
Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by Munchen - 2007/11/14 01:46

David from Innerclock posted a polite question about the Mark II's on the main Mark II forum but it either got lost in the swamp of people bitching about resale values of the 'Classic' versions or else he just got ignored because it's an ugly issue. So - close down this thread if need be Moderators but I would like to know if they have in fact straightened up the timing engine in the Mark II models - anyone taken delivery yet? May the Funk Be With You all - Munchen

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by pix - 2007/11/14 01:58

nice one.

interested in knowing this as well.

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by divi - 2007/11/14 15:29

gents, get your microscopy apparatus out: here we go again! :lol:

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by texmex - 2007/11/14 15:57

I think I'll be getting my in the beginning of next week (Sweden -> Finland shouldn't take that long) Getting pretty excited!

I'll try to do some measurements. Hope we can settle this once and for all :-)

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by Wavecircle - 2007/11/14 16:00

The timing on the mkI is tight as fuck.

???

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Re: Mark II Timing Sharpened ?????

Posted by jsrocket - 2007/11/14 16:08

I never understood this... ignorance is bliss!

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/14 16:44

Hey - thanks Munchen for the Topic post - I was keeping a low profile for fear of assasination after last time...:)

Hi Divi - I think we can keep this one down to a few pages this time! Not going to enter into ethical/creative debate on the issue either - those that got the point last time will understand the relevance of course.

I'm sure the fine folks at Elekrone HQ absorbed some of that 48 pages and over 10,000 views on my original Mark I timing thread - hopefully that will have been on the R&D priority list.

I'm keen to get a MKII SPS of course and I got excited when I saw the word 'Sharpened' on the Elekrone Website.

Just need to see those step intervals before I send the cash over....)

If anyone cares to do the numbers and does not want to put them up for general viewing for whatever reason - I got slammed last time for trying to 'hurt' Elekrone - please message them to me privately if you wish.

Regards to all - David
www.innerclocksystems.com

Oh - and yes I do work for Roland in case anyone missed the last witch hunt and no I am not using this forum as a axe to grind or to promote other products - my own included - and I am a genuine Elekrone supporter (I owned an SPS-1) and recommend their to many others who have also purchased on my advice.

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by actual - 2007/11/14 16:48

innerclock wrote:

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Innerclock, since none of us work for Elekrone nor have the new units yet, it's best to direct your technical questions to support@elekrone.se, info@elekrone.se

thx
a

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by rudebop - 2007/11/15 22:16

Wavecircle wrote:

The timing on the mkI is tight as fuck.

???

it has a tight groove but not a tight timing..there is a portion of random involved that can cause problem when running together with tight drummachines..

808 with md for example dont sounds especially good even when the sounds are working together pretty well..

however its not really necessary to run the md with another drummachine together because of the wide varity of sounds it can produce...

i actually like the inbuild human factor of the md even when it can cause editing problems..

its an intersting question if they have changed something..could give the mk1 machines a certain vintage factor if they have changed something...

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by rudebop - 2007/11/15 22:24

innerclock wrote:

If anyone cares to do the numbers and does not want to put them up for general viewing for whatever reason - I got slammed last time for trying to 'hurt' Elektron - please message them to me privately if you wish.

noway.. numbers on the table.. i and others like to know what we are dealing with. the timing thread was extremly helpfull because it pointed out the source for some problems in the studio where you never expected your shiny expensiv md to be the reason for..knowing about things like the push pull timing just helps to fix problems at the source when they occur without having to stop the session..

so i prefer known facts over belife systems or timing myths..

any user can decide themself wether they like the timing or not ..but the technical facts behind should be public...

as the md timing thread proofed .. a wobbely timing can be a problem for one while its a good feature for someone else.. and as it looks most people like the timing of the md..so it maybe remains unchanged in the mk2 machines...

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by divi - 2007/11/16 05:10

people, here s the original timing thread, please don't do it all over again:http://www.elektron-users.com/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmode=flat&topic_id=2155&forum=1

however, if people measure the mkII's timing of course you re welcome to post it here.

innerclock, i hope you dont feel 'slammed' by the elektron-users crew coz that s absolutely not the case!

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/19 14:37

divi wrote:

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however, if people measure the mkII's timing of course you re welcome to post it here.

innerclock, i hope you dont feel 'slammed' by the elektron-users crew coz that s absolutely not the case!

Hi Divi - thanks for the reply - I for one certainly don't want a repeat debate of last time but still keen to know if they did straighten up the numbers. Seems logical if they re-engineerd the SPS-1 - my sincere hope is they did because I do miss the sounds and way of working with my Mkl and I'd get a MKII in a heartbeat.....

....Not slammed but a little bit dissapointed by the way my findings and reasonings were rejected, often in quite an abusive manner back in the original thread.....

regards - David

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by actual - 2007/11/19 14:45

understood Innerclock. that topic unfortunately got out of control. until someone can post something definitive and factual there's no need to debate or for folks to weigh in on their personal feeling on the matter.

again, i'd contact support@elektron.se as they would obviously have more definitive info.

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by - 2007/11/23 12:09

Heya, Innerclock {or anyone else},

Where on the Elektron site is there a reference to the MD's timing being sharpened? I've been looking for it since David Innerclock mentioned it, but no joy.

Cheers.

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by actual - 2007/11/23 12:27

I have confirmed w/ Elektron that there have been no adjustments to the timing of the SPS-1(uw) line. I have never suffered from the issues noted from innerclock, but regardless, if timing issues have kept one from buying a MD then you won't be happy with the MKII's, at least as far as the timing is concerned.

I have no further details and I suggest feelings on this matter be directed to support@eletkron.se. I feel we have thoroughly covered this topic on this site, and since there are no improvements, there is nothing new to discuss that hasn't already been covered.

I suppose happy users will continue to be happy and unhappy users should express their issues with Elektron.

To read up on the previous well fleshed up topics do a SEARCH

and: Original Timing Thread

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/25 06:15

Thanks for the post Actuel - most appreciated although more than a little saddened I must confess. I miss my SPS-1 in many ways and wanted to go for a Mark II. With the tragedy of Daniel's passing not long ago and a new range of products just out I didn't really want to email the fine folks directly after all the heat last time so thanks for finding out.

Best to all - David

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'????

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/25 06:18

Thanks for the post Actuel - most appreciated although more than a little saddened I must confess. I miss my SPS-1 in many ways and wanted to go for a Mark II. With the tragedy of Daniel's passing not long ago and a new range of products just out I didn't really want to email the fine folks directly after all the heat last time so thanks for finding out.

Best to all - David

=====

Re: Mark II Timing Sharpened ?????

Posted by kim - 2007/11/25 12:29

in the tests i've run with an mk I clocked by logic 8, i've never seen any trig fall farther than 60 samples from its ideal target @ 48k, which would equate to 1.25 milliseconds. its certainly not the tightest thing in the whole wide world, but it is still tighter than an 808, according to innerclock's tests, and probably tight enough for my purposes. i'm guessing there might still be some marginal improvement in mk II's with the newer dsp's and all, even if they did not consciously address the issue from a software standpoint.

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by Munchen - 2007/11/25 16:25

A reduction in case size has to surely establish a dramatic drop in shipping costs , and , inturn the overall retail price , but overlooking the emollient cpu surely confirms that elektron is a top clothing manufacturer that ALMOST cracked the " best ever drum machine " .

Hey , it looks the business don't get me wrong , and the synthetic sounds are unequaled , but for the retail outlay I reckon I'd say the timings rock solid too , but don't deny the numbers people . . ,

See the innerclocksystems litmus page . . .

I'm just glad I paid close to cost price to find that along with ALL other drum machines that I have ever owned without the linn signature , are guaranteed to have BAD CPU TIMING .

Some will disagree with me surely , but hey , you either care or you click , drag & drop .

I'm getting tired of paying full price for unperfected machines knowing full well I'm just paying to keep the R&D team in cool tech clothing while there getting blown out in the minimal tech club circuit . . .

Oh well , it's back to getting my hands on florians mr. lab

. . . Think I'll need to get out the chloroform . . .

Also elektron , if you want your cpu's fixed , I know someone who may consider doing it for you - but he ain't cheap !

FVJ

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by actual - 2007/11/25 16:35

Munchen wrote:

Also elektron , if you want your cpu's fixed , I know someone who may consider doing it for you - but he ain't cheap !

FVJ

Just a quick interjection, Elektron-Users isn't Elektron. If folks have something suggest, report or share directly with

Elektron do so here: support@elektron.se

now carry on...

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by ThinkTanx - 2007/11/25 16:51

Munchen wrote:

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:roll:

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by texmex - 2007/11/29 15:35

I just finished some tests on MDUW MKII. I'm witnessing maximal +79 sample gaps at 48khz sampling which translates to 1,65ms jitter.

I used heavy load (all 16 tracks going off 50% steps at random) and just GND:IMP going on. No noticable difference in the pattern.

With 1,65 ms jitter I really can live with it.

Hope this helps. You do your own conclusions...

- sampsa

Just GND:IMP

Gap measured / diff to 24000

24037 +37

23933 -20

24002 -18

23968 -50

24107 +57

23933 -10

24002 -8

23968 -40

Heavy load

Gap measured / diff to 24000

24002 +2

24038 +40

23933 -27

24106 +79

23968 +47

24029 +76

24003 +79

23968 +47

EDIT: My jitter calculations are not correct, the actual jitter is smaller than the one I present here. Need to calculate jitter from the grid not from the last sample (which already might contain jitter)...

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by Rew - 2007/11/29 17:59

wooooo! sounds tight! :-D thats tight right?

I dont know so much about this stuff and am wondering what these jitter numbers translate to in the real world... is this number for the MD considered REALLY good, good, average,ok ,or sub par? i dont really know. I looked at the original timing thread, but it flummoxed my brain.

Using the same test, what would the jitter be for other gear... like roland drum machines... linn drum... MPCs????

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/30 06:04

texmex wrote:

I just finished some tests on MDUW MKII. I'm witnessing maximal +79 sample gaps at 48khz sampling which translates to 1,65ms jitter.

Thanx Tex - what Tempo?

regards - David

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/11/30 06:12

Rew wrote:

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Using the same test, what would the jitter be for other gear... like roland drum machines... linn drum... MPCs????

Hi - the original Timing Thread does get a bit over the top but have a look at my Litmus Page to get some comparisons:

<http://web.webhost4life.com/innerclock/index.asp?action=page&name=34>

Remember - it's all down to what you like - don't get too hung up on the numbers - everyone hears and appreciates things differently and there is no right or wrong - I set up the Litmus page for close friends really who couldn't get straight answers about timing performance and it turns out many people are interested in the same things.

Regards David.

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by omriL - 2007/12/01 01:37

Wow David, very interesting. I've wondered about how my sh-101 timing was because it's audible in it's loss of sinc from digital performer, Live, emu sp-12, and tr-707. Always I've used the external clock in and never the external gate input. I'm stoked on this bit of info.

The way I look at my 2 drum machines is as drummers themselves. Each has their own feel, timing and style just as a real drummer does (of which I prefer). I often offset hits from the sp-12 (which I guess is a loose machine to beggin with) every few bars by 1/64 just to add a little more looseness like a real drummer - actually since that machine is always double timed that would be 1/128 variation...depending on how you think about it.

My other take on timing looks into the cosmos. Nothing is perfect, not even the sun resolves perfectly around it's own axis! No loop is perfect out there or down here, but don't quote little ol' me on that.

Anyway, cool tests and props to the art of timing! :-D

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/12/01 03:06

omriL wrote:

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Anyway, cool tests and props to the art of timing! :-D

Thanks for the props omriL - yeah the 101 experiment was an eye opener for me in many respects - finally proof of what I had long suspected - that no matter how good your master sync might be and even with the facility to jack analogue voltage pulses in - a sequencer or drum machine - vintage/modern - will only ever be as tight as it's code/hardware allows it to be. Using your Cosmos concept - I see it as the Sync 'Hardware Event Horizon' - you can get close to tight sync but you can't improve beyond the design limitations of the box. All the best - David

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by texmex - 2007/12/01 04:55

innerclock wrote:

texmex wrote:

I just finished some tests on MDUW MKII. I'm witnessing maximal +79 sample gaps at 48khz sampling which translates to 1,65ms jitter.

Thanx Tex - what Tempo?

regards - David

It was the standard 120 BPM.

Need to do a simple layering test later because that's what I'm concerned about. If tracks deviate from each other it's going to be a slight problem because of the phase shifting...

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by rudebop - 2007/12/01 10:32

so we can say that the timing is as untight as it was ?

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/12/02 04:38

texmex wrote:

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Gap measured / diff to 24000

24037 +37

23933 -20

24002 -18

23968 -50

24107 +57

23933 -10

24002 -8

23968 -40

Hey Tex - just had a look at your numbers again - how did you calculate your + and - variances? Are they how far away they fall from the theoretical grid? Some of the numbers don't add up by my sums.....

Also - variation from 'perfect' grid tempo is useful certainly but more significant in terms of what we actually hear as shifts in rhythmic feel is the push-pull differences between consecutive steps that should be even across the whole pattern.

By your first test these end up as:

24037 to 23933 = 104 samples

23933 to 24002 = 69 samples

24002 to 23968 = 34 samples

23968 to 24107 = 139 samples

24107 to 23933 = 174 samples

23933 to 24002 = 69 samples

24002 to 23968 = 34 samples

Note the same cyclic nature of the push-pull as measured in the Mark 1.

The maximum 174 sample difference at 48 kHz equates to 3.6ms variation between what 'should be' evenly spaced steps/events.

Regards - David

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by texmex - 2007/12/03 02:58

Thanks David, I used the deviation from the perfect grid but I think I did it wrong. Your method seems fine... though for me jitter is deviation from something that it should be, not from the last measured value.

These are objective matters, but it is undeniable that MD MKII has this same push-pull pattern as the MKI.

So, nothing new under the sun, I'm afraid :-(

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by omriL - 2007/12/03 13:33

Ok, here's my question on this to Dave and anyone who feels comfortable answering. (note: I see why this type of thread can cause an uproar, and I'd love to discuss it elsewhere but...here goes anyway)

If there is a problem with timing from the main sequencer of a rig (again not pointing a finger or trying to stir emotion), and there is a slight drift in the sync. As long as there is no issue with the other modules that are being triggered, won't everything drift together. In other words, would the the units being controlled by a drifting sync, stay in sync with the drift?

I hope that's an understandable question.

peace

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by omriL - 2007/12/03 13:56

Also if anyone wants to join in on similar conversation at gearslutz.com....<http://www.gearslutz.com/board/electronic-music-instruments-electronic-music-production/160163-machines-timing.html>

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/12/03 16:38

omriL wrote:

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I hope that's an understandable question.

peace

OK - in brief - imagine you have a precision reference pulse click track running at 120 BPM that has zero drift/jitter and you can slave everything off this (like word clock for audio). Unlike Word Clock however, most/all sequencer tempo/event scheduling and event triggering is under complex internal CPU/procesor control and is never fully slaved to the master tempo sync source. What this means is that CPU and DSP processing takes priority over incoming sync so that, long-term (over the length of a song) you get average tempo synchronisation between master and slave but short term (individual event sync) - you get push/pull slop - this is because at that level you reach the limit of the tempo precision of each individual device. It doesn't matter how tight the reference master sync is the slave will always play tag - rushing and dragging based on it's own processing limitations.

Hope that helps - regards - David

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Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by omriL - 2007/12/03 17:31

Understood!

Thank you Dave, I appreciate your test work and appreciate that you have offered a way to test machines, and that you

welcome others to challenge your findings and method. If I find differently I will let you know and what is cool is that I know that that is welcome. Ego is no place for successful learning, music, life ect.

peace

=====

Re: Mark II Timing 'Sharpened'???? . . . BOOM chicka BOOM !!!

Posted by innerclock - 2007/12/03 17:46

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peace

Pleasure omriL - I've not registered with gearslutz so I can't reply or post as yet (I'll get there) but the 808 litmus was tested/ slaved off a very tight (+/- 1 sample accurate) reference Din Sync master device. I felt this was more useful in the long run because most users run them as slaves these days in their setups. I'm going to borrow one and do the test again for the internal results - remember of course that (like the CR-8000) and other vintage sequencers that use analogue Multivibrator/Oscillator design for tempo generation - the internal tempo is only as accurate as the stability of the oscillator and the potentiometer that controls the rate. At least with external sync you have the capacity to override this limitation to a degree if you have a reliable tight clock source.

Regards and respect - David

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Re:Mark II Timing \Sharpened\????

Posted by torsig1967 - 2008/07/08 19:45

Where's the original timing thread?

The URL given above...does not work. And the search engine here doesn't either.

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Re:Mark II Timing \Sharpened\????

Posted by actuel - 2008/07/08 19:49

Where's the original timing thread?

Dunno. Would have to PM Innerlock.

The URL given above...does not work. And the search engine here doesn't either.

it does work. its just not capable of intelligent filtering or advanced search.

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