

# Audiomodern Opacity II

£88.99

PC

MAC



Craving expressive guitar textures, but lacking the nouse to conjure them? This suite presents a six-string universe ready to explore...

> Whether it's moodily swelling, emotively plucking or chordally washing into our ears, cinematic guitar is a mainstay across the modern soundtracking world. Though this playing style is also prevalent in ambient music, it's really in the generation of score-ready textures for working composers that Audiomodern pitch Opacity II - a highly manipulable guitar sample player, loaded up with some exquisitely well-recorded axe work.

Comprising 14 sessions delicately performed by Washington-based Terre Grande guitarist Justin Hodges, Opacity II's recording quality is the first thing that hits us after loading up the software within Kontakt. Sumptuous arpeggios, gloomy swells and echo-sodden notes abound as we cycle through these preset Sessions. Each of the 14 tempo and key-defined Sessions contains four groups of looped performances, comprising elements such as Chords, Phrases, Sequences and Melodic Textures. Each of these groups have 12 different recordings of different approaches to these sound types that all gel together harmonically. This variation can be further increased by dragging across the individual sounds from other Sessions, too.

You'll note that this is Opacity 'II' and follows on from the inaugural version which was only released in 2019, therefore there aren't major changes to the sound palette in v2, aside from a few additional Sessions and an amazingly effective Reverse mode that can transform the feel of your parts instantly. Two of the biggest

boons with this sequel are the ability to alter your cabinet, selecting between the tonal characteristics of 11 different cab options, modelled after some of the big hitters from the amp world. You can further fine-tune their Size, Air, Balance, Distance and Wetness, as well as a slower or faster rotation, which can bring all kinds of interesting effects to the table.

The other big addition is a brand new, performance mode. Performance mode lets us harness four hugely different individual guitar tones (the ones which make up each group) in playable, modifiable form across your controller keyboard. This can be a cool way to create and save your own individual patches, should you not actually be a guitarist yourself, or find yourself smitten with these pre-designed tones.

With a range of ways to explore this software, we opt to load up Session 05 which corresponds nicely with the tempo of a project we're currently working with. Carving out a few chord shapes near the centre of our keyboard triggers a spectrum of textured patterns, interacting in ways that make our hairs stand on end.

Though changing between the groups is smooth, mis-fingering results in a tonally offputting chime sound. It's certainly recommended that you get to grips with the keyboard layout for your Session, and how certain sounds within slot well together, before recording anything. Though the tone of all these sounds is immaculate, further effects can be applied on a per-group basis. We can apply more

or less Delay, Chorus, Stutter, Filter and Reverb space to any of the pre-designed patches, or ones we craft ourselves in performance mode.

Opacity II certainly provides hard benefit to the non-guitarist sound designer, granting customisable control over the numerous facets of a peerless player's sound, though simply harnessing the preset Sessions and Groups may be enough to fill that space. Guitarists shouldn't write this off either - Opacity 2 provides a way to re-think your typical approach to writing for the instrument, while making us wish we could wrench the same emotion from our axes. **cm**

**Web** audiomodern.com

## Alternatively

### Heavyocity Scoring Guitars 2 £85

If you want to get even more hands on with guitar textures, this suite may be a more appealing prospect

### Rob Papen Rhythm Guitar cm132 » 9/10 » £80

This more groove-based package also comes with an onboard synth to take sounds in edgier directions

## Verdict

**For** Simple and intuitive way to incorporate pro-level guitar texture  
Performance mode allows more individual expression  
Amp sims and effects

**Against** Some minor slowdown when Session switching

Building on an already versatile, crystal clear-sounding toolkit, Opacity II perfects the cinematic guitar engine concept

9/10

## The edge is fine

Throughout our experiments with Opacity 2, we kept running into a heavily delayed, palm-muted, plucked sound that of course, put us in mind of a certain beanie-hat-toting Irish riff merchant. We also stumbled upon the exact tone of Slowdive's *Sugar for the Pill* and other familiarly delay-sodden fare. These examples proved that beyond soundtracking, Opacity 2 could be put to work in Indie-land, if you

needed some subtler harmonic elements particularly. There's much to explore here and Opacity's potential certainly extends beyond its intended target audience. Often when experimenting with Reverse mode, certain phrases take on a completely different, dream-like, quality - when treated with further effect processing, who knows where these possibilities may lead.