
Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/30 18:52

Hello,
Just wondering if anybody has some first hand experience using an MPC (specifically MPC-1000) alongside a machinedrum or monomachine. Seems like it would be a good match. I'd be using the sampling mainly to sample phrases from my monosynths and for some drumbreaks and vinyl samples. I'd also like to use the sequencer to control MIDI synths and get away from computer sequencing. Is the MPC seq good for this? How will it integrate with the sequencer on the machinedrum?

Thanks.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by - 2005/08/30 20:06

The only problem you might encounter (especially with breaks, recorded loops, etc.) is that the MPC1K cannot do time-stretching, etc.

More to come.

cchocjr

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by - 2005/08/30 20:54

i use an mpc1k plus sps-1 and evolver.

for jamming and live pa its the best combo ive come across so far.

its surprisingly inspirational to play the machinedrum thru the velocity-sensitive pads and sequencer, i lay down beats in realtime (and hey you can do triplets :)). also i don't consider myself a 'keys' player so id rather be banging on drumpads onstage.

the mpc1k does have problems though, it will make you wish it had real-time timestretch (like Ableton) or at least better sample tweaking, like a korg esx or something.

when they make something that combines memory and midi seq of mpc with realtime tweaking of esx, i will be the first one to buy. (elektron are u listening? :))

oops must run will write more later.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/30 20:57

thanks guys..

well, one thing that I don't mind using the PC for is sample editing. so if the MPC-1000 lacks good sample editing and also timestretching, not a big problem. but is the MPC-1000 sequencer good for sophisticated melodic lines (not just drum lines)???

Also, have you guys heard about the MPC-2500 that's coming out? Maybe will bring down the price of the 1000 so low that I'd have to pick one up.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by - 2005/08/30 21:29

Spec wise you can definitely do most sequencing tasks on the 1k, not just drums.

There is an event-style edit mode along with the realtime pad-bashing (which can be quantized or not).

The great thing is you can switch in and out of record mode without stopping the sequence playback. (fun for live overdubbing/jam/performing).

Its got 2 midi out jacks which is nice too.

Actually its probably better on the sequencing front then it is sampling.

There are a few quirks in the way it integrates external midi controller info with its internal sounds, eg. whichever program is selected on the main screen is the only one u can play with the pads, is the only one you can record midi into.

another dumb thing: the 1k cant generate midi cc messages itself (see those sliders? no such luck, only for internal..), although it will certainly record/edit/play cc and even sysex stuff.

re the 2500, people have been talking about stuff like that for a long time, but ive never heard a reliable estimate of what or when. i'd love to know, myself.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by - 2005/08/30 21:34

hmm stop the press,

i just looked at mpc-forums.com and there is a big discussion about a 2500 announcement. looks a little unofficial but more realistic then some past info.

its got some of my wishlist features (realtime stretching?), but one thing i don't like already is it looks to be the size of the 2k series. I really like the small size of 1k, its a big factor for me.

cheers

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/30 21:46

I have the MPC1k and I really like it - for a while I thought that I might sell it - but its a very capable little box if you do a lot of the editing on a PC and use the seperate outputs and mix it externally. Otherwise, its a little limited on the front panel for realtime control. The MPC MnM MD combo will kick serious ass, and fit into a little case with a compact mixer - thats the rig of champions right there!

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by cchoçjr - 2005/08/30 23:37

I would second everything that everyone has said. After playing around with some of the popular sequencer (RS7K, ESX-1, MPC1K), the MPC is probably the best mix of user-friendliness and sequencing power. I would probably second 'Friend''s comment that the MPC1K is a better sequencer than it is a sampler, but the ease of importing samples and creating programs (via a computer-based program and USB/flash card) is very convenient. When I did have my MPC1K, I did use it to sequence melodies, and not just beats, and it seemed more than able.

If I ever did buy a dedicated sampler again (probably won't), I would be seriously tempted to get the MPC1K, but probably couldn't bring myself to do it because of the limited tweakability and limited/low-rent onboard effects. --though I would REALLY wan't to. Really.

I also second 'friend' (the same friend?) that "when they make something that combines memory and midi seq of mpc with realtime tweaking of esx, i will be the first one to buy."

In the interim, I will ship my MD later this week to have it up'd to UW status.

:-D

cchocjr

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/31 00:21

^^ since you mention it, I guess I'll point out that the MD-UW is very far removed from a normal sampler. It is really cool to be able to use your own stuff as raw material for the MD engine/sequencer, but it really doesn't fill a lot of the more traditional sampler roles. For example, I want to sample some patterns off my evolver for multitrack-esque functionality, but the UW can't really do that properly...so I think that there would be little overlap between an MPC (or any phrase sampler) and the UW.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/31 01:05

I only use my MPC1K to spit out synth and a few other little things - like vox. Its my polysynth :P

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/31 01:28

nice....that's the use I'd be putting it to as well.

plus, I have to admit that I've wanted some of those MPC pads ever since I first got into electronic music production about 4 years ago...

Milk: do you use the MPC1k sequencer much to drive synths? Does it handle it well?

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by rockland - 2005/08/31 02:37

I'm using a mpc1000 with a MM and MD for live stuff, and i love the combination.

I've got the MPC as master, and each pattern is set to control the patterns of the MnM & MD (which I can mute when I want to stray from the program). I've got the main outs of the MPC going straight to a channel on my mixer. outs 1&2 into the inputs of the MnM, which handles sampled synth/vox/melodic loops, that i want to use effect in real-time. outs 3&4 into the MD, which handles percussion samples (i only use single hit samples), which gives all of my drums the elektron compressed sound. the main outs from the MPC are used to play patterns which i use as transitions between tracks.

when my nord g2 gets here, I plan on sequencing it from the MPC.

for me it's been a very productive set-up, and very compact too, which is great.

steve

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/08/31 03:08

yeah, I have used it to sequence my Virus to death - its probably one of the best hardware sequencers in the market in my opinion. Plus, the 2 midi I/O's put it in the big leagues with even a PC sequencer.

Rockland: thats a great idea! I use the MnM inputs for effects - with the latest OS it has been even easier since the ringmod bug is now gone. You seem to have a nice compact rig and have it dialed in - I have a lot of respect for that.
:pint:

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by cchocjr - 2005/08/31 05:51

ggoodwin wrote:

^^ since you mention it, I guess I'll point out that the MD-UW is very far removed from a normal sampler. It is really cool to be able to use your own stuff as raw material for the MD engine/sequencer, but it really doesn't fill a lot of the more traditional sampler roles. For example, I want to sample some patterns off my evolver for multitrack-esque functionality, but the UW can't really do that properly...so I think that there would be little overlap between an MPC (or any phrase sampler) and the UW.

Quite true. I have found that I prefer to use the MD to make my drum sounds, instead of using samples (not that I have anything against sampling, just a personal preference), so the UW will handle my limited sampling wants nicely (don't need a lot of memory, but need a lot of tweakability). Good idea about routing the sound of the MPC out into the MD or MNM in's. That opens up the tweaking ability a good deal, although not on an individual track basis...hmmm.

If it works for Autechre...

cchocjr

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by - 2005/08/31 10:18

Oh shit, the mpc 2500 looks damm good.

<http://img395.imageshack.us/img395/2010/mpc2wj.th.jpg>

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by MokBor - 2005/08/31 13:14

I have an mpc1000 although i don't really use it much, outside live performances. The biggest complain is the lack of midi control. The mpc1000 is very summier for using in a daw, you can't automate much. Thats why i use Kontakt2 nowadays, which is far more advanced. And has far more features, like most pc based sample plugs do.

PS. the 2500 looks great, although the improvements are not really revolutionairy...

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by - 2005/08/31 14:20

Anyone else have problems with the following:

Q-link sliders - why are there two of them? Am I crazy?

Forgetting about the feeble ultra cheesy effects - how about the attack? I'm trying to make jumpy baselines and I'm not entirely.. feeling it...

Also, this goes O/T so I might be double posting (pardon!) but does anyone run their MPC1000 with a Motu 828mkII and Cubase SX 3? I'm trying to open up the input buses correctly for Cubase. The Cubase mixer only responds to what is flagged "default bus". The CueMix console shows all channels properly. Recording in Cubase is proper. But before I hit the monitor switches for each channel I see nothing (except for default bus). When I hit monitor I get evil double layers of flam. Been tampering with this for a week. :-o

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/31 19:34

Mok: thanks for the input...I already use Kontakt with Cubase, and while it is powerful for sure, I just have trouble getting my inspiration captured with that setup, for some reason. I'm looking into the MPC line to replace that exact combo with a more hands-on sequencer and a more direct sampling engine. I don't often use the more esoteric/synthy parameters in kontakt, anyways.

Friend: obviously I don't own the MPC1000 but it sounds like you might be having problems with the attack segment of your samples? Normally you should be able to adjust the attack on any sampler just by altering the sample start point.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by mahoney - 2005/08/31 21:00

ggoodwin wrote:

Friend: obviously I don't own the MPC1000 but it sounds like you might be having problems with the attack segment of your samples? Normally you should be able to adjust the attack on any sampler just by altering the sample start point.

That was me at work!

I'd like to play with the attack of the bass sounds after a bass line is recorded, to make it more vivid and bumpy.

Using the Q-Link slider for adjusting the attack parameter, from the minimum of attack to the maximum - the effect is rather weak. It's not comparable to what my friend gets from his MPC3000.

On another note, I'm thinking of selling off my MPC1000, with the MPC2500 on the horizon (it might be a hoax but I feel it coming!). This would get me some headroom to cop a used SF6 to keep with my MD-uw. The pads and step editing in the 1K sequencer would be missed at first.

Question: Is there some way of using sampled drums/sounds in the MD-uw and make them bump with the same, if not ease, at least confidence and SWING that I get spontaneously from the MPC sequencer? :-?

I haven't had any headaches using the MPC1K to master my whole setup. While the prospect of owning an SFX-6 might be reason enough to giving up anything, it would be hard to play my drum sounds the way I like on the Machinedrum. Either that or it's an excellent opportunity to learn what sampling is like with limited capacities.

But it's not an MPC-like situation, where I can free hand a lot of funky stuff on a Machinedrum with Time Correct turned off. Ways around this? Insert empty space in samples? Tweaking I might have missed?

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by jbuonacc - 2005/08/31 23:37

http://www.akai-pro.de/produkte/fotos/mpc2500_400.jpg

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/08/31 23:46

SCHWINGG!!!!

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by cchocjr - 2005/09/01 00:24

That is fucking be-a-u-tiful!

cchocjr

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/09/01 04:20

lets hope that those nifty looking faders on the bottom left corner do something - the Q-link sucks the big one on the MPC1k

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by zaque - 2005/10/14 20:19

the mpc 2500 is definitely real. it's sitting next to me right now. :) it is exactly the sampler/sequencer i've been wanting. it has all of the benefits of the 1000 (i like the 1000 OS and hardware better than the 2000/4000). i can sample, chop, stretch, and tweak the hell out of things. i love it. i've used it with the md almost everyday this week to chop beats from the md. i've also used to to sequence all my synths and it works great. better than using the computer, imo. in the last year since i've moved away from a computer for sequencing and sampling i've been much happier, less distracted, and more productive. i also have a 1000 and was using that for sequencing since last winter and it works great. highly recommend it either one of them but if you can afford it get the 2500.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/10/14 21:50

how much larger than the 1000 is it?

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/10/14 22:59

zaque - do you know anything about expanding the 2500? can you use normal memory and hard drive, or does it have to be some expensive akai-specific version?

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by zaque - 2005/10/15 00:51

size wise it's probably about as big as a 2000xl but not as thick. i just set my 1000 on top of the 2500 and there is about an inch around it so it's a fair bit bigger but not unmanageable like a 4000.

i just put cheap laptop memory in it. i took out the stuff i had in my 1000 and stuck it in the 2500 and it worked great. as for the hd (or cd) option i don't know. i really doubt that i'll ever put that in so i have't looked into it. compact flash cards are fine with me. i might put the cd option in there just for sampling from but i can get a decent cd player with digital out for less and use it for more...

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/10/15 01:10

that's good to know it can use standard memory....and you're right, with the compact flash, not much need for an HD.

does the 2500 have a turntable preamp built in?

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by zaque - 2005/10/15 05:01

no preamp

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear adn Motu 828mkII?

Posted by udenjoe - 2005/10/15 06:42

I had a hard time sleeping last weekend when I first saw it. I'm torn. I really want an mpc again.

=====

Re: Is anybody using an MPC with the Elektron gear?

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/10/15 17:14

The key to the MPC1000 is the USB option and the CF cards. With this you can do all your sound editing and chopping in your PC and then slap them on the card...a big card say 1gb...and you'll be set for a while...not like floppies and zip drives. So it doesn't have time stretch...who cares. I think you can do all your chopping and stretching in a computer than use the MPC to sequence everything. That is unless you hate computers completely...which it seems fashionable to do these days.