Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anigbrowl - 2013/06/22 13:40

Via Matrixsynth

Product videos are a must-watch, fucking wicked. I'm glad to see that most of the parameters can be motion sequenced. Can't wait to get some, and plug them into the OT !!

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by skab - 2013/06/22 15:08

Hot damn. I was gonna get an MS-20 mini, but now... 3 of those for the same money. Wow. Think of the jamming fun you could have with a couple of mates!

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by StinkyBeat - 2013/06/22 23:26

Same money?

You can get the trio for a lot cheaper.

Some where around \$360.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by pixelife - 2013/06/22 23:43

Definitely most impressed with the keys. Seems to have the widest sonic palette/potential.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by the dreammer - 2013/06/22 23:59

I miss a bit of easy polyphonie in my setup.. so that keys thing looks interesting.. I just need some chords, then me a happy clam

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Tarekith - 2013/06/23 07:15

Been eyeing the keys since day one, definitely want one now :)

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by skab - 2013/06/23 08:20

StinkyBeat wrote: Same money?

You can get the trio for a lot cheaper.

Some where around \$360.

Yeah, but the MS-20 mini is about 400 usd here in Japan. Plus my local music store always gives me a discount :p

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jonah - 2013/06/23 10:45

skab wrote:

Hot damn. I was gonna get an MS-20 mini, but now... 3 of those for the same money. Wow. Think of the jamming fun you could have with a couple of mates! They'd be great together. :woohoo: ESP on the ms20, and filtering plus trigger out on volcas. Get some one else to run the monotribe and trons to filter all of it. :raw:

I think Korg is taking over the "modular" market, or at least carving out a huge niche!

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anselmi - 2013/06/23 15:41

Am I the only one thinking that is not worth to spend money in this things? I mean, At least in my situation I got a healthy number of analog synths of all kind and sound, so adding just more stuff in the same league seems to be overkill

and the sound is what you paid for...I better save and invest in someting better

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by boboter - 2013/06/23 16:16

@Anselmi

No, you're not the only one. I tried out the Volcas at Musikmesse and think they are great for the price. But I would buy never them. Way too limited to really use them when you already got some decent gear. And too expensive to just have them lying around in the living room.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by darenager - 2013/06/23 16:39

^ Somewhat agree, but the portability/instant fun factor is probably the main draw for these, this kind of instrument has its own niche I think.

Have to say though as yet I remain unimpressed with the Volca bass sound, none of the demos have convinced me, the drum one though sounds really nice I think, and the keys seems more interesting than it first did to me.

The beats is certainly the most interesting for me, I like the sound of the kick and toms and the retrig thing looks fun. But people buying them expecting a 808, 303 and monopoly will probably ensure a healthy second hand market :laugh:

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by skab - 2013/06/23 17:16

I think the bass unit kicks ass. I know that it doesn't have that 303 sound, but I still think it's as funky as all hell. Looks like korg have nailed the portamento groove. As much as I love my A4 (and I *really* do), I think the implementation of note

slides lets it down a bit. I'm getting a volca bass and its going to be so much fun to rock 3 (!!) polyrhythmic bass lines along side the A4 in a club! That being said, I tend to look at my gear from a "what can it do live" point of view. I really hope the functionality and price of these Volcas gets more people away from laptop lives and into some actual knob twisting. Also, as we all know, analog circuitry is scientifically proven to heal the soul. And get chicks to dance. And god knows the world needs more of that.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Duncan - 2013/06/23 17:31

The videos start coming through http://youtu.be/c1y-xxycoOI

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by anselmi - 2013/06/23 21:18

boboter wrote:

@Anselmi

No, you're not the only one. I tried out the Volcas at Musikmesse and think they are great for the price. But I would buy never them. Way too limited to really use them when you already got some decent gear. And too expensive to just have them lying around in the living room.

my thoughts exactly ... and I didnÂ't like the MS-20 mini either

http://images3.wikia.nocookie.net/__cb20110416135723/smurfs/images/a/a2/Movie_Grouchy_Smurf.png

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by boboter - 2013/06/23 21:21

^ haha. me neither...

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by REOvolt - 2013/06/23 21:33

anselmi wrote:

Am I the only one thinking that is not worth to spend money in this things? I mean, At least in my situation I got a healthy number of analog synths of all kind and sound, so adding just more stuff in the same league seems to be overkill

and the sound is what you paid for ... I better save and invest in someting better

If you want something completely different then three small analog devices go for these: http://vimeo.com/66202532

Also same pricerange :)

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Daisuk - 2013/06/23 21:42

REOvolt wrote:

anselmi wrote:

Am I the only one thinking that is not worth to spend money in this things? I mean, At least in my situation I got a healthy number of analog synths of all kind and sound, so adding just more stuff in the same league seems to be overkill

and the sound is what you paid for...I better save and invest in someting better

If you want something completely different then three small analog devices go for these: http://vimeo.com/66202532

Also same pricerange :)

Yeah, that microgranny looks cool. :) The Octatrack should really have a granular type effect. I agree with you two guys, though, I'll try not to get tempted to get the Volcas, even though they look like fun.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by jonah - 2013/06/24 05:59

skab wrote:

I think the bass unit kicks ass. I know that it doesn't have that 303 sound, but I still think it's as funky as all hell. Looks like korg have nailed the portamento groove. As much as I love my A4 (and I *really* do), I think the implementation of note slides lets it down a bit. I'm getting a volca bass and its going to be so much fun to rock 3 (!!) polyrhythmic bass lines along side the A4 in a club! That being said, I tend to look at my gear from a "what can it do live" point of view. I really hope the functionality and price of these Volcas gets more people away from laptop lives and into some actual knob twisting. Also, as we all know, analog circuitry is scientifically proven to heal the soul. And get chicks to dance. And god knows the world needs more of that.

Yeah, at this point, I'm only interested in the performance aspects of electronic instruments and what progress I (and others) can make there. But I think synths have sounded good since 1950 and have generally only gotten better, while the interface has been a rocky road.

I don't care about the roland sound, but those boxes nailed the intuitive performance and playing aspects. (even if it was a fluke!)

The bass and keys are exciting me in how they use multiple voices that can merge and split. This potentially opens up some neat interactions that are intuitively possible among players of "real" instruments, but when working with patterns, arps and electronic sequences, it requires much more planning.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by anigbrowl - 2013/06/24 06:32

Anselmi and boboter, the difference is that you can put one of the volas in your coat pocket or backpack and play it on the bus/beach/wherever.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anselmi - 2013/06/24 14:24

anigbrowl wrote:

Anselmi and boboter, the difference is that you can put one of the volas in your coat pocket or backpack and play it on the bus/beach/wherever.

I know, and itÂ's OK for some people! I donÂ't want to sound like a hater, just stating my point and wanting to know if there is other people thinking the same

I was playing go and back with the volcas...you hear them read the features and see the price...and wow! you think itÂ's a deal you canÂ't refuse! but after rethink the situation you realized that itÂ's just money spent in just another analog synth that is no better than the ones you already own!

I donÂ't need such a thing for my studio and, honestly, when I go live I donÂ't care to carry on a bigger setuf if it sounds better

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by djd_oz - 2013/06/24 14:41

Agreed, they look like fun boxes but if you already own a few Elektron boxes than they are a bit redundant.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anigbrowl - 2013/06/24 15:01

I see and appreciate your point. But I would like the option to take a small analog synth with me on the train or somewhere, instead of pulling out an iPad or something and having the temptation to check my email :lol:

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Computer Controlled - 2013/06/24 15:32

Where are these available for sale?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by djd_oz - 2013/06/24 16:26

Only in Japan for now, I think. However, you can pre-order them.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by xmit - 2013/06/24 19:05

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we can access some (not all) of the Korg product line via our work trade dealership & these have just appeared on my account as available to pre-order here in the UK.

I've got to say, I think they're fun & funky & seem to sound way better than they should for this cost...in fact for the trade price it's getting pretty hard not just to stick one of each on pre-order for myself really. It's almost a no brainer. B)

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jonah - 2013/06/24 23:37

I think the keys sounds fantastic, but part of the reason I'll buy it is just to show my support and hopefully entice korg into making more and crazier. Is it a need, no, but they won't prevent me from making music.

The Volca designer is the one who did the Microsampler, I think. Volcaized microsampler would be wonderful.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by udenjoe - 2013/06/25 02:01

The motivation for me to get them is to jam on the kitchen table. This is no joke. I actually do kitchen jams with a friend. We don't record or save anything. The possibility to have other people to take part in such jams will be fun.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Duncan - 2013/06/25 02:14

I'm on it for the fun, time for serious is in limited supply currently. PreOrdered all 3 from andertons, can't wait to jam with friends on a whenever basis

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by HouseCliche - 2013/06/25 18:42

You guys are all missing the point - the Dude in the product videos has one cool ass job - bet he's knee deep in chicitas!

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by sdesign - 2013/06/27 22:48

skab wrote:

I think the implementation of note slides lets it down a bit.

I'd agree with that. While you can make something that sounds like squelchy acid, when you program the same pattern with slides into both the A4 and a 303 (or TT-303 or x0xb0x or soft clone), then the A4 just doesn't sound right. Infact, the A4 pattern doesn't even resemble the 303 pattern. I've played with this a lot trying to determine why the same pattern sounds so different and it seems to be down to the slide.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by pseen - 2013/06/28 00:56

sdesign wrote:

I'd agree with that. While you can make something that sounds like squelchy acid, when you program the same pattern with slides into both the A4 and a 303 (or TT-303 or x0xb0x or soft clone), then the A4 just doesn't sound right. Infact, the A4 pattern doesn't even resemble the 303 pattern. I've played with this a lot trying to determine why the same pattern sounds so different and it seems to be down to the slide.

Would it be an important point for the A4 to exactly mimic the slide of the 303? Isn't that what the x0xb0x is for?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by Virtual_Flannel - 2013/06/28 05:57

The homie @boboter is my main man when it comes to gear consultation. That's why I'm seriously considering cancelling my pre-order. I actually NEED a lot of gear right now, and DONT have a lot of money. So a mono/poly/drum synth for under 500 is a pretty good deal. I really dig the way you can write automation to each osc on the Bass. Drum

looks cool, but I:m trying to multitrack my drums in the future, so this would make great samples and the sequencer looks really fun, but for 140 why not grab it if your already getting the bass and.....keys looks the coolest. Automation madness, and I love the "chord modes". I have a fondness for chorders and the like. Still on the fence. Money might be better spent towards a Sub Phatty. And damn, gotta get a quadrinity or at least my Octatrack back.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anigbrowl - 2013/06/28 06:02

sdesign wrote: I'd agree with that. While you can make something that sounds like squelchy acid, when you program the same pattern with slides into both the A4 and a 303 (or TT-303 or x0xb0x or soft clone), then the A4 just doesn't sound right. Infact, the A4 pattern doesn't even resemble the 303 pattern. I've played with this a lot trying to determine why the same pattern sounds so different and it seems to be down to the slide.

I'd be quite interested in hearing some side-by-side comparisons, eg post a new thread on the Elektron Gear subforum. I had to fiddle around with settins on the A4 for quite a while but eventually I hit a combo that sounded like classic acid, ie that sounded like those on a lot of my favorite records.

Perhaps what's different is that I ended up tweaking the note lengths to match up with the slide?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by darenager - 2013/06/28 07:26

On the subject of A4 slides, I notice that on the last few updates the slide has changed, it used to sound a lot better in my opinion, at least on the patterns that I made before.

I don't think it is crucial that it mimics 303 slide, but it seems kind of broken at the moment...

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by sdesign - 2013/06/30 00:59

Yes, tweaking slide amount and note length does help create an decent acid-like pattern but the A4 patterns still seem to have a different feeling / groove to them compared to a dedicated TB clone. It's not obvious to me why but I think its down to the slide.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by dataline - 2013/06/30 23:40

Well after playing 2 days with the Drum and Bass volca, they are very limited and I personally got bored with them pretty fast.

Then, switching back to Analog4 was like a revelation after the bass volca..

Overall, the only thing good about these boxes is the price. If you have Analog Four and Machinedrum / octatrack, you already have what these volcas offer you.

Just my personal experience.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by poonti - 2013/07/01 00:02

^ Yeah, was thinking that might be the case. I don't have the Volcas, but I do have a Monotribe, and it's just going to be more of the same limitations IMO. I'll put my Volca money towards an A4 later this year...

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by anselmi - 2013/07/01 00:35

dataline wrote:

Well after playing 2 days with the Drum and Bass volca, they are very limited and I personally got bored with them pretty fast.

Then, switching back to Analog4 was like a revelation after the bass volca..

Overall, the only thing good about these boxes is the price. If you have Analog Four and Machinedrum / octatrack, you already have what these volcas offer you.

Just my personal experience.

thanks dataline, you comfirmed what I imagined just listening to the demos I think this products are packing too many stuff for the price so compromises have to be done...

I think they did the best they can with the monotribe just because they kept things simple... 1 cheap analog oscillator can sound good, but when you pack 3 of them you canÂ't pretend it sounds like a minimoog or any expensive analog one...the mix just went muffled in some way, loosing presence and definition... I think the mix of sound sources is a critical factor that quickly shows this difference

this all also shows how good elektron did it with the A4...you can get premium analog sounds and even mix 4 of them (each with up to 5 sounds sources) into a full sequence with fx and all, and still make it sound amazing!

if you see to the features/price ratio of the A4 vs the volca range I think the A4 is a far better investment

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by RubixGroove - 2013/07/01 01:05

@Dataline - I appreciate your quick review-post. To be honest, I've been kind of on the fence about the longevity of these lil' dudes.

I think I am going to pull the trigger on two of them still. The beats and the keys. I don't have a "proper" tweakable drum machine (even if it's just slightly tweaky) and I've had wet dreams of sampling the Keys for what ever reason. Excited for at least that reason. :D

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by TrondC - 2013/07/01 01:14

dataline wrote:

Well after playing 2 days with the Drum and Bass volca, they are very limited and I personally got bored with them pretty fast.

Then, switching back to Analog4 was like a revelation after the bass volca..

Overall, the only thing good about these boxes is the price. If you have Analog Four and Machinedrum / octatrack, you already have what these volcas offer you.

Just my personal experience.

Well, did you really expect theese boxes to compete with the Elektrons? For beginners, students and others with low income/no income theese are great. I won't buy either since they won't bring anything new to the table for me personally, but I'd definately be picking up theese if I was new to this and on a budget :p

Now the real question we all want to know: When is the AnalogMachineDrum coming? ;)

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by darenager - 2013/07/01 01:52

The portability is the main draw, but I would not write them off, people will do great things with them, and I do think \hat{A} t to performance the A4 is better value, BUT without a generator I can't use it outside, and for gigging I think these volcas will be excellent, sling all 3 in a bag and still have room for some 'serious' gear.

The bass one does not sound good to me, maybe the demos don't do it justice, but I'll find out when I get them. I still think overall the monotribe is a better bet, it has a lot in its favour and with mods can be taken : lvl:

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by xmit - 2013/07/01 03:12

Λ

Yep - I'm with Daren on this. Fair play to Korg for producing cheap, fun boxes great for bashing out acid, techno, house & general electronic clatter.

:)

I don't see the point comparing them really - of course they're not going to have that much finesse or depth - they're little more than £100 each !

I mean you can extend that argument to anything really : the Analog Four is a good example. As a feature set its an incredibly good value box of tricks - but in terms of its pure analog mono synthesis 'sound' it's not remotely on the same level as say my Micromac or SEM. It's wooly, lacking clarity - the oscillators are incomparable to the macbeth's & the filter is cant hold a candle to the SEM's. but what do you expect ? Horses for courses innit ?! What you get for your 900 clams is pretty awesome with the A4, but by the same token I don't think you can complain at what the volcas deliver at their price point.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by dataline - 2013/07/01 03:21

Yea volcas are not comparable as they are in a different market.

But sound wise they are not so good i think. On volca drums, the sound is generally muffled, really low volume on some parts. Bass volca has a strong sound but as a personal opinion - it got old pretty fast...

As i said, the best thing about these boxes is the price. And you could jam for hours with a battery amp in middle of nowhere - now thats special!

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by darenager - 2013/07/01 03:32

Yep, XMIT good point.

And really guys doesn't the same thing apply to most things? For example sometimes I just want a pot noodle, other times I might want a Big Mac, but sometimes a fine meal is what I want.

Also it is nice to mix it up, analog, digital, lo-fi, vintage, modern, cheap, expensive, iOS apps, this makes for an interesting sound pallette.

But yeah, don't expect champagne for lemonade money. : laugh:

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by darenager - 2013/07/01 03:34

Oh those Standuino things look like a lot of fun too.....

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by darenager - 2013/07/01 03:38

Hmm on the bass one, I really think I'll mostly use it with just one oscillator, even on "proper" synths for bass I rarely use more than one oscillator anyway, but I'm wondering if it will sound better with a little less drive going into the filter, especially since it runs on batteries.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by skab - 2013/07/01 15:41

Here's a guick review I made of the bass unit: Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWpwF2EYjSE

Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocy9uPcqf7g

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by darenager - 2013/07/01 18:07

Thanks for doing this, is the keyboard fixed or can it be transposed when inputting a sequence?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by skab - 2013/07/01 19:46

The keyboard can't be transposed but you can set the oscillator scaling with the octave knob. Which is, incidentally, the only knob automation you can record into the sequencer.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by sdesign - 2013/07/03 00:21

skab wrote:

The keyboard can't be transposed but you can set the oscillator scaling with the octave knob. Which is, incidentally, the only knob automation you can record into the sequencer.

That's interesting, I couldn't find any mention of motion recording in the Volca Bass manual.

For info, the manuals state that for the Volca Beats, the Stutter 'Time' and 'Depth', and the 'PCM Speed' knobs can be automated, and for the Volca Keys, all transparent knobs other than the PEAK knob (below VCF) & TEMPO knob can be automated (13 parameters!).

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by xmit - 2013/07/03 00:28

isn't this less 'motion recording' & more just a basic feature for note entry on the Volca bass ? I don't have a Monotribe, but isn't this the same way as how you input different octaves into those too ?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by anigbrowl - 2013/07/04 14:09

Volca Bass mp3

;)

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by pulsn - 2013/07/04 16:58

Nice! Is there a demo without FX?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jsrockit - 2013/07/10 01:28

I'm excited about them. I'm going to try to use these three and an MPC500 to start making music again. I may have to

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by kingjdub1978 - 2013/07/18 07:34

get more volcas than 3 though.

I was checking these out on Sweetwater today, and their message has changed the availability from July to September

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jsrockit - 2013/07/18 22:28

That sucks big time if true.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by electrolegs - 2013/07/21 10:36

Can anyone with these machines please advise

1. which one they think is their fav 2. if they are fun after the first week

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by skab - 2013/07/23 17:13

I have the bass and the keys and the beats are on order. I really like them both. They don't much of a feature overlap they can both do tricks the other one can't. Korg have been pretty clever. I'm still having fun with mine. Since they have MIDI and accept CC data, they really are very open ended boxes. Fun on the go with the built in sequencer and battery power, handy in the studio hooked up to the OT. And c'mon....the price! Here's my review of the keys:

Part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvYw0q1ir6l

And part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F27D0jA9RE

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by skab - 2013/08/12 17:15

Finally got the Volca Beats. Now I have the cheapinity ;)

Here's part 1 of my review

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eemPFUtUQ8I

And part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3RbQeGsi7Q

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by dataline - 2013/08/12 17:30

electrolegs wrote: Can anyone with these machines please advise

1. which one they think is their fav 2. if they are fun after the first week

1- Well, Drum and Bass Volcas are OK, but the Keys model I think it is the worst out of them. Just sounds so dull and can not change the waveform ...

2- In my experience, they loose the fun pretty fast. After a few days, it felt pretty standard and nothing to explore.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan

Posted by pulsn - 2013/08/13 13:38

Thank you Cenk, that indeed kept me from continued GAS after those. I ordered a Monomachine now instead. :laugh:

But Korg did a very clever move with these. I am sure all other Music Machines companies will profit from that too. New people will get hooked to music making and after exploring those little ones, turn to the bigger machines. Clever. And then hooked on GAS.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jsrockit - 2013/08/22 23:31

Any update on US shipping?

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by darenager - 2013/08/22 23:50

I think these little buggers look like great fun and bang for the buck, in many ways they are a lot like modern versions of the 606, 303, etc not in sound but in focus, if they are anywhere near as good as the Monotribe (and they look to be) then frankly a no brainer!

The beats and keys look the most fun to me, the bass so far has not seemed as interesting but I'll daresay I'll end up with at least one of each.

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by steevyhead - 2013/08/23 01:40

I dont care, im gettin em. Ill prob grab beats first and see how old it gets how fast, and maybe grab the rest off ebay for cheap if i can. Got a bass station 2 comin, dont need more bass right now, and i heard the keys are weak.....

Re:Korg Volcas launched, on sale in Japan Posted by jsrockit - 2013/09/20 23:41

Still not in the US... : angry: