
Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by liteshinebrite - 2012/04/16 03:16

I (and perhaps others here) am an OT owner interested in learning more about basslines, and would just assume not be glued to the computer when making them. I'm interested in cheap (as in, not much more expensive than say, a Minitaur or a Biscuit) synths, guitar pedals, samples/sample manipulation devices and even iPad apps. I'm mainly approaching this from a DnB perspective. You know, your standard snarling, explosive, tear-you-a-new-asshole type sounds. But feel free to discuss from an industrial/metal/IDM/whatever perspective if you want. Hell, talk about the weather for all I care. I've never owned a guitar pedal in my life, but those are definitely what I'm looking at most for the time being.

I'm interested in:

1. Minitaur (perhaps processed by OT)

<http://www.brandnewmusicgear.com/wp-content/uploads/Moog-Minitaur.jpg>

2. Processing an iPad synth (or samples on iPad and/or OT) with Bassmaster or Disnortion

<http://www.theboutiquelab.com/i/malekko/bassmaster.gif>

<http://www.gtrstore.com/store/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/490x/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/d/i/disnortion.png>

3. Various other pedals. For example, the Woolly Mammoth caught my attention today. I already intend to get a Biscuit regardless of what I end up getting for bass. I'll just get that sooner than later if it would render other pedals rather redundant for bass purposes.

Also, I'm curious what you would classify the sound here at 1:30. A lead, a bassline, or both?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8G_IpHaUUb0&feature=related

Then at about the 1:32 mark, you can hear a rumbling sound going along with the beat. Is that considered reverb?

Thanks!

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by the dreammer - 2012/04/16 03:38

i am having lots of fun cutting up my x0xbox in the octatrack for all kinds of various basses.
nice cheap brandless fuzzbox for some flavour.. is nice.. but hmm well cheap.
elektribe-a .. their dirt-cheap on the evil-bay.. comes with nice sequencer..
and i bet.. that if you just program some weird bassline on it.. and play a bit with the sequencer.
that it be just as awesome samplefood, as the xoxbox is..

i would send ya an example, but my own elektribe-a is in a difrent country then me :-(
but i bet its lots of easy cheap fun.. and if i am wrong.. well your out a few quid.. and still have a sequence-able filter..
thats how i use it..

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Flo - 2012/04/16 04:11

want to go cheap but powerful?? take a shruthi kit, perfect for bass... and analog filter... i think one kit is to sell on the forum for cheap.....

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by liteshinebrite - 2012/04/16 08:43

Thanks, dreammer. I've actually considered getting a x0xbox. I am a bit confused about the company, though. I thought I could remember it being called "Layla" or something, but it's now apparently called "Mode Machines."

And Flo, I really like that idea. I'd never heard of that company. I sent them an email to have them answer a question for me (concerning whether the Red Alert Edition or 4-Pole Mission would be more suitable for what I'm after). At the time that I emailed them, I was thinking I'd just wait until an already-made unit came up for sale on the Mutable-Instruments site, but I'm now considering learning how to solder so that I can assemble my own Shruthi and perhaps other DIY kits in the future. I guess it would be a good idea to do some kind of cheaper DIY project as practice, though. I hope the bass on the Shruthi synths is tough enough. And if it's not, I guess it can be toughened up. I'm starting to think that perhaps a hybrid is the best path to interesting basslines (if you can only have one synth). Not sure whether a digital filter on an analog signal would be like, though...curious about that. I also wonder if the Shruthi would make better bass than just running a (digital, of course) signal from an iPad synth into an analog filter on a Biscuit. That would be cheaper, since I plan on getting a Biscuit anyway.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by StinkyBeat - 2012/04/16 10:26

x0xb0x is open source. The originals were only sold as DIY kits. Mode machines is one commercially available prebuilt. I do not have experience with them. The best unmodded x0xb0x I know of on the market is at <http://www.syntheticmusicsystems.co.uk/>

I bought one used that was built from the kit and heavily modded, including the proper transistors in the filter.

Do research before picking up a x0xb0x, not all are equal!

I get very heavy bass from a MeeBlip. I have an older version running an older OS, it is not playing very well with the MD. Hanging notes and what not. Sequences fine from the x0xb0x and others. Hopefully, when I update the OS it will be sorted.

I can most definitely recommend the Moog Midi Murf. Great for adding variation to a bassline with different filtering at each hit. Really good gnawing growl. Feed it white noise with a tight envelope setting for analog resonant filter drums. It does have a very characteristic sound. I like it but if you don't it may not be for you. I often use effects after it for variation.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by machinea - 2012/04/16 12:19

The minitaur is pretty damn sweet I've heard some amazing things done with it so far very growly. However I have to say Shruthi is pretty awesome. They are both great synths The shruthi is probably more versatile but hearing it in person I was quite impressed (I have one but haven't put it together yet) I'm seriously considering getting two and chaining them together.. They are great.

I second the Bassmaster or a zvex box of metal processing the moog though.. it sounds great.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Flo - 2012/04/17 03:22

.i will definitely buy a xox kit at a oint, and it will be from the seller recommended by adafruit, creator of the xox, <http://www.adafruit.com/blog/2010/04/20/x0xb0x-is-back-and-shipping-again-say-hello-to-willzyx-music/>

he do builded xox too.... Here you can be sure about the quality i think....

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by liteshinebrite - 2012/04/17 06:06

Anyone know if a Filterbank's overdrive/distortion is good enough to just forget about buying a B:assmaster when it comes to toughening up basslines?

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Paiheu - 2012/04/17 11:18

Does anyone have samples of xoxboxes used for non-303 sounds?
like non-acid filtered bass, using a midi LFO to create wobble basses, leads, drones, etc...

Thanks ;)

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by StinkyBeat - 2012/04/17 12:04

wobbles and drones are not possible on a x0xb0x without feeding it external audio, the sound always decays. No using midi LFO either. Only responds to note and velocity. I have a CV in mod for filter cutoff and res.

For wobbles and drones: MeeBlip, Vermona Lancet, Minitaur, phatty

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by gosh - 2012/04/18 19:50

Yep a xox will not give you growling drum and bass sounds at all. It will give you acid.

Moog minataur or slim phatty, doepfer dark energy or the soon to be released Waldorf pulse 2 will do great bass. Id probably go Moog minataur if you don't have much synthesis experience.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Paiheu - 2012/04/18 19:59

Thanks! :know:

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Bongsau - 2012/04/18 21:08

I'm looking to do a similar thing to Lite Shine Brite i.e. DnB subs, kicks and bass lines. Can anyone offer any insight into the Vermona Kick Lancet?

I use the OT and a V Synth XT so really just want something analog to provide the hefty bottom end. A friend I collaborate with has a Virus Ti so I don't necessarily need the layered, morphing basses a la Optical & Ed Rush, just a nice warm sub. I'm not keen on the XT's VA section and was liking the MDs TRX BDs but couldn't afford to keep the MD, hence the appeal of price of the Vermona.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Sunland - 2012/04/19 00:57

From my experience DnB is much more about production and layering than gear used. Subs are often just plain sine waves or very filtered and low saws or pulses. Of course it has much to do with how solid the synth or sample sounds when played so low. I tend to reach for Monomachine or something else digital rather than Little Phatty or other analog synths very often when making sub basses.

The reeses (or whatever the snarly and screaming "mid basses" are called these days) are usually so processed that they might be hard to do merely on an analog synth. There's million and more threads about those in Dogs on Acid forum, where you really should be headed if you want't to get technical. Just don't get lost there. :P

Of course, these things always come down to personal preference. I'm not saying that you shouldn't get your hands into something analog, quite the opposite. I love analog. :) You should really test it out before buying, though, and check out if you can achieve the kind of sounds with it that you're looking for.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by Bongsau - 2012/04/19 02:02

Yeah I hear ya regarding the use of simple sines or LPF'ed saws etc as we'll occasionally layer them in with the more Reese'y (?) lines for more oomph.

I certainly wouldn't be using it to make the Reese style sounds as we can get what we want in that area from the Virus pretty quickly now. I should probably have mentioned that i've got half an eye on using it live, so the one knob per function could be nice for some tweakage etc.

And no, I wouldn't be buying it just 'cos it analog but more down to the fact that I often prefer subs to Reese's (to the point where I have to tell my co DnBer to cut 'em out!) and that it's pretty affordable. A test run would be ideal, i'll try hitting up Digital Village to see if that's possible as the You Tube vids are rubbish.

Thanks for the advice though and no, although i'm sure there are some useful bits on there, I just don't do DoA.

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by liteshinebrite - 2012/04/19 02:28

I think DoA is a great site to lurk on. Hey, dudes, I'm really starting to think that Animoog ran into a Sherman Filterbank would be pimp shit for basslines when it comes to punch and versatility. Anyone w/ Filterbank experience care to share their thoughts on the prospect of going that route?

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Re:Computer-Free Basslines: a Brainstorming Exercise

Posted by TrondC - 2012/04/19 02:47

I have the filterbank 2 and one single word comes to mind: dirt. my dark energy screams, but coupled with the sherman it screams insanely. check out "FiltersweeperVCO" (or VCF or something like that) on youtube, he makes some pretty nice bass with a voyager and filterbank, and you can very much hear how the filterbank works

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