

Working Process and Methodology - Roland JD-XA

I like to design patches with a strong sonic theme. This involves working on patches individually and within a framework. It is important for individual patches to stand up to the stresses of being used on their own but also to work as an ensemble within a given set of any 16 or more patch sets.

I start off with a 100% clean slate and program from the ground up using initialized patches. This forces you to develop an intimate connection with the instrument itself, gaining a familiarity and discovery of features. This peeling back of layers reveals greater depth and always yields levels of excitement when you have one of those "aha" light bulb moments.

My interest isn't necessarily in creating old sounds or revisiting the past. A new synth should inspire you to generate patches one has not heard before. The hybrid approach, which the JD-XA is a prime example of, fuses an older design ethos with a forward looking mindset. It delivers digital precision with a level of analog warmth allowing you to add interesting levels of grit and girth to the sound through digital to analog cross modulation and a wealth of performance controls and extremely good MFX.

The two banks of sounds in this series look at 15 month exploration with the JD-XA. They can be used individually or in varied ensemble configurations when multi-tracked. They have been designed to work well together and with other equipment.

Hopefully end users will explore how simple AMP and Filter EG adjustments, LFO tweaks, Pitch modulations and the like can take you to places the sounds wouldn't initially hint at. My aim was to give them all as large a sweet spot as possible for a myriad of percussion variations so that basses can be used as leads, pads can be detuned into drones and textures will yield different elements in various octave ranges. Individual parts of sequenced patches can be reimagined and sequenced in a variety of ways that yield inspired and unexpected results.

When approaching the demos for this library I wanted these sounds to use the above methodology. These aren't just single patch demos, they sound like little ensemble vignettes that hint at how you may choose to use the sounds as a whole within the framework of your own studio.

The JD-XA is a deeply inspiring instrument and is my first go to synth on any given project. Hopefully these demos inspire you as much as they inspire me and that you find unique and useful ways of using them within your own process.

It is important to note that these are sounds from my growing personal collection of JD-XA patches. I felt it important to share sounds with others that I would deem suitable for personal use. Here's hoping everyone finds something to inspire them and that the demos give you a good frame of reference for applicable uses of what is on offer.