

Rob Papen eXplorer-11 Bundle

Update to the Bundle of Virtual Instruments and Plug-ins

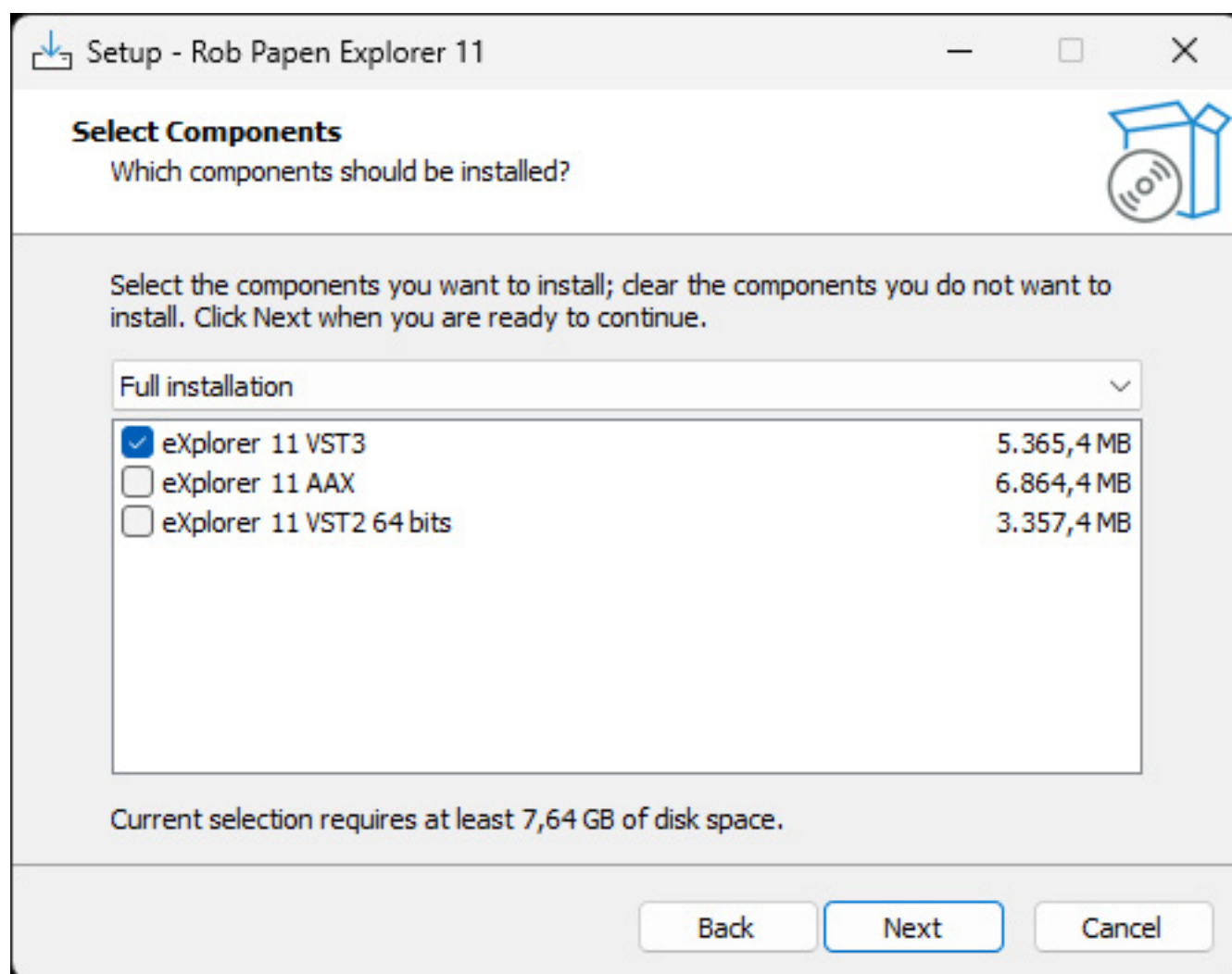
Autor: Peter Kaminski



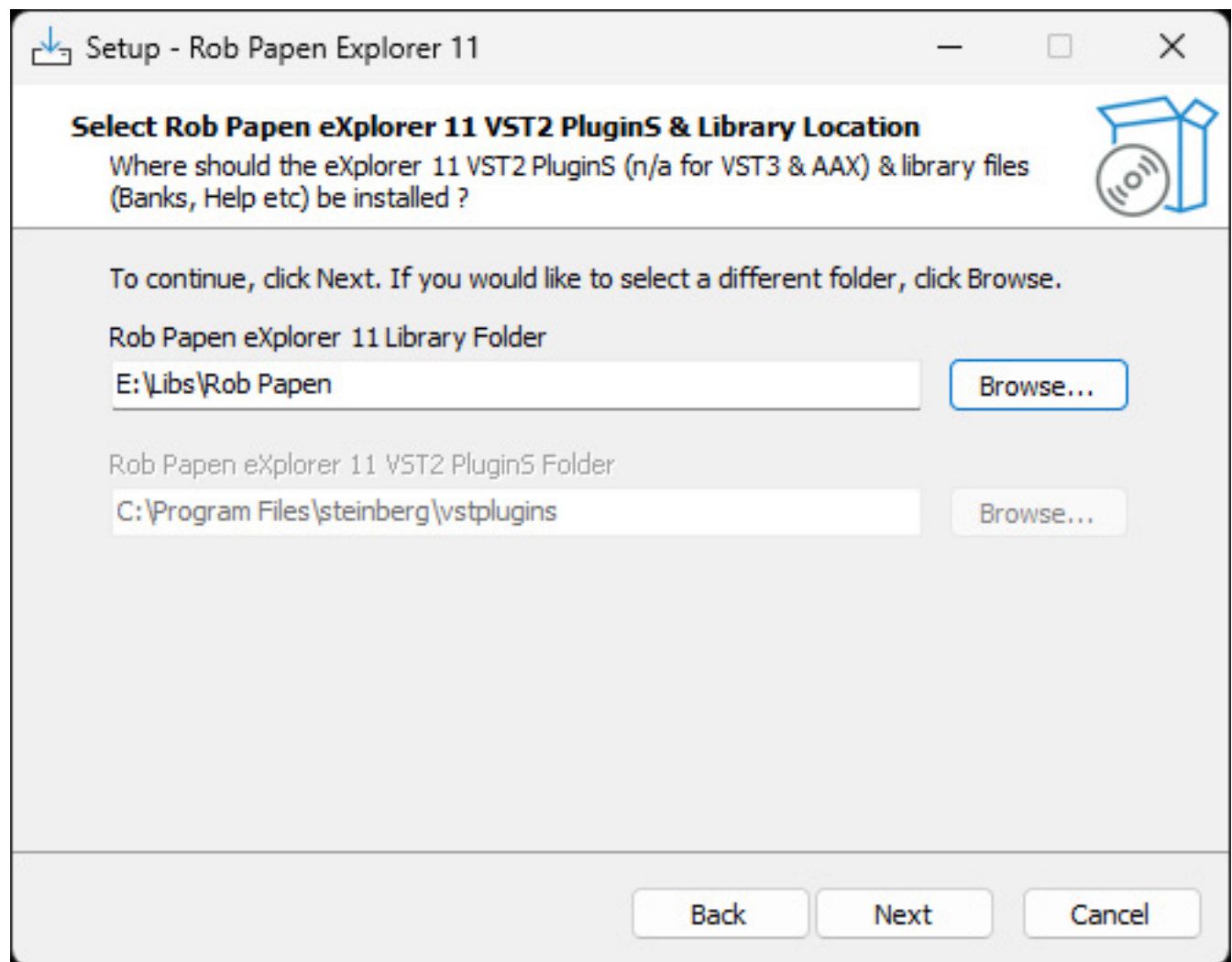
We have already tested and reviewed the previous version of the comprehensive [Rob Papen eXplorer-10 software bundle](#). In May 2026, another update was released with eXplorer-11, featuring new plug-ins and many new presets. The bundle now offers 3 drum instruments and 15 synthesizers, as well as 17 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 Instruments that have since been replaced by newer versions are also included in the scope of delivery.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.



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).



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).

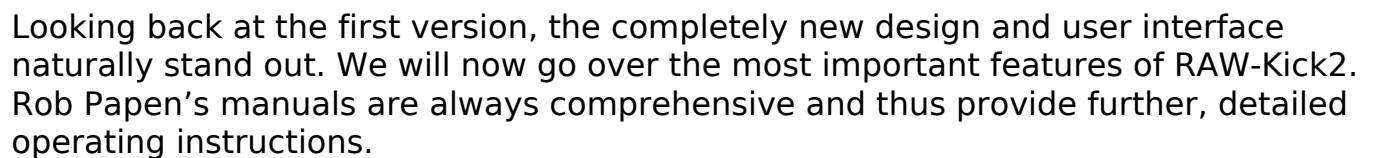


After installation, you must license the bundle for the computer you are using. This process has now been simplified. An “Online Login Code” is displayed in your user account: When you launch an instrument or plug-in for the first time, simply copy and paste this code, and the licensing is immediately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

RAW-Kick2



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.

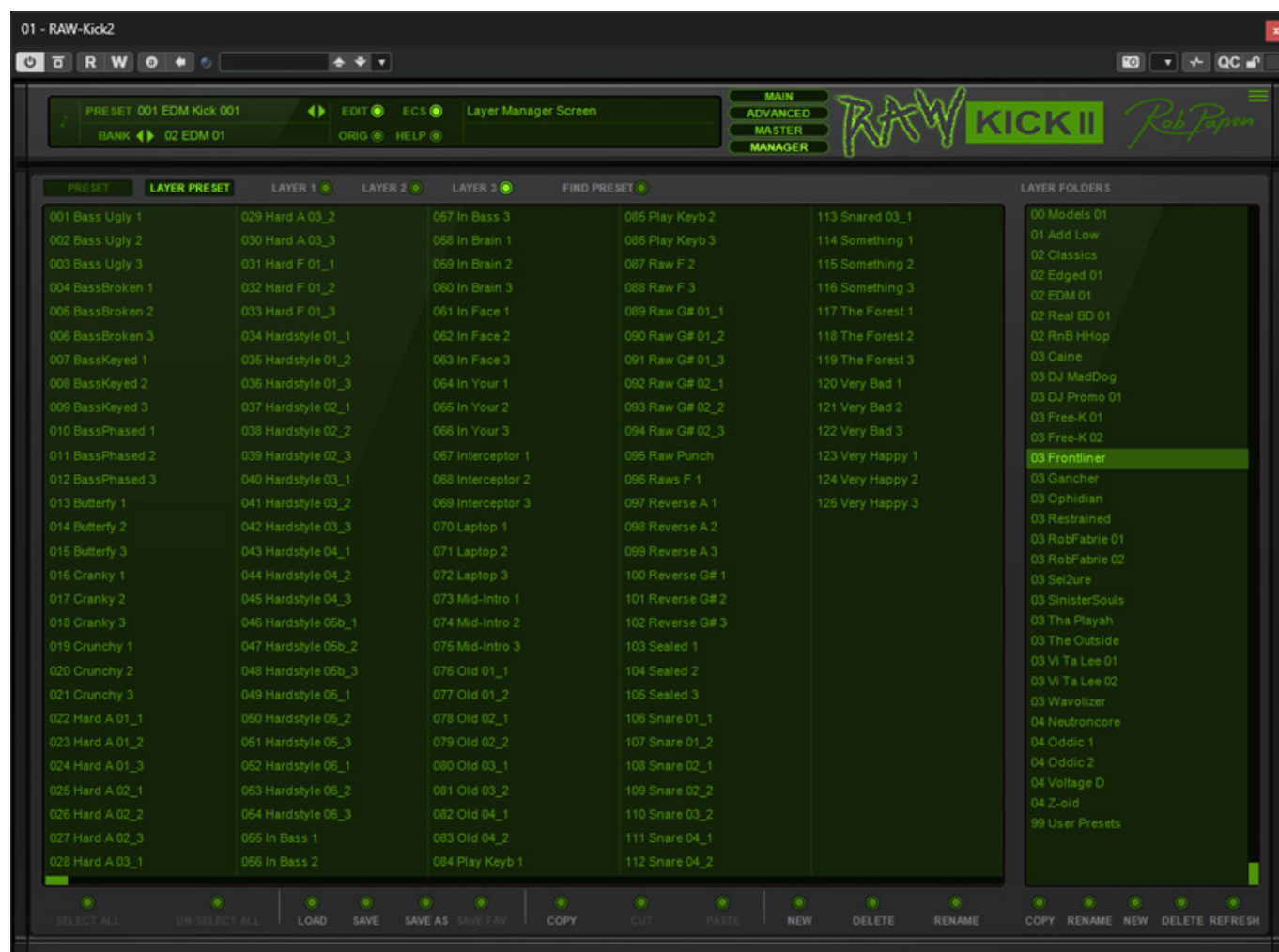




A major new feature is that you can now layer up to three sounds (see image above).



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.



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

RIBBON L1-3

MOD MATRIX L1-3

ENVELOPE L1-3

LFO

VEL SPLIT

#	SOURCE	DESTINATION	AMOUNT
1	Poly After	L1 Smp Amp Env Amt	0.0%
2	None	None	0.0%
3	None	None	0.0%
4	None	None	0.0%
5	None	None	0.0%
6	None	None	0.0%
7	None	None	0.0%
8	None	None	0.0%

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.

RIBBON L1-3

MOD MATRIX L1-3

ENVELOPE L1-3

LFO

VEL SPLIT

#	SOURCE	DESTINATION	AMOUNT
1	Ribbon	Env Speed	x 0.25
2	Ribbon	None	0.0%
3	Ribbon	None	0.0%
4	Ribbon	None	0.0%
5	Ribbon	None	0.0%
6	Ribbon	None	0.0%
7	Ribbon	None	0.0%
8	Ribbon	None	0.0%

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.



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).

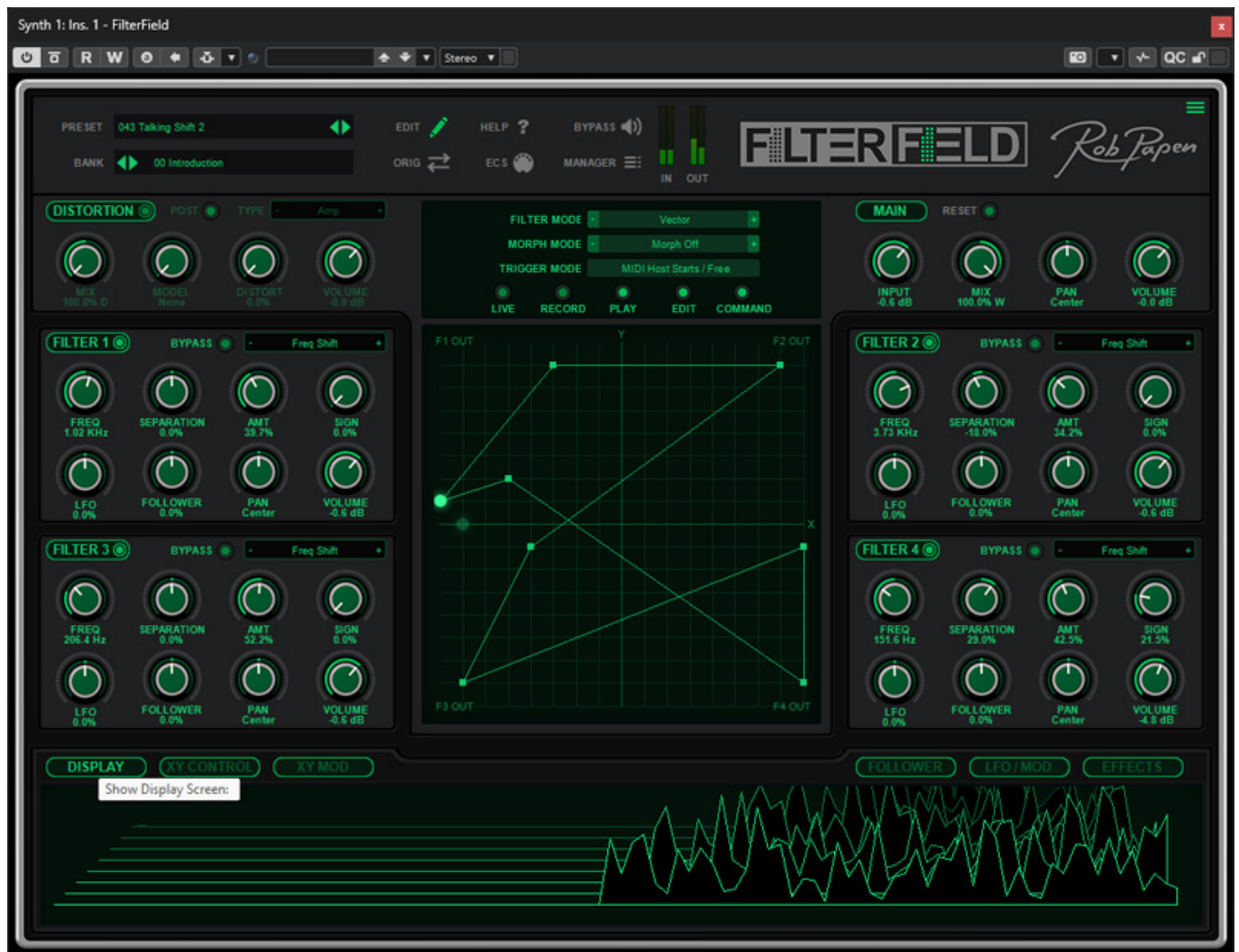


There is also no shortage of effect types. These are, of course, tailored for use along with the bass drum sound. There are two groups of effects here: distortion (see fig. above) and other effects (see fig. below).



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

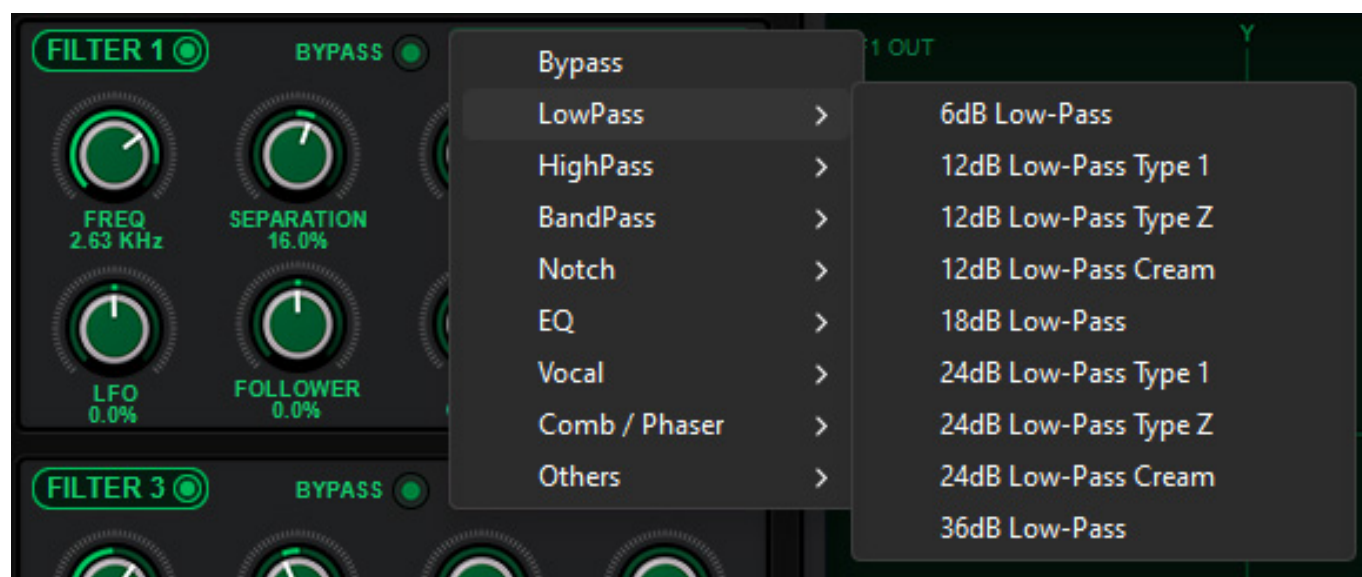


A new plug-in is FilterField. It's a bit of a trademark of many Rob Papen synthesizers: the XY pad for sound morphing. This is also found in this new plug-in. The concept is simple: A filter can be set for each of the four quadrants. Depending

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.



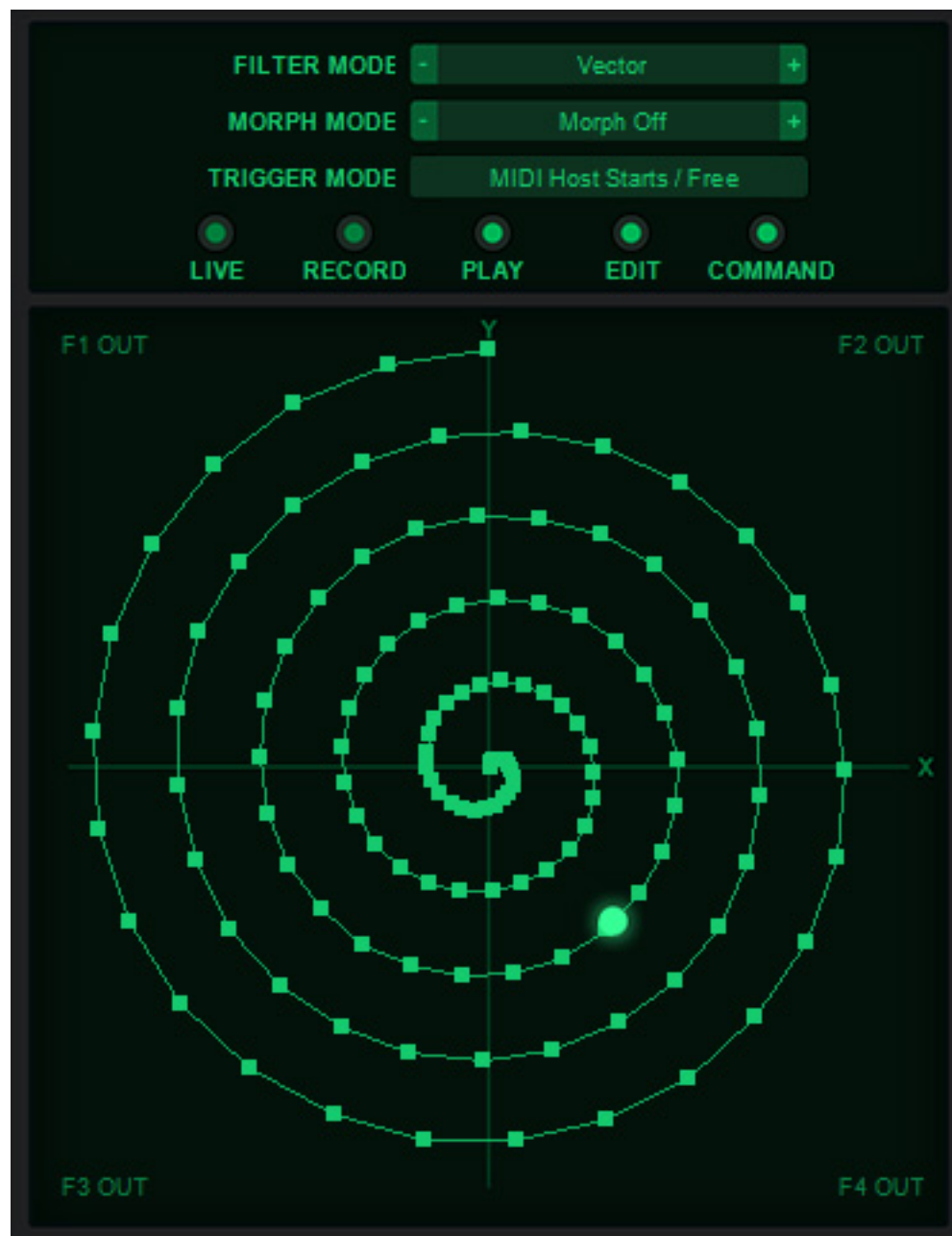
For each of the four filters, there is a control panel where you can adjust parameters such as filter type, frequency, stereo separation, filter frequency LFO, panning, and level.



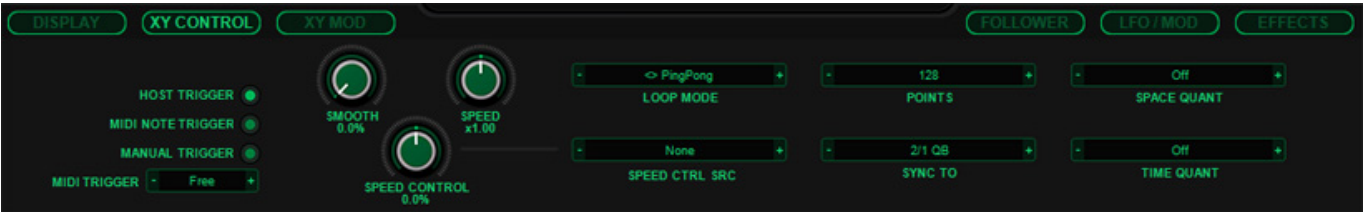
There is also an extremely wide variety of filter types to choose from here.



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).



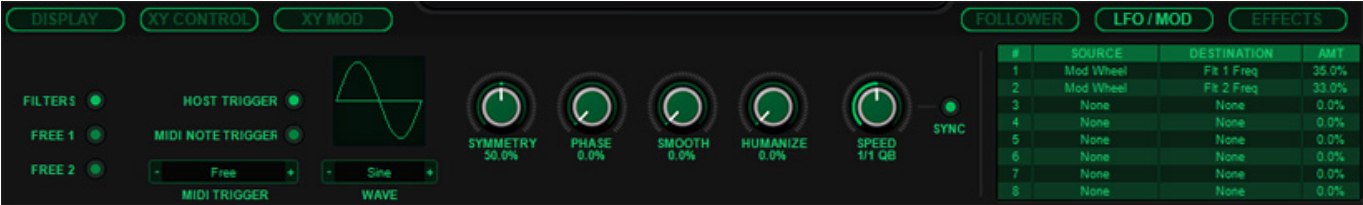
The filters can be configured and operated in various ways using the Filter Mode in the center of the plug-in. Serial and parallel modes exist for the filters, as well as a “Vector” mode where the filters can be controlled via the XY pad. Fades can be recorded, edited, and played back, or controlled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



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).



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.

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.





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.

PRESET 001 Pluck 2 B Odd

BANK 01 Pluck Sounds 01

EDIT

EC5

Folder Display

MANAGER

ADVANCED

WIREPLUCK

Rob Papen

PRESETS

ORDER BY DATE

FIND PRESET

SEARCH CATEGORY

SET CATEGORY

BANK MANAGER

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

SELECT ALL

UN-SELECT ALL

LOAD

SAVE

SAVE AS

SAVE FAV

COPY

CUT

PASTE

NEW

DELETE

RENAME

COPY

RENAME

NEW

DELETE

REFRESH



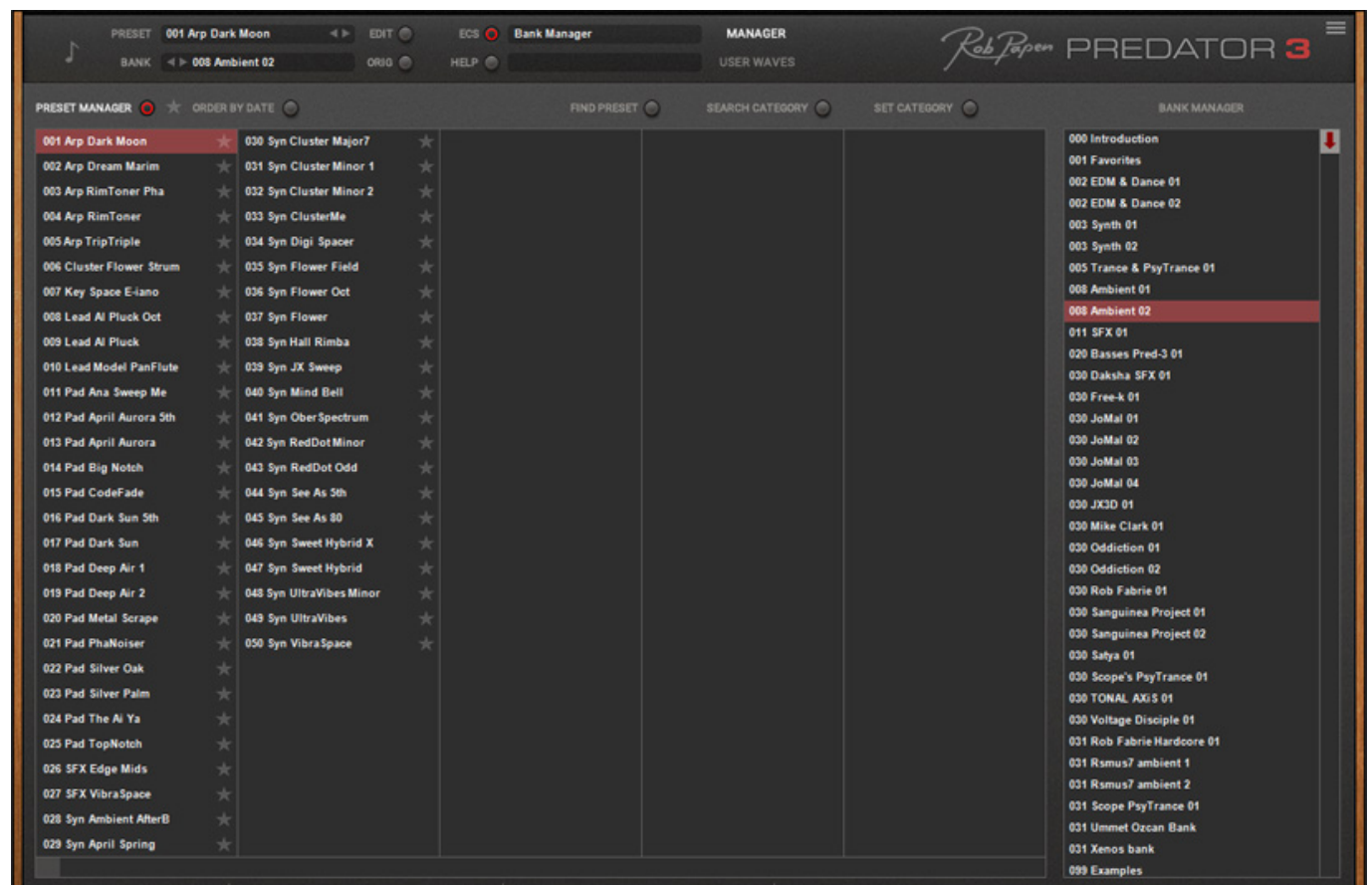
The Predator-3 synthesizer now has a total of 122 presets: one in the 002 EMD & Dance 01 bank, and the 002 EMD & Dance 02 bank (see image below) is entirely new with 63 presets.

PRESET 001 Arp Chord Summer 1 EDIT ECS Bank Manager MANAGER
BANK 002 EDM & Dance 02 ORIG HELP USER WAVES

PRESET MANAGER ORDER BY DATE FIND PRESET SEARCH CATEGORY SET CATEGORY BANK MANAGER

001 Arp Edgy SAWs	030 Lead Smooth Noise 2	059 Lead Hard Plucker 2	000 Introduction
002 Arp Chord Summer 3	031 Lead Smooth Noise 1	060 Lead Hard Plucker 1	001 Favorites
003 Arp Chord Summer 2	032 Lead Mellow Mover	061 Arp OrganDance	002 EDM & Dance 01
004 Arp Chord Summer 1	033 Lead GoMinor 90	062 Arp Dmension	002 EDM & Dance 02
005 Lead One Notcher 2	034 Lead Cabinet 3	063 Arp VeloJuno	003 Synth 01
006 Lead One Notcher 1	035 Lead Cabinet 2		003 Synth 02
007 Lead 7th Notcher	036 Lead Cabinet 1		005 Trance & PsyTrance 01
008 XY Mover Pad 01	037 Ditrer Lead 03		006 Ambient 01
009 XY Mover Pad 02	038 Arp SimRamSQR 2		006 Ambient 02
010 Lead ThinNoiser 2	039 Arp SimRamPWM 2		011 SFX 01
011 Lead Smooth Noise 3	040 Arp SimRamPWM 1		020 Basses Pred-3 01
012 Lead Screamer 2	041 Arp HousyChord 6b		030 Daksha SFX 01
013 Lead Screamer 1	042 Arp HousyChord 5		030 Free-k 01
014 Lead Mellow Tone 3	043 Arp GrooveApril		030 JoMal 01
015 Lead Flip Major	044 Arp Edgy SAWs XY		030 JoMal 02
016 Lead Flip Minor	045 Lead Edgy SAWs XY		030 JoMal 03
017 Lead Edgy SAWs	046 Arp SimRamPWM 3		030 JoMal 04
018 Lead Dark Ugly Stab 2	047 Lead Flip		030 JX3D 01
019 Lead Classic Stab 2	048 Arp HousyChord 6a		030 Mike Clark 01
020 Lead Classic Stab 1	049 Arp HousyChord 2		030 Oddiction 01
021 Arp Younger	050 Arp HousyChord 3		030 Oddiction 02
022 Arp HousyChord 7b	051 Lead Dark Ugly Stab 1		030 Rob Fabrie 01
023 Arp HousyChord 7a	052 Lead ThinNoiser 1		030 Sanguinea Project 01
024 Arp HousyChord 1	053 Lead GoRaw		030 Sanguinea Project 02
025 Arp DryDry A-Bass	054 Arp SimRamSQR 1		030 Satya 01
026 Lead Mellow Tone 2	055 Arp SimRamSaw 2		030 Scope's PsyTrance 01
027 Lead Mellow Tone 1	056 Arp SimRamSaw 1		030 TONAL AXIS 01
028 XY SideChain Synth 04	057 Pad PW XYbeat		030 Voltage Discipline 01
029 Lead Typ ReSaw	058 Pad SQ XYbeat		031 Rob Fabrie Hardcore 01
			031 Rsmus7 ambient 1
			031 Rsmus7 ambient 2
			031 Scope PsyTrance 01
			031 Umnet Ocean Bank
			031 Xenos bank
			099 Examples

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



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.

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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