

Edition 3

July 2010

digitalDrummer

The global electronic drumming e-zine

COMPOSITION

Making music with e-drums

BEST OF BRITISH

For e-drums, UK is OK

REVIEW

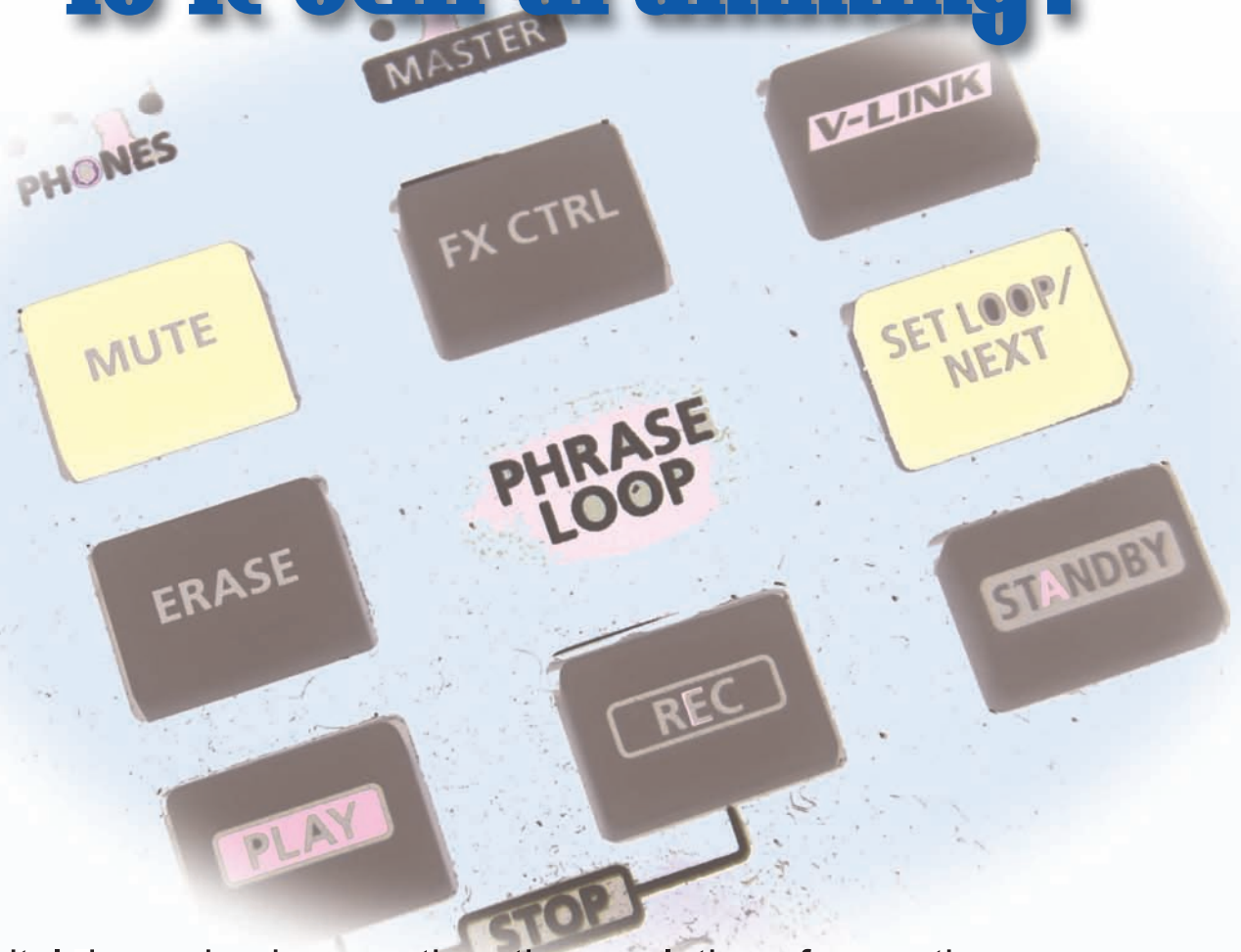
External triggers tested

PROFILE

Oli Rubow No boundaries

TALKING POINT: Is triggering still drumming?

Is it still drumming?



Digital drumming is more than the emulation of acoustic percussion. Technology enables the creation of new sounds and patterns, and many devices now have built-in sampling and sequencing. So this begs the question: **Is triggering still drumming?**

In our view, all people who use some kind of drums are at least “potential” drummers, as they have a feel for the rhythm and know how to use or express it. So, using software-based “drums” is still some kind of drumming. It doesn’t matter whether you use samples, loops, VSTs or whatever.

Michael Zabel, drum-tec

Triggering is a different kind of drumming, especially if we’re talking about triggering on something other than an e-drum kit - like a keyboard, for instance. I’ve seen some absolutely stunning keyboard

drumming that left my jaw on the floor. It takes a lot of practice and skill to become a good keyboard drummer, just like it does on acoustic shells. I’ve never thought of digital drums as a replacement for acoustic drumming. It’s a different instrument which just produces similar sounds.

Steven Slate, Steven Slate Drums

Triggering samples from a drum set, electronic or acoustic, is no different than “triggering” a Steinway grand piano from an electronic keyboard. The performance is based entirely upon the ability of the player. As far as triggering loops or sequences

within a given performance, this takes the drum set (or other instrument) to an entirely different level as a performance instrument, while also still remaining dependent on the facility of the individual player. So, in my opinion, triggering is certainly still drumming.

Peter Hart, Hart Dynamics, Inc.

I'm against the complete replacement of the drum sounds because it kills many of the original drums nuances, but to use the triggering to maximise the original sound and expand the tone palette with unusual sounds, are actions that, in my opinion, improve the drumming and produce new interesting sound directions. Music is an art of freedom and I think that every tool can be used to express it better.

Sab Cannone, Morevox

Rhythm is the essence of all music. Each drummer's individual feel and sound will seal the foundations of a solid track. With modern production skills and an exhaustive number of genres merging together, it has become almost compulsory for the modern drummer to search for new sounds and ways to enable his expression to cut through the mix, whether layering sounds on top of acoustic drums or firing off samples and loops from pads. Is triggering still drumming? Yes, as long as we can still hit stuff.

Paul Willard, Loopmasters

Of course, it's drumming. No matter what route the resulting sound takes to reach your ear, drumming is the talent that created that impulse to begin with. Whether it's a skin, piece of metal or sound card, drumming is drumming, and it's an art form.

Alan Miller, V Expressions



In my opinion, it is. It doesn't matter what you hit - be it saucepans, a drum kit or e-drums. I think the point is with technology as it is today, a drummer does not have to be limited and can be a lot more involved in the music. I call this beast in evolution a 21st century drummer.

Mal Green, Greensoundmusic

It's more important than ever for a drummer to be technologically savvy. If you want to make a living as a drummer, creating loops, playing back samples during a performance and triggering sounds from your acoustic drums is an absolute must - it's no different than having a collection of great-sounding acoustic snare drums.

Mike Snyder, e-drum guru

To Do (Nov 2010)

1. Plug the instruments
2. Launch BloXpander
3. Play music
4. Say "thanks!" to the audience
5. Don't ruin your back carrying the big flight case. Don't forget the computer

eaReckon™ BloXpander

...designed to meet the requirements of musicians and engineers in live situations

available for €69
downloadable product

more information and demo version available at
www.eareckon.com

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