

Native Instruments releases MASCHINE Expansion BYTE RIOT

New expansion cracks open early-gen PCs and video game consoles to unleash a world of 8-bit sounds

Berlin, July 24, 2017 – Native Instruments today releases BYTE RIOT, a new MASCHINE Expansion that charges MASCHINE with the lo-fi aesthetic of the chiptune scene. Packed with crunchy circuit-bent drum kits, warm 8-bit leads, and retro video game samples, it hacks into a world of modified music makers.

To some people, video game consoles and computers are useless once they are past their prime. To others, however, these bygone relics can be modified and hacked, transforming the obsolete hardware into instruments. Audio chips are electronically altered to become makeshift synths, emitting monophonic, 8-bit tones. Modified video-game gear gets repurposed, using special software, to turn the sounds often heard in 80s video games into notes that can then be played however the musician likes. While musical works using these techniques are often put into the chiptune genre, the influence of this DIY attitude can be found cross genre, with these lo-fi sounds showing up in pop, breakcore, hip hop, and grime

For BYTE RIOT, its latest release in the MASCHINE Expansion series, Native Instruments collaborated with artists Ivo Ivanov and Alex Retsis, lead sound designers at Glitchmachines to crack open early-gen computer and gaming systems to bring these primitive digital sound to MASCHINE users. Ivanov built custom units and tinkered with old-school oscillators, putting his circuit bending skills to use, while Retsis focused on essentials like 8-bit drum parts and arpeggiated chords. The result is a collection of kits that reproduce and reimagine the classic chiptune sound for any genre.

BYTE RIOT contains sounds meticulously sampled from old-school video game consoles and early-gen computer chips, including complex MIDI patterns based on classic arcade games. Various Game Boys were hacked using LSDJ and Nanoloop tracking software on custom cartridges. Fast arpeggiators were driven through Commodore 64 SID chips to sample chord variations. And Windows instruments were played through the Sega Mega Drive's FM YM2612 chip for primitive authenticity that anyone can use in their musical productions.

BYTE RIOT runs in the latest version of MASCHINE software on the entire MASCHINE hardware family, and is available exclusively at the NI Online Shop.

A compact version of BYTE RIOT is also available as an iMASCHINE 2 Expansion, for sketches on the go. Tracks can be exported to MASCHINE STUDIO, MASCHINE JAM, MASCHINE, and MASCHINE MIKRO for completion.

Pricing and availability

BYTE RIOT is available now at the NI Online Shop for \$49 / 49 € / £44 / ¥ 6,280 / AU\$ 79 and runs in the MASCHINE 2 software.

The iMASCHINE 2 expansion is available at the iMASCHINE 2 in-app store for \$0.99 / 0,99 € / £0.79 / ¥ 120 / AU\$ 1.29

Further product information and press material

Additional information on BYTE RIOT is available at:
www.native-instruments.com/byteriot

A digital press kit including picture material is available at:
www.native-instruments.com/press.info

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About Native Instruments

Native Instruments is a leading manufacturer of software and hardware for computer-based music production and DJing. The company's mission is to develop innovative, fully integrated solutions for all professions, styles and genres. The resulting products regularly push technological boundaries and open up new creative horizons for professionals and amateurs alike.

Native Instruments opened up the fascinating world of real-time sound synthesis on standard computers in 1996, and today offers an extensive product range for musicians, producers and DJs. The company currently employs more than 400 people in its six offices in Berlin, Los Angeles, Tokyo, London, Paris, and Shenzhen and works closely with more than 40 international distribution partners to ensure its future growth and success.