
Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by teevee - 2013/05/20 18:59

I have been reluctant with buying ESX because of the tubes, which are very cheap tubes and makes the sound result on the unit cheap too.

There have been many topics about "Korg ESX vs Elektron Octatrack" and of course Elektron Octatrack blow away the Korg ESX in engine, quality and sound.

Korg official said this month that "Electribes" are officially discontinued and I can confirm it because it's listed here! (Link) I know that Korg already have announced lots of surprises this year (Korg Volca, ms20, Kingkong etc.) but this doesn't stop the development of new products.

The question is, what would you like to see in the next generation of Korgs groovebox and would it be possible to compete with Elektons Octatrack?

My wishlist:

- Better interface
 - USB to upload samples from pc
 - Higher sound quality (better sound converters)
 - SD-card or USB stick option (with option of reading bigger cards)
 - More ram and bigger hard disk
 - Hardware upgrade option, so you can put more ram or bigger hard disk inside the unit
 - More editing options with more effects
 - Pc-editor option over usb for both sound and patterns (often your finding yourself working in a too complex environment and deep menus and this is why there always features that never get in use)
 - Cv/gate interface (so the unit can be used with the other new product lines, like Korg Volca)
 - Quantize option, working in a 16 bar matrix makes you feel a bit limited sometimes.
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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by anselmi - 2013/05/21 03:14

I understand your excitement about a new electribe range with more features but Korg is not the kind of company that makes their moves by looking potential users' wishlist so other than recreational I found this thread pointless (I don't want to sound rude here, just my oppinion) :)

anyway, I can't imagine the interface "better"...they're the most simple, easy to use and learn yet powerful machines I ever own (ESX and EMX)

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by poonti - 2013/05/21 05:25

Yeah, got to agree with Anselmi. Korg nailed "ease-of-use" with the 'tribes!

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by Allerian - 2013/05/21 05:54

Great machines but they need better hardware. The selector knob wears out too easily and the values begin to change themselves while playing. :dry:

Here is a track created in the Electribe, then recorded part per part into the OT and arranged with FX:
<https://soundcloud.com/allerian/electrodream-beatdown-track>

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by anselmi - 2013/05/21 11:13

Allerian wrote:

Great machines but they need better hardware. The selector knob wears out too easily and the values begin to change themselves while playing. :dry:

never happened to me (and I owned 2x EMX and 1 ESX) but I read some users reported this... for about 500 and the feature set I think the hardware is quite impressive...I never had an issue with them and I used them extensively

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by Glitchedout - 2013/05/21 12:55

I can't get rid of them. I learned these things inside and out and they just come naturally now. I think they compliment the elektron boxes well. My only major gripe is the jitters the pots get. It can get VERY annoying when you're trying to jump parameters and it gets stuck on one setting jumping from 10-127 to 33 to 127 otherwise the electribes are solid. Change out the tubes to some groove tubes and you have a nice makeshift 909

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by anselmi - 2013/05/21 15:15

I was happy enough to not suffered from the jitter problem you mention, guys!

I just sold them all because I become too much dependant of them and this made me leave my other gear away...I was trying to quit from the EMX methods and sound because I wanted to move to another sound but this was almost impossible because it was easier to make anything with it than using any other piece of hardware...so I ended using it for everything...

I tried to turn it off and leave it far from my main desk, and this lead to use much more my elektrons and other stuff, but when I got a new gig approaching I always ended with the EMX...I even got another one just to solve the transition porblem with the simpler solution: use 2 as DJ's turntables...even with a passive mixer!...just turn on and off tracks from different patterns in both EMXs and go construct on the fly and fade in/out without any hassle...

Previously just make patterns when you can, just made them, lots of them in just 1 EMX...then save session to card, load it into the other EMX, sync them and play, play, play the way you want...truly inspirational and addictive...even now I'm getting a hard impulse of browse ebay to get another couple of them!

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by smokyfrog - 2013/05/21 19:02

I've played lots of drum machines, haven't found anything that I like as much as the ESX-1. With more memory and quieter tubes it'd be perfect but perfection bores me. :)

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by anselmi - 2013/05/21 21:28

smokyfrog wrote:

With more memory and quieter tubes it'd be perfect but perfection bores me. :)

you can replace the tubes with quieter ones, like JJ ECC83S that got plenty of gain without the noise floor and distortion

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by smokyfrog - 2013/05/21 21:36

Yeah I know, but I'm so used to the noise now it feels like part of the sound, a bit like a Logan string melody or something.

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by snowcrash - 2013/05/21 22:14

For one specific project I kept the noisy tubes but on my second ESX I recently changed them to a pair of matched JJs. Although the ESX doesn't make it through calibration as the output level probably is just too high (will try with passive attenuation one time) but one the improvement of the overall sound and quality is HUGE. No noise at all and punchy as hell. Very good if you use your ESX as a DMX/Linndrum 80ies drummer replacement.

If you crank the tubes up it adds clean compression and just a bit of that tube-shimmer needed to glue sounds together. Also the internal distortion benefits a lot from better tubes since they take the edge off the digital distortion quite a bit.

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by arsecrack - 2013/05/21 22:27

Didn't get on with the ESX, Pain to load samples and the noise was a bit too much for me even with replacement tubes. I love and still have the ES mk2 though and it plays nicely alongside the Machinedrum for extra samples that don't need messing up sonically.

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by Glitchedout - 2013/05/23 11:18

It's REALLY hard to walk away from the EMX
the synth engine is just so quick

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by djd_oz - 2013/05/23 19:38

Been thinking of picking up a used EMX for sketching ideas etc ...

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by djd_oz - 2013/05/25 12:39

^ To add to the above, what are your thoughts for using the EMX for sketching ideas.

I already have the OT and A4, and I'm looking for something more immediate to start writing loops with and then transferring them onto the Elektrons.

Or are there any alternatives out there?

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Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by TheKM - 2013/05/25 13:34

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Or are there any alternatives out there?

I have an ESX and honestly I find my Monomachine more immediate for making loops. The EMX is a little more straightforward I think, since the sampling features of the ESX are pain to use.. but the Elektron machines are pretty immediate for sketching out ideas. You can do a lot without stopping the sequencer.

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by anselmi - 2013/05/25 19:15

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Or are there any alternatives out there?

EMX is brilliant for this

the only problem could be that you could find it more instant gratification than the elektrons and the "sketch" could end being the "final" version in lot of cases...it's such an easy machine

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I think this is because you're comparing a sampler against a synth and of course a synth would be more immediate since you're not dealing with sampling broase, select, load, edit, and so on...in a synth you can shape sounds in a more direct way (if you know how, of course)

I always found the EMX more inmediate than the MnM and the ESX way more than the OT but preffer the sound and the extensive modulation of the elektrons over the korgs

Re:Korg ESX groovebox next generation? *Wishlist*

Posted by Paiheu - 2013/05/25 19:20

Use the sound engine of an Electribe, sequence it from an Elektron machine....

Or use the sound engine of your Elektron slaved to the Electribe sequencer...

Then layer both sound engines !

So much potential :)