French House 2

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Welcome to...   French House 2/³

SM202 French House 2 is the follow up to our hugely successful SM41 French House. Packed with slamming classic drum machine loops, funky electric guitar, distorted basses, talking robot synths and royalty-free sped up disco loops, French House 2 is one of our most ambitious releases yet.

As with all of our packs, we began developing our ideas with several artistic references ranging from classic French House such as Daft Punk, Fred Falke, Alan Braxe and David Morales. Additionally, we also referenced French Touch and Filter Disco talents such as Le Knight Club, DJ Sneak, Alex Gopher, Étienne de Crécy and Lifelike. Label references include Ed Banger, Roulé, Crydamoure and Kitsuné.

We painstakingly recorded hundreds of original soul, disco, funk, rock, and pop loops in retro fashion - focusing on the 60s, 70s, and 80s. By paying special care and attention to detail at each stage, we strove to recreate those authentic sampling techniques used by the producers of the era.

In some cases, the drums, bass, guitar, keyboard or vintage synthesiser parts were chopped, screwed and then stemmed out for dedicated loops. In other instances, the whole mix was processed through various classic pumping compressions and retro filters in order to create our filter loops folder.

A great deal of the samples were pitched either up or down to add in sampling artefacts. We later ran them through the pumping Alesis 3060 compressor and filtered the sounds with boutique analogue hardware before subjecting them to more contemporary, french touch-glitching processes.

Producer Tips

1 Cheat the aging process

There are a plethora of tools that can simulate older records from vintage synth emulations, tape saturation, vintage compressors, boutique channel strips and retro reverb. Recording real instruments and treating them as if they were from a 60s/70s/80s record can yield fantastic results.

3 Envelope filters are your friend

Sync'd LFO and envelope triggered filters can really give your samples some extra pumping. Place it on your master or channel bus and experiment with a gain plug-in placed before the filter. Ensure you limit anything that comes out the other end as high resonance can really squeal.

5 Grooves

Drum grooves are key to convincing house music. Programming sixteenth note hi-hats and snare fills isn't enough. There are plenty of decent groove templates from famous drum machines easily available such as MPC and SP1200. Use a heavier swing than you anticipate and then dial the effect back for best results.

2 Simulate Retro Sampling Techniques

Older samplers had limited RAM so to circumnavigate that producers would record samples in two or three semitones above their target BPM and then pitch them down. The samplers-less than-perfect artefacts would add an extra layer of hiss, crust and crunch to the newly pitched down samples.

4 Resampling

Cut your sample by transient points into quarter or eighth notes and reload them into a sampler. Playing it back in a different order can really make you rethink the original loop, thus providing newfound inspiration.

6 Bass Programming

When programming bass the key to a good groove is not only syncopation but also changing note lengths. Having short, sharp notes can add a percussive feel to your loop similar to a bass player muting the strings on beats 2 and 4. A mixture of short and long notes really adds a natural feel. Consider using legato monophonic when programming bass lines too.

Kit List

French House 2<inline_katex>{}^{7}</inline_katex>

Fender Telecaster
Fender Rhodes Mk II
Ludwig Drum Kit
Akai S2000 sampler
Arturia Drumbrute
Korg MS-10
Roland Juno 106
Roland RS-202
Roland TR-909
Neve and dBx Preamps

Boss CS3 Compressor
Dunlop Tremolo
Electro Harmonix Small Clone
Line 6 FM4
Lovetone Meatball Envelope Filter
MoogerFooger MF-101 LowPass Filter
Morley Wah pedal
MXR Dyna Comp
Alesis 3630 Compressor
RNC Really Nice Compressor
SSL EQ

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