
Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by glitched - 2006/03/14 06:39

So, I've come across some money recently and I can finally purchase my dream synth. (Well, second dream synth--the first was the Monomachine, of course.) The Nord G2 is the one I want, but the eternal question persists: keyboard or rack?

The "Engine" has no buttons, faders, or knobs--it's just the brain. It comes in at about \$800 less than the keyboard version.

The question to you G2 owners or would-be owners is, do you miss the keys? I seem to think that the keys on my SFX6 are integral to the machine--it would be difficult to operate without them, even with a good external controller.

What are your thoughts? If I go with the Engine, I'll probably get a small controller kbd like the M-Audio Axiom 25.

Thanks.

-d
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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by ggoodwin - 2006/03/14 07:59

I don't own either but IMO it's worth saving a few extra months to get the keys and the fancy LED knobs on there...no controller is gonna give you the same immediacy as the keyboard G2 version.

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by deaf-mute - 2006/03/14 08:59

ggoodwin wrote:

I don't own either but IMO it's worth saving a few extra months to get the keys and the fancy LED knobs on there...no controller is gonna give you the same immediacy as the keyboard G2 version.

Well I beg to differ on that point. I think that if you already have a controller keyboard, it's not worth cluttering your workspace any more. The nord modular concept speaks for itself (modular). Any parameter or button can be assigned to any controller and any combination (morph) can be assigned to a single button. All he's after is the sound. So he can save a lot of space, program each sound to suit his needs (unless he uses only presets, which he can modify on screen) and have some extra cash to buy something else.... (start saving for a MnM :-D

Believe me you won't regret the decision, sure the Modular G2 looks like a bomb but I still think he can spend his cash elsewhere.

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by misty - 2006/03/14 09:18

Hi glitched,

There have been several discussions about this on electro-music.com as well.

I think it depends on several reasons if you go for the keyboard or the engine.

I bought the keyboard version because

- I'm a ?hands-on? person. I like knobs on my synths, the more the better!
- It can be operated stand-alone, without a computer (a bit hard with the engine)
- You can use it as a state-of-the-art midi-controller for all your other gear.

After 2 years I'm still very happy with my choice!

The keyboard is pretty amazing and gives very good visual feedback .
(endless knobs with circular leds & 5 lcd?s) the stone wheel and certainly
the wooden pitchstick are fantastic aswell, certainly as a morph-controller,
it?s *very* expressive!

Still... \$800 dollar more for the keyboard isn?t exactly ?cheap?,
I?m sure you can buy some other goodies for this amount...

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by papertiger - 2006/03/14 14:16

i'm going to second misty -- go to electro-music.com and read some of the threads. when i used to haunt that board, when i had my g2 rack, i found that site to be invaluable.

when i got my g2, i bought the rack version mainly because of money. i was in school and i figured i could get a controller to use with it. the combination worked well for me since the controller that i ended up getting, the remote 25, has tons of knobs.

the being said, however, i am certainly *not* a keyboard player, which also influenced my decision. as i understand the g2 board, it is heavily oriented/tilted towards performance. so if you get the rack you *will* lose some immediacy. of course, if you only ever work on tunes next to your computer, then the rack + controller combination might work very well.

if i had to do it again (and i've thought about the original nm key for sure!) i would probably try the kb just because it's nice to have visual cues regarding parameters. but then again, space is always a consideration.

i think what it comes down to is how you think YOU will end up using the g2 and what you find inspiring.

i'll post again if i think of anything else.

-M

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by glitched - 2006/03/14 19:33

Thanks for the replies guys (and girls!).

After mulling it over for a good 26 hours, reading multiple threads on myriad message boards, I'm leaning toward the Engine.

Here's why: 1) I'm no kbd player. I don't care about expresiveness or how responsiveness or even if the kbd allows me to play like Stevie Wonder (although, I think I'd snap that keyboard right up, if someone made it. And if the keyboard made me blind like him, I would have to think twice.).

2) Physical space. I desire to have a decent controller in front of my face, as I'm staring at the monitor, making patches, sequencing, etc. I think this has been the bottleneck in my workflow for some time now--I'm constantly swiveling my chair around to look at the monitor, then back to the keyboard...I simply need something that fits in the 2' space in front of my monitor.

3) The MnM SFX6 is not a "do it all" controller. It's kind of difficult to do some of the things that I want it to. It's great as an all-inclusive synth machine, though.

4) I can get the Engine at \$1000.00--with expansion! That leaves plenty of money for that Axiom controller (\$179) and maybe a new LCD, for the price of a G2 kbd.

The deal isn't done yet, so if you have more opinions, please do post.

Thanks! You're all very helpful.

-d
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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by papertiger - 2006/03/15 01:33

OMG the expansion. you can some even crazier shnizz with that thing installed. it gives you a horsepower boost and is dead easy to install too.

you are making me miss my g2!!

the reasons you give for your choice are precisely the same ones that i was thinking of -- especially the being no stevie wonder part. . . now ray charles -- that's another story.

er. jk.

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by misty - 2006/03/15 12:18

if you go for the engine/controller solution,
maybe these links can help...

<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/topic-7414.html>

<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/topic-6933.html>

<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/topic-7212.html>

<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/topic-6282.html>

<http://www.electro-music.com/forum/topic-4534.html>

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by misty - 2006/03/15 14:17

papertiger wrote:

you are making me miss my g2!!

hehe, you're not the only one.

I know several people who bought a G2, sold it, and bought one again after a few months.

It's such a deep synth with almost endless possibilities.

You just have to spend a huge amount of time with it to release what monster you have under your fingers :-)

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by papertiger - 2006/03/16 02:46

which is precisely why i sold it, mother misty.

but your drum machine noodles. . . man how i miss them. . .

=)

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by rudebop - 2006/03/16 18:38

I would say a G2 without controls is no G2...

No surprise that you have sold it... I guess there is a non keyboard version coming soon.

If you get a controller make sure its one that has the 8 buttons for variation switching or you will miss half the fun

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by rudebop - 2006/03/16 19:25

papertiger wrote:

which is precisely why i sold it, mother misty.

but your drum machine noodles. . . man how i miss them. . .

=)

The last one he has send in let me think about selling the machinedrum an getting an engine instead ;-)..but... a real drummachine has its advantages... its just hard to beat the incredible soundrange the nords can do...

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by misty - 2006/03/17 08:56

hehe, thanks for those nice words.

You're talking about MyRhybo I guess?

I do alot of my drumstuff on the G2 because I find a

MD too limited for my needs. I use my MD alot to make scapes & drones these days :-)

I think you would be surprised to hear how good an MD can do stuff like that.

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by rudebop - 2006/03/17 17:44

Yes Rhmbo...i wonder if i can use it..usually i enjoy patches from others only for privat fun and inspiration... but in the end of the day all this Nord stuff needs a lot of time and if it helps you to cover a few minutes on stage?...

Its defenety a nice one..i ve to dive a bit into to see where i cn modify it a bit.

Isnt the machinedrum to expensiv to do just drones?

I am a bit scared that this can happen to my machinedrum aswell..and that a electribe might have been the much pricier choice when its just to have a secondary drum to fill loading gaps... I have 2 gigs in april...time to get the UW out of its box again...hope it dont kills the gig again ;-)

But this time i know the songmode button... I ve to program a song now...just for security reasons... :-/

actually i should sell it...this songmode button is just a laptop act like tool...

who needs a song mode? and who needs one that is easier to access than the mute page...this really stinks...

I will see how the 2 gigs turn out...

Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by glitched - 2006/03/18 02:32

Thanks for all the replies.

I ended up getting a great deal on the (expanded) G2 Engine + Axiom controller (which has 8 "MPC-like" pads and 8 endless encoders). The price ended up being a more than \$1G, which is about \$1,300 less than a G2x!

(It's funny that I'm almost more excited about the controller than the G2...almost.)

Have you seen the Axiom?

They do a nice round-up of the top 25-key portables on sonicstate.com:

<http://www.sonicstate.com/articles/article.cfm?id=100#> .

I guess I'm just excited to start making music, effortlessly, instead of getting frustrated with my workspace and methods.

Know what I'm sayin'?

Can't wait for the UPS man to come on Tuesday.

-d

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by glitched - 2006/03/18 03:22

By the way, thanks for those links, Misty. Now I'm "Misty-eyed" over my choice (Engine + controller). Sniff...

No, not really; I just have to check it out for myself.

Before I purchased, I had to ask myself: How often will I really need to tweak? How many parameters will I need at my fingertips at once?

I guess we'll see. (Anyone wanna trade a mint SFX-6 for a G2kbd? Hehe.)

-d

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by jbuonacc - 2006/03/18 07:20

it seems nobody mentioned the fact that the kb version has quick access to over 120 parameters (if needed) via the five 8x3 'page' buttons. there's no real way to duplicate this on any controller that i can think of. maybe by making several different presets to switch through on a controller like the ReMote, but it's not saved with the patch/performance like on the G2. or do other controllers offer 'pages' inside their presets as well (just remembered that the BCR/F-2000 has four available for the eight knobs/buttons up top)?

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by misty - 2006/03/20 09:30

Isn't the machinedrum too expensive to do just drones?

Oh yes it is :-(

But sometimes it's very refreshing to use your gear to make things it was not intended for :-)

glitched: congrats on your purchase!
Happy patching and i guess i'll see you soon on electro-music.com :-)

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Re: Nord G2 vs. Nord G2 Engine+ext controller

Posted by glitched - 2006/03/20 21:36

Misty: indeed.

I have a lot of experience patching my own virtual modulars with SynthEdit, so I should be right at home on a G2.

Unfortunately (or fortunately?), I won't be breaking any new ground with the patches I make--G2 users already have a lengthy head-start! Also, I think I may spend most of my time downloading and trying the patches that are already out there.

That's a great community, by the way. Loads of information, patches, and techniques.

Signing up now...

-d

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