
Modular Synths

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/10/18 18:44

What is the cheapest way to get a modular synth? Is it the Doepfer mini system?

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/10/18 18:55

cheapest would probably be the Paia DIY modular system...not exactly the best or most flexible sound, though... :P

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/10/18 20:09

I'm not really into building and soldering. I just want to patch some modules together and roll.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glaive - 2005/10/18 20:15

Do they have to be physical modules? The Nord Micro is a great deal if you don't mind onscreen patching.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by jbuonacc - 2005/10/18 20:31

i believe the Paia kits can be bought pre-assembled but yeah, as far as most bang for your buck i'd recommend the Nord Modular series as well. of course it won't sound the same but the possibilities are far greater than most any hardware modular you could buy for cheap.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by crixmadine - 2005/10/18 21:17

You might consider something from The Wiard Synthesizer Company:

<http://www.wiard.com>

Not exactly cheap, but the modules are built with high quality parts and designed in such a way to allow for multitudes of possibilities in sound. Start out with something simple and then add in modules over time.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by watson - 2005/10/18 22:11

yeah i second the Wiard recommendation, also Wiard worked with www.blacet.com to make an affordable modular system check out their stuff too.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by - 2005/10/19 02:01

Yes...they do have to be physical. Something like the Doepfer or the MOTM stuff. I was just wondering if there was cheaper stuff or if this was the cheapest.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glaive - 2005/10/19 04:18

If you want a physical, hands-on modular, I don't think there's a way around spending a chunk o' change. I talked to the MOTM guy once about getting started, and it would have set me back about \$750 to get a basic rig going, provided I assembled the modules myself.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by - 2005/10/19 05:07

you could just buy 1 module per paycheck....might take you a few years to have a usable synth, but would be a fun investment.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by watson - 2005/10/19 05:11

the last "friend" post has a good idea, that i will expound upon...you could buy 1 module per week, but start out getting filters, ring mods, and or time based effects(phaser, delay, flanger...) that way you can run your exghisting equipment through the modules you have bought, then youcan start buying your VCOs and LFOs.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glaive - 2005/10/19 13:35

That's what the MOTM guy recommended, as well.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by - 2005/10/19 23:15

I think I'm gonna go this route:

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~concuss/concussor/c-modules.htm> ... some of those drum modules are cool...and they are compatible with the doepfer stuff as well/

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by milkmansnd - 2005/10/20 02:09

<http://www.uni-bonn.de/~uzs159/>

DIY synth pages, my MS20 filter clone is closely based off Rene's.

Re: Modular Synths

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/10/20 23:21

I'm not a DIY guy when it comes to electronics. I must admit it will be hard enough for me to figure out how to make a patch with the modules...lol.

Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glitched - 2005/12/01 02:46

Modulars are great and all, but if you can't afford a \$2,000 > system, why not modify an existing synth? There are lots of cheapo circuit bending project type synths, but "real" vintage synths can be modified to accept inputs and outputs.

For instance, I modified my MC-202, so that it's more like an MS-20. It has: CV VCF IN (filter control), audio -> VCF IN, PULSE audio OUT, TRI audio OUT with level (original MC-202 has no TRI wave), SUB OSC OUT, MOD In, and upgraded CV/GATE INs (so that they bypass the CPU). You can patch anything to anything and it's a really cheap and flexible way to get into modulars.

Go here for more ideas: <http://www.cykong.com/Synths/synths.htm>

Re: Modular Synths

Posted by endmusik - 2005/12/01 16:19

Another thing to look at is the synthesizers.com 12 month plan -

<http://www.synthesizers.com/system-entry1.html>

great deal!

I started it, but then I jumped and paid out for the full plan, so my modular is shipping this week :-o

Modding boards and doing mini-modular stuff with pedals/etc is always an option too - the moog CP-251 is a great box for hooking up to other CV units (including your newly purchased TM-1) and making noise.

I'm seriously thinking of modding the crap out of my Arp Odyssey (full patch panel, etc) so I can integrate it into the modular....

Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glitched - 2005/12/02 00:24

Yeah, who in the world could have the patience to wait for each and every module? That's true temptation when you have an oscillator, amplifier, and envelope generator just sitting there...waiting for a multi-mode filter, LFO, etc..

I bet 90% of the people skip and just pay the full price.

Re: Modular Synths

Posted by ggoodwin - 2005/12/02 01:55

man, that 12 month plan is SERIOUSLY tempting me...what a nice marketing angle.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/12/02 02:14

You could buy stuff to make a simple effects unit...then go for a whole synth once you have the loot. The power supply and case is what always gets me...they are expensive...and I suck at DIY stuff.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by watson - 2005/12/02 03:05

if you like the euro stuff like doepfer check out the analog solutions box, its only 179.00 with power supply, also the AH guys are very helpful, scroll to the bottom of this link

<http://www.analoguehaven.com/analoguesolutions/modules/>

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by glitched - 2005/12/03 06:50

I can personally vouch for AH--that's where I got my SFX-6 for a reduced price (demo model). Easy transaction, good prices, and unique products.

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Re: Modular Synths

Posted by jsrockit - 2005/12/03 12:16

Just bought a Metasonix TM-1 from AH as well... good people.

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