
Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Acidfever - 2005/08/04 11:49

Hi,

I am a happy MD-UW user from Holland but i have a dillema.

My musical style is mainly techno and the Machinedrum is perfect for this style. I do however have troubles finding gear that will give me the eventual sound i am looking for.

Besides the MD i own some other gear like a yamaha Rs7000 (sequencer/sampler), Virus C, Korg ER1 (hardly used), Roland SH32 (hardly used) and some outboard fx like TC M*One, D-Two, Triple C, DBX 166XL and 266XL.

Still i don't seem to find the sound i am looking for. Techno tracks have these grainy/warm percussion like loops wich i can't really master at this time.

Does anyone have suggestions about a good companion for the Machinedrum for making Techno/Drum and bass style music?

I am planning on selling the Korg Er1 and Roland SH32 since they are becoming obsolete.

I have been thinking about a good digital synth (Yamaha FS1r, Waldorf Microwave or maybe a hybrid like the DSI Evolver). Another option is invest in some filtering or maybe even TUBE pre-amp(s) to spice up sounds.

Any comment appreciated! :-)

Oh yeah, i own reaktor 5 too (legal).....gotta love that thing!

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by NoiseLab - 2005/08/04 16:42

Monomasschhh...

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2005/08/04 17:51

obviously the mono.. but for less \$\$\$ you should get yourself a nice analogue monosynth and sample it. call me cRAyYzZee but maybe a midi - cv/gate converter too :P
neonleg

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/04 18:00

whats a tube preamp gonna do? Maybe some nice neve-like line amps or something to do some transformer coloration...
Actually - I do a lot of recording through my Art Pro VLA - using it just as a limiter - that is a real "effecty" compressor for pretty cheap that sounds great - however, the "toobey" sound is not coming from the tubes in the circuit... and I only use it when I record into 2 channels not multitracking. Anyway...

You have so much gear in that list, perhaps you need to get rid of things you are not using and simply not replace them. Simplifying the rig will do wonders.

While the monomachine might be perfect for these sounds you are interested in - they can also easily be achieved with the Virus C! That thing is a monster with 32 voice polyphony (from what I recall). You can make 10 different percussion like sounds with that Virus - set them up in a multi bank - and sequence them from the machine drum and play a whole set with just those 2 machines!!!

Throwing money at a problem is only one solution, and its not a great one - thats my advice.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/04 18:13

hmmm, one thing you might want to think about which could help (and is more or less free) is to spend some time improving your sampling skills. I don't know anything about where you are with your technique, but it sounds like you could use some really good samples in your tracks. tricky percussion loops can really come out great if you take time to get your sample chopped correctly then spice it up with all kinds of tasty tricks. in fact, as I type this I feel like doing some sampling myself.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Mesak - 2005/08/04 20:29

Acidfever wrote:

I have been thinking about a good digital synth (Yamaha FS1r...

i got one of those. it's pretty mean thing but really very time-consuming to program... and not quite sure if it suits else than quite weird music (or for making karaoke playbacks as the presets sound very much like that :-)) very digital sound, very FM. but they are cheap if you just find one.

cheers

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by nop - 2005/08/04 20:36

How about SPECTRALIS??

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by spanky - 2005/08/04 21:24

Maybe a Nord Modular G2 (engine?)?

It's excellent for making seqences and FX with and is modular, like Reaktor. 8-)

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by nop - 2005/08/04 22:38

How about SPECTRALIS??

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by jbuonacc - 2005/08/04 23:48

well, SPECTRALIS is about \$2500, has an incomplete OS, and is actually pretty limited compared to something like a

NORD G2 ENGINE. :-D

i say G2 as well, depending on budget (but i always say that).

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/05 01:15

seriously, just between the MD and the Virus C, you have so much sonic firepower available. Maybe instead of worrying about what gear you have, you should be worried about what you're doing with the gear.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/05 02:09

thats what I'm talking about

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by cchocjr - 2005/08/05 04:48

I used to own a Virus C (Indigo 2, to be precise) before selling it to fund my Monomachine, and what I miss most about it was its external sound processing capabilities. Man...when I fed a simple MD loop through the Indigo and started to play with its grimmer effects, it was instant satisfaction.

Have you ever tinkered with your Virus C in this way? If not, I highly, highly, highly (did I say highly?) suggest it. In fact, I eventually want to get a Virus C desktop to regain this ability (in addition to the Virus being a badass synth in its own right!).

Hope this helps.

You might also try playing around with the MD's own effects...filters, subtly use of the SRR, etc.

cchocjr

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/05 06:13

oh God - the first time I ran my MD through my Virus MS20 filter patch was a day to remember. A day for the ages. A good day.

MS20 - resonant high pass into resonant low pass... 2 filters is what makes the virus kick so much ass - try it. You will not be disappointed.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2005/08/05 06:32

Hi,
just focussing on what you already said, i think you need 2 things:

1. analog, vintage analog: the soul of original techno, some old roland something-or-other. Trust me it'll make you sound 'like techno'.

2. Then, you just need to work on your 'warm and grainy-ifying', use those effects. But maybe yer effects are too high end, u need cheap analog f/x even guitar pedals. Your tube idea is good... or buy a junked old cassette 4-track, sample to that and back, it will be warm and grainy! i guarantee! i've done it :). Try just make a track the way you used to, THEN sample one of the synth lines thru some weird lo-fi f/x, THEN put the phrase into a sampler, chop it up, make it more 'minimal'... i bet it will sound right then.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/05 07:18

i think you need 2 things:

1. analog, vintage analog: the soul of original techno, some old roland something-or-other. Trust me it'll make you sound 'like techno'.

sorry, but I just think that is ridiculous. No offense - but come on, does everyone need some x0x thing in their rig? Are there not other ways to make techno? The dude has a Virus C for the love of.... sorry.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Acidfever - 2005/08/05 09:43

Oke, since there's been so many reactions (and a big thumbs up for those!). Let me try to sum my story up in 1 reply:

First of al milkmansnd, respect! Telling someone to try and understand more of his current gear or even sell some is great advise (i mean this). So many people have studio's full of gear they understand for 5% each. I am thinking of maybe selling some gear indeed (but not the high-end stuff hehe).

Things that might go are the Sh-32 and the Electribe ER1 (thought i won't get much money for them and they both have their own charm).

ggoodwin: On the spot. My sampling skills have been lacking since day 1 and have probably been to lazy to do something about this. Strange since techno is a genre where sampling seems an important issue (noted and will work on it, i promise! :-D)

Mesak: FS1R is great but to hard to handle indeed. I ditched that idea.

nop: SPEKTRALIS is nice but won't really bring anything new in my setup. Iso too expensive....

spanky & jbuonacc: A G2 Engine is kind of nice but i allready owned one and sold it. Why would you think? Well: Even though a modular is very nice, this thing just misses a good GUI and isn't special enough for me to own it as hardware. I allready owned reaktor 4 and upgraded that to v5 and have all the Modular power i need. It was nice to use the G2 as a hardware filterbank but the thing has it's problems there (sensivity of inputs is not nice to work with for starters). I Couldn't justify the money for it so i decided to sell it. I bought my first machinedrum qith the money i got back for it so all turned out well i guess! :) Also reaktor does what the G2 does and more. While the G2 is a nice product it isn't really that powerfull. Something that takes 40% of the total DSP in the G2 takes 10% in Reaktor (and that was on my previous pc).

ggoodwin: I realize i have a lot of firepower allready. I guess i should better learn how to get the result i want instead of buying some other piece of kit.

cchocjr & milkmansnd: Didn't realize the Virus Filter was that powerfull. Will have to try the things you both mentioned about filtering soon (read: tonight after work)

Some more about sampling: I sometimes have the feeling the sampler in my Rs7000 is underpowered. There have been more complaints about it lacking in crisp high for starters. While other things in de Rs7000 are very cool (like the lo-fi/bit-reducer stuff) this really concerns me. Would any of you suggest buying a second sampler for beat/loop munging or should i just stick with the one in the Rs7000? A second hand sampler doesn't use much space but does add heaps of

possibilities. Or would you suggest just taking the superb sampling options from reaktor and just use those (my initial plan). Been looking at a yamaha Su700 too but it's not really that different from the Rs7000's sampling engine.

I guess i should push reaktor more from synthesis to samplemangling.....

De DSI Evolver interests me in more ways by the way. The combination of 2 analog and 2 digital oscs is just very smart and combines the best of both world. Then 2 LP and 2 HP filters and 4 LFO's and a sequencer just makes this thing unstoppable..... If i would buy that it wouldn't be for filling the hole i am talking about here.....

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Finite - 2005/08/05 12:58

I got a rs7k too... I was going to use that for sampleing but the fucker is just way to big to take with me on the road. I mean the thing is awesome and deep don't get me wrong, but if I am going to spend that much time on learning it I would like it to be small and compact.

I hope to use the MD UW as a low fi sampler, and use my laptop for the rest...

BTW I also got the MnM it kicks ass!!

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by tobitobsen - 2005/08/05 13:38

Don?t get me wrong guys, don?t wanna start a battle, I am saving my money for a MnM, but my favourite liddle sample-fucker is the Electribe ESX. It has got a warm sound, good filters, enough ram for longer vocal-samples and loops and for live-using it?s the hell of a machine(for ex. mute and solo possibilities, arpeggiator) and it?s not as big as a RS 7xxx.And there is really no comparison to the small electribes, for example when it comes to name ya patterns and songs.I love it.

Peasn,
toxicobi.com

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/05 20:01

Hi Acidfever,

I think the best thing you could possibly do right now is take everything except for your MD and put it all in storage, then just lock yourself in the basement with the Drum for 3 months, and see what you have when you come out!

Then midi the virus to the MD and repeat!

Go do!

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2005/08/08 21:19

OK, I don't mean to say you can't make 'Techno' without old xox gear or whatever. In fact, I totally think the concept of Techno is to make new, adventurous sounds.

But, speaking from experience if you are really into capital-T Techno as a genre, you are probably going to lust after certain 'classic' sounds that you heard in all your favourite songs, and you might feel a little let-down if you can't make those sounds for certain parts in your own tracks.

Just like, if you were some guitar guy and your heroes were like Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray V. or whoever, you would, probably, go out and buy a Fender Strat at some point, don't you think?

So I stand by my suggestion because from reading Acidfever's description (and even his forum name!) I thought that might be his situation. I mean, I hear him saying he's after a certain sound, that is like recordings he's heard...

I have only heard demos of the Virus and played with my friend's Virus B briefly, but I didn't exactly think it sounded very similar to some old roland gear or something, and I've never really heard people suggest the Virus was a master of sounding 'analog' or 'retro' or anything.

I'm sure that everyone on here can agree that A.f. has more than enough great gear to make great tracks, and it seems kinda ridiculous to even consider spending more \$\$\$\$ at this point. But I also know that most people can relate to the quest for "that certain sound".

Ok, time to stop rambling :).

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by aom - 2005/08/09 15:53

Interesting topic, re "that sound" . . .

I can see where the above post is coming from in terms of "needing" certain gear to get "that techno sound," but in the true spirit of techno, shouldn't one simply use what's available then?

The Detoit pioneers didn't really have a (specific) reference sound (other than Kraftwerk and other influences) in terms of gear, but had to make due w/ cheap/affordable stuff (at the time) that they could get their hands on (mostly Roland stuff).

Of course this is all in hindsight, now that we have the internet and so many manufactures catering specifically to electronic music there aren't many gear mysteries anymore. . . it's so easy to learn about any and all gear, past or present, and what it can do for you . . . yet still hard to find "that sound" . . .

Just thinking out loud at this point :)

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by chris - 2005/08/09 16:35

I think that what ever you say about techno you are barking up the wrong tree... to be an individual is to be truly Techno.. using what you have (and I would say even reaktor by itself is MORE than enough) will bring you that techno sound. Is it possible that you are unaware of mastering or final processing techniques? maybe you should stop trying to be an all in one producer and focus on the track leaving the polished sound to people who do that kind of thing i.e an engineer.

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by monofever - 2005/08/09 23:58

Why not try to find out what gear the artist you are trying to emulate were using, and recreate their studio in your own home :-)

Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/10 00:07

now now - play nice!

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2005/08/10 02:17

haha,

to chris and monof.:

Geez, just read my post again.

Did I really say what you are implying I said? In the first line I agreed that the point of Techno is to be innovative, I've always thought that.

And what's that bit about mastering knowledge... I'll just leave that one, since it has nothing to do with the discussion.

My points are just common sense, and I dare anyone to argue with it:::

1.Sometimes, musicians fall in love with / are inspired by/ certain specific sounds they hear, and they get a desire to use that sound at a particular spot in their own music.

2.Furthermore, some sounds are better or at least more easily created on the original equipment that was used to make them.

((Okay, I'm sure some will argue with #2, considering the endless "virtual vs. real" analog debates that currently rage on, but I don't mean to get into that.))

Now remind me when I ever suggested that anyone should slavishly/wholesale copy someone else's sound?

My own setup is in no way an attempt to copy anyone in particular. (machinedrum, evolver, mpc, ex5, sh32, dp/2, juno106 and misc.) But it was totally fun and worth it to buy the juno106 because it brings a smile to my face hearing 'that particular sound' that graces some of my favourite tracks from days back. Is that some kind of personal failing , do you think? %) I'm sure I'm not alone.

(Indeed the sh32 i got cause it was 'cheap and easily available' so i guess that's the real techno philosophy, right :) ? nb i think its underrated and can do some weird sounds)

Anyway in hindsight I can appreciate the obvious mistake of posting this opinion on the home of "we don't need no stinking 909 hats" electron. I'm sure if I posted it to "Vintage Analog Acid Fiends United" board the reaxn would have been totally different :).

Why does everyone seem to be so polarized like "vintage sux" or "vintage is the messiah"? Cause I feel like that's the pre-existing argument I've tapped into here.

Oh and the last thing, I often hear that line of thinking that 303's etc. were "just what was cheap and available"... but I would imagine that the reality was that a few people started using them for that reason and found out how cool they were, then other people heard that sound and wanted to do it too-- isn't that how things usually work?

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/10 04:40

I'll admit it: I'm just jealous of all the nice gear you've got D:

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Acidfever - 2005/08/10 23:20

Wow, i turn my head for a second and some deep reply's appear here.

I do not really "need" any gear. (it sometimes just itches to buy something, but i'm sure you all know that feeling! :-D).

Anyways, what is said about reaktor is very true. Actually reaktor is the only thing that has really almost given me the thing i want.... i do however realise that i just need to spend more time with all my gear and should stop looking at other gear...

Mastering is one trick i don't have up my sleeve and i guess i should try and find someone that could do this for me.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/11 00:38

never master your own shit. Ever. Trust me - unless you have the ear, the gear, and the tuned room, you are just gonna do more harm than good.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by jsrocket - 2005/10/15 17:35

I'd say the Monomachine, the new Future Retro revolution, a DS Evolver, or some classic roland gear would be the way to go. Warmth? get some nice analog compressors and a nice analog mixer.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by synthy - 2005/10/15 18:54

Hi Acidfever,

Sorry that I've missed your thread until now.

I have a question: what kind of techno are you trying to achieve? If you list some artist names and tracks I'll have a careful listen if I have it.

Here's one thing to try: use the MD to sequence acoustic drum sounds, and make those sounds dirty using a bit of LPF and sample / bit rate reduction, and compress the s____ out of them. Use a few different snares, a few different high-hats layered, and of course a thumping bass drum.

For the "grainy, warm" drum loops that you describe, that will get you a good percentage of the way there, because I think a lot of that "warmth" we hear comes from real acoustically-based sounds. :-D

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2005/10/16 14:45

For the "grainy, warm" drum loops that you describe, that will get you a good percentage of the way there, because I think a lot of that "warmth" we hear comes from real acoustically-based sounds. :-D

and by taking off the top end...like he is saying...they can't help but get warmer. ;)

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by synthy - 2005/10/20 04:09

try it if you don't believe it - LPF then compress, and all of a sudden really bright samples become "full" sounding and have alot of impact.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by jsrocket - 2005/10/31 01:14

Future Retro Revolution

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by Acidfever - 2005/10/31 09:07

Hi Synthy,

I guess some good examples would be:

Cari lekebusch - Attitydsknackaren

Surgeon - Badger Bite

Further examples of artist would be old releases from Adam Beyer, Thomas Krome, but also all release from Surgeon en most Cari lekebusch releases.

Hope this helps to get things clear.

synthy wrote:

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Sorry that I've missed your thread until now.

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by - 2006/01/15 18:23

lekebusch uses a machinedrum :)

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Re: Perfect machinedrum companion?

Posted by jsrocket - 2006/01/15 19:19

For me...it is still the Monomachine.
