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## anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/08/29 12:11

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So the opportunity to get a mopho x4 at a great price came up and i took it. I have a tetra, and i figured what the hell, Id have 8 voices and a bunch of knobs to control my tetra. Well... it was a good price because the pitch bend knob was wonky..... The return is done, and now the option for a polyevolver came up. Can someone tell me how they feel about the evolver? I know the specs, ive listened to sounds, watched vids... Ive always wanted one... but I trust you guys, trust this forum, have read a lot of great posts, and gotten a lot of great feedback. So please ..... help me make a more informed decision.

does the no subosc. make a big difference? How are the wavetables? Hows the filter on it?

please just write some essays on why I need this thing in my life asap....  
or why im going to want to throw myself out of my office window for even considering it.

thanks!

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by SBSIX - 2013/08/29 18:52

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I only had the mono evolver desktop, but to me it was the best sounding DSI unit I've heard. You won't miss the subosc, the digital oscs have perfect VA waves which can be tuned an octave lower. Don't think anyone can spot the difference. The only problem I had with the mono was the interface, that's why it had to go. But I can imagine that is fixed in the poly evolver. But isn't the poly evolver about as expensive as the P12?

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by RyanA4 - 2013/08/29 19:44

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Yeah, I think you'd get one and regret just not going all in for a P12.

I saw the first demo vid of P12 before I'd even consider spending that kind of money on a piece of gear....

So what happened? I kept buying less expensive pieces of gear which added up to way more, and ended up trading a ton of it for a P12 and a SC Pro One.

You seem to have the gear bug pretty bad so here's the advice no one ever gave me: just save up for the best. No one ever regrets purchasing the new flagship DSI synth or a 909 or an 808 or a Virus TI2 or a Minimoog- but you will regret having racks and tables full of thousands of dollars of gear that you spend more time learning how to use than making music with.

When you own the best, you spend less time online scouring eBay and CL and user forums asking questions, more time using the gear.

The P12 is the best synth I've ever used as far as simplicity and power and potential beyond what anyone has seen yet. The presets alone without touching a thing will blow you away. Then you start modding and hooo booy this thing is deep but it has everything you need laid out right in front of you on knobs- you hardly need to touch the menus. I'm producing sounds with the P12 by itself and through external FX and Filters that I can honestly say no other synth can produce.

That's why you either buy the classics or the new best thing: The new thing will keep you busy learning it and it alone because there's the possibility you'll program a patch that sounds unlike anything you've ever heard before and the classics will give you exactly what you paid for- that particular sound.

The PolyEvolver is basically the first attempt at the P12 that's way more digital, less versatile (the P12 can do INSANE percussion- it's basically a Tempest+++++) with a built in sequencer- which you have no need for because I remember you posting about just getting an MnM. Well, the obvious next step with an MnM is to get the best synth you can get and sequence it. The 12 voices of the P12 will allow you to program a masterpiece on the MnM and still have voices left over the split the board into another part and go wild playing in bass arps or chords or whatever.

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The answer here is simple: No. Because if you're anything like me you'll just keep watching youtube vids of people using the P12 (that will pop up with more and more frequency) and you'll just end up selling the Evolver and buying a P12.

There's your essay.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by Puddin - 2013/08/29 20:03

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I think DSI stuff gets a bit of a bad rap on here (each to their own I guess), but I personally love the sound. I also love Elektron's sound. We've got a mono Evolver and recently got a Prophet 08 and they're both awesome. They've definitely got a pretty clean modern analog sound, but you you can do all kinds of sounds on them. Amazing modulation capabilities. Insanely fun to program. I would say get it...

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by Puddin - 2013/08/29 20:05

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Also they don't make Poly Evolvers any more so they will become a classic, and will hold good value (if that matters to ya)...

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by chad@pa - 2013/08/29 21:56

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steevyhead wrote:

does the no subosc. make a big difference? How are the wavetables? Hows the filter on it?

The ability to FM and RM the wavetables and assign a wavetable shape to a sequence is what makes the Evolver so unique. WaveStation/ProphetVS on steroids.

I also love the tuned feedback + triple tap delay for wonderful karplus strong plucked string basic physical modeling sounds.

Combi mode patches are underused, underrated, and amazing.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by poonti - 2013/08/29 22:16

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Love/hate relationship with my PEK. Love the modulation/sequencer possibilities, the 70+ buttons/knobs to tweak things with; hate the trashiness you can get if you're not carefull with your levels and digital path parameters. This thing can come up with sounds to tear your head off if you're not carefull...:woohoo:

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by SBSIX - 2013/08/29 23:26

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Ahh I almost forgot that, yes I had the same with the desktop, it clipped way too easily.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/08/30 10:28

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Thanks guys! I really appreciate it. I do got the gear bug bad..... and yes Ive salivated over a p12 many a day now... but I got the option to get a PolyEV for sub 1500\$ and its through a mutual friend... so I havent gone to play it yet, its kind of a hike.. so I just wanted to see what you guys thought...

and I certainly do appreciate all the feedback!! Ive widdled down my gear to my elektron boxes, my nord modular, tetra, and ultranova (which i cant part with due to sentimental reasons). I take an elektron box to work everyday and spend my lunch learning, and on the weekends I attempt to put other gear in the mix etc... but I always love new gear... Its something to look forward to, and i feel like a kid on xmas morning when I get something.

So yeah.. the P12 is double what I can get this thing for... and although you are TOTALLY right ryan about saving up and just getting the best... 3k is kinda just nuts for me right now.... (my girlfriend will also punch me in the face) those two reasons are why ive kept my modular desires at bay.

I listened to a ton of shit today, and man oh man the modulations I heard come out of that thing are just insane... I still havent heard any truly low end shit... but My tetra, and A4 can get low and crunchy... and The FM bass on the MnM is beautiful.

jesus I wasnt even thinking about a P12... now i am.  
someone shoot me

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by snowcrash - 2013/08/30 20:01

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I have the PEK and started way back with the Desktop Evo wehn it came out.

I think it sounds way more organic and unique than the P12. But it comes at a price: you got to dig early 80ies digital artefacts in hybrid-synths like the Waldorf Wave or the PPG and of course the Prophet VS. It lacks the morphing abilities of the VS. (you can only fade 2 waveforms via the modulation matrix by crossfading them) But still it has a very old-schoolish vibe to it.

It can do bread-and butter analog sounds too if you turn down the distortion and other digital components in the signal path, but then you have to be careful with gain staging. It's very hard to come by the PEK with e.g. headphones. It can do thick analog patches, but that means keeping the OSC Levels down and make up for the gain loss with an external mixer or preamp.

The Combo/Multi Mode on the PEK isn't perfect, as you can't store individual patches from it , only the setup and configuration of up to four patches. But it's definitely more powerful than the 2-layer workflow of the P08 and P12. The Mopho 4X again is simply Monotimbral, so not a winner either in that category.

So in sum I'd say the PEK is a powerful beast, that sometimes is hard to control and to come by, but it can shine brightly and you'll never exhaust its possibilities even after years.

Just recently someone made a very nice soundset for the evolver line and the sound samples are the best you can find when it comes to pure evolver bliss:  
<http://www.boxedear.com/tqsevolver.php>

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/09/01 23:32

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RYANA4

"The PolyEvolver is basically the first attempt at the P12 that's way more digital, less versatile (the P12 can do INSANE percussion- it's basically a Tempest+++++) with a built in sequencer- "

Ok I agree....the only question i have is i thought there was no built in sequencer on the P12... just a 32 step prog. arp?? Does it have a sequencer and i was uninformed? I could only find an arp button on the front panel of the P12. I liked the 4x16 seq on the poly (and the mopho x4 and tetra (etc). is this something I can recreate on the octatrack with midi??? Its hard to do on the tetra because some of the stuff i want to sequence is NRPN....

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/09/02 02:48

oh and also the CV1 and CV2 on the oly evolver could play well with my A4 theoretically. But i need to make a decision by tomorrow at the latest... AHHHHHH im gonna scream.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by snowcrash - 2013/09/02 05:36

The p12 doesnt have external in, which is a shame since the filters work quite well on external audio. Also there's env triggering on external audio and an env follower. take that \*4 in combo mode... beyond madness.

And seriously compared to an A4 the Tempest/P12 doesn't even come close on the percussion side.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by poonti - 2013/09/02 06:15

snowcrash wrote:

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And seriously compared to an A4 the Tempest/P12 doesn't even come close on the percussion side.

Is the A4 really that good for percussion? I was considering A4 and then Tanzbar, but maybe the Tanzbar is overkill (I do have a 522 which I would have sold off if I got a Tanzbar)

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/09/02 08:47

well I thought there was a smidgon of hope for getting a P12 for a good price, i mean.... it is a good price, its 15% off at musicians friend right now which is like hundreds of dollars, but they had an open box one (but of course they dont do 15% off that.... so whatever. Im getting a polyevolver keyboard. I just got get what the difference between the pots edition is...

(im not dense i know what pots are) i just dont know how the PE was without the pots, so i cant tell why the pots would be better. Is it worth another 400\$ just for the pots??? I mean i had the mopho desktop which had the evolver style knobs, and now i have the tetra which i think are the pots, and i didnt really find a problem with the old style rubber ones, and its not like i thnak the lord every time i turn a knob on my tetra that they made that difference.....

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anyone have any experiences they want to share with me? I have less than 24 hours to decide... actually I guess I could buy the regular edition and order the boards to make it the pots edition from DSI... but (IT DOESNT INCLUDE THE NEW KNOBS WTF?!?!?!?!?)

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/09/02 08:48

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PPS im still pissed about no sequencer on the P12. WTF is up with that. The PE has cv1 and cv2 and a 16x4 step sequencer, and they decided this wouldnt be a good idea to put on their new flagship synth..?!?!?!?!?

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by poonti - 2013/09/02 09:52

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steevyhead wrote:

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All I've got to say about DSI pots versus encoders is: stay the f\*ck away from DSI PEK encoders. These are not the high quality clicky ones like on the desktop evolver. These are the smooth unclicky ones, which end up jumping all over the place after a few years of use. They are, for lack of a better words, pure crap.

If you have a choice, go for the Pot edition or upgrade. I also heard there might be a quality version of the encoders. Never seen this in real life though.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/02 19:09

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Even though I have a newly added A4, I also own two DSI Mono Evolver Keyboards; one is the PE and other original encoder version that had been professionally services/cleaned and have had no problems. Started with Desktop Evolver and once laid hands on MEk with all the knobs and night and day difference interface and immediacy, it has become my favorite synth with keys. I call it a synth rather than a mono synth because it simply does not sound mono at all and the analog side alone completely blows away the Mopho and P08 due to both it having an unique stereo signal path and 2 analog low pass filters--one for each side of signal chain.

The CV-1, CV-2 on the Evolvers is actually best used with expression pedals and assign whatever midi cc's such as breath control, et al. I had contacted DSI Support about using the CV Ins on Evolvers to be controlled at the time before the A4 came in picture, by my Waldorf Pulse Plus, which only the PLUS model has a built-in midi to cv converter with both cv/gate in and out and multiple cv/outs, which has quickly become connected to my A4 and then using the Pulse Plus' cv/out and cv/to midi or midi to cv to also play other synths, monophonically, but still, it's like having yet an extra cv track sound with this set-up!!!

Here's what DSI Support had to say about the Evolver's CV's: "The Mono or Poly Evolver's CV/IN could likely be used in conjunction with the waldorf pulses CV/Gate output. Since the CV/IN is heavily filtered, there is a limit to the speed at which it will respond. Alternatively, you could use the Mono Evolver to play the Waldorf Pulse by sending the MEK's MIDI

out to the Pulse's MIDI in."

There was more than a slight delay in attempting to tap into the cv-in of Evolver with A4 and it was actually too filtered to get a great lock on it, finding playing the keys of evolver (have two desktop evolvers poly chained and then another MEK that I use entirely differently).

However, had combi-mode been made to be able to entirely save sound programs with set-ups in more intuitive way, I surely would have gone the PEK way.

I too, find DSI Evolver to be much more sonically versatile and organic than the new P12, but that's just me because I have Waldorf Q and XT which pretty much blows away anything I have yet to hear from the P12.

I do not agree with always buying the next new "best thing" because there's some really great monsters out there from the past. Just make yourself a rule to sell something(s) before buying/adding something.

Just added another capable beast from past, the Quasimidi Polymorph, which I think will play nice with the A4 and family:P

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by RyanA4 - 2013/09/02 22:30

I think the bottom line here 3 things:

1) If he can try out a DSI flagship like a PEK cheaply, he should because there is nothing to lose- a really good deal means you can make you money back (or make a small profit on a resale).

2) I'm guessing most people commenting from a position of expertise about the P12 in this thread have never played one. Comparing the XT and the Q to the P12 is like saying that since the OT can load single cycle waveforms it's comparable to the A4. The P12 isn't anything like the Waldorf wave tables- it's just possible to load some wavetables into the oscillators. Unlike the XT or the Q, the P12 is capable of producing something good/usable about 80-90% of the time you sit down to program patches, unlike the 30-40% of the time with the XT/Q (only own the XT, but to my understanding the Q is much more fussy than even the XT). XT/Q are special synths, but they aren't a relevant point of comparison here, even in the slightest.

3) PEK can produce "X sounds" better than "what I've heard out of the P12" is a useless comment. What you've heard of the p12 are shit YouTube demo vids. Everyone with a bad ass synth (like the PEK!) knows that you have no real idea what it sounds like until it's right in front of you plugged into a great set of monitors. Having heard both the P12 and the PEK in person, I can tell you the P12 has a MUCH more textured and vibrant character than the PEK- according to this thread, the P12 was a pointless product, because, not only can the PEK do all the things the P12 can do (and better)- it can do more!

As with all things in life, consider the source of information just as carefully as its contents.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/03 00:26

...and to think, I was NOT even thinking/talking about the wavetable side of the Waldorf Q \*at all\*, and like anything, it is ALL in the diving deep and programming. The Q has 4 envelopes that are 8 part loopable, and the mod matrix is beyond anything but reversed alien technology.

Yes, I compared them as a coupled whole; the XT with it being a true wavetable synth, then the Q as a synth, not even taking wavetables into count that can act as the 4th and 5th oscillator...taken together, and yes, I demoed for more than an hour the P12 and know my synthesis, and just could not justify it because of the two beasts I mentioned.

To each their own. Some people are simply fanboyz, whereas I have a plethora of synths from different makers, more than what's just listed on my page.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by namnibor - 2013/09/03 00:28

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Insolence is SO unbecoming!:silly:

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by steevyhead - 2013/09/03 00:45

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Well thanks guys, i didnt mean to start any time of big war over DSI products. like i said, I had a mopho tabletop, I upgraded to a tetra, I had a mopho x4 until the pitch bend broke (and the polychaining of mopho x4 and tetra wasnt the amazing life changing experience I thought it would be).

I also didnt mean to start anytime of PEK is better than P12 but ANY means. If I was a rich man I would have both... and The P12 didnt come into the picture until RYANA4 mentioned it, and it got my g.a.s. acting up, and I started watching some videos (peter dyer playing M83 teen angst on the p12 and tempest anyone).... anyways.... I was like holy shit this thing sounds great. I mean, those digital osc's sound pretty friggin good, and with so many voices im sure it can blow a house down. But I cant for the life of me figure out why there is no audio in's and WHYYYYYYYYYYYY there is no sequencer on the P12. their "flagship" synth is dropping things that come on their entry level desktop?!?!?!?

Anyways... thanks for the insight guys..... Im sure one day ill Have a P12 sitting on one of the tiers of my synth stands.... But for now its PEK time.

Besides, im fairly confident some of the CRAZZZZZY shit thit will be made, will turn into some great shit when fed into the OCTATRACK and mangled to death.

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## Re:anyone with a polyevolver?

Posted by RyanA4 - 2013/09/03 01:02

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I'm not a fanboy. I have 7 synths, 2 of which are from the same company.

I do agree that a sequencer would have been a nice inclusion, and as someone without an MnM, it makes me want one more! Dammit! I may have to figure out yet another trade....

ANYWAY, moving on....

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Congrats on the PEK, enjoy it! It's a fantastic synth and sounds like you're getting it for a total steal!

If your friend ever wants to sell other synths super cheap, let me know. I'll take an OB-X for \$2500 and a Moog Prodigy B for \$500.

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