



Heavyocity – FORZO: Modern Brass \$549

Given that one of last year's big releases from Heavyocity was NOVO: Modern Strings, it was only a matter of time before the orchestral brass section got a look-in. FORZO: Modern Brass does just that. While NOVO was recorded on the Eastwood Scoring Stage at Warner Bros Studios, FORZO moves location to the equally 'A-list' Skywalker Sound Scoring Stage. Like NOVO, there is a somewhat hybrid approach taken to this package. After installing the content (25GB when uncompressed), you'll find two instrument folders – 'Traditional' and 'Evolved' – which reflect the different personalities FORZO has to offer. The first uses a more conventional playback engine to access the various sections, including 12 french horns, four trumpets, trombones, tubas and a full ensemble. Within each instance you can switch between nine articulations, totalling over 100, taking in the usual suspects, as well as some fantastic pulses and clusters. In the 'Evolved' folder you'll find the Brass Designer, that lets you combine up to three separate articulation layers, and Loop Designer for mixing and controlling the 400 tempo-synced loops. There are a host of snapshots in both, with the Brass Designer taking things into more eclectic sound-design territory. FORZO is perfect for film or any genre requiring interesting instrumental textures. Another highly playable product from Heavyocity. **Bruce Aisher**

heavyocity.com

VERDICT 8.9

Output - Analog Brass & Winds \$199

Like buses, the second product on review this month is also a brass-based Kontakt instrument, and comes with the aspiring subtitle 'Next Level Air'. Output once again deliver a distinctive interface within which to bundle their raw content, based around real and synthetic sources. Each sound is built from two layers that take samples from one of three categories – Orchestral, Synth and Creative. Each of these is then divided into one shot, pad and tape sections, with a choice of close or far mic configurations for the Orchestral category. The underlying orchestral samples consist of recordings of 18-piece brass and wind sections, and soloists from both, playing in a range of styles. Things take an interesting turn with the Synthetic and Creative categories, where you'll find some tones that only just fit onto

the 'brass' or 'air' nomenclature – a particular irony being that some of these started life as a synthesist's best effort at emulating a real brass section, but are now sought after in their own right. Once you've chosen your sources, Output's engine goes to work with all kinds of modulation, looping, arpeggiation, sequencing and effects options, turning them into something entirely new. However, with 500 presets included, and the powerful macro modulation sliders, you might easily decide to only make the odd tweak. While it's possible to use Analog Brass and Winds for simpler, more recognisable tones, it excels in creating new ones that can easily sit as the centrepiece of a track. **Bruce Aisher**
output.com

VERDICT 9.0



Loopmasters Presents Vibe Series – Acid Rock £30



We've gotta lot of love for Loopmasters' Vibe Series. From soul allnighter packs to outlaw country sessions, each volume manages to capture a distinct time period and sound ripe for sampling. For its latest instalment the team drop a heavy tab or two of freaky '60s psych your way. As you'd hope, it's awash with reverbed drones, wailing guitars, heavy drums and far-out bass licks. Speeds build from 100 to 133bpm, and all the funky, warped sonics have a twisted Nuggets-era, garage rock swagger to suit tough and moody beatmakers the world over. It's 2GB of fuzzy goodness guaranteed to freak out squares or your money back, man. **Roy Spencer**

loopmasters.com

VERDICT 8.0



Loopmasters – Jazz Drums Vol. 2 Mark Fletcher £25

Ronnie Scott regular Mark Fletcher pulls up a stool once more and treats all you cats to another masterclass of cool jazz drumming. As with volume one of this increasingly vital series, he offers up the kind of deft brush work, varied time signatures, and in-the-pocket playing that has always marked him out as a heavyweight sticksman on the scene. The playing is fluid, the styles take in all types of modern and classic workouts, and the results make for a treasure trove of sweet loops and hits. It's 1GB of smokey club-style playing that will slide real nice into any smooth grooves you're working on. Also included are 99 drum chops, 342 Rex2 Files and eight soft sampler patches for Kontakt, Halion, NNXT, EXS24 and Sfx, daddio. **Roy Spencer**
loopmasters.com

VERDICT 8.0



Sample Magic – Old Skool Grime £15

Dang, anyone else feeling old when you see that grime has an 'old skool'? Anyways, all you whipper snappers out there not old enough to have raved around the late '90s the first time, get a second chance on this peng new pack of rewind, raggariffic 2-step and ting. Mixing up dat retro UK funky sound with the finest underground London had to offer back-in-the-days, you get more than 450MB of WAV, MIDI, custom-made stabs and synth one-shots curated for Ableton Racks. Also included are music loops, drum hits, and champagne-room ready bass and synth loops. The sounds are fat, and ready to light up the floor, so if you're looking to stock up on some of that pirate material to kit out your next banger with, get right on this one. **Roy Spencer**
samplemagic.com

VERDICT 8.0



Whitenoise Records – Halloween Sounds £10

As you read this, All Hallows' Eve will have sadly passed. And as the pumpkins quietly rot in their piles, and the memory of a student Frankenstein vomiting in a shop doorway fades from memory, you may never want to think of October 31 again. But, if you're like us, and love the sound of ghosts, goblins, witches and warlocks, you'll want to keep the sounds of this holiday spooktacular ringing in your ears. Thankfully the boys and ghouls at Whitenoise Records have just the sample pack to add to your next monster mash up. There's creepy screams, eerie storms, sinister music box melodies, and plenty of other crepuscular creeks and screeches to keep your dancehall haunted. Perfect for you Thriller seekers out there. Enjoy. Well, I say enjoy...[maniacal laugh]. **Roy Spencer**
sounds.beatport.com

VERDICT 7.0



Audiotent – Voltage £37

Looking to add the raw power of the Moog DFAM to your productions, but don't fancy dropping the fat end of £500 on the real thing? Why, then you need Audiotent in your life, good sir/madam. For a fraction of the price you can pick up over 270 WAV loops in this inspired pack that captures the heavyweight industrial tones of this wonderful unit with pin-point accuracy. From drum elements to bass and synth sequences, all the noises expertly wrung from this Drummer From Another Mother come in either raw-bone baddassness, or arrive lovingly sluiced through an enviable chain of prized analogue gear like the Roland RE-201 Space Echo and Looptrotter Monster Compressor. Either way, you'll be astounded by the clarity and punch on offer. **Roy Spencer**
audiotent.com

VERDICT 9.0