

QUANTUM LEAP GYPSY

Manufacturer **EastWest/Quantum Leap**

Price **£318**

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Web **www.soundsonline-europe.com**

Quantum Leap is an eclectic virtual instrument series from EastWest, with titles as diverse as Ministry of Rock and Symphonic Orchestra. But perhaps the most intriguing library in the collection is Gypsy – a collection of gypsy-style virtual instruments (violin, trombone, accordions, guitars and percussion), plus an amazing set of foot stomps and castanets.

Unlike many virtual instruments, Gypsy doesn't employ a third-party sample player. Instead, it uses its own EastWest PLAY system and sample engine, which requires an iLok copy protection key. This isn't

included, so unless you already have other iLok-protected software, you'll have to buy one. It's worth the hassle, though, because QL Gypsy is a bit special.

Specialist they may be, but the quality of these instruments is outstanding – except, perhaps, the trombone, which we wouldn't recommend for solo work.

However, it sounds fine when blended in a mix. On the contrary, the violin is wonderfully rich, plays easily and sounds great. So, too, do the guitars – classical, Django, flamenco and Spanish steel – which are distinctly different from each other, each being suited to a particular playing style and musical mood.

VERDICT

If you get a call for some specialist gypsy-style music, Quantum Leap Gypsy's superb virtual instruments are highly recommended and will almost certainly have you covered.

