
Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by u.n.i.t.e.d - 2013/03/18 04:43

i,m interested in your opinion about this giant synthesizer and what do you think about the sound. Is it a better choice then a microwave 1 or 2? Just a little information. On ebay is a waldorf wave to buy for 11500â,-;-)

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by Rusty - 2013/03/18 07:06

There is a number of threads over at Gearslutz about the Waldorf Wave.

But, 11,500â,- ? Thats a lot of coin; and also depends on the version, keyboard size, OS and number of voices that it has.

I *thought* about buying one, circa 2000/2001 (?). Dark blue, 16 or 32 voices for 6,000â,-; but that is a lot of money for one synth,

It is a slightly different beast to a Microwave 1 / 2 / XT for sure, and that is reflected in the price; that and there is only like a 100 (???) of them around.

From what I know:

Wave : Better have some serious coin

mWave I : Analog Filters

mWave II : Digital filters and crap control, so why bother?

mWave XT : Digital filters and knobs galore!

* Note: Not to say the digital filters of the mWave are crap; they are awesome!

For the money, I always say go for a mWave I (analog filters) or the mWave XT (control) over a mWave II (loses analog filters of mWave I; but doesnt gain the knobs of the XT)

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by MPRT - 2013/03/18 08:54

From what I read Waldorf based the Wave on the Microwave 1, so yes the difference is big indeed, but you'll achieve sounds that are in the same league. The MW1 with a controller like the Patch Editor and a software editor could be a beast!

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by u.n.i.t.e.d - 2013/03/20 16:24

for me, the Wave isn't worth over 11000 â,-. but it is one of the best synths ever build and i always get weak when i see one to buy:-) i know that the microwave 1 is the most similar sounding of all waldorfs. but the Microwave XT has alot more features and it is a pleasure to play with all this knobs. I found a way to have both in one. I use the XT and route the main out into my miniworks 4Pole filter what is the same filter like the Microwave 1 or Pulse. So i have additional a great Curtis Filter to the also great XT Filters and it sounds great! The analog overdrive is wonderful:-)

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by Vader77 - 2013/03/20 18:30

The Waldorf Wave was in one of the first issues if Sound on Sound i ever bought and I think the VL-1 was in the same issue . Being a young and naive nubie at the time gave them an almost a sci-fi persona.

Awesome synths for awesome money at a peak of innovation which sadly hasn't really moved a great deal since except maybe for the more complex softsynths, the Nord Modular and of course Elektron boxes ;)

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Re:Waldorf Wave users ???

Posted by u.n.i.t.e.d - 2013/03/21 00:25

it is difficult to top such innovations like a Wave or something else but we are in the lucky situation to choose a instrument out of a enormous variety (old and new one) to build a own music system

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by GYS - 2013/03/21 04:02

FWIW, I acquired a MWI a few years back and I thoroughly loved the sound. Editing was a pain. I eventually traded it straight up for a MWXT and am really happy with the decision. I have a bevy of analogue filters I can use (Moog, 777, Frostwave Resonator) if I really need that extra edge, but so far I haven't bothered because the Waldorf digital filters do indeed sound awesome...and you have access to some really exotic varieties!

I am enamored with wavetable synths and they've quickly taken up all my polysynth duties in the studio. MWXT is my main go to, but I also have the PPG Wavegenerator and Wavemapper apps on iPad and can't praise those enough! Quirky GUI in some regards, but absolute beasts in terms of sound. :)

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by Rusty - 2013/03/21 07:11

u.n.i.t.e.d wrote:

I use the XT and route the main out into my miniworks 4Pole filter what is the same filter like the Microwave 1 or Pulse. So i have additional a great Curtis Filter to the also great XT Filters and it sounds great! The analog overdrive is wonderful:-)

Actually there is two versions of the MiniWorks filter:

- Curtis filter; like the mWave I; which is powered by 9v
- Ladder filter; like the Pulse; which is powered by 12v

You can thel them apart by power supply / requirements.

Used to have a MiniWorks for a little bit; and I never thought of running my XT through it at all... sold the MiniWorks ages ago.

Like Gys above me; I think that the mWave XT has amazing digital filters that can get super nasty if that is what you want... I think the WaveShaper and X->Sin do it nicely.

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by duplex - 2013/03/21 07:49

For all the MW II/XT users on here, there's a fantastic new editor available from monsttrummedia. It uses the Ctrlr platform to provide an editor that runs as a standalone application or as an AU/VST plugin, and is available for OS X, Win and Linux. The killer feature in the latest version (still beta at the moment) is wavetable editing.

Although the XT has plenty of knobs on board, the editor is still plenty handy for programming the mod matrix. And of course, editing the wavetables themselves is not possible at all from the unit itself.

A bit pricey at USD 66.60, but I've kind of 'rediscovered' my XT since picking it up.

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by oldgearguy - 2013/03/21 09:16

I had 2 Waves, a microWave, and various PPGs (2, 2.2, 2.3) all at the same time.

My general comment is that the Wave sounds huge, cinematic, and awesome whereas the microWave merely sounds excellent. The mWave is not a bad synth at all, but the bug Wave has an amazingly large sound to it.

Neither one does the PPG sound exactly. They can get kind of near each other, but in the end, if you care about sonic differences between synths, you can clearly hear the differences.

In the end, I still own a Wave and a PPG 2.3 (and a Q+). The Wave is easy to edit, very deep with modulation routings, decent set of inputs and outputs, nice as a master MIDI controller (2 outs, 3 wheels), and an endless source of inspiration.

The microWave was a PITA to edit from the front panel, and sounded amazingly different and good next to most other digital and analog gear.

The PPG is easy to edit from the front panel (once you get the hang of the abbreviations), has some crazy arpeggiator and sequencer features, and sounds uniquely like a PPG.

The Q+ is my most favorite VA and sounds different than the PPG and Wave.

There are technicians that still service the Wave (JL at Cantos in Canada is one), there is a new OS for it that adds a chopper LFO and allows you to boot from a USB stick (no more floppy drive worries), and cleans up a few other things.

The PPG also has a new OS with a fast MIDI implementation, and there are some folks that service them as well in Europe and North America.

Parts are generally not hard to find (I have a few hundred smooth and center detent pots for the Wave, I had found some extra displays and probably can find more again), and the pneumatic lifters that hold the front panel up can still be purchased.

At the end of the day, I'm not sure if a Wave is worth \$11,000, but I'm not sure I'd sell mine for less than \$10,000.

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by Rusty - 2013/03/21 10:59

u.n.i.t.e.d wrote:

i,m interested in your opinion about this giant synthesizer

I'd pay attention to OldGearGuy; he really knows his synths.

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Re:Waldorf Wave users here???

Posted by u.n.i.t.e.d - 2013/03/21 16:40

Duplex: The Wavetable Editor for XT looks very interesting for me!!! Can you tell me something about it. Because i just use Hardware instruments and i'm unskilled with computers. How can i use it on my laptop? Is it easy to build own Wavetables and transfer to XT on the empty Wavetableslots???

Oldgearguy: man,that`s a massive Waldorf collection. Wave and Q+ are 2 Killersynths:-) What is your opinion about the analog filter section in the Q+?what filters are available. The MicroQ phoenix was my first synthesizer and i still use/love it. It has a very special soundcharacter compared to my other synths and just looks beautiful:-)

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