



Nu Metal

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Namm 2004: EQ magazine has given the EQ AWARD for ueberschall sampling CD "Nu Metal".

Modern "metal" sample/loop CDs are hard to come by, which is why I was thrilled when Nu Metal fell onto my desk. This two-CD set is chock full of construction kits and drum loops aimed at the drop-D crowd. Most of the material is presented construction kit-style, with nearly full arrangements; all the isolated elements are broken out. Just add shredded vocals and you're good to go.

It's clear the producers understand modern metal/rock — many of the tracks leave enough space to add 909-like low end or hyper-thick bass, which is what you'd expect to hear from P.O.D, Limp Bizkit, System of a Down, and others in their genre. Kick drums are clicky and spikey, for example, making it easy to layer fatter elements underneath.

Evenly played, well-recorded acoustic strums and arpeggios are also provided. These reminded me of STP unplugged, but you might hear the tracks differently.

You might find that many of the electric guitars and drums need some EQ and compression to fit them into your mixes; the loops and one-shots aren't "fully mastered" the way some construction kits are. In this case it's a good thing, though, because it makes it easier to use the samples in a variety of contexts.

On the guitar front, there's no shortage of creative arrangements, which sometimes include heavy, rectified tones in stereo with slightly chorused or clean arpeggios. Nu Metal even goes so far as to provide ReCycled phrases to create impossible-to-play parts.

On the whole, sound design-type effects processing is kept to a minimum. You will, however, find plenty of menacingly tweaked guitars and basses to push your tracks over the edge.

—JOHN KROGH

www.ueberschall.com

