'm missing in a drum machine.

So what I should really do is wait until I can get an MD and have both, but if somebody walked in right now with an MD-UW of the same age and like-new condition and offered to make an even trade, it would be very tempting.

Just thinking out loud here. Let's hear your thoughts.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by shemp - 2013/08/26 09:46

You may also want to look into the MFB Tanzbar

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Virtual_Flannel - 2013/08/26 10:33

I've had both and really miss the UW. Tempest is a cool and fun instrument but I don't miss it very much.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/08/26 22:35

shemp wrote:

You may also want to look into the MFB Tanzbar

I've been closely watching that. Probably would like having all three actually...

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by dataline - 2013/08/26 23:00

MD is a better machine than Tempest.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Blue Monster 65 - 2013/08/27 00:23

I had a Tempest for quite a while after they were released. Ultimately, the limitations (at the time) overcame the sound of it and I sold it. I tried to love it - I really tried - but ultimately it just disappointed me in my expectations. However, a lot of people have taken to it and really do some neat stuff with it by "playing" it. That is, they use it as a dedicated instrument and don't just program sounds and sequences and let it run; they're constantly interacting with it as it's running, much like many people do with the MD. My thoughts on the MD so far is that you can use it that way, but you

can also use it as a "standard drum machine" for accompaniment and it will still shine like no other.

In this sense, so far the MDUW is much more of what I was looking for. As I said above, if you approach the Tempest as a synthesizer that you play like a percussion sequencer, you might be happy with it. That said, my opinion is also that if you want the DSI sound, you can get yourself a Mopho, Tetra or the like and satisfy yourself that way.

Mind you, there have been plenty of updates to the Tempest OS since I sold mine, sooo ...

Would the MD work well in conjunction with the Tempest? I'm sure it would. But so would a lot of other options that are out there. If you're looking for an analog drum machine, my money would be to go for something more dedicated to that, such as the afore-mentioned Tanzbaer.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by n3wt - 2013/08/27 00:52

I had a MD, and really do miss it for somethings, but for playing live i really enjoy the hands on functions the tempest offers. I wont say one is better then the other, as i think they are both great, and have different strong points. Id love to get a MD again, but when I do, it will stay in the studio, and the tempest would continue to be my main live drum machine.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Blue Monster 65 - 2013/08/27 01:06

Watching your two videos in the silo, I can see what you mean and you also make my point: the Tempest is meant to be played, while the MD can go either way. You do great with the Tempest, N3wt!

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by n3wt - 2013/08/27 01:28

My biggest complaints on the elektron units, is that if you edit any steps in a pattern, they become saved, and if you want to mute/unmute things, or change patterns, you need two hands. These aren't problems to me in the studio, but for live use they really bother me, more so on the monomachine then the MD.

However on the tempest, i dont like that i can only have 16 patterns loaded, the distortion and compressor are not track assignable, and I wish I could do more in debth editing on the drum samples.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by REOvolt - 2013/08/27 02:51

I traded my Tempest for a MD UW and I never regretted it for a second. It's better for the drumstuff I need. I was very dissapointed by OS development (or lack off it). Only thing I miss is instant pattern changes and pattern roll. If you still don't love the Tempest you should trade. One and a half year is long enough.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by YNE - 2013/08/27 03:09

Had a Tempest for about a year - but also was a bit disappointed by the unfinished OS and there was not much progress on further development. Since I already owned a MDUW, I traded the Tempest for an A4 and never looked back....

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by GYS - 2013/08/27 03:31

A lot of people complain that the MD tends to sound cold, but I've never found that to be the case. I traded my 909 for an MD and haven't looked back and have never lamented a loss of analog beef.

The only thing I find tricky to program on a MD are clones of TR-XOX cymbals, but I have samples of those at the ready for when I need them.

The sheer variety of sounds (drum and otherwise) you can coax out of the MD are just mindblowing to me. In terms of sound design, I don't think you'd be at a loss over the Tempest. Sounds like the biggest obstacle might be convincing yourself that going non-analog is ok. :) Don't worry, it is....in a few rare cases. :P

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by sovietpop - 2013/08/27 03:57

The Tempest is probably a good drum machine but i have been extremely disappointed by DSI about OS update and workflow in general. I told myself i will never buy an other DSI synth until the OS is finished.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/08/27 21:20

Thanks everybody for the viewpoints. Totally agree about the "instrument to be played" factor and would not like to lose that. I think it comes down to the sound. I can go deep with the programming and know my way around it well, but I remain not quite inspired. Sort of hard to concede after so much invested time.

Now I'm thinking either get a Tanzbaer and free the Tempest from primary drum machine duties, or Tanzbaer + trade for an MD.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by LMLMLM - 2013/08/27 22:46

I was an early Tempest adopter, and I must say I left extremely disappointed in DSI and their support on the software side, and would be very reluctant to buy anything from them again.

The Machinedrum-UW has a powerful, smooth workflow for sequencing, synthesis and sample mangling and I think is far more versatile than the Tempest. I do like the two strip controllers and velocity sensitive pads of the Tempest though.

For the MD to be any better it could draw from elements of the OT and A4. OT-class sample management and storage (the whole snapshots/MIDI thing can be tedious) would be great, as would the A4's analog synth and digital effects.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by RyanA4 - 2013/08/27 23:00

"For the MD to be any better it could draw from elements of the OT and A4. OT-class sample management and storage (the whole snapshots/MIDI thing can be tedious) would be great, as would the A4's analog synth and digital effects."

Better sample management over USB (because they'll sell more packs that way) is a given for the (hypothetical) next MD. But too much sample memory and it steps on the OTs toes too much.

As for Analog, it would be the other way around (the way the Tempest should have been)- Samples come in through (maybe a simple bit down-conversion possible up front choose between 8 and 12? a man can dream) ---->DCOs--->Hybrid mod matrix. Why? Because when you put analog oscillators in a drum machine with sampling capabilities, it simply becomes a synth limited only by it's polyphony- why would you get an A4 when you could have a fully analog polysynth? This could be the reason the Tempest ended up disappointing- Dave Smith realized the "perfect drum machine" is also just a polyphonic synth WITH sampling capabilities- making it hard to sell a Poly Evolver or a Prophet 12 (both with DCOs) when you could have an analog monster synth for \$1,500 less....

I say this as a very happy owner of the P12, but man does the Tempest's software and internal memory suggest that Dave Smith saw big money slipping away once people realized a Sampling Tempest with a MIDI keyboard was going to cut into the rest of his business.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by n3wt - 2013/08/28 01:49

none of you guys that have had issues with the DSI tempest ever had an early OS on a Spectralis did you ;-)

I havent updated my tempest sense i got it, still love it, but to each their own.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by SBSIX - 2013/08/28 03:51

I had an MD-UW, then bought a tempest. I thought it could replace the UW but it didn't. After some time, I only used samples on the uw because I got bored by the internal sounds. I swapped the UW for an octatrack and kept the tempest. I loved the UW first but I don't miss it at all. Most sounds just didn't cut it for me. Especially when listening on earbuds, most kicks of the MD sounded really plastic. But the sequencer is fun, so that gap was nicely filled by the OT.

It took me quite a while but now I can get very satisfying analog kicks from the tempest. The rest of the percussion is often sample based or a mix. I use it as a poly synth often which I really love. It does need a mixer where you can EQ individual channels and add some FX. Leaving the tempest dry just sounds too... euhm, dry.

What you might miss is the velocity and pressure sensitive pads, the project structure (as opposed to the kits+patterns on an MD), the filter and of course the synth engine.

What you gain are internal fx and eq, a better sequencer and a finished OS

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Tarekith - 2013/08/28 09:25

Everytime I get to play a Tempest the one thing that alway stands out to me is the build quality. The knobs and such just feel so small and flimsy, I'd be afraid to gig with it a lot. The MD you can toss around all over the place. (not that I would).

Interestig to hear the OS isn't done yet either, I stopped following news about it awhile ago.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/08/28 21:45

For whatever reason, I haven't been bothered by the OS update issues. The build quality hasn't been a problem either,

except that the Stop and Play buttons' paint rubbed completely off and I had to replace them.

I'll definitely miss the pads and sliders, and I've gotten some way-out timbres with beatwide parameters, but at the end of the day, it's the overall sound for DRUMS that's not happening for me. It doesn't sound "bad", and I've programmed the hell out of it, but as a previous poster said, if it hasn't lit me up in a year and a half, it's time to move on.

Having six voices is a BIG deal for me. I've put way too much effort into voice allocation and planning ahead when making beats; I feel the limits constantly and it drives me nuts. I built the proper cables to take full advantage of the voice architecture and panning tricks, and it's just too much fiddling about. (It also took up damn near every input of my humble live-set mixer...)

The Tempest is super-powerful and that's why I bought it, but the sound just ain't doing it for me. It's an expensive lesson. :S

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Blue Monster 65 - 2013/08/28 23:52

bryantalbot wrote:

The Tempest is super-powerful and that's why I bought it, but the sound just ain't doing it for me. It's an expensive lesson. :S

Yep ... seconded here. Too bad, as some people do great things with it, but for me, it just didn't come together.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by Big Bang - 2013/08/30 10:05

You guys might wanna check the DSI forms for the latest beta update for Tempest. It just went to the next level...

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/08/30 21:10

Big Bang wrote:

You guys might wanna check the DSI forms for the latest beta update for Tempest. It just went to the next level...

Yes it has, and I've done the update. Still not satisfied. I'm not digging the oscillators' sound. I did buy it for its power and flexibility, but I'm weary of having to build beats up from a molecular level, and having only six voices.

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Re:If you've traded a Tempest for MD-UW...

Posted by bryantalbot - 2013/09/09 07:04

Just to say THANK YOU to everyone for the support.

I'm about to flip the Tempest to someone who'll enjoy it, and made the decision to get a flagship MD and am extremely excited about it! :woohoo: