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## Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by joechip - 2009/11/20 14:22

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Hi All,

Probably preaching to the converted here, but just wanted to let everyone know that I finally get the Monomachine for all its sonic wonderfulness.

Read comments about it being a little souless and about it taking a while to get into the machine. I have had all manner of synths over the years and was beginning to doubt whether I could ever get anything worthy out of the sfx-60 (mk II).

Had one for 5 weeks now and I finally get it. Have to say it took a few long nights of taking the Monomachine out of the studio and playing it on the sofa and in bed with headphones.

F\*\*kin love this machine!!! Love the delays, all the synths, love the warm/gritty sound, P-Locks is just the greatest idea ever on a synth/seq.

Sorry if all this sounds a little gay. But, to all the doubters, hang on in there.

Joe

Shanghai

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by KeyboardCat - 2009/11/20 14:54

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Werd, I have a Machinedrum at the moment and Im just starting to get into it again after being frustrated over it.

I know theres a magic to it, just takes alot of work.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by kirlian - 2009/11/20 14:56

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Man, congrats !

I've had mine for almost a year and I still struggle . Some days it feels really natural and other days I'm either lost, or I feel like I'm doing the same stuff over again all the time.

I think I just need to take It into bed with the headphones like i used to.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by orwell - 2009/11/20 15:30

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Great one, the mono is a dream. It's up and down guys - just gotta try new things all the time. This week: its mono loop-finding with with transpose and scrolling the seq with the arrows i.e pushing the notes forward or backwards. Keep the delay page open, always tweak the delay, low bmp and its all bliss. Added the api 2500 plug for warmth. So wide and deep..... next week a new avenue will open up with the MK2 arrival . Still ambivalent about the MD UW though, haven't used it for a while. Maybe time to switch back and go a full week of MD!! errrr, still hate the red screen though!!!

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by victorjohn - 2009/11/20 16:02

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Congrats. I have had mine about a year now and it continues to surprise me!

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I love the monomachine as well. I will never sell mine or my MD.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by eminor9 - 2009/11/20 17:33

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Mono couch sessions with headphones are what do it every time for me. Not so with the MD - I find it much more difficult to 'balance' and/or 'glue' sounds together than with Mono.

Anyway, you should keep in mind that most of the time there is no 'soulless' gear, only users. Whether someone clicks with interface/sounds or not is another question, but there's no point in judging someone/something if you have not tried being familiar with it.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by anselmi - 2009/11/20 19:29

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congrats man...I think this was the same time the mono takes to made me love it...the first impression was not good at all and I remember I was thinking about sell it...but after some bedtime with (this is lap time w/headphones, not sex) it start to show me all the things I was loosing for years! enjoy it and welcome to the church!

PD: and about being a little "gay" is because you look at your mono as a "he"...but some guys here think it's a "she"...what do you think?

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by jsrockit - 2009/11/21 00:04

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Took me years to love the Monomachine...

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by anselmi - 2009/11/21 00:32

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jsrockit wrote:  
Took me years to love the Monomachine...  
:laugh:

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by stylinghead - 2009/11/21 01:11

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i am becoming quite gay for the mono. some days more than others though. it's hard to do a couch session because it has the keyboard but i love the joystick sooooo much. and that makes me just a little gayer. YAY!!!!

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by sofaboy - 2009/11/21 02:50

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I've been on/off with my MD UW ever since I bought it.

I love using it on it's own, but the minute I hook it up with my EMX1 the workflow just seems to trip over itself.

I refuse to become just another scratcher though, (despite several near re-sales), especially since it's deepness has revealed itself to me. It's just getting it to be friends with my Electribe. I think I just want to have to program both machines the same way, which obviously aint gonna happen.

anyway, good thread -> I wanted to raise this but didn't want to start a thread devoted to my wranglings, so what better place to air my love/hate relationship status.

(and apologies to the folks who have been caught up in my surface-scratcher-almost selling/trading-indecisive-annoyingness)

I AM keeping it, even if it takes aeons to flower.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by TrondC - 2009/11/21 04:25

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same story here. first months I was thinking "I spent \$1500 on a Nintendo with a sequencer..", and also for me, prolonged couch-sessions with headphones, manual and a beer or two, things started to make sense. and when it made sense, it did so in a fantastic way, can't ever imagine parting with it now..

still get very different results than I go for tho, but that's half the cool-factor of this thing :)

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by orwell - 2009/11/21 06:00

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joysicks, knobs, and gayness, it's becoming a wanking thread - the mono is psychologically very deep

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by anselmi - 2009/11/21 06:29

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the main reason I don't sold it after a couple weeks of frustration was beacuse IÂ'm strongly convinced that I was frozen in a really tight sonic space of analog tones...so I realized that my negation to the mono sound was part of that and I decide to just expose to it, just program, play. listen, program, play listen...so withou I notice in a concient way it sounds reveals to me in an incredible way...when I look back to my usual sounds I found them exactly as I gues; all the same...in the other hand the mono was refreshing, new, defined, wild, precise, raw, crude and even smooth in a new way of smoothness

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by kirlian - 2009/11/21 12:17

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i'm in a rut with the monomachine. my ideas with it have dried up. it's as dry as a chicken birth as anselmi might say...

time to dig back in. time to get very gay with the mono. very gay indeed.

eminor9 - you dropped some simple but very cool tips with your monojazz digging deeper track from last week. i'll probably start there.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by tIB - 2009/11/21 12:37

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I was in love the very first second I touched the sfx6 in the shop I bought it from... amazingly inspiring machine. When I'm low on ideas I disconnect all and focus only on that. Need to do it more often as over the last year or so learning the MD meant it took over a bit.

Sometime wonder if my immediate clicking with the mono was a result in being fairly short on preconceptions to what it should sound like, having previously only owned a few (mostly VA type) hardware synths and prior to that using the computer... the interface was a big factor though, didn't read the instruction for the first few months and learned a lot just digging around as it all felt so natural.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by joechip - 2009/11/22 19:40

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Haha... Love the "I spent \$1500 on a Nintendo with a sequencer.." comment. Felt the same way for a while too.

At the moment I have my Monomachine and my TR808 hooked up to a set of cheap computer speakers with headphones in my living room. Pure bliss, feel like a kid again with my first synth!

I just wanted to reassure anyone else who checks out the user pages and is swithering on whether to buy a monomachine or not.

True, it is an expensive piece of kit, but anyone who has a few old analogs in their studio doesn't need another. With the Monomachine I really do feel special and part of a secret elite, more so than owning any of the so-called desirable analogs ever has.

In an age of VST instruments, the guys at Elektron really do deserve all the support they can get and you really have to give credit where it is due to the guys who designed this thing.

Of course now I have the problem of wanting a Machinedrum UW.

Joe

Shanghai

ps, I def see the sfx-60 as a knob-ladden brushed aluminium 110% man, so that must make me gay as.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by Amanita - 2009/11/22 19:51

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Its time for my informative graphic on the MnM again.....

<http://files.me.com/mwabrown/nfjj5o>

100 Time is approximately 6 earth months but varies according to individual

100 Love is roughly equal to hugging a puppy

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by anselmi - 2009/11/22 21:46

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excuse me but for me it's far from linear

here's a more accurate representation based on users' experience related in this thread and others (mine included)

<http://img72.imageshack.us/img72/7493/mnm1.jpg>

1. you know about the existence of the monomachine
2. you start to read reviews, enter the elektron site and hear some demos
3. you start to see youtube videos featuring the monomachine
4. you discover the elektron-users forum and start to read owners' experiences
5. you discover some bad issues and the official feature request thread
6. you decide to get one
7. you order one!
8. you got it!
9. you start to play with it trying your usual tricks and music
10. for some reason you are not able to get the expected results
11. the monomachine start to sound somewhat thin and lifeless to your ears
12. you ruin your 3-hours-edition pattern just trying alternative ideas "because you can return to the saved pattern if you don't like the variations you are trying"
13. you start to feel stealed...and all that things you read before about people selling their monomachines "just because it isn't for them" start to feel more coherent...even when you thought this people was just fantasists with a bunch of cash to spend in the last cool thing
14. you leave the mono alone for a while, thinking about put it on ebay the next week
15. you back to your old and trusty synths and try to play and program the good old things you know and love...but something is wrong...
16. you realized that your old synths sounds somewhat dull...maybe lacking definition or bite...strange...
17. you back to the monomachine and hear it again after some days of not turning it on...but wait! is this the same synth with that crappy nintendo sound??? the bite, the definition, the shine, the rawness, the cutting edge you was looking for yesterday is all there!
18. you start to use the mono realizing that the key is the interaction of the sequencer with the sound engine...why don't you think about it before? you know that but you was blinded with your sonic routine!
19. music start to come and sound wonderful, your workflow improved and you find that the combination of the monomachine with your old phat synths is amazing!
20. you decide to get the machinedrum, or, if you already got it, you start to write threads about that mythological beast: the elektron sampler

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by Hertzian Cone - 2009/11/22 22:39

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I should be at point 8 on Friday:cheer: , must remember to keep point 19 in mind with a view going forward of reaching point 20

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by kirlian - 2009/11/23 00:21

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just looking at those graphs has taken me to 100 love.

amanita and anselmi have just made my life this morning. classic.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by xheindrichs - 2009/11/23 01:34

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I've been to 18, and then again on 14. But, never been on 13, 11... But I was on 20 even before buying MnM (wanted to buy MD and I found a bright second-hand MnM... So I jumped on it!!)

Bye

Xa

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by Nils - 2009/11/23 04:07

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Haha, you said it Kirlian - those graphs and explanations are classic. I was immediately taken back to my own feelings of incompleteness, frustration and disappointment after I bought my first Mono.

I repeated many of those steps since I sold my first 6, and had another go at it some years later. These days, my main concern with it is finding the time to realize all those wonderful sonic secrets that I know are in there, but make me feel like a surface scratcher for not unlocking..

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by provaznik - 2009/11/23 04:54

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i don't have a mono. but my uw will NEVER leave me. every time i get bored with it i end up finding new sounds and routing possibilities, and the next thing i remember is that it is 6 in the damn morning. i would sell my computer before i sold my baby. too good, it's a romance thing.

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by Veets - 2009/11/25 05:42

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I nominate Anselmi's graphic for a sticky B) B) Actually there should be a secret forum section for this sticky so no one is deprived of personally experiencing "The Agony and the Ecstasy of the Mnm" B)

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by data-line - 2009/11/26 01:18

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Yep both elektrons can lead to confusions and followed by dislike.

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Give them time and patience and you will be rewarded so much that u will need new pair of pants.

Just came back from Edinburgh and had the monomachine on my lap during the train journey and came up with this massive tune. These machines are incredible. So deep.

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### Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by johnathon doe - 2009/11/26 15:36

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what are you using for your battery supply mr. data-line?

p.s. love your vids, keep 'em coming!

peace

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### Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by zoot - 2009/11/26 21:08

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to be blunt at 5 weeks your only surface scratching

its not that easy even though its an easy machine to play

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### Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by jsrockit - 2009/11/26 21:10

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zoot wrote:

to be blunt at 5 weeks your only surface scratching

its not that easy even though its an easy machine to play

I'd say that depends on your skill level to begin with. Some people make really great stuff right away. Others, like myself, are still trying to come to grips with it after many years.

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### Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by zoot - 2009/11/26 21:26

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jsrockit wrote:

zoot wrote:

to be blunt at 5 weeks your only surface scratching

its not that easy even though its an easy machine to play

I'd say that depends on your skill level to begin with. Some people make really great stuff right away. Others, like myself, are still trying to come to grips with it after many years.

yep i agree but they still would not know

how to fully use it.

and sometimes it just doesn't sit with people

like any instrument/gear

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by anselmi - 2009/11/26 22:01

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I still can't use it live...and I still can't mix all 6 parts together...something of the mix eludes me...my EMX is a breeze to mix...I can program a pattern with all 5 synth parts and even all the drums and make it sound good without too much hassle but with the mono is hard (to me) get the same kind of mix

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by kirlian - 2009/11/27 01:14

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anselmi wrote:

I still can't use it live...and I still can't mix all 6 parts together...something of the mix eludes me...my EMX is a breeze to mix...I can program a pattern with all 5 synth parts and even all the drums and make it sound good without too much hassle but with the mono is hard (to me) get the same kind of mix

yeah, for me it doesn't have the same immediacy for live tweaking that the MD does. i program all this complex movement in my MnM patches and sequences, then forget what everything does. plus, i end up using many more p-locks on the MnM so the live tweaking doesn't play such a large role. and, without the function + extended immediate reset, i get a little reluctant to do a lot of live tweaks (yeah, i just reload kit sometimes but you know...). i think overall it is just a more complex beast than the MD and I haven't really wrapped my head around it yet.

i don't use the mono for bass very often and i often get 4-6 parts all building up in roughly the same frequency areas. in the past i would just try to deal with that and end up producing these really dense tracks. now i feel it has helped me to be more discriminating in my mixes. now instead of trying to make all those parts work together, i have just started eliminating parts when something isn't working or really getting the filter and eq ing right. this has led to more space for the essential parts of my tracks. so i feel the mono has made me better mixer with more coherent tracks even if i still can't use it. :)

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by molotov - 2009/11/27 01:58

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jsrockit wrote:

zoot wrote:

to be blunt at 5 weeks your only surface scratching

its not that easy even though its an easy machine to play

Others, like myself, are still trying to come to grips with it after many years.

On my second one in as many years and still haven't really got my head around it!:silly:

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## Re:Finally I get it. Love my MonoMachine...

Posted by WaveRider - 2009/11/29 00:31

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After 18 months I am improving my mono sound design skills, it's a very precise synth engine that sounds great... punchy, colorful, warm or cold, you got it :)

... I am more please than ever because of the sounds I got recently; but I am late on finishing my productions cause of a day job, that sucks:unsure:

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