

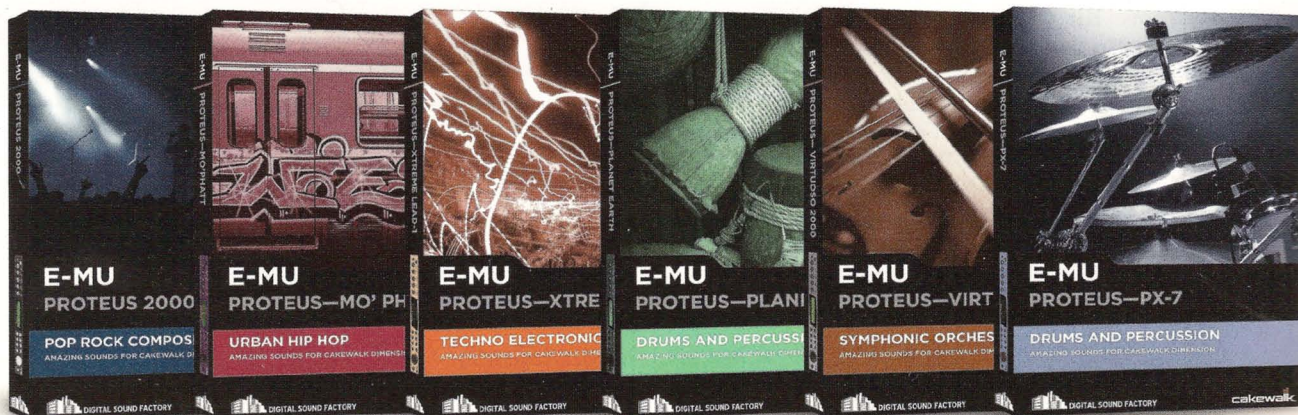
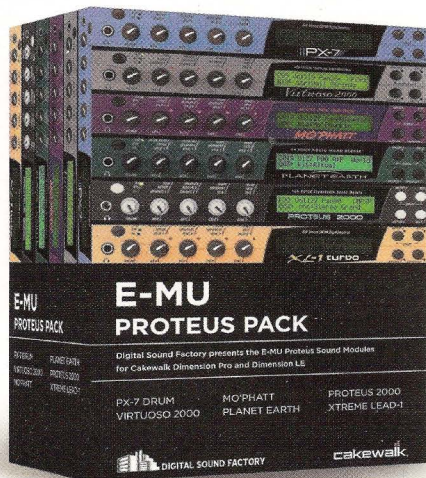
RECORDING'S SHOWCASE OF SOUNDS

Cakewalk/Digital Sound Factory E-MU Proteus Pack

By Devon Brent

Digital Sound Factory in conjunction with Cakewalk has released six sample sets called the E-MU Proteus Pack. The sounds are derived from six original E-MU hardware units: Proteus 2000, Mo' Phatt, Xtreme Lead 1, Planet Earth, Virtuoso 2000, and PK-7. Timothy Swartz, a 20-year veteran and sound designer from E-MU Systems, has re-crafted these sounds again in Cakewalk's Dimension Pro and Dimension LE format.

Installation of each sound set was extremely smooth and very quick. The installer identified where I previously custom-installed



Dimension Pro (I never use the default location for VST installations) and it installed the sound banks within seconds. If you do not already own Dimension Pro, a "light edition", Dimension LE, is available for free with purchase of any of the six sound sets. Each sound set will need to be installed separately, as there is no 'master' installer.

The sound sets cover a variety of tastes. Proteus 2000 is a large swath of general-purpose sounds; Mo'Phatt is a collection of hip-hop and urban sounds; Xtreme Lead 1 is a collection of dance/electronic sounds; Planet Earth is a collection of world/ethnic instruments; Virtuoso 2000 is a collection of orchestral instruments; PK-7 is a collection of drum and percussion instruments. Each set includes over 500 presets, except for the Proteus 2000, which includes over 1000.

These sound banks are the prime definition of bread-'n-butter sounds. They are not overly programmed, or dripping in effects. In fact, they are mostly straight-up samples from the original hardware with a bit of lowpass filter, and not much else. If you're the type who likes to put in a bit of their own work into their sounds, these samples make a great starting point. The Proteus Pack, combined with the power and flexibility of Dimension Pro, makes a great powerhouse

of good sounds and lots of synthesis flexibility beyond your 'typical' software sampler.

Almost every sample in these collections is less than 300 kilobytes in size and in some respects it shows. Holding down a key on my keyboard for some of the looped samples, I can hear the loop point, but it's smooth. Those looking for the most hyper-realistic acoustic sounds might be bothered. In being mindful that these are from synthesizers that were introduced between 1999 and 2000 (and may well have contained samples from early Proteus models as far back as the 1980s—Ed.), their dated sounds are still very usable in a musical context.

CPU usage for these sounds, as I expected for a small sample library, is pretty light. Single sounds on my AMD 3800+ X2 dual core machine pushed around 4-8% CPU, with layered sounds pushing around 15-20% of my CPU power.

Conclusion

If you've been looking for an easier and more affordable solution to grabbing a few of your favorite E-mu hardware synthesizers circa turn of the millennium timeframe, the E-Mu Proteus Pack is the way to do it. Even if you've only been looking to expand your palette of usable sounds, the E-MU Proteus Pack is a great way to go, adding a lot to the already powerful Dimension Pro software sample player. ☺



Delivery: Download or Boxed

Format: Cakewalk's Dimension Pro or Dimension LE

Copy Protection: None

License: No royalties on music created with sounds; sounds are not transferable

Documentation: None

Prices: \$79 each for download, \$99 in the box; \$299 for all six for downloads, \$379 in the box.

More from: Cakewalk, www.cakewalk.com.