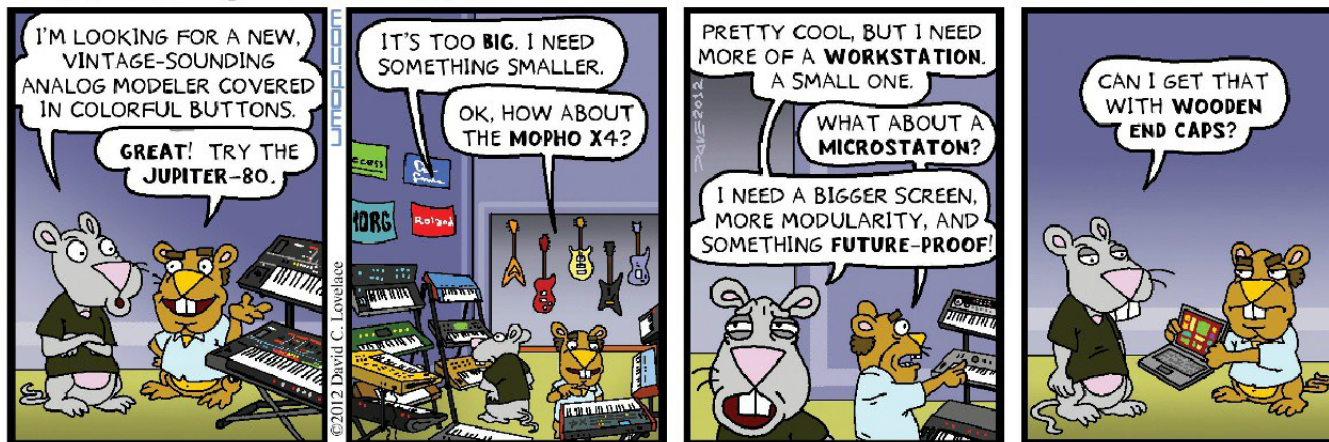


the PACKRAT™



What's Next

Hey, *Keyboard!* Being able to play favorite tunes is what really holds the attention of anyone who's learning an instrument. It's where the time spent on theory and scales pays off. **Jammit** (Mac OS, iOS, or Windows) lets you download tunes, mute the part that corresponds to your axe (guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, or vocals), slow down the tempo, see scrolling sheet music, and record the results. Some keyboards do similar things, but not like this: These songs aren't clunky MIDI karaoke files—the Jammit folks go to the trouble of securing rights to the real multitrack recordings of a growing list of recognizable hits. It's like you're really in the band. (I'm not with this company; I just really thought you should check this out.) Ty Tristero, Claremont, CA



Key Secrets

Creative Tips for Your Gear

Key for Two. Today's keyboards offer so many performance controls—knobs, wheels, sliders, ribbons, drum pads, infrared sensors—that you may wish you had extra hands. So why not set up your instrument for two people to play at once? Try splitting the keyboard so each person plays different sounds, or have one person manipulate the arpeggiator, filter, and effects while the other handles notes and pitch-bend. You might even get inspired to build an ensemble of instruments that work together, as controllerist Moldover does when designing his JamBoxes (jamboxes.net), which are custom instruments for multiplayer performance. His Mini-Masher (shown) gives three players their own X/Y controller and drum pads, each set mapped to complementary sounds and effects. David Battino



SARAH PEET