

Recording Magazine

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Breakbeat Jazz is a smooth and satisfying collection of slow 90–100 BPM grooves. This four Gigabyte collection provides 5949 WAV and REX2 loops. This is broken down into 502 Drum & Music loops in WAV format, 2197 REX2 loops, and 3250 DRum, Music and FX samples in WAV format. Total installation size of the REX2 loops that had been translated by Stylus RMX come out to be 9 Gigabytes. This quite complete percussion collection is replete with kicks, snares, hi-hats, vinyl clicks and pops, bass guitar chords, congas, shakers, tambourines, and various other percussion and elements.

The variety for each of the major elements was excellent. Not only was the rhythmic variety good, the actual drums themselves had a good diversity of sounds to boot. Mixing and matching various parts worked extremely well. I could almost randomly combine drum elements and it would layer beautifully together.

Fortunately, the "vinylization" of the library seems relatively unaffected by the clicky/popping of the record player. This meant if I didn't like the vinyl effect, I could substitute another kick from my library with something else. I'm sure otherwise the cumulative effect of all that vinylization would have been overwhelming.

Overall, Breakbeat Jazz was a very pleasurable experience, and a breeze to work with.

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Focusing on the chilled-out side of breakbeat, this gathering of beats and samples attempts to recreate the sound of illicit samples without the worrisome legal complications. The 500 drum loops aren't the endlessly recycled fodder that you'll find in many breakbeat libraries – the focus here is on original programmed beats. While they're not quite as kosher as classic funk breaks, they do sound pleasingly clean and crisp (though some feature superfluous vinyl crackle effects). There are also a few folders of excellent jazzy instrument samples, which add extra value to this fine package.