

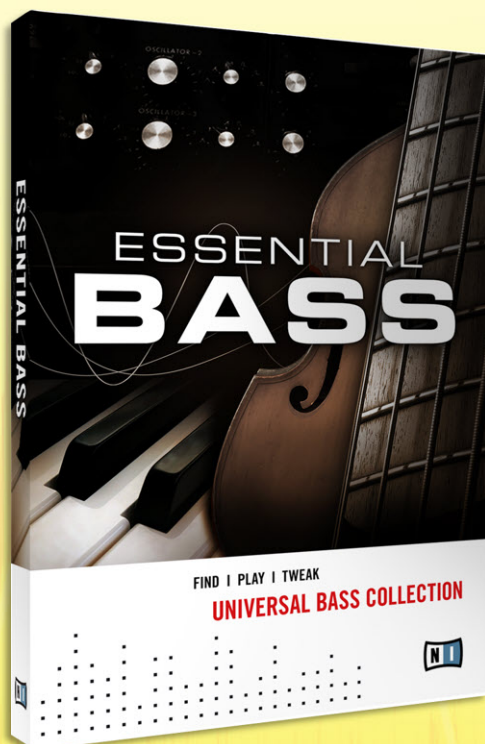
# Mini review

by Ginno Legaspi

## Native Instruments Essential Bass

Native Instrument's Essential Bass is a SoundPack for Kore 2/Kore 2 Player, aimed to be the "one-stop" bass instrument for producers looking for tasty low-end in their productions. This pack includes 200 synthetic, acoustic and electric bass sounds that are suitable for almost any genre - from Blues to Rock and Hip Hop to Electronica. While most bass libraries come in huge gigabytes of data, Essential Bass boast around 1 GB of content.

The synthetic basses in this collection were recorded using classic analog synths of yesteryear and modern digital synthesizers such as Minimoog, Studio Electronics SE-1 and Roland Juno-60. The sounds have a lot of bite and are woofer-shattering and bone-shaking. In the electric bass department you'll find some nicely programmed patches that are overflowing with warmth and presence. Sonically, Essential Bass is very impressive because the samples, acoustic and electric basses for example, were commissioned from sample giants Scarbee and Pettinhouse. Each instrument or patch has a useful selection of controls to modify the right amount of settings for modulation, filter, tone, effects, etc. to your liking. Fancy cranking the fret noise on a picked bass? No problem, that parameter is included. Overall, Essential Bass represents excellent value. With over 1000-plus



variation in sounds, this soundpack is useful in any situation.

**Format:** Kore SoundPack for Kore 2 or Free Kore player (Mac/PC)

**Web:** [www.native-instruments.com](http://www.native-instruments.com)

**Price:** \$79 (Download)

## d16 group Syntorus

This latest plug-in effect from d16 group is part of the Silver Line series. It is a double analog delay line chorus similar to the ones found on Solina, Juno and Synthex analog synthesizers. Its familiar GUI is borrowed from its other siblings, like the Devastator and Decimort, which have a very easy to

navigate and simple to operate interface. Syntorus is all about the sound and implementing the right delay module is top priority according to d16. The implementation of a precise model of a high quality analog delay line gave this plug-in its true, unique chorus sound without the unwanted digital artifacts. It does two delay lines, unlike other chorus units, giving users a much fuller sound. Labeled Path 1 and 2, both delay lines have the same identical knob, slider and switch controls to suit your taste, including Depth, Offset, Tremolo (adds dynamic and moving sound), Waveform (sine, triangle, square, etc), Stereo Phase and Path 1 and 2 Volume, Rate and Tempo Sync (full, dotted, triplet). Each path's LFO can be sync'd to the host application, which enables users to sculpt the sound rhythmically. A great way of adding interest to your sounds. Additionally, there is a Bucket-Brigade Device (BBD) emulation switch available for adding extra analog warmth and character to your sound. Turn this switch off and Syntorus will





revert back to a clean and pristine-sounding effect.

I auditioned Syntorus with a bunch of audio materials and was impressed with the result I was getting. It added life to a thin bass sound with a nice touch of a creamy and wide effect. I find Syntorus to be a good alternative to synthesizers with lackluster chorus effects. If you're looking to add richness to anemic and dull sounds, Syntorus is a sure bet to be useful in your tracks in many ways. I particularly love it when used to thicken a guitar sound, especially a clean Strat guitar. Good job, d16.

**Format:** PC/Mac, AU or VST host  
**Web:** [www.d16.pl](http://www.d16.pl)  
**PRICE:** €35 (Silverline Collection and Total Bundle are available)

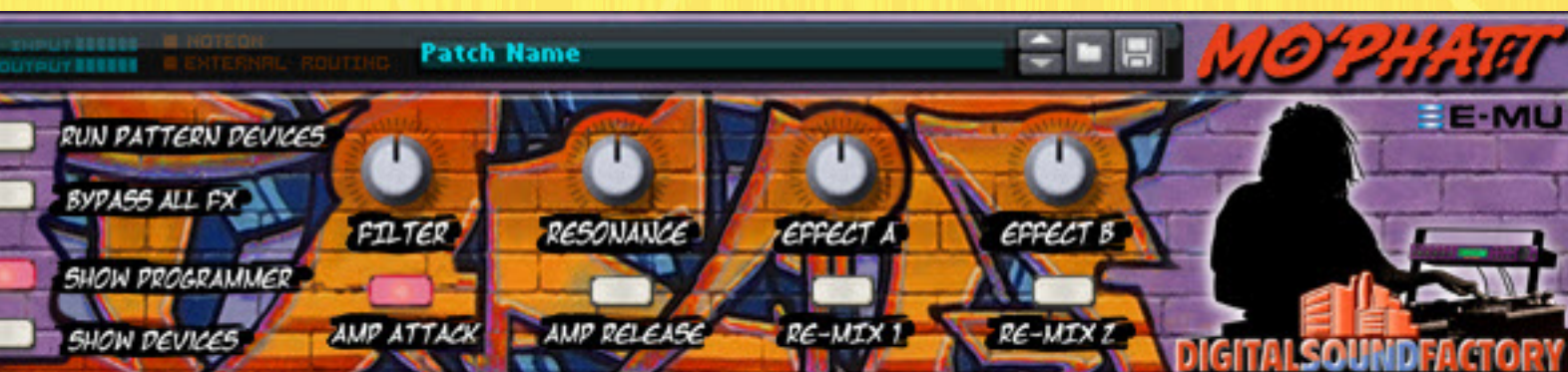
### Digital Sound Factory Mo' Phatt

If you've ever wanted an E-mu Mo' Phatt hardware rack module from years ago but couldn't afford to buy one, Digital Sound Factory has the affordable answer. They have converted all patches from the famous hardware to software for a fraction of a price. Dubbed the "legendary urban dance synth", Mo' Phatt is a Reason ReFill with an urban dance and hip hop theme based on the original sound samples of the Mo' Phatt sound module. According to DSF, each instrument was fine-tuned to match the hardware and then placed in Reason's Combinator to add effects. The result? 512 great Combinator

patches along with 512 NN-XT sampler patches.

You'll find lots of basses, drums & perc, synths, strings, guitars, effects and hits. What I really like are the expertly crafted patches in Combinator because they just sound so 'on the money'. The 100-plus loops in REX format is a nice addition. They make a good song starters or manipulate them in any way you want in Dr. Rex or NN-XT to augment in your own drum mixes. Bottom line, this ReFill is a great tool for producers making club bangers.

**Format:** PC/MAC, Reason 4 ReFill (265 MB)  
**Web:** [www.digitalsoundfactory.com](http://www.digitalsoundfactory.com)  
**Price:** \$69.95 (digital download)

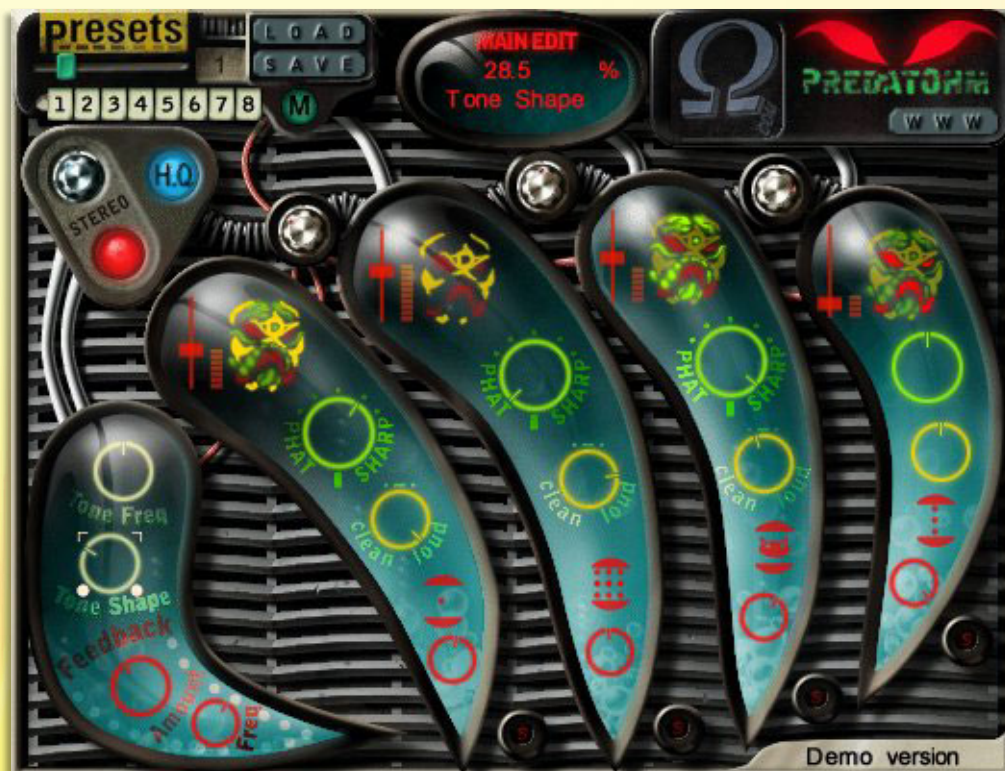


# Mini reviews

## Ohm Force Predatohm

People might be wondering why I included this plug-in in this month's "Mini Reviews" section. Yes, I know it's old but I wanted to revisit this classic plug-in for people who might have missed it or are interested in adding a distortion plug to their arsenal.

Predatohm is from the same French guys who brought us the "highly addictive" Ohmboyz plug-in. It is simply a unit capable of producing some creative sound destruction. It comes in two skin flavors; the classic, which is very clean and simple, and the funky skin - which looks like a claw from an evil cartoon character. Predatohm consists of several sections: a Tone shaper section with Freq and Shape knobs, a Feedback section with Frequency and Amount knobs, a Super Stereo section (aka widener) with Phase knob and an enable switch and a Four-Band distortion section. The distortion section is where the damage of audio takes place. Each band has its own Level amount, a Character and Intensity knobs, from which you can choose 13 distortion types (tube, crunch, etc). Like other Ohm Force



plug-ins, Predatohm has an integrated preset morphing feature. A very cool way to add interest in your track by seamlessly morphing a sound. Other notables are its capability of render high-quality audio and the parameters are totally MIDI controllable. What's great about Predatohm is that it has its own character and sound - it's full of bite. The inclusion of 13 distortion types is a real treat, but the feedback generator on this beast is totally nasty and would just make your ears bleed.

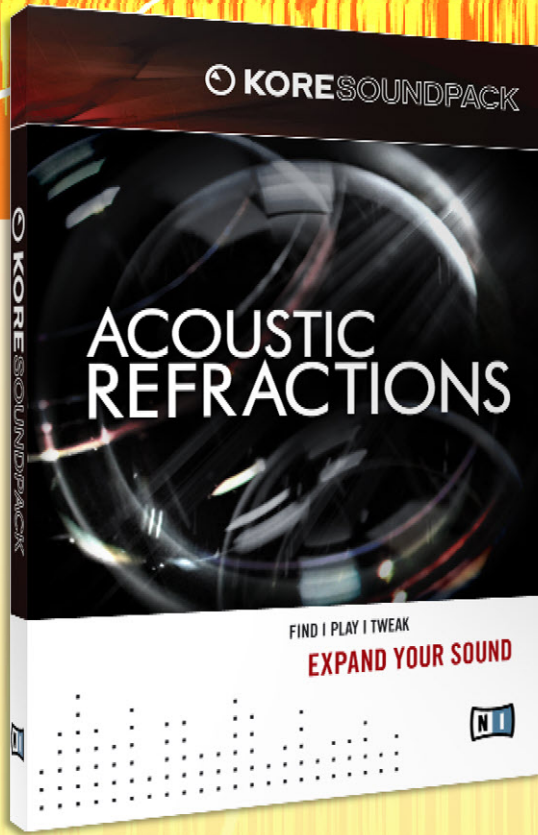
**Format:** RTAS, VST and AudioUnits (Mac/PC)

**Web:** [www.ohmforce.com](http://www.ohmforce.com)

**Price:** starting from \$19

## Native Instruments Acoustic Refractions & Sonic Fiction

If you're a producer or modern musician looking for a heavy dose of weird and wonderful yet beautifully playable instrument for film, TV, game and experimental & ambient music, Acoustic Refractions and Sonic Fiction from Native Instruments are gems packed full of original and innovative sounds. These Kore-powered soundpacks are created by musician and sound design extraordinaire Jeremiah Savage - whose patchwork can also be heard on the Absynth synthesizer. Acoustic Refractions is based on sampled everyday sounds



such as spinning washing machines, traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge, rain hitting the car windshield and underground parking garage noises. Likewise Sonic Fiction, which is an expansion on the idea of Acoustic Refraction, is a science fiction-based conceptual instruments wherein a variety of non-musical items and situations were sampled. Natural sound samples includes river/streams, bubbling volcanic mudpots, television static, filing a metal sheet, industrial machines and more. After each sampling session, Jeremy then edits the samples with advanced processing and programming applied utilizing the Kontakt, FM8, Absynth and Kore FX engines. The result is a highly playable instruments capable of producing otherworldly and evocative sounds.

something very imaginative and a breathe of fresh air. I love the sound morphing options Kore provides and with 24 sound parameters per sound available, tweaking can be fun. After auditioning the 100 patches on both Acoustic Refractions and Sonic Fiction I have to give these two a thumbs up.

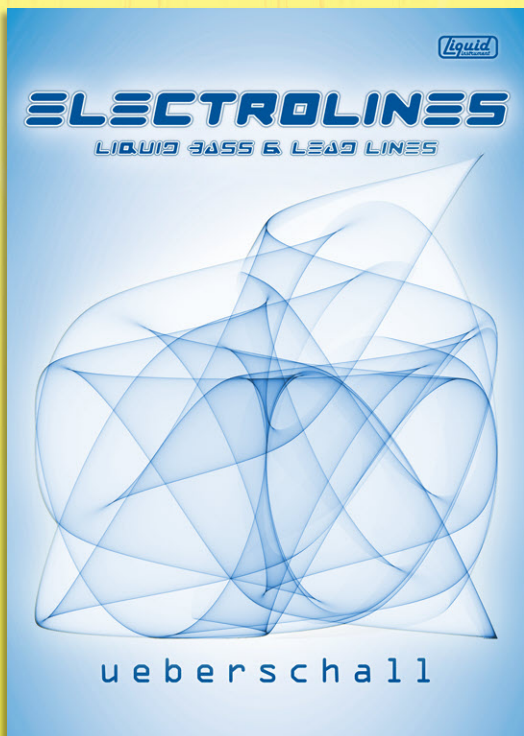
While these two soundpacks are very similar, they prove to be a compliment to each other. Jeremy's work on both packs is nothing short of impressive. His idea of transforming non-musical objects into flexible, playable keyboard instruments is

**Format:** Kore SoundPack for Kore 2 or Free Kore player (Mac/PC)  
**Web:** [www.native-instruments.com](http://www.native-instruments.com)  
**Price:** \$79 each (Download)

Soundpack	Name	Bank	Color	Rating
	1138 Mindlock	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Aetherphone	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Alien Bells	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Alien Percussion	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Alien Pipes	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Alien Strings	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Antiparticle Detector	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Asteroid Belt	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Atomizer	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Basilica Labyrinth	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Benares Mantas	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Bent Circuits	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Bio-Organic Pod	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Chemical Lab	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Chromium Forcefields	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Chronos Balalaika	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Church of Shrike	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★
	Comet Fort Cluster	Sonic Fiction		★★★★★

### Ueberschall Electrolines

Electrolines is an electronic library primarily focused on bass and lead lines, as the name suggest. This 800 MB DVD features 78 'themes' with 1000-plus analog sequences made from synthesizers such as Moog Voyager, Korg Monopoly, Omega 8 and Oberheim Xpander among others. The resulting sounds are juicy and fat with lots of analog grit. You'll find useful phrases including melodies, backings and fill-ins - all programmed to fit in genres such as electro house,



minimal, progressive, trance, tech house and drum and bass. These phrases are very handy if you run out of ideas or need some inspiration to start a tune. The quality is good and there is a lot of material to choose from. Standouts are the effected loops as they sound very polished.

As with other Ueberschall libraries, this all-lead and bass line volume is powered by the versatile Liquid instrument. The samples within Liquid make it very flexible for users to alter the pitch and timestretching with no noticeable artifacts. A great way to easily augment your own synth, keys and other lines with Electrolines.

**Format:** AU/VST/RTAS (Mac/PC)  
**Web:** [www.bigfishaudio.com](http://www.bigfishaudio.com)  
**Price:** \$99.95 each (DVD)

### Ueberschall Ambient Works

Another Liquid instrument from Ueberschall, Ambient Works is an ambient sample DVD comprised of 780 loops. The included 24 construction kits work particularly well for producers who are into cinematic, soundscape, ambient, atmospheric and experimental music. Those who are rushing to

fight a deadline for tv and film score can benefit from the up-to-date, commercial-ready sound this library offers. Just drop the sounds into your production, do a bit of tweaking and be amazed at the immediate result. The loops and sequences are just that good and they are very addictive when played with the included Liquid player powered by Melodyne technology. Kudos to top flight producer and sound designer Markus Guentner for bringing excellent quality and expertise to this library. Be ready to get inspired and expect to be in front of DAW (music computer) for hours just noodling around. He has definitely done the good, dirty job here for producers who want to focus on music rather than sound design.

**Format:** AU/VST/RTAS (Mac/PC)  
**Web:** [www.bigfishaudio.com](http://www.bigfishaudio.com)  
**Price:** \$99.95

