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# MUSICTECH

Issue 147  
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The magazine for producers, engineers and recording musicians

## MAK£ MONEY€ WITH YOUR MUS\$IC

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MTDVD147 4GB PC&Mac JUNE 2015



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Fattening your synth leads

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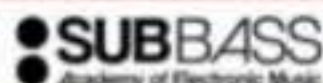
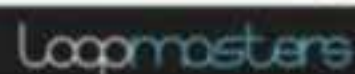
REVERSE DRUM LOOPS  
TRANCE BASSLINES  
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HEAVY TRAP

VIDEOS  
2HR 40  
TUTORIALS & FEATURES

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ANTHEM

# Strum GS-2

Manufacturer **Applied Acoustics**

Price **\$199**

Contact **via website**

Web **www.applied-acoustics.com**

**B**ack in September 2008 we gave Applied Acoustic Systems' Strum Acoustic GS-1 an Innovation Award for its physical modelling aspects and an authentic sound. Now, five years on, Strum GS-2 has been released with many revisions and new features, including a collection of steel and nylon guitars, automatic chord recognition and voicing plus integrated strumming and picking. It runs in both plug-in and standalone modes.

Unlike most virtual guitars, this is a synth based entirely on physical modelling technology and doesn't use sampling. Nevertheless, although it may not be able to replicate guitar makes and models, to our ears, Strum GS-2 blends acoustic warmth with an impressive array of tonal variations.



**Choice**  
**9/10**  
**MusicTech**

#### Key features

- Acoustic guitar emulation
- Physical modelling
- Keyboard mode for lead lines
- Guitar & Loop mode for strumming
- Dynamic & multi-effects

There are three ways to play it. In Guitar mode, chords are detected and voiced automatically by pressing one or more keys with the right hand while the left hand plays special strumming keys (downstroke, upstroke, palm muting and so on) in real time. It's easy to perform and very effective.

In Keyboard mode – a new feature – single notes or chords can be played directly from the keyboard, which is good for lead work. Also new on this version is the Loop mode where strumming is played from MIDI files. There's an extensive loop library for use in this mode covering a range of styles and techniques and, for the most part,

they work beautifully – perfect for kick-starting song ideas.

There are several other new features including a revised string module, finer finger interaction and improved body response for a richer tone. The strumming engine has been overhauled for a more expressive action. Previously devoid of any dynamic effects, a compressor, equaliser and output limiter have been added and the multi-effects now sound much richer – great chorus, delay and flanger. The interface has also been updated to accommodate the changes.

If you already own GS-1, then GS-2 is most certainly a worthy update. And for anybody looking for an easy-to-use, authentic sounding virtual guitar, we can heartily recommend it. Look out, too, for the forthcoming electric version – a free update. **MT**

#### MT Verdict

**Look Mum, no sampling, just a lightweight, authentic-sounding acoustic guitar emulation. Not just for strumming but lead work, too. Electric model will be free update.**

**9/10**

# Power Tools for Synthesizer Programming (2nd Ed)

Manufacturer **Hal Leonard**

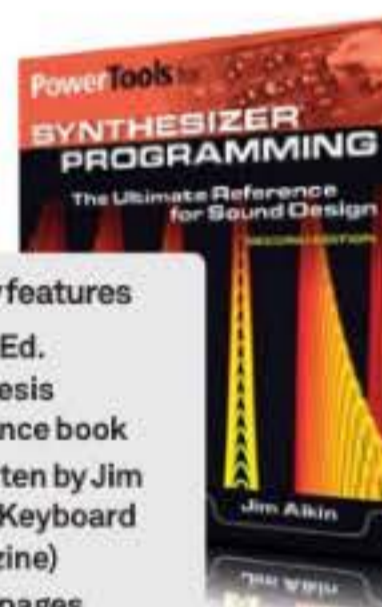
Price **\$29.99**

Contact

**info@halleonardbooks.com**

Web **www.halleonardbooks.com**

**P**ower Tools for Synthesizer Programming has been updated to its 2nd edition by author Jim Aikin, and now includes two new chapters and revisions to cover developments such as additive synthesis, granular synthesis and physical modelling. The book is a resource for those looking to learn about synths, and has detailed chapters explaining LFOs, envelopes, filters and waveforms, plus controllers and effects. Where the first edition came with a CD of audio examples, this version has 31 excellent training videos available online. The diagrams, illustrations and



#### Key features

- 2nd Ed. Synthesis reference book
- Written by Jim Aikin (Keyboard Magazine)
- 256 pages
- Black & white synth pictures and illustrations
- 31 tutorial videos available online

images are all in black and white, but add a decent degree of detail. This is a good reference book for beginners, but apart from a few tips lacks any deep, practical programming knowledge. **MT**

#### MT Verdict

**Although a little light on programming tips, this is a broad, detailed and well-written book for beginners on the building blocks of synthesis.**

**8/10**

# Maison Records Presents Real House Music

Manufacturer **Loopmasters**

Price **£29.95**

Contact **info@loopmasters.com**

Web **www.loopmasters.com**

**L**oopmasters has teamed up with Maison Records for a pack of classic house loops and hits that's full of 90s vibe. Produced by label owner Ian Bland who has been involved in the scene since 1987, and Anthony Miles, the pack contains 1GB of 24-bit audio and is available in a range of formats. Alongside the deep and solid basslines and lo-fi sounding beats, there are also folders of evolving acid loops, organ riffs, pads, pianos and chopped up vocals. There's also a large collection of bass, chords, fx, vocal and drum hits, plus a small bonus folder of MIDI bass lines. If you're after cutting-edge sounds and high-grade production, then

#### Key features

- 1GB of classic house loops and hits
- Available in WAV, Apple Loops, Live and ReFill formats
- 132 Sampler patches for EXS24, HALion, Kontakt, Kong, NN-XT and SFZ
- 120 to 124bpm
- Produced by Ian Bland and Anthony Miles



you'll probably want to look elsewhere. However, if you want some simple, authentic and crunchy sounding 90s house sounds, then this is a great pack to add to your library. **MT**

#### MT Verdict

**Although a little predictable and lo-fi sounding, this is a sizable pack of pleasingly authentic, 90s house hits and loops.**

**8/10**