

Tech reviews: Yamaha SEQTRAK – a portable music station

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Yamaha's SEQTRAK is a surprisingly powerful little device. It is perfect for those who want to create, perform and record without hauling around lots of kit. It combines synthesis, sampling, sequencing, effects, and even a built-in speaker and microphone, all battery powered.

The SEQTRAK comes with three synth engines. Two use Yamaha's well-known AWM2 technology, which covers a huge range of sounds from realistic instruments to classic synth tones. The third is an FM synth great for those bell-like or metallic sounds you often hear in electronic music. It also has a sampler with seven slots, letting you record sounds straight from the built-in mic external inputs, USB, or

even by sampling the device's own output. For drums, you get seven tracks, including kick, snare, clap, two hi-hats, and percussion parts. The library comes with over 2,000 preset sounds and you can add your own samples too. The step sequencer handles 11 tracks with patterns of up to 128 steps. I like how straightforward the controls are; it really helps to avoid getting lost in menus. Effects-wise, every track can have reverb, delay, filters, compression, distortion, and modulation applied. There is also a master effects section to shape the overall sound. This setup makes it more than just a writing tool – it is ready to perform with.

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