

SYNTHWAVE DOJO

PRESENTS



80'S DRUM MACHINES

WELCOME SYNTHWAVE!

Drums are a key element of a great Synthwave track and even after hunting high and low on the internet for good sample packs, what I found, both as paid and free products, didn't satisfy me.

This is why I decided to create a sample pack of kickass 80's drum machine samples that are ready to be dropped into any production scenario where that classic 80's sound is needed.

The samples are organized per machine and placed in individual folders according to drum type, such as Kick, Snare, Hi Hats, etc.

All sounds have been correctly labeled and volume-matched so you can find them quickly and audition them in your DAW or drum sampler without blowing up your speakers (or your ears).

All samples are in WAV format for maximum compatibility across DAWs and samplers.

Best of all, this sample pack is completely FREE!

I hope these samples will inspire you to make great music and if you do, please let me know!

Feel free to reach out to me via email or social media if there's ever anything I can do for you or just to say hi.

Let's do this!

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DMX

The DMX is a programmable digital drum machine manufactured by Oberheim.

It was introduced in 1980 at a list price of US\$2,895 and remained in the company's product line until the mid-1980s.

The Oberheim DMX was the second digital drum machine ever to be sold as a commercial product, following the Linn LM-1 Drum Computer in 1980.

Its popularity among musicians of the era contributed to the sound and evolution of 1980s new wave, synthpop and hip hop music.

Immediately following the success of the Linn LM-1, other manufacturers began to develop and release drum machines intended to compete with the LM-1's ease of programmability and realistic sound quality.

The DMX featured sampled sounds of real drums, as well as individual tuning controls for each drum voice and a swing function.

In addition, it boasted several humanizing elements such as rolls, flams, and timing variations that were meant to mimic those of real drummers.

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oberheim_DMX)



Notable Users & Songs

New Order "Blue Monday", Falco "Der Kommissar", Madonna "Into The Groove", The Cure "The Walk", Phil Collins "Who said I would"

Manufacturer: Oberheim Electronics

Release Year: 1980

SDSV

The Simmons SDS 5, SDSV, or Simmons Drum Synthesizer was the first viable electronic replacement for acoustic drums.

It was developed by Richard James Burgess and Dave Simmons, manufactured initially by Musicaid in Hatfield, UK, and commercially released in 1981.

Burgess pioneered the use of the SDS-V, triggering the prototype version with a Roland MC-8 Microcomposer in 1979 to make Landscape's groundbreaking computer-programmed futurist album *From the Tea-Rooms of Mars... To the Hell-Holes of Uranus*.

Burgess's original concept had been to make a machine which could be played by a drummer as a replacement for acoustic drums.

He finally recorded the first example of the SDS-V to be played by a drummer in 1981 when he produced the Spandau Ballet hit, "Chant No. 1 (I Don't Need This Pressure On)", featuring John Keeble on the now famous hexagonal pads and the first production SDS-V 'brain', which immediately became popular with several 1980s musicians.

Source: Wikipedia.com



Notable Users & Songs

Rick Allen (Def Leppard), Bill Bruford of Yes and King Crimson, Richard James Burgess (Landscape), Warren Cann (Ultravox), Phil Collins, Nick Mason (Pink Floyd), Roger Taylor (Duran Duran), Roger Taylor (Queen)

Manufacturer: Simmons

Release Year: 1981

 [Demo Track](#)

LINNDRUM

The LinnDrum, also referred to as the LM-2, is a drum machine manufactured by Linn Electronics between 1982 and 1985. About 5,000 units were sold.

Its high-quality samples, flexibility and affordability made the LinnDrum popular; it sold far more units than its predecessor (the LM-1) and its successor (the Linn 9000) combined.

Roger Linn re-used the moniker on the LinnDrum Midistudio and the Roger Linn Designs' LinnDrum II.

When Linn Electronics closed in 1986, Forat Electronics purchased its assets and offered

service, sounds and modifications for the LinnDrum. The LinnDrum was pre-MIDI, using a DIN sync interface, but MIDI Retrofit Kits were offered by JL Cooper and are currently offered by Forat Electronics.

Source: Wikipedia.com



Notable Users & Songs

Tears for Fears' "Shout", Beastie Boys' "Beastie Groove", Depeche Mode's "Everything Counts", Kenny Loggins' "Footloose"

Manufacturer: Linn Electronics

Release Year: 1982

DRUMULATOR

E-mu Drumulator is a sample-based drum machine by E-mu Systems.

Introduced in 1983 at a price of \$995 USD, the Drumulator was the first programmable drum machine with built-in samples for under \$1,000, resulting in sales of over 10,000 units over two years.

The Drumulator was the predecessor of the E-mu SP-12.

The Drumulator utilizes 8-bit samples for 12 sounds, including SSM analog filters. It was widely used in early 1980s in synth-pop and Italo disco productions.

In 1984, Digidrums released special EPROMs for the Drumulator, which included the Rock Drums set used on Tears for Fears' hit "Shout" and on "Beastie Groove" for Beastie Boys by Rick Rubin.

Source: Wikipedia.com



Notable Users & Songs

Tears for Fears "Shout", Beastie Boys "Beastie Groove", Depeche Mode "Everything Counts", Kenny Loggins "Footloose"

Manufacturer: E-mu Systems

Release Year: 1983

DRUMTRAKS

The DrumTraks is a very programmable classic drum machine from the eighties.

While its electronic drum kit sounds may not be as popular today as the TR-909 or TR-808, the DrumTraks exceeds them with superior editing capabilities.

Thirteen drum sounds all with programmable tuning and level control.

Extensive editing with copy and paste ability.

There's even a mixer section for individual sounds, six individual outputs, one mono mix output,

and cassette in/out for offline memory storage.

If your looking for classic eighties electro beats and the vintage instrument that generates them then look no further than the DrumTraks.

Source: Vintagesynth.com



Notable Users & Songs

Prince, Freddy Fresh, Orbital

Manufacturer: Sequential Circuits

Release Year: 1983

LINN 9000

The Linn 9000 is an electronic musical instrument manufactured by Linn Electronics as the successor to the LinnDrum.

It was introduced in 1984 at a list price of \$5,000, (\$7,000 fully expanded) and about 1,100 units were produced.

It combined MIDI sequencing and audio sampling (optional) with a set of 18 velocity and pressure sensitive performance pads, to produce an instrument optimized for use as a drum machine.

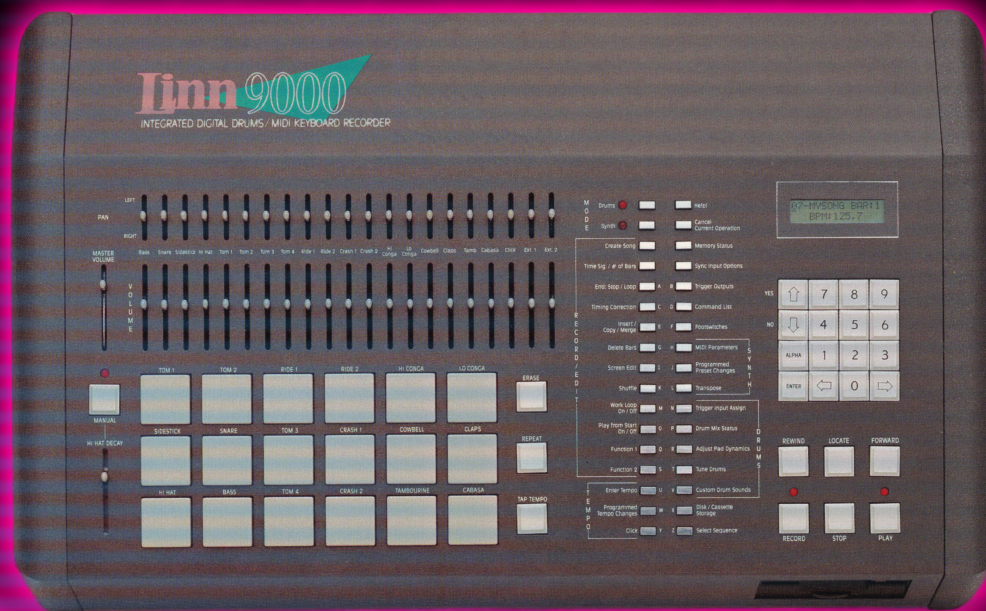
The Linn 9000 had innovative and groundbreaking features

and would influence many future drum machine designs.

But chronic software bugs led to a reputation for unreliability and contributed to the eventual demise of Linn Electronics.

The Linn 9000 would get a new lease on life when Forat Music and Electronics purchased Linn's remaining assets, fixed all of the bugs, added new features and dubbed it the Forat F9000.

Source: Wikipedia.com



Notable Users & Songs

The Pointer Sisters' "Automatic", Divine's "You Think You're a Man", "Give It Up", "I'm So Beautiful", "Show Me Around" and "T Shirts and Tight Blue Jeans" and Rick Astley's "Together Forever", George Michael, Michael Jackson, Hall & Oates

Manufacturer: Linn Electronics

Release Year: 1984

TR-707

The TR-707 has fifteen digitally sampled sounds. The instrument is capable of 10-voice polyphony.

The instruments on the TR-707 are samples of recordings of actual acoustic instruments, and not synthesized individually like the instruments on the TR-808.

The TR-707 was a staple in early house music, particularly with acid house.

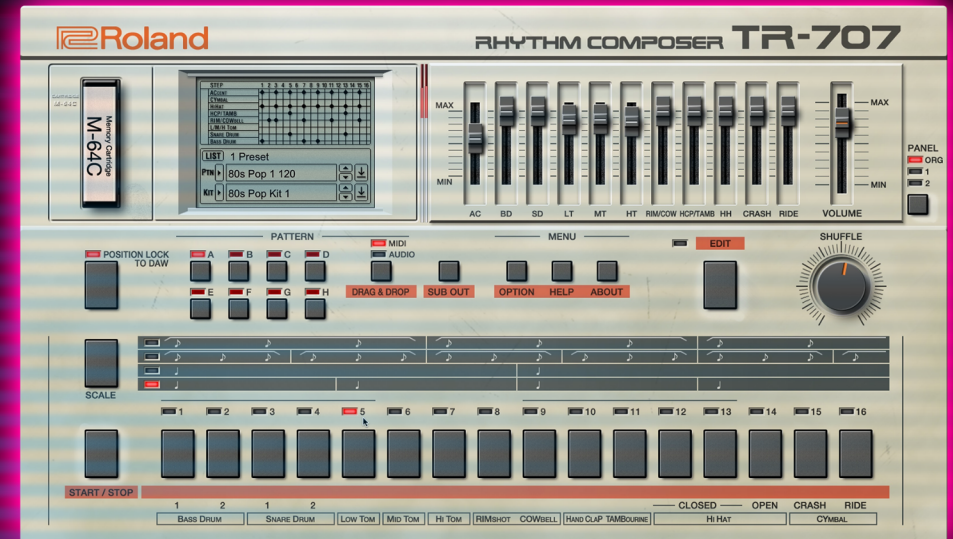
It is also a staple of almost all electronic Arabic pop music (al jeel).

Because the TR-707 offers a limited number of instruments

sampled at 8 bits, its sound is considered dated by modern standards.

However, it is still in use because of its versatility in synchronizing with other hardware and its fully featured interface, comparable to that of high-end Roland drum machines such as the TR-808 and TR-909.

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roland_TR-707)



Notable Users & Songs

INXS "Need You Tonight", Marshall Jefferson "Move Your Body", Mr. Fingers "Washing Machine", M83 "Midnight City", The Housemaster Boyz "The House Music Anthem"

Manufacturer: Roland Corporation

Release Year: 1985

DDD-1

The DDD-1 (Dynamic Digital Drums) is a sampling drum machine introduced in 1986 by Korg.

It offers more features than the DDD-5, and is highly regarded for its sounds and sequencer.

The unit also features a limited sampling option, for adding sounds to the drum machine. It also has fully featured MIDI implementation, six assignable outputs, and a backlit LCD screen.

Highly regarded for its sounds and sequencer, it features 18 on-board sounds. They include kicks, snares, toms, rimshot,

closed hi-hats, open hi-hats, ride, crash, claps, cowbell, tambourine and cabasa.

Parameters, such as decay and tuning, can be edited. Additional sounds can be added using the four ROM expansion slots.

It's default sounds are based on the first sampling drum machine "The Wendel" which was built by Roger Nichols and can be heard on many of late 70s and early 80s hits. "Hey Nineteen" by Steely Dan being a notable example.

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korg_DDD-1)



Notable Users & Songs

N/A

Manufacturer: Korg

Release Year: 1986

RX5

The Yamaha RX-5 is a programmable digital sample-based drum machine built by Yamaha, in 1986.

The RX-5 has 24 built-in digitally sampled drum sounds and another 28 on the RX5 ROM cartridge that was included with every RX5.

The sounds include bass drum, snare drum, rimshot, toms, hi hat, cymbal (ride or crash), hand clap, tambourine, cowbell, and shaker.

The included cartridge contains mainly Latin percussion instruments.

The RX5 has 12 individual outputs for each vertical drum pad pair.

Each pair has a fixed set of sounds at its disposal, for example 6 base drum samples at the first two buttons.

There is a workaround to have other sounds in each location.

When you customize a sound to one of the 10 copied sounds presets, they become available on all pads.

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamaha_RX-5)



Notable Users & Songs

A-ha, INXS, Madonna, New Order, Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, Pet Shop Boys, Prince, The Sisters of Mercy, Vangelis, XTC

Manufacturer: Yamaha

Release Year: 1986

TR-626

The TR-626 is sort of an up-graded digital version of the classic TR-606 and TR-505 Rhythm Composers.

This beat-box is still simple but has a few good points that come from its legendary ancestors - the TR-909 and TR-808. Its sounds are 12 bits.

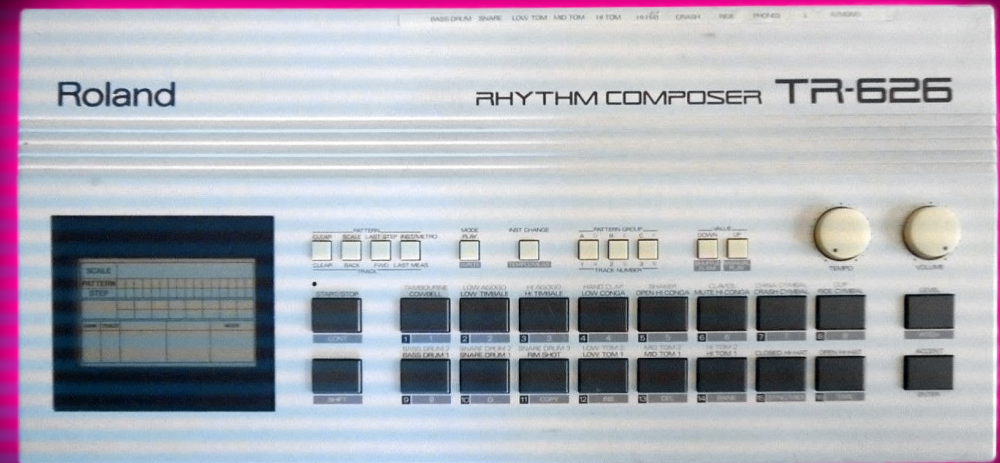
The sounds can be individually tuned and mixed and there are 8 individual outputs for the basic sounds as well as a stereo out.

Its sequencer is very basic, coming with 48 preset patterns and 48 user patterns.

But it has a simple matrix display similar to that on the TR-505, clearly displaying the current pattern in a graphical layout.

The 626 also featured very good MIDI implementation for its time.

Source: Vintagesynth.com



Notable Users & Songs

Vangelis, Jimmy Edgar, Aphex Twin, Junkie XL

Manufacturer: Roland Corporation

Release Year: 1987

R8

The R-8 Human Rhythm Composer is an electronic drum machine introduced in 1989 by Roland Corporation, using PCM voices.

The R-8 features velocity- and pressure-sensitive trigger pads, and the ability to create loops of beats.

The device has eight individual outputs, 12-voice polyphony, and four-part multitimbral MIDI.

The R-8 has one RAM memory card slot for saving user-created patterns and songs, and one slot for PCM ROM cards to augment the internal sound banks.

The R-8M is a rackmount version of the R-8, lacking the trigger pads and the sequencer capability, but with three front-facing ROM card slots.

These sound libraries may be accessed simultaneously.

This device was available from 1989 through 1994.

The rack version has less individual outputs: 6 instead of 8.

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roland_R-8)



Notable Users & Songs

New Order, Massive Attack, Prince, Aphex Twin, Human League, Orbital, Jean Michel Jarre, Phil Collins, Tangerine Dream, Underworld

Manufacturer: Roland Corporation

Release Year: 1989

RESOURCES



Synthwave Basics Playlist



Kick, Snare and Bass Calibration Guide



Snare Patterns



Bass Patterns



Kick Patterns

Synthwave Dojo is committed to providing you with the tools and knowledge you need in your music-making journey.

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