

DRUM WERKS XIII FUNKY MOTOWN

Publisher **Beta Monkey Music**

Price **£22**

Contact **sales@betamonkeymusic.com**

Web **www.betamonkeymusic.com**

Recording live drums can be difficult at the best of times, but Beta Monkey Music has spent years building up a large selection of affordable drum packs in different musical styles. The latest is Drum Werks XIII, which focuses on funk, funk-rock, R'n'B and soul.

This pack contains no fewer than 492 original drum loops and 42 individual multi-velocity drum and cymbal hits. To keep the price down you can select from either 16-bit or 24-bit, ACIDized WAV or AIFF files, which fit neatly on a single CD. This is an excellent method of delivering content as you're not paying for additional formats that you don't actually need and probably won't use. For those of you who do prefer a little additional tweakability, though, REX2 versions of the beats should become available in the not-too-distant future.

The recordings themselves are based loosely on the classic Motown sound, with dominant,

popping snares and deep kicks set loud to cut nicely through the mix. However, with the careful application of compression you could easily bring out the more subtle hi-hats, cymbals and rolls.

There is a great variety of material on offer, with folders of beats ranging from 60-150BPM; D'n'B aficionados will surely love the re-creations of classic funk breaks. All of the grooves and fills are taken from the same recording session, so they can easily be swapped around to build up variations or an entire arrangement as required without affecting the feel.

There's no point in denying that this is a low-budget pack and it lacks the kinds of bells and whistles that commonly furnish more expensive alternatives. We can assure you, however, that you'll be hard pressed to find more professionally recorded live funk grooves for a mere £22.

VERDICT

There's only one drum sound, but the funk-to-pound ratio is off the scale!



DRUM & BASS STUDIO TECHNIQUE DRUMSOUND & BASSLINE SMITH

Publisher **Loopmasters**

Price **£39.95**

Contact **Time+Space 01837 55200**

Web **www.timespace.com**

Drumsound and Bassline Smith have released more than 70 12-inches over the last ten years, and in that time their production techniques and music library have grown extensively. This pack features an eclectic collection of their finest sounds fine-tuned for the dance floor to deliver maximum impact. The DVD contains 16-bit, 44.1kHz audio in

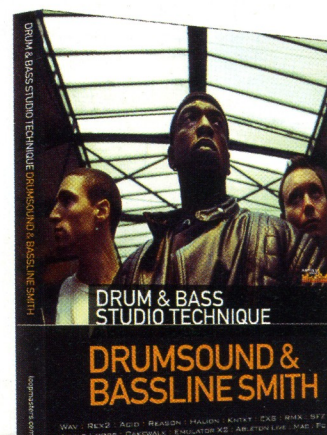
Loops, WAV, REX, Live Pack and ReFill, plus 130 sample patches for NN-Xt, HALion, Kontakt, EXS, SFZ and E-mu X2.

The sounds on offer lean more towards the aggressive rave-tastic side of drum'n'bass, but there's enough variation to cater for liquid and dark styles, too. The production is big but not too flashy. Noisia-style outlandish synths and flutters are absent and don't expect much out of the ordinary, but what is here is solid and extremely usable for creating dance floor bangers. The drums

and aggressive and the pads lush and euphoric, but while the bass loops are nothing special, the sounds themselves are excellent.

The 90-odd bass patches have all been produced seemingly with the aim of demolishing club speakers. Some of the deeper LFO-wobblers will also be of interest to dubstep producers.

This is a great selection of finely tuned sounds whose simplicity comes from the wisdom of keeping things uncluttered over a big PA. At times it seems a little light in content, but fewer options



VERDICT

A concise collection of heavyweight, dance-floor ready sounds.

