

PC  What is it? 7-in-1 effects plug-in  
 CONTACT: Sonoma Wire Works, info@sonomawireworks.com

PRICE: \$199

WWW.sonomawireworks.com

# SONOMA WIRE WORKS Sonoma 7 VST

A multi-effects unit in plug-in form? That's the kind of thinking we like – but have Sonoma come up with a suitably magnificent seven..?

**S**onoma 7 VST is a single plug-in that comprises a selection of seven very usable effects. A series of buttons line the top of the UI and are used to activate modules and switch between interfaces. All controls are clear, well laid out and make the plug-in a breeze to use; on the left-hand side are the preset load/save functions, along with a handy 'Reload last selection' option. Equally useful, the Compare feature lets you A/B your creation against another loaded patch.

The first of the effects is the Attaq filter unit, which Sonoma describe as 'the ultimate auto-wah filter effect'. There are three modes to choose from: Manual, Envelope and Sequence. The latter is controlled by eight rotary controls that allow you to set the tone of the wah individually at each step – very tasty. Low-, Band- and High-pass filter modes are available, as are Bandwidth, Range and Sensitivity controls.

Next in line is the Tripwire audio shaper: a multiband compressor with individual distortion modules on each stage. Great flexibility is provided by the two crossover frequency controls, which really let you hone your sound. Each module has Compression and Level controls, an On/Off switch, a menu of seven distortion types and a Drive control.

## All mod cons

Tempest is a modulation unit offering no less than nine configurations. These include phaser, tremolo, auto-pan and filter modulation. You get Depth, Range and Speed controls, along with a graphical display sweep-o-meter and six waveforms. Tempo sync is available to keep everything in check and the sounds Tempest creates are great.

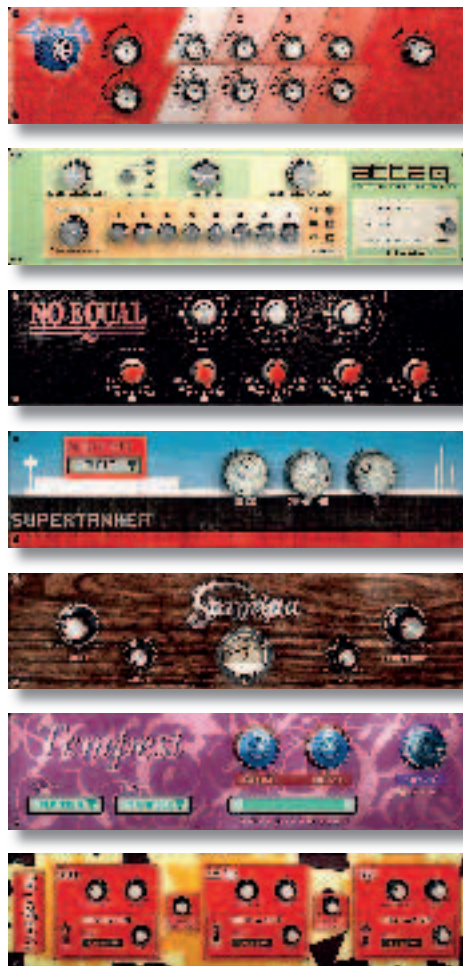
The 4x4 delay unit deals with things in a different way to your standard delay.

Essentially a four-tap delay, the module has global Damping, Mix and Feedback controls. Each of the four taps has its own Level, Delay Time and Tempo Sync controls... but here's the trick: the taps feed back into each other. What's more, each tap is panned left or right, which allows for some superb ping-pong effects.

Moving on, Supertanker is a plate reverb unit with Size, Damping and Mix controls and five very different reverb tones. The first, called Sweet, is a standard reverb that doesn't colour the sound. The other four, however, each emphasise or cut part of the reverb frequency spectrum. Shiny, Dirty, and Dark work as you'd expect, while Whip has a delay before the reverb tail and creates a cool kind of syncopated reverb. All of the tones are interesting and very usable.

The Stamina compressor is extremely easy to use thanks to its simply named controls. Slope ranges between Shallow and Steep, Attack and Release controls go from Fast to Slow, and the Compression control is of the more/less variety. The sound is good and it's capable of a wide range of generally powerful and fat compression.

Last up is the No Equal equaliser, which is a three-band EQ plus Hi- and Lo-cut. Offering +/-18dB gain on each band, frequency selection is limited to preset values (ie, Off, 35, 60, 110, 220). Bass and Hi EQs are shelving, while the Mid is a



▲ Weird and wonderful: the seven Sonoma effects offer plenty of unique sounds

peak model. By using presets, flexibility is reduced but life is made very easy through lack of options; and the frequency settings that are there have been well spaced and calibrated.

Sonoma 7 VST is a solid and reasonably priced collection of quality, quirky effects that no one could fail to find good use for in their music. **cm**

## On the DVD

**AUDIO DEMOS**  
 Here the sounds of Sonoma 7 VST in the Audio Demos folder on this month's DVD-ROM

### ► SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PC: PIII 800MHz (P4 2.8GHz recommended), 384MB RAM (512MB recommended), Windows 98, VST-compatible host

### ► TEST MACHINE

PC: P4 1.8GHz, 512MB RAM, Windows XP SP1, Cubase SX 3

### ► ALTERNATIVELY

**GMedia/Ohm Force**  
**The Ohm Force Experience**  
**cm70** >> **8/10** >> £200  
 A massively creative collection of five plug-ins

**Nomad Factory**  
**Blue Tubes Bundle v2.0**  
**N/A** >> **N/A** >> \$499  
 A comprehensive plug-in bundle designed to recreate classic analogue sounds

## VERDICT

- For
- + Great sounds
  - + Capable of producing unique effects
  - + Lovely GUIs
  - + Very easy to use
  - + Not too heavy on the CPU

- Against
- Not as many control parameters as seven separate dedicated effects

A usable collection of effects with some cool sounds – and all for a pretty good price

### RATING

