



Output – Indie Vocals, Ambient Vocals and Barely Vocals for Exhale \$35 each

Output have created quite a storm over the last few years with their great-looking and immensely playable, Kontakt instruments. Their fondness for good design has also taken them into the furniture market with Platform, an attractive yet functional studio desk. Recently they have also dived into the subscription-based arena, with their Arcade loop synthesiser.

Luckily Output haven't forgotten their roots, and continue to release expansion packs for their sample-based sound libraries. This time it's the turn of their vocal engine Exhale to get a sonic boost with three packs – Indie Vocals, Ambient Vocals and Barely Vocals. These all utilise the original's underlying audio content, and only add presets applicable to Exhale's Notes mode. With this in mind, it is understandable that there is

a certain amount of overlap in styles here, and like the factory presets, they cover long evolving elements, rhythmic effects and single hits. The Output instruments are powerful, but also hungry when it comes to your CPU, though it's fair to say that an individual preset carries a lot of sonic weight, and therefore requires little further processing.

Overall though, the quality is high and the presets make a worthy addition to those provided with the original library. Sadly, there are no discounts on buying multiple expansion packs unless you purchase the entire Output Collection bundle, so if I had to choose one pack then Indie Vocal would be it. **Bruce Aisher**
www.output.com

VERDICT 8.0

East West – Hollywood Choirs Gold from \$665

After last month's look at East West's Voices Of The Empire, we are back in more traditional territory with Hollywood Choirs. EW have been at this kind of thing for many years. Apart from the impressive recording and sound potential, the big sell here is the inclusion of a new version of WordBuilder – a system for creating recognisable word-based sung phrases.

Like other EW libraries, Hollywood Choirs runs (standalone or as a plugin) from within their Play software, and WordBuilder is nicely integrated into this workflow. Text can be entered as plain English words (which are then matched to a 100,000 word dictionary), phonetics or Votox, a custom alphabet. Although it can take a few adjustments to get a phrase to sound correct, once done the results are excellent. The pleasure of having a large choir sing your own choice of lyrical phrases is immense. WordBuilder allows you to go into enormous detail when customising triggering, timing and tonal phrasing of the vocal playback, but it is the way in which it connects with the underlying sound library that makes this such an impressive product.

The most affordable way to get hold of Hollywood Choirs Gold is via an EW Composer Cloud subscription. The Cloud X version adds Surround Recordings to the mix. However, if you need the flexibility of accessing five different mic positions then you will need to stump up for the \$799 Diamond Edition. **Bruce Aisher**
www.soundsonline.com

VERDICT 9.4



Loopmasters – Kraak & Smaak

– Electronic Funk & Disco £30



Debut sample pack from the flying Dutchmen and jewel in the crown of the Jalapeno Records stable. Fans of their music will have followed them from their sample-led beginnings, all the way to where we find them now – as accomplished future boogie musicians, who write slick electro melodies and tweak their analogue gear over tight drum programming. Amongst the 825MB of content on offer in this Loopmasters release they give you plenty of their trademark synth workouts, classic disco basslines, and enough crisp claps, drum hits, stabs, and FX to work up your own productions, without feeling like you're straight jackin' their style. Top stuff, and after one hit of these dancefloor grooves, we know you'll be fiending for more Kraak & Smaak. **Roy Spencer**

www.loopmasters.com

VERDICT 9.0



Loopmasters – Mark Fletcher vs The Jungle Drummer – Breakbeat Battle Vol 1 £30

What happens when a top-flight jazz sticks man meets a modern master of D&B drumming? This immensely rewarding clash of styles is what. The two players duke it out over 1.46GB of drum loops, taking in every tempo and style you could hope to sample. In one corner is Mark Fletcher, who earned his chops playing with every jazz legend you can name. In the other, The Jungle Drummer, who has lived up to his name as the backbone of London Elektricity's live shows, as well as keeping the beat for the likes of Coldcut. The two get heated in the studio, laying down loops, both drenched in effects, and dry-as-a-bone. It's a great battle, and you get the spoils of this war. **Roy Spencer**
www.loopmasters.com

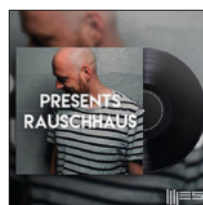
VERDICT 9.0



Audiotent – Division Standard £37/Deluxe £57

Let's welcome Audiotent onto these pages – a premium preset portal and slick sample site from London, founded in 2015 with one simple goal – to help y'all produce better music. Their latest release is a plump presets package for vintage synth emulator, u-he Diva. For your buck you get 107 presets and their corresponding MIDI. The sound designs are tough and melodic, and you get some real hair-raising patches, guaranteed to provide some beef for your next peak-time techno production. You also get 107 key-labelled WAV loops in this set, based on the presets, which all sound great on their own, or chopped up in your DAW of choice. All in all, a great and customisable offering from this fresh new sample house. **Roy Spencer**
www.audiotent.com

VERDICT 9.0



Engineering Samples Presents Rauschhaus £17

Moritz Rausch aka Rauschhaus is a house music artist and DJ from Kiel in Germany. An accomplished musician, he blends live playing with textured dance music, and has been one to watch, of late, with tracks like *The Ones Who Resist* turning heads and winning fans mesmerised by his characteristic trippy grooves and rich atmospheres. It's that aesthetic that he brings to his first artist pack for the Sample Magic camp. Twinges of sweet sadness hang to the melodies in this 46MB collection, as deep, kick-heavy grooves pull you in. It's a warm and welcoming sound palette, and one that will enrich the sample library of any producers out there who have a heightened awareness of light and shade. **Roy Spencer**
<http://sounds.beatport.com>

VERDICT 8.0



Sample Magic – Dusty Beats Toolkit £15

Yes, we know... Another collection of drum sounds. Do you really need another one? Well yes, always... If you make drum-led beats, and flip over pulling out just the right sounding snare to arm your sampler with, then you can never have too many. So the Dusty Beats Toolkit is sure to be a welcome addition to your library – there's over a thousand 24-bit WAV files here, as well as dope loops, drum racks, and custom kits for a variety of platforms. The drums come in all shapes and sizes, from bright and jazzy, to muted and subby. Each folder is inspired by the golden age of beat digging, and takes in classic breaks, boom bap hip-hop, and some expertly processed programming. A treasure trove of drums, then. **Roy Spencer**
www.samplemagic.com

VERDICT 8.0