

Zero G DEEP IMPACT

Price £89.95

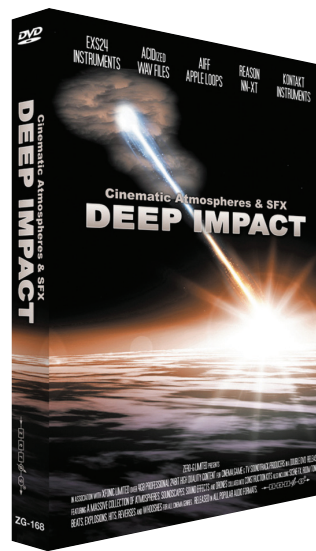
Zero G's latest mega sample offering boosts cinematic atmospheres and special effects, so lets take a look at Deep Impact and see how deep it really is...

With over 4Gb of special effects, soundscapes and sci-fi samples, Deep Impact is packed with sounds for any producer, game soundtrack creator or filmmaker. Recorded in beautiful 24-bit audio, the two DVDs are packed with 650 instruments and 40 construction kits ready to go for the popular production tools such as Reason, Kontakt, EXS24 as well as Apple loops and Wavs.

The DVDs are broken up into specific sounds, making selection really easy – drones, explosions and room tones are just the tip of the iceberg. The 40 construction kits are well organised and allow you to get

the ball rolling from the off. Before you know it you'll be generating complex atmospheres that will blow the minds of both you and your listeners! Each kit contains all the elements for the audio backdrop, and is then broken down into further layers so you can pick and mix to create your own sounds. With most of the individual samples at a minute in length or more it's easy to chop and blend any combination of sounds to create your own never-ending library.

Primarily created for the game or film composer, Deep Impact would be just at home in any electronica or downtempo producer's toolbox, and while it's not a cheap addition to your sound library, it is certainly value for money. **IDJ**



CONTACT: Time & Space
TEL: +44 (0)14837 55200
WEB: www.sontronics.com

FEATURES

- Cinematic soundscapes and SFX software
- 2 x DVD 4.2Gb
- 650 instruments in 24-bit audio
- 40 Construction kits
- Acid WAVs
- AIFX Apple loops
- EXS24
- Kontakt
- Reason NN-XT

ALTERNATIVES

For depth and quality you'll be hard pushed to find such a top-drawer collection of sounds

VERDICT

Easy to use and great sound quality, so if gaming and cinematic sounds are your thing you really should take some time to see what Zero G's Deep Impact has to offer. You can't fail to be impressed with both the depth and quality of the sounds

Primacoustic VOXGUARD

Price £94.59

Convert your recording space into a proper studio environment for vocalists in one easy move...

Distributed by Shure in the UK, Primacoustic are specialists in the design and manufacture of acoustic materials, and the VoxGuard is their latest offering for the studio sound absorber market – a nearfield vocal screen designed to reduce the ambient sound around a microphone when recording a vocalist. Essentially this allows the voice to be captured while eliminating unwanted echo and reverberations that would normally spill back onto the mic. By absorbing these sounds, recording with the VoxGuard aims to leave a 'cleaner' sound, allowing you to reintroduce the desired effects later in the mixing stage.

Fitting the VoxGuard is quick, simple and compatible with any

mic stand or microphone cradle, plus the open slot allows room for the cable. Of course, this is by no means a unique invention, several similar products have used the same principle of a mic-stand mounted near-field sound absorber before, but they all tend to fall into the same trap – they're either very expensive, too heavy (which threatens to send your expensive mic toppling to the floor) or simply



ineffective. The VoxGuard, however, manages to avoid all of these slip-ups by striking the perfect balance of being sturdy and light, as well as being large enough and thick enough to provide a noticeable 'flatter' sound with vocals in testing.

Depending on how sonically-friendly your current recording environment is, the VoxGuard will have a varied impact on your vocal results, but if your studio or live room is anything like the small and boxy spare room that becomes a typical home-recording space, then this product is pretty much an essential purchase before you record any serious vocals. No need to hire a studio, or build an expensive vocal booth, or spend hours trying to cover every wall with sound-absorbing pads in future – the VoxGuard will do the trick. **IDJ**

Words: Aaron Slater

CONTACT: Shure Distribution
TEL: +44 (0)1992 703058
WEB: www.shure.com

FEATURES

- 18"(wide) x 15"(tall) x 7.5"(deep)
- Threaded mic stand adapter and knurled ring included
- Made from 1" thick high-density open cell acoustic foam
- Black Unicoque high impact ABS plastic shell, 3/16" (4.5mm) thick, with textured finish

ALTERNATIVES

The Reflexion Filter from SE Electronics is well-regarded, but around twice the price

PROS & CONS



It's simple, it works, it's well-built and set at a good price



Only functional in design, so not aesthetically impressive

VERDICT

A welcome addition to any vocally-minded producer's studio