Rob Papen eXplorer-11 Bundle

Update to the Bundle of Virtual Instruments and Plug-ins

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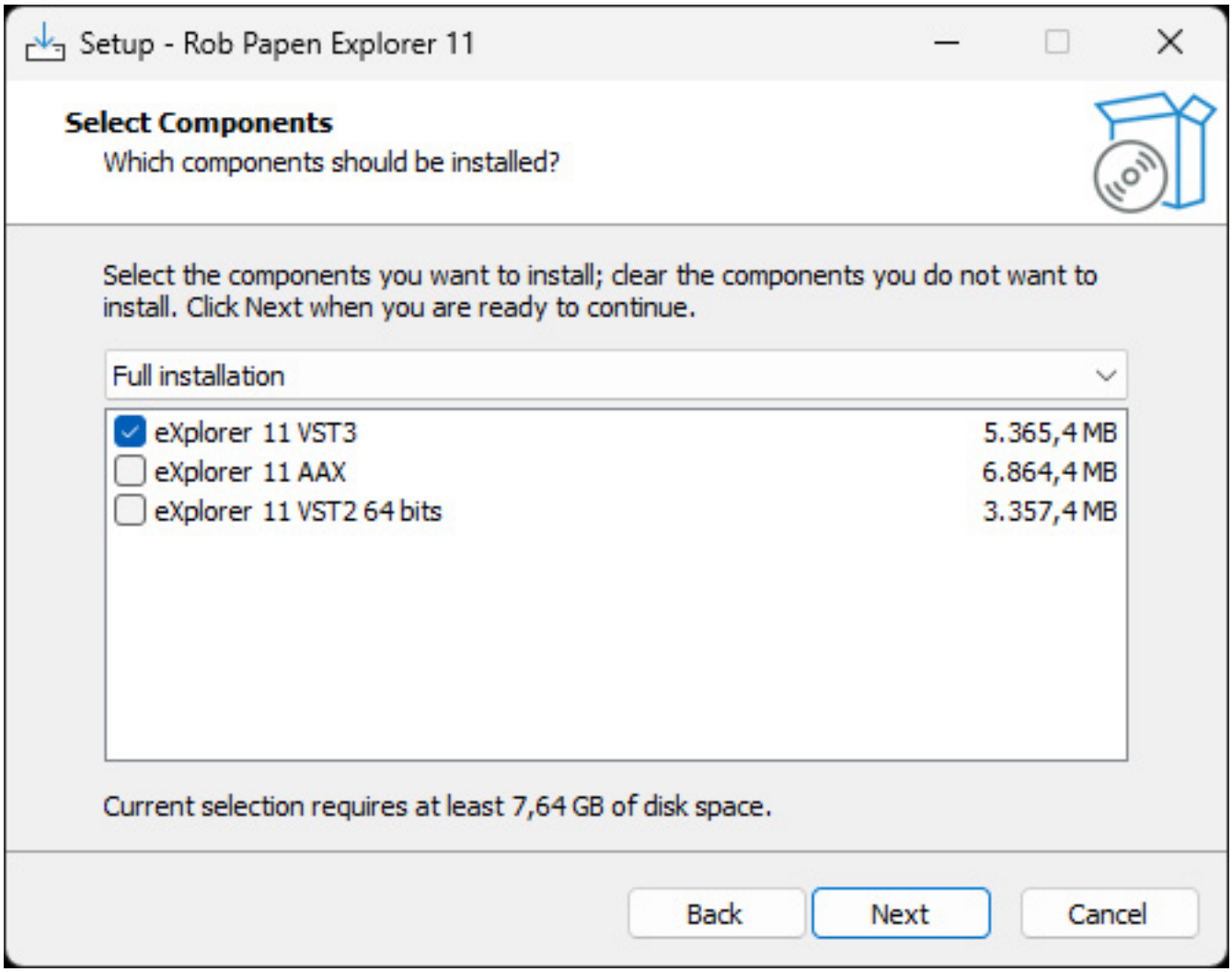


We have already tested and reviewed the previous version of the comprehensive Rob Papen eXplorer-10 software bundle. In May 2026, another update was released with eXplorer-11, featuring new plug-ins and many new presets. The bundle now offers 3 drum instruments and 15 synthesizers, as well as 17 plug-ins and a tool for layering instruments called Prima. Instruments that have since been replaced by newer versions are also included in the scope of delivery. In this review, however, we will focus exclusively on what's new in eXplorer-11.

System Requirements, Installation, and Licensing

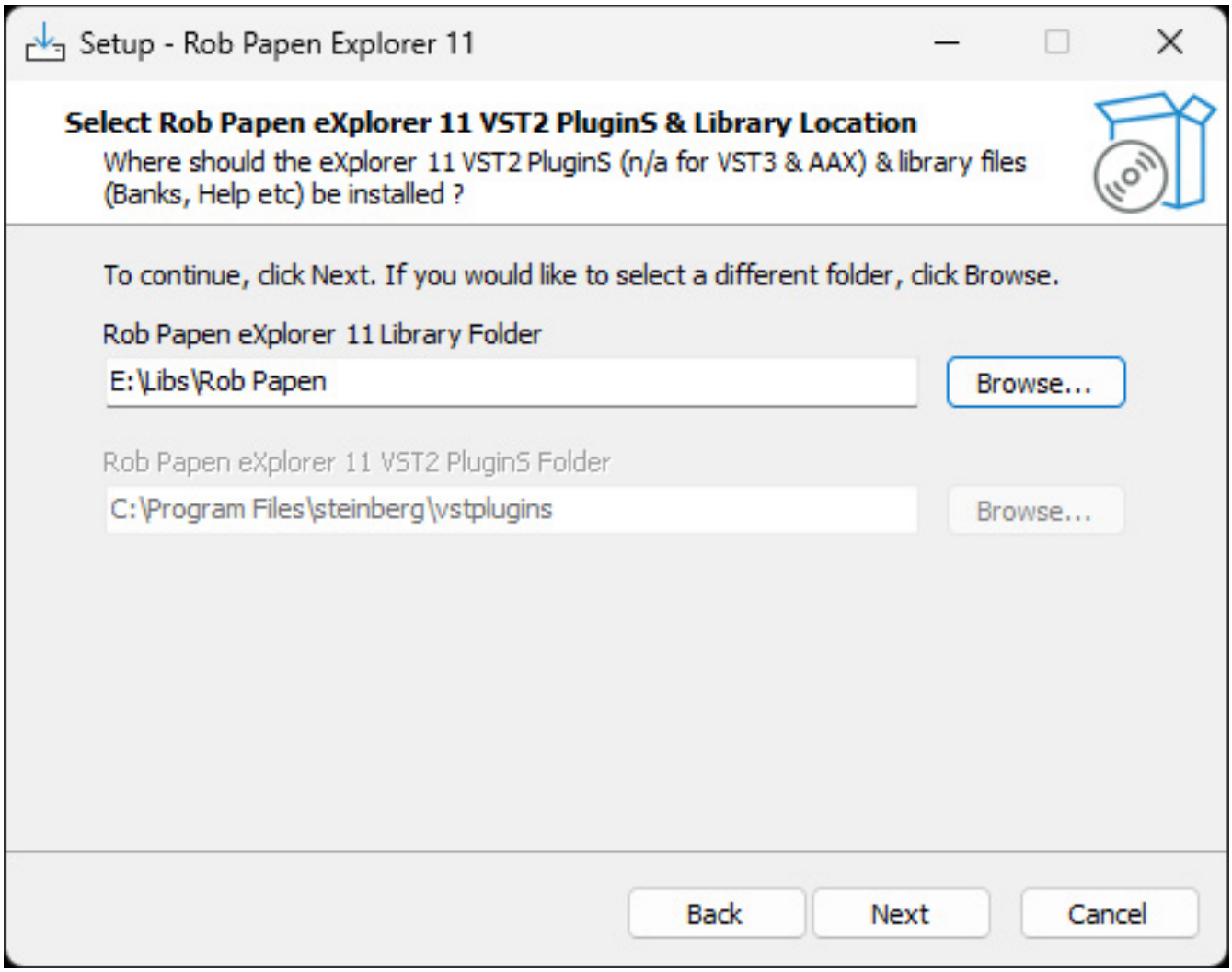
eXplorer-11 is compatible with Windows 7 and later, as well as macOS 10.15 and later, including ARM compatibility. Except for RAW-Kick 2 (as of June 2026), all instruments are also NKS-compatible. The plug-ins are available as VST, VST3, AAX (on Windows starting with Pro Tools version 12), and AudioUnit on macOS.

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There has been a minor change and simplification to the licensing process. Therefore, we'd like to describe this process again here. A user account with Rob Papen is required. You must enter the serial number into your account, and then you can download the installer for the complete bundle or just for specific components. After launching the installer software, you must first enter the serial number again. Then the user can select the plug-in formats to be installed (see fig. above).

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It is important to note that all the instrument libraries in eXPlorer-11 take up approximately 5.3 GB of space on the storage medium. Therefore, it makes sense to store the libraries in a folder other than the boot drive. You can specify the library folder individually during the installation process (see figure above).

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After installation, you must license the bundle for the computer you are using. This process has now been simplified. An “Online Login Code” is displayed in your user account: When you launch an instrument or plug-in for the first time, simply copy and paste this code, and the licensing is immediately complete and automatically deposited in your user account.

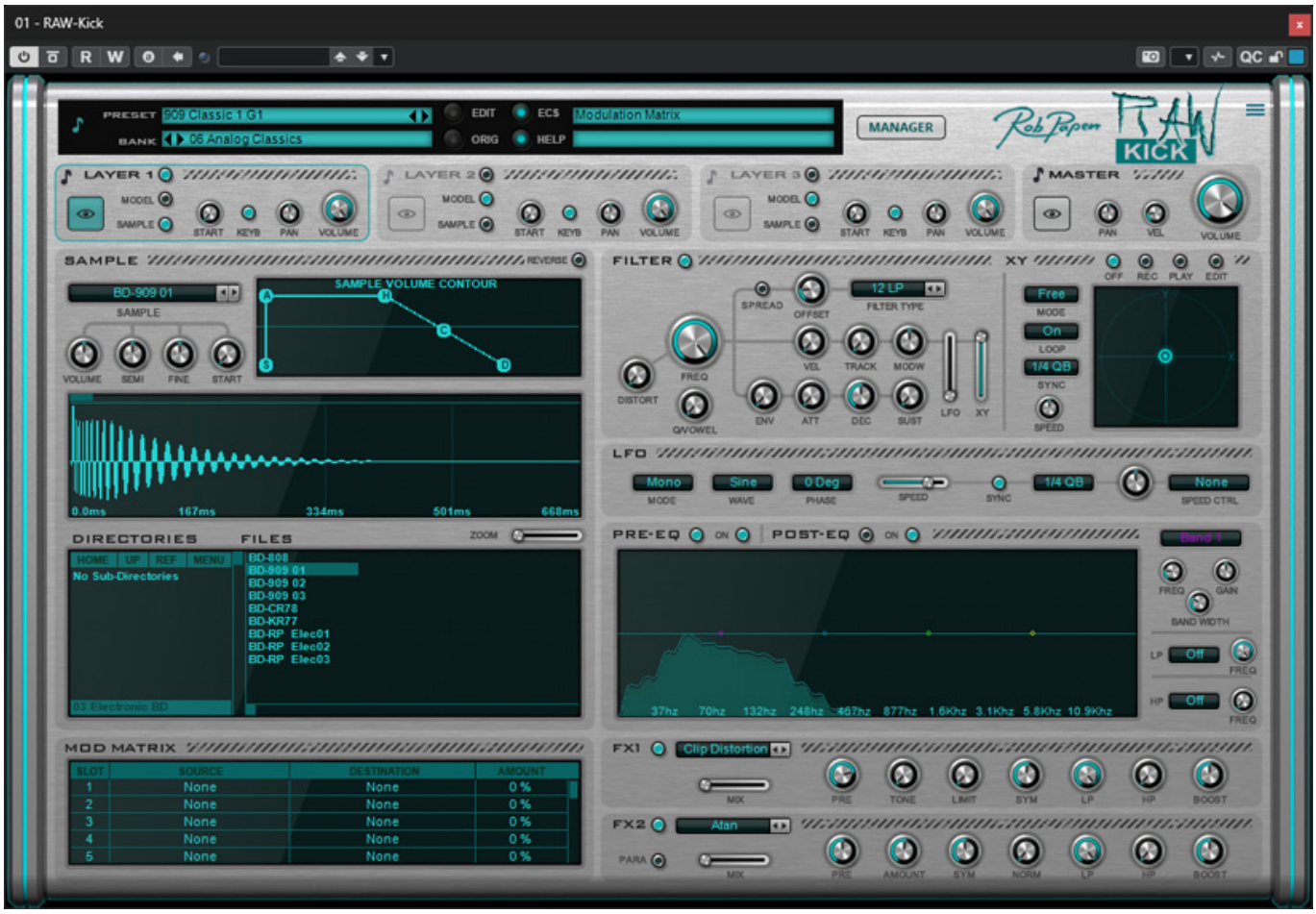
RAW-Kick2

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RAW-Kick2 is the second edition of the drum synthesizer, which is primarily dedicated to the synthesis of bass drum sounds - but it also goes far beyond that in terms of sound.

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Looking back at the first version, the completely new design and user interface naturally stand out. We will now go over the most important features of RAW-Kick2. Rob Papen’s manuals are always comprehensive and thus provide further, detailed operating instructions.

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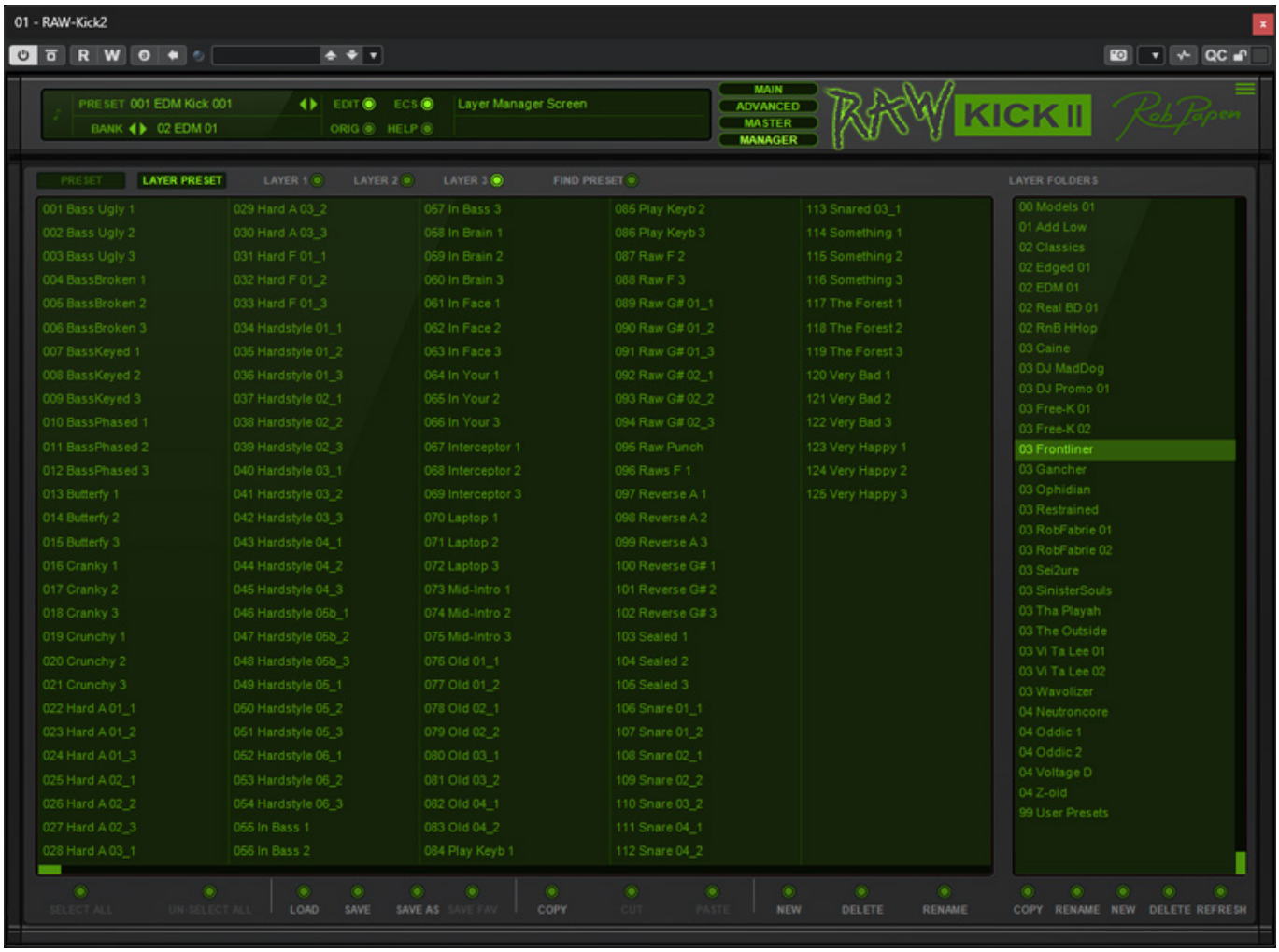
A major new feature is that you can now layer up to three sounds (see image above).

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At the top, you can access four different dialog pages: a “Main” overview page, an “Advanced” page with extended settings, the ‘Master’ page where the three layers can be controlled simultaneously, as well as the “Manager” page for preset management.

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Many new presets have been added, and in the preset management section, you can now also select layer presets (see image above).

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Let’s take a look at the Advanced page. On the left, a modulation matrix - similar to those found in most other Rob Papen instruments - allows you to define eight modulation sources and destinations.



A new feature is the virtual ribbon controller in the lower plug-in area. Its modulation destinations can be set in a separate dialog.



Additionally, settings for the envelopes, the LFO (see image above), and velocity weighting can be adjusted in this section.

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On the right side of the Advanced page, a filter and two effects are available (see image above).



The selection of filter types is very extensive (see fig. above). For example, there are 12 filters each with 12dB and 24dB, two each with 6, 18, and 36dB, and many other special filter types (see fig. above).

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There is also no shortage of effect types. These are, of course, tailored for use along with the bass drum sound. There are two groups of effects here: distortion (see fig. above) and other effects (see fig. below).

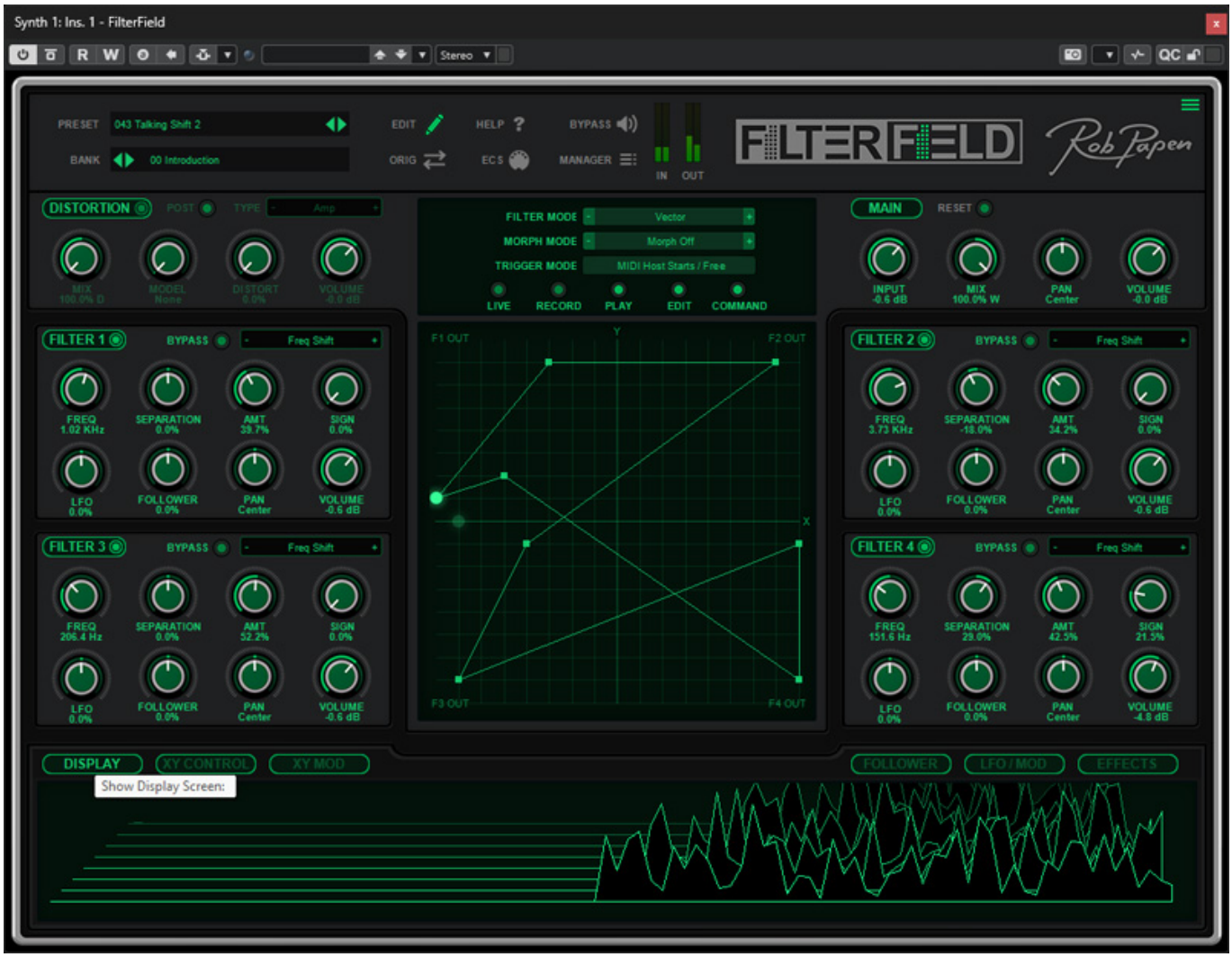
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Concluding from these features, one can say that RAW-Kick2 is one of the most versatile bass drum sound plug-ins on the market.

FilterField

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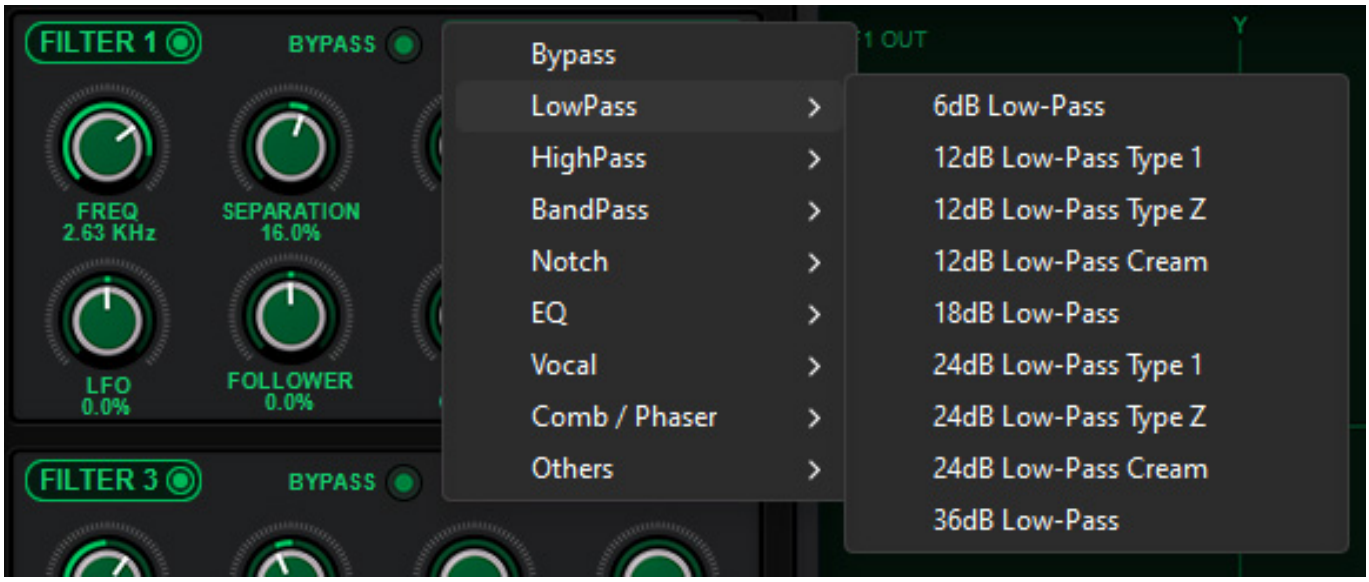
A new plug-in is FilterField. It’s a bit of a trademark of many Rob Papen synthesizers: the XY pad for sound morphing. This is also found in this new plug-in. The concept is simple: A filter can be set for each of the four quadrants. Depending

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on the XY position, a blend of the four filters is generated. If the current XY value is in the center, all four filters are used simultaneously; if, on the other hand, the current XY point is at the top left in the first quadrant, only the first filter is used while the others are muted. That covers the basic principle of this plug-in.



For each of the four filters, there is a control panel where you can adjust parameters such as filter type, frequency, stereo separation, filter frequency LFO, panning, and level.



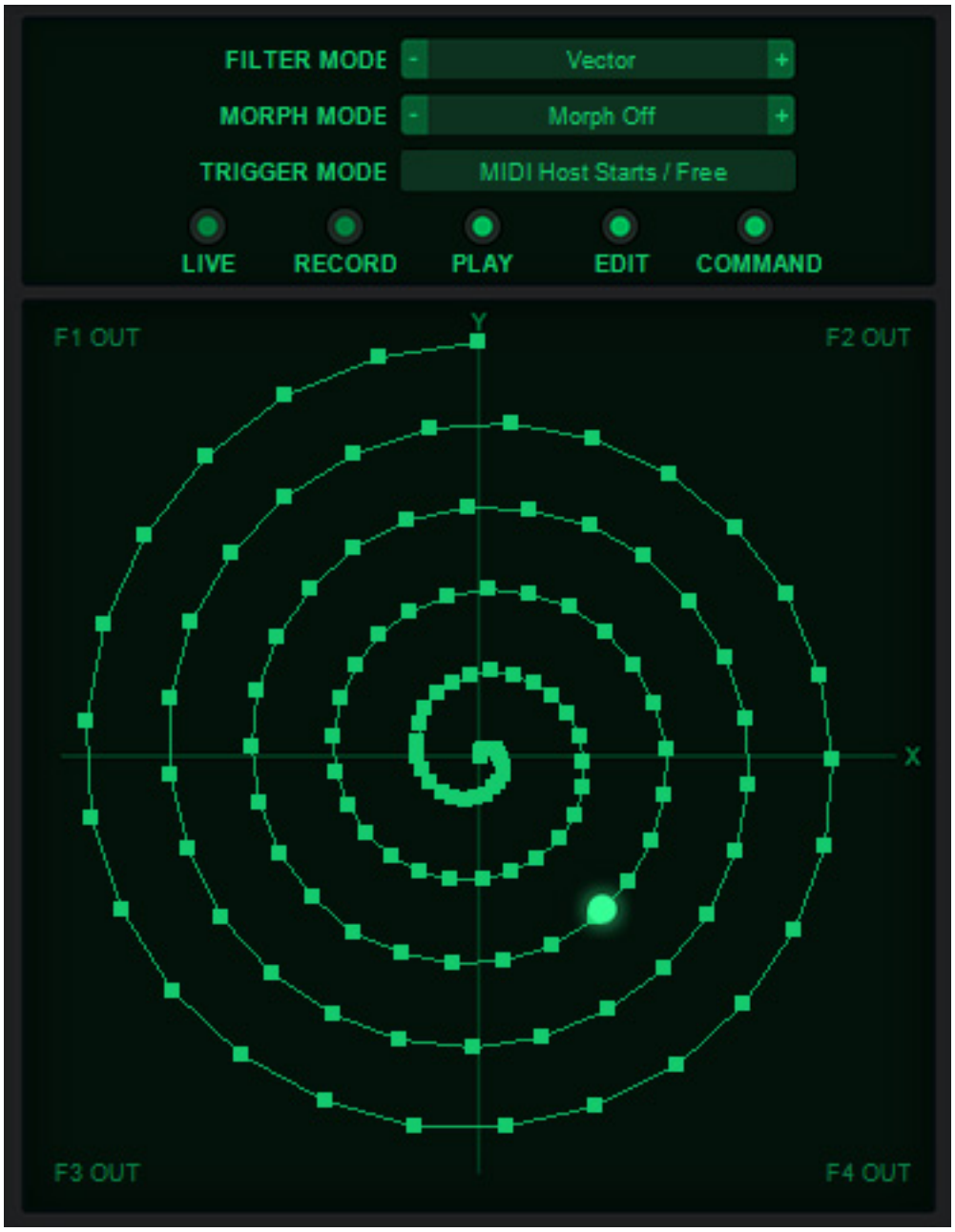
There is also an extremely wide variety of filter types to choose from here.

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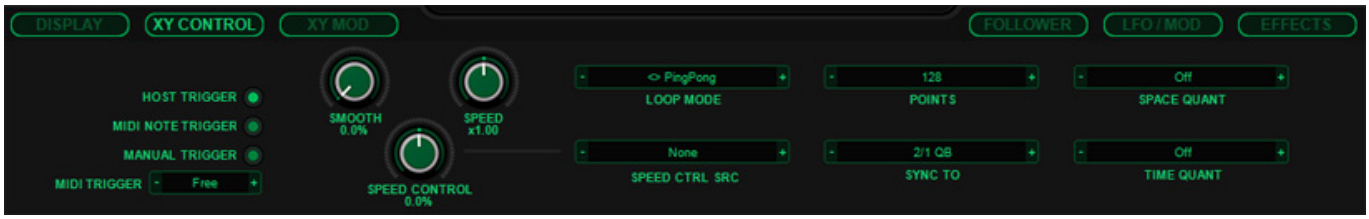
In addition to the standard filter types, there are also more specialized filters under Vocal, Comp/Phaser, and Others, as well as ring, amplitude, and frequency modulation (see figure above).

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The filters can be configured and operated in various ways using the Filter Mode in the center of the plug-in. Serial and parallel modes exist for the filters, as well as a “Vector” mode where the filters can be controlled via the XY pad. Fades can be recorded, edited, and played back, or controlled live using the mouse. Synchronization is also possible via the Trigger mode.

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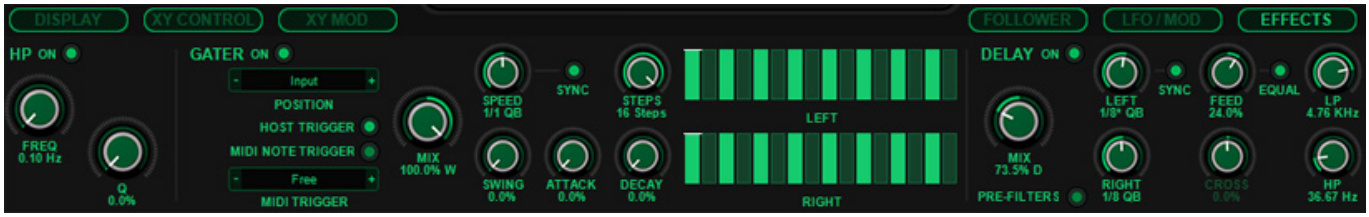
In the lower section, six different settings dialogs can be accessed. For example, there is a section for additional settings regarding the XY pad and its functionality.



Two audio followers are also available, which generate a control signal based on the level of a selected audio signal (see figure above).



In the LFO/MOD settings section, there is not only an LFO but also a modulation matrix (see figure above right). Here, the output of an audio follower can also be assigned to a parameter as a control signal.



In the effects section, in addition to a high-pass filter, a stereo gate in the form of a 16-step sequencer and a stereo delay are available (see figure above).

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FilterField also offers a preset manager and comes with a whole range of factory presets. With FilterField, the plug-ins have gained an extremely interesting addition in terms of sound. There is a lot of potential here, especially when used dynamically with saved curves or manual XY control, particularly in the realm of electronic music.

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Bank and Preset Updates

eXplorer updates always include new presets or even completely new banks. This is also the case with eXplorer-11. For those using eXplorer 10, here is a brief overview.

Punch-2



The PUNCH 2 drum synthesizer features 35 new kits: 10 in 03 HipHop RnB, 6 in Filmscore & TV (see below), 2 in 06 Trap 01, 9 in 08 Diverse 01, and 8 in Bank 10 Klangwelten.

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01 - Punch2
KIT: A AnaDrum 01 107bpm
BANK: 04 Filmscore & TV 01
EDIT
ECS
ORIG
HELP
Manager Screen
Kit Preset Manager Display
VOLUME
PUNCH 2
Rob Papen
MAIN
ADV
EASY
PATTERN
MOD
FX
MASTER
COLOR
MANAGER
KIT PRESET MANAGER
DRUM PRESET MANAGER
PATTERN MANAGER
KIT PRESET
ORDER BY DATE
FIND KIT PRESET
KIT BANK MANAGER
001 Wild Drums 3 147bpm
002 Wild Drums 1 147bpm
003 Wild Drums 2 147bpm
004 Slice DaManiac 3 117bpm
005 Slice DaManiac 2 117bpm
006 Slice DaManiac 1 117bpm
007 Plastic Bottle 04 105bpm
008 Plastic Bottle 03 105bpm
009 Plastic Bottle 01 105bpm
010 Plastic Bottle 02 105bpm
011 Marching Run 06 96bpm
012 Marching Run 05 91bpm
013 Marching Run 04 91bpm
014 Marching Run 03 91bpm
015 Marching Run 02 95bpm
016 Marching Run 01 96bpm
017 A AnaDrum 01 107bpm
018 A AnaDrum 02 107bpm
019 April 1 94bpm
020 August groove EasyPage
021 August groove
022 Be Bit Longer 112
023 Brush Slicy 120bpm
024 Brush Slicy Seq 120
025 C-edge groove
026 C-edge X groove
027 Chill Down 87bpm
028 D-Zone 01 110bpm
029 D-Zone 02 110bpm
030 D-Zone 03 100bpm
031 Deep 105bpm
032 Deep Egg Toms 87bpm
033 DnB Mybe 165bpm
034 Driver 97bpm
035 Find Cajon 92bpm
036 Find Caxici 87bpm
037 Framo 97bpm
038 FX Cymbals 01 dry
039 FX Cymbals 01 halls
040 FX Cymbals 01 wet
041 FX Cymbals 02 dry
042 FX Cymbals 02 halls
043 FX Cymbals 02 wet
044 Horror 105bpm
045 Kind of fusion 125bpm
046 March 94bpm
047 Messed Up 107bpm
048 Mile Runner 90bpm
049 Movie seat 127bpm
050 Neptune groove
051 October Ends groove
052 October Mist groove
053 Overkill 110bpm
054 Pluto 100bpm
055 Punchero 97bpm
056 QuintoBrusher 94bpm
057 Robs Error 111bpm
058 sfx deep 01 80bpm
059 sfx deep stuff 01 dry
060 sfx deep stuff 02 dry
061 sfx deep stuff 03
062 SFX Horror MP
063 SFX&Drum Bamboo 01
064 SFX&Drum Bamboo 02
065 SFX&Drum Bamboo 03
066 SFX&Drum Glass 01 short
067 SFX&Drum Glass 01
068 SFX&Drum Glass 01b
069 SFX&Drum Water 01 basic
070 SFX&Drum Water 01 edit
071 SFX&Drum Water 02 basic
072 SFX&Drum Water 02 edit
073 SFX&Drum Water 03 basic
074 SFX&Drum Water 03 edit
075 SFX&Drum Water 04 basic
076 SFX&Drum Water 04 edit
077 SFX&Drum Water 05 basic
078 SFX&Drum Water 05 edit
079 Shuffle Error 89bpm
080 SiFi 105bpm
081 SpaceBrush 81bpm
082 Stomp Low 90bpm
083 Stomp Low Modu 90bpm
084 String Dong 112
085 SurePunch groove
086 Tabla Toms 109bpm
087 Taiko Tension 94bpm
088 Tomzer kit 107bpm
089 Tryme Snare groove
090 Tryme Snare Vario groove
091 TV Pop 01 MP groove
092 TV Pop 02 103bpm
093 TV Pop 02 MP groove
094 TV Pop 03 MP groove
095 WaterConga 01 groove
096 WaterConga 02 groove
00 Introduction
01 Favorites
02 Dance 01
03 HipHop & RnB 01
04 Filmscore & TV 01
05 JoMal 1
05 JoMal 2
05 JoMal 3
06 Trap 01
07 Perc. & Drums 01
08 Diverse 01
09 SFX 01
10 App-Sound.com
10 BHK
10 Davide Carbone
10 Digital Sound Factory
10 Ecompositeur 1
10 Ian Boddy 01
10 Klangwelt
10 TA's Funk Shop
10 The Decoder 01
10 TONAL AXiS 01
10 Voltage D 1InchHouse
10 Voltage D 1InchPunch
10 Voltage D 1InchTechno
10 Voltage Disciple
10 Xenos Soundworks
11 BD1 Hardcore MP
11 BD1 Hardcore RF
98 Default Presets
SELECT ALL
UNSELECT ALL
LOAD
SAVE
SAVE AS
COPY
CUT
PASTE
NEW
DELETE
RENAME
COPY
RENAME
NEW
DELETE
UPDATE

WirePluck

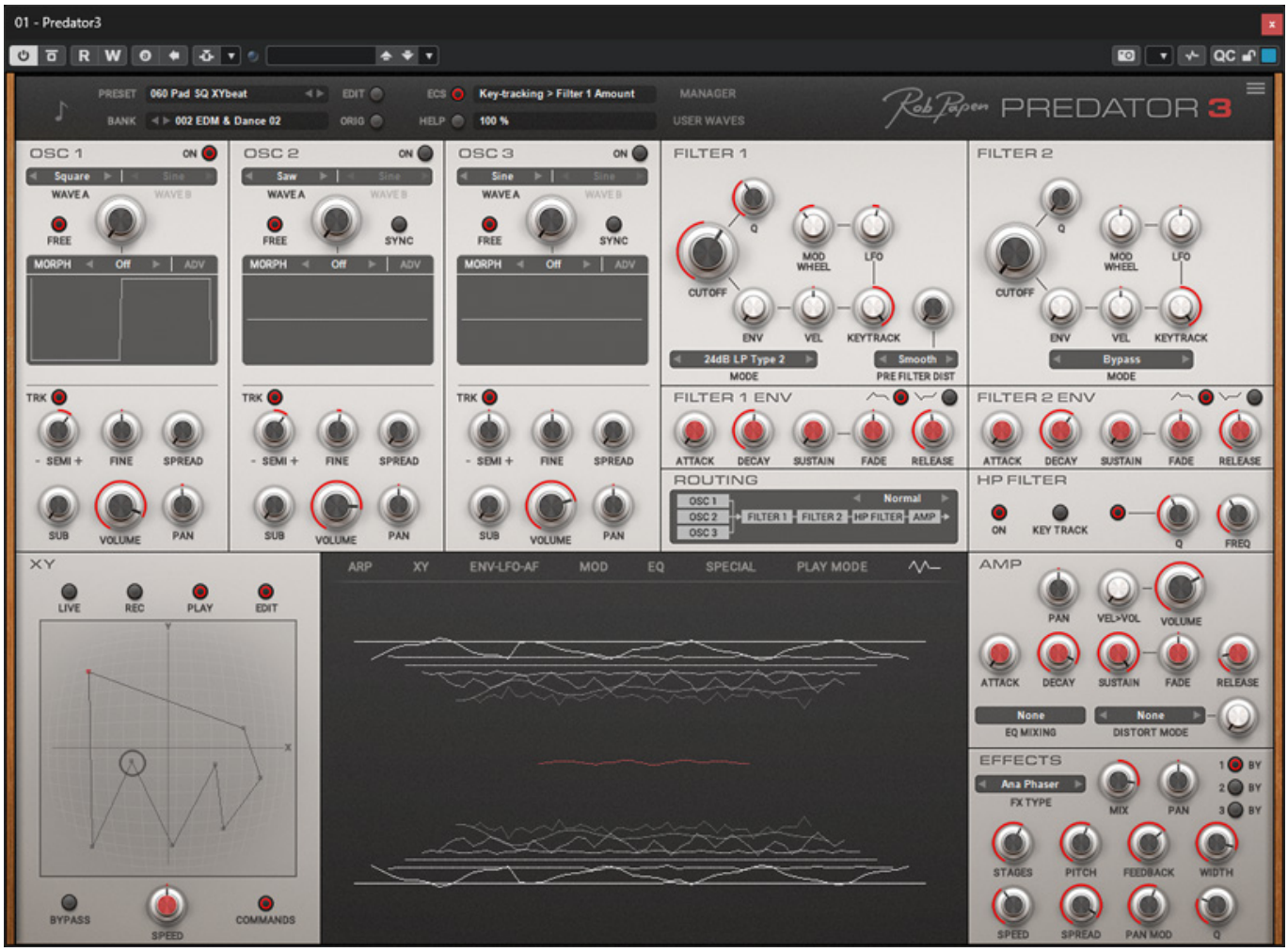


The WIREPLUCK synthesizer now has 100 additional presets organized in five banks: 35 in the Pluck Sound 01 bank (see image below), 20 in Synth Sounds 01, 25 in Arp Sounds 01, and 20 in the Bass Sounds 01 bank.

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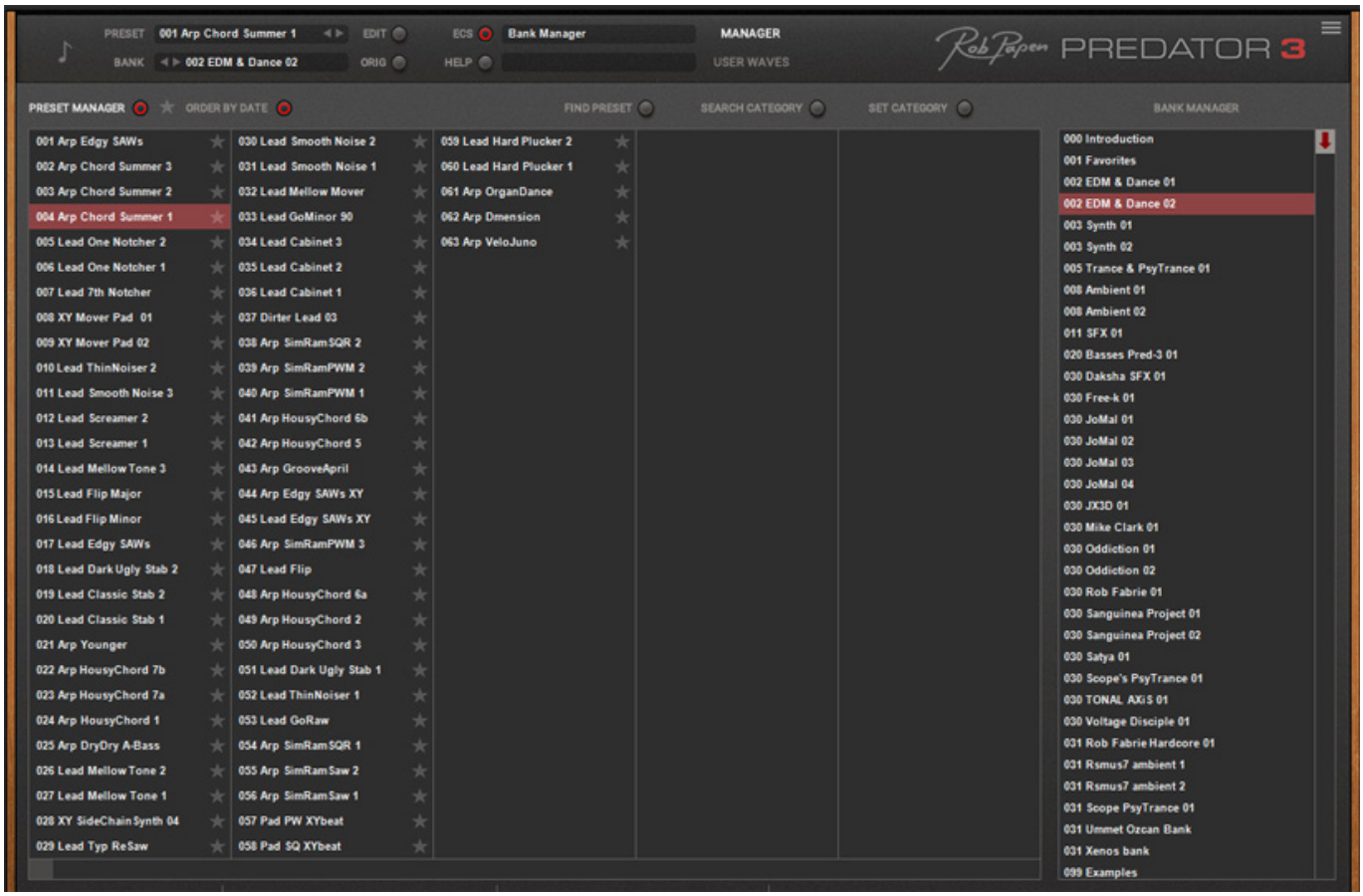

PRESET 001 Pluck 2 B Odd
BANK 01 Pluck Sounds 01
EDIT
ECS
ORIG
HELP
Folder Display
MANAGER
ADVANCED
WIREPLUCK
Rob Papen
PRESETS
ORDER BY DATE
FIND PRESET
SEARCH CATEGORY
SET CATEGORY
BANK MANAGER
001 Pluck DaStrum Minor
002 Pluck Dawn
003 Pluck Cave Special
004 Pluck Cave
005 Pluck ChromeFeel
006 Pluck Just One 4
007 Pluck Magnet
008 Pluck Minimal
009 Pluck Slokdarm
010 Pluck Minimal Minor
011 Pluck Minimal Major
012 Pluck Minimal Fifth
013 Pluck Ambientos 5
014 Pluck Ambientos 4
015 Pluck Ambientos 3
016 Pluck Ambientos 2
017 Pluck Ambientos 1
018 Pluck Ambientos 6
019 Pluck Go East Strum
020 Pluck Orchestra
021 Pluck Saw Q
022 Pluck D Talk 02
023 Pluck D Talk 01
024 Pluck Cab Disto
025 Pluck Kar 2 Plus
026 Pluck 2 B Odd
027 Pluck Aluminium
028 Pluck Disto Talk
029 Pluck Go East
030 Pluck Hard Tech 4
031 Pluck Hard Tech 5
032 Pluck Oct Pull
033 Pluck Talk Plectra 7th
034 Pluck Talk Plectra
035 Pluck Tulp Oct
036 Pluck Tulp
037 Pluck Short Reflect
038 Pluck a Toggle 3
039 Pluck a Toggle 2
040 Pluck a Toggle 1
041 Pluck AfterBeat Groovy
042 Pluck Itcher
043 Pluck Velocity Snap
044 Pluck Dawn Tech 4
045 Pluck Dawn Tech 3
046 Pluck Hard Tech 3
047 Pluck Fine Liner Oct 1
048 Pluck Fine Liner Oct 2
049 Pluck Fine Liner
050 Pluck Mid Disto 1 Fifth
051 Pluck Mid Disto 2 Fifth
052 Pluck Broken Speaker
053 Pluck Spring Vibe
054 Pluck Go LoFi
055 Pluck Dancer 3 MWhl
056 Pluck Hard Tech 2
057 Pluck Hard Tech 1
058 Pluck Silver Ring Oct
059 Pluck Wire And Plok
060 Pluck a Plectra
061 Pluck Silver Ring
062 Pluck Dancer 2 MWhl
063 Pluck Dancer 1 MWhl
064 Pluck and Wire Hit
065 Pluck Dawn Tech 2
066 Pluck Du Pap
067 Pluck D FM Strum 01
068 Pluck D FM Strum 02
069 Pluck Efem Hard 3
070 Pluck Lovely Chord 2
071 Pluck Lovely Chord 1
072 Pluck Space Orbit
073 Pluck a Short 1
074 Pluck a Short 2
075 Pluck Hi Techno MWhl
076 Pluck No-Idea
077 Pluck Pan Pots
078 Pluck Efem Hard 1
079 Pluck Efem Hard 2
080 Pluck Mid Disto 2
081 Pluck Mid Disto 1
082 Pluck Just One 1
083 Pluck Just One 2
084 Pluck Just One 3
085 Pluck Just Major Riff 2
086 Pluck Just Major Riff 1
087 Pluck Just Major7
088 Pluck D FM 01
089 Pluck a Typo Ting
090 Pluck Tech Volt
091 Pluck Sus Trip Strum 2
092 Pluck Sus Trip Strum 1
093 Pluck Japan Synth
094 Pluck Japan Sun Synth
095 Pluck Hard-2-Core 2
096 Pluck Hard-2-Core 1
097 Pluck D FM 02
098 Pluck D FM 03
099 Pluck Dawn Tech 1
100 Pluck Deep Cave
101 Pluck MS-20 Dive 1
102 Pluck MS-20 Dive 2
103 Pluck Noiser Dive
104 Pluck String Ring
105 Pluck Lovely One
106 Pluck Edgy Asia
107 Pluck East
108 Pluck De Dag
109 Pluck Chord Min Me
110 Pluck Chord Maj Me
111 Pluck Chop
112 Pluck BrightWire
113 Pluck Asia Feel
114 Pluck After Beat
115 Pluck a Thing
00 Introduction
01 Favorites
01 Pluck Sounds 01
02 Synth Sounds 01
03 Arp Sounds 01
04 Bass Sounds 01
05 Diderique 01
05 JoMal 01
05 Klangwelt 01
05 Mark Satchell 01
95 Default & examples
98 Overflow Presets
98 Unsaved Presets
SELECT ALL
UN-SELECT ALL
LOAD
SAVE
SAVE AS
SAVE FAV
COPY
CUT
PASTE
NEW
DELETE
RENAME
COPY
RENAME
NEW
DELETE
REFRESH

Predator-3



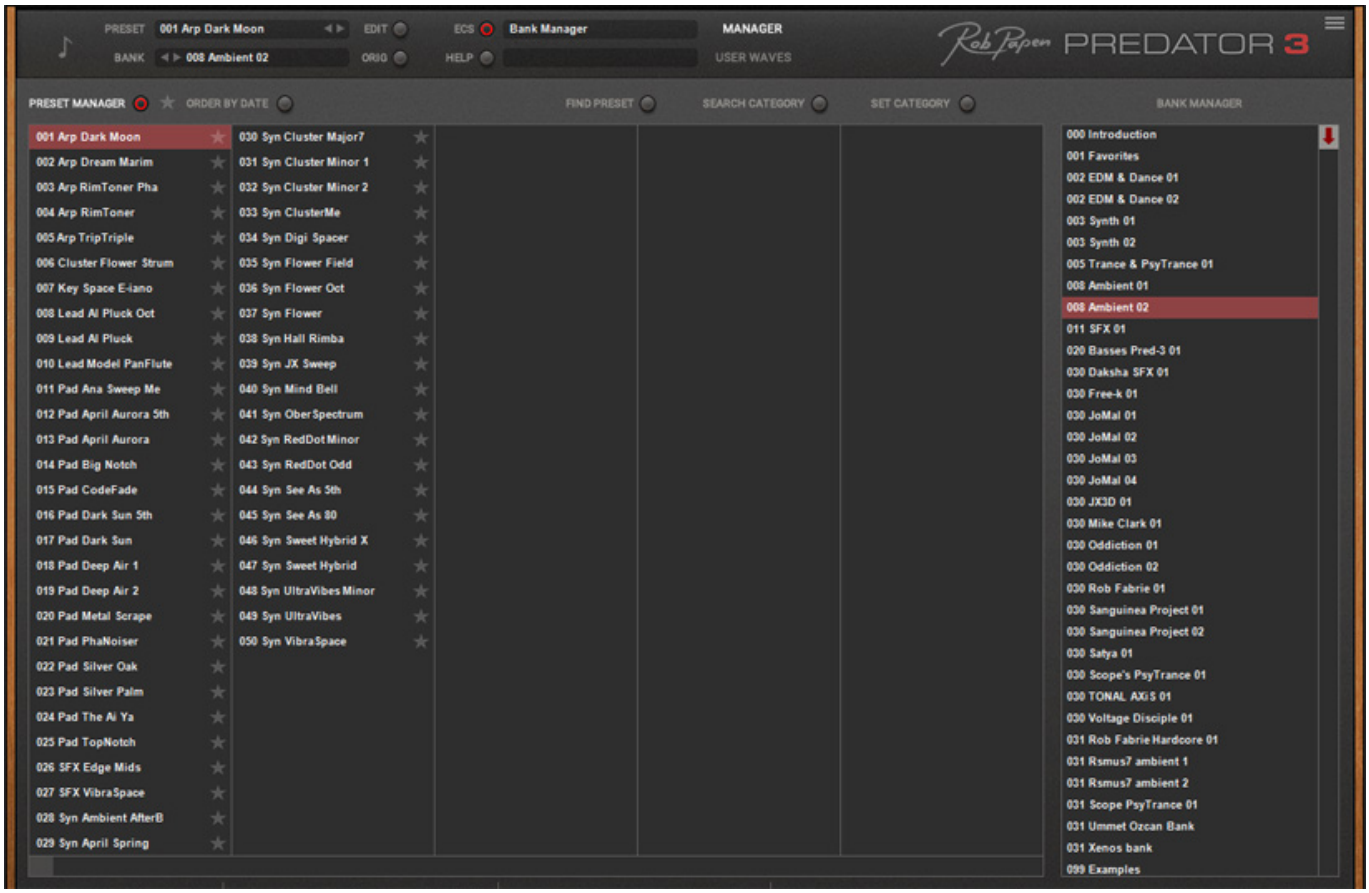
The Predator-3 synthesizer now has a total of 122 presets: one in the 002 EMD & Dance 01 bank, and the 002 EMD & Dance 02 bank (see image below) is entirely new with 63 presets.

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Bank 008 Ambient 01 has 8 new presets, and Bank 008 Ambient 02 is new with 50 presets.

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There are some really great new presets available here. In fact, the Predator-3 has become one of my favorite synthesizers.

Conclusion

The eXplorer-11 bundle costs approximately 500 US$. Special offers are available for existing customers of plug-ins or an eXplorer bundle. The upgrade from eXplorer-10 to eXplorer-11 costs just 74 US$, and it's definitely worth it.

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The bundle now includes a large number of instruments, and the plug-ins are becoming increasingly interesting. The new FilterField certainly contributes to this. eXplorer-11 is also a useful addition for users of the Arturia V Collection, which focuses heavily on the virtualization of real instruments, while eXplorer offers new instruments with very fresh sounds.

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