
Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/02/24 14:26

I found the perfect kit setup when using the MD as a pure, straight-forward drum machine like a TR-909 or Jomox XBase. At least my impression is that I found the perfect setup, and therefore I would like to share it. In the past, I'd been using the MD for melodies, RAM sampling etc. as well (--> Starting Smoothly set, DL section), but now I have the A4 for melodies and RAM sampling is too "dangerous" due to possible feedback given that I enter a lot of trigs live, sometimes almost randomly.

Basically, I read the TR-909's manual, was convinced that the track layout is very useful and then thought about how this could be translated to the MD. On the TR-909, the main instruments get two buttons each, one with accent, one without: Kick accent, Kick no accent, snare accent, snare no accent, low tom accent, low tom no accent, mid tom accent ..., and then rimshot, clap, hihats. This concept is a lot more useful than the MD's accent concept! But due to the MD's flexibility, it can be realized with layered sounds.

So here it comes:

Track number, instrument type, mute position, trig position, panning

1, BD (in my case a midi machine, jomox mbase), - , 2, 0
2, BD (hp-filtered), - , - , 0
3, SD, - , 4 , 0
4, SD, - , - , 0
5, LT, - , 6 , -15
6, LT, - , - , -15
7, MT, - , 8 , -5
8, MT, - , - , +5
9, HT, - , 10 , +15
10, HT, - , - , +15
11, RS, - , - , 0
12, CP, - , - , 0
13, CH, 14, - , -7
14, OH, - , - , -7
15, RC, 14 (ok this deviates from the 909, but sounds nicer), - , +5
16, CC, - , - , +10

Try it out, it's really easy to enter new grooves with nice sound variations, even in Classic mode!

If 2-3 tracks are needed for other purposes, I'd recommend using tracks 7-8, 16.

Now I'm gonna search for a configuration software so that it doesn't take too long to modify/replace all my kits :)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by jeffe - 2013/02/25 23:29

Cool idea - i like templates like this. maybe post up a syx file?

One other improvement I would make to the MD is to have accents based on p-locks. Hold down the accent button, tweak parameters, this new sound configuration is now that drums 'accent' drum.

Would be much more useful.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/05/01 23:53

Pretty cool idea man.

I'd be curious to see how this sounds. Do you have a sample MP3 file that shows one of your kits, drums only?
Cheers:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/05/02 00:39

Most of the drums I played recently (I'm responsible for drums) followed this or a very similar setup :) thx for following and listening through all our posts on soundcloud ;)

EDIT: I'm gonna record a separate file.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/05/02 00:56

Thanks, I'd be curious to hear now it sounds. Just out of curiosity. What about the Accent feature didn't you like? Is it because you can only set a global accent level? I found the accent actually sounded quite good, especially on single cycle wave samples in ROM slots. I could get some pretty cool 303 type synth lines going.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/05/02 01:08

Please Delete.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/05/02 01:11

It's just about the fastest possible, most intuitive workflow plus layered drums sound fat.

Here it comes, a demo of three kits: soundcloud

Sounds fat, uh? B) mainly sample based though.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/05/02 02:45

Awesome man... super fat, and programming looks intuitive based on your layout.

Just out of curiosity, do you program any CTL 8P parameters to make it have the real 909 feel, where twisting this knob is for snare roll volume swells, turning this knob is for snare decay increases etc...?

I've been using 8P a lot lately, part of the reason is to remind myself of what parameters should be tweaked in a live setting, and avoids the guesswork. The only thing I wished you could do is alter a "CTL All" parameter with a "CTL 8P" knob assignment. This would keep me from doing any menu diving while jamming:)

Thanks again for sharing. Great sounds man:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/05/02 02:50

No, as you see there's no track left :)

I use a lot of CTR-AL with the function knob and practiced enough to achieve super-fast switching between tracks, pages and muting. function+trig, function-mute, no button, page button get clicked very frequently, plus entering notes in grid rec mode, sometimes live rec mode and live erase. always just 1 bar per pattern.

Thx :)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/05/02 03:01

Sweet... that sounds like it took a lot of practice to get there. Maybe in a few years I'll ignore the CTL 8P thing and do something a little more risky. For now... I'll stick to my safe route;) Cheers:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/05/02 03:13

As an anecdote, I'd been carrying my Machinedrum around a lot when traveling as a business man, my samsonite laptop bag was chosen so that 1 laptop plus 1 machinedrum fits in, airport security was checking the MD for bombs every 4h flight or so and before falling asleep in hotels I practiced for half an hour with the idea in mind that I should be able to use it even in trance, without thinking about it. Seems that it was worth the efforts. Presenting powerpoint slides with a MD always at hand, lol :)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by biologik - 2013/05/02 05:53

Not gonna lie here, I'm confused.
Can you post a sysex of what you mean? I know these are samples though..
Or maybe, explain what you mean by mute trig position etc? Just trying to understand! :)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/05/02 07:54

Hey man,
I thought MK7s explanation was pretty good. Most of the drum sounds occupy 2 tracks. The first drum sound is considered the accented sound, because it will sound itself and trigger the sound on the next step (layered). If you wanted an non-accented sound you would just use the 2nd track of that sound.

so... track 1 BD is the accented bass drum track because it will trigger track 2. If you make a sequence with the track 2, it will only sound itself and not trigger track 1.

The mutes are just used to stop the tails of sounds, so closed hi-hat sounds will mute open hi-hat sounds.

L8r,

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by biologik - 2013/05/02 10:00

ah, so that was the issue. I didn't get the triggering two tracks at once thing. thanks!

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/04 01:40

Hello Moritz,

I finally managed to get some layered sounds as inspired by your thread. I've attached a link to a kit I made.

Special thanks to you & Daren Ager (I used Daren's 808 kit snare on this kit). The Tom Sounds & ride cymbal are from the Gold Baby tape 808 sample pack.

Cheers:)

For those that say the MD is too digital, well this sounds pretty warm to me:)

<https://soundcloud.com/doktor-fibonacci/drum-kit-test-mp3/s-YLm2i>

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/08/04 05:55

Sounds great to me, indeed not digital at all. Nice work on the toms, they are so important!

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/04 06:02

Thanks again for all the tips & tricks Moritz. I always value the information you provide on this forum as well as the feedback on SC.

It took me a little while to build this kit. I was having trouble layering the drum sounds, I was getting phase cancellations and such, until one day I decided to try and offset the tuning of the second drum hit by a couple of cents. All of the sudden, the drums didn't cancel each other, and the sound seemed a little fatter:)

I really like the sound of the kit, the only caveat is your using up your 16 tracks pretty quickly. I decided to forgo one of the tom sounds in favor of having an accented and un-accented CH, and I left the last machine for either a control 8P or control All machine.

Regards,
Mike

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/08/04 06:27

Thx! Slight detuning, that's how I solved that issue as well.

I also sacrificed some tom tracks for other stuff, well, for real analog toms from my Jomox Mbrane. Track 5: MID machine to control the mbrane, track 6: RAM recording with non-zero cue out so that the mbrane can be heard, track 7: RAM playback with weird trigs, track 8: RAM playback of another RAM sample. For each drum kit, I store 3 versions: (1) tracks 6/7 assigned to RAM slot 1, track 8 to slot 2, (2) tracks 6/7 assigned to RAM slot 2, track 8 to slot 1, (3) tom samples as usual/described in this thread. This plus a bunch of standardized samplebanks, and you get a lot of variety.

Btw, I used just 9 kits (3 different kits with the described 3 variants each), 3 samplebanks and not more than 16 patterns (plus some live programming) for our 90 minutes live set last week and it was completely sufficient! I had a lot more available, but didn't even need to think about using it. A bunch of those kits like you posted is all you need, then it's time to stick deeper into the A4, program some macros etc.

I thank you for the discussions :)

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/04 08:07

Hello Moritz,

Once again... great advice.

This month I'm going to focus on making some more kits for the MDUW. Than when I have some kits I'm happy with, I'm going to focus on making some more pad synths on the A4. I'm relatively happy with the 303ish bass synths I've whipped up, they suit my music well, but I could use a bit more pads & string sounding synths.

For the macros, I have a sort of system that seems to work okay. I use the 1st 4 knobs on the top row to control the volume of each synth. I use the lower 4 knobs for 303 like tweaking on the 1st 2 synths, the right most knobs I use for global tweaking such as pitch drops or reverb swells. The global tweaking parameters can change, but the first 8 knobs I sort of keep consistent, as most my tracks have two acid lines.

Regards,

Mike

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by orwell - 2013/08/04 10:57

all great advice guys

dacava cn ou please upload your MDUW kit

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/04 13:40

Hello Orwell,

I cannot upload said kit, as I have some purchased 1 shot samples for the toms & ride. I will be working on another kit with all MDUW sounds, and when that's complete I would be happy to share it.

The HT, MT & RC sounds are from the Goldbaby Tape 808 wav samples. For the HT & MT I just thickened it a bit from layering as Moritz had explained in the thread. I just off-tune the 2nd sound by a couple cents.

Regards,

M.

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by Veets - 2013/08/04 13:43

DaCaVa wrote:

For those that say the MD is too digital, well this sounds pretty warm to me:)

Sounds really great to me - kudos!

Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by pixelife - 2013/08/04 15:56

So good. Loving this so so much. Can't wait till somebody can transpose this to non bought samples.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/04 21:16

Hello Pixelife, Using non purchased samples is my plan. My issue is the tom sounds, in order to get them sounding right I need to layer 3 sounds - 2 toms (as mentioned in this thread) and a noise generator. It'll sound fine, but I will be in need of additional tracks. I suppose what I could do is create a tom sound with a noise generator, sample it with a RAM machine, store it as a ROM sound, use that as the base sound, use the ROM sample twice, and offset the 2nd hit by a couple cents. It does seem like a fair bit of work when I have the bought 808 sounds;)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/08/05 01:24

Creative idea, I'm sure that noise can add a nice texture to toms. As an alternative, goldbaby offers nice fat tapetonic samples. I don't see a need to build a sysex file though. Dumping a sysex file into the MD takes longer than dialing in of the settings on page 1 of this thread.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/05 01:48

@ MK7 I'll check out those gold baby samples you mentioned. Regarding your comment about not needing to waste time uploading a sysex file, I would agree. You can pretty much take any kit you already have and build it like you illustrated in page 1 of this thread, and get some nice sounds. My kit is based on a kit I used 2 songs ago, but with layered sounds for the accented hits. The only thing I had to do was detune the 2nd sound a bit, as my KD, HT & MT were getting phase cancellations.

Cheers:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/05 07:10

EDIT *** when using ROM samples, adjusting the pitch knob by 1 unit may cause some issues, as the pitch variance is quite great with ROM samples - I believe each 3 units is a semitone. I thickened up the sound with the ROM samples by adding an EOG to a slightly different frequency for the 2 sounds, this solved the phase cancellation problem with the ROM samples.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by Veets - 2013/08/05 11:48

^ Search for the "Static LFO trick" developed by (I believe) super-contributor PreviewLounge. This should allow you to get smaller pitch adjustments.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/05 20:00

Veets wrote:

^ Search for the "Static LFO trick" developed by (I believe) super-contributor PreviewLounge. This should allow you to get smaller pitch adjustments.

Hey Veets,

Thanks for the tip. I'll do a search and check it out.

Regards,

M.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/07 10:41

I tried out another kit, as per Moritz's template. This one is almost exclusively machinedrum sounds (with the exception of the RC & RS). I like the sound of the RC on the TRX machine, but I'm not happy that pitch can't be changed. This is something I like to tweak in my songs, so I use an 808 RC sample. The rim shot is a 909 sample. I've struggled with the TOMS in the past, but I'm happy with the sounds of these, there EFM toms, with heavy filtering at BRR to make them a little crunchy. On their own their not great, but I think they sit well in the mix.

Cheers:)

<http://soundcloud.com/doktor-fibonacci/mduw-drum-kit-test-2-efm-mp3/s-16nl8>

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by StinkyBeat - 2013/08/07 13:27

DaCaVa wrote:

Veets wrote:

^ Search for the "Static LFO trick" developed by (I believe) super-contributor PreviewLounge. This should allow you to get smaller pitch adjustments.

Hey Veets,

Thanks for the tip. I'll do a search and check it out.

Regards,

M.

You can get a static LFO with the MD? Or we're you thinking OT.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/07 21:06

Hello, Yes the static LFO works with the MD. You just need to make the speed Zero, than use the mix between the 2 LFO shapes to change the level. I tried this to adjust the pitch, and it worked a charm:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by StinkyBeat - 2013/08/08 13:05

DaCaVa wrote:

Hello, Yes the static LFO works with the MD. You just need to make the speed Zero, than use the mix between the 2 LFO shapes to change the level. I tried this to adjust the pitch, and it worked a charm:)

Had my MD for 1.5 years now, I did not know of this! A huge thank you.

:backslap:

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/08 13:31

Don't thank me dude, it was VEETS suggestion & PreviewLounge that did the original posting. It makes layering sounds much easier for me, as you can adjust pitch to a finer degree.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/08 13:34

Here's another kit:) This one is predominately GoldBaby 909 samples utilizing Moritz's template. Layering the kick was a bitch, but I finally got it to sit right:)
<http://soundcloud.com/doktor-fibonacci/machinedrum-kit-test-3-909-mp3/s-Cs3IP>

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/08/08 15:37

Sounds great to me, as if a 909 were playing. Those accent vs non-accent hits add some oldschool life to the groove, and the tom accents give you spent just more volume to the toms but fatness due to detuning. It was really worth the time in exploring drum kits. And I imagine how much easier it must have been to type the grooves in than with MD-style accents or p-locks.

Now I remember that I also applied other parameters in the layering process, for instance, SRR. What more character can you get out of this kit setup, beyond volume accents and detuning? :) of course, you could also mix in analog-distorted versions of a sample on accent tracks.

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by z01d - 2013/08/08 16:49

You know the old saying, MK7?
"A SYSEX is worth a thousand words."
;-)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/08 19:32

MK7 wrote:
Sounds great to me, as if a 909 were playing. Those accent vs non-accent hits add some oldschool life to the groove, and the tom accents give you spent just more volume to the toms but fatness due to detuning. It was really worth the time in exploring drum kits. And I imagine how much easier it must have been to type the grooves in than with MD-style accents or p-locks.

Now I remember that I also applied other parameters in the layering process, for instance, SRR. What more character can you get out of this kit setup, beyond volume accents and detuning? :) of course, you could also mix in analog-distorted versions of a sample on accent tracks.

Hello Moritz,

Thanks again for the tips. Regarding the SRR. I've been using these on the Snare & Tom sounds (with varying degrees). With the KD, it causes a bit too much noise (but not in a good way). On my previous kit, it was the SRR (& some severe filtering) that allowed me to get some crunchy toms that I actually liked.

The cool thing about these kits is everyday I change a little something on each one. Sometimes the layering requires a pretty elaborate system. Other times layering 2 identical sounds with just an EOG in a different frequency seems to do the trick.

Thanks again for your tutorial/post Moritz. I had no idea making drum kits could be so much fun.

Cheers:)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/11 13:20

Well, here's another kit setup as per Moritz's template. This one is almost predominantly EFM machines, layered with PI machines. The ride & rim shot are samples. For this little test I got some retrigs involved. For my next kit, I'm going to try and get the E12 machines involved more.

Cheers:)

M.

<http://soundcloud.com/doktor-fibonacci/machinedrum-layered-kit-test-4>

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/12 06:50

If you have not tried Moritz's template yet, give it a shot. Man... it is so fun to come up with grooves. It makes beat making so much fun. I think I can see the fixation with the 909 now, I'm not 100% sure it was just the sounds, I think it was the interface, it's very quick to come up with funky grooves using the dedicated accent sounds. With the machinedrum, it's even better, you have an infinite palette of sounds to craft, and for a live situation, you have instant access to different sounding kits, without lag time. Whereas someone with an actual 909, would have to manually tweak the various settings to craft different sounds, not ideal in a live situation;)

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by MK7 - 2013/08/12 19:14

:)

Those kits/grooves sound great btw, nothing to add from my side!

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Re:Kit setup (MD) inspired by TR-909

Posted by DaCaVa - 2013/08/19 05:43

Okay... one last kit. This is mainly E12, PI & EFM machines layered as per Moritz's template. Samples on this are the RC & CC. All other sounds are MDUW. I never really felt comfortable with the E12 & PI machines, so I really forced myself to work with them. This is sort of a track I guess, with said kit:)

Thanks again Moritz. Your template is awesome. Track 16 is a CNTRL 8P, so I can tweak things like decay and pitch without having to leave the mute screen.

Cheers:)

<https://soundcloud.com/doktor-fibonacci/tamc-august-minimal-mduw-jam>

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