ZEBRATRON

100 RETRO CHARACTERS

by HOWARD SCARR

u-he

Zebratron started with my recently revived fascination for the etherial sounds of magnetic tape-based keyboards and other eccentric instruments of the late '60s and '70s. I tried to recreate some of that magic in Zebra by simulating what were considered flaws at the time: tape wow, BBD colouration, lop-sided vibrato and various other pitch anomalies, recorded room ambience etc.. Then I adjusted the laws and limits of the realtime controls (see the box below) to optimise the playing experience… so enjoy!

About me: I have been obsessed with synthesizers ever since I co-founded the UK's first all-synth band ZORCH in 1973. My first synth was an EMS Synthi AKS and my current favourite is Zebra2. You can hear many of my synth sounds in the musical scores to such movies as *The Dark Knight*, *Angels & Demons, Inception*, *Dunkirk* and *Blade Runner 2049.*

Installation

Zebratron requires Zebra version 2.8, as the presets make use of new features, especially the *NuRev* reverb. Please update if necessary from www.u-he.com (updates are free!)

1. Load an instance of Zebra into your DAW and click on the PRESETS button
2. In the browser right-click on 'User' then select the option 'reveal in Finder' (macOS) or 'open in Explorer' (Windows)
3. Copy the 'Zebratron' folder into the 'Zebra' folder you have just revealed or opened
4. Back in Zebra's own browser, right-click in the directory and select 'refresh'

If Zebra was installed using the default paths, it will recognize presets in these locations:

Windows	'Local'	…\VstPlugins\u-he\Zebra2.data\Presets\Zebra2\
	'User'	…\VstPlugins\u-he\Zebra2.data\UserPresets\Zebra2\
macOS	'Local'	MacHD/Library/Audio/Presets/u-he/Zebra2/
	'User'	~/Library/Audio/Presets/u-he/Zebra2/

IMPORTANT

Zebratron patches react to **modulation wheel**, **Control A** and **Control B**, often quite dramatically. By default, Control A is MIDI CC 2 and Control B is MIDI CC 11, but these can be reassigned (see the Zebra2 user guide). Many presets also react to aftertouch and note velocity.

The minimum positions of those three controls only give you the most basic sound of each preset – there is a lot more character to discover!

List of Presets

Bowtron A - etherial

Bowtron B - celloid

Bowtron C - smoky

Bowtron D - sunshine

Bowtron E - pastoral

Bowtron F - bold

Bowtron G - layers

Celestron

Congatron Split

Cymbaltron

Drumatron A - stomp

Drumatron B - boxer

Drumatron C - driphop

Drumatron D - arpeggio

Echnatron

Eggtron

Flint Stone Bongos

Flootron A - vibes

Flootron B - viola

Flootron C - bells

Flootron D - twin

Flootron E - pad

Flootron F - floss

Flossamer A - robust

Flossamer B - fragile

Foxtron

Fujara Split

Gargletron

Gazmotron

Gyrotron A - mid

Gyrotron B - sparkle

Harpsitron

Horn Plus

Humanitarion A - flex

Humanitarion B - soft

Icetron

Iron City

Klavitron A - dark

Klavitron B - pianetto

Klavitron C - breath

Klavitron D - synth

Klavitron E - wire

Leptrons

Mandotron A - natural

Mandotron B - digital

Obertron Five

Orgatron A - ham

Orgatron B - cheese

Orgatron C - full

Orgatron D - reeds

Orgatron E - tanks

Orgatron F - busted

Pathetron One

Pipe Dream A - soft prog

Pipe Dream B - backwards

Pipe Dream C - breathing

Pipe Dream D - oversqueak

Plight of the Bumbletron

Progtron

Psybience

Psychedelic Memory

Quordeon

Rachels Aviary

Rats Outrage

Rhythm Tape A - bata

Rhythm Tape B - pots

Rhythm Tape C - mix

Rhythm Tape D - swing3

Rhythm Tape E - nod7

Rileytron

Saxotron A - close

Saxotron B - windy

Saxotron C - wah

Saxotron D - flexible

Saxotron E - stringy

Shiny Machine A - thin

Shiny Machine B - cutter

Shiny Machine C - lush

Shiny Machine D - drama

Synthotron

Telefonium

Thing Machine A - vintage

Thing Machine B - full

Thing Machine C - gold

Tintron

Titanium Koto

Tubulartron

Uptron Bells

Uptron Harp

Vibratron A - rings

Vibratron B - smoke

Vibratron C - simple

Voxtron A - high

Voxtron B - low

Voxtron C - saxy

Wahtron

Xaos Harp

Zefftron

Ziltron Rides

Zootron